

CASE STUDY:

Using QuIP to evaluate Tearfund's church and community transformation programme

- **COMMISSIONER:** Tearfund
- **COUNTRY OF STUDY:** Uganda, Sierra Leone, Bolivia & Nepal
- **INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS:** 48 per study
- **YEAR OF STUDY:** 2016-2021

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Tearfund's Church and Community Transformation (CCT) programme aims to mobilise churches to identify the needs of individuals and the community. To date, Tearfund has introduced church and community transformation processes in more than 40 countries, using QuIP to explore their impact in four of these. The CCT programme does not provide material support, but assists church groups to envision the change they want to create and provides facilitator training for members of the church.

WHY USE QuIP?

The community-owned and less prescriptive nature of the CCT initiative and the lack of baseline or other monitoring data mean that it is challenging to measure the contribution of CCT using more experimental methods. A more outcomes-based approach to understanding what is driving change was a key factor for Tearfund, as was the QuIP's strength in reflecting the respondents' own perceptions of change.

CCT has been running for many years so QuIP was used as part of ongoing evaluation rather than in an initial design or as an endline. Tearfund staff in head office as well as in each country were involved in the identification of domains and development of the

questionnaires, but in order to maintain independence they were not involved in carrying out any of the work.

The QuIP interviews aimed to draw out causal pathways identified by respondents. Individual organisational causal maps were combined to identify commonly cited connections and see how reported causes and effects related across all cases within a country, and ultimately across the four countries where it was used.

Community members were brought into the process at the 'sensemaking' stage, once interviews had been completed and analysed - the results were taken back into communities for discussion and verification.

APPROACH

- Each study included exploratory interviews with **48** respondents and four focus group discussions
- Interviews were split across at least **4** locations in each study. Case selection of these locations often began with a community wealth ranking exercise with key local informants, to ensure that interviews were spread across different household types
- The interviews did not refer to CCT at any point, letting respondents tell their own stories and explain why and how they thought change had occurred
- The analysed data from each country were eventually merged within Causal Map to identify commonalities between countries and programmes.

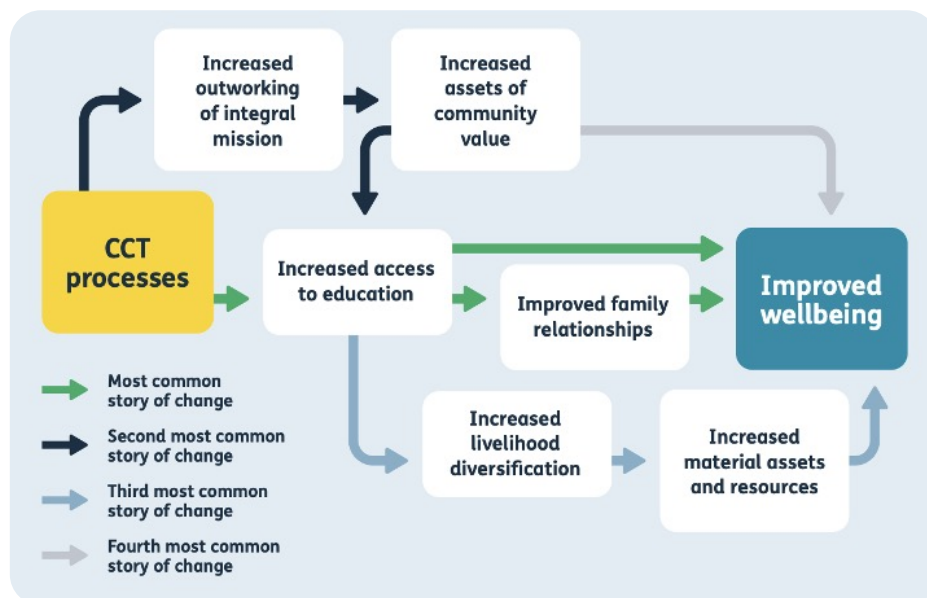
Outcome domains were based on the Tearfund CCT theory of change and common to all studies



FINDINGS

Tearfund used the coded data to understand where they were having the most impact through the CCT programme, by looking specifically for unprompted references made by interviewees in the causal maps created from the QuIP coding method. Attributed links were then verified in the communities where interviews had been conducted, allowing them to pinpoint the contribution of CCT to positive changes. This diagram is taken from their final report which shows the top causal pathways leading to improved wellbeing, across all four studies. As well as showing a link between CCT processes and improved wellbeing, this shows the different pathways through which it was achieved.

