



INFORMATION KIT 2016



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Free the Slaves helps liberate people from slavery—and works to convince governments, international development organizations, and businesses to implement key changes required for global slavery eradication. We document leading-edge practices in order to persuade others to mainstream anti-slavery activities into existing development projects.





**FREEDING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY**



Our Formula for Freedom



Our Formula for Freedom

THE PROBLEM:

Tens of millions are trapped in modern-day slavery.

- They toil at mines, quarries, farms and factories, on fishing boats, in brothels and in private homes.
- They are forced to work, without pay, under threat of violence, and they cannot walk away.
- Slavery isn't legal anywhere, but it happens nearly everywhere.
- About 25 percent of today's slaves are children.

THE VICTIMS:

Slavery is the result of vulnerability.

- The poor, the marginalized and the uneducated are easy prey.
- People migrating for work get tricked and trapped by traffickers.
- People borrowing money in an emergency are cheated by thugs who force their entire family to work as slaves and never admit the debt has been repaid.

THE SOLUTION:

Uplift victims and the vulnerable.

- We educate people about their rights and organize communities to take action.
- We help communities prompt police to conduct raids and rescues.
- We help provide schooling, vocational training, micro-credit, legal and psychological support, health care and economic development to slavery-proof entire communities.
- Those who break free, stay free—and nobody takes their place in slavery.

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OUR IMPACT

We have freed 12,000 people from slavery since 2000.

IMPACT 2015	
1,106	People Freed from Slavery
4,051	Slaves or Survivors Receiving FTS/Partner Services
327,135	People Reached Through Awareness Raising & Rights Education
1,709	Communities Receiving Support
1,405	Government Officials Trained
74	Traffickers and Slaveholders Arrested

PIONEERS & INNOVATORS

History:

Founded in 2000, Free the Slaves is widely regarded as a leader in the modern abolition movement. Our history is one of groundbreaking research, successful advocacy to change government policy and business practices, award-winning documentaries and books to spread awareness, and innovative field programs that free slaves.

Staff & Operations:

Our staff of 25 confronts slavery in strategically-selected hot spots in India, Nepal, Ghana, Congo and Haiti—operating in partnership with locally-based organizations.

Finances:

Our 2016 operating budget is approximately \$3 million, with more than 75 percent going directly to programs and services.

Donors & Supporters:

More than 1,500 people donate each year. A wide range of artists, authors, actors, musicians and thought leaders have helped: including Desmond Tutu, Forest Whitaker, Esperanza Spalding, Jason Mraz, Paul Simon, Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Jillian Anderson, Tom Shadyac, Sir Ken Robinson and Isabel Allende.



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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 the 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. 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	In many cases, people do not know their basic rights. They accept the condition of forced labor and exploitation. Debt bondage is a good example. People in debt actually accept the fact that the moneylender has the right to hold them as servants until the debt is paid. They do not know that the moneylender is committing a crime.
Lack of Awareness of Risks	If people don't have access to good information about working conditions, the promise of a job can be highly alluring. The schemes and blandishments of traffickers are made to sound highly attractive and plausible. This can lead to people placing themselves at risk of trafficking.
Absence or Weakness of Protective Organizations	Poor communities often lack effective local organizations that can serve as buffers and protectors and against those perpetrating enslavement. Disorganized communities are especially vulnerable to becoming enslaved.
Household Insecurity	An underlying cause of slavery is the insecurity of families, by which we mean critical deficiencies in income, assets, access to schooling and health, and inadequate shelter. These deficits can lead to exploitation by those who promise to fill the void. People turn to usurious moneylenders in the absence of a legitimate source of credit. Children who are not in school are especially vulnerable to traffickers. A health crisis can drive people into debt and slavery.
Inadequate Legal Protection	Poor and marginalized groups and communities are also the ones least likely to be protected by the law. Weak laws and lack of law enforcement reduce the risk to slaveholders and traffickers. Almost everywhere, the number of successful prosecutions for slavery is a tiny fraction of the number of crimes committed. Restitution to victims is rare. There are few, if any, penalties to companies that tolerate slavery in their supply chains. In such circumstances, there is a huge incentive for slavery since the profits are high and the costs and risks are low.
Survivor Vulnerability	Survivors of slavery are especially vulnerable. They are usually traumatized as a result of physical, psychological and sexual abuse. They may have developed a perceived or real dependence on their traffickers. Survivors are almost invariably impoverished and sometimes without marketable skills. Their families and communities frequently stigmatize them; this is especially true of women and girls victimized by sex trafficking. Survivors are therefore at high risk of becoming re-enslaved.

