A black and white photograph of several hands clasped together in a supportive grip, serving as the background for the text.

LEARNING FROM NGOS' APPROACHES TO MODERN SLAVERY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

**SURVEY REPORT
NOVEMBER 2022**

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Acknowledgements

This initiative would not have been possible without the contributions of civil society organizations in the Southeast Asia region. Free the Slaves is grateful for the time dedicated during the research process from the initial pilot to the final report. In addition, we appreciate the efforts of the following Free the Slaves members and their significant role in the design, collection, and documentation of the research: Romcy Madronio, Southeast Asia Regional Manager, Lianet Rosado, Research Program Coordinator, Miguel Christian Anthony Mendoza, Southeast Asia Development Intern and Bryon Lippincott, Communications Manager.

Glossary

Alliance 8.7	A global partnership committed to achieving Target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
AHT	Anti-Human Trafficking
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBO	Community-based organization
CSO	Civil society organization
FBO	Faith-based organization
FTS	Free the Slaves
HT	Human Trafficking
ILO	International Labor Organization
INGO	International non-governmental organization
MSHT	Modern slavery and human trafficking
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSEC	Online Sexual Exploitation of Children
Palermo Protocol	A United Nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in human beings, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols
SEA	Southeast Asia
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Executive Summary

Free the Slaves is an international nongovernmental organization addressing modern slavery through a community-based approach grounded in its Community Liberation Model. FTS collaborates with civil society organizations around the world to promote activities that raise awareness and mobilize communities, protect survivors, enforce the rule of law, and provide essential services that create resilience to modern slavery.

As a way of understanding the relevance of the community-based approach in the Southeast Asia region within the existing anti-human trafficking response, FTS launched a small-scale quantitative survey consisting of a semi-structured questionnaire generating evidence on organizations':

1. organizational and geographical profiles,
2. conceptualizations of modern slavery,
3. capacities to address modern slavery, and
4. interest in comprehensive approaches through prevention, the protection of victims, the prosecution of offenders, and partnerships.

The survey was piloted with 5 organizations and saw the participation of 64 representatives of civil society organizations involved in the anti-human trafficking response.

Key findings include:

- Most of the organizations address modern slavery through capacity building, advocacy, and service provision;
- Organizational priorities align with the perceived degree of prevalence of various forms of modern slavery, the exception being labor trafficking, which is regarded as the most prevalent form of human trafficking yet is second to sex trafficking in organizations' scope of work;
- The majority of the organizations cater to children (90.2%) and women (82.0%), approximately half cater to migrant workers (49.2%) and ethnic or racial minorities (42.6%), and a limited number assist the elderly (27.9%), LGBTQI+ persons (21.3%), refugees (21.3%), and religious minorities (18.0%);
- 67.2% of respondents mentioned their organization had been trained on forms of modern slavery. Among the 32.8% that had never been trained, 55% had implemented projects or activities to counteract labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and forced labor;
- Most of the respondents are familiar with international and regional instruments such as the UDHR, the Convention, which includes the Palermo Protocol, Forced Labor Convention No. 29, CEDAW, and the ASEAN Convention;
- 69.4% of respondents mentioned never having heard of Alliance 8.7;
- 71% of respondents felt they were familiar with anti-human trafficking networks in their region;

- There is a consensus that exploitation and compulsion are two critical elements of modern slavery. However, only a few respondents alluded to the involuntary nature of modern slavery;
- Organizations aspire to address human trafficking through the expansion of victim-centered (70.5%) and community-centered (68.9%) approaches. Fewer organizations plan to adopt trauma-centered (36.1%), law enforcement-centered (29.5%), government-centered (29.5%), and business-centered (21.3%) approaches; and
- There is wider interest in attending a regional forum (98.4%) rather than a capacity building training (87.1%).

Based on the findings, the study highlights 10 recommendations for organizations in the Southeast Asia region to strengthen the response against modern slavery:

1. Promote multi-faceted anti-modern slavery programs that foster justice system transformation, coordination and collaboration through coalitions and networks, and advocacy at the national level;
2. Inquire into the reasons why organizations are prioritizing certain approaches (victim-centered and community-centered) as opposed to others (trauma-centered, law enforcement-centered, government-centered, and business-centered);
3. Increase resources and programs devoted to addressing human trafficking among vulnerable populations, in particular, refugees, LGBTQI+ persons, religious minorities, and the elderly;
4. Identify strategies to bridge gaps in organizations' scope of work and address the factors contributing to these for a sustainable response;
5. Undertake nuanced research on the prevalence of diverse modalities of modern slavery and the factors contributing to organizations' responses to these;
6. Ensure greater access to training and capacity building among organizations and individuals;
7. Tailor training and capacity building initiatives to discuss anti-modern slavery legislation and other instruments in-depth to facilitate greater access to justice;
8. Continue discussions at the regional level on modern slavery, its relevant terminologies, indicators, and components, especially surrounding compulsion and consent;
9. Establish greater cohesion between the regional and global movements through awareness of and involvement in global partnerships; and
10. Strengthen the anti-modern slavery movement through regional forums as well as other initiatives.

Introduction

Free the Slaves (FTS) is an international organization with 22 years of experience combatting modern slavery in the Americas, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia through a community-based approach. In recent years, FTS has been increasingly expanding its programs and activities in areas with a high prevalence of modern slavery. In 2020, FTS expanded its activities to Southeast Asia –a region home to some of the most vulnerable populations in the world. The region’s vast economic opportunities have created a demand for cheap labor, which has, in turn, fueled the growth of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Recent estimates on the prevalence of modern slavery in Asia and the Pacific indicate that approximately 29.3 million persons are trapped in forced labor and forced marriage alone.¹

FTS is committed to fighting forms of extreme exploitation by working with local partners to raise awareness, protect victims, and bring traffickers to justice. FTS’ programmatic initiatives are grounded in four strategies: 1) research, 2) partnerships and services, 3) training and capacity building, and 4) advocacy. Through research, FTS is identifying evidence-based, innovative approaches to empower a wide range of stakeholders at the local, national, and regional levels to combat and eradicate modern slavery forms. The following research is part of a series of small-scale surveys launched to understand the modern slavery landscape at the regional level from the perspectives of civil society organizations (CSOs).

Through this research, Free the Slaves and other organizations will have a better understanding of the characteristics pertinent to organizations in Southeast Asia, including their:

- organizational and geographical profiles,
- conceptualizations of modern slavery,
- capacities to address modern slavery, and
- interest in comprehensive approaches through prevention, the protection of victims, the prosecution of offenders, and partnerships.

The findings herein provide organizations like FTS with an indication of the current state of knowledge and approaches of CSOs addressing modern slavery in Southeast Asia. These can inform programs and strategies in the region and ensure that anti-modern slavery ventures are holistic, address existing gaps, further capacities to address the issue, and drive the anti-modern slavery movement at the regional level. The study provides a foundation for the organization’s future efforts in Southeast Asia by highlighting key observations and recommendations that emerged from the study, particularly surrounding:

¹ International Labour Organization, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration. 2022. Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. <https://www.walk-free.org/reports/global-estimates-of-modern-slavery-2022/>

- the need for additional programs focusing on justice system transformation;
- tailored training and capacity building;
- multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration;
- national and regional advocacy; and
- research on the prevalence of modern slavery and the factors contributing to organizations' responses.

