



# Impact in 2017 Plans for 2018





# Letter from the CEO



Dear friends,

The Freedom Fund has now been operational for four years. We're proud of what we have achieved in that time. Working with our partners, we've liberated 16,047 people from slavery, helped get 36,231 at-risk kids back into school, and directly engaged with over 390,000 men, women and children vulnerable to slavery.

While these numbers are important, they mean so much more when you think of the very real people they represent - girls from rural Nepal who are no longer being sexually exploited in dance bars in Kathmandu; men and boys from Myanmar no longer enslaved on Thai fishing boats; and whole families liberated from bondage in brick kilns in India - to give just a few examples.

We've also begun to witness the true power of a model that focuses on empowering local NGOs working on the frontlines of the fight against slavery. When these organisations come together, their collective efforts can transform the very systems that enable slavery. We now partner with and fund over 100 organisations to fight slavery around the world, and between them, they are working with some 5,894 community groups in high-prevalence countries. These community groups are teaching girls and boys about their rights, and parents about the benefits of keeping their children in school and encouraging all of them to be vigilant against the traffickers. Our local partners are challenging local

officials to prioritise the fight against this crime, and local police to pursue perpetrators who often operate in plain sight. And many are now jointly lobbying their state and national governments to strengthen and better implement their laws against extreme exploitation.

We also work with some outstanding research partners, such as the City University of New York, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Praxis India. By bringing together these researchers and our growing network of NGO partners, we are beginning to identify some of the most effective interventions and share that learning. In *Her Freedom, Her Voice*, a report we published earlier this year, we explored the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls to extreme exploitation and some of the most promising approaches to address them. We'll be doing more research on this throughout the year.

Yet, as we reflect on the impact achieved with our partners, we remain acutely conscious that tens of millions of people remain in slavery. To achieve a big measurable reduction in this scourge, we must identify the most impactful interventions, mobilise the resources to implement them, and ensure governments have the will to act. That remains the Freedom Fund's mission, and we thank all of you for your support as we pursue it.

**Nick Grono**  
CEO



# What is modern slavery?

Over 40 million people are enslaved in the world today. Modern slavery entraps men, women and children forced to work long days in dangerous and punishing conditions. Victims of modern slavery are controlled and exploited for commercial or personal gain. Slavery causes terrible suffering to its victims, and it also eats away at the wider health of our economies and communities. Ending slavery not only extinguishes an injustice, it allows people to freely contribute to their community, creating greater prosperity.

## COMMON TYPES OF MODERN SLAVERY



### Forced labour

Around the world, men, women and children are forced to work against their will under the threat of penalty or violence, whether by government authorities, private businesses or individuals.



### Bonded labour

In fields, factories and households, people are indebted, often through deception and forced to work to repay the "loan" under unlawful and exploitative conditions, sometimes over generations.



### Commercial sexual exploitation

An estimated 4.8 million women, children and men are victims of forced sexual exploitation, imprisoned by force or deception into slavery for the purpose of sex.



### Forced marriage

In many countries, girls and women are coerced into marriage against their will, usually for money.



Image, top: Katie Orlinsky, Legatum Limited, 2018

Image, middle: Lisa Kristine/Freedom Fund

Image, bottom: Freedom Fund



40 million people are trapped in modern slavery worldwide. 71% of those are women and girls.



Globally, 4.8 million people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation. 99% are women and girls.



Over the past five years, 89 million people experienced some form of modern slavery ranging from a few days to the whole five years.



Child labour affects over 151 million children.



Image: Sanjit Das, Legatum Limited, 2018

# What we do

Our mission is to mobilise the knowledge, capital and will needed to end modern slavery.

The Freedom Fund is a leader in the global movement to end modern slavery. We identify and invest in the most effective frontline efforts to eradicate modern slavery in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent. Partnering with visionary investors, governments, anti-slavery organisations and those at risk of exploitation, we tackle the systems that allow slavery to persist and thrive. Working together, we protect vulnerable populations, liberate and reintegrate those enslaved and prosecute those responsible.

To carry out its mission, the Freedom Fund:



#### 1. WORKS ON THE FRONTLINES:

We partner with frontline organisations to directly combat slavery in defined regions where it is highly concentrated. We do this by setting up "hotspot" projects – clusters of the most effective community-based organisations in these regions. Partnering with these organisations in some of the world's poorest and most marginalised communities is difficult, demanding, and time intensive, but it is also one of the most effective ways to achieve large scale and sustainable impact.



#### 2. DRIVES SYSTEMIC CHANGE:

We tackle the underlying systems that allow slavery to persist. We do this in our hotspots, engaging the government, private sector, media, social movements, and other key drivers of change. We also do it through our Global Initiatives, by catalysing action on selected issues and industries that have a direct link to our hotspots.



#### 3. STRENGTHENS THE ANTI-SLAVERY INFRASTRUCTURE GLOBALLY:

We empower the anti-slavery movement, providing the platforms, tools and knowledge for organisations to connect and work together more effectively.

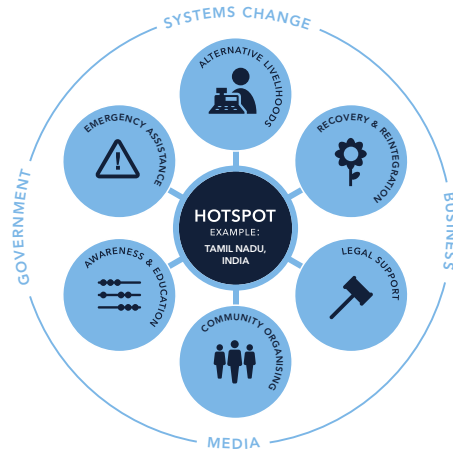


#### 4. RAISES NEW CAPITAL:

We bring new funding and innovative investors into the anti-slavery space, with the goal of mobilising the capital needed to work on the frontlines, drive systemic change and strengthen the anti-slavery infrastructure globally.

# Our hotspots

A “hotspot” refers to a geographic area known to have a high incidence of modern slavery. We currently support some 100 partners in six hotspots across four countries. The hotspot model is the most effective way to fight slavery, providing exceptional value for money. Our model is based on six principles.



## 1. Concentrate resources:

Many attempts to solve human rights challenges fail because philanthropic resources are spread too thinly. We focus our efforts on a small number of slavery hotspots, investing in a range of interventions that reinforce each other to achieve outsized impact.

## 2. Help frontline organisations lead the fight:

Grassroots organisations know what it takes to end slavery in their communities, but too often they are overlooked by funders. We back frontline NGOs with the funding and support they need to protect the most vulnerable.

