



Annual Impact Report 2015



“The Freedom Fund continues to demonstrate the merits of a disciplined approach to philanthropy. The Fund has identified interventions that work, bring systemic change, and can scale, and is fast becoming a critical authority on how we can end the scourge of modern slavery.”

Alan McCormick, Legatum Foundation

Letter from the CEO

Image: © United Nations



Dear Friends,

Around the world, millions of people remain trapped in situations of appalling abuse. They are denied their liberty for someone else's profit or pleasure. Whole villages remain locked in debt bondage in South Asia; major world industries - from seafood to clothing - continue to rely on forced labour in their supply chains; and conflicts from Syria to Afghanistan are pushing an unprecedented number of people into the hands of human traffickers.

At the same time, we are seeing more and more organisations take up the fight against modern slavery. One of the founding goals of the Freedom Fund was to ensure that those on the frontline of this movement - those who can make the biggest difference - have the resources to do the job.

I am immensely proud that in 2015, the Freedom Fund's second year of operation, we have taken a major step toward that goal. Having funded 28 NGOs in 2014 in two slavery hotspots, we more than tripled that figure in 2015, identifying and investing in nearly 100 NGOs in six hotspots.

Our grants and expert support to these NGOs are transforming their ability to help the communities and individuals who need it most. They are giving shelter to migrant workers trafficked into the Thai seafood industry, securing land rights for low caste communities in Nepal, working with retail clothing brands in Southern India to ensure adolescent girls are not forced to work in local mills, and helping Ethiopian women find safe ways to work abroad.

The impact we achieved through our partners in 2015 is described in this report.

Beyond our work in the hotspots, we are bringing our resources to bear on the global drivers of slavery. This year we published research on the link between corruption and modern slavery, the treatment of mental trauma among survivors, and making cross-border migration safer for the most vulnerable. We launched an initiative to promote strategic litigation against governments and businesses that are not meeting their legal obligations.

We also continue in our endeavour to build a stronger anti-slavery movement. We are creating new platforms to share knowledge. And we are working to mobilise the leading international agencies in the fight against modern slavery: in December, we addressed the United Nations Security Council in its first ever debate on the subject to call for greater action against slavery.

This is a promising start for the Fund. But we have a long way to go. We draw inspiration from our partners on the frontlines, the communities they serve, and the stories we hear every day of incremental victories. We are also grateful to all of those who invest in the Freedom Fund - as without their investment none of this would be possible. And we thank all of you for your continuing support for our efforts.

Nick Grono
CEO

What we do

The Freedom Fund is a new philanthropic initiative designed to bring much-needed strategic focus and financial resources to the fight against modern slavery. With an expert team and global perspective, the Freedom Fund identifies and invests in the most effective frontline efforts to end slavery in the countries and sectors where it is most prevalent.

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.

There are an estimated 36 million people today living in modern slavery.



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.



Image © Alexander Grabchilev

Our hotspots

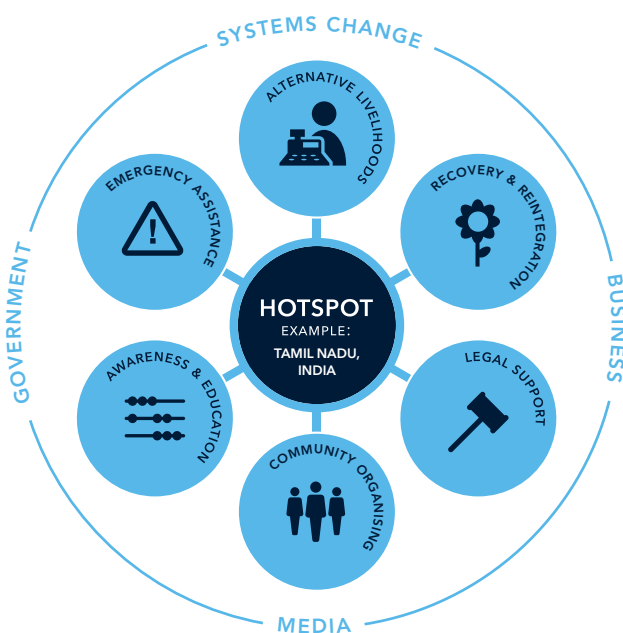
The Freedom Fund invests in frontline, community-based organisations to protect those at risk, liberate and rehabilitate those enslaved and prosecute those responsible. Our interventions are designed to be strategic and scalable, informed by the needs and expertise of our local partners.

