2014
Annual Review
Anti-Slavery International is committed to eradicating all forms of slavery throughout the world including forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking of human beings, descent-based slavery and the worst forms of child labour. Slavery denies millions of people their basic dignity and violates their fundamental human rights.

It uses the following approaches to achieve its goal in a long-term and sustainable way:

- Collecting information about these human rights abuses, bringing them to the attention of the public and promoting public action to end them;
- Identifying ways in which abuses can be brought to an end, and influencing policymakers and governments or other institutions at national and international levels to take action accordingly; and
- Supporting victims of slavery and similar practices in their struggle for freedom, in particular by working with, and building the capacity of, local partner organisations to effectively tackle these abuses in their own countries.
- Empowering individuals and communities vulnerable to slavery to demand respect for their human rights, access effective remedies and obtain protection from slavery.
Anti-Slavery’s 175th year has been a challenging one. The UK Government’s announcement that it was intent on passing a ‘modern slavery bill’ forced a new and unexpected agenda of work upon us: to ensure that the bill becomes an effective contribution to the elimination of slavery in the UK with real teeth.

But we also made important progress elsewhere.

Anti-Slavery’s work on forced child begging in Senegal has led to commitments by the government to reform the country’s ‘daara’ school system and advocacy by Anti-Slavery and its partners in Niger has led to increased support from the government to schools for children from families affected by slavery.

There is still much work to do to translate these commitments into realities. But they represent important steps, as does the commitment of the Lebanese government, as a result of advocacy by Anti-Slavery and our partners, to reform its kafala system of visa sponsorship that underpins much of the forced labour in the Middle East.

Anti-Slavery also opened a new project office in Bangkok to work on the issue of forced labour in the Thai export oriented economy. Apart from operating a helpline for migrant workers in Thailand, the project office is working with a range of international retailers to end forced labour in their supply chains.

This builds on Anti-Slavery’s work on the private sector this year that resulted in the international confectionery company Mondelez publicly adopting a new Child Labour Policy, developed with Anti-Slavery and aimed at putting child protection at the heart of the business’s global operations.

This year the International Labour Conference considered a new law on forced labour. Anti-Slavery, along with the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, made a statement to the Conference that urged it to ensure a new law to respond to the contemporary challenges of forced labour. As a result of considerable effort, not least by our comrades from the International Trades Union Confederation, the Conference did indeed rise to this challenge and agreed the 2014 Protocol on Forced Labour.

Elsewhere Pope Francis listened to the voice of Anti-Slavery and spoke out in favour of our idea of slavery eradication being made a post-2015 Sustainable Development Goal by the United Nations, something that Anti-Slavery has been arguing for years would help marshal the resources of the development and anti-poverty community against slavery.

As new organisations and individuals begin to take up the challenge of obtaining slavery eradication, Anti-Slavery International is still recognised as the intellectual and strategic leader in the field, drawing on our 175 year history and our programme that stretches from Europe to Africa and Asia to provide clarity on how the struggle to end slavery should be waged. Anti-Slavery continues to provide sophisticated responses to the complexities of slavery. Each year we continue to change the world with your help.
Forced begging of ‘Talibé’ children in Senegal

‘Talibés’ are children aged 5-15 years, almost exclusively boys, who study in Qur’anic schools (‘daaras’) under religious teachers (marabouts). Most daaras do not charge the students for their studies, food or accommodation, but instead the marabouts force the children to spend an average of five hours a day begging in the street. Far from their parents and living in squalid conditions, they are dependent on marabouts and are highly vulnerable to abuse, especially if they fail to meet their quotas from begging.

Anti-Slavery International and its partners advocate with the government to introduce a modern daara programme, where children can learn the Qur’an within a wider curriculum in safe conditions regulated by the State, and where they are not forced to beg; and to enforce laws against forced begging.

On the community level we encourage Qur’anic masters to abandon forced begging and promote advantages of modern daaras. We also work to empower families to stop sending their children away to daaras and help them to find alternatives nearer to home.

