



Rt Hon. Dame Diana Johnson MP
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

20 May 2022

Dear Chair,

Publication of Modern Slavery Fund Review 2019 – 2021

The Home Office's Modern Slavery Fund (MSF) was set up in 2016 to reduce the prevalence of modern slavery in the UK and overseas. By March 2022, we had spent £32.6m of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) through the Modern Slavery Fund.

We have recently conducted a review of the Modern Slavery Fund from 2019 to 2021. The review was led by independent experts, and assessed successes and lessons learned so far to make a series of recommendations on how we can strengthen our work in future.

In line with our commitment to ODA transparency, this review is now available online at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery#research-and-publications

The independent review found the fund has achieved significant results and has genuinely addressed the drivers of modern slavery, rather than just treating their symptoms.

The review found that the Modern Slavery Fund has engaged well with different political, economic and social environments. It was also judged to have demonstrated good flexibility and resilience in the context of Covid-19 and other shocks.

The review highlighted that the Fund has had the following overall results:

- Provided direct support to over 2,500 victims of trafficking. This includes shelter, healthcare, access to justice, and support to enter sustainable employment. This reduces the risk of people being re-trafficked (including to the UK) and helps to break cycles of exploitation.
- Enabled over 4,000 policy, law enforcement and other first responding officials to better identify, respond effectively to, and eventually prevent, cases of modern slavery.
- Improved transparency in supply chains by supporting over 200 businesses worldwide to ensure workers are fairly treated; this will have positive implications for thousands of workers and consumers, both in the UK and overseas.
- Helped to prevent modern slavery by conducting targeted outreach work with over 180,000 vulnerable people; and reaching at least 1.5 million people through strategic communications. These prevention activities include helping young people

secure safe and sustainable employment, informing workers of their rights, and raising awareness of the risks of exploitation.

- Secured political commitments and ensured sustainable change by supporting development 35 different anti-trafficking policies.

It also noted several specific and tangible impacts, such as:

- Our work in Nigeria has enabled the identification of 448 potential traffickers, leading to 350 ongoing investigations with 9 convictions since 2018.
- In Vietnam, our anti-human trafficking training has been incorporated into the national police curriculum, meaning all future recruits will have comprehensive anti-trafficking skills and knowledge.
- To reduce vulnerability to exploitation in Ethiopia, close to 500 women have been helped with financial literacy (saving and establishing small businesses) and 1000 children have gained a greater understanding of risks due to messaging activity.

The recommendations in the Modern Slavery Fund Review will help to inform the development of the new Government modern slavery strategy, due for publication in the spring.

The strategy will also set out the Government's commitment to spend additional UK Aid overseas to reduce modern slavery.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Maclean', with a period at the end.

Rachel Maclean MP