



ENDING SLAVERY - ONE LIFE AT A TIME



THE FREEDOM PROJECT IMPACT REPORT

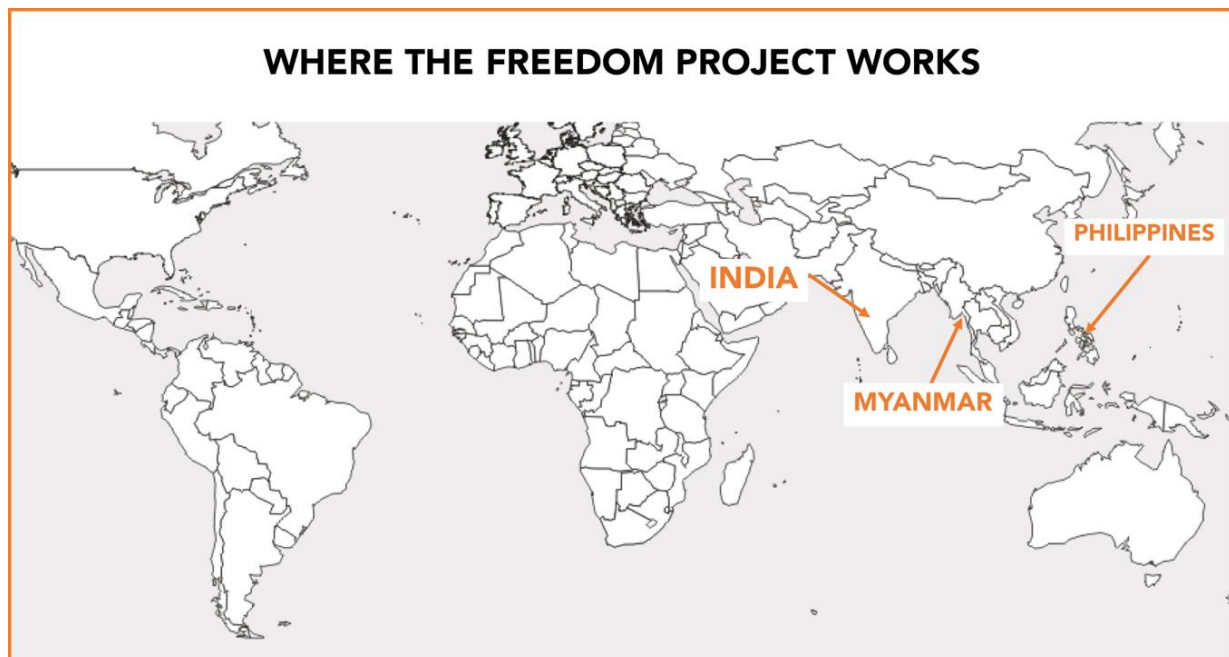
REPORTING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2016 – 30 MARCH 2017

ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING & SLAVERY – BY BRINGING FREEDOM ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

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WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



Learn



Donate



Take Action



Volunteer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VISION & MISSION

Compelled by love, we see a world free from modern slavery, with justice and hope for all.

We are a growing global movement of justice advocates; ending slavery by transforming lives and empowering communities, focused on prevention, rescue and restoration.

NOTE FROM THE CEO

We are so thankful for our generous supporters and donors who make it possible for The Freedom Project to make a difference in ending slavery around the world. We have a lot to celebrate, but of course there is always more work to be done!

This is now the 7th year of The Freedom Project and when we step back to look at what has been achieved, we are completely awed and humbled. This has only been possible because of faithful, intentional supporters in Australia and hard-working teams on the ground who are at work every day in some of the darkest corners of the earth.

