



Impact in 2018 Plans for 2019

Letter from the CEO



The Freedom Fund is now five years old. The last half decade has flown by, and I still have very fresh memories of setting up an office in London in January 2014, hiring our first staff members and launching our first hotspot program in India.

Fast forward to 2019, and we are operating in India, Nepal, Thailand, Ethiopia, and Myanmar, with offices in London and New York. Our staff has grown to 45 to manage our eight hotspots in five countries.

More importantly, we now have some 100 courageous frontline anti-slavery partners, who are central to all that we have achieved to date and hope to achieve in the future. Working with these partners, we have directly impacted over half a million lives, and positively changed the systems that impact millions of people vulnerable to slavery. One particularly noteworthy milestone we passed last year was when our programs liberated the 20,000th individual from slavery.

When our founders launched the Freedom Fund back in 2014, they had big ambitions for the organisation and its ability to help change the local, national and global systems that enable slavery to flourish in so many places around the world. I would like to think that we have surpassed those ambitions. What is most exciting to us is how our frontline partners are working together to promote policies that protect millions of the most vulnerable, hold governments and businesses to account, and change the underlying systems that allow slavery to persist.

But we remain acutely conscious there are still more than 40 million people trapped in slavery around the world. Much more needs to be done to accelerate progress to end this scourge. So, as we look forward to the next five years, we plan to strengthen and deepen our commitment to the frontlines. In addition to our existing work in hotspots and on global initiatives, we will significantly increase our investment in the frontline anti-slavery movement by launching a new program, Freedom Rising.

Over the next five years, this new initiative will invest in hundreds of frontline practitioners, especially women, who are already working with communities vulnerable to modern slavery and human trafficking. As well as providing them with the leadership and skills training they have asked for, the program will provide long-term support to networks of these leaders in each country, and thereby strengthen the global movement of frontline organisations. Stay tuned for the official launch later this year.

Of course, none of the Freedom Fund's achievements would have been possible without the generous support of our investors, particularly our founders - Walk Free Foundation, Legatum Foundation and Humanity United - whose vision and commitment got us started in the first place. Their ongoing support, and that of our other anchor donors, including the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, C&A Foundation, the Stardust Fund and UBS Optimus Foundation, has sustained our work since then. To all of them and our many other committed investors and supporters, we extend our appreciation and thanks for enabling our efforts and those of our partners to thrive.

Nick Grono
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Grono". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

What is modern slavery?

Over 40 million people are enslaved in the world today, and 71 percent are women and girls.

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.



Image: Lisa Kristine/Freedom Fund



Image: Alice Carfrae, Legatum Limited, 2019

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.



Debt bondage

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

Around the world, girls and women are coerced into marriage against their will, usually for money.

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.

The Freedom Fund contributes to exponential impact in four ways:



We are a world leader in supporting frontline organisations to drive systems change. Our frontline partners and hotspots are already driving change from the bottom up. We plan to deepen this impact in our current hotspot countries and do the same in a limited number of additional countries, whilst also strengthening networks of civil society and other partners - thereby achieving impact for millions.



We generate knowledge and solutions to influence key actors. We influence governments, international organisations, businesses and funders by identifying the most effective models to drive measurable and sustainable change. Our work with frontline partners ensures that our research and our global initiatives are both informed by the experiences of those in slavery or at risk of it and help serve these same communities. This focus on the frontlines gives our work greater credibility in the eyes of those we are seeking to influence.



We empower the global anti-slavery movement. We support and mobilise a new generation of frontline leaders who together can challenge the systems that underpin slavery. We do this by establishing a new Freedom Rising program and investing in networks of those leaders, with an emphasis on promoting women leaders and survivors in the movement.



We are the vehicle of choice for funders who wish to direct their resources to the frontlines. While supporting frontline organisations is highly impactful if done well, it is also hard and carries significant challenges. Through having the Freedom Fund take on the management, oversight and due diligence of partnering with frontline organisations, we can work collaboratively to ensure an end to modern slavery.

