



IJM

INTERNATIONAL
JUSTICE MISSION

2019 Mid-Year Report



Thank You!

For millions of people in our world, each and every day is full of brutal slavery and violence. Children and families wait for rescue and healing while slaveowners and traffickers profit. Survivors of assault and abuse wait years for justice. Widows have their land and livelihood torn from them by powerful men.

But you are changing all of that.

For more than 20 years, IJM supporters like you have been fighting slavery and violence in communities across Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

You are bringing rescue and restoration to individuals and families while transforming entire nations in the process!

THIS IS THE WORK YOUR SUPPORT MAKES POSSIBLE:



Rescue

IJM collaborates with local officials to rescue victims from ongoing violence and bring them to safety.



Restrain

We partner with police to restrain criminals, traffickers and slave owners from hurting others.



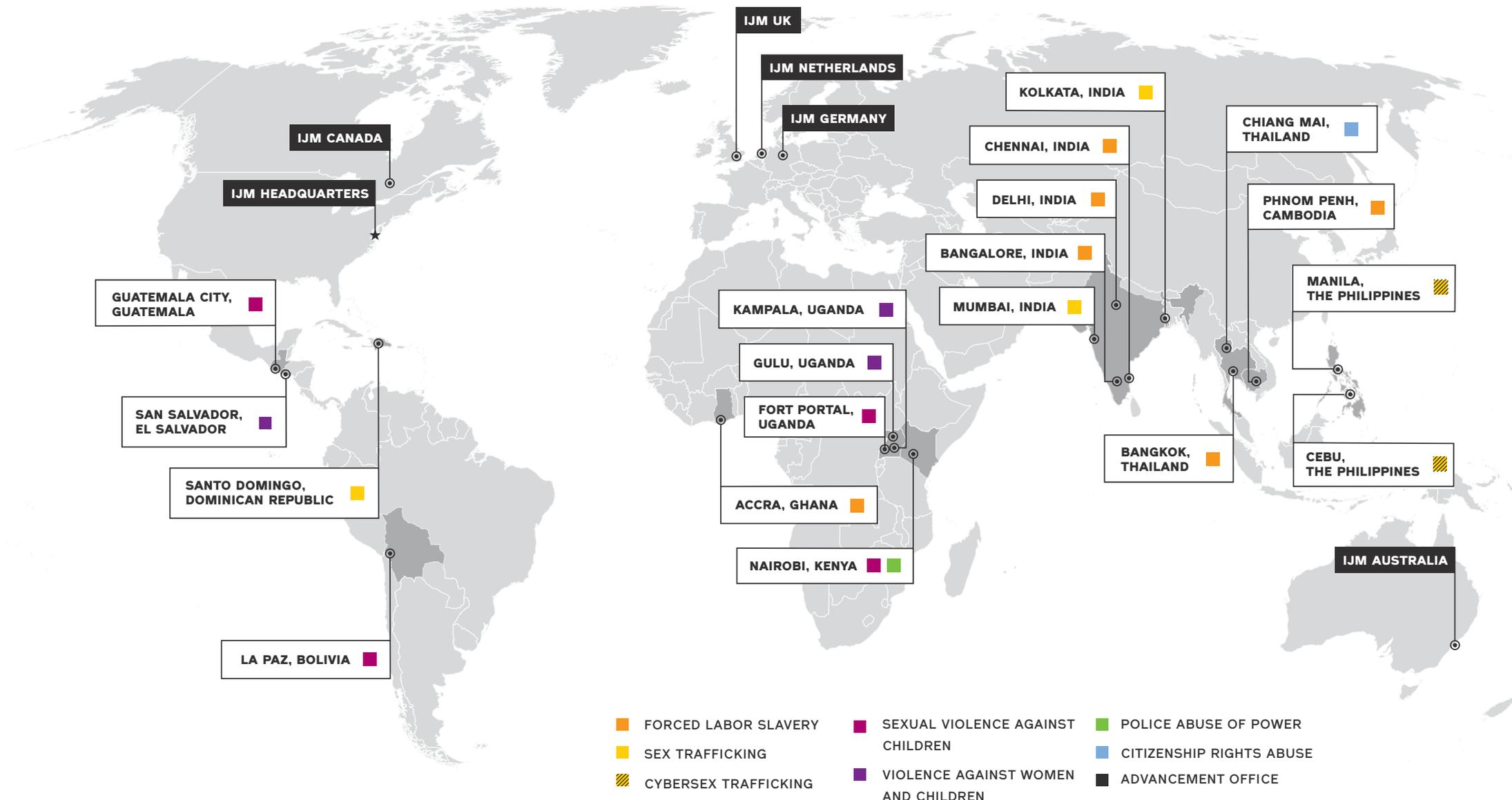
Restore

Survivors are brought to safety and strength through counseling, education and skills training with trusted social workers and aftercare partners.



Repair

We identify gaps in the justice systems where the poor are not protected and then work with local authorities and courts to address these challenges.



JANUARY TO MAY

Your 2019 Impact

978 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION RESCUED

87 SUSPECTED CRIMINALS RESTRAINED

106 SURVIVORS RESTORED TO SAFETY AND STRENGTH

You advocate for the neglected.

“Without citizenship, I have always felt very neglected.”