Community Based Model for Fighting Slavery

Free the Slaves has developed a causal model that captures the logic by which we attempt to redress key vulnerabilities. All of 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. The model draws from strategies that have been proven to be successful in other international human rights and development efforts. The detailed multi-step model and table of indicators to measure progress can be seen in the appendixes of this report. Below is a simplified explanation.

Four Step Model for Fighting Slavery

1. Contextual Research: We undertake research to define the vulnerabilities and pathways leading to slavery, and needed interventions.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.



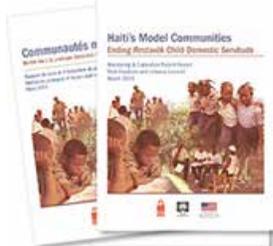
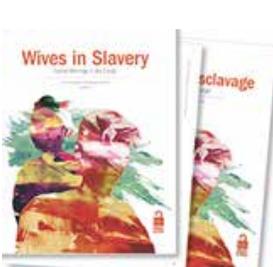
Free the Slaves | Documenting Results

Our monitoring and evaluation techniques evaluate changes in the organizational strength of our front-line partners, track the ability of communities to confront traffickers and overcome slavery over time and cultivate a reduction in slavery in the communities we help. Free the Slaves uses eight data collection tools across its country programs. We track 20 standard indicators to assess progress. Our grassroots partners, as elements both of their capacity development plan and sub-grant reporting requirements, are provided with technical assistance to adapt and use the appropriate indicators.

FREE THE SLAVES DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Slavery Prevalence Survey	Measures the percent of the population in slavery and key variables that affect the vulnerability of communities to slavery such as socioeconomic status and individual knowledge, attitudes and practices
Community Maturity Tool	A self-assessment used by community groups and partner organizations to measure the capacity of the community to sustainably resist slavery
Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool	Used to measure partner organization capacity and create capacity-building action plans in regards to program quality, governance, human resources, finances and communication
Survivor Registry	Used to track freed slaves and their reintegration
Reintegration Checklist	Used to measure survivors' level of self-sustained independence based on an assessment of progress in the following areas: housing and accommodations; health care; legal status & rights; education & vocational training; employment & income; savings; physical protection; community support; and spiritual support
Media Effectiveness Checklist	Used to measure whether media stories effectively communicate (categorized into accuracy, completeness, tone, and impact) about the slavery situation and/or solutions relevant to national or local context
Advocacy Milestone Tracker	Tracks progress towards desired policy changes
Coalition Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool	Helps identify key areas of strength and areas of potential improvement for a coalition's development, and then helps create an action plan to build a coalition's capacity—focusing on five key performance areas: governance and management; program quality; human resource and capacity development; external relationships; and operations.

Free the Slaves | Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Publications

	<h3>India Freedom Dividend</h3> <p>This thorough study, conducted at the beginning and end of a three-year program, provided insight into whether slavery and trafficking had been eradicated in the village of Kukrouthi and determined if other socioeconomic conditions in the community had improved. The survey looks at changes in the economic, social, educational, health, and political status of households in the village.</p>
	<h3>Haiti's Model Communities</h3> <p>Restavèk is a traditional system in which Haitian children are sent to live with other families and work as domestic servants. The expectation is for the host family to provide schooling, food, and shelter. Yet many children are abused and enslaved in their new homes. The Model Communities project is based on the premise that building community consensus against restavèk is a strong strategy to prevent and reverse the flow of children into domestic servitude.</p>
	<h3>Ghana Child Rights in Mining</h3> <p>Gold mining is one of Ghana's major industries—gold exports are one of the country's biggest sources of income. But at many mining sites, children are exploited as workers. The Child Rights in Mining pilot project addressed the lack of awareness and protection of child rights, which cause hazardous child labor practices and sexual violence against children. Using illustrated drawings based on the lives of local residents, the project educated parents on the rights of children and how to protect them.</p>
	<h3>Congo's Mining Slaves</h3> <p>This Free the Slaves field investigation documents the types, nature, and scale of slavery at major mining sites in the South Kivu province. It also analyzes the factors that make Congolese workers vulnerable to enslavement and recommends solutions.</p>
	<h3>Wives in Slavery</h3> <p>Every person has the right to freely choose his or her spouse. But for many women and girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, marriage is coerced and a form of slavery. This exposè examines the causes and impacts of forced marriage in the Congo through the stories of women and girls who have experienced it firsthand.</p>



TRAFFICKING AND SLAVERY FACT SHEET

TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE IN SLAVERY TODAY
RESEARCHERS ESTIMATE **21 MILLION** ARE ENSLAVED WORLDWIDE^{1,2}



