

POWER External Evaluation Request for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

Budget Ceiling

The budget ceiling for this evaluation is USD 40,000, inclusive of data collection (focus groups, key informant interview) costs. Please note that competitive pricing will account for 25% of our evaluation of proposals.

Scope and Geography

As this project is engaging stakeholders at a sector level, there is no specific geographic focus for this evaluation. The survivor-researchers, research institutions, and steering committee members we engage may represent key regions where GFEMS is implementing work (sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America). World Congress participants are anticipated to come from every region. Please refer to the full project description below for more project information.

Lived Experience and Modern Slavery

For the purposes of this RFP, GFEMS uses “Modern Slavery” as an umbrella term to refer to all forms of forced labor and human trafficking. To this end, the POWER project is sector-agnostic regarding the specific research of engaged researchers, so long as they relate to any form of modern slavery.

GFEMS believes that lived experience is a form of expertise. While it is not a requirement that the selected evaluator will be from a survivor-led organization, it is preferable that lived experience will inform the evaluation process at every stage. Evaluators with lived experience of modern slavery or from grassroots/survivor-led organizations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Interested Parties

Statements of interest may come from individuals or organizations. In the event that two interested parties wish to collaborate, they may co-apply, submitting a single joint proposal.

Data Collection

It is expected that the selected evaluator will facilitate all focus group/key informant interviews, and distribute any surveys as a part of this evaluation. GFEMS will connect the evaluators to researchers and participants who are engaged in this project.

Internal MEL staff will be responsible for any monitoring-related tasks.

Proposal Format

There is no specific requirement regarding the proposal format (pages, font, budget etc.).

Promoting Opportunities Within Evidence & Research (POWER) Project Description

Summary

GFEMS and Survivor Alliance are implementing a two-pronged effort to improve engagement of people with lived experience in the human trafficking sector. In one stream of activity, we will hold lived experience working groups and a World Congress convening to advance collaborative survivor-led review and discussions of key issue areas; in the other, we will engage lived experience advisors and research institutions to develop and operationalize standard operating procedures (SOPs) for survivor-informed research. The project adapts new approaches to the human trafficking sector and will produce a rich evidence base on survivor engagement efforts and responds to an increased call for more survivor inclusion in the sector.

Practitioners are recognizing that lived experience expertise is vital in increasing the efforts of addressing the issue of human trafficking. Though high-level multi-stakeholder convenings occur every year, few have been or are led primarily by survivors of modern slavery. Similarly on the research side, there is a lack of protocols for engaging survivors and of survivors who can readily participate in the planning and organization of research. When the first Survivor Alliance World Congress took place in July 2021, it was the first global sector gathering at which survivors represented the majority of both participants and speakers, and set the agenda. Survivor Alliance and GFEMS seeks to use the forum to build up the evidence base for the field.

Further on the research front, GFEMS will leverage its toolkit on lived experience inclusion in modern slavery research to enhance modern slavery research as a discipline. To do so, we will establish, and train as necessary, a lived experience consultant corps who have the capacity to work on different aspects of research projects. Alongside developing the consultant corps, we will engage with organizations producing modern slavery related research to bolster their knowledge and efforts in working meaningfully with people with lived experience. Then, as partnerships are developed with research institutions, we will facilitate connections between consultant corp members and the institutions wanting to engage in their research efforts. A secondary goal is to share the consultant database widely so that practitioners can also engage consultants in the future. This activity will involve consultants and projects in ODA-eligible countries.

The interventions proposed are focused primarily on increasing lived experience leadership and inclusion in the modern slavery sector. They offer elements of innovation given that all aspects will be primarily survivor inclusive and survivor led, and the goal is to share them with the wider sector as best practices.

Project Period

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2024

Delivery

Objective 1: Develop actionable, survivor-informed, and evidence-based recommendations for organizations combating trafficking, coordinated by a larger Survivor Leadership Action Plan

There's a crucial problem affecting the global evidence base on what works in anti-trafficking: Research, best practices, program recommendations, and other pieces of the "evidence base" go largely unvetted by survivors, leading to blind spots in findings, poorly thought out recommendations, or in some cases, good findings going unnoticed by survivor leaders. Survivor Alliance's World Congress, as the only convening created by, for, and of survivors provides a valuable opportunity to address this gap.

