



Request for proposals for research services

EXTERNAL PROGRAM REVIEW: TACKLING EXPLOITATIVE CHILD DOMESTIC WORK IN NIGERIA

Location	Nigeria
Start date	25 February 2026
Application deadline	10 February 2026

About the Freedom Fund

The Freedom Fund is a collaborative fund that invests in frontline organisations and movements to drive a measurable reduction of modern slavery in high-prevalence countries and industries.

We fund, support and convene community and survivor-led organisations working to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

The Freedom Fund:

- identifies and funds local organisations in countries with a high prevalence of modern slavery, and funds many survivor-led organisations.
- convene organisations to exchange best practices and build a collaborative ecosystem
- lead efforts to establish the robust evidence base that underpins global anti-trafficking work
- fill a critical gap by bringing donors together and mobilising resources that would otherwise be out of reach for community and survivor-led partners.

Summary

The Freedom Fund is a global fund with the sole aim of helping end modern slavery. We are a catalyst in the global effort to end modern slavery, working in the countries and sectors where it is highly prevalent. We invest in and partner with organisations and communities on the frontlines of ending slavery and exploitation.

Scope of consultancy

The Freedom Fund is seeking proposals from qualified research consultants or teams to conduct an external review of our TIP Office-funded program in Nigeria. The scope of this review is to assess progress made toward the program's fourth objective: scaling up partner interventions to address the exploitation of child domestic workers (CDWs) through a comprehensive, community-led and locally informed strategy.

This review is part of our commitment to ensure that the program objective is effectively measured and support continuous learning. The assignment is expected to run for five months, with planning commencing in February 2026, fieldwork in March–April 2026 and a final report due by July 2026.

Eligibility

Individuals and organisations with relevant evaluation experience are invited to submit proposals for this review. The lead applicant must be a legally registered entity according to the laws of the country in which it operates. The Freedom Fund strongly prefers applicants that are based in Nigeria, that have prior experience conducting research on child domestic work or with children in similar vulnerable situations, and that demonstrate expertise in community-based or participatory evaluations, as well as in conducting ethical research with vulnerable populations.

Budget

A fee of approximately USD 40,000 has been made available for this external review. Budgets will be reviewed with respect to the strength of the proposal in meeting the program objectives in a cost-effective manner - we do not simply prioritise the lowest budget. This is a fixed price, service agreement contract.

Proposal deadline

Proposals should be submitted via email to Brittany Quy with **“Proposal for external review: Nigeria”** as the email subject line at bquy@freedomfund.org **no later than 10 February 2026, 10am UK time**. Proposals should be submitted in English and in Word or PDF format. Proposals should be no more than 3 pages, plus CVs and annexes.

Introduction to the Freedom Fund and its work in Nigeria

The Freedom Fund is a global fund with the sole aim of helping end modern slavery. We are a catalyst in the global effort to end modern slavery, working in the countries and sectors where it is highly prevalent. We invest in and partner with organisations and communities on the frontlines of ending slavery and exploitation.

By partnering with survivors and those at risk of slavery as well as visionary investors, governments and anti-slavery organisations, we bring together the knowledge, capital and will needed to dismantle the systems that allow slavery to exist and thrive. Through our investments and support, we aim to shift power, so that frontline organisations and communities can shape and drive the change required to bring modern slavery to an end.

The Freedom Fund is implementing the program *‘Tackling Exploitative Child Domestic Work in West Africa’* funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office). In Phase 2 (2025–2026), the Freedom Fund is scaling up its interventions in Lagos, Nigeria, to address the exploitation of CDWs through a comprehensive, community-led and locally informed strategy. The [program](#) brings together seven frontline civil society organisations to build protective environments for children, reduce family vulnerabilities, strengthen community resistance to exploitation and enhance

local protection systems. This phase builds on the findings and co-created strategies from the program's formative research and pilot interventions under Phase 1 (2022–2024).

Background to the external review

The external review will take place near the end of the current grant cycle (2022–2026) as part of Freedom Fund's commitment to learning and accountability under the U.S. TIP Office funding agreement. The goal is to assess program progress against the objective to "scale up partner interventions based on formative research and co-creation to address the exploitation of child domestic workers through a comprehensive, community-led, and locally informed intervention strategy." Specifically, the review will examine:

- Vulnerabilities and risks among families that lead to child domestic work are reduced.
- Communities unite to resist maltreatment/exploitation of CDWs.
- Strengthened care and protection systems for child domestic workers.