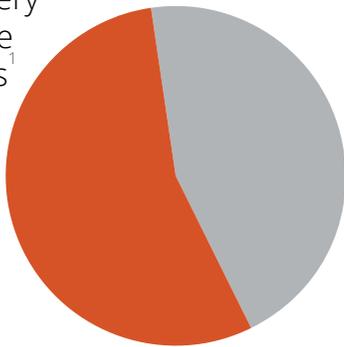
Slavery generates **\$150 billion** for traffickers each year³



78% of slavery victims today are in labor slavery¹

22% of slavery victims today are in sex slavery¹

55% of slavery victims today are women and girls¹

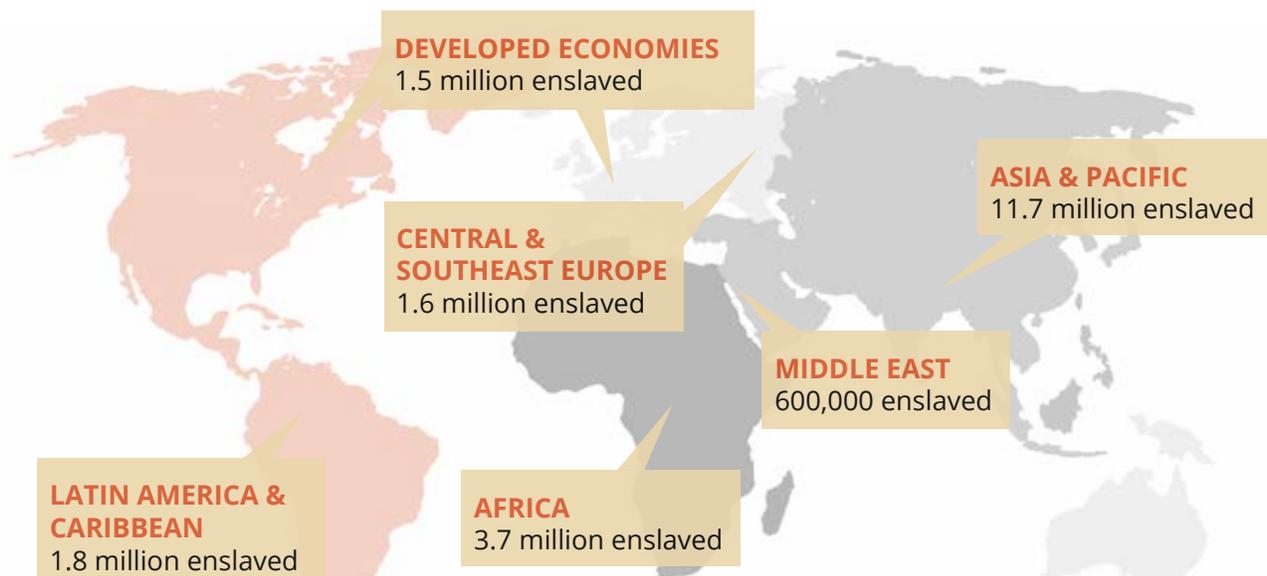


45% of slavery victims today are men and boys¹



26% of slaves today are children under age 18¹

SLAVERY is not legal anywhere but happens **EVERYWHERE**²



Sources:

1. U.N. International Labor Organization Global Estimate of Forced Labor 2012 - www.ilo.org/washington/WCMS_182004/lang-en/index.htm

2. U.N. International Labor Organization: Profits and Poverty, The Economics of Forced Labor, 2014 - http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf

Free the Slaves on the Front Lines



Freeing Slaves Ending Slavery

MISSION & HISTORY: Free the Slaves liberates slaves around the world and changes the conditions that allow slavery to persist. Founded in 2000, we are widely regarded as pioneers and leaders in the modern abolitionist movement. Our history is one of groundbreaking research, advocacy to change government policies and business practices, compelling documentary films to spread awareness that slavery still exists, and innovative front-line field programs that free slaves and demonstrate the feasibility of eradicating slavery.

WHERE WE WORK: Free the Slaves operates field programs in some of the world's worst trafficking hot spots. More than 75 percent of our funds goes directly to programs. We rigorously and systematically assess our work to ensure accountability and to continuously improve our programs.

STRATEGY: Slavery is the result of vulnerability: the poor, the uneducated and the marginalized are exploited and coerced to work without pay. Under threat of violence, they cannot walk away. Our strategy is to reduce people's vulnerability.

