

You're invited...

...to support vulnerable communities
in Southeast Asia and the Pacific
to become Safe, Aware, Free and
Empowered.



tearfund

Right now, the Southeast Asia-Pacific region accounts for 66% of all people trapped in some form of modern slavery—that’s 25 million people. It also accounts for 41% of all global child labour. In fact, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world.

These can be hard numbers to wrap your head around. But the reality is that these numbers represent people who are often trying to do the best for their families, yet struggle to find meaningful work or put food on the table.

Many are young people who, through no fault of their own, have a lack of opportunities.

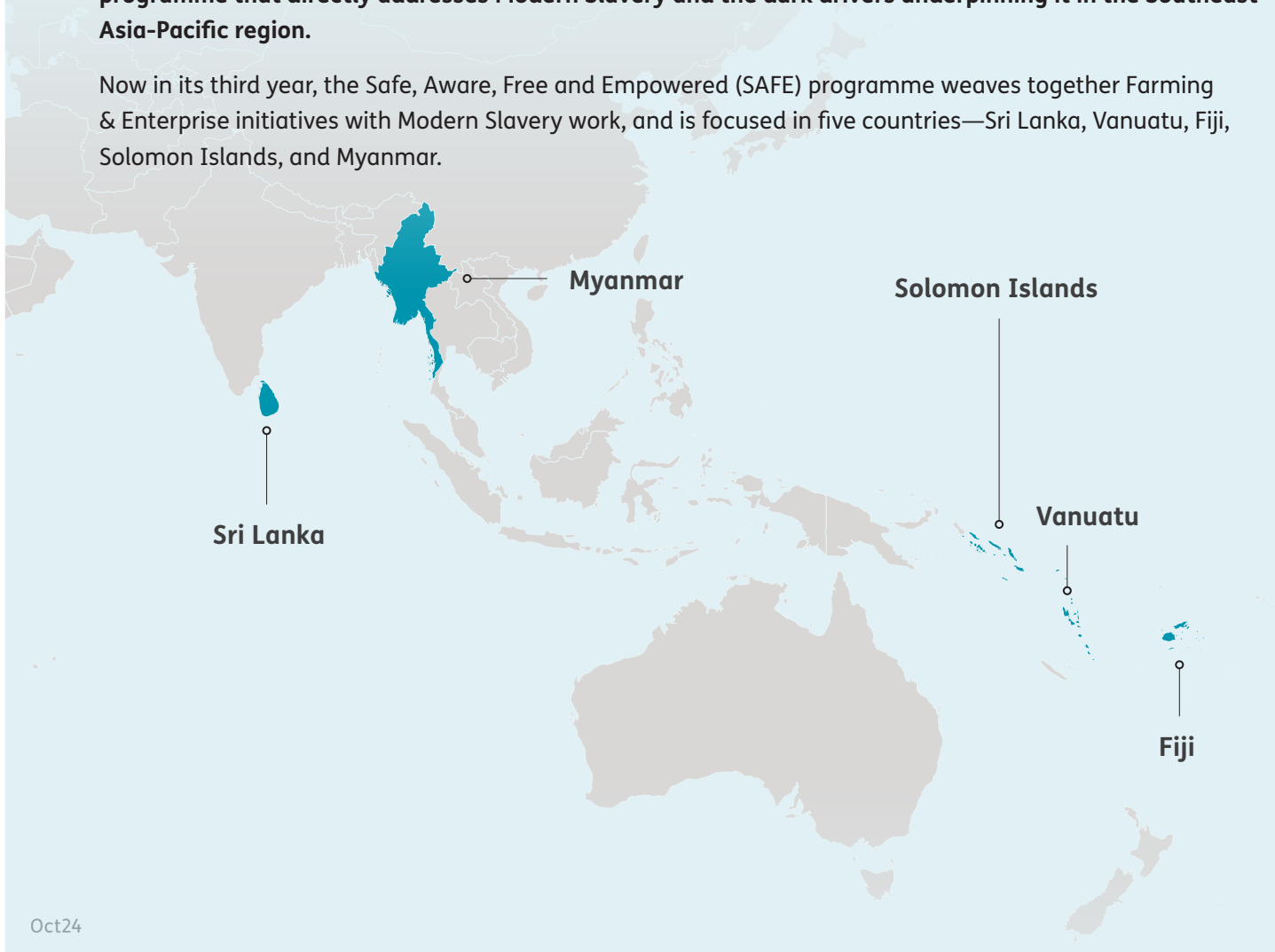
They’re also some of the most vulnerable to human trafficking partially because poverty has robbed them of options. Cultural norms can further increase the vulnerability of women and children, who are frequently at risk of sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and forced labour.