It is expected that the knowledge generated will lead to greater reflection on existing responses in the region and facilitate a strengthened response by informing anti-trafficking programs that reduce individual and structural vulnerabilities. Although generalizations should not be extrapolated from the findings reported in this document, the findings can provide organizations in the region with an indication of where the anti-modern slavery response stands with regard to the themes discussed.

Methodology

Research Methods

This study was undertaken through a semi-structured survey disseminated online to over 200 civil society organizations across the region and advertised on social media channels for higher visibility. The survey consisted of 29 questions with a wide range of response types, including multiple-choice, multiple selections, drag and drop ranking, Likert, slider list, and open-ended short responses. Prior to the survey launch, FTS piloted the questionnaire with 5 CSOs to obtain their input and suggestions regarding the design. The survey was available in English and Vietnamese, as requested by several respondents in Viet Nam. The research findings represent the perspectives of 64 civil society organizations that operate in the region. The data was collected and analyzed via a survey platform with high reliability for quantitative analysis. Following these results and findings, FTS plans to engage in in-depth discussions with organizations in the region to understand the particular challenges and needs and engage in potential responses that will effectively counter modern slavery in the region.

Limitations

The primary limitations that are evident in the study correspond with the limitations of online survey research. The low response rate of online surveys means that the final sample size will often be small, leading to an inability to generalize the findings. In addition, all of the responses reflect the perceptions of civil society organizations, including some of whom do not identify as anti-modern slavery organizations. As a result of these considerations, the team had to assume caution when interpreting the responses. When reviewing the findings, readers should also consider these considerations and understand that these findings are representative of a small pool of civil society organizations operating in Southeast Asia and may not be reflective of wider perceptions.

Findings

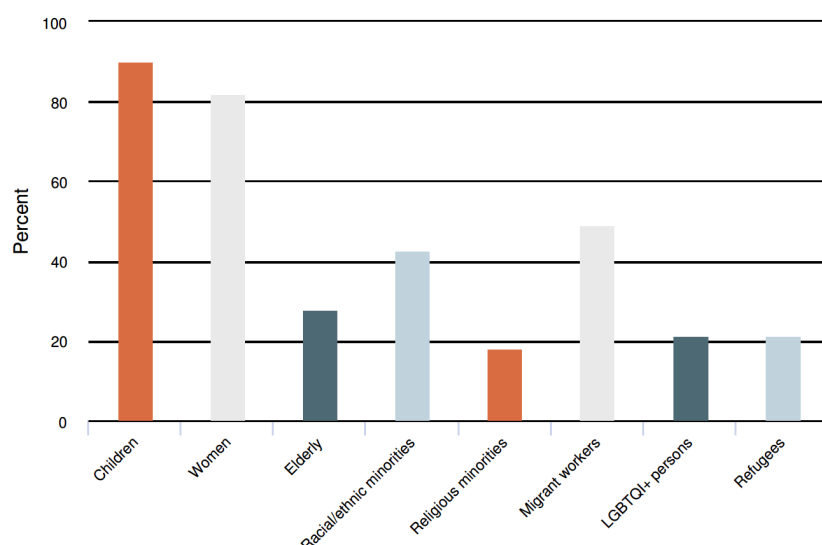
Participant and Organizational Profile

87.1% of the respondents represented organizations with headquarters or central offices in Southeast Asia, while 12.9% were headquartered outside the region in North America, Africa, Europe, and East Asia. All Southeast Asian countries were represented, although no organization was headquartered in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The other represented organizations were headquartered in the United States, Canada, Geneva, Hong Kong, South Africa, Switzerland, or Australia.

31.1% of respondents represented international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), 27.9% community-based organizations, 13.1% faith-based organizations, and 11.5% national non-governmental organizations. 16.4% represented other types of organizations such as civil society organizations, international non-profit business organizations, national human rights institutions, or social enterprises.

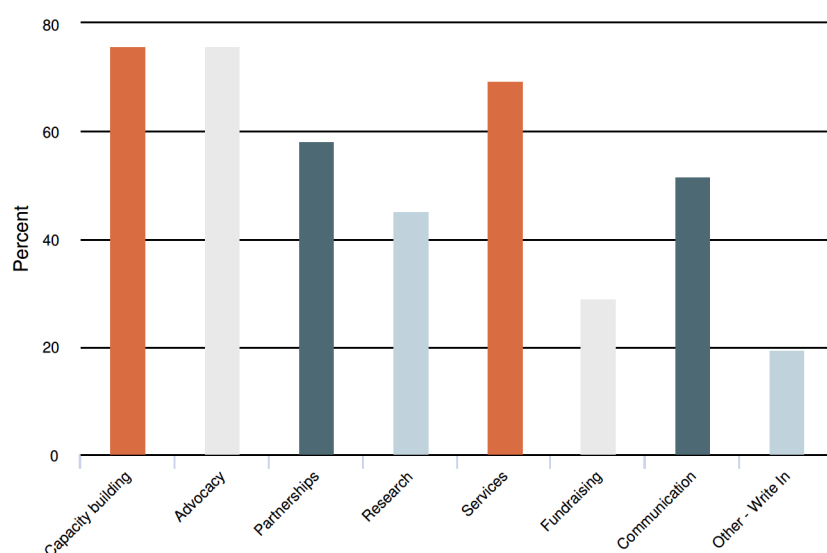
Most organizations cater to children (90.2%) and women (82.0%). Almost half cater to migrant workers (49.2%) and ethnic or racial minorities (42.6%). A limited number of organizations assist the elderly (27.9%), LGBTQI+ persons (21.3%), refugees (21.3%), and religious minorities (18.0%). The inclusion of refugees in the bottom tier is concerning, considering that more than 1 million Rohingya refugees have been displaced in the region and forced into neighboring countries such as Thailand and Malaysia. Even when disaggregating the responses and considering representatives of Thai, Myanmarese, and Malaysian organizations, only 31.3% cater to refugees. This draws into question the extent to which anti-human trafficking organizations address the issue among refugee populations and whether sufficient resources are being allocated for this purpose.

Figure 1. Organizations' primary beneficiaries/target audiences



The organizations engaged in a diverse number of activities in the areas of: capacity building, advocacy, services, partnerships, communication, research, fundraising, community development, and education. Other specific activities include: healthcare and welfare, legal aid, protection and prevention, data collection and risk assessment, complaint handling, in-person monitoring, rehabilitation and aftercare, and transnational collaboration. The majority of the organizations focus on advocacy (75.8%), capacity building (75.8%), services (69.4%), partnerships (58.1%), and communication (51.6%).

Figure 2. Organizations' key areas of work



58.1% of respondents are in high-level positions in their respective organizations, occupying managerial or directing positions, while 35.5% hold positions as assistants, coordinators, and officers. The remaining hold another role category.

With respect to tenure, 38.1% of the respondents have been with their organization for 0 to 4 years, 36.5% for 5 to 9 years, while the remaining 25.3% for at least 10 years.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Experience

Modern Slavery Forms

83.9% of the respondents have current or prior experience implementing projects or activities that counteract forms of modern slavery. These projects were conducted across the Southeast Asia region, with the exception of Laos PDR. One organization implemented anti-modern slavery activities in South Africa in addition to Southeast Asia. The majority of the organizations focus on addressing sex trafficking (80%), labor trafficking (70%), and forced labor (62%). On the other hand, organ trafficking (14.0%), orphan trafficking (20.0%), bride trafficking (34.0%), and forced marriage (36.0%) are the least addressed by organizations surveyed.

