



Community Based Model For Fighting Slavery

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. Slavery is concentrated in sectors with high levels of manual labor, such as agriculture, mining and fishing. Slavery is most common among communities of poor people burdened by specific forms of vulnerability.

Key Vulnerabilities Leading to Slavery

Lack of Awareness of Rights	Many people do not know their basic rights, accepting forced labor. People in debt bondage accept that the moneylender may 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	For people without access to information about working conditions, the promise of a job is alluring. The blandishments of traffickers sound 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 to serve as buffers and protectors against those perpetrating enslavement. Disorganized communities are especially vulnerable.
Household Insecurity	Critical deficiencies in income, assets, access to schooling and health, and inadequate shelter lead to exploitation by those promising to fill the void. People turn to usurious moneylenders in the absence of a legitimate source of credit.
Inadequate Legal Protection	Poor and marginalized communities are least likely to be protected by the law. Weak laws and lack of enforcement reduce the risk to slaveholders and traffickers. The number of prosecutions is a tiny fraction of the number of crimes committed. Restitution to victims is rare. There are few penalties to companies that tolerate slavery in supply chains. There is a huge incentive for slavery since the profits are high and risks are low.
Survivor Vulnerability	Survivors are especially vulnerable. They are usually traumatized by physical, psychological and sexual abuse. They may have developed a perceived or real dependence on their traffickers. Survivors are impoverished, sometimes without marketable skills. Families and communities frequently stigmatize them. Survivors are at high risk of becoming re-enslaved.

Four Step Model for Fighting Slavery

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CONTEXTUAL RESEARCH

STEP ONE: Using community participatory methodology and working in partnership with in-country organizations, we define the vulnerabilities and pathways leading to human trafficking and modern forms of slavery at the individual community level. We identify needed interventions and chart a path forward.



CAPACITY BUILDING

STEP TWO: We provide training, technical assistance and grants to strengthen non-governmental organizations that serve at-risk communities, government agencies responsible for essential services and/or legal protection, news organizations that report about slavery, advocacy coalitions that seek better laws and enforcement, and international organizations working in the region.



COMMUNITY RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

STEP THREE: Programs reduce vulnerability. Education and participatory exercises change knowledge, attitudes and practices to protect against slavery. Village committees are created to mobilize action to educate neighbors, look out for traffickers, recover victims and advocate for better services. Household security improves through better access to credit, schools, health care and employment. Freed slaves receive shelter, counseling, medical care, and remedial education or vocational training. Legal and police protection are strengthened through training, legal service for survivors, media reporting on police, and political advocacy.



SUSTAINED SLAVERY REDUCTION

STEP FOUR: Enhanced community resistance and resilience lead to long-term reductions in slavery. Slaves are liberated through direct action by newly empowered individuals and communities or through rescues and raids undertaken by NGOs and police. Freed slaves are reintegrated through survivor services and acquire the wherewithal to reclaim life in freedom. The number of people newly entering slavery decreases, as does the prevalence of slavery in formerly vulnerable communities.