**Summary: 2018 - 2019 Proposed Outcomes**

The Northern India Hotspot has built a foundation of achievements since 2014, including liberating over ten thousand individuals from bonded labour and trafficking, and helping to enhance state government systems in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. This updated strategy highlights how the hotspot can stimulate resilience and can assist survivors to rebuild their lives, as well serving as a hub for experimentation, learning and development of evidence. The hotspot will continue to demonstrate that a major reduction in trafficking, bonded labour and harmful child labour is a realistic goal.

With an investment of $4.4 million for the two year period, the Freedom Fund will support approximately 15 community based partners and five technical assistance partners in 30 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and northern and central Bihar. These NGOs will work through community-based efforts and through building up government systems at every level towards elimination of trafficking, bonded and child labour. (See maps on pages 10 and 17).

Alongside strengthening local protection and prevention through over 1,300 community freedom groups, one of the measurable outcomes will be over 5,000 individuals liberated with support for recovery. In addition, the partners’ network (Human Liberty Network) will contribute significantly to at least six distinct improvements in statutory measures against trafficking and bonded labour.

**1. Achievements and Lessons Learned from 2014 - 2017**

The Northern India Hotspot was launched in April 2014. Currently 15 partner organisations implement programs within communities and five organisations are strengthening specialist components of those activities. These five partnerships focus on: market-based livelihoods development; state government coordination in UP; how to focus on community-level eradication of bonded labour; health promotion; and legal training. Two further consultancies support financial management and organizational development, and IDS and Praxis India are undertaking research accompaniment and independent evaluation.
Since 2014, significant progress has been made towards the program’s four objectives:

**Overall Goal:**
Reduce the prevalence of all forms of trafficking, bonded labour and harmful child labour in selected districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

**Objective 1:** Reduce prevalence of these forms of exploitation in the specific communities in which FF partners are working through direct prevention, protection, and prosecution interventions.

**Objective 2:** Improve the wider enabling environment for freedom through collective action and improving the effectiveness of government.

**Objective 3:** Increase civil society’s capacity for sustained and effective action on these issues.

**Objective 4:** Contribute new evidence to the global movement through supporting rigorous research and evaluation in the hotspot.

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**Achievements to date and effective practices identified through the hotspot:**

**The Freedom Fund Northern India Hotspot - Impact Metrics as of June 2017**

- **Victims liberated**: 10,302
- **At-risk children in school**: 18,623
- **Micro-enterprises started**: 8,037
- **Legal cases assisted**: 1,643
- **Legal cases assisted**: 28
- **Individuals with new access to govt services**: 20,426

In addition to activities typically undertaken in anti-trafficking work across India, the hotspot has developed a stronger emphasis or a more distinctive approach on the following strategies:

**Objective 1: Reducing prevalence in communities**

- Forming and strengthening community groups, such as Community Vigilance Committees. These self-directed groups increase resistance to bonded labour and trafficking, including members from affected families and survivors. There are now consistent signs that community groups themselves are directly demanding access to government schemes and protection mechanisms. Some are addressing the tougher underlying issues, such as land rights.
Focusing on **quality, regularity and intensity of community work**. Field staff are working with the groups on issues that matter the most to them, especially highlighting children’s needs and their access to better education as a way to shift expectations of what is acceptable. Where the work has been more frequent in each community, the results have been increasingly significant.

Achieving **conceptual clarity** by NGO staff and community members. Especially through the participatory prevalence study and **lifestory analysis** (conducted in 2015 with support of the Institute of Development Studies and Praxis), field staff and group members now have a better grasp of what bonded labour and trafficking means, so they’re more able to distinguish when hard, poorly paid labour crosses a line into coercion and abuse. They are more able to identify root causes and propose solutions.

Intentionally **training and building community leadership**, encouraging local leaders to participate in elected village government structures. Women are developing greater local influence through the community freedom groups. Several partners are highly skilled in addressing trafficking and early marriage through women mobilising their communities.

