

Freedom Fund Bangladesh Hotspot

Enhancing Protection of CST Survivors in Bangladesh Program

The Freedom Fund is seeking proposals from local civil society organisations to contribute towards its Bangladesh hotspot program. The vision of the Bangladesh Hotspot Program is for **in-country** child sex trafficking (CST) to be eradicated in Bangladesh by enabling systemic actors to respond positively to the needs of CST survivors. This will be through the provision of achievable pathways to a dignified and empowered life.

The Bangladesh hotspot seeks to enhance the protection of child sex trafficking survivors in Bangladesh by bringing together key stakeholders within the government, within law enforcement, CSOs and at-risk communities. A large part of the hotspot work is funded by a US-government J-TIP funded grant titled “Enhancing Protection of Survivors of Child Sex Trafficking”. At present, the Freedom Fund is partnering with four organisations and are looking to partner with three additional organisations whose work aligns with the hotspot’s goal. All applicants must have an active registration with the NGOAB.

Through this Request for Concept Notes, the Freedom Fund intends to select a partner who can deliver sustainable non-institutional support (through government linkages / social protection schemes) to children who are survivors of CST or at high risk of CST across Bangladesh. The Freedom Fund places an emphasis on sustainable support for children by connecting to government services, social protection schemes and government resources. Referrals to NGO services may also be considered where necessary. Government services include government shelter, birth registration, disability allowance, school uniforms, educational stipends, enrolling in government schools, government-funded vocational training and job-placement etc. The Freedom Fund will support mainly staff costs, travel costs, operational costs and admin costs.

The total budget for this 15-month project is up to USD 90,000 and we are expecting potential applicants to offer support to up to 800 at-risk children / survivors.

Interested applicants are invited to send in concept notes and high-level budgets for 15 months (1 August 2024 to 31 October 2025) clearly outlining their experience and effectiveness in delivering the objectives. The successful applicant will be provided support in developing a full proposal.

Concept notes should be submitted via email by 29 May 2024 to kakhter@freedomfund.org. Informal enquiries are welcome.

Please note that the Freedom Fund will generally not make grants that are more than 33% of the organisation’s annual operational budget. If your proposed budget is more than this amount, please check with the Freedom Fund contact person before proceeding.

A. Organisational Information

Please provide some basic information about your organisation.

Organisation:

Legal Name and Acronym	
Main Organisational Email Address	
Telephone Number (include country code)	
Address (include postal code)	
City, State/Province	
Country	
Date/Place registered	
Year Founded	

Main Contact for Grant Application	
Full Name	
Title	
Email Address	
Telephone Number (include country code)	
Skype Account ID	

Organisational Mission and Goals:

In a few sentences (no more than half a page), please describe the mission and main goals of your organisation.

Organisational Experience:

In a few sentences (no more than one page), please describe your organisation’s experience in addressing CST. Please emphasise your track record in providing sustainable non-institutional support through government linkages / social protection schemes child survivors of CST or children who are at-high risk of CST

If your organization does not have effective experience in these areas, we would encourage you not to apply.

B. Project Information

Project Context, Problem Statement, and Location

The Freedom Fund (FF) completed a scoping study in 2019 to understand how CST manifests internally in Bangladesh, suggesting it is a significant and neglected problem. Children, whose mothers work in the brothels, are particularly vulnerable to CST due to the proximity to perpetrators - growing up in an extremely dangerous and often violent environment. Those living on the streets or working on the streets but living in nearby slums are also at high risk of CST. Most street children live hand to mouth, and struggle to feed themselves. They often lack any form of parental care, either through having migrated to the city unaccompanied in search of work or fleeing abusive family situations.

Research commissioned by the Freedom Fund indicates that Barishal, Mymensingh, Cumilla and Dhaka are locations where vulnerable children are at higher risk of unsafe migration and entry into commercial sex work.

The JTIP program plans to work directly with and complement efforts from the GoB, other anti-trafficking actors and CSOs to deliver stronger, coordinated actions against in-country CST.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

1. Increased awareness and will to combat internal CST among government officials, law enforcement, CSOs and at-risk communities.
2. Generate a robust evidence base
3. Children exploited by internal CST have access to survivor-centred and trauma-informed rehabilitation, and reintegration services provided by government and CSOs.
4. Children leaving shelter homes have individual reintegration plans and follow up support to prevent re-trafficking
5. Survivor leaders are supported to strengthen their capacity, leadership and advocacy skills to contribute to the eradication of internal CST.

The above is intended to provide applicants with an understanding of the entire program. However, please note that applicants are being invited to apply only to provide sustainable non-institutional support through government linkages / social protection schemes suggest activities which fall under objective 3 above.