<p>Conduct Contextual Research</p> <p>SUBJECTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of Slavery • Interventions Needed 	<p>Increase Organizational Capacity</p> <p>TARGETS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs • Governments • Media • Advocacy Coalitions • International Orgs 	<p>Foster Community Resistance and Resilience</p> <p>OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior Change • Community Based Organizational Capacity Increased • Household Security Increased • Survivor Security Increased • Legal/Police Protection Increased 	<p>Sustained Reduction in Slavery</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slaves Freed • Freed Slaves Reintegrated • New Cases of Slavery Decrease • % of the Population in Slavery Decreases
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Our Formula for Freedom

Empowering Communities For Freedom 2015 *By the Numbers*

<p>1,106</p> <p>People Freed from Slavery</p>	<p>4,051</p> <p>Slaves or Survivors Receiving FTS/ Partner Services</p>	<p>327,135</p> <p>People Reached Through Awareness Raising & Rights Education</p>
<p>1,709</p> <p>Communities Receiving Support</p>	<p>1,405</p> <p>Government Officials Trained</p>	<p>74</p> <p>Traffickers and Slaveholders Arrested</p>



FREEING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY



Freeing Slaves in Congo:

Community Empowerment | Legal Services | Survivor Support

Slavery in 'Conflict Minerals'

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC or Congo) is rich in resources that make modern life possible—minerals used by industrialized nations in manufacturing, jewelry, and many other industries. Gold and the “Three Ts” (tin, tungsten, tantalum) are used in everything from cars to medical devices, household goods to high-tech electronics.

Mineral resources have the potential to help the DRC’s economy expand and diversify. But instead, much of the profit benefits groups engaged in armed conflict. Ore mined by slaves is smuggled into global supply chains for metals, tainting products we use every day.



Slave labor fuels the fighting and prevents residents from building better lives...

- Militias round up villagers at gunpoint and force them to work.
- False criminal charges are levied against people who are then sentenced in corrupt or phony trials to toil at mines.
- People are enslaved to pay off household or business debts. Money, food, or tools are advanced to laborers, but phony accounting and abusive interest rates prevent them from repaying the debt. Miners are forced to keep digging.
- Sex slavery is rampant. Militias abduct women and girls from villages. Others are lured to mining zones by false promises of financial support.

Slavery in Marriage

There are few things more fundamental in life than marriage. It is the foundation of family. But for many Congolese women and girls, marriage can be slavery.

The military conflict has created a climate in which armed combatants flout the law with impunity, routinely forcing women and girls into marriage against their will.

Forced marriages often begin by abduction and rape. Or they can be arranged by impoverished fathers to repay debts. Brides forced into marriage are completely trapped. They cannot pursue their own goals, live independently, or escape.

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Girls are especially vulnerable because they are essentially powerless, being both children and female in a patriarchal society. Child marriages result in high-risk pregnancies with greater rates of both maternal and infant illness and death.

OUR SOLUTIONS IN THE CONGO

Slavery must end for a truly lasting peace.

We work with local groups to support education and access to schooling, good governance, citizen advocacy and government accountability, law enforcement, workers' rights associations, increased transparency by companies that use Congo minerals, micro-credit, and the development of viable alternative livelihoods to mining—such as farming and animal husbandry.

The Free the Slaves program is based on five pillars.

- **Strengthening Community Resistance to Slavery.** The establishment of village committees and clubs in schools is fostering community mobilization and advocacy to eliminate slavery and demand accountability from government officials. The launch of savings and loan associations is creating access to micro-credit so that vulnerable villagers can weather financial emergencies without falling into debt bondage slavery.
- **Building General Public Awareness.** Guided community discussions with illustrated booklets, a community radio series, and a mobile cinema feature film that dramatizes ways to resist slavery are helping the Congolese visualize that freedom from slavery is possible.
- **Building the Capacity of Congolese Civil Society.** A variety of community mobilizing, advocacy, media relations, and monitoring and evaluation skills are being strengthened at Free the Slaves front-line partner organizations and coalitions.
- **Improving the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practice of Key Government Officials.** Elected officials, prosecutors, judges, customary chiefs, and administrative authorities are being educated about slavery and trafficking laws—and their duty to enforce them.
- **Adoption of Anti-slavery Practices by International NGOs.** Training on how to recognize slavery and take action is being provided to a wide range organizations working in eastern Congo.

Read our [Community-Based Model for Fighting Slavery](#) for in-depth details of the Free the Slaves global strategy for freeing slaves and ending the conditions that allow slavery to persist.

OUR RESULTS IN CONGO

- More than 119,000 villagers were educated in 2014-15 about their rights through community meetings and community radio programming.
- Nearly 300 people have been liberated from slavery in 2014-15.
- Nearly 20 vigilance committees have been established by community members to create action plans for moving residents from slavery to freedom.
- Seven savings and loan groups have been created to provide micro-credit loans.
- More than 150 government officials were trained in 2014-15 on anti-slavery laws.