**Federating freedom groups together** at block and district level. This enables local group members to gain a wider policy perspective, give each other mutual support and gain influence with officials on issues that generate bondage and trafficking across many villages.

**Instituting community level systems to track labour migration** and providing information to residents about possible ways to make this safer. The partners’ network (Human Liberty Network) provided migration tracking formats to use across the hotspot.

**Providing post-liberation support** to ensure sustainable freedom.

**Identifying realistic alternative sources of income** for survivors and families vulnerable to bonded labour, and working closely with larger state-sponsored livelihood programs. The rate at which people are finding new income through the program is now four times what it was in 2015, with over a thousand households developing independent income in the first half of 2017. This helps affected families to alter the balance of power within exploitative relationships or in relation to potential traffickers.

Bringing **legal tools** to where they are needed. Investing in the presence of legal outreach workers and legal aid centres nearby ensures better access to basic entitlements, and increases the ability of residents to protect themselves and of survivors to access justice. Partners are successfully supporting prosecutions of perpetrators of trafficking, including focusing on denial of bail for accused. Training of the judiciary is also an important development.

Increasing **access to health services** and developing understanding of preventive health measures and sanitation.
Objective 2: Improving the wider environment for freedom

- Enabling the group of partners to evolve into a highly-active, self-directed network. Able to analyse opportunities and create a collective voice, the Human Liberty Network (HLN) brings essential insights from grassroots experiences.
- Consistent and positive outreach and dialogue with key state departments in Bihar and UP, often leading to trainings for officials such as border police and feeding in to government initiatives such as the online Child Labour Tracking System in Bihar. HLN now has much greater recognition from the state governments, leading, for example, to the Bihar government selecting hotspot partners to run newly-funded shelter homes, and the UP government requesting hotspot partners to lead in establishing six districts as child labour free zones. By submitting evidence on 137 unresolved cases of bonded labour, our partners contributed to a government directive for officials to process all cases of bonded labour.
- Increasing the functionality of existing government systems, such as Anti-Human Trafficking Units and Child Welfare Committees. Results have included Bihar Child Protection Units learning how to prepare individual comprehensive care plans for child trafficking victims.
- Providing ground-level feedback to national legislation and regulations, when requested. This has contributed to the government issuing helpful clarifications on how the rehabilitation payments for bonded labourers should be provided, as well as making improvements in the rules for the Child and Adolescent Labour Act.

Objective 3: Increasing civil society’s capacity

- Conducting exposure visits within the hotspot, highlighting partners’ areas of expertise and promoting cross learning. Developing informal mentoring relationships within the hotspot so that one partner’s specialist experience is used to train another.
- Connecting partners with networks of NGOs in other states to learn together and widen the program’s referral network. Meetings in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka have generated more confident cooperation for identification, rescue and repatriation.
- Sourcing specialist partnerships to provide technical guidance tailored to each partners’ needs.
- Arranging support for NGOs’ organisational growth through highly competent external training agencies and tracking each NGO’s progress using the Freedom Fund’s Organisational Capacity Analysis Tool.

Objective 4: Supporting rigorous research and evaluation

- Using a participatory approach to the hotspot evaluation has helped partners to adapt their programs to be more relevant. Currently, seven NGOs are involved in action research, enabling community members to use local data to diagnose causes of deeply entrenched problems that result in bonded labour, and then decide on their next steps. They document the actions taken and the results, so that emerging strategies can be shared.
b) **Challenges and gaps in strategy and hotspot performance:**

The next phase of the hotspot will develop new approaches to address the following strategic gaps:

**Objective 1: Reducing prevalence in communities**
- Ensuring that all partners work towards clear benchmarks for knowing when they have achieved their main goal of resilience against bonded labour and trafficking in each community.
- There is already a strong focus on enabling communities to challenge gender and caste discrimination, but in some cases this could be made more explicit.
- Helping long-term active community group members (especially former bonded labourers) to develop a perspective that goes beyond their immediate local needs and to have opportunities to be part of a wider movement against trafficking and bonded labour.
- Helping more partners to hold inter-group meetings to address common issues through local officials.
- Seeking to identify additional strategies for people to move out of sexual exploitation, and for violent criminal networks to be closed down.
- Ensuring partners use a systematic case management approach to support each survivor’s recovery. Also, helping communities find ways to integrate and support survivors suffering trauma and depression.