## 3. Build powerful coalitions:

No single organisation can end slavery. We support clusters of NGOs in each hotspot and help them work together, learn from each other, and advocate to government and business for stronger action against slavery.

## 4. Invest in organisations, not just projects:

Frontline organisations need time and money to develop. We ring-fence a proportion of our funding for this, and provide a range of training opportunities, a practice that is made cost-effective by our clustering approach.

## 5. Prioritise data and research:

The anti-slavery sector lacks good data. We place great emphasis on data collection by our partners, and bring in independent research institutions to evaluate what is working. We document how impact has been achieved so that successes can be applied on a broader scale around the world.

## 6. Amplify frontline voices on the global stage:

The voices of frontline organisations are too rarely heard on the global stage. We help our partners participate in international policy fora and represent their views in our own contributions to global debates. We connect them to other NGOs, experts and funders, and expose them to anti-slavery practices in different settings to help them improve their programs.

# Where we work



LONDON OFFICE

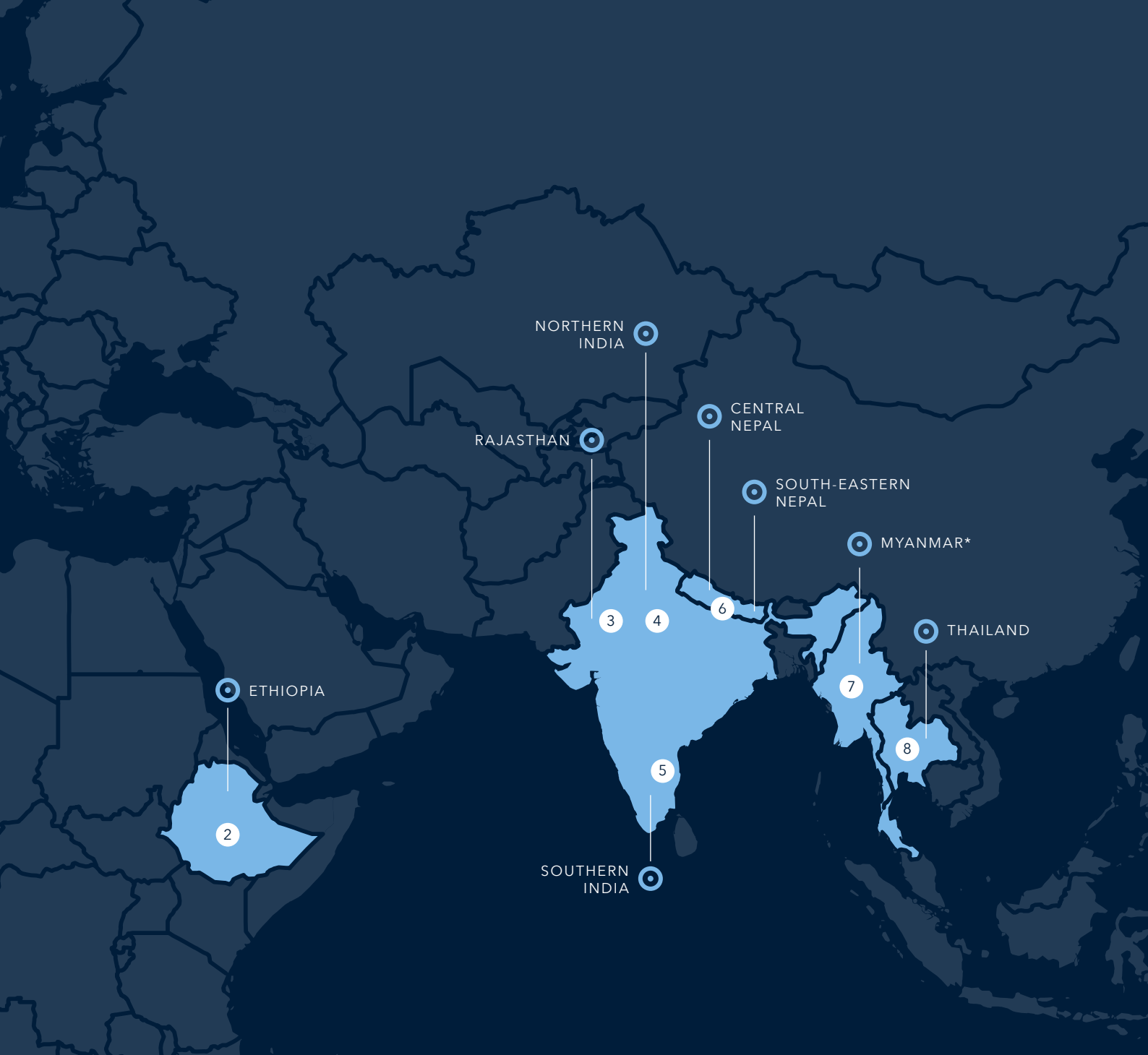


NEW YORK OFFICE

BRAZIL\*

1














- 1 **Brazilian** men are trapped in forced labour in the Amazon timber industry, and children are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation.
- 2 **Ethiopian** women and girls travel and are trafficked to the Middle East as domestic labourers.
- 3 In **Rajasthan**, children are forced to work in hazardous conditions in handicraft workshops.
- 4 Lower caste families in **northern India** are held in debt bondage and made to work in brick kilns, stone quarries and agriculture.
- 5 In **Tamil Nadu**, teenage girls are abused in cotton spinning mills.
- 6 Men, women and children are trapped in agricultural bonded labour in south-eastern **Nepal**, and children are exploited for sex in the **Kathmandu Valley**.
- 7 Myanmar women and girls are trafficked into **China** and coerced into forced marriages.
- 8 Men from Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar are trafficked to **Thailand** and forced to work on fishing vessels and in seafood processing plants.

\* For hotspots in Brazil and Myanmar, operations have not yet begun.