Our impact

LIVES
IMPACTED



511,400

VICTIMS
LIBERATED



21,724

TOTAL
INVESTED



\$36.1 MILLION

AT-RISK CHILDREN
IN SCHOOL



46,418

COMMUNITY FREEDOM
GROUPS SUPPORTED



7,029

INDIVIDUALS
ACCESSING SOCIAL
AND LEGAL SERVICES



185,907

MICRO-ENTERPRISES
STARTED



16,680

LEGAL CASES
ASSISTED



3,959

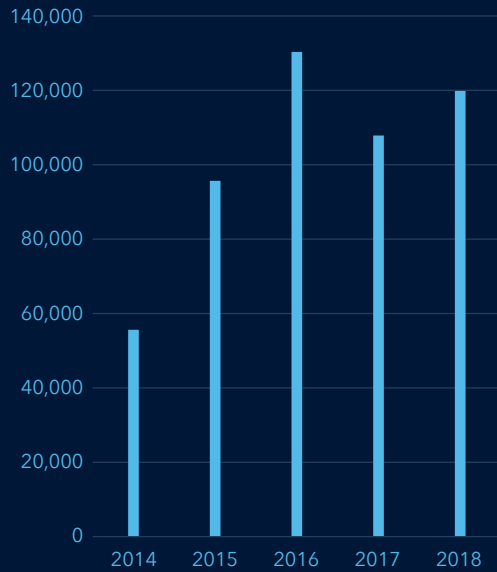
COST PER
PERSON



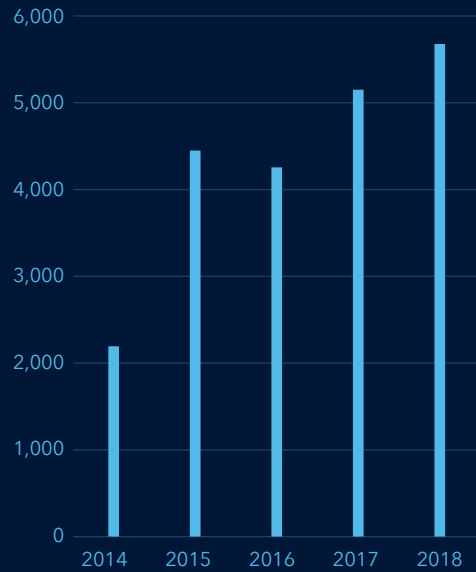
\$57



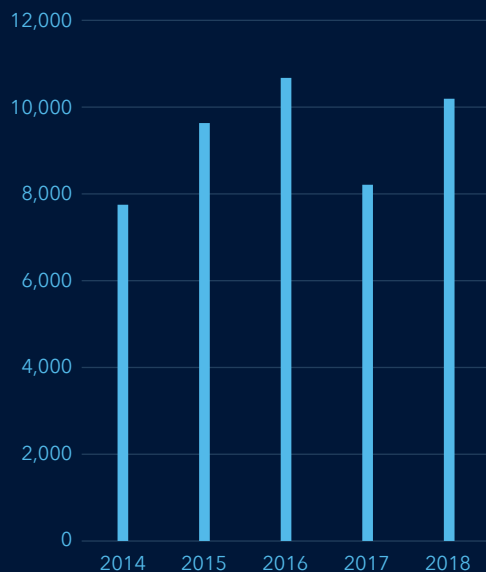
LIVES IMPACTED ACROSS ALL HOTSPOTS
(NEW INDIVIDUALS, PER ANNUM)



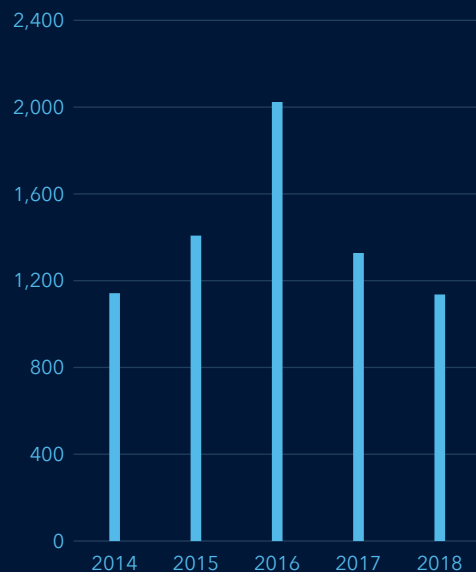
PEOPLE LIBERATED ACROSS ALL
HOTSPOTS (NEW CASES, PER ANNUM)



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

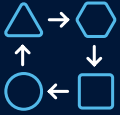


COMMUNITY FREEDOM GROUPS
SUPPORTED (NEW GROUPS, PER ANNUM)



Objectives

By 2025, the Freedom Fund will:



Transform the systems affecting 10 million people in slavery hotspots.



Generate the knowledge and solutions to drive government and business action and mobilise funding for the anti-slavery cause.



Empower the global anti-slavery movement by supporting a new generation of frontline Freedom Leaders and by directly strengthening at least 200 civil society organisations.

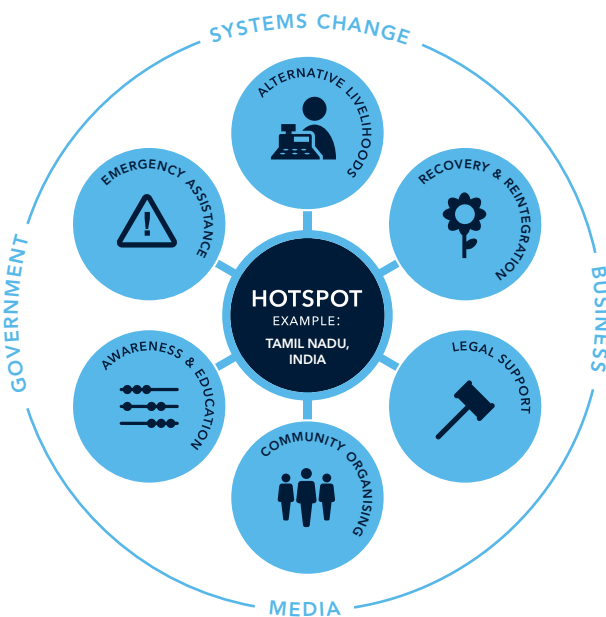


Ensure that the Freedom Fund is the vehicle of choice for investors who wish to direct their funding to the frontlines of the fight against slavery.

