



ENDING SLAVERY - ONE LIFE AT A TIME



THE FREEDOM PROJECT IMPACT REPORT

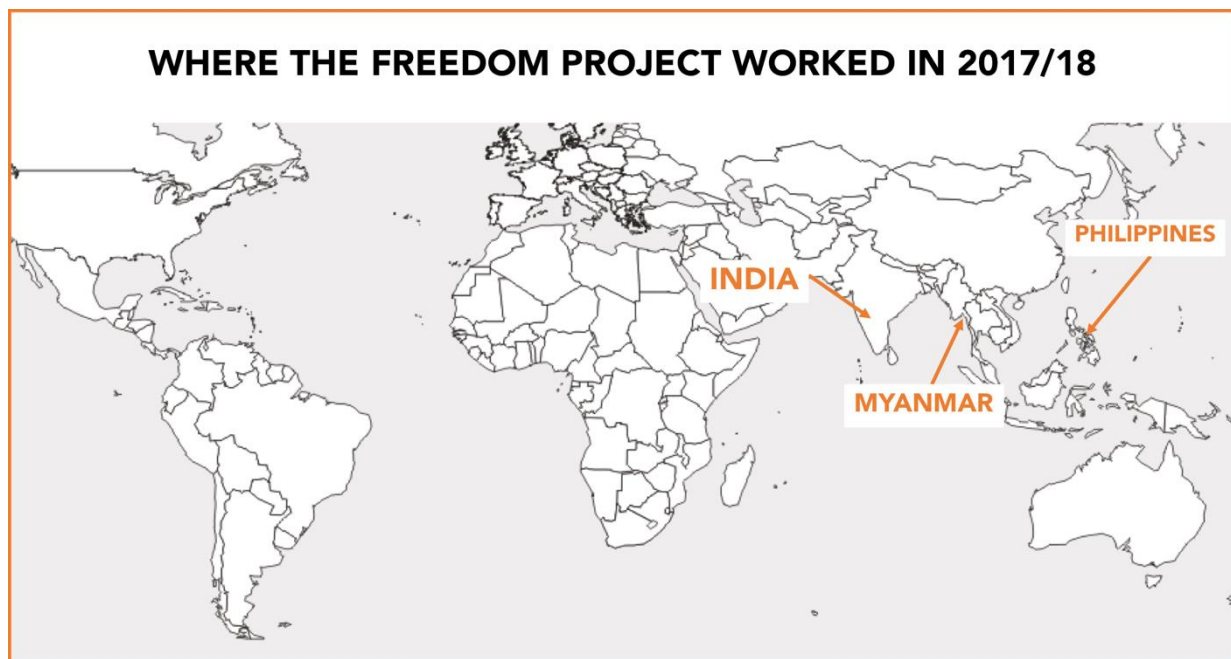
REPORTING PERIOD 1 APRIL 2017 – 31 MARCH 2018

ENDING SLAVERY 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

2017/18 has been a great year for The Freedom Project in terms of planning and strategy. We have been able to put a lot of systems in place to improve our efficiency and communications and we hope that it has enabled our growing network of supporters to feel more connected to who we are and what we do. These systems do come at a cost, reflected in our slightly higher administration costs that previous years. However, we believe it is an essential step in growing our capacity for the long term and to be well set up to continue engaging the Australian public and providing funding for life-changing projects overseas, something we are committed to doing more of in the coming years, God-willing. Thank you for being part of this journey and helping us to realise the vision of ending slavery – one life at a time!

In the name of freedom,



Michael Newton-Brown
Founder & CEO



OUR HISTORY

CELEBRATING 7 YEARS OF THE FREEDOM PROJECT



PROJECTS OVERVIEW

During 2017/18 we were able to continue our support to all our projects across Asia, including India, Myanmar and the Philippines. There was a decline in funds sent to Southeast Asia from July 2017 onwards, as we had a gap in our project plans, and recommitted to new 3-year timeframes