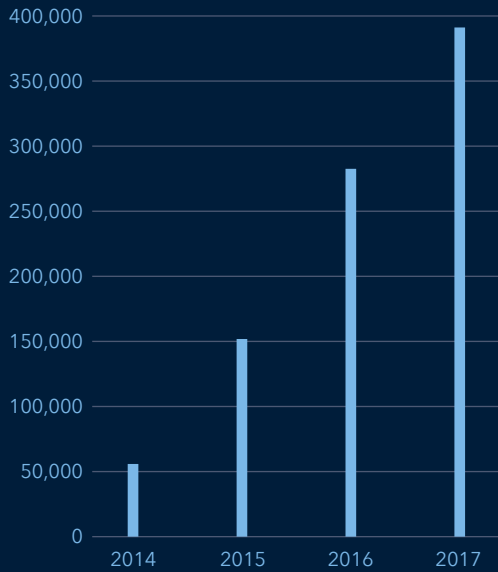
# The Freedom Fund's Impact

## 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2017

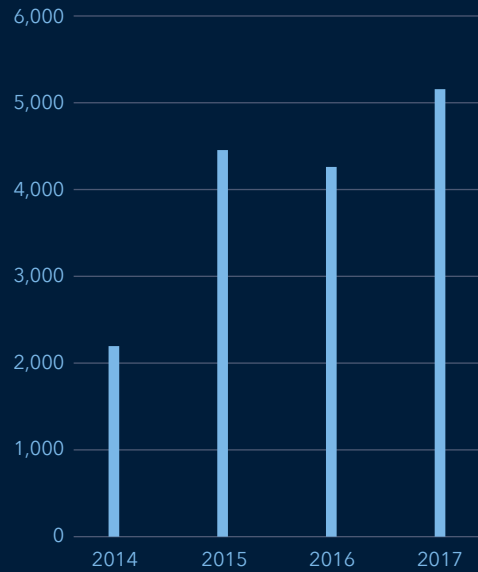
LIVES IMPACTED		390,663	
			
VICTIMS LIBERATED	16,047	TOTAL INVESTED	\$26 MILLION
			
NUMBER OF AT-RISK CHILDREN IN SCHOOL	36,231	COMMUNITY FREEDOM GROUPS SUPPORTED	5,894
			
SURVIVORS ACCESSING SOCIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES	18,986	MICRO-ENTERPRISES STARTED	12,215
			
LEGAL CASES ASSISTED	2,846	COST PER PERSON	\$52
			



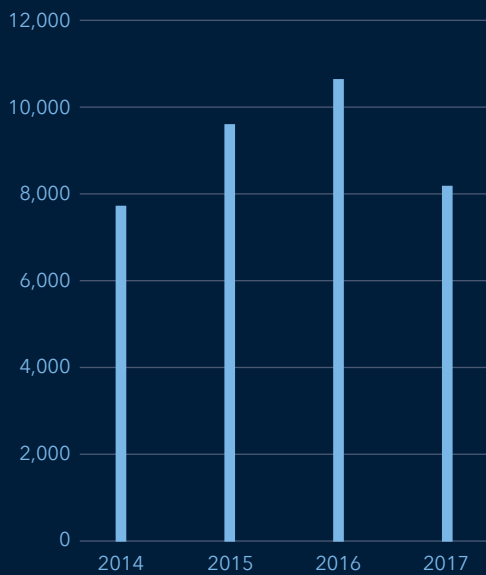
LIVES IMPACTED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (CUMULATIVE)



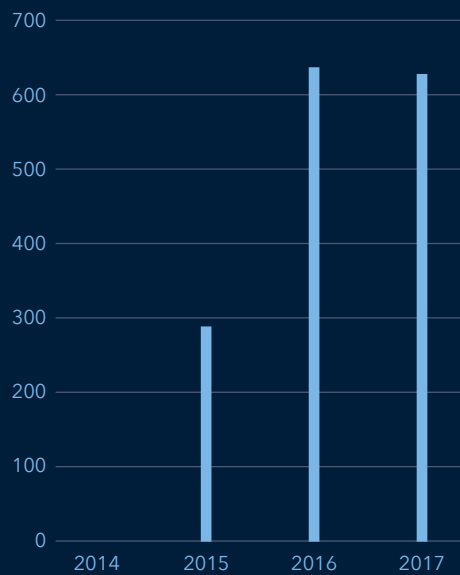
LIVES LIBERATED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)



AT-RISK CHILDREN IN SCHOOL ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW ENROLMENTS, PER ANNUM)



MEDIA STORIES GENERATED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS (NEW STORIES, PER ANNUM)



# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

26

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$8.35M

COST PER PERSON:

\$48

LIVES IMPACTED:

148,358

PEOPLE LIBERATED:

11,773



## Northern India

In 2017, 1,320 community freedom groups continued to act as a bedrock of local action, vigilance and learning, with regular support from our partners. Former bonded labourers and trafficking survivors played an increasing role in leading collective actions by these groups. Tackling bonded labour – especially in brick kilns, stone quarries and agriculture – these groups enabled better local government responses. They helped develop economic alternatives and access to basic entitlements such as the right for children to go to school. The NGOs support liberation and reintegration of victims, and they use lawyers in criminal prosecutions of traffickers. The partners’ “Human Liberty Network” is successfully enabling the state governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to implement better policies and programs, especially against child labour.

### SHUBHAWATI’S STORY

Shubhawati Devi is one of three female Legal Aid Centre coordinators working with our NGO partner, PGS, in Allahabad district. The centre focuses on assisting 4,000 members of the federation of self-help groups, supported by PGS. These members are either former bonded labourers or struggling to come out of bonded labour.

Shubhawati, 26, grew up in a family of agricultural labourers. She told us that as a child she never had a dream for herself. It was only when she joined a PGS self-help group that she realised that her life could hold more possibilities. The women in the group pushed her to study, and she got admitted to law school 35 km away in the city. Now she goes there five days a month for classes. She aims to be a lawyer who can stand up in court for her clients.

Other women in the self-help group visit the Legal Aid Centre to receive help with government entitlements, take up complaints against violence and access land rights. Shubhawati works 10am to 1pm Monday to Saturday and usually handles two to three cases a day.

Bonded labourers in stone breaking and agriculture face a huge disparity of power, with the landowners and contractors enforcing debt bondage through threats and violence. Access to legal tools helps change that imbalance. Shubhawati suggests that women and girls should come forward to practice law, saying it will make them more fearless if they are lawyers.



### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- 2,812 individuals were liberated with ongoing support for their recovery, including 1,974 children.
- 1,949 individuals earned a new income through partners’ assistance. Alternative livelihoods are critical to addressing community members’ vulnerabilities to trafficking and their reliance on others for loans. Community members were equipped with skills to manage their own businesses such as automobile repair, tailoring, lac bangle making, and through raising livestock.
- Collectively, our partners provided important ground-level feedback at the request of national government ministries. The government included their suggestions in several new legislative rules. For example, the rules on the Child and Adolescent Labour Act now clarify an additional range of industries from which children and adolescents are prohibited from working, such as stone quarries and brick kilns.
- Partner organisations across Bihar were requested by police-led Anti-Human Trafficking Units to provide coordinated training in each project district. Partners in Uttar Pradesh assisted with the government’s drive to create child labour free districts.