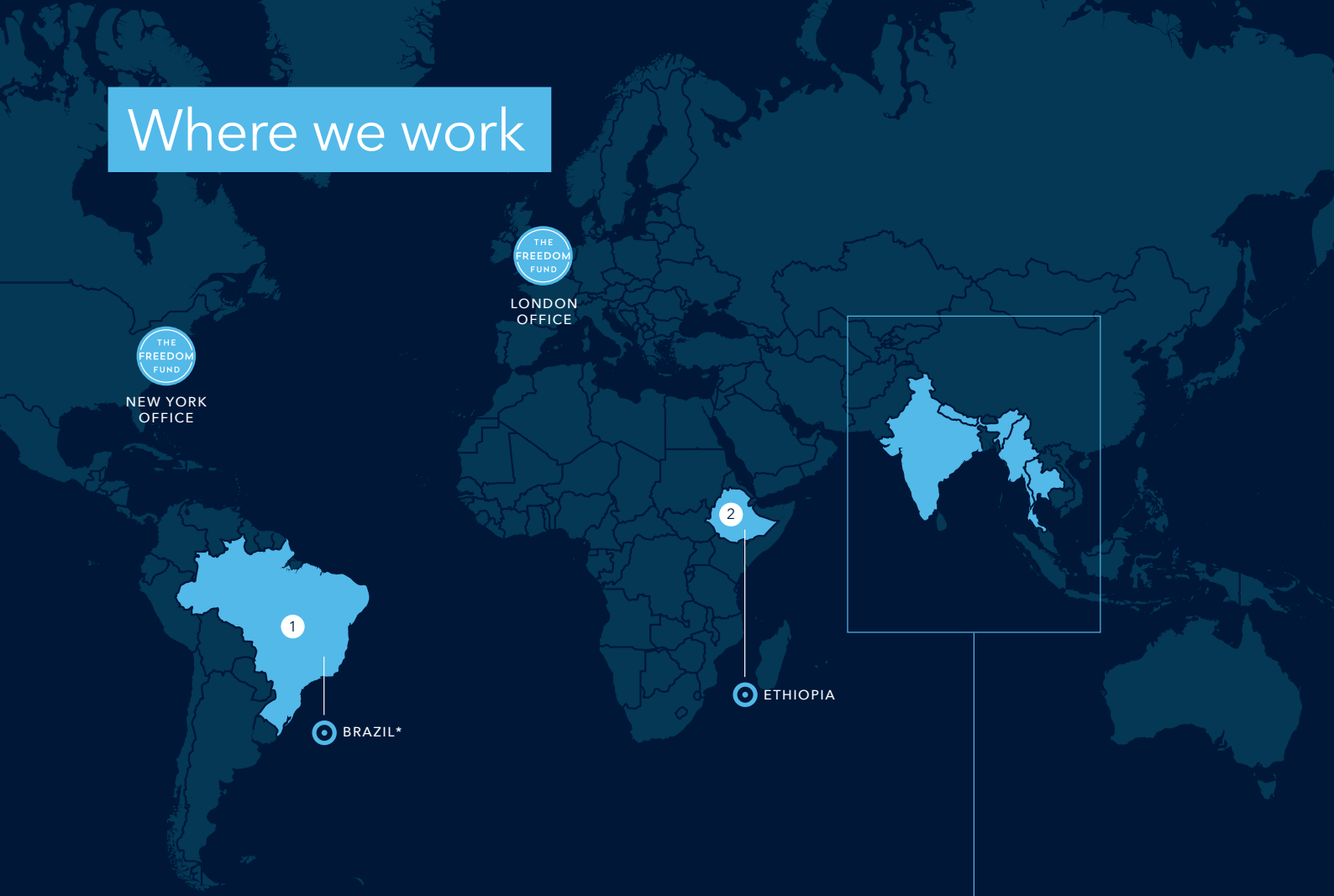
Our Hotspots

A “hotspot” refers to a geographic area known to have a high incidence of modern slavery. We currently support some 140 partners in eight hotspots across five 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



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 the hotspot in Brazil, operations have not yet begun.



Northern India

People Liberated:

14,578

Total Invested:

\$10.7m

Cost Per Person:

\$52

Lives Impacted:

180,933

No. of Hotspot Partners:

36

Image: Atul Loke, Legatum Limited, 2019



In 2018, over 1,600 community freedom groups continued to build resilience against trafficking and bonded labour in villages with high levels of child trafficking as well as in brick kilns, stone quarries and agricultural work. Many survivors now lead efforts to bring others out of exploitation. Our partners' solid relationships with local government ensured that rescued individuals and vulnerable families received social and legal services so that they can remain free.

Fifteen partner NGOs worked collectively for better government action through their "Human Liberty Network". These organisations generated innovative solutions in the specific contexts where they work, for example, creating grain banks to reduce food insecurity, protecting children from disappearing during a major religious festival and getting migrant brick workers' children enrolled in local schools. Our partners in Bihar linked with the new hotspot in Jaipur, Rajasthan, so that hundreds of returning children received proper support and could start to rebuild their lives. Many partners have been working with us since 2014, so they are increasingly ensuring that government institutions fully take up their responsibilities for protecting children from exploitation. They focused on government legal services authorities delivering justice and entitlements to vulnerable individuals.