In the name of freedom,



Michael Newton-Brown
Founder & CEO



OUR HISTORY

CELEBRATING 7 YEARS OF THE FREEDOM PROJECT



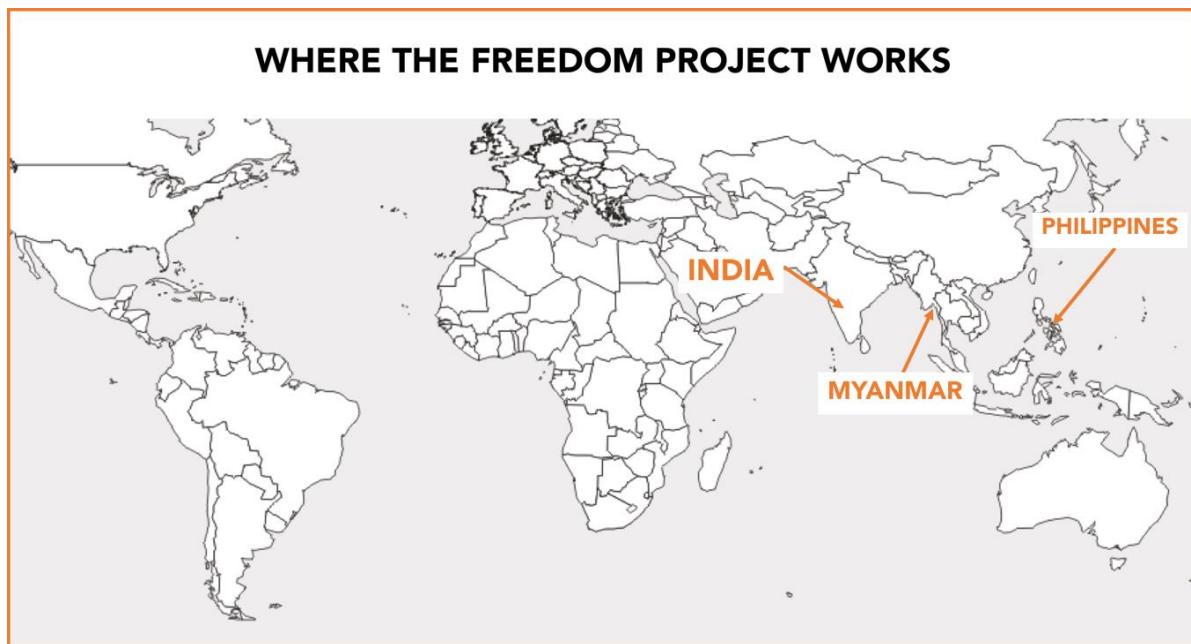
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECTS OVERVIEW

During 2016/17 we were able to continue our support to all our projects across Asia, including India, Myanmar and the Philippines. From July 2016, we committed to a 3-year project partnership in India, including significant financial contributions. In June 2017, we also completed our 3-year funding commitments in Myanmar and the Philippines. We plan to renew these commitments in the following financial year.

There are some incredible achievements we would like to point out:

- 75 rescues in India
- We provided sponsorships for 1250 children and youth across South East Asia
- Approximately 10,000 beneficiaries were part of our prevention, rescue and rehabilitation programs worldwide.



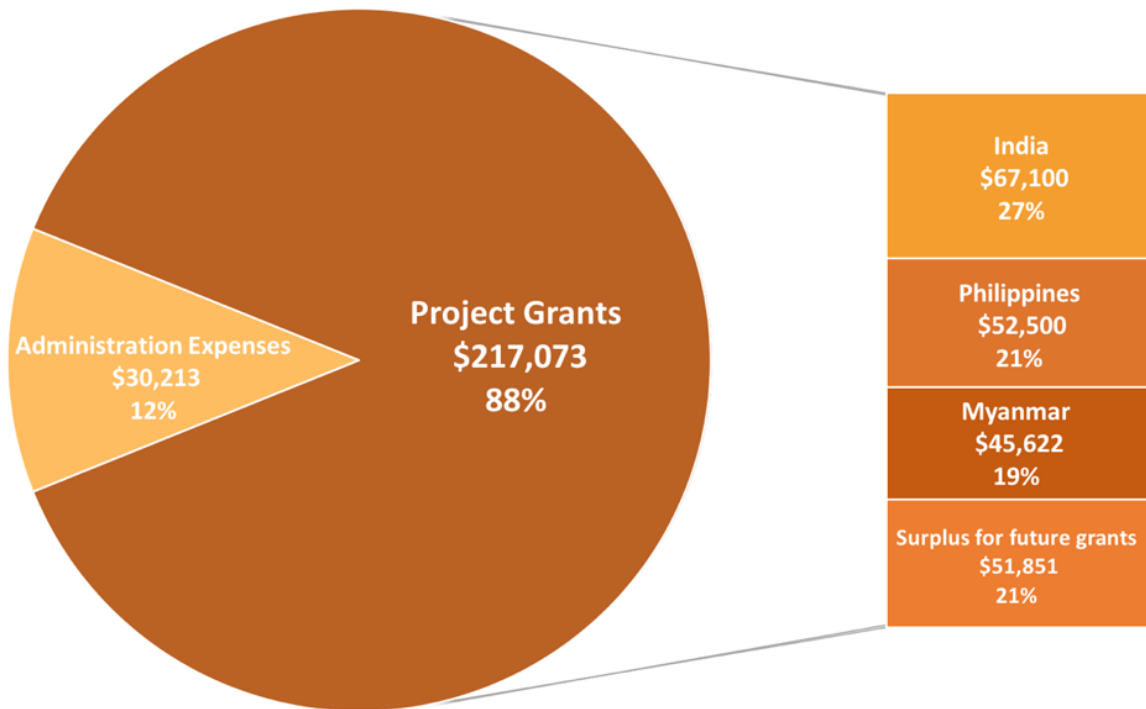
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In the financial year 2016/17 we have a total income of AU\$246,323. Most of that income, a total of \$165,222 was sent directly to our projects, with a further \$51,851 being put aside for future project grants for the following financial year. You can see the breakdown of grants in the graph below. We are extremely pleased to be able to be sending most (88%) of your donations overseas to bring freedom to those who are vulnerable and enslaved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Freedom Project Expenditure Financial Year ended 31 March 2017