INDIVIDUALS WITH NEW ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)

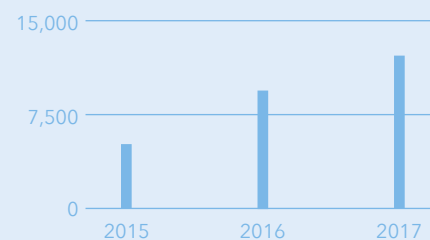


Image: Suzanne Lee, Legatum Limited, 2018

# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

22

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$3.9M

COST PER PERSON:

\$50

LIVES IMPACTED:

68,670

PEOPLE LIBERATED:

2,342



## Southern India

With the support of C&A Foundation, this hotspot in Tamil Nadu is reducing bonded labour that affects girls and young women who work in spinning mills. The Freedom Fund supports local NGO partners to operate 2,269 community groups across 405 villages. These local groups are helping to prevent adolescents from going to work in risky and exploitative conditions, enabling them to stay in or return to school or vocational training, while challenging the social norms that severely restrict girls' opportunities. We also support our partners and the Ethical Trading Initiative to work within 38 spinning mills to improve conditions for current workers. Our NGO partners ensure that survivors of bonded labour have access to legal aid. They also work intensively with local government towards greater protection for workers within the industry.

### THE POWER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

In the program delivered by NGO partner Centre for Action and Rural Education (CARE), each of the field workers is responsible for managing community groups in five villages, helping families and young people gain enough economic strength, knowledge and determination to avoid hazardous work - or to find ways to encourage the mills and factories to improve pay, conditions and safety. The field workers' own experiences in the mills are a huge motivation for each of these staff.

One of them worked in a mill for three years, from the age of 16, and lived at the mill hostel. She said *"I was in bonded labour and then later, working in piece-rate tailoring. I never imagined I could be able to work for people that are suffering like I was. After CARE's three-day training, I wanted to come as a village coordinator. I had lots of challenges at first and I had never spoken in front of even 10 people. Now I'm able to conduct a meeting confidently. It takes lots of motivation to get the girls to go to school, but now the parents are thankful."* Another field worker explained that at the mill *"I always felt dominated and discriminated. I was paid Rs. 150 (\$2.20) per day. I came out of exploited labour to do this work."*

One field worker gave an example of the issues they are working on: *"There was one girl from a neighbouring village who was studying in 9th grade but her father was an alcoholic. At 14, she was being forced to marry a 30-year-old. When one of her friends found out, she talked about it in the adolescent group in my village, and they then told the Community Support Group. This group took action and went to the family and stopped the marriage. Now the girl has passed her exams and she's in the 10th grade."*



### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- 405 facilitators from within the communities were trained in group work skills and then began using a specially designed film-based toolkit "Call me Priya," with 11,611 adolescent girls' group members. The toolkit uses a dynamic, story-based approach to have in-depth discussions on worker rights, addressing sexual violence, alcoholism, and training and livelihood options.
- Our NGO partners assisted young workers and their families to gain compensation from mills in 116 cases in 2017. Most of these cases relate to the payment of overtime and back pay wages.
- The hotspot joined together with several other civil society forums in Tamil Nadu that had been working separately for better working conditions in the textile industry. Now as the Tamil Nadu Alliance they have developed a united voice, and in 2017 reached out to the state government seeking more effective implementation of protections of inter-state migrant workers and of an earlier Court Order ending exploitative employment schemes in the textile industry.

VICTIMS LIBERATED (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)

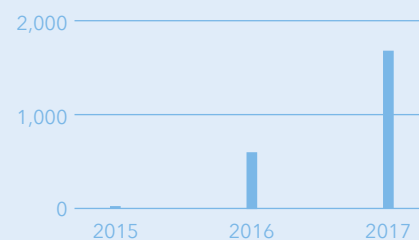


Image: Ryan Lobo/C&A Foundation

# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

15

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$3.3M

COST PER PERSON:

\$88

LIVES IMPACTED:

32,805

PEOPLE LIBERATED:

607



## South-Eastern Nepal

In 2017, the south-eastern Nepal hotspot supported local partners aiming to eradicate agricultural bonded labour, known as “Harawa-Charawa”. Together with our partners, we implement an integrated strategy, which promotes access to education, health services, livelihood opportunities, land rights and housing through community-based groups in targeted areas where a high proportion of the population are in debt bondage. These groups have helped bonded labourers become aware of their human rights and set priorities together; create saving and income-generating groups so they can develop independent livelihoods; enable individuals to register for citizenship and land rights; remove children from forced labour and help them access education; and build district networks to pressure government to provide vital services to bonded labourers.

### LIBERATION OF THE HARAWA-CHARAWA

Over the past three years, efforts by Freedom Fund partner organisations, advocates and social activists have generated incredible achievements in south-eastern Nepal, including the increased visibility of Harawa-Charawa bonded labour, unprecedented backing by the government and expanded community mobilisation. Some of the most remarkable achievements include:

- *Promise of potential financial assistance to survivors:* In 2016, the government of Nepal finally announced their commitment to implement a Harawa-Charawa rehabilitation program - marking the first time in Nepal’s history that specialised financial assistance was committed to the Harawa-Charawa community.
- *Imminent legal changes outlawing all forms of bonded labour across Nepal:* A new and more inclusive Bonded Labour Bill encompassing all forms of bonded labour, including Harawa-Charawa, has been submitted to the Ministry of Law and is awaiting ratification from the new government.
- *Increased local influence, access to local resources and claiming of land rights:* Active participation in local governance structures has created more access to resources and local development decision making for the Harawa-Charawa in those communities. In 2017, 25 Harawa-Charawa were elected as representatives of their local governments.
- *The establishment of district and national platforms for government engagement, policy input and community mobilisation:* A national level Harawa-Charawa network has been formed and is due to be registered in the coming months. This is the first time the Harawa-Charawa have a formal body that represents their specific needs and advocates on their behalf. The formation of the national-level network creates a platform to develop coordinated, survivor-led advocacy and government engagement.



### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- Harawa-Charawa community members became more empowered and unified, defending themselves actively in court. In discussions with police and government officials, they defended their rights, addressed false claims lodged against them and articulated grievances.
- In 2017, 2,441 Harawa-Charawa gained access to key government services that reduced the impact of illness and poverty, addressing the root causes of slavery in their communities.
- As result of our mental health pilot, participating Harawa-Charawa community members experienced greater social connectedness and support, enabling them to process their experiences, find affirmation from others and access local counselling. Effective support also reduced families’ medical expenses.
- In 2017, 3,165 previously out-of-school children enrolled in formal or non-formal education as our partner organisations provided support through enrolment campaigns, tutoring classes and stationary.

INDIVIDUALS ACCESSING SOCIAL AND LEGAL SERVICES (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)

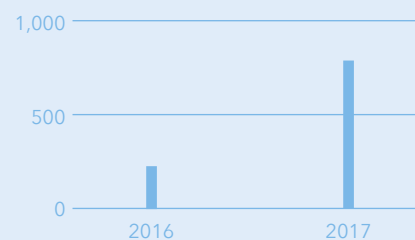


Image: Sanjit Das, Legatum Limited, 2018

# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

22

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$2.5M

COST PER PERSON:

\$73

LIVES IMPACTED:

31,313

PEOPLE LIBERATED:

940



The central Nepal hotspot brings together local NGO partners in Kathmandu and nearby districts to radically reduce the number of children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation in the adult entertainment industry. The program approach is threefold: prevent children from entering the industry, remove them from situations of exploitation and end the recruitment and use of children by employers and customers. Our partners use outreach and drop-in centres to reach adolescents, offering shelter, counselling, vocational training, legal aid and other assistance so that children can exit the adult entertainment sector. In source areas for child trafficking, our partners help communities address the root causes of exploitation and use the law to put coordinated pressure on officials. Our partners engage actively with key stakeholders, especially government, to advocate for and achieve longer-term systemic change.

#### MAYA'S STORY

Maya was 16 when her parents asked her to leave their home in search of work in Kathmandu. Her village in Sindhupalchowk was destroyed by the 2015 earthquake and her family was desperate to earn income. She arrived in Kathmandu and found it easy to get work in the guesthouses of Gongabu. Maya worked as an "all-rounder": cooking, dish-washing, cleaning and providing room services. After some time, she found work in a new guesthouse where the expectations were different. The owner forced her to have sex with customers and work 10-hour shifts. Maya felt that she was unable to quit and that she had no other options.

Freedom Fund partner Shakti Samuha's outreach workers began to notice Maya and started to form a relationship with her. Upon learning about her situation, they tried to intervene with the guesthouse owner. He denied that he had forced her to do anything, claiming that she should be grateful that he had given her work. Shakti Samuha also tried to involve the police, but they were non-responsive. Slowly, Shakti Samuha outreach workers continued to provide counselling and support to Maya. She eventually found the strength to leave the guesthouse and Shakti Samuha assisted her to return to her parents and her home village.



#### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- As a result of intensive technical support, our partners have transformed into strategic advocates who are able to identify and activate levers needed to advance agendas. Partners' recommendations influenced legislation that impacts the prevention of and response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- In 2017, 6,595 people received social and legal services in our partners' drop-in centres, shelters and mobile counselling camps. Our partners helped prevent at-risk youth from being exploited, empowered individuals to safely leave the sector on their own terms, and worked with survivors to recover.
- Partners made substantial strides to empower adult entertainment workers to claim their rights and either leave their situation or fundamentally change their workplace environment. In 2017, Freedom Fund partners were able to liberate 586 individuals, 377 of which were minors.
- Our partners supported 5,838 people through freedom community groups such as child clubs, adolescent groups and self-help groups, which empower members and prevent young people from being recruited into work that puts them at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

VICTIMS LIBERATED (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)

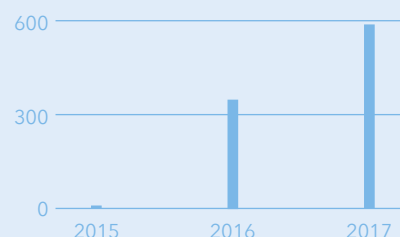


Image: Katie Orlinsky, Legatum Limited, 2018

# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

15

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$3.6M

COST PER PERSON:

\$46

LIVES IMPACTED:

69,707



In 2017 we continued to make migration safer for Ethiopian women travelling abroad as domestic workers in the Middle East and to protect against migrants ending up in domestic servitude. The hotspot focused on two key locations: Amhara, a region in the north which is a primary source area for women and girls seeking to migrate, and in Addis Ababa, another source area and a central departure and return point for migrants. Our partners implemented a strategy focused on working with local and national governments, community leaders, traditional structures and other civil society organisations to address systemic drivers of unsafe migration, empower communities to make informed choices about migration and equip women with practical tools to improve livelihood opportunities.

#### PROMOTING SAFER MIGRATION

The Association for Forced Migrants (AFM) focuses on providing support to community-based structures called "iddirs" to effectively and sustainably include awareness-raising through their regular activities. AFM works with 123 iddirs within the Addis Ketema sub-city of Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa. By closely working with the iddirs, AFM was able to ensure that 80% of the iddirs incorporated safer migration promotion into their bylaws, making it an official mandate of the iddirs, ensuring the sustainability of the approach.

Having heard about AFM's approach to promoting safer migration in Addis Ketema, the Iddir Council, which represents more than 7,500 iddirs (each with an average of more than 200 members), wanted to learn about the approach and the hotspot's overall strategy. The Council endorsed the hotspot's model and voiced support for scaling AFM's approach to other sub-cities within Addis Ababa. The Addis Iddirs Council signed an MOU with the Addis Ababa Bureau of Labor and Social Affairs to incorporate safer migration into the bylaws of iddirs within all sub-cities of Addis Ababa and committed to formally collaborate to work on safer migration issues.

Leveraging the support provided by the Addis Iddirs Council, we organized a learning trip for iddir leaders from Addis Ababa to visit the Amhara region. The visit was an opportunity for the Addis leaders to share the different methods they use to inform potential migrants about safer migration and discuss ways in which Amhara leaders and government officials could potentially incorporate a similar approach.



#### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- 98 Iddirs in one sub-city of Addis Ababa incorporated safer migration awareness-raising into their bylaws; the Iddir Council (representing more than 7,500 iddirs), endorsed the hotspot's model and agreed to incorporate safer migration into the bylaws of all sub-cities of Addis Ababa.
- 20,695 individuals engaged in community freedom groups that provide tailored information on safe migration, human trafficking and prevention of exploitation.
- 550 individuals graduated from vocational training, providing participants with the skills to find local employment within Ethiopia or to better prepare them for employment abroad.
- 682 people earned a new income or started a microenterprise, improving family financial security.

