

## A success story from Salamiyah 2 Camp, Iraq



Photo : © TGH / Quentin Bruno

Manal<sup>(1)</sup> Is 14 years old lives with her parents, 4 sisters and 3 brothers, she is the second child among her siblings. They are simple and a rural family from west Mosul (Al Nahrawan village).

The father is the only source of income for the family and he is depending on daily working if he work they can afford their daily needs if not they can not. Both father and mother are not educated, Manal left the school because she do not like the school meanwhile her parents did not show any objection on her decision to leave the school because they did not receive any education before.

The family was living among their relatives and neighbors and they totally depend on farming the lands and harvest, during the conflict in Mosul and controlling ISIS these areas they had to leave the village and displaced to Al Ba'aj sub-district for more than a month.

**"We lived in our village with peace and quiet"** Manal's mother

**"I had a lot of friends there and I was happy at that time"** Manal

Like the other people in many areas in Mosul who displaced during the conflict, the family decided to leave the village to another area in Al Ba'aj sub-district seeking for food and safety after losing it in their village when the father lost his job and the family lived in bad condition without any income or any other source of live with the fear of losing their life during the conflict.

**"fear and hunger "** Manal

**"lack of food items and water, worse days we lived in Al Ba'aj desert"** Manal's mother

Manal with her family left Al Ba'aj sub district and displaced to Salamiyah 2 camp on 15th June 2017 when she was 11 years old, at the beginning they faced some difficulties regarding to the food items and NFI, but their life began to improve again with out fair or hunger like before and they were glad to have neighbors and friends in the camp. Because they are living in camp and the family is compacted in the traditions the father decided to give Manal to her cousin to get married while she is only 14 years old. When TGH for the first time started Adolescent Girl Toolkit<sup>(2)</sup> in Salamiyah2 camp on 7th April 2019, Manal registered in the first group and it was the first time for her to attend TGH activities and she was happy to attend the sessions with her friends from the same sector meanwhile she start to rebuild her social life again and have friends in the same age. As well as her mother started participation in parent program and she was attending the sessions regularly. Manal was agree with her parent to get married before her participation in AGT but when she attend AGT program with TGH she rejected to get married in this age and her mother started supporting her desire after participating in the parent sessions.

**" I did not want my daughter to get married because I lived this experience when I was 14 years old and I will not let my daughter live my experience"** Manal's mother

**"After participation in the program I learnt that marriage is not only a wedding dress it's a responsibility I cannot afford both psychologically and physically with my age"** Manal

(1) The name of the child has been changed.

(2) \*The Adolescent Girls Toolkit for Iraq is a collection of learning sessions and tools designed to empower adolescent girls from IDP, Refugee and Host communi-