

WE ARE ____

ASSEMBLY PACK

This is a collection of different videos and resources to help run assemblies which aim to inspire your pupils to positively impact people living in poverty. Below are some resources and links to help formulate running your own assembly on issues such as the fashion industry or food waste, some of which also include ideas to help inspire your young people to action. We have also included a draft script for use in assemblies.

RESOURCES AND EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT TEARFUND'S WORK

RESOURCES

[Together Groups](#) – includes topics such as food waste, plastic, fashion, education, peace, and hunger.

[Tearfund Action](#) – different global campaigns and information about actions to beat poverty and injustice.

[Footsteps](#) – a magazine containing a variety of in-depth information about Tearfund's work overseas.

[Fundraising](#) – a great amount of information and ideas on how to fundraise for Tearfund.

VIDEOS

[What is Poverty?](#) – a video describing the causes of poverty.

[We Are Tearfund YouTube channel](#) – lots of fun and engaging videos for young people on a range of topics.

[Tearfund YouTube](#) – different stories of changed lives.

DRAFT SCRIPT

1.3 billion
The year 2050
200 million
Four months
197

Those numbers might not mean a lot to us here today, but each one of them represents a powerful statistic.

Some/Around 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty. That's 1.3 billion people that live on one pound a day. Think about what you might have spent money on recently: maybe food, maybe time out with your mates, maybe on some new clothes. Those items collectively come to more than one person in poverty earns in a day, maybe even more than they earn in a month. If you had that amount of money, would you choose to feed your family or yourself? To provide an education for one of your children or clothes for your whole family? These are a few of the impossible questions that some people around the world might face today because of the circumstances they find themselves in.

But what causes poverty? Why don't you watch Tearfund's ['What is Poverty?' video?](#)

So poverty can be caused by separation, by broken relationships. If we think about the world around us, we can see the effects of those broken relationships. Our broken relationships with others can result in wars, which may lead to huge numbers of innocent people becoming refugees. Our broken relationship with the environment has resulted in climate change on a massive scale, our broken relationship with ourselves means we don't believe in the power and potential we have to do something about global issues, and our broken relationship with God means that we don't live in the fullness of life. Poverty means we see brokenness everywhere. Poverty means we see this happening on our watch.

If we are honest, our world is broken. Greta Thunberg, a teenage climate activist, says that 'our house is on fire'. And around the world people's homes are literally on fire, being flooded, and are being destroyed by the effects of climate change. One of those people is Aguil.

Aguil lives with her two children in Twic East, in eastern South Sudan, not far from the River Nile. Her husband spends most of his time away from home. She is 23-years-old. One night it rained constantly. Aguil thinks back to that night saying,

'There was so much rain, it felt like it had been raining forever, the swamps overflowed. The water filled my house, there was nowhere to go so we stood on our beds. One of the houses on the compound was destroyed, as well as the toilet that was recently built.

I tried to protect my house as much as I could by building small mud walls around it, but I couldn't do much. Everything was covered by water.'

Some of that water has begun to go down but because of the floods, Aguil and her community are now at risk of diseases like malaria.

At the moment the world's temperature is increasing. It is estimated that by 2050 on our current course 200 million people will be made refugees from the effects of climate change. Not only this but it is also estimated that the length of time countries experience drought will be increased by four months. It is people like Aguil that will continue to be affected by climate change. Being pushed back into poverty. And so when we think about climate change, let's not continue to think about it as a strange far away concept, but rather as something that currently affects people living in poverty the most and will continue to do so on a larger scale if allowed to continue.

The Christian charity Tearfund, who produced the video we watched earlier, work with local churches around the world to help communities try to defend themselves against the risks of climate change; whether it is trying to change the way they farm; whether it is better building techniques to make their buildings withstand a natural disaster; or whether it is helping people sometimes literally rebuild their lives after a flood. They are seeing more and more that climate change isn't a distant reality but is having a tangible effect on people that live in poverty.

What can we do about it? Well there are two things in particular that we can do. We can live differently as a response. Many of you may know or have heard about the term 'carbon footprint'. This is the amount of carbon we put into the atmosphere because of the choices we make. This is one of the main factors in the rising temperature. So one of the things we can do is to look at our lives and the impact we are having on the climate and choose to live differently to have a better impact.

The other thing we can do is work towards system change. Quite a lot of what needs to be done can only be done by governments changing policies. Tearfund not only work with communities in countries affected by poverty, they speak up on behalf of those communities to people in power. In November this year, 197 world leaders are coming to the UK to discuss what they are going to do about climate change at a meeting called COP26 (Conference of the Parties). We have an opportunity to use our voice to speak up and speak out: to tell world leaders exactly what they need to do. Tearfund have spoken to young people around the country and we have used their voices to write an open letter which they will be sending directly to world leaders at that meeting, as part of their current campaign, One Point Five. We have copies of that letter and I want to invite you to sign these here now, today in this Assembly to say to world leaders that they need to act now to really make a difference in the lives of people living in poverty like Aguil who we heard about earlier.

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Each one of those numbers represents some staggering statistics as we have seen, but I believe that each one of us, together, can play our part in a revolution to see change.