**Objectives 2 & 3: Improving the wider environment for freedom, and increasing civil society’s capacity**
- Helping partners to develop more confidence in collating data and evidence from their work to present to policy makers.
- Helping them to quickly identify wider developments that could be opportunities for greater public attention to trafficking and bonded labour.

**Objective 4: Supporting rigorous research and evaluation**
- Finding more engaging and locally relevant ways to disseminate new research results, so that frontline NGOs are likely to learn about and adopt successful practices.

“I want equal opportunities with my brothers, to go out to distant places to study. To get out of poverty, we need to get our rights. If we push for our rights, we may need legal help. We know we can go to the police station.” Partner NGO Adithi, adolescent girls’ group member describes what she wants for her future.

Photo: G Baumann/Freedom Fund
2. **Current context and trends: Planned adjustments to the program**

a) **Context of trafficking, bonded labour and child labour**

There is a compelling need to continue the hotspot intervention: There has been good progress within the intervention communities, but in our NGO partners’ daily experience and in the evidence from the hotspot’s *lifestory analysis*, we continue to find that families are in recurrent cycles of debt bondage, especially due to health costs and family emergencies, combined with lack of jobs that pay minimum wages. These factors disproportionately affect dalits and adivasis (caste and indigenous groups facing extreme discrimination).

Specific industries remain characterised by the use and “normalisation” of bonded, child or forced labour, such as brick kilns, stone quarries, commercial sex, domestic work and parts of agriculture. A lack of local opportunities and livelihoods results in adolescent boys and young men migrating for work under the control of traffickers, while in some areas girls and young women are recruited primarily into sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Fraudulent and child marriages are often the mechanism for removing girls from the community.

Through the hotspot, hundreds of communities have broken the culture of fear and silence surrounding bondage and trafficking and have become protective spaces. However, other extremely poor hamlets remain easy targets. Their schools are failing dalit children; government anti-poverty schemes get corrupted; and illegal exploitation of labourers brings no risk of punishment. We seek opportunities to expand the reach of the hotspot.

As we begin the next phase of the hotspot, we now have effective models of action at community level and to support wider changes. Importantly, we have the scope for alliance with government leaders in both states. These factors offer a huge opportunity to move towards elimination of these abuses.

In terms of the focus of the work, we will continue to concentrate on child trafficking and child labour, as well as bonded labour. Within this work, the NGOs are placing greater emphasis on tracking labour migration, attempting to make this safer. Going forward, we will have a more articulated gender focus in our hotspot interventions, including increasing our work against sex trafficking (including child sexual exploitation in dancing “orchestra” groups) as well as child marriage. Although there are challenges with focusing on this wide spectrum of forms of bonded labour and trafficking, there is sufficient convergence of underlying approaches and of similar root causes, making overall progress possible.

b) **New trends in the hotspot affecting bonded and child labour and trafficking**

1. **Impact of natural disasters**: Flooding in many of the hotspot districts of Bihar is a perennial cause of vulnerability, deepening indebtedness and triggering higher levels of trafficking because families lose their essential assets and livestock. The 2017 monsoon season brought catastrophic
floods that put communities in even greater risk of trafficking. Meanwhile in districts of Uttar Pradesh, irregular monsoon seasons over three years have threatened people’s livelihoods.

2. Liquor ban in Bihar: Community members report reductions in domestic violence and crime due to the Bihar government’s ban on consumption of alcohol, but it has also brought new forms of trafficking in some areas and new types of hazardous alcohol consumption.