Our work is bearing fruit. 2013 saw the official launch of a government £12.5m Programme for Daara Modernisation, with the explicit aim of ending child begging. The state Daara Inspectorate and training programmes for marabouts are now fully staffed and ready to commence. Largely as a result of the advocacy of Anti-Slavery and its partner RADDHO the President officially committed to strengthen and apply laws against child begging.

Modern Daara: example to follow

Daara Serigne Gaye is typical of the relatively few so-called “modern daaras” which already exist in Senegal today. It is located in Dakar, and like many modern daaras established prior to the Government’s daara modernisation programme, it is financed primarily by charitable contributions and fees paid by parents. There are currently 64 children at the daara, aged between six and 13 years old. About half of them board at the school with the remaining children returning home to their families every evening. The children who board see their families about once a fortnight. The school provides three meals a day for the children. None of the children are sent out to beg.

Souleymane is a boy of eight years old and has been in the daara for three years. He is happy there. His favourite lesson is studying the Qur’an. Above all, he likes the atmosphere, which is like “a family.” He enjoys a good relationship with the teachers: “they are understanding, polite, they help us to understand the lessons.”

Demba is 13 years old and returns home every day after school. His favourite thing about the daara is all the friends he has made there. He likes the teachers too, “because they respect us.”

Both boys want to be policemen when they grow up.
Anti-Slavery and our partners continue to reach out to people remaining under control of their ‘masters’ and to provide support to people who manage to escape from slavery. Our efforts focus mainly on Mauritania and Niger.

**Mauritania**
After publishing a report on conflict over land between people of slave descent and other ethnic groups we focused on mediating between affected communities. Intercommunity meetings took place monthly in 14 conflict sites throughout 2013, with some sites moving steadily towards reconciliation and others still in open conflict. With Anti-Slavery’s role in the project coming to an end, the groundwork was prepared for the project to be passed over to Concordis International - experts in dialogue facilitation and peace-building.

We also secured funds to strengthen our partners SOS-Esclaves’ anti-slavery work in two regions particularly affected by slavery. This is helping to train and coordinate SOS-Esclaves’ network of members, particularly women, in their community awareness-raising, advocacy and supporting women leaving slavery. The funds also cover our national advocacy and legal assistance to victims of slavery. We anticipate that the greater capacity of members to identify and support victims of slavery will lead to an increase in the number of cases being taken before the courts.

**Niger**
Our project running community schools for children from families affected by slavery saw 12 students - the first ever from these communities - passing entry exams into secondary school and starting school in the nearby town.

30 goats were also purchased for each of the six schools and men and women from the villages received training on micro-credit management and the production of goat’s cheese – a valued delicacy in the region.

We continue to organise regular awareness-raising sessions on human rights and advocacy skills in the villages, including specific training on gender equality and women’s leadership for women from mothers’ associations. This training has a major impact: people from the villages took direct action to defend local services in their areas and one village group managed to secure a cereal bank and free food supplies for their village.

In order to ensure that the schools are sustainable in the long term we have developed a strategy to gradually hand them over to the State. Our advocacy efforts are already having an impact: three cemented wells were built this year by the local authorities in a village particularly affected by water shortages, and the villages have been included in the ‘Communal Development Plan’ that aims to take over the school canteens, amongst other initiatives. This demonstrates that the communities are starting to be taken seriously.

Additionally, our legal work lead to a historic development in May 2014: a man has been sentenced to four years in jail in the first ever conviction for slavery in the country.
Child Domestic Workers

Anti-Slavery continues to advocate for the rights of child domestic workers, one of the groups of working children most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Peru

In Peru our project continues to reach out to children in domestic work and support them to build their skills and confidence to claim their rights. Over 3,100 children in domestic work have directly benefited from our work since the start of the project.

Working with employers continues to be a challenge due to the fact that children tend to work for neighbours or family members, not considering them as formal employers. But our partner AGTR continues to work closely with parents for the improvement of child domestic workers’ positions.

An important part of the project is the radio program produced by AGTR called “No Somos Invisibles” (We are not invisible) discussing the issues relevant to domestic workers.

Children have expressed the importance of having someone within their own communities they can trust and rely on in case of problems. To that end we are supporting the skills and personal development of ‘promotoras’, or leaders, which has increased the number of children identifying themselves as workers and claiming their corresponding rights.