The goal of the external review is, therefore, to assess progress made toward the three - outcomes above, review the effectiveness of program interventions and generate lessons to inform the remaining program period. This review is to ensure that the program objectives are robustly measured, support continuous learning and adaptation and ensure accountability to the communities that we seek to serve. The review will particularly examine:

- Program's progress and barriers toward achieving its objectives;
- Quality of implementation by Freedom Fund's seven partner organisations;
- Effectiveness of interventions under each sub-outcome area; and
- Lessons learned to inform future programming and sustainability planning.

Main external review questions

As part of the contracting process, the questions will be refined with the advice of the selected team. Some indicative questions are included below to support the proposal design.

1. To what extent has the program achieved progress toward reducing family vulnerabilities and risk factors contributing to child domestic work in Lagos?
[This question assesses the program's impact in addressing the underlying socioeconomic and structural factors that contribute to the prevalence of child domestic work.]
2. How effectively have partners mobilised communities against the systematic exploitation of CDWs?
[This explores community-level engagement, collective action and the extent to which social norms and behaviours are shifting to better protect CDWs.]
3. What improvements have been made to local protection and referral systems for CDWs, and how sustainable are these mechanisms?
[This question examines the strengthening of local safety nets, referral pathways, and coordination mechanisms among service providers, as well as their sustainability beyond program support.]

4. What are the major implementation barriers and enablers across partner organisations?
[This identifies contextual and organisational factors affecting implementation, including partner capacity, external challenges and opportunities for peer learning.]
5. How well have the Freedom Fund's co-creation and capacity-strengthening approaches supported effective and sustainable partner implementation?
[This assesses the relevance and effectiveness of the Freedom Fund's partnership model, focusing on collaboration, local ownership and institutional capacity development.]
6. What promising practices and lessons learned can inform future interventions, policy advocacy and potential replication or scale-up?
[This question synthesises key learning and innovations emerging from the program to inform adaptive policy influence and the design of future program.]

Target participants of the external review

The primary participants in the external review will be Freedom Fund's seven implementing partners and their program participants (including but not limited to CDWs, employers/caregivers, and the natal families of CDWs). In addition, a limited number of key stakeholders, including relevant local/national government representatives and civil society actors will also be included, such as National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, National Orientation Agency, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board and Ministry of Education, teachers, community leaders, and adult survivors of exploitative child domestic work. The selected team will also engage with the Nigeria hotspot program's Advisory Committee in a consultative capacity.

It is expected that the selected team will engage regularly with the Freedom Fund Nigeria team and its implementing partners, who will use this review to inform the existing program design and delivery for the remaining program period.

Research approach and methodology

The Freedom Fund invites individuals and organisations to propose an approach that would be suitable to achieve the objectives of the external review. The proposed methodology should address the below:

Methodological approach: The Freedom Fund primarily seeks qualitative findings from the external review, though a small component of quantitative insights may be included if relevant to answering the research questions. The quantitative component will also involve analysing the internal impact data that Freedom Fund's partners have gathered since the program inception, as well as cross-referencing any new data with the data that were collected for [an evaluation of the program's pilot year](#). Kindly include data collection methods, sampling strategies, sample size and sources of information. The Freedom Fund's preference is for in-person data collection; however, we are open to a mixed approach where remote methods are more appropriate. Please specify whether the research will be

conducted in-person, remotely, or through a combination of both, and provide the rationale for your chosen approach.

If there are any other elements considered to be crucial to a successful review, please include them in your proposal.

Stakeholder participation: Please outline which stakeholders you will engage with at different stages of the external review process and justify your proposed sample and its size. Describe how a sample of respondents will be obtained; consideration should be given to how these individuals can be accessed and engaged with in a manner which encourages honest responses. Applicants should also describe how they propose to work with the program's Advisory Committee, including how their role will be defined to add value to the review process. The review is not expected to exhaustively cover all settings in which the program operates, but rather, will include a selection of an appropriate set of respondents. The proposal should include at minimum one validation workshop or exercise (online or in person) with stakeholders identified by the Freedom Fund.

Community engagement: Please highlight creative data collection methods that preferably go beyond traditional interviews and focus groups, especially with regards to child participants. Approaches that are inclusive and engaging for participants without research knowledge or experience would be viewed favourably. In addition, please consider how you would share the review results back with the community in relevant and accessible ways.

Operational and ethical considerations: Highlight any logistical, ethical and/or safeguarding issues with the proposed methodology, such as encouraging candid responses through in-person and/or remote interviews, handling of potentially sensitive information, confidentiality of respondents, sensitivity and respect to stakeholders, Do No Harm etc. Please indicate how you will monitor responses provided and mitigate response bias that may influence the review process. The Freedom Fund's preference is to undergo an Institutional Review Board process and we welcome applicants' advice and expertise on how best to navigate this process in alignment with the project's needs and ethical standards.

The research will be contracted by the Freedom Fund US and supervised by our Research & Evaluation Manager based in London. The Freedom Fund anticipates working closely with the research team through all stages of the program.