3. New mechanisms of trafficking: Mobile phones are now pervasive and intensively used by traffickers.

4. Governments on a mission: The UP new Chief Minister entered office in 2017 publicly denouncing bonded labour and has insisted on districts working to create child labour free zones. Likewise, the Bihar Chief Minister publicly deplores child labour and child marriage and is expressing concern about use of dowry. Across the policy environment, greater attention to girl child empowerment is emerging. The concern of the two states about trafficking issues is exemplified by:

- Bihar creating the infrastructure for a better statutory response, including a Child Labour Tracking System, through which officials can ensure that every trafficked child receives a wide range of services.

- Bihar has funded new shelter homes with services for trafficked children based on our partners’ model.

- Both states have increased their emphasis on rehabilitation payments.

Yet it remains to be seen whether this leadership will translate to adequate and consistent financing for key services and holding lower level officials to account.

5. New evidence of the scale of the problem: With Freedom Fund support, a San Diego University/Praxis study of the prevalence of child and bonded labour and sex trafficking in Bihar will help in our partnership with the state government, especially in targeting highly-affected districts.

6. New opportunity for collaboration against child trafficking to Rajasthan: The expected launch of a new hotspot in Jaipur increases the need for reintegration and legal services for returning children in Bihar (75-80% of rescued children in Jaipur originate from Bihar). With highly-experienced partners in Bihar, we have the opportunity to create a model of inter-state collaboration.
c) **PLANNED EMPHASIS BETWEEN DIFFERENT HOTSPOT OBJECTIVES**

As shown in the change strategy table below, the hotspot will continue with the same four main objectives. The current balance between community-based work, efforts to improve the wider environment for freedom, partner strengthening and generation of evidence will be continued. Note that the work to improve the wider environment for freedom is an integral part of the community-based partners and Community Freedom Group activities, for example as they work on a daily basis with local and district level officials and with legal systems. Within program funding, the overall two-year budget (excluding Freedom Fund coordination and costs) of approximately $3.6 million will be spent as follows:

![Pie chart showing budget allocation]

- **Community-based partner activities** 83%
- **Improving the wider environment for freedom** 5%
- **Increasing civil society's capacity** 7%
- **Supporting rigorous evaluation** 5%

Although most of the costs will be incurred for local work, much of the partners’ collective work as well as the Freedom Fund’s technical support will be focused on improving the quality of interventions and ensuring that officials are supported in their responsibilities. Also, the chart above does not include the planned completion and dissemination of the San Diego University/Praxis research on prevalence in Bihar.

As partners work more closely with state and national officials, it will be important to maintain deliberate attention and supervision of local community-based activities. This may require greater investment in second line leadership within the NGOs.
d) **Balance at Community Level between Prevention, Liberation, Prosecution and Support for Recovery**

At the community level these aspects of the work are inseparable: Usually, community freedom groups include people at risk, people in the process of liberation as well as survivors, and the group’s work serves all these different needs through strengthening livelihoods, accessing entitlements and promoting legal awareness.

The program will retain a central emphasis on individuals actually coming out of bonded labour, through collective negotiations, gradual transitions and official rescues. At the same time, we will focus on preventive aspects such as residents directly rejecting the influence of traffickers and exploitative brokers in their village, as well as consistently tracking labour migrants. In order to create stronger deterrence, partners will continue to emphasise all the activities that lead to legal convictions against perpetrators, especially on-going support for the survivors, so they are willing to keep going with their case.

e) **Geographic Focus**

Currently the program includes community-based work within 30 districts: 19 districts in Bihar and 11 in Uttar Pradesh, as shown in the map below. 11 of the NGO partners work in Bihar, five in UP (one works in both states).
In terms of the selection of intervention areas, a 2016 prevalence study conducted through partner organisations, with the oversight of Praxis India and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), concluded that the hotspot activities are located in areas with a high prevalence of bonded labour and trafficking. Their analysis of the data concluded that “within the sample of 3,466 households, most households have a member in bonded labour. Among the 51% of the families that had people in bonded labour, 29% had all of the working family members in bonded labour and 22% had at least one enslaved family member. The interventions are clearly in the right spot.” Our partners also have an unusual level of reach into severely marginalized communities, such as Musahar, Kol and Muslim groups, and this should be retained.