Drivers of relatively intangible metrics such as wellbeing and relationships are hard to measure using more traditional approaches to evaluation. This is where a qualitative approach to understanding causal connections can provide more valuable insights than a survey, or simply collecting variables without the full context. Tearfund were keen to add a level of robustness to the evaluation by using QuIP which encourages unprompted references to drivers of change, whilst still being relatively fast and inexpensive to conduct. Some example maps from the original data follow, giving an idea of how narrative data is visualised as causal maps once coded.



Robust methodology:
All references to CCT by participants were unprompted and made as part of telling their story of change.

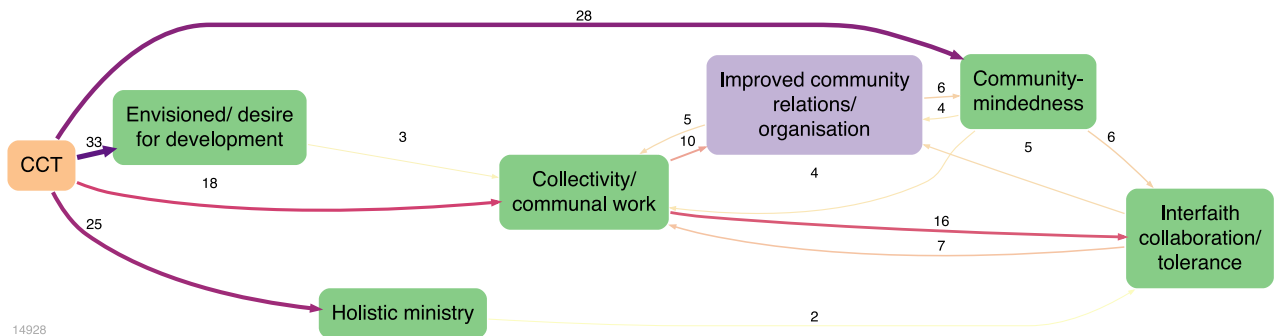
Tearfund believes that the CCT process will help communities learn to be more **economically resilient** and utilise the resources and abilities available to them. Around 40% of respondents linked **more stable** livelihoods to their participation in the CCT process. Membership to **community saving groups** reportedly helped participants to save money which led to them being more able to meet their households needs; 40% of people interviewed said that their income and purchasing power had increased.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Across the studies, around a third of respondents said there had been an improvement in interfaith collaboration and tolerance in their communities. Five of the main reasons given for this improvement were linked to CCT; working together, church witness, holistic ministry, inclusion and community mindedness.

Some negative stories of change concerning relationships were reported, particularly in Bolivia where increased tensions within the community was the most cited negative change. This was linked to conflict in community meetings over unequal access to communal assets such as water or schooling, and tension between evangelical Christian and Catholic communities regarding the consumption of alcohol at festivals.