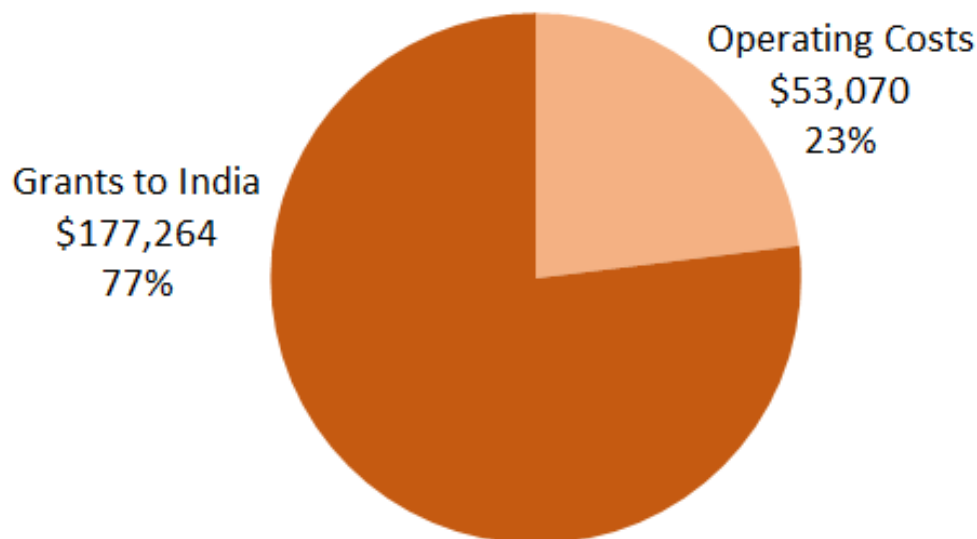
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

beginning January 2018. However, by the end of March we had still not sent funds to Southeast Asia, instead focusing on supporting the work of the team in India who were now 100% reliant on our support.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In the financial year 2017/18 we received a total income of \$177,264. A total of 77% of our expenditure in this financial year was sent directly to overseas project grants, to The Freedom Project India. Thankfully, although our income was less than our expenditure (\$230,334), we were able to utilise income from the previous financial year. We were still able to send over \$12,000 more to projects than we were the previous year! The administration costs were slightly higher in this financial year due to hiring our first full time staffer, as well as paying for accounting services. With that being said, we are extremely proud to be able to continue delivering the majority of our income directly to our life-changing projects in the field helping to end slavery through prevention, rescue and restoration.

The Freedom Project Expenditure 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018



INDIA PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 900 boys in our sports & mentoring program in 8 vulnerable communities
- 400 house visits each month to build relationships with families in our program
- 135 kids attended our tuition & life skills classes every day
- 43 boys admitted to school through our sports program
- 25 professional soccer coaches employed
- 25 boys learning music as an extracurricular activity
- 22 boys selected to play in C Division state football league
- 21 older boys doing their schooling through a short-course program
- 12 young children enrolled in an early learning centre through our program
- 8 boys who were involved in our sports program have been assisted in finding suitable and safe employment.

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.



PROJECT GRANTS

The Freedom Project India received \$221,223 in the reporting period. This was used across the Sports Program, Safe House ministry and other anti-trafficking programs.

IMPACT STORY

Dilip, aged 13, is from an underprivileged community in Bangalore. He dropped out of school about 2 and a half years ago, unable to cope with his studies and the financial pressure on his family. With an alcoholic father and a hardworking mother trying to keep the family afloat, the extra burden of trying to pay for school fees was too great. Dilip decided education was not for him and he dropped out. Instead, he got caught up in his local community with other dropouts – many addicted to smoking, drinking and exploiting vulnerable children to support their habits. Not unsurprisingly, two years in this environment was enough to also allow Dilip, at 15 years old, to slip into



INDIA PROJECT OVERVIEW

an alcohol and smoking addiction. To support his habit, he also began to resort to petty theft. It was a messy downward spiral.

Recently one of our soccer coaches was on a routine house visit near where Dilip lived. Running into him, the coach introduced Dilip to our soccer program and he started coming along. Through ongoing soccer training, as well as life skills classes and personal mentoring, Dilip began to recover from his addictions. Not long after, Dilip also re-enrolled in a local school, as schooling is a compulsory aspect of being in our sports program.

Today, Dilip is in grade 8 a school and doing much better in his studies. When we met his mother on a home visit recently, she exclaimed with tears, "I had decided to commit suicide because of the situation with my husband and son. Today, Dilip is a changed boy and regular at school. I am a happy mother!"

This wonderful success story is just one example of the kind of transformation we see through our Sports and Mentoring program in India.



A CHALLENGE OVERCOME

Many young boys who come through our sports program at one point or another still do not manage to remain in school. Subsequently, they also can't stay in our program as it is a requirement to be attending school. However, we are very aware of the risks associated with young boys not in school, who are desperate for any kind of work, that may end up in exploitative or underpaid manual labour, or worse... It is difficult not just because they are unskilled, but also because they lack proper identification documents. We are committed to helping boys in this vulnerable situation and so we have worked alongside them in their search for employment, ensuring they procure the proper documents to secure better paying jobs with companies we know will not exploit them. We were able to recently help 8 boys be successfully placed in respectable private companies as office assistants or similar roles.