In 2018 - 2019, if sufficient funds are available, we will identify at least one additional partner to work in areas of high prevalence in UP. There is a significant need to address bonded labour and trafficking in other areas in the eastern part of UP, and we have seen the greater impact that is possible due to having a large cluster of partners in Bihar. We would especially like to increase the partner network based in UP.

In the existing communities where partners are working, further efforts are needed. In 2018 - 2019, more of our partners will use the Community Maturity Tool to understand progress towards community resilience and to assess when they can reduce the intensity of NGO presence in a community. When this happens, they can reach new communities. In addition, we will encourage some partners to expand their work into new hamlets. With additional funding, we would request partners to extend their reach while sustaining the comprehensive nature of their intervention.

3. PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

A) NGO PARTNER SELECTION, AND ACCESS TO SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

We continuously review the performance of funded NGO partners, and we will offer continued support to each of the 15 community-based NGOs that we currently work with. As noted, we would like to identify an additional partner based in UP and preferably able to undertake work against commercial sexual exploitation in an area of high concentration. The cross-learning and mentoring within HLN is based on having a diversity of expertise among these groups, and we also expect to have ongoing partnerships with specialist NGOs offering practical assistance on legal work, livelihoods, research, communications with policy makers, and health. We may add another specialist agency to assist with community-based responses to trauma and depression.

B) CONNECTIONS WITH NETWORKS IN OTHER AREAS AND WITH OTHER MOVEMENTS

We will continue to put in place direct relationships with NGOs and networks in other states, to facilitate rescue, return and reintegration as well as to expose our partners to new methods. Our partners helped set up and are represented within the Interim Working Group (IWG), a network through which NGOs and survivor groups from eight different states are developing public support for the government’s Trafficking in Persons Bill.
We will encourage assessment by the partners about the most productive issues for the IWG to focus on. As needs and opportunities arise, we will help partners link with other movements with shared objectives such as land rights, women’s rights, and right to education. We will also help them ensure that large national mission programs (adolescent empowerment, livelihoods etc) are working effectively among the highly marginalised groups served by our partners.

4. PROPOSED HOTSPOT CHANGE STRATEGY, 2018 – 2019

| Objectives | Planned Outcomes | Main Outcome and Output indicators | 2 year Targets for these indicators¹
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective 1:</strong> Reduce prevalence of these forms of exploitation in the specific communities in which FF partners are working through direct prevention, protection, and prosecution.</td>
<td>1.1: Strengthened community structures and empowerment of affected population</td>
<td># active Community Freedom Groups supported</td>
<td>1,300 Community Freedom Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># Communities achieving “maturity”²</td>
<td>40 communities achieve maturity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.2: Families are more economically resilient</td>
<td># of individuals who earn new income or start a micro-enterprise</td>
<td>3,000 individuals earn new income or start a micro-enterprise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of individuals accessing new government services that reduce vulnerability</td>
<td>13,000 individuals gain access to new government services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3: Children are in school, not work</td>
<td># at-risk or previously enslaved children enrolled in school</td>
<td>4,000 children enrolled in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4: People are liberated from slavery³</td>
<td># of slavery victims liberated with support for recovery</td>
<td>5,400 victims liberated with support for recovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.5: Increased number of arrests and convictions of perpetrators</td>
<td># legal cases supported on behalf of victims</td>
<td>900 legal cases supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of arrests</td>
<td>150 arrests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of convictions</td>
<td>30 convictions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities with increased focus:
- Helping households to **recover sources of livelihood lost during recent flooding**. Increasing access to market-based independent sources of income, and links to government livelihood programs.
- Increasing **activities related to safer migration**, and continuing to undertake cross-border anti-trafficking initiatives.
- Collaborating more directly with NGOs in several other states to ensure smooth **inter-state repatriation of survivors**.
- Providing more **systematic support for survivor reintegration** through giving partners the opportunity to use mobile phone/online case management systems; helping group members to know more about trauma and depression.
- Intensifying outreach about the **risks of child marriage**.
- Building **understanding of health, sanitation, and local public health resources**.
- **Strengthening legal services provided to the community** through partner-run legal aid centres and district legal services authorities.
- **Increasing understanding of effective responses within brick kilns**.
- Enabling more partners to **focus local work on communities achieving slavery free status**, Using the learning from the action research.

