



Tearfund in partnership with **Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide**:

**6 months Research Associate on
'The role of the local church in contributing to well-being in conflict affected fragile states'**

Location: CCCW office in Cambridge and/or work from home

Benefits: Stipend of £15,000 for 6 months plus up to £5,000 for fieldwork expenses; access to a stimulating academic environment in Cambridge and to the University of Cambridge facilities/libraries.

Starting date: from January/February 2019 and by March 2019

Applications: ongoing throughout December 2018 and January 2019

About Tearfund

Tearfund is a UK Christian relief and development agency. It currently works in around 50 countries, with a primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities. Tearfund wants to unlock the potential of local churches and community organisations globally to tackle the root causes of poverty, injustice and fragility in their wider communities.

About CCCW

The Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide is a research and teaching centre in Cambridge, that encourages people of all faiths and none to engage with, encounter, and enquire about the global nature of Christianity in its historical development and in the contemporary world.

About the research project:

The goal of the research is to gain a deep understanding of the current roles of local churches in settings of protracted conflict.

The research will identify a) the impact of conflict on the local church and b) how and why churches choose to engage in response to conflict, c) the roles and practices churches take on in responding within their communities and conflicts d) the churches' own perspectives on opportunities, constraints and barriers. We expect this piece of practise-led research to generate formative insights and key recommendations for pragmatic actions to be taken by Tearfund when partnering with churches and other actors in the contexts being studied.

Collaborative approach:

The Research Associate will work under the guidance of the principal investigator of the project, the Director of CCCW, Dr Muthuraj Swamy, who will supervise the overall project. The RA and PI will also work in close collaboration with Tearfund throughout the research process. Dr Madleina Daehnhardt, Research Advisor at Tearfund, will be their main collaborator, providing academic input and facilitating access to staff at Headquarters and in-country.

Methodology and timeline:

1. **In-depth literature review (3 months)** of the following country contexts: Iraq, DRC, CAR, South Sudan, Burundi, Syria and Myanmar. The research questions will need to be answered with reference to these specific country contexts. The literature review will be looking at existing evidence in the broader available literature, and also review a range of internal documents. In addition, the RA is expected to conduct a range of in-depths interviews with key stakeholders within TF and analyse these before proceeding to phase 2.
2. **Field visits (1 month)**. The RA and PI will travel together for fieldwork to two of the above countries (TBC) for data collection. Phase 2 will take the broader review deeper by studying the two selected country contexts in comparative perspective.
3. **Writing up of fieldwork findings, framework and final report (2 months)**, including presentation and dissemination of findings (workshops etc).

What this opportunity offers:

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to both participate in an impactful study and formative piece of research for faith-based development practice, and at the same time benefit from being based in a stimulating academic environment with the possibility of flexible work arrangements.

Application process:

The project requires a committed researcher (with a PhD or in final stages of PhD) who is available full-time for 6 months starting between January and March 2019. Interviews will take place on a rolling basis and until the post is filled, interested candidates are therefore encouraged to apply ASAP.

When applying, please send the following documents to both Muthuraj Swamy (ms2522@cam.ac.uk) and Madleina Daehnhardt (md422@cam.ac.uk) with subject reference 'CCCW-Tearfund application':

1. Cover letter specifying how you meet each of the below selection criteria. Please address each criteria (1-4) in a paragraph one-by-one.
2. Full CV.
3. Recent writing sample demonstrating your written and analytical skills.

Essential	Desirable
1A) Strong research skills in relevant academic discipline, humanitarian or peace-building contexts at PhD level (or near completion).	1B) Experience in use of mixed methods.
2A) Theological background or a strong knowledge of faith-based organisations and faith contexts, sympathy with Tearfund's Christian ethos and understanding of its evangelical identity.	2B) Experience of working with faith or church based partners and organisations in an international context/ protracted crisis context.
3A) Excellent academic writing skills, interviewing skills, data coding and analysis skills.	3B) Familiarity with coding systems, such as Atlas.ti or NVIVO to systematically code qualitative data.
4A) Willingness and ability to travel to insecure contexts to conduct interviews. Availability between February-August 2019 full-time.	4B) In-depth knowledge of any of the seven case study countries (see methodology section).