Home Alone Campaign

Anti-Slavery continues its public campaign Home Alone asking governments to ratify the ILO Domestic Work Convention. So far 14 countries have done so with several others starting the legal process.

SUCCESS STORY: child domestic workers claim their own rights

We have concluded a big five-year multi-country project carried out in Togo, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Peru, the Philippines and India. The programme was estimated to have benefitted over 22,000 people directly and 64,000 indirectly, including children, parents, and employers, and was highly influential in changes to policy and practice from local to international levels.

The programme has made a significant contribution to the adoption of ILO Convention on Domestic Work C189. All six countries voted for C189, and have moved to amend the national legislation on domestic work.

The project’s focus on involving children in advocating for their own rights was a resounding success - child domestic workers progressed from isolation, where they had no voice, to making their voices heard and acted upon.

An unexpected and impressive outcome from this has been the formation of new groups and social movements set up by current or former child domestic workers themselves, some already operating on the basis of the advocacy organisations in their own rights.

In Tanzania and the Philippines, new and unplanned coalitions formed. In Tanzania, notable success was achieved with employers, including the founding of an association of responsible employers, transforming employers from adversaries to advocates.
Nepal Education Project

Although bonded labour was outlawed in Nepal in 2008, bonded labourers were freed into conditions of extreme poverty, widespread discrimination, lack of education and no or very limited access to rehabilitation packages. Many fell back into bondage.

Our project seeks to provide preparatory classes to out of school children from families affected by bonded labour so that they can access formal education, or vocational training for older children. The project is being implemented in ten districts of Nepal, five in the plains and five in the western hill region.

So far the project has achieved its targets, helping 1,369 children to access mainstream education through preparatory classes and 523 older children to find alternative livelihoods through vocational training. This year an additional 385 children were enrolled in preparatory classes and 180 have started vocational training.

The introduction of children’s clubs that raise awareness of children’s rights, including the right to education, had a particularly positive effect. Over sixty of them have been established, in nearly all schools that we work in, and partners report that discrimination against the children of former bonded labourers appears to have reduced. In one school, all the children share the same benches, when previously other children would not sit on the same bench as children of former bonded labourers.

The development of Watchdog Committees formed by influential people in the local communities in each of the ten districts, which monitor levels of discrimination against the children of former bonded labourers, has also been very effective, especially in ensuring equal access to scholarships and other benefits for the children and their parents.

SUCCESS STORY

Shyam Kumari Chaudhary attended the Beautician training run by our partners BASE in 2012. She now has her own beauty parlour and shop that sells cosmetics and has earned enough to build a house for her family.

She opened the shop after receiving a loan of 70,000 rupees from BASE’s women’s group, which she has now paid back. She was able to expand and open the beauty parlour afterwards.

She has a good income, especially when she does hair and make up for weddings and festivals, when she usually has a queue outside the shop. She has also trained more than five other young women in her community and plans to expand further.

Facing page: Girls from families affected by bonded labour who received the sewing classes and set up their own business are an example of the project’s success.

Middle: Shyam Kumari Chaudhary in her beauty shop

Photos: Anti-Slavery International
Anti-Slavery’s anti-trafficking work focuses principally on obtaining policy and practice changes in Europe and in the UK that will increase protection for people who have been trafficked into all forms of forced labour or sexual exploitation. In August 2013 the UK Home Secretary announced the introduction of a new law on modern slavery, and most of our UK work was focused on lobbying the government and parliamentarians to improve the Bill. The most important issue was including a comprehensive victim protection system in the Bill, to which end we launched a public Victim Protection Campaign.

**Training of lawyers**

Anti-Slavery was commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to organise a legal seminar on forced labour in the UK. It was organised in January 2014, attended by 40 solicitors and barristers from across the UK and a learning document was disseminated to further lawyers.

**Staff Wanted initiative**

Anti-Slavery, in partnership with the Institute for Human Rights and Business, works on the Staff Wanted Initiative, which aims to combat exploitation in the UK hospitality industry. After engaging a number of policymakers, police forces and hotel companies to raise awareness of exploitation in the industry, we shared the lessons learned with organisers of the Commonwealth Games in 2014.