Read the [independent evaluation of our Congo program's impact](#), which concludes that "the project has succeeded in its goal to increase community-led resistance to slavery."





**FREEING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY**



Freeing Slaves in Ghana:

Community Empowerment | Legal Services | Survivor Support



Child Slavery at Mines

Gold mining is one of Ghana’s major industries, and the hope of finding work brings thousands to mining towns. Most turn to unlicensed and informal galamsey mining—small scale operations, carried out with the most basic tools.

Galamsey sites are extremely dangerous for children due to frequent mine collapses, poisonous dust inhalation, and exposure to toxic chemicals used to extract gold from ore. Boys put their health and even survival at risk. For girls, sex slavery in mining regions is a regular and disturbing threat.

Child Slavery in Fishing

Along Lake Volta, Ghanaian children are sold into a life of forced labor, malnutrition, and abuse. Traffickers prey on poor families, who are persuaded to send their children to work in deplorable conditions on rickety fishing boats.

Parents are told their children will attend school in exchange for a few hours of work. In reality, children work 14-hour shifts with one meal a day. There is no education, no reprieve, and no escape. Their dangerous duties include casting nets, diving, and hauling. Children often get tangled underwater in nets, and their families never hear from them again.



OUR SOLUTIONS IN GHANA

Free the Slaves is building awareness about child rights in source communities that send children to work at mines.

Many parents lack detailed knowledge about their roles and responsibilities in promoting child welfare, and there is a general lack of awareness about government resources to address child abuse.

The Child Rights in Mining Project developed illustrated booklets around the themes of parenting, child labor, and sexual abuse in informal mining communities. These themes were drawn from real narratives uncovered during preliminary research. The booklets were used in weekly or bi-weekly learning groups led by trained facilitators. Participants discussed the illustrated stories and how to protect children in their communities. They developed

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community-wide action plans to end slavery and meet their most pressing development needs. A pilot project has delivered promising results, and we are currently scaling-up the program in new communities.

Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Fishing Slaves

Free the Slaves has launched the Growing Up Free initiative as part of an innovative agreement between the U.S. and Ghana governments. The program is creating a comprehensive, integrated plan for prevention, rescue, prosecution, rehabilitation, reintegration and education to overcome child fishing slavery.

The project has four key goals:

Building Capacity: build Ghana's capacity to respond to child trafficking by training and providing technical assistance to civil society organizations, government agencies and individuals that protect children at each stage of abuse or vulnerability in communities.

Educating & Mobilizing: educate and mobilize communities to identify children who have been trafficked, refer them for rescue, train nonprofits and the Ghana Police Service to support rescues.

Meeting Basic Needs: assure that families can provide for the basic needs of their children, including shelter, food, healthcare and education; develop training opportunities for small-scale farming, livestock rearing and other vocations; develop access to community-based savings and loan cooperatives.

Changing Attitudes & Practices: increase public awareness and knowledge to prevent child trafficking from occurring and promote appropriate community action when child trafficking is suspected; establish child rights clubs for children at local schools; train local elected representatives.

Policy Advocacy

Free the Slaves is working to create acknowledgement of slavery in the informal gold mining sector by government officials, private companies, U.N. agencies and international nonprofits. This can lead to the adoption and enforcement of appropriate regulations and commitments to fulfilling their roles in protecting children and communities. The Ghana government and UNICEF view Free the Slaves as a resource on trafficking and child protection, and they regularly consult with us on developing strategies to address these issues.

Read our **Community-Based Model for Fighting Slavery** for in-depth details of the Free the Slaves global strategy for freeing slaves and ending the conditions that allow slavery to persist.

OUR RESULTS IN GHANA

Our pilot program has improved attitudes toward child rights and prompted parents to take action to protect their kids.

- **Suitable Work:** The percentage of participants who could identify suitable work for children rose from 5 percent to 93 percent.
- **Child Impacts:** The percentage of participants who could identify how hazardous work harms children rose from 4 percent to 79 percent.
- **Child Behavior:** The percentage of participants who could recognize behavioral patterns of girls who have suffered sexual abuse rose from 11 percent to 75 percent.
- **Government Assistance:** The percentage of participants who had knowledge of government agencies to contact in cases of child exploitation rose from 25 percent to 61 percent.
- **Child Protection:** 71 percent of participating parents took action to protect their children as a result of the project.





FREEING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY



Freeing Slaves in Haiti:

Community Empowerment | Legal Services | Survivor Support

The Practice of 'Restavèk'

Restavèk is a traditional system in which Haitian children from impoverished homes are sent by parents to live with other families and work for them as domestic servants.

