



FREEING SLAVES  
ENDING SLAVERY

FREE SLAVES

## Using community rather than individuals as the unit of analysis in antislavery interventions

Lisa O'Reilly  
Karen Snyder

Free the Slaves, Monitoring, Learning & Evaluation

Evaluation 2016: Evaluation + Design  
October 29, 2016 9:45am-10:30am



Good morning and thank you for coming on the final morning of the conference.

Karen Snyder wanted to be here. She's has just returned from Nepal yesterday where she was working with our Nepalese colleagues and local partners.

I'm Lisa. I started with free the slaves just over a year ago.

That's when I was introduced to some of the unique evaluative challenges within the modern day abolitionist movement.

Let me tell you a bit about free the slaves and one area of my work I find fascinating and a bit of a challenge.



Free the Slaves has been around for just over 15 years.

First there was Kevin Bales' book *Disposable people*, then Free the Slaves (He's got a great TED Talk btw)

FTS started as an awareness raising organization and quickly expanded to really try to tackle this problem.



This led to supporting and funding local partners.

(This may be familiar to you and similar to how your organizations work)

We have local staff who support local, community-based organizations. These partners then go on to help establish and support community-based organizations: with children, with traditional leaders, with other adults in the communities.

There are a number of different parts to our interventions – but those are the parts we need to think about today.

Free the Slaves uses a community based model for fighting modern slavery in six countries.

Haiti  
DR Congo  
Senegal  
Ghana  
India  
Nepal

WHERE WE FIGHT SLAVERY



We have 19+ local partners in six countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

\*we're in the midst of signing agreements with new partners this month

-----

Haiti  
Democratic Republic of Congo  
Senegal  
Ghana  
India  
Nepal  
(previously also in Brazil)



**Free the Slaves**  
At the core of our approach is a simple, elegant idea—slavery is defeated when at-risk communities acquire the knowledge, tools and resources they need to overcome vulnerability and secure freedom.



The focus of our work -- and the unit of analysis in which we all work -- is the community.

And this is the area of my work I find fascinating and potentially a challenge.



A little bit more history for you.

We have this great timeline on our website and there is one section that I'm going to pull out for you today.

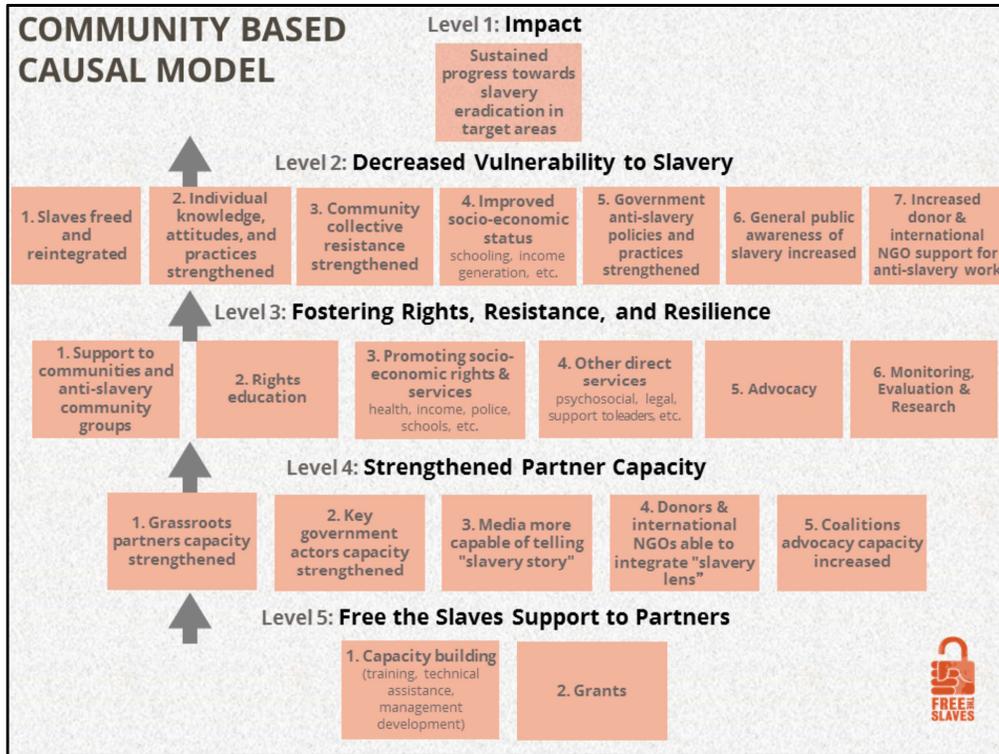
After working with local partners around the world, in 2013 FTS sat down and formally wrote out our Theory of Change.