**Fine Tune project**

Anti-Slavery, in partnership with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe, coordinates a project exploring new trends in trafficking. Currently we are leading on research into the role of the internet in deceptive recruitment for trafficking into forced labour.

**SUCCESS: Anti-Slavery intervention brings positive change in law!**

After intervention from Anti-Slavery International Supreme Court ruled that trafficked people have the right to recover damages from their traffickers irrespective of their immigration status. It was a landmark judgment on the first ever modern slavery case heard by the Supreme Court.

Anti-Slavery International intervened in this case to change the common law defence of illegality so that it could not be used by traffickers to to defend their actions on the basis that the people they exploit are in the UK illegally.

The case concerned a girl who as a 14-year-old was trafficked into the UK from Nigeria and exploited as a domestic worker. She had been deceived into agreeing to this employment as her employer told her that she would be paid £50 per month and sent to school. Instead, she suffered violence and abuse, was never paid nor sent to school, and finally was thrown out of the house by her employer.

The girl’s claim for damages against her former employers was earlier dismissed by the Court of Appeal on the basis that her employment was illegal, and that she had known and consented to that illegality. But the judges ruled that the application of the illegality defence risked encouraging traffickers to discriminate against their exploited employees with impunity, and that trafficked people should have a right to bring claims against their traffickers irrespective of their immigration status.
The Anti Trafficking Monitoring Group

Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group
Anti-Slavery continues to take a lead role in the project to monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings in the UK. In 2013 the ATMG published two important reports: in June a report on the level of prosecutions for trafficking in the UK which called for a new unified piece of legislation to improve the low level of convictions; and in October 2013 a report assessing the changes in anti-trafficking over the past four years.

The ATMG was invited to give evidence in a series of evidence sessions to inform the Modern Slavery Bill and was also requested by the Joint Committee on Modern Slavery to write a specific report on the national referral mechanism to assist victims of trafficking.

Facing page: Victims of trafficking for criminal activities are often prosecuted rather than protected. Middle: Recent reports by ATMG and Race in Europe projects

TRAFFICKING

RACE in Europe project
The RACE project focuses on human trafficking for forced criminal exploitation and forced begging across Europe, carried out with partners in the UK, Czech Republic, Ireland and the Netherlands. The first three parts of the research looking at this type of trafficking in the Czech Republic, UK and Ireland were already launched, with research to identify the trends, the scale, the experience of victims and the response of authorities across the whole of Europe to follow.

The research in the UK found that hundreds of potential victims of trafficking for forced criminality are commonly prosecuted rather than protected. Initial data from other parts of the research showed that the situation in other European countries was similar or worse. Using the findings from the research the partners delivered three trainings for key agencies with over 80 participants from police, NGOs and social services from 14 European countries.

CASE STUDY: Trafficking for forced labour in cannabis cultivation

Fifteen-year-old Hai* grew up in a village in Vietnam and did not go to school. He was trying to make a living selling plastic bottles for recycling when a man approached him and said he could earn lots of money in Europe. Hai’s mother took out a loan against their house to raise several thousand dollars to pay the agent for travel and recruitment. After being smuggled into England, he was driven to a house in Scotland, where he was told he would have to water cannabis to pay off his debt. He was left alone in the house with the doors locked from the outside. Only every few days someone would come with bits of food and water. Three months later, the police raided the house. Hai was arrested and taken into custody. When asked questions, he was confused and too scared to tell them anything. A solicitor advised him to plead guilty. Hai was sentenced to 24 months in an adults’ prison and told he would be deported after he had served his sentence.

* The victim’s name has been changed to protect their identity
Anti-Slavery International continued to work to empower bonded labourers working in brick-kilns in India. After working in 50 kilns in the first year of the project we are expanding our work into a further 100.

Membership of associations of workers has grown considerably. Members are educated through targeted awareness raising materials such as post cards that give important information on workers’ rights and support available nearby their work place.