Northern India hotspot achievements in 2018



2,805 individuals were liberated with ongoing support for their recovery, including 1,954 children.

The Human Liberty Network members enabled thousands of community members to express their views to national government in support of the Trafficking of Persons Bill. Survivors, elected village leaders, self-help group members and others wrote postcards and organised petitions. They gained wide coverage in over 140 local media articles, putting trafficking issues onto the public agenda as never before.



Partners have been using a Community Maturity Tool to assess whether villages are now entirely free from trafficking and are able to sustain their freedom independently. In 2018 alone, 92 communities with 23,960 residents were able to celebrate fully eliminating trafficking and bonded labour.



Seven partners completed the first round of participatory action research aimed at tackling key issues that are holding them back from sustained freedom. They reported success in challenging discrimination against Dalit (so-called low caste) children in schools, improved delivery of health services to reduce major debts related to illnesses and effectively mobilised their community against alcohol abuse.



Partners helped improve government performance on safety nets for children by setting up child-protection booths and committees, dedicated police units and first-time ever State-funded compensation for victims of trafficking in Bihar.





Southern India

People Liberated:

3,518

Total Invested:

\$5.2m

Cost Per Person:

\$49

Lives Impacted:

93,581

No. of Hotspot Partners:

21



Image: Ethical Trade Initiative

This hotspot continued to work to reduce bonded labour in the textile industry in Tamil Nadu. It supports 2,378 community groups in 410 locations to address the root causes of risky recruitment of adolescent girls and women, and for those already working in the mills, to press for decent working conditions. Our partners carried out coordinated interventions including helping adolescents to remain in or return to education, access vocational training and better employment opportunities, as well as almost 5,000 individuals gaining new access to government services.

At the same time, given the depth of social norms that put young women workers at risk, the hotspot expanded the use of a film-based toolkit to help group members plan strategies to uphold their rights at work, protect their health and access better opportunities. Partners worked with district officials to promote registration of the hostels in mills and to require the creation of Internal Complaints Committees. Committees were set up in 98 mills, and the hotspot completed worker peer group training with over 8,000 workers covering workplace rights. The Freedom Fund also helped create the Tamil Nadu Alliance which brings together all the key forums working to improve conditions in the mills in the state to work for common goals.

Southern India hotspot achievements in 2018



Tamil Nadu Alliance worked closely with the State Women's Commission to organise a state-level public hearing on the protection of women workers in the textile and garment industries. Alliance member organisations identified 41 cases from textile workers highlighting abuses and seeking compensation. Some of the cases were quickly resolved and one of the major mill associations issued new guidance for its members.



Almost 100,000 community members and civil society leaders sent individual handwritten messages to the Prime Minister encouraging the government to move ahead with its Trafficking Bill. 27,600 sent letters to MPs. This strong groundswell helped the bill to gain attention and it was passed through the lower house of Parliament.



A survey with 769 of the girls who had used the film-based toolkit found that 41% expressed improved willingness to respond to bullying at work, and 33% improved actions to challenge sexual harassment at work. 40% showed a significant improvement in their mental health and resilience scores. The heroine of the film, Priya, remains a powerful inspiration to adolescents.



Rajasthan

People Liberated:

623

Total Invested:

\$1.2m

Lives Impacted:

3,249

No. of Hotspot Partners:

14

Rajasthan hotspot achievements in 2018

Prominent businesses in Jaipur have become public champions of the Initiative, especially through the Federation of Rajasthan Handicrafts Exporters (FORHEX) and Jaipur Bloc (a group of eco-friendly textile producers). Seven producers in Jaipur are enabling GoodWeave India to map their full supply chains, identifying any risks of child labour, as a first step towards possible Certification. Meanwhile three international brands committed to sourcing certified products from Jaipur.



Through the Initiative, we supported the Child Welfare Committee to digitise its records of rescued children so that documents can be easily transferred to officials in home areas and compensation and entitlements can be arranged.



In Bihar, Freedom Fund partners adopted new standards for reintegration support, and children's progress is now being tracked. Much work is still needed in these deprived areas, but we are determined to reduce the pressures on families that lead to child trafficking.



Promoting Jaipur's child labour free creative industries goes hand in hand with determined enforcement actions against illegal businesses that exploit children: Prosecutions gathered pace, with many children being assisted to return to Jaipur to testify against workshop managers. Both the Juvenile Justice Committee and State Legal Services Authority gave active support, pinpointing where improvements are needed.



Image: Atul Loke, Legatum Limited, 2019



In 2018, the Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative embarked on comprehensive interventions to stop

child labour in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Having gained endorsements from the Rajasthan state and district level governments, as well as a wide range of businesses and industry associations, funding agencies and local community members, the Initiative began to target the root causes of child labour, especially in parts of the bangle, handicraft and apparel sectors. The hotspot partners enabled Rajasthan and Bihar governments to jointly set up systematic responses to assist the large number of children from Bihar that are rescued in Jaipur and to prosecute traffickers.

The Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative built a dynamic presence in the targeted neighbourhoods where most of the workshops that use child labour are located. Action research methods were used to enable residents to prioritise needs in their area and begin to collectively focus on children's wellbeing. The Initiative began to promote the international and local businesses that are committing to certification by GoodWeave against child labour. It launched a website www.childlabourfreejaipur.org, held 120 performances of street theatre across the city, held a panel at the prestigious Jaipur Literary Festival and enlisted public reporting of child labour through public hoardings.



South-Eastern Nepal

People Liberated:

756

Total Invested:

\$4.4m

Cost Per Person:

\$99

Lives Impacted:

40,004

No. of Hotspot Partners:

21

Image: Jenna Mulhall-Brereton/Geneva Global



The south-eastern Nepal hotspot is working to eliminate the bonded labour of agricultural workers, known as Harawa-Charawa and provide support for their rehabilitation. In 2018, the program made significant progress in its engagement with the government through its advocacy work. The program partners, in collaboration with the National Harawa-Charawa Network, worked with all level of government. There has been engagement with ministries and parliamentarians on the drafting and enacting of key pieces of legislation, including the labour act and on-going drafting of the integrated bonded labour bill. Officials from the ministries of labour and land management have met with delegations from the Harawa-Charawa Network and pledged their support to tackle the issues in their communities.

The Harawa-Charawa Network have increased their capacity and have become an empowered group of community leaders who are advocating with all levels of government on the issues that most impact their communities. The network has a clear advocacy strategy and demands which it continues to communicate with all relevant stakeholders. The program partners also strengthened their engagement with Harawa-Charawa communities in the target districts. Local governments are also engaging the partners to collect data on Harawa-Charawa so that services and resources can be allocated.

South-Eastern Nepal hotspot achievements in 2018



2,085 community members gained access to government services.



Partners helped create 324 community freedom and savings and credit groups with 9,207 group members. The groups are important platforms through which community members can access essential registration documents such as birth certificates, citizenship and marriage registration.



The Harawa-Charawa Network and program partners led delegations to the Ministries of Labour, Employment and Social Security and Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty. During the meetings ministers committed to tackle the issues facing the Harawa-Charawa and to allocate budget to do this. This is a significant shift in the attitude and behaviour of the government on this issue.



The government of Nepal introduced key pieces of legislation and policy that are important for tackling the issue of bonded labour in Nepal. These include the revision of the criminal and civil codes, the new labour act, and revisions to the land act. The program partners are also engaging with the process to draft the integrated bonded labour act.



Central Nepal

People Liberated:

1,577

Total Invested:

\$3.7m

Cost Per Person:

\$90

Lives Impacted:

38,538

No. of Hotspot Partners:

23

Image: Katie Orlinsky, Legatum Limited, 2019



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.

With intensive technical support our partners have become increasingly focused on longer-term systems change. In 2018, the results have paid off. As the government of Nepal worked to complete the process of introducing fundamental human rights legislation enshrined in Nepal's new constitution, partners seized this unique opportunity to secure legislative change which will have a lasting impact in the fight to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Central Nepal hotspot achievements in 2018



Our partners successfully advocated for amendments to the Children's Act (2018) which now prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from entering any Adult Entertainment Sector venue.



Collective advocacy contributed to important provisions in the new Victim Protection Act (2018) including compensation, protection of victim's privacy and rehabilitation support. The new protection measures will help to support an increase in the number of prosecutions against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.



637 slavery victims liberated with support for recovery including 429 minors. In 2018, the Central Nepal Hotspot partners liberated more people than ever since the hotspot's inception.



887 previously out of school children attending formal or non-formal education. The hotspot more than doubled the number of children supported to attend formal or non-formal education in 2018, over 80% of which were girls. Partners in Kathmandu help girls working in massage parlours, cabin restaurants, guest houses to exit exploitative work environments and enter education.



Thailand

People Liberated:

672

Total Invested:

\$5.9m

Cost Per Person:

\$37

Lives Impacted:

50,772

No. of Hotspot Partners:

23



Image: Lisa Kristine/Freedom Fund

Thailand hotspot achievements in 2018



Many international and Thai partners were involved in advocacy to government pushing for the ratification of ILO protocols.



Partners independently monitored the implementation of several reforms, including Port-In and Port-Out vessel inspections



Partners published a report on labour conditions in fishing and advocate to government and business to close remaining gaps.



2,111 new members of migrant worker networks that collectively seek change and provide support to each other.



9,436 new migrant workers were provided with legal and social services when either affected by a situation of forced labour or vulnerable to forced labour.

In 2018, the hotspot continued to work towards improving the legal and regulatory framework to address forced labour and improve working conditions for seafood processing workers and fishers at sea. In a step forward for reform, the Thai government ratified the Protocol to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention on Forced Labour and agreed to ratify the ILO Convention on Work in Fishing. The government has also drafted legislation to implement these obligations into domestic law. In addition to advocacy, the hotspot ensured reforms were implemented in practice, with support to improve vessel monitoring systems and inspections. We worked to encourage the private sector to reform their supply chains, focusing on recruitment practices and working conditions. Methods used include monitoring of conditions on the ground and subsequent evidence-based advocacy to business, as well as evaluating promising corporate practices to reduce vulnerability to forced labour.