## 4 Step Model for Fighting Slavery



The theory of change explains that strengthening community resistance and resilience reduces new cases of slavery, liberates those in slavery and yields sustained declines in the prevalence of slavery.

This four step model is the public face of our community based causal model



Over the 2014-2016 period, FTS is assessing whether and how the model is having an impact.

The KEY QUESTION: Whether and how the community-based model is making a difference in reducing slavery and increasing community resistance and resilience.

We have monitoring information on key indicators collected from 19+ local partner organizations.

We also have a series of tools that we use to measure and evaluate the component parts of this causal model\*

\*

- Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
- Coalition Capacity Assessment Tool
- Survivor Registry
- Reintegration Checklist
- Media Effectiveness Checklist
- Advocacy Milestone Tracker



Traditional impact measures of antislavery interventions have focused on individuals – changes in slavery prevalence and knowledge and awareness.

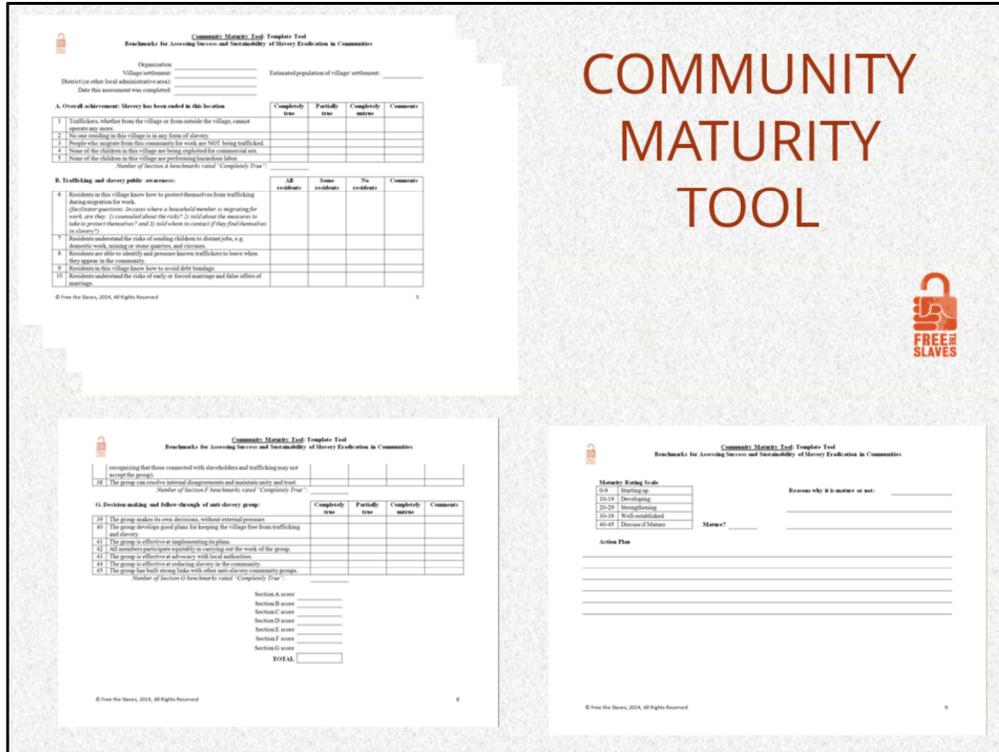
Our model is focused on community-level transformation, and we have developed a “Community Maturity Tool” to measure changes in community level resistance and resilience.

The plan is that the community or the local community group – we’ll come back to that– sits down to collectively complete the CMT at least once a year. Each time they do so, they develop a score (it’s out of 45).

If the community maturity score changes positively by 5 or more points, then we say that it is ‘maturing’.

If the community has a score of 40 to 45, **and** the score for Overall achievement is 5, then the community members and our local partner organization meet to discuss whether or not the community is mature, and the reasons why.

The tool can be really useful in communities for the local community groups. They collectively decide what is going well, what is not and then can use this to plan the next stages of the work that they are doing.