When asked to identify the most prevalent forms of modern slavery in the region, respondents ranked labor trafficking as the most prevalent form, followed closely by sex trafficking, and forced labor. Other moderately prevalent forms include the online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), debt bondage/bonded labor, bride trafficking, and the worst forms of child labor. The least prevalent forms include domestic servitude, forced marriage, orphan trafficking, and organ trafficking.

Comparing Figures 3 and 4 below, it can be noted that from CSOs' perspectives, the focus of organizations corresponds with their perceived degree of prevalence of various forms of modern slavery, with the exception being labor trafficking, which is regarded as the most prevalent form of human trafficking yet is second to sex trafficking in organizations' scope of work. The organizations have dedicated their resources to the most rampant forms while addressing some of the less prevalent ones.

Figure 3. Forms of modern slavery addressed by organizations

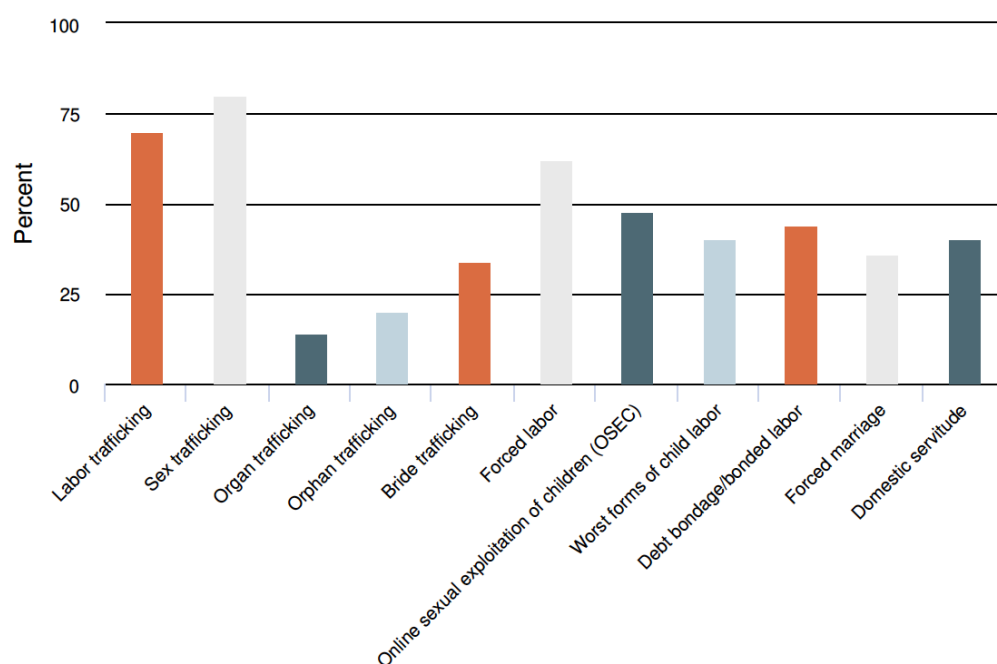
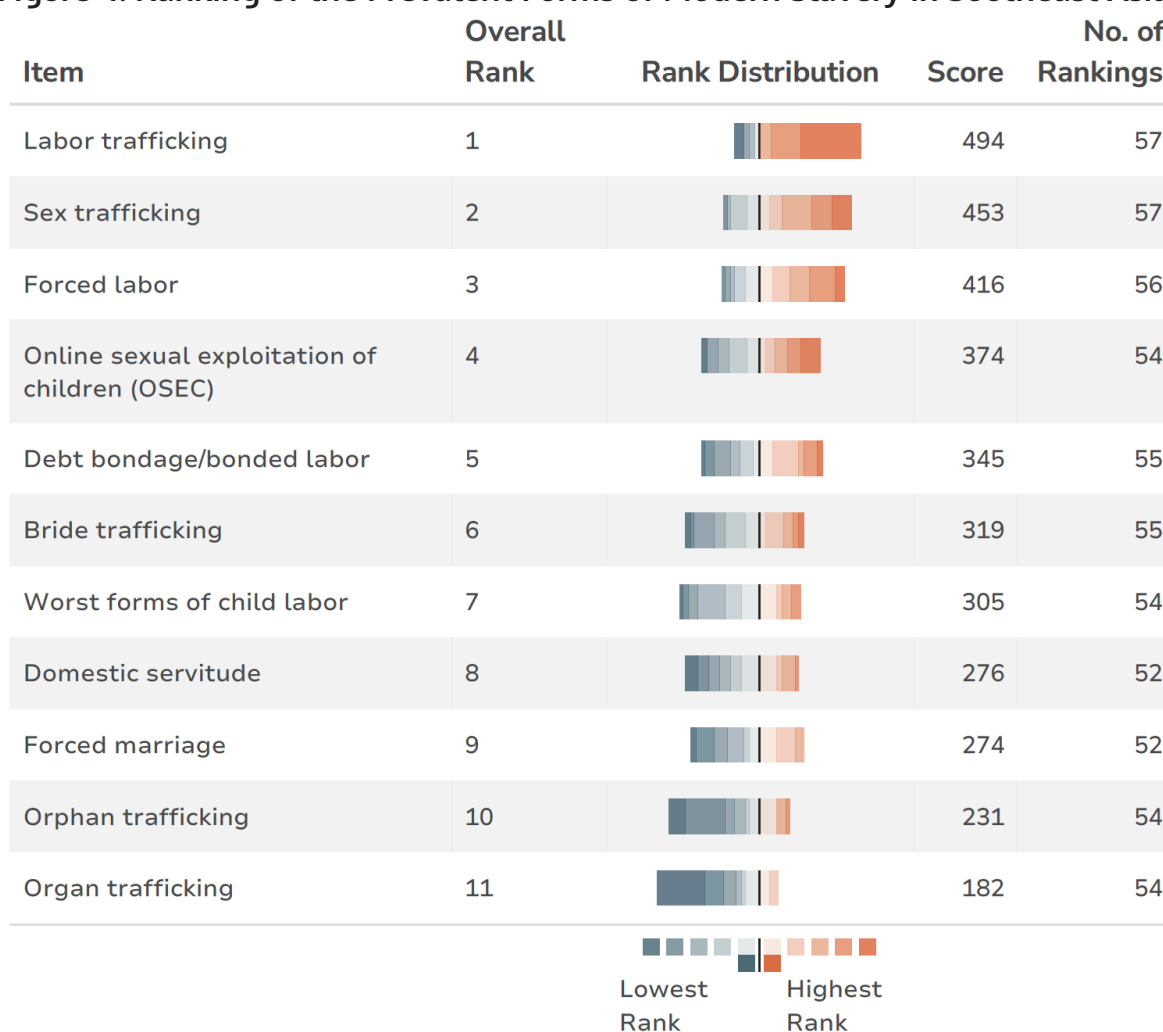


Figure 4. Ranking of the Prevalent Forms of Modern Slavery in Southeast Asia



Anti-Modern Slavery Capacity

Only 67.2% of respondents mentioned having received training on human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery. The training providers included national and foreign government agencies, international organizations, and universities. Among the 32.8% of organizations that have never received anti-modern slavery specific training, 55% had implemented projects or activities to counteract modern slavery, particularly labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and forced labor. This insight raises the need for increased capacity building among organizations so that prospective interventions can effectively address existing forms of modern slavery.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Knowledge

International and Regional Human Rights and Human Trafficking Instruments

Respondents were asked about their familiarity with international instruments, namely: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

(the Convention), which includes the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol), Forced Labor Convention No. 29, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons 2015.