¹ Targets will be adjusted based on combining NGOs’ workplan targets for two years.
² Additional partners will be trained to use the “community maturity tool”.
³ This could be through one-time rescue event or fundamental change in relationship with their employer.
| Objective 2: Improve the wider enabling environment for freedom through collective action and improving the effectiveness of government. |
|---|---|---|
| 2.1: Improved effectiveness of government structures against bonded labour and trafficking | Evidence that authorities take demonstrable action to implement better procedures. # significant changes in public policy | Qualitative descriptions of changes in implementation. |
| 2.2: Increased participation and leadership beyond community level by affected families and survivors | Evidence of increased policy engagement by former bonded labourers, trafficking survivors and their families. | Qualitative descriptions of their engagement |
| 2.3: Heightened public awareness of bonded labour and trafficking | # media articles generated | 120 media stories generated |

**Activities with increased focus:**
- *Bringing community-level data to government officials,* to give better access to government schemes and to activate official protective bodies.
- *Supporting clusters of community groups to federate* in order to improve performance of government protective services.
- *Strengthening HLN* as an effective partner-led collaboration and developing a more formal structure.
- *Training relevant government departments.*
- *Pursuing better cross-border government arrangements with Nepal.*
- *Bringing grassroots expertise to national policies* through consolidating the Interim Working Group (IWG) and considering expanding its mandate.
- *Increasing community member and survivors’ scope for engaging with wider policies and implementation,* if interested, including through the IWG.

| Objective 3: Increase civil society’s capacity for sustained and effective action on these issues. |
|---|---|---|
| 3.1: Increased capacity of individual partner NGOs in relation to their work against bonded labour and trafficking. | # individual partners taking substantial actions to enhance their own organisational capacity | 15 partners take substantial actions to enhance their capacity |
| 3.2: Increased capacity of HLN to determine priorities, strategies and a sustainable structure | Evidence of well-reasoned selection of policy support priorities and methods. | Qualitative descriptions of these priorities and methods |

**Activities with increased focus:**
- *Using the Organisational Capacity Analysis Tool* to take action on building stronger organisations and continue to build field staff’s group facilitation skills.
- *Organising exposure visits and mentorship relationships* to learn new methods.
- *Building skills and confidence for state and national government dialogue,* including *learning how to work with survivor groups* that want to do this work.
- *Increasing India-based funding through accessing CSR funds.*
Objective 4: Contribute new evidence to the global movement through supporting rigorous research and evaluation in the hotspot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Effective anti-trafficking and bonded labour interventions researched and identified within the hotspot and disseminated to key audiences.</td>
<td>Action research highlights a range of relevant ways to overcome field-level challenges to reducing bonded labour and trafficking. Independent hotspot evaluation report is published, including overall evaluation findings and estimated change in prevalence rates in communities. Qualitative descriptions of the strategies that emerged. Dissemination to practitioners and other funders of high quality report including evaluation findings and change in prevalence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities with increased focus:
- Carrying out follow-up community-based prevalence study.
- Increasing uptake of new strategies arising from research findings through the partners’ network and beyond. This will include bringing results of the San Diego University/Praxis prevalence study into dialogue with Bihar government.