Ideally the child is enrolled in school by the host household and treated like one of the family. But often this does not happen.

For many children, the day is filled with chores. Even the youngest are expected to fetch heavy buckets of water, hand-wash clothes, carry loads to and from the marketplace, and work in the fields—often laboring for 14 hours a day for no pay.

Children in Haiti's restavèk system often suffer a kind of apartheid, reduced to a subjugated status in their household and in society—sleeping on the floor, dressed in rags, eating leftovers, and often beaten. Two-thirds are girls, and many are viewed by men in the family as convenient objects for sexual exploitation. Girls are often abruptly expelled from the household if they become pregnant.

Successive generations have grown to adolescence in this atmosphere of shame, neglect, and abuse. Estimates of the number of children living in restavèk range from 150,000 to 300,000.

OUR SOLUTIONS IN HAITI

Fighting Slavery at Its Source

Free the Slaves has initiated a holistic method for community development that is one of the first of its kind in Haiti.

The Model Communities approach is based on the premise that building community consensus against restavèk can prevent and reverse the flow of children into servitude.

The strategy has six core components:

- **Community-based assessment**, including social mapping and participatory wealth ranking, to identify children in servitude and those at risk
- **Open space dialogue** to facilitate large-scale community discussions and consensus building
- **A participatory learning curriculum using illustrated story books** that bring to life the trauma experienced by children in slavery
- **Community-based child protection committees** to take preventive action with their

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neighbors, support the return and reintegration of restavèk children, and lead advocacy for needed government services

- **An accelerated education program** to allow overage students to complete the standard six-year primary school curriculum in three years
- **Livelihoods interventions** that integrate food and household security components to match the community's will to protect children while keeping them at home

Free the Slaves has successfully piloted the Model Communities approach in several source communities where parents have been sending their children away into restavèk. We are now scaling-up the program by expanding the strategy to other locales.

Strengthening Law Enforcement

Haiti has enacted one of the world's newest anti-slavery laws. The legislation defines human trafficking to include restavèk child domestic servitude, and it toughens punishment for traffickers and families who exploit children.

Free the Slaves advocated for passage of the legislation. We are continuing our advocacy efforts by pressing for proper implementation steps in the formation of a special committee designated to implement the new law.

Improving Haiti Research

Free the Slaves is participating on a technical committee that has been guiding the research methodology, and is now commenting on the findings, of a major national survey on child domestic work in Haiti, being conducted by UNICEF. Free the Slaves will continue to advise UNICEF on recommendations for next steps based on the research results.

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OUR RESULTS IN HAITI

The Model Communities pilot project delivered impressive results, demonstrating the effectiveness of the approach...

- **Children Back Home.** An estimated 27 percent of children initially identified as being in restavèk are now back home. Returned children reported overwhelmingly that they feel happier to be with their families. They feel freedom they didn't experience while in restavèk. And they are glad to be in school. The sending of children into restavèk decreased in participating communities.
- **Child Protection Stronger.** The child rights participatory learning method was very effective at shifting norms by improving attitudes and behavior related to children's rights. This included increased awareness of the risks of restavèk and diminished social acceptance of this harmful practice. Reported desirable behavior, such as better treatment of children, increased by 29 percentage points. This stimulated retrievals of restavèk children by parents.
- **Family Health Improved.** Reproductive health education was included in the project because family size and parental health can affect whether children are sent into restavèk. This intervention created a shift among participants toward attitudes favorable to family planning and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.
- **Schooling Strengthened.** The accelerated education component helped prevent at-risk children from being sent away from home into restavèk and contributed to the reintegration of children who returned home.





FREEING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY



Freeing Slaves in India:

Community Empowerment | Legal Services | Survivor Support

The Cruelty of Debt

In debt bondage, slaves are chained to an illegal financial obligation that they are forced to repay through endless labor. If unrelenting psychological pressure fails, slave holders enforce their grip through direct violence.

The crushing mechanisms of bonded labor slavery are insidious, humiliating, and powerful. An entire family—men, women, and children—is forced to work for the person who holds the debt. If a slave gets sick and misses work, the debt grows.

Slaves are paid only enough to stay alive to work another day. Usurious interest rates ensure they can never earn enough to repay the debt. Those in slavery cannot walk away, even if they could pay off the loan more quickly by working elsewhere.

Debt bondage has been outlawed in India, but impoverished villagers do not know their rights—and many have no choice but to borrow funds when a family emergency arises. Many slaves have been trafficked away from their communities, with no way to get home if they were to escape.