Yet these individuals are not without hope. They are resilient, with dreams and aspirations for themselves and their children. Many are innovative and resourceful, with ideas that could transform their communities—all they need are the tools and opportunities to make those ideas a reality.

That’s where Tearfund, our partners and you come in: working alongside people and their communities to understand the change they want to create; empowering them and standing with them as advocates for justice and lasting change.

That’s why Tearfund has partnered with the New Zealand government in a five-year, \$12-million programme that directly addresses Modern Slavery and the dark drivers underpinning it in the Southeast Asia-Pacific region.

Now in its third year, the Safe, Aware, Free and Empowered (SAFE) programme weaves together Farming & Enterprise initiatives with Modern Slavery work, and is focused in five countries—Sri Lanka, Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Myanmar.



Why these target countries?

Significant forms of Modern Slavery exist, including:



Women trafficked across borders and forced into prostitution, domestic servitude and childbearing.



Men, women and children trafficked domestically and across borders, and forced into prostitution, marriage or labour.



Child domestic workers who are subjected to physical, mental and sexual abuse, as well as no wages and restricted movement.



Vulnerable people transited through these countries into forced labour in New Zealand.

People living in these regions face major challenges:



Smallholder farmers are often based far from markets and lack economies of scale to even supply these markets.



Climate challenges and disastrous storms have made growing high-value crops more difficult.



Lack of access to new technology and growing methods have left farmers vulnerable over the long-term.



Lack of overall opportunities help fuel urban drift, where—cut off from family and social structures—young people are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

The SAFE programme directly addresses these issues, building on years of established partnerships, proven methods and high trust within the countries Tearfund partners work and serve.

This experience has shown us time and time again that when people are given opportunities through sustainable farming and enterprise livelihoods, they are less likely to fall prey to exploitation. And, as people—especially women and children—are educated about their rights and protected through advocacy efforts, they are less likely to become victims of human trafficking, exploitation, abuse and violence.

Ultimately, that's what the SAFE programme is all about it.

Read on to find out more about how the programme works, and how your giving will help empower people and ultimately, create resilient communities where families thrive.

**5 year
programme**

2021–2026

**20,000
people**

will be directly impacted

**81,000
people**

will be indirectly impacted

Building sustainable livelihoods through Farming and Enterprise

Over the years, Farming and Enterprise initiatives have had an exponential impact, helping people to lift themselves out of poverty, connect to the wider community, and ultimately, thrive.

Farming initiatives connect smallholder farmers into farmer cooperatives and social enterprises.

- Farmers gain a stronger collective voice to advocate for better access to market and work towards creating sustainable livelihoods together.
- Increased and secure incomes enable farming households to send their children to school, provide proper nutrition to their families, be actively contributing to their community, and have confidence and hope for their future.

Enterprise initiatives often work alongside farming initiatives: They take the form of savings and loans groups called Self Help Groups.

- Each member saves a little each month to form a pool of funds from which they can borrow to support a small business and cover household expenses.
- These groups provide safe and supportive spaces to share experiences, knowledge, and resources to enable economic empowerment. They are propelling women into micro-enterprise and positions of leadership within their communities and bringing about positive social change.

The ultimate goal is to promote household resilience and sustainable livelihoods through increasing incomes and food security.