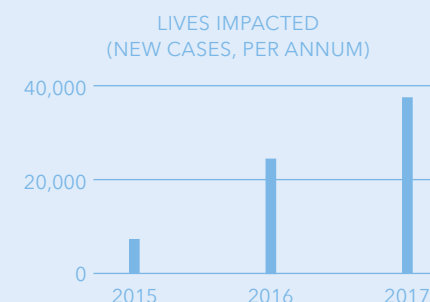


Image: Audrey Guichon/Freedom Fund



# OF HOTSPOT PARTNERS:

17

TOTAL INVESTED:

\$4.2M

COST PER PERSON:

\$35

LIVES IMPACTED:

39,810

PEOPLE LIBERATED:

385



## Thailand

In 2017, the Thailand hotspot focused on ensuring that labour reforms introduced in 2015 and 2016 translated into real improvements for migrant workers in the Thai fishing industry, where forced labour is common. Hotspot partners helped migrant workers advocate for their rights and access remedy through negotiations and more systematic legal work. Strategic litigation was used to scale the impact of legal victories for the many migrant workers who remain vulnerable to trafficking. We also brought technical expertise to businesses and industry-led platforms to support better supply chain management. The Freedom Fund's partners continued to put pressure on the Thai government to close the remaining gaps to achieving decent work across the seafood sector. And we supported the government's capacity building on migrant labour management monitoring of vessels, and legal reforms on forced labour and migrants workers' rights.

### SOE'S STORY

A few years ago, a broker smuggled Soe into Thailand from Myanmar along with six other friends. Soe thought he was being hired to work at a wood factory, but he didn't know that he'd been tricked. Forced labour and human trafficking are rampant in the Thai fishing industry, where migrant workers are often lured into situations of slavery aboard fishing vessels and in seafood processing plants. Soe was one of them.

Soe's broker had promised him and his friends employment at a wood factory but instead smuggled them aboard a fishing boat. Suffering from seasickness and backbreaking labour, Soe and his friends were forced to work on the boat for *two years and eight days*. During those years Soe wasn't paid, and he wasn't allowed to go ashore. Soe finally escaped by jumping off the boat at night when it was docked to receive a shipment of fish. Eventually, he reached out to Freedom Fund partner *Foundation for Education and Development (FED)*, who provided him with basic care, shelter and food following his ordeal. After one week in FED's care, Soe decided to return home. FED kept in touch with Soe and helped him travel safely. Now 22 years old, Soe has returned home to Myanmar.



### HOTSPOT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- In 2017, over 15,000 migrant workers were provided with legal and social services through dispute resolution, support with cases and advice on regulatory changes. This year, the scale of this support increased exponentially in response to the introduction of the Alien Worker Management Act. Over 9,000 individuals were supported in the quarter following the act's introduction to mitigate unforeseen negative consequences.
- In 2017, 2,122 new migrant workers were directly engaged in freedom groups, either at the community level or through union-like structures in the workplace. These groups are connected to other workers in migrant communities with whom they provide information on labour related issues.
- Our partners established the first locally-owned advocacy coalition made of 10 environmental and labour civil society organisations to combat forced labour and unregulated fishing in the Thai seafood sector.
- We supported a partnership between the Thai Department of Fisheries and an NGO specialised in satellite monitoring of vessels at sea to improve compliance and the capture and analysis of vessel behaviour.

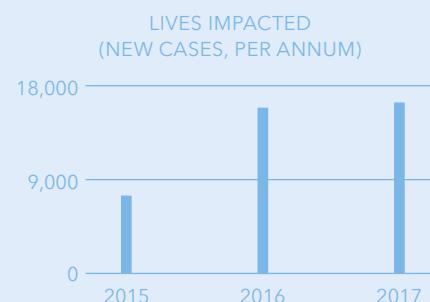


Image: Lisa Kristine/Freedom Fund

TOTAL TO BE  
INVESTED:

\$4.5 million

ESTIMATED  
BENEFICIARIES

3,000 trafficked children



## Rajasthan

At the end of 2017, with a committed funding alliance in place, the Freedom Fund began creating new partnerships for a hotspot to progressively eliminate child labour in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. The program has developed a multi-dimensional strategy, seeking to involve apparel and handicraft businesses, the state government, enforcement systems and communities.

Jaipur is a world-leading centre for the production of traditional handicrafts, jewellery and unique textiles. But some of these products are manufactured by children working in hazardous and illegal conditions. In the workshops, children are often forced to work excessive hours in confined spaces and are out of contact with families. They suffer damage to vision, burns, and chronic cough.

Our program aims to change the incentives for business, enabling the city to move decisively against child labour, while promoting the future growth and resilience of its businesses, and encouraging child-friendly tourism. It can be a win-win for the children and for the future of Jaipur.

The program is also distinctive in the high level of cooperation with the state governments of Rajasthan and Bihar, states which are committed to removing children from exploitation, pursuing justice against traffickers, and providing comprehensive reintegration support to the children in their home state. Approximately 80% of trafficked children rescued in Jaipur are found to come from Bihar.



Image, top: Chistopher Michel/Wikimedia  
Image, bottom: Ginny Baumann/Freedom Fund

# Planning for the future



## BRAZIL

In 2018, we will be scoping out ways to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Brazil - identifying opportunities and challenges for a hotspot program alongside organisations working at the grassroots as well as policy level. Recent reports have found a high prevalence of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in several contexts: big construction projects; by criminal gangs and militias in some of the urban favelas; along thousands of miles of Brazilian highways; and within coastal tourist areas.

We will also continue to seek funds for a focused hotspot engagement on the illegal precious woods industry, as a unifying concern against slave labour and environmental degradation within the Brazilian Amazon. Building on a current pilot of this work in high risk and remote areas, led by a local alliance, we would seek to bring together local groups, funders, environmental and indigenous groups and government bodies to work towards common targets.



## MYANMAR

We are currently raising funds to launch a new hotspot focused on reducing the number of Myanmar women and girls trafficked into China for forced marriage and childbearing. China's one-child policy and the corresponding shortage of Chinese women of reproductive age have led to a "marriage squeeze". By 2030, an estimated 22 to 30 million Chinese men will be unable to find women to marry. One consequence of the marriage squeeze is that girls and women from Myanmar have been forced to marry Chinese men, forced to bear children and pushed into domestic servitude. The Freedom Fund will support local groups working on the issue to intensify and scale up their efforts in relation to addressing the root causes of women and girls vulnerabilities to trafficking and providing more comprehensive assistance and reintegration services to those who have been in forced marriage situations.



