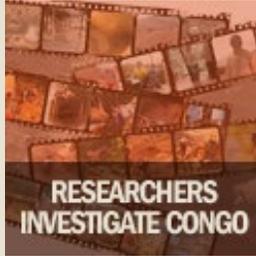




FREE THE SLAVES eUPDATE

A quarterly progress report to supporters about Free the Slaves activities and impact



16 Child Slaves Freed in Ghana Rescue

It was one of the most ambitious rescue missions ever attempted by a FTS frontline partner in Ghana: a week-long journey in May targeting 20 villages along 125 miles of shoreline on Lake Volta. The team was looking for children enslaved on fishing boats. The outcome was far from certain.

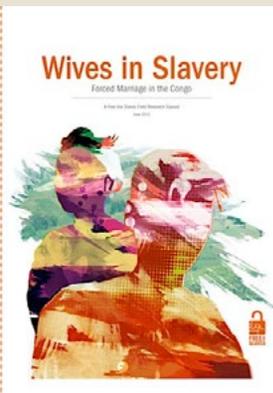
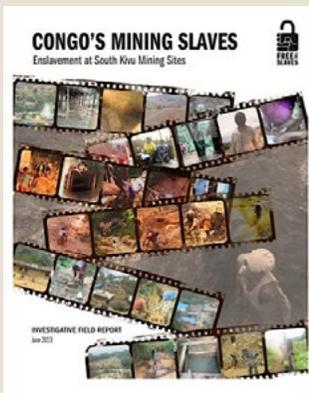
“The path to freedom can be as unnerving as the road to slavery,” says FTS Ghana Director Joha Braimah. “Rescues are highly unpredictable. Sometimes it can be negotiated calmly, and other times things just don’t go according to plan.”

“My nerves were on edge, as I didn’t know what to expect,” says FTS Program Manager Christy Gillmore. “We saw boat after boat with small children hard at work, hauling and untangling fishing nets. I tried counting them, but they became too numerous.”

In the end, the mission was a remarkable success. The recovery of 16 children from slavery demonstrates the effectiveness of FTS frontline programs. Joha and Christy’s personal account of the journey is compelling reading. You can see their [full story on the FTS blog](#). Christy wrote about one child who watched the rescue team convince slaveholders to free her.

“I couldn’t imagine what she was feeling in that moment: fear, anxiety, confusion, resentment? If you’ve been sold to strangers by your own family to work night and day with little food and frequent abuse, what would you think of new strangers coming to take you to yet another place?”

Fortunately, staffers from the FTS partner organization Challenging Heights are experts at rescuing, rehabilitating and reintegrating child slavery survivors back into normal village life. All 16 children were taken to a shelter to regain their strength, and to learn how to smile once again. See more about FTS work in Ghana – including video of a rescue mission, on our [FTS website Ghana page](#).



Free the Slaves Researchers Investigate Congo Slavery

Two FTS field investigations are breaking new ground in understanding the scope and impact of slavery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Mining is a key source of export income for the DRC. Minerals are shipped to industrialized nations for use in electronics, jewelry, manufacturing and many other industries. But many Congolese people in mining zones toil in conditions of slavery, and much of the profit from mining benefits groups engaged in armed conflict.

Congo's Mining Slaves documents more than 800 cases of slavery at major mining sites, and analyzes why Congolese workers are vulnerable to enslavement.

There is also growing recognition that for many Congolese women and girls, marriage can be slavery. It can begin through abduction and rape. It can be arranged by fathers to repay debts. These brides enter marriage against their will. They are forced to provide labor without compensation. They cannot pursue their own life goals. And they cannot escape.

Wives in Slavery examines the causes and impacts of forced marriage in the Congo – through the stories of women and girls who have experienced it firsthand. The case studies provide a lens into how forced marriage occurs through the rape, kidnapping and sale of women and girls.

Both reports provide detailed recommendations on confronting and overcoming slavery in the Congo. The reports are now available on the [FTS Congo webpage](#).