We also invest in a range of interventions at the national and international level to disrupt the systems that perpetuate slavery and to reinforce those that foster freedom, including policy advocacy, private sector engagement, and working with the media.

In 2015, four hotspot projects were launched by the Freedom Fund - in Ethiopia, central Nepal, southern India and Thailand - in addition to existing hotspots in northern India and south-eastern Nepal. We now have a total of six hotspot projects operational in four countries addressing a range of slavery-related issues.

We are also working to raise funds for two new hotspots - in Brazil and Myanmar - for which we have developed project strategies.

HOTSPOT	AVERAGE ANNUAL GRANT SIZE	NUMBER OF PARTNERS WE WORK WITH
Central Nepal	\$42,944	12
Ethiopia	\$105,666	8
Northern India	\$76,999	24
South-Eastern Nepal	\$55,500	21
Southern India	\$56,286	13
Thailand	\$60,537	15
Global	\$64,653	93



Hotspot locations



“This is impact beyond numbers. I’m inspired by the real people I’ve met through the Freedom Fund and their stories of liberation.”

Molly Gochman, Stardust Fund

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



Impact in numbers since inception

TOTAL INVESTED



LIVES IMPACTED

151,653

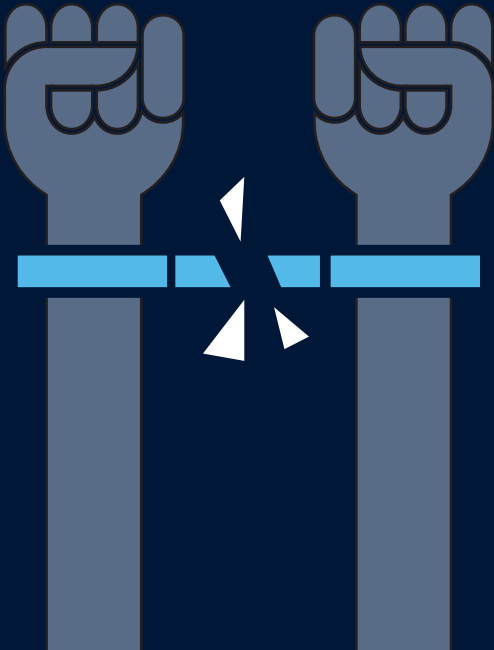


COST PER PERSON



VICTIMS LIBERATED

6,642



SURVIVORS ACCESSING
RECOVERY SERVICES

2,060



NUMBER OF AT-RISK
CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

17,366



COMMUNITY FREEDOM
GROUPS SUPPORTED

2,547



LEGAL CASES ASSISTED

813



MICRO-ENTERPRISES
STARTED

5,846



Current hotspots

"As a group you have a tool - the tool is unity."



Top: © The Freedom Fund

Bottom: Pangea © The Freedom Fund



HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 24

TOTAL INVESTED: \$3.54m

COST PER PERSON: \$31

LIVES IMPACTED: 99,987*

PEOPLE LIBERATED: 6,066*

Northern India

*since hotspot inception

In 2015, the Freedom Fund significantly expanded the reach of the Northern India hotspot program. Our NGO partners are now supporting 1,570 community-based freedom groups across 27 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. These NGOs work to eradicate forced and bonded labour in agriculture, brick kilns, stone quarries, the commercial sex industry and domestic work. They support communities to develop economic alternatives and access basic rights, including the right for children to go to school. They liberate and reintegrate victims, and use trained lawyers in criminal prosecutions of traffickers. By coming together across the hotspot, the NGOs are rapidly adopting new strategies that they learn from each other. Collectively, they have formed a new “Human Liberty Network” through which they assist government officials to strengthen their efforts against extreme exploitation.