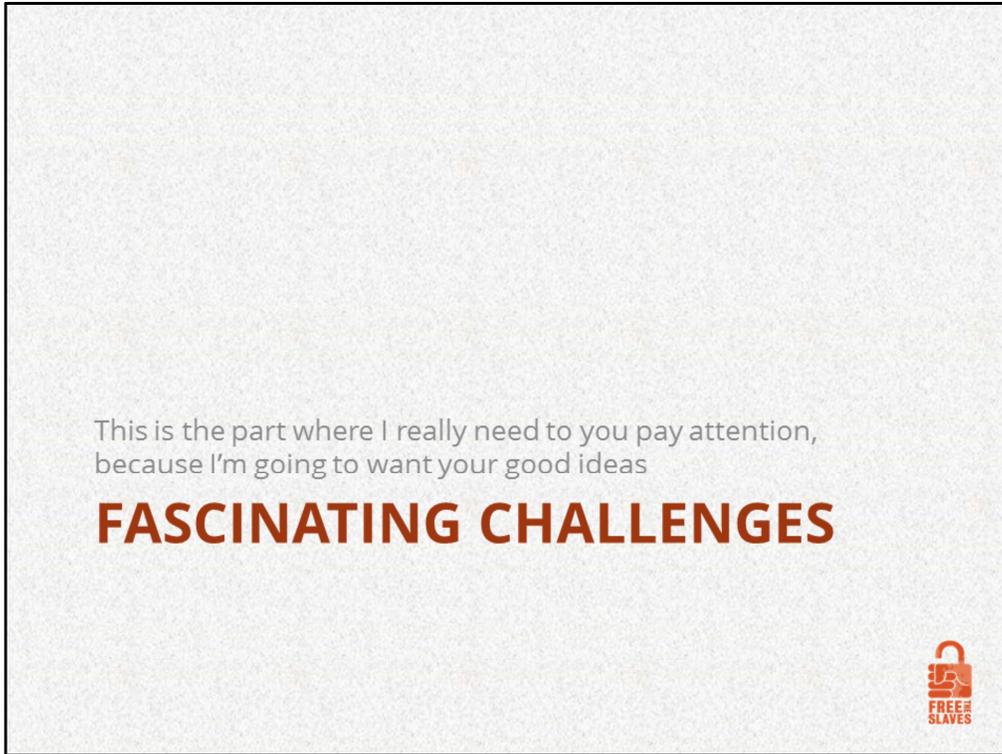


Like many good evaluative tools – it’s a document.

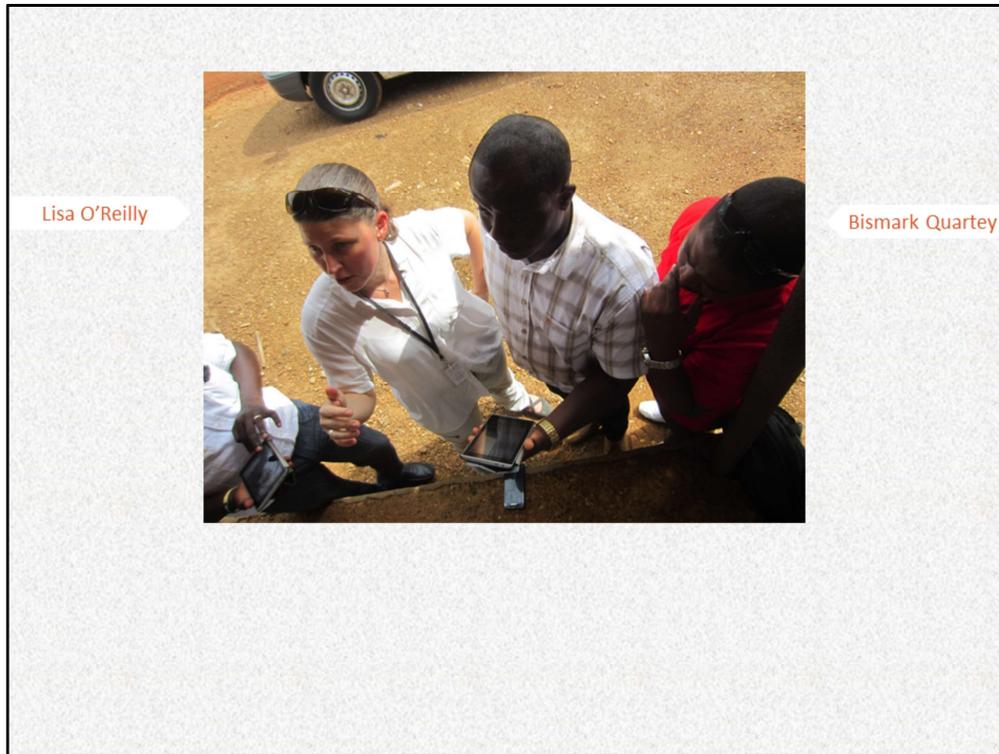
The CMT, as we call it, is designed to be adapted for each new context.