Figure 5: Organizations' familiarity with international and regional instruments.

	Not at all familiar, I have never heard of it.	Slightly familiar, I have heard of it but have not read or discussed its contents.	Somewhat familiar, I have read or discussed its contents vaguely.	Moderately familiar, I have read and discussed its contents vaguely.	Extremely familiar, I have read and discussed its contents in-depth.	Responses
Universal Declaration of Human Rights Count Row %	2 3.2%	6 9.7%	11 17.7%	29 46.8%	14 22.6%	62
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto Count Row %	3 4.8%	12 19.4%	18 29.0%	21 33.9%	8 12.9%	62
Forced Labor Convention No.29 Count Row %	9 14.5%	16 25.8%	14 22.6%	16 25.8%	7 11.3%	62
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Count Row %	4 6.5%	11 17.7%	13 21.0%	24 38.7%	10 16.1%	62
ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons 2015 Count Row %	4 6.5%	18 29.0%	15 24.2%	16 25.8%	9 14.5%	62

Among those who indicated being extremely familiar with the conventions, having read and discussed the contents in-depth, the conventions most read and discussed, in order of greatest to least, are as follows: the UDHR (22.6%), CEDAW (16.1%), ASEAN Convention (14.5%), the Convention (12.9%), and the Forced Labor Convention No.29 (11.3%). A greater number of respondents indicated being moderately familiar as opposed to extremely familiar with all of the aforementioned conventions. The UDHR (46.8%), CEDAW (38.7%), and the Convention (33.9%) were the three most prominent conventions that respondents had read and discussed vaguely.

A small percentage of respondents indicated being not at all familiar with the conventions, having never heard of them. Respondents indicated being unfamiliar with the following conventions: Forced Labor Convention No.29 (14.5%), CEDAW (6.5%), ASEAN Convention (6.5%), the Convention (4.8%), and the UDHR (3.2%). Of those unfamiliar with the ASEAN Convention, 75% had been with their organization for 0-4 years. The majority (55.6%) of those extremely familiar with this convention had been with their organization for 5-9 years. 66.7% of respondents unfamiliar with the Convention had been with their organization for 0-4 years, while 50% who were extremely familiar with the same had been with their organization for the same period. Among respondents not at all familiar with the Forced Labor Convention No.29, 55.6% had only been with their organization for 0-4 years, while among those who indicated being extremely familiar with the same, the majority (42.9%) had been with their organization for 5-9 years and 28.6% for 0-4 years. An equal number of respondents (50%) who were either unfamiliar with CEDAW or the UDHR had been with their organization for 0-4 years and 5-9 years. 42.9% of respondents extremely familiar with the UDHR had been with their organization for 5-9 years. This figure is slightly higher among those extremely familiar with the CEDAW, at 50%.

In general terms, 38.7% of those who expressed their familiarity with these conventions had been with their organization for 0-4 years, while 37.1% for 5-9 years. However, this is not reflected among those who indicated being not at all familiar with the conventions. It seems that the time employed with an organization is a contributing factor to familiarity with at least the ASEAN Convention, the Convention, the Forced Labor Convention No.29, and the UDHR, perhaps as a result of direct exposure to anti-modern slavery legislation and instruments. This may be especially relevant for persons working in organizations specializing in anti-human trafficking who initially had little to no knowledge of legal instruments but have acquired an understanding of these over time through their work.

Respondents were asked to indicate whether consent is relevant in cases where a person is exploited through fraudulent or forceful means to gauge familiarity with the Palermo Protocol. In line with the Palermo Protocol*, 39.7% responded that in such cases, consent is irrelevant. *The Palermo Protocol states: "(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used." 60.3% of respondents indicated that consent is either not or sometimes relevant, even in such cases.

After disaggregating according to familiarity with the Convention (which includes the Palermo Protocol), 33.3% of those who expressed being either not at all familiar or slightly familiar with the Convention expressed that consent is not relevant. Among those respondents who indicated being extremely familiar with the Convention, 37.5% indicated that consent is irrelevant, and 62.5% indicated that consent is relevant. Among the moderately familiar, 57.1% indicated that consent is irrelevant, while 42.8% that consent is either relevant or sometimes relevant. These results are not representative of the assumption that those with a richer understanding of human trafficking as defined in the Palermo Protocol will also be more likely to indicate that consent is irrelevant.

Among those who feel moderately or extremely familiar with the Convention, over 75% indicated their organization had previously been trained on human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery. Some of the trainers included international and national NGOs, law enforcement, and government agencies. Of those expressing slight familiarity with the Convention, 66.7% indicated their organization had been trained, and among those not at all familiar, 33.3% indicated their organization had been trained.

Modern Slavery Legislation

In terms of familiarity with the modern slavery legislation of their organization's country of operation, the majority of respondents (51.6%) indicated being moderately familiar with the national legislation on human trafficking, slavery, forced labor, child labor, etc. 19.4% indicated being somewhat familiar, 17.7% being extremely familiar, 6.5% being slightly familiar, and 4.8% not at all familiar. Of those either not at all familiar or slightly familiar, 85.7% had been with their organization for 0-4 years. They also tended to not be familiar or be slightly familiar with international and regional conventions. When asked about the relevance of consent, 85.8% expressed that consent is or is sometimes relevant in cases where a person is exploited through fraudulent or forceful means.

Overall, it appears that respondents are more familiar with national legislation than international and regional instruments related to modern slavery; 69.3% of respondents expressed being moderately or extremely familiar with national legislation, an average 52% with international instruments, and 40.3% with a regional instrument. However, the differences in familiarity regarding these instruments are 11.7, 17.3, and 29 points, with a wider gap in familiarity between regional and national instruments.

Global Modern Slavery Movement

The survey also captured respondents' familiarity with the global modern slavery movement by gauging their familiarity with Alliance 8.7. –a global partnership for eradicating forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor around the world under SDG Target 8.7. When asked whether they had heard of Alliance 8.7, 69.4% said they had never heard of the Alliance. Given that the only Southeast Asian country that is a pathfinder country within the Alliance is Viet Nam, these

results are not unusual. However, when isolating responses to those representing organizations headquartered in Viet Nam alone, a similar percentage (64.7%) expressed never having heard of the Alliance. Among those with knowledge of the Alliance, 57.3% are involved in a managerial, directing, or founding role within their organization, and 89.5% had been with their organization for at least 5 years. 15% of respondents who had heard of the Alliance also had attended the 2021 Southeast Asia Regional Freedom From Slavery Forum organized by FTS, where a presentation of the Alliance was made. Taking this into consideration, it is possible that the percentage of organizations with knowledge of the Alliance may be lower in actuality.