## BANGLADESH

In 2018, the Freedom Fund will be exploring how our hotspot model could be effective in tackling modern slavery issues in Bangladesh. A range of sectors in Bangladesh require urgent attention, and we will be undertaking a scoping study to understand where the greatest impact could be made.

Through our initial research, we have identified some key sectors of interest for the scoping study, including the worst forms of child labour, unsafe migration and cross-border trafficking. Child labour continues to be used in some of Bangladesh's largest industries, including the garment and tannery sectors, particularly in smaller factories and home-based industries. Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Middle East are vulnerable to exploitation; without proper support mechanisms, they become cut off from their families and trapped in situations of slavery. Traffickers take advantage of the porous border to bring girls from Bangladesh into India, where they often end up being forced into commercial sexual exploitation. The scoping study will further research these and other issues and identify opportunities to initiate a hotspot program.



## FREEDOM LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Building the leadership skills of local anti-slavery activists, especially women and survivors, is an area we have identified as requiring further investment and support. Frontline NGOs function within deeply patriarchal societies, which makes it challenging for female leaders and managers to emerge. We see this trend in a number of our hotspots, where only a small percentage of our frontline partners are led by women.

In 2018 the Freedom Fund will explore creating a leadership program to encourage the development of anti-slavery leaders at a local level. This program would aim to provide activists - particularly women living in high prevalence countries - with the skills to assume key leadership positions in the fight against modern slavery.

# Research and Evaluation

Research and evaluation are integral to the work of the Freedom Fund. Our mission is to invest in the most effective interventions, to share knowledge and to support the movement with the overall aim of reducing the prevalence of slavery. It is therefore critical that we understand the nature and scale of the problem, as well as what works for whom in what context, so that anti-slavery efforts can be more efficiently targeted.

The Freedom Fund is currently collaborating with nine research institutions to advance our understanding of modern slavery and evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.



Image: Katie Orlinsky, Legatum Limited, 2018

## JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Since December 2017, the Freedom Fund has been working with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to estimate the number of minors working in Nepal's adult entertainment sector and measure the prevalence of commercial sexual exploitation of children. The study is based on a probabilistic sample of 400 children who work in the sector and will help pinpoint specific harmful environments and practices to drive evidence-based interventions.

## INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex is leading the evaluation of the Freedom Fund's hotspots in northern India, southern India and south-eastern Nepal. The evaluation will include a quantitative study involving 4,000 household surveys and 150 community interviews. Results will be used to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the hotspot model in reducing bonded labour in the program areas.

## PRAXIS INDIA

In Tamil Nadu, the Freedom Fund is trialling an innovative intervention using film to empower 10,000 adolescent girls and young women, a group that is often recruited into the textile industry under fraudulent pretences. Praxis India is leading a study to measure the effectiveness of this new intervention in shifting the participants' knowledge, attitudes and confidence to take action against exploitative workplace practices. The baseline study found that two-thirds of the cohort lacked knowledge of their basic employment rights and this measure will be repeated 12 months later to detect change over time.

All of our reports can be found at: [freedomfund.org/newsroom/our-reports/](https://freedomfund.org/newsroom/our-reports/)

# Insights from our work with women and girls



Of the 40 million people trapped in modern slavery today, 70 percent of them are women and girls. Every day across the globe, millions of women and girls are used, controlled and exploited for commercial or personal gain. They are trafficked into the sex industry, kept in servitude as domestic workers in private homes, forced to work in exploitative conditions in factories and bonded into agricultural labour. They suffer terrible violence and are denied their basic rights and freedoms.

Our report, *“Her freedom, her voice: Insights from the Freedom Fund’s work with women and girls”*, draws on insights from our last four years working in countries with a high burden of slavery.

Globally, more research and sharing of knowledge is needed on the most effective frontline strategies to address the gender dimensions of slavery. In an effort to contribute to this knowledge, this report draws together lessons from Freedom Fund-supported interventions to date, including the following key points:



## Need for female leadership

Anti-slavery NGOs in high-prevalence countries must acknowledge that they function within deeply patriarchal societies and need to make conscious efforts to enable female leaders and managers to emerge. A shortage of female leadership is holding the sector back.



## Strengthening women’s agency

Strengthening women and girls’ ability to influence and make decisions that affect their lives is key. Impactful programs teach women and girls life skills that empower their agency and allow them to make informed decisions that affect their lives. Creating peer groups of adolescent girls is a powerful means of building their confidence to challenge social and cultural norms that underpin gender inequality.



## Awareness-raising activities must be context-specific

Awareness-raising activities that inform women and girls about trafficking risks are only effective if they are tailored to specific pressures and local contexts. For example, women migrating abroad for work may be well aware of the risks but nonetheless embark on dangerous travel due to cultural pressures or because they are unconvinced by warnings from NGOs. One promising strategy is to engage those previously exploited to talk about their experiences, as they are more likely to be listened to and to provide actionable advice.



## Rescue operations may cause unintended harm

While those being enslaved need to be liberated from their places of exploitation, raid and rescue operations can cause unintended harm. When possible, providing support services such as drop-in centres, shelters, counselling and job training can encourage a more gradual and informed exit, aiding survivors’ recovery and helping to prevent re-exploitation.



## Mental health support is critical

Women and girls who have been subject to horrendous abuse are highly likely to suffer from anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. More research is needed on how to best deliver the most appropriate mental health support for these female survivors of exploitation.

# Global Initiatives

The Freedom Fund's Global Initiatives are not geographically bound, but rather aim to catalyse action worldwide around a slavery-specific issue, industry or approach. Through these initiatives, we provide a channel through which those with knowledge, influence or funds can impact international organisations, governments, media and the corporate sector. The initiatives draw on the expertise of our hotspot partners to design and test potential solutions and facilitate collaboration between multiple organisations to encourage a greater combined impact.

## SAFER MIGRATION

Globally, labour migration is on the rise. The terms "high risk" and "safe" or "fair" migration have recently emerged to describe interventions aimed at preventing the exploitation of migrant workers. Yet there is little evidence available about which factors, such as knowledge levels, actions or routes, make migration in various contexts riskier than others.

Quantitative data available to explore global or regional determinants of trafficking at the individual and community levels is limited and research evidence is quasi-inexistent. Building on our research on "Safer Labour Migration and Community-Based Prevention of Exploitation: The State of the Evidence" with LSHTM, we are now looking to establish a data-driven evidence-base on potential risk and protective factors and key determinants associated with human trafficking and various forms of exploitation.

