Every day thousands of people across India are lost to trafficking. From the rural hills of Bihar to the inner-city slums of Mumbai, Tearfund are working hard to protect vulnerable communities from these dangers.
Thousands of vulnerable people in India are caught in the grip of traffickers, forced into dehumanising work by their poverty. Harsh jobs in brick kilns or unsafe factories is the reality even for children as young as three, whilst many women are forced to sell their bodies.

Traffickers prey on poor communities, using the allure of money to drag people into this evil network of slavery and abuse. People are offered jobs working in hotels or cafes, but when they arrive, their new workplace is a brothel, passports are taken off them and they are beaten into work and paid nothing. The other trick used by traffickers is to often loans to poor families at breaking point. They then promise to write off the debt in exchange for labour.

And it’s not only adults. It is estimated that one in every three of the 15,000 people involved in prostitution are children. Children like Kajal, who was befriended by an older girl whose husband promised her a job. She left her village with him completely unaware of the risk this might pose to her. The man sold her to a brothel where she was beaten and forced into prostitution.

After two years and a dramatic escape through a skylight, Kajal came to a Tearfund partner working in India and began to learn Aari embroidery through a livelihoods programme. She is now a skilled worker, continues to show great improvement and has recently learnt Hindi literacy too! Kajal can now travel by herself and is overcoming her past traumas, becoming more expressive. There was much joy recently as she met her sister for the first time in 12 years.

Although we are committed to helping these victims, we believe that the best thing we can do is stop children being trafficked in the first place - and we believe the best way of doing that is through the local church.

1 Name changed to protect identity
POVERTY IN INDIA

Despite a growing national economy and years of progress, many people remain trapped in a state of destitution. This leaves people vulnerable to trafficking. 75% of India's population still live in rural poverty with 32.7% of the population living on less than $1.25 per day. Those living in poverty can become dependent on handouts from charities, loans from neighbours and loan sharks.

Farming depends on the monsoon rains and villages lack basic services, communications and infrastructure. This results in a stagnated rural economy driving many families to take extreme actions.

There are few options and little hope, this makes a trafficker's work incredibly easy. Offering you dream jobs or tricking you into dependence on them, it's easy to see why India's poor are easily drawn into a life of labour and sex slavery. To end the injustice of human trafficking, we must end poverty.
Our work across India is diverse and covers both the rehabilitation of those who have been trafficked and the prevention of trafficking in the first place. Below is an introduction to two of our amazing partners and the life-changing work they are doing.

**SAHAARA, MUMBAI**

The red light district of Mumbai is a dark place. It is in the midst of this darkness that Sahaara are bringing light and hope to thousands of sex workers and their children.

Sahaara are a long term Tearfund partner who work intensively with over 300 women, men, and children each year to give them a way out.

They run drop-in centres in Turbhe and Bhiwandi - the ‘red light’ areas - catering to trafficked women or women in prostitution. They build relationships with them, providing medical care and health awareness training as well as vocational guidance and training.

The staff also provide counselling to the women, helping them with their trauma. The drop-in centre is a place where women can come to receive emotional support and feel safe. The women receive spiritual counselling and prayer support. In the event that the women want to leave sex work, the drop-in centre acts as the first safe referral stop before they move out of the area to a safer location.

**PROJECT IMPACT**

The team at Sahaara help the sex workers of Mumbai and their children in a number of ways:

- **Spiritual growth:** Having suffered terrible abuse, women trafficked into prostitution often have no self-esteem or self-worth. Participation in cell meetings, one-to-one prayer meetings and foundational Christian courses begins to give them back their identity.
● **Medical care:** This project provides sex workers and their children with education on hygiene, basic health and HIV awareness as well as providing a doctor and facilitating testing for HIV/AIDS.

● **Skills Training:** Being knowledgeable of a trade not only gives these women an avenue to help themselves out of desperate poverty and abuse but also boosts their self-esteem and confidence.

● **Education:** Teaching sex workers how to read and write in Hindi enables them to become more independent. This project also provides education for their children of sex workers so that they can go to mainstream schools.

**EHA, BIHAR**

EHA is helping families to earn an income where they are, so that they have enough food to eat and are no longer dependent on the life promised by traffickers in order to survive.

**CREATING STABILITY**

● **Farmers’ groups:** Sharing best-practice and new techniques, farmers’ groups are helping people to work together to produce better crops. One farmers’ group in Bihar has won government awards for its excellent practice and the village has declared itself child-trafficking free: with a stable income their children are no longer vulnerable to trafficking.

● **Self-help groups:** Women's savings groups allow women to save together and borrow at low-interest, enabling them to start small businesses which help sustain their families during the agricultural low season.

● **Business starter kits** are helping families to become self-sufficient. EHA is providing families with the materials and the know-how to get their businesses off the ground.
FACING TRAFFICKING HEAD-ON

- **Awareness training:** Awareness training in schools and communities is helping people understand the risks of trafficking and see through deception tactics so often used by traffickers.

- **Vigilance committees:** Vigilance committees facilitated by community volunteers are enabling communities to work together to share information and challenge traffickers who come to their village.

- **Legal support:** Legal support is helping families to make their voices heard in the legal system so that traffickers can be prosecuted and justice is brought for those who have suffered.
WHAT WILL YOUR MONEY DO?

- **£35 could provide one anti trafficking training session in a school** helping to keep a class of 30 children safe from the risk of trafficking.

- **£27 could pay for a business starter kit** which would provide a family with the skills and materials they need to start a small business. This allows them to earn enough to feed themselves and keep their children safe.

- **£825 could pay for visits to a medical clinic** for 100 women and 60 children.

- **£132 could pay for health classes** for 210 women and children in the red light district, teaching them how to look after themselves.

- **£550 could help set up a vegetable nursery** in a community, helping 60 children to get the food they need and stopping them having to work.

- **£600 could help a community form a milk cooperative** to set a fair price for their milk, helping families to earn enough to feed themselves.

- **£300 could establish a seed bank** to help 15 families get the food they need without their children having to work.

JOIN US

With your help we can give sex workers hope of a future free of abuse and neglect, restoring their self-esteem by building relationships with them and offering them life changing care and training.