THE MISSION: The Human Trafficking Institute exists to decimate modern slavery at its source by empowering police and prosecutors to stop traffickers. Working inside criminal justice systems, the Institute provides the embedded experts, world-class training, investigative resources, and evidence-based research necessary to free victims.

THE PROBLEM

There are an estimated 24.9 million human trafficking victims in the world today. Traffickers force people to work in their business or in prostitution, seizing their earnings and paying them little or no wages. Even though every country has laws against this form of modern slavery, trafficking is exploding in developing countries where traffickers are more likely to be struck by lightning than go to jail for openly owning a slave.

There are law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges in developing countries who want to free trafficking victims and bring traffickers to justice, but are never equipped to do so. Many have received little or no training in criminal investigation.

For traffickers in those countries, crime does pay. Traffickers rake in more in annual profits than Apple, J.P. Morgan, Samsung, Wells Fargo, and Microsoft combined, helping make trafficking the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world. Yet most anti-trafficking efforts have no impact on the trafficker’s business model. Instead, most efforts focus on raising awareness or caring for survivors. These initiatives are essential, but they will not stop traffickers from creating more victims who need more survivor services. Decimating trafficking requires moving upstream to confront the problem at its source: the traffickers themselves.

THE SOLUTION

Trafficking collapses when justice systems send traffickers to jail. Many traffickers will only enslave workers if there is no risk to doing so. A little bit of law enforcement changes the calculus for traffickers. Traffickers begin to leave the vulnerable alone when they face the risk of forfeiting their profits and losing their freedom.

In some developing countries, 85% of the police receive no training, in even basic criminal investigation.

–Gary Haugen & Victor Boutros, The Locust Effect

www.TraffickingInstitute.org
THE STRATEGY

Developing specialized skills in any profession always involves mastering core knowledge and then apprenticing under an experienced expert. Just as doctors first go to medical school and then residency, FBI agents go to the FBI Academy and then work under a field-training officer. The Institute deploys a similar model to build the specialized skills to stop traffickers.

During their service at the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI, the Institute’s leadership helped develop and pilot a model to train specialized trafficking enforcement units in six federal districts through those two components: mastering core knowledge and working with experienced trafficking experts. Within two years, the pilot teams increased the number of traffickers charged in their districts by 114% and convicted more traffickers than the other 88 federal districts combined. The Human Trafficking Institute is bringing this successfully piloted model to developing countries that are serious about decimating trafficking.

THE PLAN

1 SPECIALIZED UNITS
The Institute sets up Specialized Human Trafficking Units and fast-track courts to hear trafficking cases. We do not have to improve the entire criminal justice system to stop traffickers. We just have to equip a small part to start enforcing human trafficking laws.

2 THE ACADEMY
Members of the Specialized Human Trafficking Units attend an intensive Academy to get the core knowledge they need to decimate trafficking, including how to identify trafficking cases, use trauma-informed interviewing techniques, and develop trial strategies.

3 EMBEDDED EXPERTS
After the Academy, the Specialized Human Trafficking Units return to work with an Institute Embedded Expert. The Institute places a former agent or prosecutor with trafficking experience in the developing country to office with the specialized units and work alongside them on their cases, building skills and creating the accountability that undermines corruption.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Learn about the Institute’s Partner Countries: www.TraffickingInstitute.org
Partner with us: www.TraffickingInstitute.org/Donate