At the local level, partners supported migrant worker community networks and leaders, building skills and knowledge to enable migrant worker leaders to assist and represent their community moving forward. Partners also directly supported migrant workers facing high vulnerability or exploitation at work through the provision of legal and social services.



Total Invested:

Cost Per Person:

Lives Impacted:

No. of Hotspot Partners:

\$5.0m

\$44

104,323

15



Image: Jessica Lea/DFID

In 2018 we continued to make progress promoting safer migration for Ethiopian migrant domestic workers travelling to the Middle East, with the aim of reducing the risk of human trafficking and domestic servitude. Spanning two key source and transit areas in Ethiopia, our fifteen partners implemented a three-pronged strategy focused on: empowering communities to make informed choices about migration; equipping women with practical tools to improve livelihood opportunities; and addressing systemic drivers of unsafe migration in collaboration with local and national governments, community leaders, traditional structures and other civil society organisations.

The ban on women migrating for domestic work to certain countries in the Middle East was lifted in 2018, and new rules and bilateral agreements to improve labour migration and support migrating workers came into force. These changes address several key recommendations of the Ethiopia hotspot, including greater regulation of private employment agencies and skills-based pre-departure training. Moving forward, the hotspot is focusing on ensuring that these rules and agreements actively work to reduce the risks of forced labour and domestic servitude in the migration journey.

Ethiopia hotspot achievements in 2018



12,975 new members joined community and school groups that explain and promote concepts of safer migration through interactive sessions. Drawing on learning from a process evaluation conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, an effort was made to ensure returnee migrants and survivors of trafficking were trained to be facilitators of sessions.



2,767 survivors of domestic servitude and/or human trafficking were provided with social services to assist with reintegration.



1,105 individuals graduated from vocational training, providing participants with the skills to either find local employment within Ethiopia or better prepare them for employment abroad, hence reducing the risk of confrontation with employers and improving confidence. 215 of these women were survivors of domestic servitude.



616 people earned a new income or started a microenterprise, improving family financial security.

Global Initiatives

The Freedom Fund's global initiatives are a critical component of our commitment to the frontline. These initiatives generate knowledge, solutions and actions that influence governments, inter-governmental organisations, businesses and funders to end modern slavery. Each global initiative addresses a key issue or approach that is related to modern slavery prevention or eradication. The initiatives link organisations and strategies at the global level with the grassroots approaches of our hotspot partners - facilitating collaboration between multiple organisations to encourage greater combined impact.



Image: Alice Smeets, Legatum Limited, 2019

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.

In 2018, with Freedom Fund support, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) started analysing the International Organization for Migration's Trafficked Migrants' Assistance Database (TMAD), which contains cases of over 45,000 individuals in over 100 countries. The TMAD is the largest database on human trafficking globally. Through this analysis LSHTM will establish a first of its kind data-driven evidence-base on potential risk and protective factors, paying special attention to those related to recruitment.

We are also supporting a UK Economic and Social Research Council Collaborative doctoral research studentship in partnership with LSHTM. We have invested in three years of impact-oriented, rigorous research to help inform the programs of our hotspot partners in Thailand. This doctoral study aims to understand labour recruitment dynamics among Burmese migrants to reduce entry into labour exploitation.

Legal strategies

Laws prohibit and criminalise modern slavery or create civil avenues of recourse to pursue abusers, but all too often these mechanisms are poorly enforced and the organisations seeking to use them are too poorly resourced. Our Legal Strategies initiative seeks to ensure that the perpetrators of slavery or those benefiting from slavery, including individuals and corporations, are held to account.

In 2018 we launched a new strategy to guide our Legal Strategies initiative going forward. We continued to provide funding for strategic litigation, supporting eight different legal actions to hold corporations accountable for modern slavery harms. These included the ground-breaking Nevsun case in Canada, a case against French company Vinci alleging forced and bonded labour on World Cup construction sites in Qatar and a criminal complaint against a Dutch shipbuilding company for knowingly profiting from the forced labour of North Korean workers. We also supported frontline legal efforts in Mauritania, to build the capacity of local organisations to end impunity around slavery, as well as in Thailand to defend against the use of SLAPP (strategic lawsuits against public participation) in slavery-related cases.

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. Increased attention on modern slavery risks in recent years has resulted in many corporations taking positive steps to address harm in their supply chains. However, this has not yet resulted in a concrete shift in business practices required to drive up anti-slavery standards. In 2018, we launched a new strategy to guide our Supply Chains initiative by targeting three key levers of reform throughout the supply chain ecosystem: government, business and workers.

This year, we continued to actively support the adoption and implementation of robust supply chain regulation, including continued support for the Modern Slavery Registry in the UK and advocacy efforts in Canada. We also developed a new strand of work focused on the responsibility of the financial sector by commissioning a report by the Royal United Services Institute into the role of financial institutions in driving up modern slavery standards and providing funding to the Investor Alliance for Human Rights.



Image: Atul Loke, Legatum Limited, 2019

Treatment of mental trauma

Mental health support is one of the greatest gaps in the global response to modern slavery. The Freedom Fund's mental health global initiative aims to identify and promote effective approaches to responding to the mental health needs of survivors and victims of modern slavery.

