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Our impact in 2021

48,664* lives directly affected

5,900 families supported

71 areas / cities reached

*These figures only include direct beneficiaries of our work – those we can concretely quantify. There are tens of thousands of people who benefit indirectly from resulting changes that ripple through families, communities and generations. We have not included these.
Who we are

VISION:

A world without slavery in which the human dignity of every person is respected

Arise is an anti-slavery NGO working across the world to protect communities from exploitation. We believe that local groups and their networks hold the key to ending slavery and human trafficking.

We provide funding and training to frontline groups, build anti-slavery networks, commission relevant research, amplify frontline voices and advocate for change.

The Arise team
Six years ago, our CEO Luke de Pulford, and our first Chairperson and Founding President, John Studzinski, had an idea. They imagined a way to fill a gap in the anti-slavery architecture, by creating networks of frontline activists, NGOs and religious sisters, and supporting their work against slavery in their own communities.

Six years later, Arise stands testament to the power of this idea, as we are reminded constantly of the incredible wisdom, care and effectiveness that the frontline brings to the battle against modern slavery.

With a small staff of 12, Arise is working across countries and continents and reaching the lives of tens of thousands of people every year.

Our work in 2020 was necessarily focused on providing emergency (food and PPE) support to vulnerable communities during COVID-19. In 2021, we were able to revert to our characteristic programs of building long-term resilience to human trafficking.

This type of work is painstaking and future-focused, and no case is the same as the last. It is providing education to children in India’s brick kilns to break decades of generational bondage; employable skills to young Albanians at risk of sex trafficking to Europe; alternative income to Filipino families who have resorted to exploiting their children online.

It is not the type of work that generates "the metrics". And nor should it be. Arise is driven by the firm belief that the most successful and sustainable anti-slavery work is hardest to quantify. It is embedded, trusted and responsive to the community that surrounds it. It is person-centered, but scalable by the global reach of frontline anti-slavery networks. It can change the fabric of high-risk communities and be passed down through generations.

As the second Chairperson of Arise’s Board of Trustees, I am in awe of what Arise has been able to accomplish in such a short time. I am confident that, together with our amazing staff and multi-talented Board, we will be able to reach even more places and lives.

I invite you to learn more about what Arise undertook in 2021 in the pages to follow.
Where We Work

University of Virginia
University of Nottingham
Bucharest, Romania
Arise – New York
Manaus, Brazil
Mombasa, Kenya
Arise – London
Rome, Italy
Kumbo, Cameroon
Arise – Faridabad
Duhok, Iraq
Arise – Dagupan

1. Solan, Himachal Pradesh
2. Bathinda, Punjab
3. Karnal, Haryana
4. Samalkha, Haryana
5. Bhagat Colony, Burari
6. Avantika, Delhi
7. Ashok Vihar, New Delhi
8. Hauz Khas, New Delhi
9. Faridabad, Haryana
10. Delhi
11. Ajmer, Rajasthan
12. Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh
13. Patna, Bihar
14. Godda, Jharkhand
15. Sulantu, West Bengal
16. Nadia district, West Bengal
17. Garchuk, Guwahati
18. Guwahati, Assam
19. Krishnagar, Guwahati
20. Sonitu, Assam
21. Assam
22. Silchar, Assam
23. Ranchi, Jharkhand
24. Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
25. Dakor, Gujarat
26. Anand, Gujarat
27. Andheri East, Mumbai
28. Pune, Maharashtra
29. Bidar, Karnataka
30. Patigadda, Telangana
31. Beerol, Telangana
32. Sancoale, Goa
33. Ballari, Karnataka
34. Mangalore, Karnataka
35. Mysuru, Karnataka
36. Bangalore, Karnataka
37. Perungalathur, Tamil Nadu
38. Palavakam, Tamil Nadu
39. Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu

Amsterdam, Netherlands
Strategic Investment
Arise Office
Capacity Building
Research
COVID-19
Network Development

Arise is headquartered in London and New York. We have offices in India, the Philippines, Nigeria and soon Albania. We work to prevent slavery in high-risk countries of origin, where we can add value to local anti-slavery networks.
Our Approach

**CHALLENGE:** Today, at around 40.3 million people, there are more slaves in the world than ever before. Though investment in anti-slavery work has increased, there is little evidence to suggest that slavery is decreasing.