### There are 7 categories

- A. **Overall** achievement: Slavery has been ended in this location
- B. Trafficking and slavery public **awareness**
- C. **Rights education**
- D. Improved household **welfare**
- E. **Reintegration** of survivors
- F. Strong **community group** for collective action against slavery
- G. **Decision making** and follow-through of anti-slavery group



[Discussion with attendees on similar tools or contexts that need similar tools]



This past year, we asked all our local partners to go back to their records and share with us all kinds of information on the communities in which they work.\* In addition to the partner collected data, by the end of this year either Karen or I will have visited each country in which we work once.

As we do so, we are collecting the actual completed community maturity tools. We're also asking partners about community maturity.

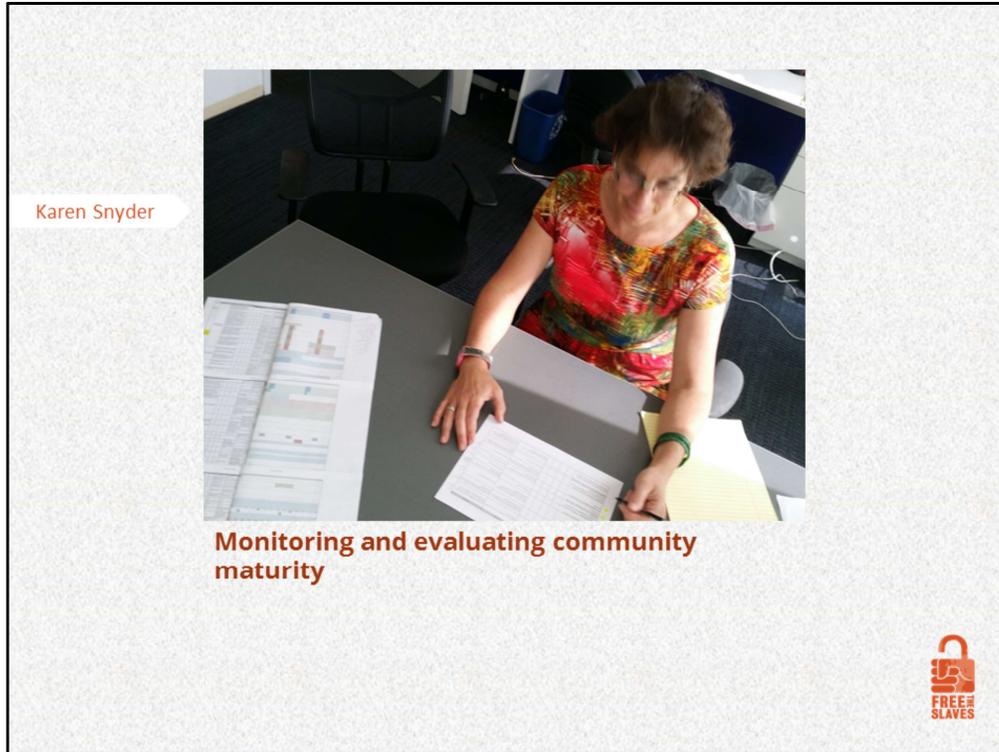
At least one of Free the Slaves' assumptions has been challenged.

The model is built on an understanding from prior work that it takes roughly three years for a community with slavery/ trafficking/ instances of slavery-like conditions to be resistant and resilient to slavery.

When visiting the Congo, the local partners indicated that for them, this was more like ten years.

\*

- where are they (District & Community Names)
- whether and how many Community Groups there were
- the estimated Community Population
- what year work started in community
- whether and how frequently they worked in or with a given community
- what kind of support was type given by partner to community and/or community group
- whether the community had 1 or 2 or more CMT and whether it was completed by the whole community or the community group



We're not quite at the point where we can analyse three years worth of data; that starts next year.

Despite challenges we remain focused on this level of analysis and continue to look for ways to measure change at this level.

# Thank you

**Lisa O'Reilly**

[lisa.oreilly@freetheslaves.net](mailto:lisa.oreilly@freetheslaves.net)

**Karen Snyder**

[karen.snyder@freetheslaves.net](mailto:karen.snyder@freetheslaves.net)



After the other presentations, I'd be happy to hear if any of you have used community as a unit of analysis and know how that worked for you.