In 2018, the Freedom Fund continued to support mental health interventions across its hotspots:

- In central Nepal, a local mental health agency worked with our partners to improve their psycho-social counselling services and better address the mental well-being of their frontline workers.
- In Ethiopia, through a participatory process and under the guidance of a renowned psychological trauma care specialist, we completed a full standard operating procedure of our partner Agar's residential shelter.
- In Thailand, we commissioned a community-based mental health needs assessment of migrant workers in the fishing and seafood processing industry. This assessment will help shape an intervention to make mental health support more accessible.
- In southern India, a local mental health organisation worked with partners to enhance the quality of mental health services available for at-risk communities and survivors of bonded labour and exploitation in the textile industry.

In 2019, we will collect the lessons learned from our diverse mental health grants portfolio and share our findings at an event in London.

Research and Evaluation

Our investments to help fill evidence gaps

	Report Title	Research Partner
March 2018	One year on: Findings from the Freedom Fund's Ethiopia hotspot	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Addis Ababa University
August 2018	Pathways for children to exit commercial sexual exploitation in Kathmandu	University of Hong Kong
September 2018	Minors in Kathmandu's adult entertainment sector: What's driving demand?	Dr. Subas Risal and Elizabeth Hacker
October 2018	Business strategies for a child labour-free Jaipur	Dr. Dev Nathan
October 2018	Evaluation of freedom fund hotspot projects in Thailand	Chulalongkorn University
December 2018	Leaning in: Advancing the role of finance against modern slavery	Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
January 2019	Literature review: Behaviour change communications campaigns targeting the demand-side of exploitation	Done internally by the Freedom Fund
January 2019	Strategies to Challenge Demand for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar (India)	Rajib Haldar and Dr. Bincy Wilson
January 2019	Accountability for forced labor in a globalized economy	European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
Forthcoming	Prevalence of minors in Kathmandu's adult entertainment sector	City University of New York
Forthcoming	Final report for the process evaluation of Freedom Fund's Ethiopia hotspot	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Addis Ababa University
Forthcoming	Evaluation of the 'Call Me Priya' film-based curriculum in Tamil Nadu	Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices

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.

During 2018, we collaborated with 14 research institutions to advance our understanding of modern slavery and evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions.



Measuring the scale of exploitation among marginalised populations

Measuring the scale of modern slavery is crucial for prioritising action and allocating finite resources towards tackling the problem. Slavery is most concentrated in marginalised communities - such as undocumented migrants, child labour and sex workers - who are often missing from official statistics.

Since 2015, the Freedom Fund has invested in eight prevalence studies, working with experts across ten countries to deliver estimates on forced labour, debt bondage, worst forms of child labour, sex trafficking and forced marriage.

Our most recent study in Kathmandu found a population of nearly 3,700 young women and girls (age 21 & under) working in 'adult entertainment venues'. These are venues where sexual exploitation is commonplace, where 68 percent of the surveyed population have suffered from sexual abuse, such as being made to cuddle or kiss with a client, watch pornography or engage in sexual intercourse.

Among the children found in adult entertainment venues, nearly all of them (99 percent) are considered to be in the worst forms of child labour according to the ILO convention. Aside from sexual exploitation, the children are often required to work late hours and/or forced to drink alcohol or use drugs.

The study has also highlighted the regularity of emotional and physical abuse. Forms of violence range from blackmail and threats of violence against family members, to beatings by managers for not doing as guests wanted. Overall, 72 percent of the young women and girls experience at least one form of violence at work.



Image: Alice Smeets, Legatum Limited, 2019

Understanding the demand side of exploitation

Within the movement to combat modern slavery, the vast majority of interventions have sought to address the vulnerability of at-risk communities to decrease the risk of victimisation. The case may be, however, that the path to lasting change is not to focus solely on victims, but to also engage with stakeholders who constitute the demand side of slavery.

The Freedom Fund is supporting three studies in India, Thailand and Nepal to examine the role of - and incentives for - employers, brokers and end clients to help combat modern slavery.

In our Rajasthan hotspot which aims to end harmful child labour in the handicraft industry, we commissioned research to map out the handicraft value chain and examine the producers' rationale for engaging child labour. The study found that a much more effective system of supply chain responsibility is needed, going beyond tier-one factories and focusing especially on child labour within homeworkers and small workshops. In line with these findings, our program in Rajasthan works with stakeholders across the value chain to transform the business dynamics that drive demand for child labour, rather than relying solely on a law enforcement approach.

In our Thailand hotspot, we have partnered with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to quantitatively assess how labour intermediaries influence migration decisions and pathways towards decent work versus labour exploitation. Labour recruiters are often demonised by the press as traffickers, yet they are frequently used and often highly trusted by migrants. Through this research, we hope to better understand the characteristics of constructive recruiters and migration intermediaries, and consider how our programs can harness their positive influence on migration journeys.

All of our research reports can be found at:
<http://freedomfund.org/newsroom/category/our-reports/>

Building the Movement

Freedom Rising: A new leadership and movement-building program for frontline leaders

The brave individuals at the heart of the anti-slavery movement devote their lives to fighting exploitation on the frontlines, often at significant personal risk. Yet there is very little funding for, or investment in, their leadership and networks.