Debt also snares women and girls into sex slavery at roadside red-light districts, now widely dispersed across the Indian countryside. Forced and fake marriages, often driven by financial factors, are widely used as a way of trafficking adolescent girls into domestic slavery and sexual exploitation.

Vulnerability is the key factor that drives slavery in India. Impoverished villagers who lack financial, legal, medical, and educational services are most likely to borrow from predatory moneylenders during times of crisis. Widespread caste-based discrimination also puts entire communities at risk.

OUR SOLUTIONS IN INDIA

Community Empowerment

Rights Education—Freedom begins with the realization that slavery can be beaten.

Educating those in bondage about their rights, and showing them how others in similar circumstances have successfully reclaimed their freedom, is the first step.



Community Vigilance Committees—Free the Slaves has developed innovative strategies to organize and motivate the communities most afflicted by slavery.

Our work empowers villagers to challenge the authority of slave holders and demand police rescues of those who cannot free themselves. The formation of standing village committees helps residents collectively determine when and how they will make their break from bondage. The committees serve as vehicles for survivors to advocate for better schools, health care, economic development, and other community investments they are already entitled to under Indian law.

Freedom Plans—Free the Slaves helps those in slavery sketch out what their life in freedom should look like. This includes planning new ways to earn a living, often by learning a new trade or craft.

Transitional Schools—Children in slavery suffer from gaps in their education. Once rescued, they require accelerated remedial schooling before they can join their peers in public school classrooms. Free the Slaves help child slavery survivors catch up.



Legal Services and Survivor Support

Free the Slaves supports a team of Indian attorneys who specialize in human rights cases.

The lawyers help advocate for law enforcement to act on complaints lodged by those in slavery. They help slavery survivors receive formal government certification as crime victims—opening a range of employment opportunities and social service benefits. They help community members with the legal formalities of establishing businesses, such as obtaining permission to operate stone quarry operations on government land, which provides economic resilience.

Access to legal support helps the vulnerable ward off threats by those who would enslave them. They help survivors gain access to food rations, pensions, housing, agricultural land, and identity documents.

Free the Slaves also supports the Punarnawa Ashram, a center for recovery and a path to independence for women and girl survivors of sex slavery. The shelter provides ongoing legal assistance, psychological care, basic medicine, education, and vocational skills training. The center's name says it all—punarnawa means “new beginnings.”

Read our [Community-Based Model for Fighting Slavery](#) for in-depth details of the Free the Slaves global strategy for freeing slaves and ending the conditions that allow slavery to persist.



OUR RESULTS IN INDIA

- More than 3,000 people have been liberated from slavery in India in 2014-15.
- More than 1,600 community groups have been supported in 2014-15 in three states (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Karnataka) to educate villagers about their rights, develop strategies for breaking free from slavery, and maintaining forums for villagers to advocate for social and economic services that will make them less vulnerable. These groups reach tens of thousands of vulnerable people.
- More than 1,800 public officials have been educated on their roles and responsibilities in combating slavery 2014-15.
- More than 140 slaveholders and traffickers have been arrested in 2014-2015.

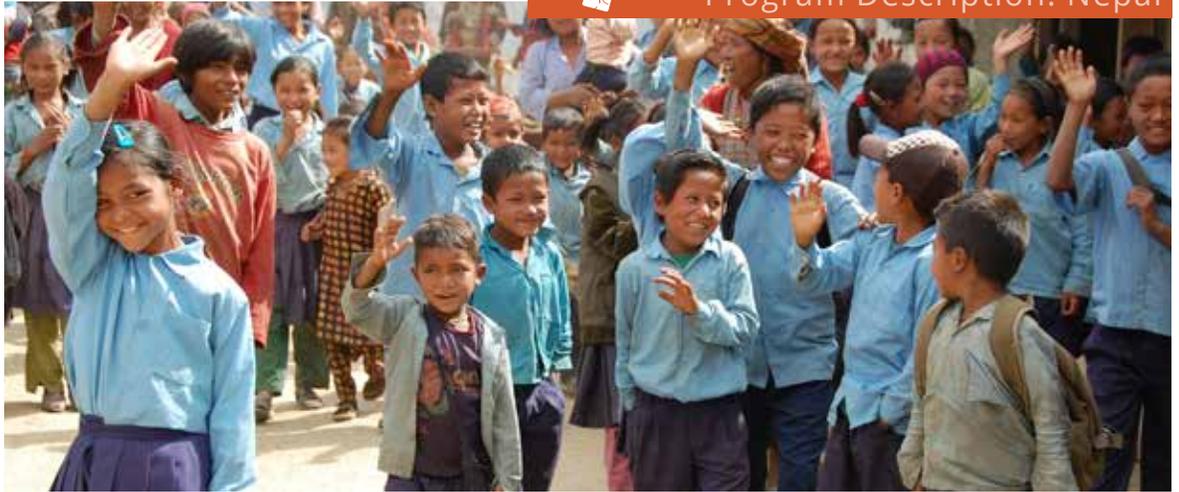
Read the [Harvard University report](#) about how the community-oriented approach being implemented by FTS' front-line partner in India is reducing slavery and improving lives.