PROJECT GRANTS

The India Project received AU\$177,264 in the reporting period.

PHILIPPINES PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 50 continuing children sponsored
- 40 new students enrolled
- 8 volunteer teachers supported and trained in leadership
- 2 high-risk children entered into a new education program, including food and shelter assistance
- 2 villages being supported with school assistance including uniforms & supplies
- 2 new school buildings planned for construction next year
- 1 teacher supported in tertiary level education degree
- Developed new community education modules on topic of peace, including research and staff training
- Conducted psychosocial support program in partnership with a local NGO for children affected by the violence of Marawi siege (Dec 2017)
- Visited children in safe homes & local villages in all the regions we work in

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

Working to confront the pattern of sending children to learn weaponry rather than learn literacy, we provide schooling where there is none, and peace-building where there is conflict. One of the beneficiaries of our education program is Rafy. Although he is already 17 years old, he is only in grade 7. But, like his younger peers, he shares the dream of graduating school and doing more with his life than just get caught up continued generational conflict. Growing up in a poverty-stricken, illiterate and fatherless household, Rafy's mother could not afford to attend him to school. Instead, he stayed at home to help her sell firewood and other household chores.

Now that he is part of our program, he walks 2 kilometres each way to school. Then outside of class time and on weekends, he continues to sell firewood. His determination to stay in school and achieve his dream of graduation is inspiring to other students.

PHILIPPINES PROJECT OVERVIEW



It is this passion and enthusiasm that keeps our kids coming to school, confident that by working hard they can positively shape and impact their future for peace and prosperity.

CHALLENGE OVERCOME

The communities we work in are still facing the aftermath of the December 2017 Marawi siege. Due to its location as a series of interconnected islands, Mindanao is affected by skirmishes throughout the whole region, with impact upon workers and communities even months following uprising and heightened conflict. Our field workers are on watch and are continually sending aid and resources to the local communities whenever possible, including psychosocial support for children and youth. Recognising that rehabilitation and restoration is a long-term process, we seek to help the community through distress by building upon the strong relationships based on mutual care and support.



PROJECT GRANTS

The Philippines Project received AU\$0 in the reporting period, however we continue to partner with this project and plan to send further funds in the following financial year.

MYANMAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 24 children added to our program in another area
- 10 refugee children enrolled in our program in one community
- 2 youth & leaders training events held
- 1 student enrolled in English language training to assist with college eligibility
- 1 graduate enrolled in nursing training
- 1 income-generation pilot project to take surplus agricultural produce to sell at the local market.
- A few program graduates who now earn a living are donating to us to support education of local children
- Continuing growth of relationships with local military leaders

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

Due to conflict and vulnerability in the region we work in, we are committed to early intervention to protect children from military service – either voluntary or conscripted. One of our beneficiaries, Ai Lix, joined our safe house and education program in 2014 at just eight years old.

Four years ago, his parents came to our project and asked if we would care for their son – take him into our safe house and educate him. They were too poor to send him to school and they were desperate. The problem was that Ai Lix was already listed on the government register for compulsory military service. The only way to protect him from his fate was to stay enrolled in school and to be on the path to graduate.

Ai Lix did not want to be a soldier. Growing up in a notoriously violent region, he learnt from a young age the negative effects fighting would have on him physically and mentally, as well as the limitations it would place on his future. So Ai Lix has been working hard for four years to do well in his studies. He is now in grade four, learning to play the



MYANMAR PROJECT OVERVIEW

guitar and on a very different path than what faced him a few years ago. That is why we do what we do.

CHALLENGE OVERCOME

In this reporting period, we were able to take a larger number of children into our programs. There are so many children in need, especially with the increased pressure of escalation in conflict. However, our capacity is still limited not only due to funding, but also due to the volatility and emergency-based nature conflict, which could put staff and children at risk. In most cases, we are the only local organisation working with these communities and a lot of people turn to us in times of crisis. To address these needs, we continue our focus on additional sources of income, and training of staff to adequately respond to difficult situations.

PROJECT GRANTS

The Myanmar Project received AU\$0 in the reporting period, however we continue to partner with this project and plan to send further funds in the following financial year.