The beauty of this approach is that it is self-replicating: as communities become more financially secure and resilient to disasters, they are more able to advocate for their communities in regional and national governance structures. This means that as well as gaining control over their own circumstances, participants gain the opportunity to build a better future. **This is what sustainable development looks like.**

Over the past 12 years, community-led Farming Initiatives have created a thriving dairy industry and sustainable income for farmers in the Northern Provinces of Sri Lanka.



81
COMMUNITIES
REACHED



2,000+
SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS, HALF OF
THEM WOMEN



4,125
CHILDREN/YOUTH

Total people currently participating in our partner's dairy farming programme.

In 2012, farmers supplied just 200L/month.

Today, the average supply is 45,000L/month.

Meet Isaac—the young man motivating an entire community

In the Solomon Islands, young people make up 70% of the population, yet they face significant challenges finding work and earning a consistent income. There can be a lack of hope and opportunity, making them more susceptible to drug abuse, sexual exploitation, and forced labour.

It's a pattern that Ola Fou, Tearfund's partner, is working to change through agricultural trainings and Empowerment workshops.

In September 2022, a young man named Isaac attended one of these trainings.

Along with two female youth leaders, he established a community-integrated farm using part of the church land. They began by planting root crops, ginger, and a variety of vegetables. Then, they added chickens.

Isaac's vision extends beyond the farm; he even began a youth club so young people can encourage each other and learn together.

“One of Isaac's aims is to help other youth in his community, especially those who have stayed idle or have been involved in substance abuse. **He loves to help people and the coaching module has given him additional knowledge and skills on mentoring,**” explains the Ola Fou team.



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The Ola Fou team

Tackling Modern Slavery with protection initiatives that focus on a long-term, integrated response

While improved income does help reduce vulnerability, to fully protect people from harm there is much that needs to be done to help identify, support and protect survivors of trafficking and abuse.

The issue of Modern Slavery is complex and multifaceted, requiring an integrated response, collaboration and partnerships to strengthen referral pathways, create safety nets and act in the best interest of survivors.

Tearfund employs a holistic and multi-pronged ‘5 Ps’ approach, which draws on the International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (UNODC, 2009): prevention, prosecution, protection, policy and partnership.

Prevention

Prevention comes in many forms. It’s running education and empowerment programmes, so communities can identify traffickers or false messages that will lead people into forced work. It’s encouraging safe migration for decent work. It’s working to change the culture and address gender equality.

And it’s tackling one of the main root causes—poverty—by providing livelihood training, income opportunities and schooling, so that women are empowered to run their own businesses and be community leaders, giving them a platform to spearhead change.

Prosecution

Prosecution efforts support the increased deterrence of trafficking and exploitation, especially in countries where the government has been reluctant or unable to do so. Teams also work alongside law enforcement to educate and help target upstream activities of criminal networks.

Protection

Protection involves trauma-informed aftercare for survivors of trafficking, exploitation and abuse. It takes a holistic, long-term approach, recognising the need for recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into the community—so that the same trauma doesn’t happen again.

Policy

Policy efforts include supporting research, policy development and advocacy efforts; which lead to better enforcement or the passing of new laws. This work makes a world of difference. Not only can it help curtail trafficking efforts—it strengthens institutions and helps ensure that when a case goes through the courts, justice can actually prevail, and offenders are given sentences that reflect the severity of their crimes.

Partnership

Partnership works differently in every country but overall focuses on bringing together agencies, NGOs, community leaders and government. This collaboration enables knowledge building and intelligence sharing across sectors.

After endless abuse, two sisters find peace

For 11 years, Taka and her sister Selina* endured sexual violence and continuous threats from the person who should be their biggest protector: their father. They lived in constant fear and confusion, not knowing their rights or that their father could be prosecuted for his crimes.

At the same time the abuse was happening, Tearfund's partner, Hope Trust began working in their community providing awareness sessions. They paired this with training on trauma-informed care.

This rollout led to an increasing number of people speaking up about their own experiences or ongoing sexual abuse that they knew about. Because of this increased openness, the Hope team learned about the ongoing abuse the sisters were suffering. So, their counsellors approached the sisters and began working with Taka.