Partner story

In Rajgarh village in Uttar Pradesh, with help from Freedom Fund partner, PGS, residents have now sustained their freedom from bonded labour for over six years by working on a stone quarry that is leased and run by former bonded labourers. Some residents are now shareholders of a farming company they have set up to market the excess products of their agricultural work. Others stood for village positions in the recent elections. Some get work in the government’s employment guarantee scheme. Asked what her life is like now outside the exploitation of bonded labour, a woman answered *“Now there’s no pressure, no fear. That’s why I like it. Even now when they (the former slaveholders) meet us, they threaten and ask for money. I never give money. I don’t fear.”*

Yet, some people in this village are still not free. Members of a community group set up with PGS’s help work to bring together those still enslaved, encouraging them to decide that they won’t work in bondage. The quarry contractors exploiting the villagers tell them not to listen, that the community group members are liars. But the members keep encouraging the villagers, and each other. One woman (see photo) explained: *“As a group you have a tool – the tool is unity”.*

Hotspot achievements in 2015:

- 3,873 individuals liberated, with 70% provided with recovery services, including 1,880 children. This was a significant increase in liberations compared to 2014 (when 2,193 people were liberated), reflecting an increase in confidence among the less experienced partners and improved inter-state cooperation.
- We launched **“Putting Justice First”**, a report on legal strategies against forced and bonded labour in India, and our partners assisted on 747 legal cases, leading to 103 arrests and 7 convictions.
- The intervention model of one of our partners, MSEMVS, was independently validated in a study by Harvard University’s FXB Center for Health and Human Rights.
- We supported one of our partners to organise three regional consultations with national ministries, NGOs and businesses, aimed at supporting better inter-state rescue and repatriation processes.





HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 13

TOTAL INVESTED: \$0.68m

COST PER PERSON: \$40

LIVES IMPACTED: 13,345*

PEOPLE LIBERATED: 32*

Southern India

*since hotspot inception

With the support of C&A Foundation, this new hotspot in Tamil Nadu aims to reduce the bonded labour that particularly affects girls and young women in the region who work in the spinning mills that produce the yarn used to make clothing. Launched in August of 2015, and working with 13 partners, the program is now reaching 398 villages. Community groups are working to prevent adolescents going to work in exploitative conditions. They help adolescents who have come back to the communities to return to school and for their families to gain new sources of income. In addition to education or vocational training, they are ensuring that survivors of bonded labour have access to legal aid. Partner NGOs are also working with local government to give greater protection to workers within this vital industry. With Freedom Fund's support, a group of six international retailers who source their garments from Tamil Nadu is using their expertise and connections to promote better conditions as part of their long-term trade in the area.

Partner story

17 year-old Radha's father works in a spinning mill and her mother works in a poultry farm but their income is not enough to feed their family of five. Radha was studying in 10th grade but decided she had to take a job at a local mill, earning Rs. 130 (\$1.95) per day. She became malnourished as she was working long hours, sometimes without eating meals. In addition, Radha suffered frequent verbal abuse from her supervisors and dreaded going to work each day. One of the coordinators of a Freedom Fund NGO partner met Radha as she was coming home. She was hesitant to speak about her situation, but agreed for the NGO worker to meet her and her parents. The worker spoke about the importance of Radha continuing her education and offered to link her with health and counselling services. Within a few weeks, Radha enrolled in a bridge course offered by the NGO to support her transition back into school and was registered for her 10th grade exams. The NGO is helping her parents access government services to improve their income, and Radha is excited to be studying once again.

Hotspot achievements in 2015:

- Agreeing to a program with the Ethical Trading Initiative to improve conditions and communication amongst female workers in up to 20 spinning mills.
- 403 adolescent groups with over 7,000 members have started to protect each other from risky recruitment and are making the case for better opportunities for young women.
- Community awareness-raising events reached over 55,000 people, sharing the message about protecting young workers and strengthening the industry.



Image: Ryan Lobo © C&A Foundation



HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 21

TOTAL INVESTED: \$1.21m

COST PER PERSON: \$61

LIVES IMPACTED: 18,287*

PEOPLE LIBERATED: 401*

South-Eastern Nepal

*since hotspot inception

During 2015, this hotspot scaled up to support 19 NGOs aiming to eradicate agricultural bonded labour, known as “haruwa-charuwa”. In targeted communities where a high proportion are in debt bondage, 117 community-based groups have been set up to date, helping bonded labourers become aware of their human rights and set priorities together; creating savings and income-generating groups so they can develop independent livelihoods; enabling individuals to register for citizenship and land rights; removing children from forced labour and helping them access education; and building district networks of the groups, so they can pressure government to provide vital services to bonded labourers.

Partner story

Freedom Fund’s NGO partner, Janachetana Dalit Sangam (JDS), helped groups of bonded labourers struggle successfully for rights to land and construction of houses.