As a result of this outreach work and calls to the free hotline established by the project, 1,005 petitions were filed on behalf of 4,600 individuals to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) requesting appropriate action – investigation into abuses and release from bondage. Families who experienced extreme bondage have been supported to bring their cases to the regional Magistrate.

We also reach out to the kiln owners, and the number of them who commit to improve working conditions in the kilns continues to grow.

Our partners are working closely with local government officials on the implementation of laws and policies to improve working conditions in brick kilns.

As a result, workers were invited to register for a state entitlement ration card, which supports families to buy basic food and supplies, which in turn diminishes their dependency on the loans taken from their employers. Similarly, children of workers have had their school fees waived and gained access to school.

We are also expanding our work during the off-season to the source regions from which migrant workers set off to work in the kilns in order to raise awareness of their rights, support them to access state entitlements and facilitate safe migration.

 Facing page: Children work in brick kilns to help pay off their parents’ debts. Without our support most have little chance of accessing education. Photo: Anti-Slavery International
Migrant Domestic Workers

In Nepal and Lebanon, we are working with GEFONT and KAFA to end the exploitation and abuse suffered by migrant domestic workers.

In order to reduce the vulnerability of potential migrants to exploitation we are reaching out to them in remote areas of eastern Nepal to share vital information about the risks and rights associated with migrating for domestic work. We work with community health volunteers who, as trusted members of the communities, dispense vital information to potential migrant women during their health rounds.

In Lebanon, we continue supporting the development of NARI, a group of Nepalese migrant domestic workers, in order to build a strong migrant domestic workers community that can reach out to as many workers as possible and represent their interests. NARI members are gaining confidence and strength to advocate on behalf of their members and are starting to be recognised as a force to be reckoned with (see box, right).

The advocacy element of the project is also gaining momentum. In Lebanon regular meetings of KAFA with General Security and the Ministry of Labour are beginning to produce results by instigating long-lasting changes to the system regulating migrant domestic workers, especially in relation to the kafala system.

We also secured the assurance from the Ministry of Labour of Nepal that someone would be appointed to support the Nepalese Honorary Consul in Lebanon. This represents a considerable step forward in providing some consular protection to migrant workers.

**NARI Group: groundwork for success**

NARI Group has been established by KAFA to build a community of migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. Initially the efforts focused on building the confidence of the members. With time leaders emerged and understanding and confidence in advocating for their rights increased.

NARI members have been actively reaching out to their peers, following up individual cases, referring cases of abuse and spreading information about KAFA's support services amongst their networks.

The group became increasingly involved in advocacy on many levels, including presenting their demands to stop abuses of migrant domestic workers directly to Lebanon’s Labour Minister, and speaking on the panel at the conference organised by the Arab Network on Migrant Workers Rights.

The members are running their own facebook page and have provided interviews to the media, including radio and TV. Several women reported that their employers stopped beating them because they became part of a group recognised by the media.
Slavery and the Supply Chains

Thailand – Project Issara

South East Asia has some of the worst forms of trafficking in the world, ranging from forced prostitution to the Thai export-oriented industries such as seafood processing, fruit canning, the garment sector, and electronics production. They are fuelled by 4 million vulnerable workers from the region, an estimated 450,000-500,000 of whom are in forced labour.

In January 2014 Anti-Slavery International opened our first overseas office, in Bangkok, Thailand, to provide an institutional home for Project Issara (Issara means ‘freedom’ in several of the Southeast Asian languages), which had previously been homed in the UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP).

The Anti-Slavery team operates a nationwide multilingual helpline receiving thousands of calls from migrant workers annually and carries out community-based outreach, investigations, case documentation, victim assistance and referrals. The project team also works with relevant Burmese, Lao, and Thai government agencies on trafficking investigations.

On the private sector side, the project works together with legal and consulting firms to engage Thai supplier factories, providing training on labour rights and protections for factory management and developing improvement plans to address trafficking risk points.

Finally, Project Issara engages a number of global brands and retailers to enforce their zero tolerance policies on forced labour, ensuring that their Thai suppliers identify and eliminate human trafficking from their supply chains.

Cotton Crimes Campaign

Every year hundreds of thousands of people in Uzbekistan are forced by their own government to pick cotton for little or no pay in arduous conditions. Much of this cotton ends up in our high street shops.