Community freedom group member with partner NIRDESH, who explained: “Previously it was very difficult to live, but now for the food we need, we feel free from any difficulty. We never had any time. Our children were not going to school, and instead were working with us. Now we can choose the hours we work and we can send them to school. Earlier we used to just get 4 kg of grain and now we get money.”

Image: Ginny Baumann/Freedom Fund
5. Monitoring and Evaluation, Strategic Learning

As a well-established and dynamic hotspot, the Northern India program offers substantial opportunities for ongoing learning about evidence-based practices. The partners’ relative confidence in tracking their fieldwork also provides a sound basis for monitoring outcomes and program performance. Our partners’ collective commitment to changing the underlying systems that drive bonded labour also enables the Freedom Fund to build experience of tracking policy and implementation impacts.

In terms of monitoring partners’ ongoing work, the hotspot will continue to use the same system of program planning, six monthly reporting and collection of partner and Global Metrics.

The independent evaluation by IDS and Praxis will continue, with action research feeding into adaptation of local strategies (reporting in summer 2018). A follow-up prevalence study carried out by partners with IDS/Praxis validation in late 2019 will measure changes in levels of trafficking, bonded labour and child labour in intervention communities since 2016. IDS and Praxis will also carry out interviews in 2019 to understand the effectiveness of the work from the perspective of participants, survivors, partners and officials, feeding into the final evaluation.

The IDS evaluation has been specifically designed to ensure on-going integration of learning into program activities. Also, the results of their evaluation will be publicly available through the Freedom Fund website, and, as with the other research studies, it will be disseminated through a wide range of networks in India and globally.

The San Diego/Praxis study of prevalence across Bihar will contribute to understanding the extent of bonded labour and trafficking in the state and to global understanding of how to undertake large-scale surveys on these issues. During the next two years, we may also undertake at least one smaller study within the hotspot, for example, to learn more about the outcomes of reintegration for survivors.
## 6. Risk Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>External risks</th>
<th>Level of risk to program impact</th>
<th>Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcomes of the program are threatened by flooding and environmental factors that increase vulnerability to exploitation.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Ensure high level of community protective mobilization; build partners’ capacity to activate government relief and recovery systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National election in April 2019: Some program activities may have to pause due to election regulations.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>With good planning, other aspects of program work can be prioritized during the affected period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued high turnover of officials at every level, so that rapport building and training has to be repeated.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>With active government leaders, the systems of government protection and response are becoming more institutionalized, surviving changes in position holders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Internal

| Some partners lack second-tier leadership, relying heavily on one or two people to raise funds and run programs. | Moderate                     | Strong emphasis on capacity building and ongoing learning will tend to support emergence of confident second-tier staff, ready to take up leadership tasks. |
| Collective work by hotspot partners has defined essential standards to be used by all partners during rescue and reintegration, but enabling survivors to make their own decisions still needs to fully take root with some partners. | Low                           | This will be a continued focus for the hotspot, with ongoing dialogue about practical implications of these shared norms. |
| Partners work in an environment where informal payments and forms of corruption are pervasive. Corruption of field staff or management is a potential risk. | Moderate                     | The Freedom Fund has effective systems for early identification of and response to such problems. Partners are clear about our zero tolerance stance toward corruption and fraud. We are also encouraging partners to regularly reflect across their organizations about their values of integrity as a foundation for combating exploitation. |
7. Hotspot overall budget for 2018 - 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2018 and 2019 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants to partners, capacity building grants, work with government</td>
<td>$3,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and research*</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Fund partner coordination, capacity building, travel, staffing and management (in-country and international)</td>
<td>$770,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,400,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not including 2018 Bihar prevalence study.

8. Map showing the states where the hotspot is located

Map showing the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The hotspot is in eastern Uttar Pradesh and northern and central Bihar.
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