



# Community Based Model for Fighting Slavery

## About Free the Slaves

Our mission is to liberate slaves and change the systems that allow slavery to persist. Free the Slaves works with local partners to implement effective approaches to ending slavery in Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Haiti, India and Nepal. We have developed a community-based model for fighting slavery that permits rigorous testing. Results to date are very encouraging. We are continuing to acquire and disseminate lessons learned that will advance the anti-slavery movement.

## Modern Slavery

Slavery is any situation in which a person is exploited for the profit of another by force, fraud or coercion; receives no compensation other than the barest subsistence; and is unable to leave. The U.N. International Labor Organization estimates that 21 million people are in slavery; the Walk Free Global Slavery Index puts the figure at 30 million. Asia has the most slaves, followed by sub-Saharan Africa. Slavery is concentrated in sectors with high levels of manual labor, such as agriculture, mining and fishing.

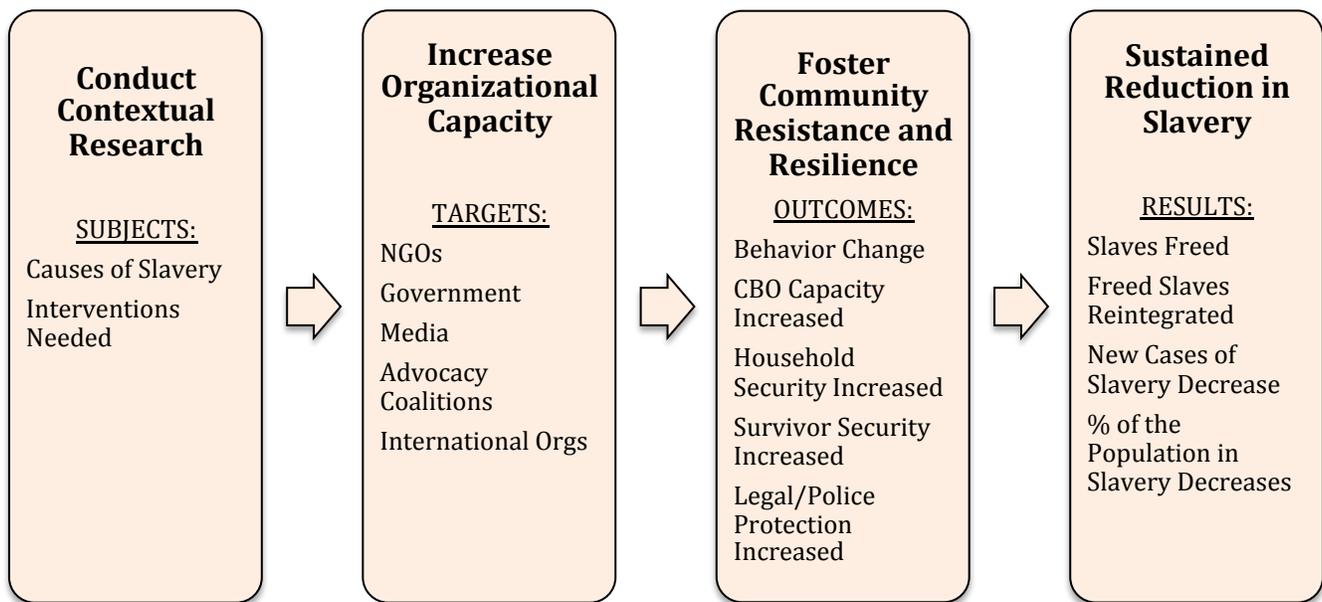
## Factors Leading to Slavery

Slavery is most common among communities of poor people burdened by specific forms of vulnerability.

| Most Salient Vulnerabilities Leading to Slavery |  |
|---|--|
| Lack of Awareness of Rights                     | Often, people do not know their rights and accept forced labor and exploitation. For example, people in debt may wrongly believe the moneylender has the right to hold them as servants until the debt is paid.  |
| Lack of Awareness of Risks                      | The schemes of traffickers sound attractive and plausible. The risks of certain acts, like surrendering one's passport, are not understood.  |
| Absent or Weak Protective Organizations         | Poor communities often lack effective local organizations that can serve as protectors and buffers against those perpetrating enslavement. Disorganized communities are especially vulnerable to becoming enslaved.  |
| Household Insecurity                            | Critical deficits in income, schooling, health and shelter create vulnerability that can be exploited. People turn to moneylenders in the absence of a legitimate source of credit. Children not in school are vulnerable to traffickers. A health crisis can drive people into debt and slavery.                      |
| Inadequate Legal Protection                     | Poor and marginalized groups and communities are the least likely to be protected by the law. Weak laws and lack of law enforcement reduce the risk to slavers and traffickers.  |
| Survivor Vulnerability                          | The survivors of slavery are often traumatized, have a perceived or real dependence on their traffickers, are impoverished and are sometimes without marketable skills. They are frequently stigmatized, especially women and girls victimized by sex trafficking. Survivors are at high risk of becoming re-enslaved. |

## Community Based Model

All our programs are carried out with and through local partners. Our basic approach is to create assets that offset vulnerabilities: educate about rights and risks, organize community groups against slavery, strengthen household security, liberate those in slavery, and increase the costs and risks to perpetrators.



### Free the Slaves Model for Fighting Slavery

- **Contextual Research:** We undertake research to define the vulnerabilities and pathways leading to slavery, and needed interventions.
- **Capacity Building:** We provide training, technical assistance and grants to strengthen local organizations and agencies to achieve sustainable solutions. Our partners may include:
  - Non-governmental organizations that serve at-risk communities.
  - Government agencies responsible for essential services and/or legal protection.
  - Media that benefit from training on how to report about slavery.
  - Advocacy coalitions that seek reform of laws or more effective enforcement.
  - International organizations, including donors and international NGOs.
- **Fostering Community Resistance and Resilience:** In concert with local partners, we implement programs to reduce community vulnerabilities. The outcomes we expect are:
  - Behavior change from education and participatory exercises; these yield changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices that protect against slavery.
  - Launching or strengthening community-based organizations. Our partners and we encourage the creation of village and neighborhood committees that mobilize action against slavery. They educate neighbors, look out for traffickers, pursue suspected cases of slavery, and advocate for better services.
  - Household security is advanced by helping communities access legitimate sources of credit, schools, health care and employment.
  - Survivor security is advanced by ensuring former slaves receive needed shelter, counseling, medical care, vocational training and follow-up.
  - Legal and police protection are strengthened through training, legal services for survivors, media reporting on police protection, and political advocacy.
- **Sustained Reduction in Slavery:** Enhanced community resistance and resilience lead to long-term reductions in slavery. Specifically, we expect to observe the following:
  - Liberation of slaves through direct action by newly empowered individuals and communities or through rescues and raids undertaken by NGOs and police.
  - Reintegration of freed slaves, who, through survivor services, acquire the wherewithal to claim a life in freedom.
  - Reduction in the number of people newly entering slavery.
  - Decline in the prevalence of slavery in formerly vulnerable communities.

## Impact Achieved

In 2013, we recorded the following aggregate results for our programs:

- 3,127 people freed from slavery
- 18,465 villagers educated on how to protect their families from traffickers
- 1,157 village and neighborhood groups supported to protect their communities from slavery
- 1,518 government officials trained on how to more effectively stop slavery
- 105 traffickers and slaveholders facing legal action