



IJM CASEWORK SERIES

# FORCED LABOUR SLAVERY

**Slavery is illegal almost everywhere—but today millions of children, women and men are trapped as slaves around the world.**

Traffickers and slave owners use deception, threats or violence to force these families to work for little or no pay. Modern-day slaves are often denied adequate food or sleep, and they're barred from leaving for school or medical care.

In India, whole families are forced to work in brick kilns, rice mills, garment factories and other places—some up to 20 hours per day. In Ghana, children as young as 4 suffer as slaves in the brutal fishing industry. In Cambodia, impoverished people are trafficked into industries like agriculture, construction and fishing, both inside the country and across borders.

## OUR IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD



**564**

People freed in our largest rescue to date (2016)



**40,000+**

Government officials and community members trained to combat slavery since 2012



**14,659**

People rescued from slavery by IJM and our partners since 2001

## QUICK FACTS



India has the largest estimated number of people in slavery, around **18.4 million**.<sup>1</sup>

There are an estimated **40.3 million people** held in slavery today.<sup>2</sup>



**1 in 4** victims of forced labour is a child.<sup>3</sup>



## GHANA INVESTIGATION, 2014

IJM investigators estimated that nearly **two-thirds of children** they saw working in the fishing industry on Ghana's Lake Volta are likely slaves. These young children are forced to work long hours in frightening conditions, with little food or sleep.



“Without IJM, I would still be in that brick factory. When I see you, it gives me strength.”

—Vasanthi (center), rescued from slavery in India

## Meet Vasanthi

**VASANTHI WAS DESPERATE.** Droughts had devastated her rural community, food was scarce, and jobs were hard to find. When her son became sick and hospital bills piled up, she was ready to do anything. Vasanthi and her husband found work at a local brick factory, plus a small loan to help with their bills. But it was a lie: They were trapped as slaves.

*Life in the brick factory was unbearable.* The couple worked 18-hour days molding heavy bricks for the owner’s profit. They faced constant threats and barely ever slept. Vasanthi says, “That brick factory was a place that could bury people alive.”

Vasanthi spent three years in this back-breaking work, all while separated from her children, until IJM and local authorities rescued her in 2012. “I still remember that first day after the rescue operation, when I woke up in my own home. It suddenly struck me that I am free!”

Today, Vasanthi has graduated from IJM’s two-year aftercare program, and she’s committed to helping their children grow up educated. She says, “Now, if I think about my life, it’s all about happiness.”

### WHERE WE WORK AGAINST: FORCED LABOUR SLAVERY



#### AFRICA

Accra, Ghana



#### SOUTHEAST ASIA

Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Bangkok, Thailand



#### SOUTH ASIA

Bangalore, India  
Chennai, India • Delhi, India

### JUSTICE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

#### India

Helped by a grant from Google.org, IJM has trained other organizations to utilize our effective model. Today, they’re partnering with local authorities across India to free slaves.

Thousands have been rescued already, and millions have seen the thrilling results in local media.

### JOIN US

Help us prove justice for the poor is possible. Use your time, talents and passion to help protect the poor from violence today. Join us at [IJM.ca/Get-Involved](https://www.ijm.ca/Get-Involved)



LEARN MORE: [IJM.CA](https://www.ijm.ca)

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**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. International Justice Mission Canada shares in this mission.

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