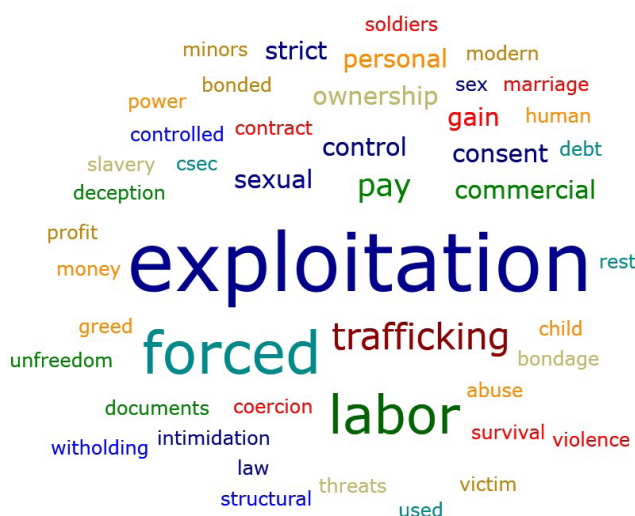
Regional Modern Slavery Networks

Despite indicating a high level of unfamiliarity with the global partnership, 71% of respondents felt they were either moderately or extremely familiar with anti-human trafficking networks in their region. Only 16.2% indicated being not at all familiar or slightly familiar with these networks. 12.9% indicated being somewhat familiar. This may reflect a greater familiarity with regional as opposed to global partnerships and may also be a good indicator of the organizations' coordination and/or collaboration with networks at the regional level.

Conceptualizations of Modern Slavery

The survey indicated that 80% of representatives of organizations in Southeast Asia agree with Free the Slaves' definition of modern slavery: "A person who is forced to work, without pay other than barest subsistence, under threat of violence, who cannot walk away." Among those who agree, 38.3% strongly agree, and 41.7% agree. 16.6% disagreed with this definition, and 3.3% felt neutral. Since FTS was the driver of the research and some of the organizations represented have participated in previous engagements with the organization, it is important to interpret this finding with caution, as there is a likelihood that some respondents may have been more hesitant to disagree. 75.8% of respondents belong to organizations that formally define or list modern slavery practices in writing. Among those organizations, modern slavery is defined as an umbrella term that includes practices such as forced labor and human trafficking. Some organizations do not define modern slavery but include definitions of human trafficking that correspond with the Palermo Protocol definition. One organization, in particular, has built in modern slavery in organizational policies like Do No Harm and Child Protection policies.

Figure 6: Conceptualizing the definitions of modern slavery



When asked to define “modern slavery,” the answers varied from one respondent to the other and, in most cases, were unique, with the exception of sharing common elements regarding exploitation, compulsion, trafficking, and labor. Most respondents (50%) agreed that modern slavery refers to exploitative practices, with an additional number specifying that it refers to exploitation for personal or commercial gain and motivated by profit and greed. 40% of the responses included specific references to acknowledged forms of modern slavery such as: forced labor, human trafficking, debt bondage, bonded labor, forced marriage, the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), and the use of child soldiers. This corresponds with a conceptualization of modern slavery as an umbrella term constituting of a range of exploitative practices. However, some responses were particular in their specification and highlighted instances of sexual and labor exploitation alone, forgoing the possibility of forms such as forced marriage as part of the umbrella. There is a common thread throughout the responses in that none provided a comprehensive definition for modern slavery and instead, alluded to terminologies that are already defined at the legal level, such as human trafficking, forced labor, bonded labor, etc. Defining modern slavery through terms such as human trafficking may not be an effective approach from a practical or theoretical standpoint as it fails to represent the nuanced characteristics of each.

In 30% of the responses, there was an allusion to the monetary element, where a person receives little to no pay and where the crime is motivated by personal or commercial profit and greed. The means used by exploiters that respondents listed were the use of threats, exertion of control over a person, coercion, deception, violence, intimidation, and abuse of power. Some respondents mentioned that a lack of consent characterizes modern slavery. In some cases, conditions such as unfreedom/ownership by another, lack of rest, the withholding of documents, and changes in contracts are evident.

10% acknowledged that modern slavery is not a legally defined or used term in their respective country, which may question the relevance of defining the term in those contexts.

Overall, there is consensus that exploitation and compulsion are two critical elements of modern slavery. However, there was also an acknowledgment that modern slavery is a result of structural factors (such as unemployment, lack of social security, etc.) that place persons in conditions of vulnerability and force them into exploitation as a form of survival. It appears that the involuntary nature of modern slavery continues to be a less prominent belief, even among organizations specializing in eradicating modern slavery practices.

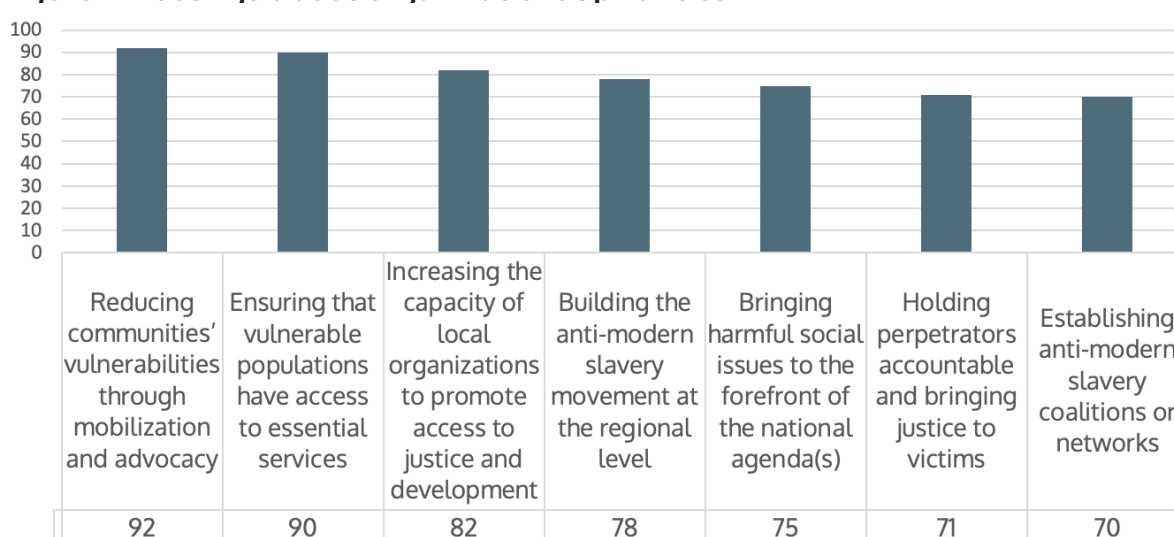
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Interest

Multi-faceted Approaches to Combating Modern Slavery

As a way of gauging whether Free the Slaves' programmatic priorities are in line with the priorities of organizations in Southeast Asia, respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed the following also reflect their organizations' priorities:

- Reducing communities' vulnerabilities through mobilization and advocacy;
- Ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to essential resources (including psychological, social, and legal support);
- Increasing the capacity of local organizations to promote access to justice and development;
- Holding perpetrators accountable and bringing justice to victims;
- Bringing harmful social issues to the forefront of the national agenda(s);
- Establishing anti-modern slavery coalitions or networks; and
- Building the anti-modern slavery movement at the regional level.