1. **Prevention in source communities**
   We must address the root causes of slavery. Otherwise we are limited to dealing with its consequences.

2. **Person-centered**
   People who have suffered exploitation need more than the basics. Food and shelter are necessary, but a profound quality of care and trust are essential for real change to happen.

3. **Locally-led**
   Individuals and organizations rooted in communities are best placed to provide meaningful support to those suffering, as well as to identify and address the systemic causes that put people from their communities at risk. Local ownership improves community participation and project sustainability.

**VISION:** A world without slavery in which the human dignity of every person is respected.

**MISSION:** To end slavery and human trafficking in some of the worst affected areas in the world through frontline abolitionists.

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**MISSION:** To end slavery and human trafficking in some of the worst affected areas in the world through frontline abolitionists.

**Frontline groups and their networks hold the key**

**Frontline groups**
Frontline groups are making a real impact where it is needed most. These groups are embedded in and trusted by their communities, but they are often marginalized and critically under-resourced.

**Networks**
No organization has the reach, scope, global footprint or resources to defeat slavery alone. Alliances and anti-slavery networks are integral to slavery prevention and sustaining local resilience.

Arise was established in 2015 to develop and support frontline groups and their networks against slavery. We create alliances with local organizations and networks which reflect our strategy and values.

Arise supports frontline groups
Arise develops networks
SUPPORTING FRONTLINE GROUPS

Our work has four pillars. Most frontline groups benefit from more than one of them.

1. **Strategic investment:** Frontline groups and their networks often lack the resources necessary to reach their potential. Arise combines strategic grant giving with accompaniment* through mentoring and programmatic training. Our investment increases the ability of frontline groups and networks to meet the needs of their local communities.

2. **Capacity building:** Frontline groups and their networks often lack capacity to demonstrate and maximize their impact. Arise works closely with them, providing capacity building and strategic support. This improves their ability to meet the needs of their communities, and increases the effectiveness of their interventions sustainably.

3. **Research:** Frontline organizations often lack a strong evidence base to demonstrate their impact. Arise works to address this with thought leaders and universities.

4. **Amplification:** The exceptional insight and experience of frontline organizations must be heard within the policy and human rights communities. Arise works to amplify their frontline voices and advocate for the change they want to see.

*Accompaniment:* Developing the capacity of frontline groups and networks is a long-term project; it cannot be achieved sustainably without long-term accompaniment. This is a necessarily dynamic process, involving listening, learning, evaluating and adapting. Arise provides accompaniment in several ways, always led by the needs and perspectives of the frontline.

DEVELOPING NETWORKS

Our work has four pillars. Most frontline networks benefit from more than one of them.

1. **Promoting collaboration:** Networks often suffer from limited collaboration in their activities. Arise works with networks and their leaders to help promote collaborative efforts.

2. **Strategic investment:** Network activities often lack resources. Arise combines mentoring, training and the promotion of collaboration with strategic investment, to enable network development and ensure its efficacy.

3. **Providing training:** Networks often have limited access to training for their members. Arise works through networks to help them provide their members with training on a range of areas from project planning and fundraising to direct interventions.

4. **Mentoring:** Network leadership and key actors often suffer from a lack of mentorship for both themselves and their networks. Arise invests in leaders, walking alongside them, providing mentoring and accompaniment* as they grow their skills and networks.
COVID-19 continued to have a heavy impact on Arise's programs in 2021. India's devastating 'second wave', together with severe vulnerability carried over from previous waves, meant that COVID-19 impacted almost all of Arise's work.

In spite of the difficulties, the last year has been one of growth for us. Reopening our COVID-19 funding streams, we were able to support our frontline partners to respond quickly and safely to India's crisis. In other parts of the world, Arise has expanded, opening offices in Nigeria and the Philippines. We have also taken up key new projects from developing strategic plans for 8 regions in India, to supporting the network of women religious working on anti-trafficking across Nigeria, and building partnerships with Filipino frontline actors. This kind of work is at the heart of Arise's mission, and we are delighted to be able to return to it – albeit it more often over Zoom than in person!