INDIA PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016-17

- 3622 individuals educated on trafficking through schools, colleges & community
- 350 boys enrolled in sports programs
- 104 boys completed computer training
- 100 sports coaches received training
- 60 young boys received job placements
- 56 women & children rescued from (mostly) sex trafficking
- 22 boys followed up on their rehabilitation after being rescued from child labour
- 18 boys rescued from child labour
- 15 boys completed high school exams
- 14 community workshops on trafficking
- 13 women in the safe house
- 3 sports & mentoring camps for 180 boys
- 1 child rescued from beggary
- 1 national conference on exploitation awareness
- 1 bike rally to raise trafficking awareness

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In India, our vision is to work alongside the local community to prevent, rescue and restore those vulnerable to trafficking and slavery. This is achieved through community education; a Sports and Mentoring program for at-risk underprivileged boys; an early-learning program for vulnerable children; an investigations team who conduct raids and rescues; and a safe house for women and children who have been rescued.



IMPACT STORY

In January 2017, The Freedom Project India (TFPI) received reliable information that several women were being forced into sexual exploitation at three different establishments within the same vicinity. The team spent time planning the rescue of these women, in cooperation with local authorities. The team hit the first two target locations and successfully rescued 15 women. However, at the third location not a single victim was found and we suspected there may have been a tip-off. After confirmation from the informer that it was the correct location, the team continued searching, and on closer inspection a team member noticed a hidden door that led to a secret passage. In this secret passage and adjacent room, 11 women were hiding, huddled together. The team was able to rescue them too. In total, a record number of 26 women were rescued. They had all been victims of



INDIA PROJECT OVERVIEW

commercial sexual exploitation. At last report, the women were residing in various shelter homes where they will be rehabilitated. Unfortunately, there is no news of those who had been arrested in relation to these women. Without our supporters continued donations, this type of work would not be possible.

A CHALLENGE OVERCOME

As a major part of the prevention approach is through education, the team wanted to start anti-human trafficking (AHT) clubs in local schools and colleges. Unfortunately, many of the establishments approached felt they already had too many other commitments and clubs. We believe in the importance of education helping students not only understand the risks for themselves, but also in order to help look out for siblings or friends who may be at risk of exploitation. The solution was to create a program to go into the schools and colleges and run classes focused on trafficking and slavery. This has been well received so far, with the students being engaged, asking questions and wanting to get more involved. This is something the team hopes to be able to expand in the future.

PROJECT GRANTS

The Freedom Project India received \$67,100 in the reporting period.



PHILIPPINES PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 190 children received school supplies
- 134 new children enrolled in preschool
- 65 new students enrolled in high school
- 50 continuing students sponsored
- 40 new students sponsored for school
- 15 students sponsored for sports comp
- 2 new classrooms built
- 2 teachers working with local tribe on cultural exchange in coffee harvesting
- 1 new teacher employed by government to work in local tribe
- Partnered with Department of Education to build new school buildings
- Teacher training conducted in several regions including use of craft and sport.
- Distributed toys, books & sports goods
- Supported anti-drugs school campaign
- Support & training for teachers & staff
- Support for livelihood projects eg. cacao production
- Provision of farming tools for families in need after armed conflict in late 2016
- Emergency relief & medical support for families displaced in Marawi.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project in the Philippines is focused on working in the southern conflict regions where the biggest issue we seek to address is child soldiers. Alongside local partnerships, the project seeks to work with the community to change their attitudes towards children fighting in the army, and towards holistic peace-building and development. We do this through providing sponsorships to children to attend school, further training opportunities, peace-building negotiations with the army officials, and community education. There are also opportunities for vocational training and income-generation development projects.