Please provide the name(s) of the district(s) in which you will operate the project and offer a clear rationale for why you have chosen these district(s)

Please explain in detail how you will identify and select project participants i.e. children who are survivors / at risk of CST

Please list out and explain the activities you will carry out to connect children who are survivors or at risk of CSEC to sustainable non-institutional support through government linkages / social protection schemes. Please include the government stakeholders you will engage with for each activity

In the table below please provide the number of children that will be supported in non-institutional settings and the specific types to government services / social protection schemes that your organization will link them to.

Total Number of Children Supported (Head Count)	
Name of Social Protection Scheme / Type of Government Service	Number of children connected to the scheme / service

2. Budget Information

Organisation Budget:	
Organisation Annual Budget (in U.S. dollars, for the current fiscal year)	
Amount of budget currently raised	
Amount of budget yet to be raised	
Fiscal Year End Date (DD/MM)	

Proposed Project Budget:

Please provide a very high-level project budget estimate. If selected to continue, you will be given the opportunity to revise the budget and will be asked to provide a more detailed budget as part of your full application. Typically grants per year range from USD \$30,000 to USD \$100,000. Total grant award size is based on the proposed plan and on the organisation's current and past operating budget. The Freedom Fund generally will not make grants that are more than 33% of the organisation's annual operating budget.

Line Item Description	August 2024- July 2025		August 2025-October 2025		TOTAL
	Amount request from Freedom Fund	Amount from other sources, if any	Amount request from Freedom Fund	Amount from other sources, if any	Amount request from Freedom Fund
Personnel					
Travel Costs					
Other Direct Program Costs					
Indirect Costs (10% of total direct costs)					

TOTAL BUDGET (Direct costs + Indirect costs)					
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Next Steps

The Freedom Fund will review your Concept Note application. If your organisation is selected to continue, we will request that you complete a more detailed grant proposal in a full application. The full application is comprised of the following:

- Full Proposal Narrative
- Output targets table
- Organisation Information Form (includes senior staff/project leaders, financial information, primary sources of funding for previous three years, wire transfer information, governance structure)

ANNEX A: Overview of the entire JTIP program for reference ONLY. Applicants are not expected to conduct all the activities in this table.

Project Title: Enhancing protection of CST survivors in Bangladesh

Organization Name: The Freedom Fund

Vision Statement: Internal Child Sex Trafficking (CST) is eradicated in Bangladesh

Goal: Government, law enforcement, civil society and communities work collaboratively to act against internal CST

Project objective 1: Increased awareness and will to combat internal CST among government officials, law enforcement, CSOs and at-risk communities. Activities under this objective are:

1. Deliver activities aimed at government officials at the local, district, national level as well as multilateral coordination groups to improve knowledge of internal CST and increase willingness to take stronger actions against CST.
2. Activate and support 40 Child Welfare Boards (CWB) and Counter Trafficking Committees (CTC).
3. Engage with local law enforcement personnel to increase identification of internal CST survivors (including brothel- and street-based exploitation).
4. Mobilise and train 1100 community group members to raise awareness of internal CST, generate support for community reporting of CST cases and to advocate with the Community Based Child Protection Committees for better services to vulnerable children.
5. Activate 18 Community Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPC) to ensure they are functional to identify and protect CST survivors.
6. Carry out a normative change campaign in traditional, social media and in communities, to increase public awareness of the scale and harm caused by sexual exploitation of children in Bangladesh.

Project objective 2: A robust evidence base on internal CST, inclusive of survivor voices, is generated and shared. Activities under this objective are:

1. Complete a tracer study to rigorously assess the rate of reintegration and re-trafficking of survivors who have been discharged from government shelters, as well as examine survivors' longer-term priorities and service needs.
2. Implement action-research to explore gaps in aftercare / reintegration of child survivors after leaving institutional care.
3. Utilise the above and other existing evidence to develop and mainstream a reintegration strategy with government and civil society.
4. Undertake a mid-term review and end-of grant external evaluation to assess progress towards project objectives and generate lessons learnt to guide future plans.
5. Hold dissemination workshops to share findings from latest research and evaluations, build consensus around implications and agree on onward actions to encourage evidence-based responses to internal CST.

Project objective 3: Children exploited by internal CST have access to survivor-centred and trauma-informed rehabilitation, and reintegration services provided by government and CSOs. Activities under this objective are:

1. Adapt and implement minimum standards of care in 12 shelter homes supporting survivors of internal CST.
2. Support comprehensive shelter, rehabilitation, and care services for survivors of internal CST.
3. Provide direct reintegration support services, and referral to local services, to survivors of CST leaving or having left institutionalised care.

Project objective 4: Frontline CSOs and survivor leaders are supported to strengthen their organisational capacity, leadership and advocacy skills to contribute to the eradication of internal CST. Activities under this objective are:

1. Train and build the capacity of survivor leaders to provide ongoing input into the adaptive management and monitoring and evaluation of the program, participate in advocacy with decision makers and drive change from the community level.