## LEGAL STRATEGIES

Slavery persists despite being illegal under international law and in every country. To address this accountability gap, our legal strategies initiative focuses on identifying legal approaches that help institutionalise the norm against slavery and encourage governments, officials and businesses to live up to their responsibility to end it.

Under this initiative we have made significant progress towards identifying the ways in which the law can be used to combat modern slavery. In 2017 we continued our partnership with the Washington-based Human Trafficking Legal Center to promote strategic litigation as a tool to end human trafficking and develop a global strategic litigation network. We also provided support to the Canadian Centre for International Justice, European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and Global Legal Action Network to investigate and pursue three potentially ground-breaking legal actions to hold corporations accountable for forced labour in their supply chains.

## TRANSPARENCY IN SUPPLY CHAINS

Many of those trapped in modern slavery are part of the vast and complex supply chains that deliver products to consumers in both developed and developing countries. Eradicating modern slavery requires much greater transparency and accountability in these supply chains. Stronger legal and regulatory frameworks are needed to help both governments and the private sector understand and fulfil their responsibilities to ensure supply chains are free from slave labour. The Freedom Fund is working to support new tools for business, government and civil society that can be used to improve information on business and government responsibilities, share good practice and address shortcomings.

With this goal, the Freedom Fund supported Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) to expand its work on government and corporate accountability for modern slavery in business supply chains. Our partnership with World Vision Canada continued, with the aim of engaging with parliamentarians on the issue of slavery and advancing supply chain transparency legislation in Canada.

In 2017 we also supported the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre to expand the scale and impact of the Modern Slavery Registry, which was launched in May. The Registry is a transparent and open-access portal of company statements submitted under the UK's Modern Slavery Act.

## TREATMENT OF MENTAL TRAUMA

In 2017, in partnership with York University and our Nepalese technical partner the Centre for Mental Health and Counselling Nepal (CMC), the Freedom Fund designed the Bharosa pilot initiative for our south-eastern Nepal hotspot. The project aimed to test the impact of a mental health social intervention mobilising community-based resources in the provision of mental health support in communities affected by bonded labour. Through community groups, the project worked to enhance social connections, engagement in social activities, social cohesion and trust. We evaluated how this community-based model of practice can meet the needs of Harawa-Charawa bonded labourers, including those with mental health problems. The pilot built upon initial advances of the *connection people approach* and was adapted into a culturally appropriate model. The implementation phase of the pilot was completed at the end of 2017, and we are expecting evaluation results in early 2018, which will then inform the next phase of our mental health support in these communities.

In Thailand, Raks Thai conducted a review of mental health provisions in government and NGO-led shelters around the country, which highlighted a need for more systematic and tailored mental health support for survivors.

In Ethiopia, we organised a roundtable series, bringing together mental health experts and practitioners from academia, international organisations, NGOs and the health sector to coordinate resources and knowledge and increase services available to survivors.



# Building the Movement

## INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

The UN's diverse efforts against human trafficking, slavery and forced labour have evolved organically over the last four decades, resulting in a fragmented and sometimes inefficient set of arrangements that limits impact. But a new commitment in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7 to end slavery by 2030, adopted by world leaders in September 2015, offers a unique opportunity to mobilise and push for a more cohesive approach.

In 2017 the Freedom Fund engaged with the newly-formed Alliance 8.7 initiative, a global partnership committed to helping national governments to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORMS

Across the globe, organisations are working tirelessly to eradicate slavery, doing exceptional work in difficult conditions. But these efforts are often fragmented and underfunded. The Freedom Fund aims to build a global community of activists, experts and donors by providing the platforms, knowledge and tools for them to connect and work together more effectively.

As part of these efforts the Freedom Fund invested in two anti-slavery knowledge platforms in 2017, encouraging cross-collaboration between organisations. The Global Modern Slavery Directory is an anti-trafficking resource that maps over 2,600 organisations working on human trafficking and modern slavery across 196 countries. Freedom Collaborative is an online, community-based platform connecting civil society, the private sector and academia around the world with the goal of encouraging collaboration and partnership to end all forms of exploitation globally.



Image: Hannah de Ville/Freedom Fund



Integral to the Freedom Fund's mission is to understand and share what works in the global fight to end modern slavery. To that end, the Freedom Fund has made available substantial new resources to share knowledge about modern slavery. Chief among these is the Slavery Research Bulletin, a monthly bulletin of new research from the anti-slavery movement. The bulletin is sent out to over 2,000 subscribers, highlighting new research and reports from academia and practitioners alike. The reports are stored in a searchable library on the Freedom Fund's website. In addition, the Freedom Fund also publishes the Slavery News Weekly, a weekly roundup of timely and newsworthy stories about modern slavery.

#### CONVENING AND COALITION BUILDING

The Freedom Fund aims to support and strengthen the global movement of activists by providing the platforms, knowledge and tools for them to connect and work together more effectively over a sustained period. In 2017, the Freedom Fund convened the NGO Forum for Alliance 8.7, a gathering of 60 anti-slavery and anti-child labour civil society organisations from more than 20 countries to discuss their role and involvement in the new Alliance 8.7 process. We also continued to support the Audacity Factory, an accelerator and collaborative focused on ending modern slavery.



The Freedom Fund is grateful for the generous support from all its investors and donors. With this support we are transforming the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in slavery or at risk of it.

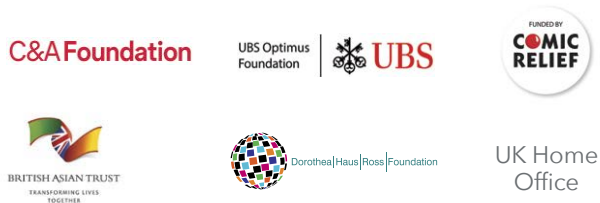
#### ANCHOR INVESTORS



#### COUNCIL OF ADVOCATES

The Freedom Fund Council of Advocates is a select group of passionate activists and philanthropists dedicated to supporting the Freedom Fund's mission. Members play a key role in the Freedom Fund's work, contributing their intellect, passion, advocacy and financial support. The current members of the Council of Advocates include Natasha Dolby (The Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund), Elliot Justin, Brandee Butler (C&A Foundation), and Grace Forrest (Walk Free Foundation). The Council is chaired by Molly Gochman (Stardust Fund).

#### OTHER INVESTORS



The Freedom Fund also receives support from a number of private foundations, individual benefactors and members of the public, and we thank all of these supporters for their generosity and commitment to our work.

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