Budget

The Freedom Fund has budgeted approximately USD 40,000 for this program. Budgets will be reviewed with respect to the strength of the proposal in meeting the program objectives in a cost-effective manner, we do not simply prioritise the lowest budget. Proposals should

consider the budgetary considerations for appropriately training enumerators and conducting interviews.

As part of the proposal, please prepare a brief budget with the following breakdown:

- Personnel costs
- Fees to local research partners or subcontractors, if applicable
- Other direct costs – e.g. travel, software licenses, ethical review fees, devices for data collection
- Overheads
- Value Added Tax or Goods and Services Tax, if applicable

Please note that costs related to research report translation, design and printing will be borne by the Freedom Fund.

Program deliverables & high-level timeline

Main deliverables	Proposed timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-off meeting with the FF team. 	Feb 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review of Nigeria program documents. • Develop a suitable methodology to answer the external review objectives outlined above, presented as a detailed research protocol, which includes a realistic sampling strategy, all relevant data collection tools, work plan and a detailed overview of ethical considerations. 	Mar 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary data collection completed. 	May 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data cleaning and analysis. • Presentation of preliminary findings for internal review and discussion. 	Jun 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft report shared for review and discussion. 	Jun 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise report, based on a structure pre-agreed with the Freedom Fund. 	Jul 2026

In addition to the main deliverables listed above, the research team is also expected to discuss with the Freedom Fund any proposed design changes and share regular updates on the progress of field activities.

Proposal format

Interested parties should prepare a proposal of no more than 3 pages, plus CVs and annexes. Proposals should contain the following sections:

1. Short biography of principal investigator(s) and key team members, outlining relevant subject matter expertise and experience leading similar review and evaluation programs, particularly in Nigeria. CV of the principal investigator should be included in the annex. Past report(s) from similar programs could be included as links or in a separate annex.
2. Research approach, addressing the topics listed in the 'Research approach and methodology' section of this RFP. Proposals should clearly outline a data quality plan

(including enumerator training, field supervision and data verification procedures) and a data analysis plan.

3. Team structure, defining the role and time commitment of key program team members.

4. Proposed budget in USD, containing the details listed in the 'Budget' section of this RFP.

The proposal must be written in English and sent electronically in Microsoft Office or PDF format.

Proposal criteria & scoring

In reviewing proposals, the Freedom Fund will use the following criteria:

Technical criteria	Weighting
a. Technical capacity of the team (including local partner and subcontractors if relevant), including:	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed method is consistent with the outlined approach and is feasible for generating meaningful insights to answer the research questions. - Experience of conducting program reviews and evaluations with vulnerable children, with demonstrable understanding of relevant qualitative (and quantitative research techniques, if relevant). 	
b. Contextual knowledge of the team, including on:	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert knowledge with the child labour and child domestic work in Nigeria. Previous work on these issues will be advantageous. - Ability to gain access into and work collaboratively with communities affected by child domestic work to carry out the external review. - Knowledge of economic, socio-cultural and political environment in Nigeria. 	
c. Team structure, including:	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate staffing levels to deliver quality program outputs within the desired timeframe. - Contribution of Nigerian and/or Nigeria-based researchers, ideally in key roles such as Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator where they are recognised as leading authors of the external review. Shortlisted applicants will most likely meet this criterion. - Gender diversity among the team members. - Team members with fluency in English is essential. Proficiency in other local languages like Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo would be advantageous. 	
Financial criteria	
d. Costs are proportionate to the scale of work being proposed, and consideration of all potential expenses.	10%
Total	100%

Commissioning timeline

26 Jan 2026	Release of this Request for Proposal.
10 Feb 2026	Proposals due.
10am UK time	Please submit all documents to Brittany Quay at bquy@freedomfund.org with "Proposal for external review: Nigeria" as the email subject line.

20 Feb 2026	All shortlisted research teams will be notified, and interviews will be scheduled.
22 Feb 2026	Clarifications/discussions with shortlisted teams.
25 Feb 2026	Contract signed with selected research team.

Payment and Jurisdiction

Applicants should observe that the Freedom Fund is a United States 501(c)(3) public charity. The awarded contract will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, United States of America, without regard to principles relating to conflicts of law. All payments to the consultant under the awarded contract shall be agreed upon therein, in compensation for the services provided, and directly related to the approved costs of the required services when/if applicable. Contracts will always be drafted in United States Dollars.

Confidentiality

This Request for Proposal and associated documents are the property of Freedom Fund and confidential. Apart from using FF documents to respond to the request, you shall not disclose any details, to any other person or organisation, and shall treat this ToR/RFP and your response with complete confidentiality.