One of the great things about Arise is our ability to be nimble and dynamic when the circumstances demand. The pandemic has turned the world of those in our networks upside down, and the effects will be felt for years to come. Being able to adapt to provide close accompaniment in this unprecedented environment has been the challenge and privilege of these strange years.

Through it all, our core belief remains the same: It is only by building up anti-slavery networks, and supporting their powerful, trust-based work, that we will truly turn the tide on slavery. Arise is honored to be able to support our partners as they tirelessly serve those the world forgets. We are looking forward to increasing our programs in 2022 and implementing more projects across Albania, the Philippines, Nigeria and India.
Chinomso Osuji, Sr Theresa Ani
and Sr Philomena Okwu,
Arise Nigeria

The success of the workshop can be likened to a meal cooked by all. The symbol of that success is the picture here: the traditional cooking stand in Africa of three stones. The three stones stand for Arise, NCWR and the individual congregations. The pot only remains on the fire during cooking because of the three supporting stones. Remove one and the pot will fall.

Together, we are well-placed to continue building a strong and unified network against human trafficking in Nigeria.

January 2021 -
December 2023
Capacity building
(Networks)

Nigeria, especially Lagos and Edo State, is a global hotspot for trafficking and slavery. Working with the Nigerian Conference of Women Religious, and their anti-trafficking project ‘COSUDOW’, Arise is supporting network development. Arise has devised a three year project to empower and support the critical work of frontline women religious.

In November 2021, a strategic plan for development was created at a workshop in Lagos.
Many frontline organizations find it hard to gather and analyze their anti-slavery activities comprehensively. Working with Just Good Work, Pretty Clever Studio and Nottingham Rights Lab, Arise is developing and piloting a unique phone app to provide a clear and simple tool to gather this data effectively. Providing a clear and simple framework for basic monitoring, evaluation and learning within the context of their own projects, it allows frontline groups to categorize and then demonstrate the impact of their diverse activities.

Nottingham Rights Lab:
Developing this app with Arise and its frontline network has not only been rewarding work for the Rights Lab team, but provides a valuable contribution to the work of the frontline against slavery. MEL allows Arise to monitor, evaluate, and learn from the projects they support. Crucially, it fills a similar need for frontline groups within and beyond Arise’s network, empowering them to honestly and robustly demonstrate their impact to stakeholders and the global funding and policy communities.
Antabay Buhay aims to create a community whose members support one another. We aim to promote the value of industry – that there is dignity in work – and to enhance the value of the rights and dignity of every human being. We are looking forward to seeing the Antabay Buhay community rise from poverty and stand on its own, moving forward with great hope for the future.

Sr Cecilia Espenilla
Philippines Coordinator

ANTABAY BUHAY

Community-based human trafficking prevention program including:
- income generation for identified high-risk families through sustainable livelihood creation;
- safe employment/recruitment services through the Work-Skills Connect program;
- youth awareness and empowerment in partnership with iFight.

October 2021 - September 2023 (2 years)
Capacity building (Frontline groups)

Philippines
(Dagupan)
**SPOTLIGHT ON**

/ COVID-19 – 4 STAGE RESPONSE

**IMPACT**

- **69,619** with emergency assistance during lockdowns
- **27,878** with long-term programs to build resilience to trafficking
- **51** frontline institutions supported
- **48** emergency and/or transitional grants
- **3** with core institutional support

*Figure based on completed projects and predicted outcomes of ongoing ones.

**97,497** lives directly affected

**69,497** lives directly affected

**2627**

**3**
**TIMELINE**

2019

- **20 March**
  - First emergency grant fund established

- **24 March**
  - Lockdown announced

- **24 March**
  - Arise receives first applications

- **30 March**
  - First grant funded

2020

- **March - June 2020**
  - Emergency Phase: As poverty and unemployment rise, the most effective slavery prevention becomes to provide food and emergency supplies to high-risk groups. Arise provides 71 emergency grants to our frontline network to establish and resource food banks and delivery services.

- **25 January 2021**
  - ILO reports over 255 million job losses worldwide and a loss of $3.7 trillion in global income during 2020.