AUSTRALIA OVERVIEW

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1000+ subscribed supporters
- 300 active donors
- 50 monthly or regular donors
- 2726 Facebook likes (as of 31 Mar 18)
- 400+ Instagram followers
- Created new LinkedIn TFP Profile
- Gained full charity registration status as a Public Benevolent Institution (March 18)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Freedom Flyer Trip to India (October 2017)** We had our first group trip with 11 supporters and staff visiting the sports projects, women's safe house and attending a sports camp in India (and a little bit of sightseeing of course!). Read more [here](#).
- **Freedom Forum (November 2017)** We were joined by Anita, TFPI Director (via Skype) to provide some invaluable insights into what it's like working on the ground with vulnerable people and trafficking victims. We also heard from team members who had recently returned from India.
- **Southeast Asia Focus (March 2018)** Cho, Southeast Asia Program Director, joined us to speaking at key fundraising events about our work with child soldiers, especially in the Philippines.

GROWING TEAM

In August 2017 we had the addition of Marissa Smithson working full-time as our Advocacy and Communications director. We also welcomed Suzanne for a few months as an investigations consultant. We were also very thankful to have research intern Gaby and Ambassador Jordan in Perth join our team.



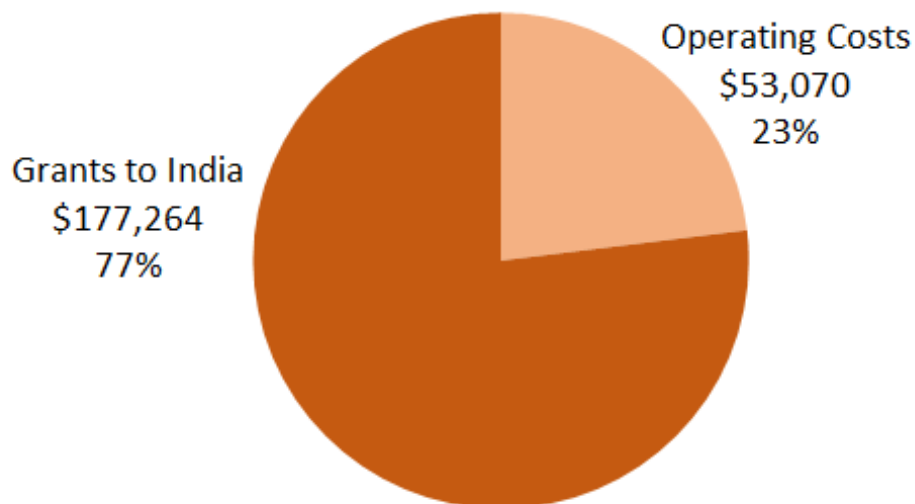
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY (YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018)

Income (AUD) 1 Apr 2017 - 31 Mar 2018		Expenditure (AUD) 1 Apr 2017 - 31 Mar 2018	
Donations (DGR)	\$173,757	India Grant	\$177,264
Events (loss)	(\$1800)	Total Project Grants (77%)	\$177,264
Interest	\$1,695	Operating Costs (23%)	\$53,070
		Total Expenses	\$230,334
Total Income	\$173,652	Total income/(loss) as at 31/03/18	(\$56,682)

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

The Freedom Project Expenditure 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY (YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018)

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

• Total revenue from ordinary activities:	\$173,652
• Total expenses from ordinary activities:	\$ 53,070
• Net surplus/(deficit) for the year prior to grants:	\$120,582
• Grants Paid:	\$177,264
• Net surplus/(deficit) for the year after grants:	(\$56,682)
• Total comprehensive income/(loss):	(\$ 56,682)

BALANCE SHEET

• Total Assets:	\$328,277
• Total Liabilities:	\$ 7,817
• Total Equity:	\$320,460

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

• Balance as at 1 April 2017:	\$377,142
• Total Comprehensive income for the period:	(\$56,682)
• Balance as at 31 March 2018:	\$320,460

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

• Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities:	(\$51,011)
• Cash at the beginning of the financial period:	\$376,169
• Cash at the end of the financial period:	\$325,158

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

ORGANISATION DETAILS

LEGAL INFORMATION

Trading Name: The Freedom Project Limited

Legal Name: The Trustee for The Freedom Project Ltd. ABN: 37220 593 382

We are a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

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 by searching The Freedom Project or via [this link](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Postal Address: 19 Collins Rd, St Ives
Telephone: 0427 233 733 (0427 BE FREE)
Web: www.thefreedomproject.org
Email: info@thefreedomproject.org

BOARD

Michael Newton-Brown, Co-Founder, CEO & Chairman
Michael Codling, Treasurer
Erica Sainsbury, Secretary
Robert Stewart, Director

STAFF

Liz Newton-Brown, Co-Founder & Director of Public Relations
Marissa Smithson, Advocacy & Communications Director



THE
FREEDOM
P R O J E C T

Ending human trafficking & slavery