IMPACT STORY

The sponsorship program aims to either rescue children from fighting as child soldiers or prevent their conscription into the rebel army groups. One of the sponsored children, Nora* shared with us the impact of his sponsorship:

“Going to school seems like an impossible dream yet this seemingly impossible dream has become a reality through [this] scholarship program. Aside from rescuing at risk and hopeless kids, the program has helped us fight poverty through the education that we receive and supported our families’ dreams in the future. It also contributes to peace-building efforts and fight injustices in various forms due to illiteracy. Aside from that it encourages other kids like me



PHILIPPINES PROJECT OVERVIEW

no longer to consider serving in the insurgent camps in exchange of food. It has built hope in my heart and for many of us and has created a rippling effect of changes in our little villages. In the past, this educational assistance has proven that is doable and possible to make our environment free from the agonies of war by sending more kids to school and educating our parents and communities about pursuing justice in a peaceful way.”

*Name changed for security. Image is illustrative only.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME

The nature and location of our work restricts our impact particularly when there is an outbreak of fighting or increased tensions in the community due to heightened rebel activity. During this reporting period, our work was slowed by not being able to finish construction on new school buildings. Some families were also displaced during this period resulting in some students being unable to attend school. Fighting also restricted people’s movements around the region meaning our scheduled teacher training sessions had to be postponed. Despite these challenges, we had some new buildings completed and we were able to begin conducting classes there; many students did very well in their studies; and we hired new teachers who began work in their appointed regions.



PROJECT GRANTS

The Philippines Project received \$52,505 in the reporting period.

MYANMAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 10 students selected nationally to continue studies abroad.
- 2 new education programs introduced: music & trauma care.
- 1 house built for local teachers.
- Good, stable school attendance record; no students returned to army.
- Several of our graduates are helping sponsor new students.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project in Myanmar is focused on working in the southern conflict regions where the biggest issue we seek to address is child soldiers. Alongside local partnerships, the project seeks to work with the community to change their attitudes towards children fighting in the army, and towards holistic peace-building and development. We do this through providing sponsorships to children to attend school, further training opportunities, peace-building negotiations with the army officials, and community education.



IMPACT STORY

In Myanmar, we provide sponsorships for children's education to either rescue them from fighting as a child soldier or preventing them from being conscripted to fight with rebel groups as a soldier.

The following is a testimony from one of the students who has benefitted from our program:

"My name is Ben. I am 14 years old and I study grade 5 in Chinese, and grade 4 in Burmese. A few years ago I moved from my home in the village with my parents to this children's home. My parents are still in the village and they both work in rubber plantation. They cannot take care of me and cannot support me to go to school. At my home there are still 4 other siblings.*



My name is in the military registration, so it is safer me to come and be in the children's home so I don't get conscripted to fight. I think if I graduate from school I want to be a teacher – to teach children who cannot go to school. Because if they don't know any good things they can only do bad things. I feel happy now to go to school. I work hard to learn to help other helpless children."

*Name changed for security. Image is illustrative only.

MYANMAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

CHALLENGES OVERCOME

The project suffered an unexpected loss of long-term support in 2016 and consequently our team managed the programs to their best of their ability with this funding gap. One of the challenges faced was how to communicate the flow-on impact to beneficiaries due to local instability and security, and the sensitivity of their location and identity. Sometimes the progress of projects is inhibited or slows down because of conflict in the region, or the field team is busy and is subsequently delayed in providing adequate updates and reports. Therefore it is essential that we communicate the impact to sponsors and potential donors without compromising the security of our programs in an understanding of mutual trust and respect. Thankfully some new funding has been received from the graduates of our program who are now employed in other vocations and are choosing to donate part of their income to help invest in other young people to have the same opportunities that they had.



PROJECT GRANTS

The Myanmar Project received \$45,622 in the reporting period.

AUSTRALIA OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

We reached about 2000 Australians through events, education, partnership, churches, schools and marketing channels (eg. our mailing lists and social media).

Together, our small but mighty network of donors raised a massive \$247,764! 88% was able to go directly to support our projects that help address trafficking and slavery across Asia.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

In November 2016 we held our 'Taste of Freedom' Fundraising Dinner, complete with Indian dancing, Indian food and a wonderful and successful night. This event featured the amazing Anita from India and Marcus from Southeast Asia to provide updates on our work.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We were also able to take up a new media opportunity, with Hope 103.2 interviewing our CEO and field staff. What great PR for us!