Survivor Alliance, with GFEMS support, will begin activities under this stream with 6 working groups focusing on thematic areas identified by the member (previous groups focused on policy, survivor capacity-building, research, direct services, fundraising and philanthropy, and media representation). Survivor Alliance, in partnership with survivors from all over the world, will identify and review the current evidence base around these thematic areas and provide survivor driven recommendations and feedback. As a result, participants will have the unique opportunity to offer actionable evidence and feedback to the modern slavery sector and be compensated properly for their expert contributions. The working groups will culminate in a set of comments, questions, and recommendations that will be presented at the World Congress.

Survivor Alliance will then convene the second World Congress in September 2024 and bring together people with lived experience from around the world to develop and contextualize the evidence that support the need for survivor leadership to prevent revictimization and reduce community vulnerabilities to modern slavery. Content, purpose, and agenda will be designed and implemented by survivors and will be made available in multiple languages to create an inclusive space for survivors who are typically sidelined at such gatherings. The agenda will include discussion spaces to go over the working groups' findings and develop a set of recommendations in each of the 6 issue areas. On the final two days of the weeklong program, allies from all areas of the modern slavery sector will join survivor leaders to lower barriers to collaboration and partnership.

The Survivor Alliance World Congress will have an array of impacts in the evidence that decreases vulnerability to modern slavery and prevent future revictimization. By creating consulting opportunities for survivors to offer recommendations and feedback to already-sector available documents, the sector would benefit from experience based feedback and decrease the need for working from assumptions. The World Congress furthermore will lower the barriers for the sector to collaboration and working in full synergy with survivors of trafficking and further the work outlined in an 2024-2034 Survivor Leadership Action Plan to shift the paradigm of leadership in the modern slavery field.

Objective 2: Advance Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) via Survivor Advisors to enhance survivor participation in anti-trafficking research, improving the quality and relevance of findings.

GFEMS will socialize SOPs in its toolkit for engaging survivors in research with research institutions, and develop a corps of survivor advisors to connect and place with the institutions. The Fund has developed these first iteration of the SOPs by engaging some of the leading

research institutions in the modern slavery space, as well as survivor groups and a paid consultant from Survivor Alliance. Under this program, GFEMS will develop a second iteration of the toolkit in collaboration with its peers, disseminate to institutions that need them, and will develop a pool of survivor consultants who can guide researchers in using the SOPs and offer their research expertise.

In year one, GFEMS will begin with outreach landscaping to identify the common practices of research institutions and any barriers to their uptake of the practices found in the toolkit. In parallel, GFEMS will recruit survivor consultants and conduct a strengths analysis to determine specific training needs. GFEMS will then tailor training materials to equip survivor consultants with the tools needed to champion the SOPs.

By the final six months, having understood the needs of research institutions and trained survivors, GFEMS will support implementation of the best practices documented in SOPs by matching survivor consultants with interested institutions. We anticipate these institutions will compensate for survivor services, although this program will cover training costs and associated stipends prior to placement with research institutions.

The incorporation of the World Congress to the program allows GFEMS to make use of this additional venue to socialize and further vet the SOPs with survivor leaders and recruit potential advisors. The anticipated outcome of this workteam is an increased rate of survivors participating in research.

Steering Committee

GFEMS will establish a steering committee to ensure the meaningful involvement and collaboration of diverse stakeholders—prioritizing the communities who are directly impacted by the research. The committee’s purpose is to provide valuable insights, feedback, and guidance throughout the project to enhance its quality, relevance and applicability.

The POWER Steering Committee will consist of a diverse group of individuals representing community members/PWLE, subject matter experts, researchers, and anti-trafficking professionals. The committee’s size and composition will be determined to ensure adequate representation and inclusivity.

Theory of Change (TOC) – GFEMS & Survivor Alliance (18 October 2022)



Assumptions