Many bonded labourers stay in slavery because they fear being evicted from their homes and having no means of survival. Darshan Mandal, a former bonded labour and local leader, explained the importance of a recent success in their fight for land rights and housing: *“Most people living here are Dalit [low caste] and haruwa-charuwa [bonded labourers]. We work for landowners in the village. We were not properly unified before and were exploited at our work and every area of our life. Representatives of JDS have united us and taught us to protect [our] rights...through advocacy. We organised several meetings to discuss our rights and our desire to improve the situation of our community. With the support of JDS, the construction of 70 houses under the [government’s] People’s Residential Program has been approved and recently the construction of houses has begun. We want to thank JDS for their support. Our dream to have land and a house registered in our name has been fulfilled.”*



Group farming enables community members to earn additional income for their families to meet their basic needs.

Image: © Janachetana Dalit Sangam

In 2015, despite being affected by earthquakes, political road blockages, and severe fuel and food shortages, achievements included:

- Enrolling 4,223 children in school, some of whom had been in forced labour for the landowners.
- Given the importance of land, ID and registration documents for the human rights of these families, we also supported the creation of a database where all of these important documents can be safely stored for group members.
- Generating 141 media stories, raising awareness of this form of agricultural bonded labour in the region.
- Partners hosted international and Nepali mental health experts to undertake groundbreaking diagnostic research on the psychological impact of slavery in this context and to recommend ways to help individuals recover.
- Partner NGOs and bonded labor leaders held meetings with several ministries in December 2015, leading to a commitment to develop a high-level committee responsible for allocating resources to haruwa-charuwas.



HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 12

TOTAL INVESTED: \$0.51m

COST PER PERSON: \$94

LIVES IMPACTED: 5,344*

PEOPLE LIBERATED: 8*

Central Nepal

*since hotspot inception

Launched in September 2015, this new hotspot brings together 12 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 has a threefold approach: prevent children from entering the sex industry; remove them from situations of exploitation; and end the recruitment and use of children by employers and customers.

Our partner NGOs use outreach and drop-in centres to reach adolescents, offering shelter, counseling, vocational training, legal aid and other assistance so that children can escape the adult entertainment sector. In source areas for child trafficking, our partners help communities address the root causes of exploitation and employ the law to put coordinated pressure on officials.

Strengthening community-based protections after the earthquake

Two massive earthquakes struck Nepal in April and May 2015, displacing tens of thousands of people. In some areas, up to 95% of families were forced to move, many of them into temporary shelters. In a region already prone to trafficking, these conditions created new risks. To rapidly assist the most vulnerable, the Freedom Fund provided emergency grants to 11 Nepali grassroots NGOs totalling \$62,000.

In the areas where relief agencies could barely deliver emergency supplies, it was clear that local residents needed to be able to protect individuals at risk of trafficking and violence. So in Sindhupalchok district, the Freedom Fund supported a project to train 81 frontline community workers. They demonstrated an astonishing capacity to organise practical protections for women and children in the temporary camps, identify and rescue people in trafficking cases, and arrange access to government emergency schemes. Their recommendations for improving protection of human rights during future disasters were published in the report, **“Understanding Vulnerabilities and Strengthening Response”**.

In its first few months, the program:

- Created 132 local groups, with 2,517 members, mostly women and girls working in the sector as well as adolescent girls raising awareness against exploitation.
- Provided support for recovery to 225 individuals.
- Assisted with 11 legal cases on behalf of survivors, resulting in three arrests and one conviction.



Image: © DFID





Ethiopia

HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 8

TOTAL INVESTED: \$0.70m

COST PER PERSON: \$78

LIVES IMPACTED: 7,185*

AT-RISK CHILDREN IN SCHOOL:
176*

*since hotspot inception

In 2015 the Freedom Fund launched a hotspot in Ethiopia, in partnership with the Ethiopian government. The program works to make the migration of women and girls to the Middle East for domestic work safer, and to prevent them from ending up in domestic servitude. Through coordinated interventions in a deprived area of the capital, Addis Ababa, our partnership of seven NGOs and a university is working to create alternative livelihood options as well as improved understanding and practice of safer migration amongst source communities. The activities focus on sex workers, domestic workers, and other vulnerable women and girls, as these are the groups most likely to migrate. In 2016, we will be expanding the hotspot to Amhara, one of Ethiopia's poorest regions and a major source area for migration.