We also launched the Coffee Money Mondays campaign, encouraging people to give up their Monday coffee to donate to us. Find out more at: www.thefreedomproject.org/coffee

Our team grew with the addition of a part-time marketing staff and a marketing intern.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

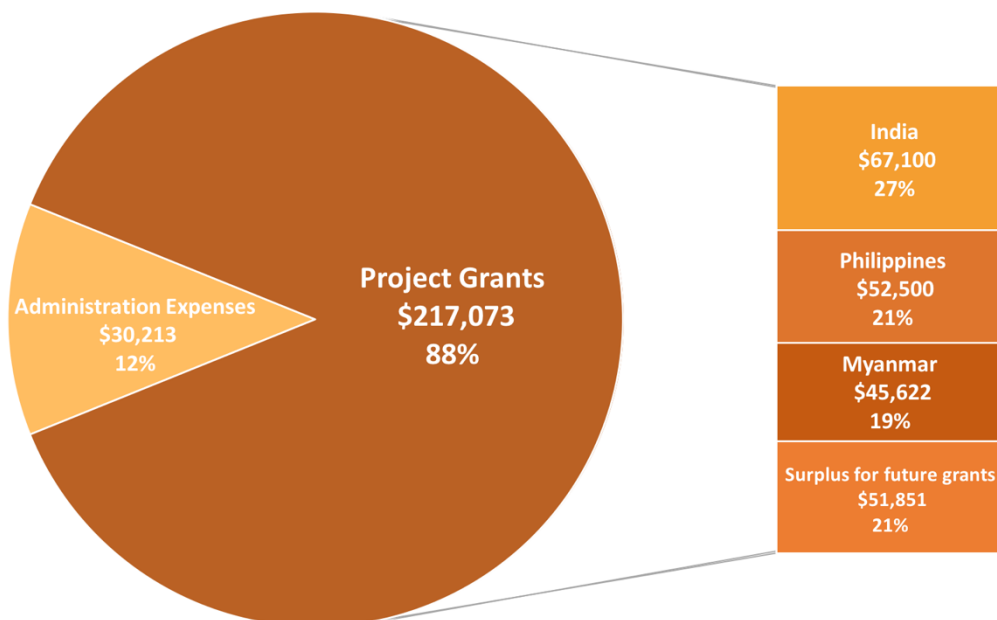
For full financial statement see separated attachment of audited statement.

Year ended 31 March 2016, inconsistent with projects FY July-June.

Income (AUD) 1 Apr 2016 - 30 Mar 2017		Expenditure (AUD) 1 Apr 2016 - 30 Mar 2017	
Donations	\$247,764	Direct project costs	\$165,222.50
		India Grant	\$67,100
Events (net)	(-\$3589)	Myanmar Grant	\$45,622.50
Interest	\$2148	Philippines Grant	\$52,500
Other income	0	Surplus for future Grants	\$51,851
		Total Project Grants (88%)	\$217,073.50
		Administration Expenses (12%)	\$29,250
Total Income	\$246,323	Total Expenses (less surplus grants funding)	\$194,472 (\$51,851)



The Freedom Project Expenditure
Financial Year ended 31 March 2017



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY (YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

• Total revenue from ordinary activities:	\$246,323
• Total expenses from ordinary activities:	\$ 29,250
• Net surplus/(deficit) for the year prior to grants:	\$217,073
• Grants Paid:	\$165,222
• Net surplus/(deficit) for the year after grants:	\$51,851
• Total comprehensive income/(loss):	\$ 51,851

BALANCE SHEET

• Total Assets:	\$377,142
• Total Liabilities:	\$ 0
• Total Equity:	\$377,142

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

• Balance as at 1 April 2016:	\$325,291
• Total Comprehensive income for the period:	\$51,851
• Balance as at 31 March 2017:	\$377,142

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

• Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities:	\$50,888
• Cash at the beginning of the financial period:	\$325,281
• Cash at the end of the financial period:	\$376,169

For full audited financial statements see our submission at ACNC.gov.au via [this link](#).

ORGANISATION DETAILS

The Freedom Project Ltd.

ABN: 37220 593 382

Legal Name: The Trustee for The Freedom Project Ltd.

We are registered with the Australian Charity & Not-for-profit Commission as a deductible gift recipient (DGR). All donations \$2 and over are tax-deductible. See our charity profile at acnc.gov.au

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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BOARD

Michael Newton-Brown, Co-Founder, CEO & Chairman mike@thefreedomproject.org

Erica Sainsbury, Director & Treasurer

Michael Codling, Director

Rob Stewart, Director

STAFF

Liz Newton-Brown, Co-Founder & Director of Public Relations liz@thefreedomproject.org