Through the help of the counsellors, the girls learned about their rights as children and the seriousness of the abuse. The team cared for the girls and their family practically, providing goods and other necessities.

After a month of receiving support, Taka made up her mind to file a case against her father. Hope Trust's legal team are supporting her, and she is so grateful.

In a statement she said that the team helped her to get out of her past, where she was stuck, and to feel hope.

I am at peace; my mind is much clearer, and I feel much better now.'

Taka

* Names changed to protect identity

[The home] gave me a place of refuge and a chance to reconnect with God, and I learned to grow vegetables and now have a garden.'

Loata is a Fijian woman who escaped an abusive relationship and found safety in a home run by a Tearfund partner. Today, she earns a living through her baking business.



The power of partnership: Weaving together Farming & Enterprise and Modern Slavery expertise

The SAFE programme builds on 15 years of partnership between Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Tearfund implementing co-funded agricultural projects. And, it weaves in prevention and protection initiatives to better equip vulnerable households and survivors of modern slavery with the tools they need to build stronger futures.

Experience tells us that partnership is crucial to achieving lasting change, and this aspiration sits at the heart of the SAFE programme.

That means that meaningful and equal relationships between community members, and with businesses, government, police and churches will lay the foundation for mutually beneficial and far-reaching outcomes.

And, respectful and dignified connections to natural resources, cultural beliefs and traditions will support sustainable and systemic change that can be locally led and championed.

How are past experiences and current partnerships driving the SAFE programme?

1. In Sri Lanka, our partners are building on the success of Self Help Groups in Ethiopia (see sidebar to the right). Women are working together to pull their families and communities out of poverty, through pooling their savings to administer micro-loans to start businesses and pay to send their children to school.

Their collective voice creates a platform to champion women's and children's rights, and engage community leaders and men to overcome societal issues together, including domestic violence and sexual abuse.

2. In Thailand, since 2011, over 600 survivors of human trafficking have been removed from harm and received aftercare. More than 170 offenders have been convicted and sentenced to a collective 3,400 years of prison.

This partner is now mentoring our partners in the Fiji and Solomon Islands, engaging with community leaders and government bodies to recognise and confront issues of forced sex and exploitation at a systemic level, and to support the delivery of justice and hope for survivors.

A look at the impact of Self Help Groups in Ethiopia, first established in 2002

25,000+



SHGs have been established, representing more than

500,000+

people, mostly women.

Every dollar invested into a SHG has a NZ



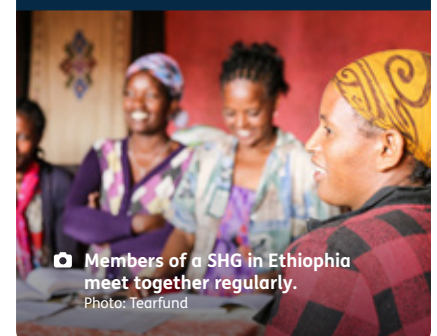
\$50-\$200

return for household and community impact.

In 2002, the avg. weekly savings for members was NZ 10 cents and the avg. loan NZ \$4.

NZ \$20-100

Today, the avg. weekly savings is NZ \$20-100, and members can access loans up to NZ \$10,000.



Members of a SHG in Ethiopia meet together regularly.
Photo: Tearfund

3. Smallholder farmers are learning and being trained through cross-collaboration among Tearfund partners who are sharing their expertise.

As they are upskilled to produce a diverse range of high-quality crops and undertake value-add processing and organic farming, they are increasing their incomes and can capitalise on better market opportunities.



Raymond (based in Solomon Islands) has been receiving training on organic farming. He is pictured here in front of his taro and peanut plots, creating demonstration gardens so others can learn and benefit from his experience.

Photo: Tearfund

In the last two years I have begun to see families... embrace their inherent skills and be confident in their ability to be self-sufficient. I see much joy and aspiration within families to grow their incomes from markets, sell within their communities and get creative with how to do this. Young people are asking for reference letters so they can go on to study and have financial and comms skills.