Hotspot achievements in 2015:

- 7,134 people received information about high-risk migration and trafficking.
- 181 returnees and survivors given access to support for recovery services.
- 69 individuals graduated from vocational training programs.

Case study:

Seada is 23 years old, and grew up 620km from Addis Ababa. When her parents and uncle died, she had to support her nine younger siblings. At 18, Seada found a labour broker who could find her a job as a domestic worker. Her cousins paid the 8,000 birr (\$421) fee to the broker and she flew to Dubai. However, the broker's promises proved false. Badly treated, Seada managed to steal her passport back and ran away.

"I stayed hidden under a big van for four consecutive days without any food or drink." By the fourth day, she was weak and begged a passer-by to take her to the police. There, she was imprisoned for two months, charged with serious crimes and later released without her passport. She explained: "I worked for three years and decided to come back to my homeland. When I went to the police for my document I was again imprisoned. Then I was deported with few of my clothes and little money to return to my home country. The pastor of my church in Dubai that I used to go on my day off told me about AGAR [a Freedom Fund partner], so when I came back I went straight to AGAR".

Seada felt she could not go home to her family, as she had nothing. AGAR provided counselling, life skills and business training. Seada was one of the six trafficking survivors who graduated from AGAR's training this quarter thanks to the Freedom Fund program.



HOTSPOT PARTNERS: 16

TOTAL INVESTED: \$1.30m

COST PER PERSON: \$50

LIVES IMPACTED: 7,505*

PEOPLE LIBERATED: 135*

Thailand

*since hotspot inception

In 2015, the Freedom Fund began supporting efforts to tackle forced labour among migrant workers in Thailand's seafood industry. A partnership of six Thai and migrant-led NGOs has been formed to increase migrants' access to quality services, from rescue and shelter to legal support and reintegration. Community leaders in key ports, transit and processing areas have been trained to provide advice to those at risk. In addition to these grassroots efforts, the Freedom Fund has helped to expose abuses through research, media investigations and advocacy in Thailand, Europe and the U.S. We have also supported the development of tools aimed at assisting the private sector to eradicate forced labour from supply chains.

Case study

Khin, a 45-year-old fisherman, was forced to work on a trawler. Trafficked to Bavoia Island in Indonesia, he and other men were transferred to a trawler where they were forced to work long hours without receiving any pay. Khin explained, "I didn't know how much my salary was and we were not allowed to ask. We had to follow the Thai captain's orders and we were too frightened to raise any complaints".

Freedom Fund partner FED collaborated with several government agencies to locate and assist the men. FED provided interpretation, assisted with negotiations, arranged to recover lost wages from the employer, and helped reunite survivors with their families. Khin received all of his back wages and has returned to his home in Myanmar.

Hotspot achievements in 2015:

- 135 migrant workers were identified and rescued from situations of forced labour.
- One partner, Human Rights and Development Foundation, took on a significant strategic litigation case involving 11 men in forced labour.
- Migrant Worker Rights Network reached 953 individuals through outreach activities, labour rights trainings, and organising workshops.
- MAP Foundation and the Foundation for Education and Development (FED) provided training to 41 individuals to be community volunteers and paralegals working against violations of migrants' rights.

“I didn’t know how much my salary was and we were not allowed to ask. We had to follow the Thai captain’s orders and we were too frightened to raise any complaints.”

Khin



Images: Brent Lewin © The Freedom Fund



Planning for the future



Syrian refugee crisis

Every fifth person in Lebanon is a refugee from Syria. Humanitarian agencies and international donors are concentrating on ensuring that refugees' immediate food and shelter needs are met. However, evidence is also emerging that like in other conflict situations, slavery, trafficking and forced labour is increasing. In 2015, the Freedom Fund commissioned a team of researchers to conduct an assessment of the vulnerability of Syrian refugees to slavery and exploitation. The **report**, published in April 2016, found that slavery of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is a rapidly growing concern, which manifests itself through child labour, early marriage, sexual exploitation as well as forced labour. The report offers a more comprehensive understanding of the needs and vulnerabilities of Syrian refugees, and brings new knowledge to inform humanitarian interventions and priorities.



Myanmar

We are currently raising funds to launch a new hotspot in 2016 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 has led to a "marriage squeeze". By 2025-2030, 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. We will also work with the Myanmar government - and through it, the Chinese government - to improve interventions and promote better policies.