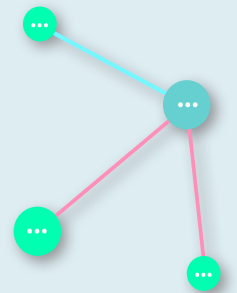
PATHS FROM CCT TO IMPROVED COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



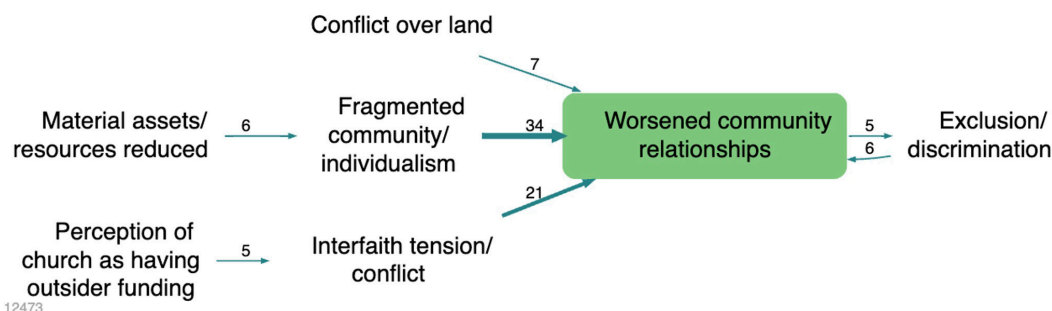
“The roads have been constructed due to combined efforts of all religious or caste groups, which has improved the relationships among the groups further”
Interviewee, Nepal

HOW TO READ CAUSAL MAPS

- Maps are designed to be read from left to right.
- The direction of the arrowhead on each link reflects the direction of causation or influence.
- Above each link there is a number which represents the number of participants who made that causal claim.
- Numbers in factor boxes represent the total number of people who mentioned that factor - out of a total of 192 in this case.
- Maps have been filtered and simplified to focus on the most frequent links in relation to a particular query.
- All maps combine data from all four country studies.



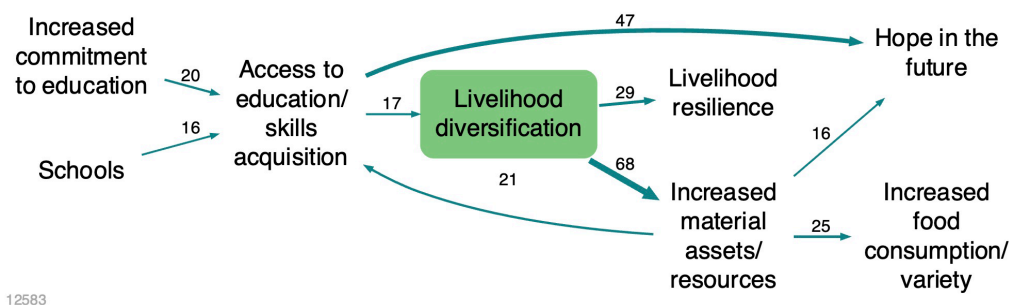
REPORTED DRIVERS OF WORSENERD COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS



LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION

One of the more significant changes reported as a result of learning new skills was livelihood diversification. Respondents had started a range of new income generating activities such as rearing livestock, selling produce and planting cash crops. This was reported to lead to increased access to resources and improved household resilience to shocks. This was important in the context of shocks such as climate-change related drought, and latterly, Covid restrictions. Some respondents had changed agricultural activities or moved to planting crops that were more drought resistant, like cassava.

REPORTED CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION



USE OF FINDINGS

Tearfund coordinated workshops to share and discuss findings in each community.

“I visited each community, firstly to thank them for taking part in the research... the main thing was to share the findings and celebrate their success, reinforcing the message that ‘you have done this, not us.’

I told them we’d been a bit reticent about doing it in a way where we weren’t telling them who the research was for because people might feel we were deceiving them, but we wanted people to feel completely free to tell us about their whole wellbeing. They said ‘yes, that makes sense, because this way we could be more honest with you’. I facilitated workshops where we talked about the findings from QuIP and dug a little deeper. For example, sometimes participants had mentioned things we didn’t know about. So we got some really good stories, which were helpful in understanding some of the results. People shed a bit more light on things that had come up in the interviews, and it was nice to go deeper where we were unsure of some of the results.

We really want this kind of buy-in from our partners because we don’t want the learning to stay with us.”