Myanmar Country Representative

LOCATION: YANGON, MYANMAR

START DATE: JANUARY 2019

About the Freedom Fund

The Freedom Fund (www.freedomfund.org) is a leader in the global fight against modern slavery. It:

- generates private funding by demonstrating how effective interventions can protect those at risk of being enslaved and free those in slavery.
- invests in those countries and sectors with the greatest incidence of bonded labour, trafficking and child labour.
- analyses which interventions work best and shares that knowledge.
- brings together those committed to ending slavery and empowered by the knowledge of how best to do so.

The Freedom Fund has programs in northern India, southern India, Ethiopia, Thailand, south-eastern Nepal and central Nepal. It currently supports and funds over 100 organisations in these regions, the vast majority of which are frontline organisations.

About the position

This is an exciting and demanding role for an outstanding individual with experience in setting up, managing and implementing international development programs. The successful candidate will guide a portfolio of the Freedom Fund’s investments and relationships for its new anti-human trafficking hotspot in Myanmar. While the Yangon-based position will initially be fixed term (seven months), there will be an opportunity for longer-term work if additional funding is secured. This first contract will focus on managing the program’s inception phase, which will include completing a revision of an existing strategy document, managing the Freedom Fund’s in-country registration process and identifying and providing preparatory support to program grantees.

In the long-term, if funding is secured, the Country Representative will work closely with the Freedom Fund’s partners on the ground to support design and delivery of quality programs, measure their impact, and support research and learning to benefit the wider anti-slavery sector.

The consultant will be an independent contractor to the Freedom Fund and not an employee of the organisation. The consultant is not eligible for any employee-related benefits.
About the program

Myanmar is a rapidly changing country at a crossroads in its history. In almost every aspect of life, from politics and economic development to society and culture - Myanmar is in a state of flux. The country's economy is largely agrarian. Two-thirds of the population live in rural areas and 40% of GDP comes from agriculture. Myanmar has not grown at the same rate as its neighbours - especially China and Thailand. As a result, many millions have left; it is estimated that there are up to 4 million people from Myanmar in Thailand alone. “Pull” factors such as jobs and higher wages abroad have combined with a range of “push” factors, including poverty, conflict in ethnic areas, and repression - to cause this high level of migration.

By 2025-2030, an estimated 22 to 30 million Chinese men will be unable to find women to marry. As a result of the marriage squeeze, girls and women from Myanmar are being forced into marriage in China. This growing problem has been known about for years - yet it is severely under-reported, under-researched, and under-funded. Inattention to this issue continues, despite the fact that Myanmar’s own records show this is the most common form of trafficking that authorities prosecute each year.

The Freedom Fund will lead the fight to assist these women and girls by strengthening prevention and protection mechanisms, working through and with a number of local organisations—as well as with local authorities, including the police and border officers. The hotspot will support trafficking survivors to leave their situation, recover, and reintegrate—assisting them to repatriate to Myanmar on their return from slavery in China. Through this work, and other research, we will learn more about the root and immediate causes of this form of trafficking and slavery, as well as the networks and methods that perpetuate it. We will use this knowledge to advocate to the Myanmar government—and through it, the Chinese government—to improve interventions and promote better policies.

Responsibilities

The Country Representative will oversee the hotspot program's inception phase. This will include:

• Facilitating the Freedom Fund’s ongoing registration process with the Myanmar government, incl. liaising with relevant government officials, lawyers and other stakeholders.
• Reviewing and revising the program’s strategy document first drafted in 2016 based on the current context, incl. document review and interviews with relevant stakeholders in Yangon and program areas.
• Identifying potential partner organisations and providing essential preparatory support to enter a formal partnership agreement, incl. capacity assessments, due diligence and proposal development support.
• Representing the Freedom Fund in official meetings with government, Myanmar and international organisations and networks.

Qualifications and experience

This is an exciting opportunity for an energetic, thoughtful and committed individual, capable of operating with a high level of professionalism. The successful candidate will have experience working with poor and marginalised communities, a strong ability to bring organisation to rally around a common purpose and a track record of implementing development programs with a strong monitoring and evaluation component.
Essential

- At least seven years of directly relevant experience
- Grantmaking experience to local civil society organisations
- Experience working with private and public donors
- Experience preparing and managing budgets, and ensuring financial accountability by grantees
- Experience in conducting due diligence assessments, financial reviews and organisational capacity assessments
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation of grants and programs
- Fluent Burmese and English speaker
- Bachelor’s degree
- High proficiency with Microsoft Office tools (especially Word and Excel)
- Entitled to work in Myanmar

Desirable

- Experience in anti-slavery programming and specifically trafficking for forced marriage
- Knowledge of Kachin and/or Shan languages

Personal attributes

Essential

- Team player committed to the Freedom Fund's values and passionate about human rights issues.
- Ability to build relationships with a wide range of individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Ability to work independently, displaying strong initiative in solving day-to-day problems with limited direction.
- Outstanding oral and written English communication skills and ability to present information in compelling ways.
- Detail oriented, with ability to manage, track and organise data, including numerical data.
- Willingness and ability to travel, sometimes to remote communities, as required.

Compensation

- US $40,000 - 45,000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications. Pro-rated to contract.

Application procedure

Applications should be submitted in English and include a CV, cover letter (maximum one page) and contact details of three referees.

Please send applications by email in PDF format to jobs@freedomfund.org, including ‘Country Representative’ in the subject line before 9am GMT on Monday, 3 December 2018.

Please note that only candidates selected for further consideration will be contacted. No phone calls or agencies please.