Figure 7: Feelings about organizational priorities

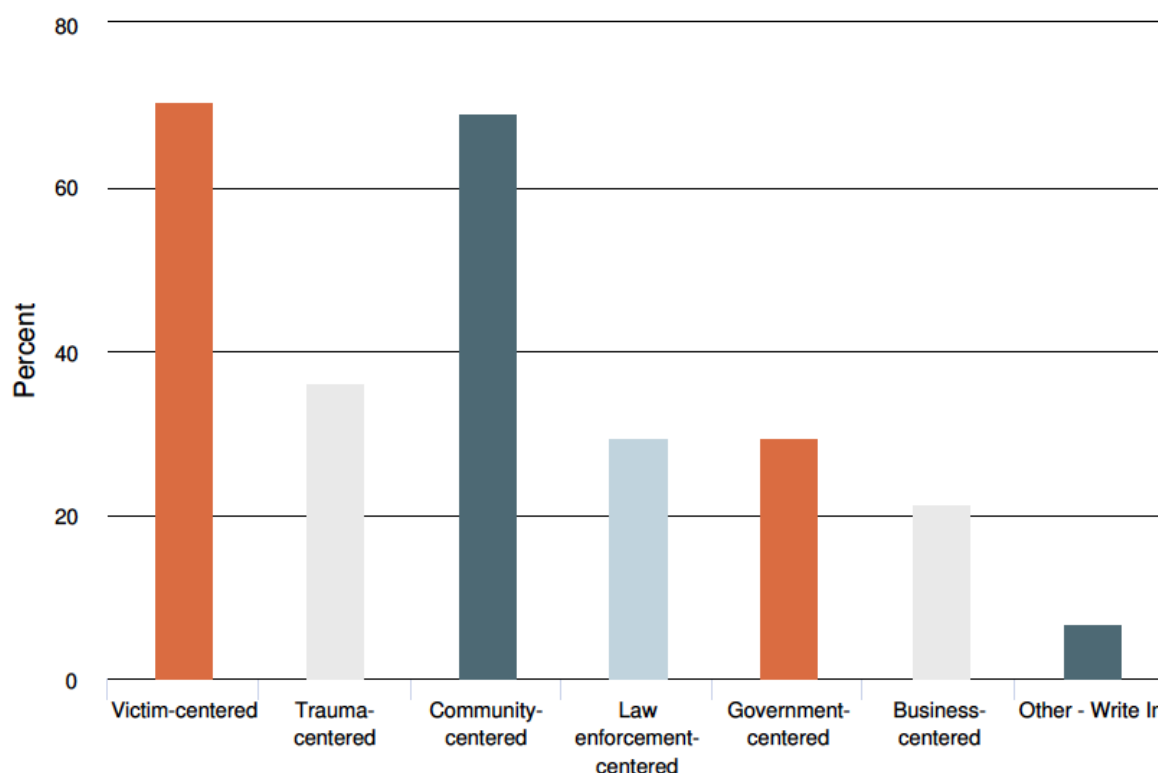


An average of 5% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that these are priorities for their organizations. There was a consistent minority that strongly disagreed with the majority of these categories. Upon further inspection,

it appears that these are anti-modern slavery organizations that have experience implementing programs and are interested in multi-faceted approaches to addressing the issue. It is possible that these responses are outliers and were made in error due to the user's experience with the survey.

When asked which approaches organizations would like to focus on for the next 5 years to a greater degree, there is a clear indication that organizations in the region plan to combat human trafficking predominantly through the expansion of victim-centered (70.5%) and community-centered (68.9%) approaches. Less organizations indicated that they aspire to adopt trauma-centered (36.1%), law enforcement-centered (29.5%), government-centered (29.5%), and business-centered (21.3%) approaches. Three organizations would like to focus on approaches centered on the protection of children or migrants.

Figure 8. Aspirations for programmatic approaches



Capacity Building

When asked regarding organizations' interest in receiving specific training on modern slavery or attending a virtual forum discussing forms of modern slavery in Southeast Asia, the majority (87.1%) expressed interest in receiving training, while a minority were not interested (12.9%). Among the organizations that indicated an interest in receiving training by FTS, 67.9% had previously received at least 1 training, indicating an interest in continuing to receive subsequent trainings on these thematics. Among those who were not interested in an FTS training, a similar percentage (62.5%) had previously been trained on human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery.

Movement Building

An even greater percentage (98.4%) of respondents expressed interest in participating in a virtual forum discussing forms of modern slavery in

Southeast Asia, while a smaller percentage (1.6%) indicating having no interest. This is consistent with the findings from FTS' first series of the survey, which indicated that more organizations are interested in participating in a virtual forum rather than a training. However, this difference was narrower in MENA at 7.5%, compared to 11% in Southeast Asia. All respondents who indicated an interest in receiving a training by FTS also indicated an interest in attending a virtual forum discussing modern slavery in Southeast Asia. Most of the respondents (87.5%) who were uninterested in their organization attending an FTS training indicated an interest in their organization attending a forum. This suggests that virtual forums, which often provide an open platform for discussion and exchange of existing challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned, may be an alternative medium to trainings that may be especially advantageous to engage organizations that may not be interested in more traditional methods such as trainings for any number of reasons.

Recommendations

Several recommendations arise from the findings presented in this report pertaining to the nature of anti-modern slavery work in Southeast Asia, organizations' conceptualizations of modern slavery, and interest in approaches that align with those of anti-modern slavery organizations like FTS.

1. Promote multi-faceted anti-modern slavery programs that foster justice system transformation, coordination and collaboration through coalitions and networks, and advocacy at the national level.

Despite being of significance to a comprehensive response towards eradicating modern slavery, a lesser number of organizations agreed that securing justice for victims, holding perpetrators accountable, establishing coalitions or networks, and bringing social issues to the national agendas were priorities for their organizations. There is clear evidence that advocacy, capacity building, and services are priorities for the organizations surveyed. It is worth inquiring further as to why some organizations may not be prioritizing programs and activities that drive other key approaches to the eradication of modern slavery to address the factors behind this and promote a more multi-faceted response.

2. Inquire into the reasons why organizations are prioritizing certain approaches (victim-centered and community-centered) as opposed to others (trauma-centered, law enforcement-centered, government-centered, and business-centered).

The evident desire to expand the focus on victim-centered and community-centered approaches as opposed to others over the next 5 years points to a need to continue to understand how organizations are conceptualizing each of these approaches and the factors and motivations that are affecting their inclinations. The low number of organizations that aspire to adopt trauma-centered approaches is concerning, given that many organizations plan to focus more on approaches that center around exploited persons. In line with global realities, approaches centering around law enforcement, government, and business are not being pursued to the same extent. It is essential to understand the implications of this, particularly around collaboration and coordination and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder response that effectively addresses the structural conditions that contribute to modern slavery.

3. Increase resources and programs devoted to addressing human trafficking among vulnerable populations, in particular, refugees, LGBTQI+ persons, religious minorities, and the elderly.

Less programmatic interventions appear to be devoted to the elderly, LGBTQI+

persons, refugees, and religious minorities in Southeast Asia. This is in alignment with our previous study of organizations in MENA, whose activities focused on the elderly, LGBTQI+ persons, and religious minorities to a lesser degree. Given the lack of protection available for these populations and their high degree of vulnerability to exploitation and other forms of abuse, it is important that additional resources and programs be allocated to meet the needs of these particular groups. Furthermore, given the refugee crisis in Southeast Asia and the risk of human trafficking among the Rohingya, it is important for governments and organizations to devote additional financial and human resources to address the needs of refugees and reducing their vulnerability to human trafficking.

4. Identify strategies to bridge gaps in organizations' scope of work and address the factors contributing to these for a sustainable response.