My dream is for young people to drive change in their communities for generations to come, for them to be self-sufficient so that we can exit, [and for them to] replicate the work in new communities across the Solomon Islands.'

Patricia



Patricia works for our partner in the Solomon Islands, focusing on agricultural initiatives that drive youth engagement especially.

Photo: Tearfund

The SAFE programme has two key objectives:

1. For vulnerable rural households to have adequate livelihoods to enjoy an improved quality of life, and be resilient against climate shocks and modern slavery.
2. For communities to be protected from modern slavery, through systemic changes which address the root causes of exploitation, support access to justice and provide hope for survivors.

Your giving will equip our local partners to work in the following three areas:



Building Community Awareness

Change starts and persists with community empowerment.

- People are aware of the risks and impact of trafficking and exploitation and know how to report abuse and access help.
- Community leaders are engaged to model positive change, break the culture of silence, and foster trust.
- Vulnerable parents and women receive support and advice through peer groups.
- Communities are equipped to prevent and respond to trafficking, exploitation, and abuse —utilising referral pathways to local care and justice services.



Taking a Survivor-Centred Approach

Giving voice to the lived experiences of survivors improves anti-trafficking efforts.

- Survivors are empowered to pursue legal justice through improved investigation procedures.
- Survivors are reintegrated into communities, receiving further education and skills for sustainable, safe work.
- Partners and social service providers are equipped to provide best-practice trauma-informed care to survivors.
- Government, NGOs, churches, and communities are collaborating effectively to protect young people from exploitation, sharing their learnings with others.



Increasing Incomes

Adequate and safe livelihoods build resilience.

- Smallholder farming families rise above the basic-needs poverty line through sustainable livelihoods to enjoy improved quality of life and be resilient against exploitation.
- Women and youth are empowered with opportunities to contribute positively to their communities and take up positions of leadership to lead change and support one another.
- Our partners develop innovative and profitable enterprises through a value-chain approach that enables farmers to capitalise on agri-enterprise and agri-tourism initiatives.



Prema Maeato, who leads Hope Trust in the Solomon Islands, shares how your giving will help anti-trafficking efforts in his community.

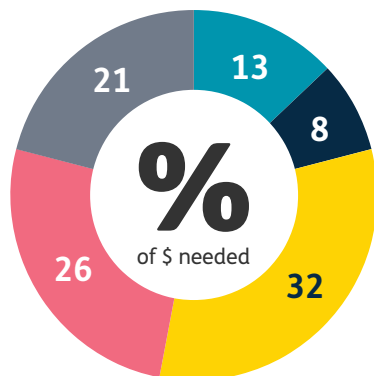
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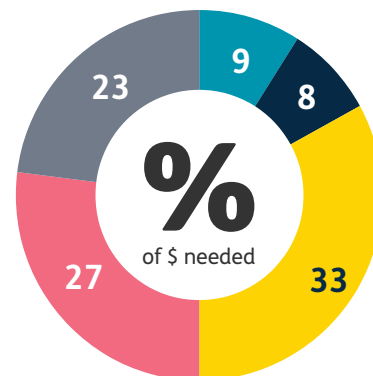
**Will you give so that people can provide for their families
and create safe, resilient communities?**



Total funds needed for this financial year:
\$930,000



Total needed over the next two years of the
SAFE Programme (2024–2026): **\$1,727,640**



● Sri Lanka
 ● Vanuatu
 ● Solomon Islands
 ● Fiji
 ● Myanmar

Triple your impact:

**For every \$1 sent to our SAFE partners in Southeast Asia-Pacific,
the New Zealand Government will give \$2!**

That means your impact is multiplied: we'll stretch every dollar you give so you help the greatest number of people in the most life-transforming ways. And remember, your gift is eligible for a tax rebate in New Zealand, meaning you can claim one third (33.3%) back as a tax credit.



Together, we can empower people with livelihood opportunities and protection initiatives that allow them to create strong futures for themselves and their families, and to build communities that are safe, free and thriving.



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Please consider remembering Tearfund in your will.
To find out more, email bequests@tearfund.org.nz

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