The global anti-slavery movement has also neglected marginalised voices and failed to challenge unequal power structures. The lack of female representation in leadership across the anti-slavery movement is glaring, given that women and girls comprise over 70% of those enslaved today. In order to ensure that the movement reflects the communities it serves, women, survivors and other minority groups must have greater access to resources, support and leadership opportunities.

As a leader in the global movement to end modern slavery, the Freedom Fund recognises this need. Through Freedom Rising, we aim to address historic power imbalances and expand and strengthen the movement of frontline anti-slavery leaders at local, national and international levels.

Freedom Rising is the Freedom Fund's new effort to support frontline leaders and build the global anti-slavery movement.

The power of Freedom Rising

We believe that a powerful frontline movement is key to advancing the fight against slavery.

Freedom Rising builds on the Freedom Fund's existing programs and enables us to scale our impact by equipping individuals with the necessary skills, networks and support to lead more effective organisations and build collective power.

Freedom Rising stands out from other leadership training initiatives for its:

- Explicit focus on elevating emerging leaders, especially those who have traditionally been excluded from positions of leadership such as women and survivors
- Grounding in local context, with local training in leaders' own languages
- Emphasis not only on developing well-rounded frontline leaders but on strengthening organisations
- Ultimate goal of building a more effective and inclusive movement, through an emphasis on collaboration and the development of an alumni network



Image: Alice Smeets, Legatum Limited, 2019

Program structure

Freedom Rising is designed to invest in a new generation of frontline leaders, especially women, in countries with a heavy burden of slavery. Each cohort of leaders will receive 12 months of leadership and technical skills training, after which they will join a growing network of Freedom Rising alumni. The training will be complemented by ongoing efforts to strengthen leaders' networks and support them to play more active roles in the global anti-slavery movement. After an initial pilot in India, the Freedom Fund envisions scaling the program to Nepal, Thailand, Ethiopia and beyond.

Moving beyond gender inclusion

The program aims to directly address the lack of support for and representation of women in the anti-slavery movement. Therefore, women's leadership and experiences will play a central role in program design, facilitation and implementation. The recruitment process will highlight female candidates and focus on reducing barriers to their participation. Course content will incorporate input from women leaders and tackle the gender biases that hinder effective leadership.

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. In 2018 we continued our funding for two key anti-slavery knowledge platforms, the Global Modern Slavery Directory and Freedom Collaborative.

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 November 2018, we held a reception and convening in London titled "On the Horizon: Advancing Approaches to End Modern Slavery". Attendees and speakers included members of the Freedom Fund's Board and Council of Advocates and representatives of foundations, government, peer organisations, media and corporates. Topics of panel discussions included business leadership, the intersection between migration and slavery and the value of funding frontline organisations. Investigative journalist Pete Pattison delivered the keynote, and the reception featured comments from Matthew Rycroft, head of DFID.

The Freedom Fund also held a convening of key donors to learn from initiatives that have resulted in meaningful gains in addressing modern slavery in supply chains. Using case studies from Brazil, Thailand and the U.S. as the basis of discussions, the working meeting aimed to identify levers successfully harnessed to drive supply chain reform and facilitate dialogue among the donor community on opportunities to support these critical efforts.

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.

Since 2017, the Freedom Fund has been closely engaging with the Alliance 8.7 initiative, a global partnership committed to helping national governments to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour.



Image: Alice Smeets, Legatum Limited, 2019

Planning for the future

Hotspots

- We will launch a new hotspot in Myanmar focused on reducing the number of women and girls trafficked into China for forced marriage and childbearing.
- With support from UBS Optimus Foundation, we will scope ways to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Brazil, identifying opportunities and challenges for a hotspot program.
- Also in Brazil, we will 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.
- We will be exploring how the hotspot model could be effective in tackling modern slavery issues in Bangladesh, where a range of sectors, including apparel, require urgent attention.
- We are preparing a strategy to address child labour and child marriage among Syrian refugees in Lebanon.



Global Initiatives

- We will scale our support for legal initiatives to advance anti-slavery norms, fight impunity and increase the financial and reputational costs for those profiting from slavery.
- Building on our new strategy, the supply chains initiative will support efforts to strengthen government regulation, incentivise business action and promote grassroots worker-driven solutions to address and prevent modern slavery in global supply chains.
- Under the mental health global initiative, we will be identifying key lessons from our mental health grants to support victims and survivors of slavery across our hotspots to date, and we will organise a convening to share findings and learn from the experience of others.

Movement Building

- We will be rolling out the pilot of our new program, Freedom Rising. This program will aim to support a new generation of frontline anti-slavery practitioners, especially women, through an impactful leadership and movement building program for emerging and current leaders.
- We will continue to support the efforts of Freedom Collaborative to connect civil society, the private sector and academia with the goal of ending all forms of exploitation globally.



Investors

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

Anchor Investors



Council of Advocates

Our 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, Brandee Butler, Minh Dang, Grace Forrest and Michelle Yue. The Council is chaired by Molly Gochman.

Other Investors



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