Brazil

The Freedom Fund is fundraising for a hotspot focused on the connection between slave labour and illegal logging in the Amazon region of Brazil. Labourers are predominantly young men from low-income families; research shows the links between the illegal extraction of high-value timber in protected areas and the loggers' control of workers from these communities through debt bondage. During 2016, we will support a "collective impact" assessment, to examine the potential for local groups, funders, environmental organisations, and government bodies that have related goals in the most affected areas of the Amazon to join forces on these issues. Similarly, in one of the key source states in Brazil, we will further explore opportunities for community-based prevention of recruitment into slave labour.

Academic partnerships

Integral to the mission of the Freedom Fund is the commitment to know what works in the fight against slavery. We place great emphasis on research and rigorous monitoring and evaluation. This allows us to constantly improve our programs, contribute to sector learning about what is effective, and be accountable to our donors and program participants.

In 2015, we launched partnerships with two new research institutes and completed the fieldwork for a groundbreaking evaluation of a partner program in northern India.



In 2015 the FXB Center at Harvard completed their **study** of the work of one of our partners in northern India, MSEMVS (the study was published in March 2016). MSEMVS has developed a community empowerment model that enables economically disenfranchised groups to identify their own priorities and collectively demand their rights. FXB's research documented a significant decline over a four-year period in human trafficking and debt bondage in the area - almost complete elimination. It also found that communities supported by MSEMVS' full intervention benefited in the following ways compared with similar communities:

- Significantly reduced household debt
- 30% higher wage growth
- Increased access to free public health care
- Dramatically improved access to Indian government protective schemes such as job cards
- Significantly increased the number of meals families reported eating per day

The results suggest that the intervention is highly effective at addressing root causes of vulnerability to slavery, and support the idea of adapting and using similar interventions in other contexts.



The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex is leading the evaluation of our hotspot in northern India and in 2015 we expanded the partnership to southern India and south-eastern Nepal.

In northern India, **early findings** are being used to help partners improve their programs and ensure they are meeting the needs of participants. IDS is also trialling an innovative **participatory approach to measuring prevalence**, which means results can be used immediately, are owned by the community and may in some cases be more accurate than traditional methods.



In 2015 we agreed to a new partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to inform and evaluate our Ethiopia hotspot program, which seeks to promote safer migration among women and girls travelling to the Middle East for work. In 2015, LSHTM launched the first phase of research, which interviewed migrants and potential migrants to understand what they know about the risks of travel, how they make their decisions, and the factors that can improve their chances of a successful migration experience.

Global initiatives

Safer migration

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.

The field of labour migration is receiving growing attention and interest. More resources are being invested globally to try to make labour migration outcomes positive for individuals and their communities, and to decrease and ultimately eliminate exploitation, trafficking and slavery.

Despite this growing interest, it appears that few community-based interventions (e.g. awareness campaigns, knowledge-building, skills training) are founded on strong evidence of patterns of risk and potential protective mechanisms, or have produced robust assessments of their impact.

To begin to address this gap, the Freedom Fund partnered with a team of researchers led by Dr Cathy Zimmerman of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to identify the major evidence gaps in the field of "safer migration". The findings of the **literature review** served as the basis for a convening of experts in November 2015 to discuss priorities for new research and how lessons from the field can contribute to current and future programming.



Images: Jenna Mulhall-Brereton © Geneva Global

Legal strategies

Our legal strategies initiative is focused on strengthening national and international legal tools to fight slavery. While slavery is illegal under international law and in every country, this is not reflected in state practice: too often governments, officials and businesses ignore their obligations to stamp it out.

The Freedom Fund is supporting work to identify legal approaches that encourage these actors to live up to their responsibility to end slavery, and help institutionalise the norm against slavery. We have three projects under this initiative - the first focused on the role of strategic litigation in ending modern slavery, the second on international justice mechanisms, and the third on human rights litigation in West Africa. A fourth initiative to map, analyse, and recommend legal interventions in India was completed, with the launch in March 2015 of a joint report with Thomson Reuters Foundation.

In 2015, we made significant progress towards identifying the ways in which the law can be used to combat modern slavery by:

- Funding a **report** on the role of International Criminal Justice
- Working with the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center to bring together legal experts to share best practice in strategic anti-slavery litigation, with a **report** setting out a roadmap for future efforts
- Supporting research by Liberty Asia and Verité, leading NGOs, on the role of corruption and bribery in **supply chains** and **labour migration**.