Charting the Path Forward for Free the Slaves

The figures are in for 2012, and it was an extraordinary year. Free the Slaves helped free more than 1,750 slaves, reached almost 700 communities, educated more than 14,000 villagers in our slavery prevention program and trained more than 1,500 government officials on how to combat slavery. Our work led to the arrest of 123 alleged traffickers.

The numbers underscore that Free the Slaves is a global leader in implementing grassroots programs against slavery. Looking forward, we

will be refining our organizational focus to be even more effective. You can think of our strategy as a triangle: field programs, thought leadership and advocacy.

FIELD PROGRAMS: Our field programs work to prevent slavery, rescue the enslaved, help freed slaves rejoin families, and promote the prosecution of slaveholders and traffickers. In all our programs we work with and through local organizations, building their long-term capacity. Through our programs, we are educating vulnerable populations about their rights, as well as how to resist the schemes of traffickers.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP: With 13 years of experience, FTS has built an impressive body of knowledge about what works and what doesn't. We have developed great models for training partners, educating communities and mobilizing protection committees at the village level. We are preparing to share those lessons as part of our contribution to the global anti-slavery movement.

ADVOCACY: Our field programs also provide the basis for evidence-based advocacy. Free the Slaves is well positioned to advocate for vigorous government action, because we bring experience to the table. Appropriate – and vigorously implemented – laws and regulations, as well as adequate government funding, are essential to combating slavery.

There are many challenges ahead – primarily ones of scale. We are helping scores of thousands whereas the need is in the millions. We must expand in the countries where we currently operate, and open new fronts. With [your continued support](#), we will meet these challenges, ensuring even greater success in the future in the fight against slavery.



FTS Freedom Award Winner Honored at Organization of American States Forum

With a “knot” in her throat, Josefa Condori Quispe recounted her ordeal in slavery. “We have to tell this very sad story,” she said. Her personal testimony was a highlight of an Organization of American States roundtable in Washington to spotlight domestic servitude slavery in the Americas.

Josefa was sent away from home to work as a maid at age 9, when her father died and her mother could not make ends meet. She was excited at first, heading from rural Peru to the teeming metropolis of Lima. She was promised schooling and shoes if she worked as a nanny and maid. But the promises were never kept. “It was not the Lima I had dreamed about,” Josefa recalled. “I felt asphyxiated there.”

Josefa told more than 125 diplomats and human rights activists at the roundtable event – and more than 500 people watching live online in 17 countries – that domestic slaves become “invisible” because they toil alone inside wealthy homes. You can see Josefa’s poignant story on the [FTS Vimeo site](#), and see video of her receiving her Free the Slaves Freedom Award on the [FTS blog](#).

Free the Slaves periodically presents Freedom Awards to heroes of the anti-slavery movement whose work represents some of the best anti-slavery efforts in the world today. Josefa now runs a shelter in Cuzco to help others who have escaped domestic slavery. It’s called [Centro Yanapanakusun](#), which means: “Let’s help each other.” See previous award winners on the [FTS Freedom Awards webpage](#).



Teen Picks Free the Slaves for Charity Project

Inspired by the Torah’s dictum of pidyon shvuyim (redeeming the captives), 13-year-old Daniel Bileca chose Free the Slaves this year for a special class project. His mission: convince classmates at the Brandeis Hillel Day School in San Francisco to send a share of their annual charity drive to FTS.

Daniel’s project worked. He made a poster featuring information about FTS and talked to fellow students. They voted to contribute \$516 to help end slavery.

However, Daniel didn’t stop there. He also encouraged guests at his bar mitzvah to give to FTS in lieu of gifts for himself. That worked, too. His family and friends contributed \$609. Daniel also donated 18% of the money that people gave to him directly, raising another \$1,056 to fight slavery. Grand total raised: \$2,181. Wow! Thanks, Daniel!

During his drash at the bar mitzvah ceremony, Daniel made a compelling plea for everyone to join the anti-slavery movement: “I’m not asking you to quit your job and become an abolitionist. However, I am asking you to at least consider helping in some way,” he said, “whether that is buying fair-trade products...paying fair wages to those who need it most...educating yourselves and others about modern day slavery...or giving donations to organizations like Free the Slaves.”

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Free the Slaves

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