The research has confirmed that capacity building, advocacy, and services are the three key areas of work that organizations engage in. Given that the organizations represented predominantly focus their efforts on these activities, it is likely that there are abundant opportunities for partnerships with civil society organizations in the region in these areas. However, it is important to understand where existing gaps may lie as organizations may not be currently engaging in certain spheres to a greater extent, such as research, due to human resource constraints, lack of funding, and other factors.

5. Undertake nuanced research on the prevalence of diverse modalities of modern slavery and the factors contributing to organizations' responses to these.

The organizations in the region expressed that the most prevalent form of modern slavery is labor trafficking, while sex trafficking and forced labor follow. However, the prevalence of the diverse forms of modern slavery continues to be unknown, as global estimates focus on forced labor and forced marriage estimates alone. The perception that labor trafficking and forced labor are almost equally prevalent merits further discussion. Inquiry should be made as to how labor trafficking and forced labor are being conceptualized and addressed at a practical level. Most resources appear to be diverted to combatting labor and sex trafficking, and forced labor, despite the perception that persons find themselves in other exploitative conditions, albeit to a lesser degree. Quantitative research on the prevalence of the different modalities of modern slavery is necessary to confirm the extent to which less prevalent forms of modern slavery are or are not being addressed. Qualitative research would also prove beneficial to understand the specific factors that influence the decision to address a particular form of modern slavery over another.

6. Ensure greater access to training and capacity building among organizations and individuals.

Considering that over half of the organizations who had never received training on modern slavery had implemented projects to address certain forms, it is vital to identify organizations that have never participated in such trainings before and

increase collaborations for training and capacity building. Additionally, despite not being a dominant attitude, it is worth conducting further consultations as to why certain organizations may be averse to receiving training from FTS or additional trainings on modern slavery generally. This would enable the identification of factors contributing to this attitude and lead to potential actions that, if taken, can increase access to capacity building for a greater number of organizations.

7. Tailor training and capacity building initiatives to discuss anti-modern slavery legislation and other instruments in-depth to facilitate greater access to justice.

The majority of respondents indicated that their organization had been trained on addressing issues of modern slavery. However, given the diverse degree of respondents' familiarity with national, regional, and international instruments and the fact that some of the trainings were provided by international organizations, government agencies, and law enforcement, additional capacity building efforts are needed to increase consciousness surrounding definitions and conceptualizations of forms of modern slavery, especially human trafficking and forced labor. It is important for all trainers to share in and disseminate understandings that reflect current standards of what modern slavery constitutes at national, regional, and international levels and the requirements under the law to be able to facilitate justice for exploited persons. Furthermore, given that time with an organization appeared to be a contributing factor to familiarity with legislation and conceptualizations of modern slavery, it is key that newer staff participate in training and capacity building initiatives, as they may be less familiar with the technicalities surrounding issues of modern slavery.

8. Continue discussions at the regional level on modern slavery, its relevant terminologies, indicators, and components, especially surrounding compulsion and consent.

Due to the lack of a comprehensive definition for modern slavery, and the diverse attitudes towards the term in Southeast Asia, it appears that discussions around terminology would be beneficial to carry out. At the regional and global level, there is a continued need to mainstream the language surrounding modern slavery. This is especially relevant considering discussions around consent and the forced nature of exploitation, as there appears to be a lack of consensus and clarity regarding their role. It is noteworthy to continue to explore the forced nature of modern slavery and the implicit requirement for cases of exploitation to include an involuntary component, whether for adults or minors, since the reality is that, more often than not, persons are compelled to engage in sectors and work that is or has a higher risk of becoming exploitative as a result of factors that are out of their control. In some cases, despite persons having a degree of choice, the degree of choice is limited, and options can be restricted to exploitative or risky employment alone.

9. Establish greater cohesion between the regional and global movements through awareness of and involvement in global partnerships.

The survey indicated that 69.4% of respondents had never heard of Alliance 8.7, with actual numbers possibly being lower. For there to be greater collaboration and

momentum at a global level through partnerships like the Alliance, it is important that existing mechanisms have greater visibility and that there is greater access to those mechanisms for an additional number of countries and organizations from those countries. This would require increased awareness and discussions regarding the Alliance and continued advocacy to encourage governments, in particular to increase their commitments towards SDG Target 8.7 as pathfinder countries.

10. Strengthen the anti-modern slavery movement through regional forums as well as other initiatives.

As a result of the favorable response towards having a regional forum where organizations can come together to exchange knowledge and learn from one another, it is likely that this would be an effective method of building momentum at the regional level. However, it is worth exploring additional initiatives, as frequent forums may prove exhaustive and may limit access to a certain number of individuals of an organization because they are time-intensive. To measure the effectiveness of such events, it is also worth weaving in monitoring and evaluation activities that can gauge the impact of such events on the movement as a whole.

Appendix

Modern Slavery in Southeast Asia Questionnaire: NGO Perceptions and Approaches

Free the Slaves, an international organization dedicated to addressing modern slavery practices through a community-based approach, welcomes the participation of NGOs in Southeast Asia to partake in a 5-7 minute survey focusing on nongovernmental organizations' perceptions and approaches regarding modern slavery.

The research findings are expected to provide insight into the work of nongovernmental organizations in the region and inform future programming and activities. The findings will be shared publicly through a report that will be uploaded on our website: <https://www.freetheslaves.net/>.

If you have any questions regarding the study, please contact asia@freetheslaves.net.

1) By checking the box below, you affirm the following:

- I am a representative of a nongovernmental organization operating in Southeast Asia.
- I am at least 18 years old.
- Furthermore, you agree to the following:
- I understand that I can refuse to answer questions and/or end my participation at any time.
- I understand that my responses are anonymous, with the only identifiable information that may be collected being my email address.
- The information I provide can be used for future research and learning.
- My words can be quoted in research outputs (reports, articles, web pages, etc.).
- I understand that I will not be compensated for my participation.
-

*[] I consent to voluntarily participate in the study.

Respondent Background

The following questions pertain to the respondent's background within their organization.

2) Please select your respective role within your organization.

- ☐ Assistant
- ☐ Coordinator
- ☐ Officer
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Director
- ☐ Other - Write In: _____

3) How long have you been working with your organization?

- ☐ 0-4 years
- ☐ 5-9 years
- ☐ 10-14 years
- ☐ 15-19 years
- ☐ 20+ years

4) Please enter an email address if you'd like a copy of the final report to be sent to you.

Respondent Perceptions on Modern Slavery

The following questions pertain to the respondent's perceptions about modern slavery in the context of Southeast Asia.

5) How would you define the term "modern slavery" in your country?

6) Which practices would you say can be regarded modern forms of slavery?

- ☐ Human trafficking
- ☐ Forced labor
- ☐ Forced marriage
- ☐ Child labor
- ☐ Online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC)
- ☐ Worst forms of child labor
- ☐ Debt bondage/bonded labor
- ☐ Domestic servitude
- ☐ Other - Write In: _____

7) Please order the following forms of modern slavery from greatest to least prevalence in Southeast Asia.

- _____ Labor trafficking
- _____ Sex trafficking
- _____ Organ trafficking
- _____ Orphan trafficking
- _____ Bride trafficking
- _____ Forced labor
- _____ Forced marriage
- _____ Online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC)
- _____ Worst forms of child labor
- _____ Debt bondage/bonded labor
- _____ Domestic servitude

8) To what extent do you agree with this definition of modern slavery: "A person who is forced to work, without pay other than barest subsistence, under threat of violence, who cannot walk away?"

