



## WHAT DOES TRAFFICKING HAVE TO DO WITH HARVEST ?

Harvest is a time to give thanks for the food we have and to share it with those who are hungry, so why is Tearfund talking about trafficking? Stories like Kalei's show why trafficking has more to do with food than you might think...

Kalei goes hunting for food three times a day. She goes to the shallow river and plunges her arms deep into the mud and between rocks to catch tiny frogs and crabs. She goes to the dry fields with her handmade catapult – it takes hours to catch one lizard smaller than her hand. Then, she goes home and cooks her meagre catches over a small fire.

This is what Kalei must do to feed her family. She's just 14 years old. School is a distant memory and back-breaking graft is her everyday reality.

Kalei's dad is frail and he can't work. Her mum left Laos in South-East Asia a few years ago to find work in Thailand and never came back. Kalei's family is the poorest and hungriest in the village, and the burden of feeding her dad, her younger siblings and her little niece is almost entirely on Kalei's small shoulders.

All this makes Kalei deeply vulnerable to child traffickers and their false lures of 'good work' in Thailand. The horrific truth is that one in three children who leave this part of Laos to work in Thailand end up in the sex trade.

But thank God, Kalei is not alone. Anne and the rest of the team from Tearfund's partner are making young people in Kalei's village aware of the dangers posed by traffickers. They're also empowering girls like her to learn safe, effective and sustainable ways to earn a living and buy food.

This means that Kalei will eventually be able to put food on the table without putting herself in danger, and without having to hunt in the bush for hours on end.

### **Please pray.**

*Lord,*

*We pray this harvest for the places in the world where poverty, hunger and desperation make people vulnerable to being trafficked.*

*We pray for an end to the injustice that makes people feel they have no choice but to sell themselves, put themselves in danger, even sell their children.*

*Dear Lord, into this darkness, shine your light. **Amen.***