- **June 2020 - March 2021**
  - Transitional Phase: To bridge the gap between lockdown and economic recovery, Arise rolls out 20 six-month programs to build sustainable resilience to trafficking through education, skills training and income diversification, reinforced by emergency relief.

- **10 June 2021**
  - UNICEF reports that child labour has risen to 160 million – the first increase in two decades, due to the impacts of COVID-19.

- **10 June 2021**
  - Transitional grant fund opened

- **6 August**
  - First transitional grant funded

- **30 April 2021**
  - India becomes the global epicenter of the pandemic, reporting over 400,000 new cases in a 24-hour period. People search frantically for hospital beds and oxygen for their loved ones.

- **10 June 2021**
  - First grant funded

- **May - December 2021**
  - India Second Wave: Carefully navigating the risks, Arise’s frontline partners recommence emergency support to the most vulnerable, as well as income generating support to build resilience within new communities of need.

2022 onwards

- **November 2021**
  - Sustainability and bridging grants: Arise begins providing identified frontline partners with institutional strategic support, in response to global funding pressures exacerbated by COVID-19.

- **2022 onwards**
  - Restored focus on long-run slavery prevention work, while observing and responding to new areas of need caused by the pandemic.
// PHASES

Initial Emergency Phase

COVID-19 emergency response to combat trafficking and exploitation

- March - July 2020

49,795 individuals supported
9,553 families supported
37 cities/areas reached

Responding to COVID-19 and the devastating effects of lockdowns in high-risk communities through basic need provision. Most families were given weekly bags of nutritional foodstuffs and PPE.

Groups supported include:

- India’s internal migrants, brick kiln and tea garden workers abandoned with no means of feeding themselves or their families
- Families like those in the Philippines and Albania, who suddenly lost their income during lockdown and had no savings
- Source communities across India and the Philippines who lost the remittances that were crucial to their income
Transitional Phase

COVID-19 transitional response to bridge lockdown and economic recovery

- July 2020 - March 2021

- India
- Albania
- Philippines

Supporting 6 - 8 month transitional programs to build resilience in high-risk communities, while extending emergency support where needed. Programs include education, skills training, income diversification and community-empowerment work.

CASE STUDY: WORK-SKILLS CONNECT

Supporting the development of a powerful online ethical recruitment tool by frontline group Voice of the Free. With over 600,000 Overseas Filipino Workers repatriated during COVID-19 and millions of dollars in remittances lost, traffickers are capitalizing on growing vulnerability. The Work-Skills Connect tool responds to this directly, harnessing technology to prevent labour trafficking from the context of lockdown. So far, over 1,500 job seekers and 47 agencies and employers have registered to the Work-Skills Connect online platform.
Our transitional programs enabled many frontline women-led groups to build resilience to sex trafficking, child marriage and forced and exploitative labor amongst their fellow female community members.
India Second Wave

19,824 individuals supported with emergency relief

3,317 individuals supported with transitional income generation activities

21 grants given

35 cities/areas reached

Safely supported some of the most vulnerable communities in India during their devastating second wave of COVID-19. When the second wave subsided, transitional grants for income generation activities were provided to allow vulnerable families to gain sustainable, diversified income.

Sr Arpan Carvalho, India Coordinator

Natural calamities like the COVID-19 pandemic are part of our shared history and evolution, but India was not spared during the second wave this year. Worst hit were the marginalized sections of society – those already within the reach of traffickers and exploiters. Arise’s support came quickly, to amplify the efforts of the government to meet the huge demand that lay before the country. In addition to our slavery prevention work, emergency support was extended across India with food, PPE and support for “COVID care centers”, providing comprehensive medical and nutritional care to patients and their families as hospitals became overwhelmed by the surge. I am filled with pride and gratitude for our network, which did everything it could to ease the suffering of our country.
During COVID-19 many organizations moved away from providing core institutional support and international funding streams dried up. This meant that many in our frontline network faced problems funding their core activities, or costs such as paying rent for their service provision centers. In the context of wider network and capacity building support, Arise provided substantial bridging grants to three of our frontline partners. Through these, they are able to support key staff, keep service provision centers open and maintain cars and equipment.
Research helps us to understand and refine our work. Funders, governments and NGOs often look to academics to help them test their assumptions, build a stronger evidence base, and determine their anti-exploitation strategies. We need to know what works, and this knowledge depends upon robust research.