MEETEE

Imagine applying for a government ID card and waiting more than 30 years for it to arrive. That's exactly what happened to Meetee in Thailand. She is a member of the Akha hill tribe, an ethnic minority whose people are not officially considered Thai citizens. Because the Akha people have a distinct language and culture, Meetee is unable to speak or read Thai, leaving her vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Meetee was originally approved for citizenship when she was 49 years old, but by her 79th birthday, her ID card had still not arrived. Every time she visited district offices and government officials, her name was never on the list of people who would receive their official identification.

IJM first heard about Meetee's case through word of mouth and began helping Meetee by advocating for her, organizing her documents, bringing her to meetings and speaking on her behalf to authorities.





Finally, after decades of waiting, Meete got the call: her official ID card was ready. Because you kept us by Meete's side, she is finally recognized as a lawful citizen by her government, and the rights and protections she has been waiting for are finally hers.

This year, IJM was invited by the Thai government to help build more effective registration systems for communities like Meete's, ensuring they have access to citizenship. These systems will also provide data and information that will help prevent human trafficking in the region.

SOUTH ASIA | INDIA

You sent rescue— now you can see it!

A family trapped in slavery for 10 years is free today because of your support. After taking a small loan of about \$70 from a local business owner, they were trapped in a brutal rock quarry and forced to live in a makeshift thatched shed hidden away from anyone else in the village.

Children were forced to work alongside their parents to crush and haul stones, and at the time of their rescue, you helped free four adults and five young children, including a 2-year-old.

This is just one of many rescues you make possible, but this rescue was especially unique, because a film crew joined the operation. The film that came from this exciting opportunity, *The Hidden*, is a virtual reality film that puts you right in the action to witness the rescue operation firsthand!

One beautiful moment in the film shows a 6-year-old girl named Ammu bravely speaking with the lead government official investigating the case. She explains that the owner does not allow her to go to school, and instead makes her work at the quarry.

IJM teams have used the film to demonstrate the realities of bonded labor to government officials and members of the media in India.



Thanks to virtual reality company Oculus, IJM was paired with groundbreaking filmmaker Lindsay Branham to create this film and highlight the lifesaving work you make possible. The film premiered at Tribeca Film Festival and launched publicly in January and can be viewed on IJM's Facebook page and the with.in app on your mobile device.

Today, the family freed from the rock quarry is doing well in IJM's two-year aftercare program and hopes to build a permanent home soon.

Rock quarry and poster photography by Katrina Sorrentino.

A group of survivors after graduating from IJM's two-year aftercare program. Photography by Katrina Sorrentino.



AFRICA | UGANDA

You are empowering and protecting widows.

“Before IJM came into the picture...we didn't know our future, we didn't know whether tomorrow we'd survive or not.”

VERONICA

After Veronica's husband passed away, she was told by a local leader that her land no longer belonged to her—it belonged to him. But the land was Veronica's entire livelihood, and she refused to leave.

One day while Veronica and two of her sons were working on their land, the chief and a group of men attacked them, beating, kicking and even strangling Veronica. And when Veronica and her family didn't leave, they came back, again and again. Sometimes with clubs and sticks, sometimes with tools to uproot Veronica's crops.

Veronica was fearing for her life, but you sent IJM to take her case. After offering consistent legal and emotional support to Veronica and her family, the threats began to subside. In a recent civil court case, Veronica was declared the rightful, legal owner of her land.

Today, you are helping take care of her family by providing them with medical support, educational opportunities for her grandchildren and helping them get their farm back up and running.

Because of you, Veronica can live and work in peace, enjoying time with her children and grandchildren in the shade of her own trees on her own land.



Your gifts reunite a mother and daughter

Valeria's* mother filed a complaint to let authorities know that her precious daughter was missing, but because of the massive backlog of casework, they were simply unable to help her. Distraught and desperate to find her daughter, she began searching for her daughter by herself.

A notorious and dangerous man in her neighborhood was known for luring girls into his home, and Valeria's mother was confident she could find her daughter there. On three separate occasions, she risked her life and approached this dangerous man's home, but each time, was unable to find her daughter.

Little did she know, this man was moving Valeria around the city, drugging her and selling her for sex. So her mother kept searching and reaching out to authorities for help.

One of the people she reached out to was a local prosecutor, and while this prosecutor was attending an IJM-led community workshop, she connected us with Valeria's mother and asked us for help.

Because of you, we were able to help find Valeria, identify the suspect in the case, and work to confirm that other girls in the home were minors and were being trafficked.

But your support didn't stop there. You helped us support local anti-trafficking police as they arrested the abusive man and rescued Valeria and three other girls, including her captor's own daughter—all in the middle of one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the area.

Finally, after months of desperate searching, Valeria and her mother are reunited. Today, Valeria is receiving support from a government shelter while you help IJM represent her in court against her abuser.





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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.

IJM is committed to modeling and maintaining the highest standards in our work, including our commitment to financial integrity. IJM is recognized by Charity Navigator, Guidestar and BBB for our exceptional commitment to financial responsibility, accountability and transparency. You may view our full audited financial statements at www.ijm.org/financials.

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*Pseudonyms have been used and images have been blurred for the protection of these IJM clients.



give.org