Anti-Slavery continues to work in partnership with an international coalition of organisations under the banner of the Cotton Campaign, and runs a public campaign called Cotton Crimes to end these abuses.

Although under pressure from campaigners the Uzbek government stopped mobilising children under 15 on a systematic scale, it replaced them with increasing pressure on older children and adults.

We continue to mobilise the industry, calling on them to ensure that no tainted cotton is in the goods we buy; and to work with national governments and international institutions, including the European Commission, the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank to call for international human and labour rights standards to be respected in the Uzbek cotton industry.

After successfully pressuring H&M into taking action to eradicate Uzbek cotton from its supply chain we targeted Nike to cut ties with Daewoo, a Korean giant which is one of the biggest processors of Uzbek cotton, and earlier this year Nike finally succumbed to pressure.

We then moved to directly target Daewoo, calling on them to stop profiting from forced labour in Uzbekistan and already hundreds of Anti-Slavery supporters have sent emails to the company demanding action.
The results for the year were in line with long term forecasts. For full details, please consult the report and financial statements available from our website.
Thanks

Anti-Slavery International would like to express sincere thanks to all those who supported us. Individuals held events and raised vital funds and awareness of our work, as well as campaigned by writing letters and emails to decision makers. Artists, committee members and experts who donated time, works of art and expertise to make the Follow Your Art event such a success deserve a special mention. The contribution of trusts, foundations, and other organisational donors, often consistently over the years, is also much appreciated. The involvement of volunteers made an enormous difference to our capacity to effectively campaign and implement programmes to end slavery. We would like to thank all our partners working on the ground; without them we wouldn’t be able to do our work. Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our former patron Mark Shand, who died tragically, for his great contribution to our organisation and the anti-slavery cause.

Special thanks go to the following:
- Bank Machine Ltd
- Barbara Cairns Trust
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- Comic Relief
- Department for International Development
- Eileen and Colin’s Trust
- European Commission
- Garden Court Chambers
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Irish Aid
- Open Society Institute (OSI)
- UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
- P and W Webster Trust
- The Barker Charitable Trust
- The Bromley Trust
- The Equator Fund
- The Ericson Trust
- The Esme Fairbairn Foundation
- The Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- The G C Gibson Charitable Trust
- The Innominant Trust
- The Inverclyde Trust
- The Julius Silman Charitable Trust
- The Jusaca Charitable Trust
- The Kinsbourne Trust
- The Lord Farningdon Charitable Trust
- The Michael and Harriet Maunsell Charitable Trust
- The Oak Foundation
- The Patsy Wood Trust
- The Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity
- The Sir James Reckitt Charity
- The Tinsley Foundation
- The Tisbury Telegraph Trust
- The Westcroft Trust
- The William Allen Young Charitable Trust
- The Wyndham Charitable Trust
- Trust for London
- Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
- Clifford Chance
- Merelyn Rae
- Nicholas Griffin QC
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- Glasgow Anti-Slavery Group
- Richard Brindle
- Lancashire Group Foundation
- Springetts
- EOne
- Buen Ayre
- FUZE Bristol

Anti-Slavery patrons:
- Steve McQueen CBE
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- Jerry Hall
- Lady Shakira Caine
- Hugh Quarshie
- Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
- Baron Dholakia OBE PC DL
- Lola Young OBE Professor The Baroness of Hornsey
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<td>would pay to provide information on the risks associated with migration for domestic work to 30 people</td>
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<td>£75</td>
<td>could pay for one police officer in the UK to be trained on how to recognise and protect victims of trafficking and to support them in testifying against their traffickers so that the real criminals can be imprisoned</td>
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<td>£250</td>
<td>will buy a goat, enabling a women’s cooperative in Niger to make and sell goats’ cheese</td>
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<td>could provide emergency medical support for 30 bonded labourers in need, in India</td>
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<td>£7,500</td>
<td>could pay for the establishment and a further one year’s running costs of a community school in Niger, providing vital education, nutrition and health care for children and literacy classes for adults in families escaped from slavery</td>
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