Arise commissions research where it serves our frontline network. For example, frontline groups are often expected to produce in-depth reports detailing their impact for funders, which can require resources and expertise that they do not necessarily have. Our recent focus has been to develop a new research agenda around what anti-slavery impact really means.

Arise works with thought leaders, universities and frontline groups to explore new research pathways.

Analysis of the living and working conditions of 5,000 families working in Assamese Tea Gardens. Met with great success across the region, frontline groups are working hard to improve these realities.

**KEY FINDINGS:**

- Low working conditions including a lack of personal protective equipment, running water and sanitation
- Families obligated to work on tea plantations for exceptionally low wages, with no means to leave
- Families unable to afford education for their children beyond minimal education provided on the plantation, perpetuating generational bondage
- Trafficking cases noted and tied to migrating family members, particularly amongst the youth and those struggling with debt
- Temporary improvement of conditions by tea garden management in isolated incidents leading up to inspections
Amplification

Tove van Lennep, Head of Communications and Relationships

The exceptional insight and experience of frontline groups must be heard within the policy and human rights communities. Arise works to amplify their voices and advocate for the change they want to see.

To this end we implement a frontline focused communications strategy, create and facilitate advocacy opportunities for the frontline and bring frontline intelligence to business, funding and policy communities.

One of the best ways we can prevent slavery is by encouraging businesses to improve labour practices throughout their supply chains. Currently, Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in the North West of China are enduring state-sponsored slavery on a mass scale. Many companies, both domestic and international, are facilitating this enslavement, knowingly or negligently. The abuse meted out to Uyghurs is so severe that raising their case represents a real opportunity to push for more supply chain regulation, both for the benefit of Uyghurs and other at-risk populations around the world.

We, our parliamentarian trustees and politicians in our wider network have worked tirelessly to ensure that Uyghurs do not suffer in vain.

To this end, Arise has:

- provided the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Uyghurs in UK Parliament;
- played a leading role in providing advice to legislators around the world active in support of Uyghur rights and supply chain regulation reform;
- designed and implemented a campaign surrounding the ‘genocide amendment’, securing two slavery-related concessions from the UK; and
- helped create a campaign around the Uyghur Tribunal – an effort to assess evidence for atrocity crime in the Uyghur region.

Start date - ongoing

UK Worldwide

Spotlight on

THE UYGHURS

Annual Report 2021

Arise Foundation
Tinuke Bell  
Head of Finance

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, and despite the pandemic, Arise grew considerably in 2021. Our team grew by three people in Nigeria, one in the Philippines, and one in London. We raised almost $1.7 million in 2021 (double our 2020 revenue) some of which is earmarked for projects in 2022 and beyond. To support our growing reach, we will be welcoming at least four new staff members in 2022, including our very first Albania Coordinator to consolidate our network in Eastern Europe. We look forward to further growth in 2022, in support of our mission, which remains as urgent as ever.

Arise is two separate legal entities in the United States and the United Kingdom that operate, for the purposes of governance and strategy, as a single body. Arise has directors in the United States and trustees in the United Kingdom.
I am deeply proud of what has been achieved this year. In a time when many of our partner charities have suffered, we have found growth. In 2021, Arise reached more people with long-term programs to build resilience to trafficking than ever before – amidst a global pandemic. I attribute this to the remarkable generosity of so many of our supporters, but also to Arise’s incredible staff. We keep a deliberately small team in London, and they have given everything in really tough circumstances. I cannot thank them enough. The biggest thanks of all, however, go to those working day in and day out at the anti-slavery frontline, without whose sacrifices and commitment we would not exist.

The pandemic has coincided with a maturing of Arise’s vision and way of working, which I believe has started to take root with others. Arise is proud to do things differently: we are unashamed of our respect for faith-based work, we are laser-focused on trust, and we will not allow ourselves to be limited by a reductive understanding of impact. Sticking close to our principles has helped us to build an architecture around capacity building and grant giving that is different. Harder to practice, yes, but absolutely worth the effort. I am confident that this approach, together with our truly remarkable team, will take Arise to even bigger and better things in 2022.