() Strongly disagree () Disagree () Neutral () Agree () Strongly agree

9) How familiar are you with anti-human trafficking networks in your region?

() Not at all familiar () Slightly familiar () Somewhat familiar () Moderately familiar
() Extremely familiar

10) How familiar are you with your country's modern slavery legislation (e.g. legislation on human trafficking, slavery, forced labor, child labor, etc.)?

() Not at all familiar () Slightly familiar () Somewhat familiar () Moderately familiar
() Extremely familiar

11) Please select how familiar you are with each of the following international documents:

	Not at all familiar, I have never heard of it.	Slightly familiar, I have heard of it but have not read or discussed its contents.	Somewhat familiar, I have read or discussed its contents vaguely.	Moderately familiar, I have read and discussed its contents vaguely.	Extremely familiar, I have read and discussed its contents in-depth.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forced Labor Convention No.29	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons 2015	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12) Is consent relevant in cases where a person agrees to be exploited, but the means by which they were exploited were fraudulent or forceful?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Sometimes

13) Have you heard of Alliance 8.7 (an inclusive global partnership committed to achieving target 8.7 of the 2030 sustainable development goals)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Organizational Background

The following questions pertain to the represented organization's geographic and programmatic scope of work.

14) Where is your organization's headquarters/main office located?

- ☐ Brunei Darussalam
- ☐ Cambodia
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Malaysia
- ☐ Myanmar
- ☐ Lao PDR
- ☐ The Philippines
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Thailand
- ☐ Viet Nam
- ☐ Other - Write In: _____

15) Please select the organization category that most accurately represents your organization.

- ☐ Community-based organization (CBO)
- ☐ International non-governmental organization (INGO)
- ☐ Faith-based organization (FBO)
- ☐ Other - Write In: _____

16) Please indicate the primary beneficiaries/target audience your organization serves. Select all the answer choices that apply.

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Elderly
- ☐ Racial/ethnic minorities
- ☐ Religious minorities
- ☐ Migrant workers
- ☐ LGBTQI+ persons
- ☐ Refugees

17) What key areas does the organization work on? Select all the answer choices that apply.

☐ Capacity building

☐ Advocacy

☐ Partnerships

☐ Research

☐ Services

☐ Fundraising

☐ Communication

☐ Other - Write In: _____

Organizational Experience with Modern Slavery

The following questions pertain to the represented organization's experience with anti-modern slavery programming.

Logic: Show/hide trigger exists.

18) Does your organization define modern slavery and its forms formally in writing?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Logic: Hidden unless: #18 Question "Does your organization define modern slavery and its forms formally in writing?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

19) What practices are defined and how are they defined?

Logic: Show/hide trigger exists.

20) Does your organization have experience (whether past or present) implementing projects or activities to counteract forms of modern slavery?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Logic: Hidden unless: #20 Question "Does your organization have experience (whether past or present) implementing projects or activities to counteract forms of modern slavery?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

21) Please select all of the forms of modern slavery that your organization has addressed or is addressing.

☐ Labor trafficking

☐ Sex trafficking

☐ Organ trafficking

☐ Orphan trafficking

☐ Bride trafficking

☐ Forced labor

☐ Online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC)

- ☐ Worst forms of child labor
- ☐ Debt bondage/bonded labor
- ☐ Forced marriage
- ☐ Domestic servitude

Logic: Hidden unless: #20 Question "Does your organization have experience (whether past or present) implementing projects or activities to counteract forms of modern slavery? " is one of the following answers ("Yes")

22) Where has your organization implemented anti-modern slavery projects?

- ☐ Brunei Darussalam
- ☐ Cambodia
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Malaysia
- ☐ Myanmar
- ☐ Lao PDR
- ☐ The Philippines
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Thailand
- ☐ Viet Nam
- ☐ Other - Write In: _____

Logic: Hidden unless: #20 Question "Does your organization have experience (whether past or present) implementing projects or activities to counteract forms of modern slavery? " is one of the following answers ("Yes")

23) On a scale of 0-100, please rate the extent to which your organization's anti-modern slavery projects focus on:

Prevention	0	<div><div></div></div>	100
Protection	0	<div><div></div></div>	100
Prosecution	0	<div><div></div></div>	100
Partnerships	0	<div><div></div></div>	100

Logic: Show/hide trigger exists.

24) Has your organization received training on human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Logic: Hidden unless: #24 Question "Has your organization received training on human trafficking or other forms of modern slavery?" is one of the following answers ("Yes")

25) Please provide more details about who provided the training and the nature of the training.

Organizational Approaches to Modern Slavery

The following questions pertain to the represented organization's interest in a wide range of anti-modern slavery approaches.

26) To what extent would you agree that the following activities are a priority for your organization:

(Complete chart on next page)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Reducing communities' vulnerabilities through mobilization and advocacy	()	()	()	()	()
Ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to essential resources (including psychological, social, and legal support)	()	()	()	()	()
Increasing the capacity of local organizations to promote access to justice and development	()	()	()	()	()
Holding perpetrators accountable and bringing justice to victims	()	()	()	()	()
Bringing harmful social issues to the forefront of the national agenda(s)	()	()	()	()	()
Establishing anti-modern slavery coalitions or networks	()	()	()	()	()
Building the anti-modern slavery movement at the regional level	()	()	()	()	()

27) Which approaches would your organization like to focus on to a larger degree in the next 5 years? Select all that apply.

☐ Victim-centered

☐ Trauma-centered

☐ Community-centered

☐ Law enforcement-centered

☐ Government-centered

☐ Business-centered

☐ Other - Write In: _____

28) Would your organization be interested in receiving training on addressing modern slavery from Free the Slaves?

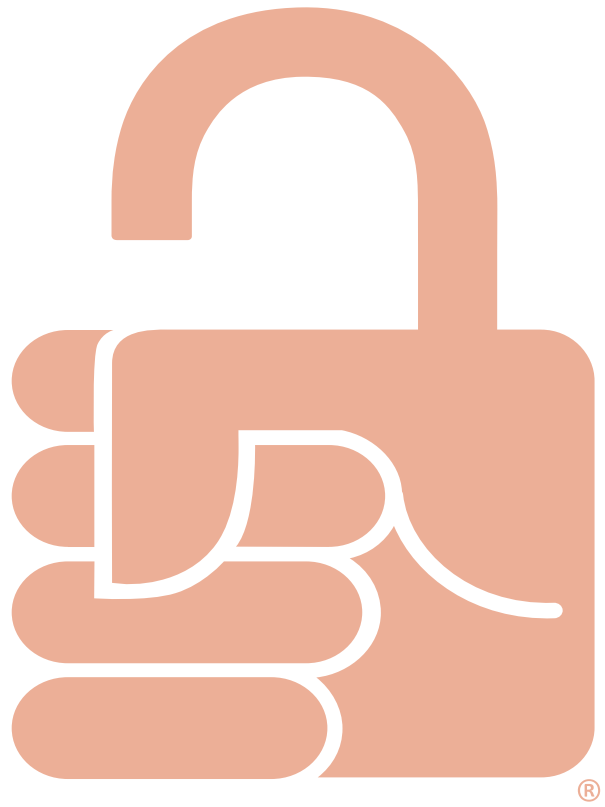
☐ Yes

☐ No

29) Would your organization be interested in attending a virtual forum discussing modern slavery in the Southeast Asia region?

☐ Yes

☐ No



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