**FREEING SLAVES
ENDING SLAVERY**



Program Description: Nepal



Freeing Slaves in Nepal:

Community Empowerment | Legal Services | Survivor Support

Unsafe Migration

Nepal's economy depends on people leaving home. Money sent back by Nepali workers in overseas jobs makes up one-quarter of the country's national income.

Many seek construction and domestic servant job opportunities in Persian Gulf countries. Others head to Malaysia and Indonesia, where manual laborers are in demand. Some even head to India to work in circuses.

For many job seekers, the journey leads to dehumanizing abuse. Women are forced into numerous forms of prostitution. Men are brutalized at dangerous work sites.

As migrants in foreign lands who've been tricked with false contracts and had their passports taken, Nepalis are especially vulnerable. They suffer horrific violence and violations of their most basic human rights. Escape is virtually impossible.



Exploitation at Home

Social, cultural, and economic systems of marginalization in Nepal lead to poverty, neglect, and enslavement of Nepalis at farms and in quarries as forced laborers and in bars, restaurants, and massage parlors as forced prostitution sex slaves.

Families lacking resources to cope with financial shocks, such as medical emergencies, find themselves enslaved in debt bondage. Children are pressed into service beside their parents, carrying heavy loads of stones that weigh more than they do.

The structures and mechanisms for holding government officials and slave holders accountable under Nepali law are often missing or weak. Vulnerable communities lack an understanding of their rights and how to avoid the risks that lead to slavery.

Communities are often atomized and lack both community-based anti-slavery organizations and non-governmental agencies that serve as protectors and advocates. There has been inadequate investment in building the capacity of local civil society organizations that can work on behalf of enslaved or at-risk communities.

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OUR SOLUTIONS IN NEPAL

Community-based approaches are needed to sustainably eradicate slavery. Community organizing provides a vehicle for rights education, where slaves and vulnerable people can recognize the illegality of their situation and make plans to assert their freedom.

An organized community turns slaves and vulnerable people into human rights activists and a population of marginalized people into a movement that can leverage significant and lasting change.

Our Nepal program has four main approaches.

Community Empowerment and Safe Migration Education. We work in rural communities as they bring trafficked children home and find ways to end trafficking in their villages. Free the Slaves builds and reinforces a grassroots movement of community vigilance committees in the most affected communities. These committees make demands of public officials and slave holders, spread awareness of trafficking and slavery risks and human rights, challenge harmful norms within the community, and assist in rescues, returns and reintegration of slaves. We also support vocational training and income generating activities for members of the committees. Small loans or seed investments are given to survivors with business ideas such as mobile shop carts, fishing boats, and bicycle taxis. The terms of the loan are more favorable to the survivors than they would get from many other local micro-credit programs and are targeted at formerly enslaved women.

Empowering Women and Girls in the “Entertainment” Industry. We strengthen and unite women and girls in the restaurants and dance bars of Kathmandu so that they can escape and prevent sex slavery. Self-help groups help women and girls find jobs where they will be safe, properly paid, and treated with respect. These groups pressure business owners to pay fair wages and prevent customers from abusing workers, file cases with the police, help women collectively save money in a revolving fund, and gain access to health care, counseling, and educational support.

Advocate for Tougher Law Enforcement. We help the Nepalese government improve its laws and actions against slavery. Our advocacy efforts are aimed at improving the country's National Plan of Action Against Trafficking, ensuring slavery is better defined in the constitution, and promoting ratification of the United Nations Protocol Against Trafficking.

Enlist International Organizations. We train field staff for large anti-poverty development projects so that they can identify slavery and trafficking and help prevent community members who are migrating to work from being enslaved.

Read our Community-Based Model for Fighting Slavery for in-depth details of the Free the Slaves global strategy for freeing slaves and ending the conditions that allow slavery to persist.

OUR RESULTS IN NEPAL

- More than 25,000 people in 2015 were educated on human trafficking risks and ways to stand up for their rights to resist slavery in their home communities.
- More than 100 government officials were trained on their duties to enforce anti-trafficking laws in 2015
- More than 1,200 at-risk individuals and 80 slaves or slavery survivors received services from FTS or our front-line partners in 2015.