Transparency in supply chains

Many of those trapped in modern slavery are part of vast and complex global supply chains. Stronger legal and regulatory frameworks and greater incentives are needed to help both governments and the private sector fulfil their responsibilities to ensure supply chains are free from slave labour. The Freedom Fund is working to support the development of new tools for business, government, and civil society to share information and good practice and address failures.

In 2015, the Freedom Fund supported Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) to launch a Labour Exploitation Accountability Hub - an online database of national laws and regulations on individual and corporate accountability for modern slavery in 11 countries. The Hub delivers easily accessible and comprehensive information on laws and corporate accountability mechanisms, providing a basis for accountability actions by identifying the obligations of governments and corporations, and encouraging them to fully comply with existing anti-slavery regulations. With the Freedom Fund's ongoing support, it will continue to expand in 2016. The Freedom Fund also contributed funding for the development and launch of Transparentem, a non-profit initiative that uses frontline reporting ethics to investigate global supply chains and spur the eradication of abuses.

Treatment of mental trauma

Mental health support plays a vital role in the recovery of slavery survivors, but most are not able to get help. In addition, there is a lack of evidence on the mental health needs of survivors and what might be the most effective treatment approaches. The Freedom Fund teamed with the Helen Bamber Foundation, which provides comprehensive assistance to trafficking survivors in the UK, to critically review the global evidence base and to develop a road map for future work. Their **report** found that mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) occur frequently in survivors of modern slavery. Evidence on the effectiveness of treatment interventions is limited, but there are some promising treatments that may be adaptable for use in a range of cultural contexts.

In addition, in south-eastern Nepal the Freedom Fund is piloting a new approach to the assessment and treatment of mental health problems for survivors of modern slavery within our hotspot project. We plan to roll out a similar approach in other hotspots.

“It is evident that mental health problems including depression, anxiety and PTSD occur frequently in survivors regardless of the type of slavery to which they have been subjected.”

Addressing Mental Health Needs in Survivors of Modern Slavery, Helen Bamber Foundation



Image: © Hugh Sitton



Image: Jenna Mulhall-Breerton © Geneva Global

Building the movement

International architecture

The UN's diverse efforts against human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and related practices have evolved organically over the last four decades. Each area of work has its own focus, governance arrangements, resources and political coalitions. The result is a fragmented and, at times, inefficient set of arrangements that limits impact. In September, 2015, world leaders adopted Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 and the commitment to end modern slavery by 2030. This new commitment provides a unique opportunity to mobilise around the variety of issues that drive modern day slavery.

In 2015 the Freedom Fund worked to move anti-slavery efforts up the UN agenda, launching a **report** on the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 2015, in conjunction with the UN University that set out practical recommendations for strengthening the UN's anti-slavery efforts. Later that month the UN Security Council held its first ever debate on human trafficking - at which Freedom Fund's CEO Nick Grono testified. Now, with a UN Security Council Presidential statement calling for increased efforts to combat modern slavery and requesting a report from the new Secretary General at the end of 2016, the Freedom Fund will continue its work to keep modern slavery high on the agenda of the world's multinational institutions and member states.

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 made a number of investments in 2015:

Global Modern Slavery Directory: We supported Polaris in its development of the first Global Modern Slavery Directory, which lists over 1,700 organisations, the locations in which they work, and the types of slavery and interventions on which they focus. Through 2015 the directory was expanded to include basic financial and governance information, and continues to be populated.

End Slavery Now: The Freedom Fund also supported the development of End Slavery Now, an online information source for the general public that encourages engagement and suggests specific, impactful actions to fight modern slavery.

Slavery Research Bulletin & Library: In September 2015, the Freedom Fund launched the Slavery Research Bulletin, a monthly bulletin of new research from the modern slavery field. It is sent out to over 2000 subscribers, highlighting new research and reports from academia and practitioners alike. We also launched the Slavery Research Library - an online searchable database housing all reports featured in the Bulletin as well as additional research from a host of organisations and leading academics.



Anchor Investors



Stardust Fund

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 are Natasha Dolby, The Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund and Brandee Butler, C&A Foundation. The Council is chaired by Molly Gochman, Stardust Fund.

Other supporters

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