Letter From the CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

Today, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2020, GFEMS recognizes the remarkable work and resilience of our partners and peers and reflects on the progress we have made in our fight this year.

Globally, a marked increase in media coverage of those vulnerable to modern slavery, in the context of the ongoing pandemic, has brought a new spotlight to the issue. While GFEMS has always viewed modern slavery as a crime of economic opportunity, the pandemic and its aftermath are highlighting this reality as the economic impacts continue to evolve.

As some parts of the world are beginning to transition to the ‘new normal,’ we are optimistic that we can drive the global community towards a responsible recovery. We recognize this as a period of real opportunity. Great strides can be made in forging partnerships with governments and the private sector to develop sustainable solutions, protect the vulnerable, bring traffickers to justice, support and empower survivors, and end exploitative demands and practices.

On this World Day, GFEMS has a sharp focus on the future of this fight. Our commitment has only strengthened in the face of the adversities faced this year and we remain committed to developing and deploying innovative solutions for ending modern slavery. We pledge to continue to bring new ideas, transformational programming and research, and inextinguishable energy to our fight every day. We look forward to having you with us on our journey.

Thank you for your continued support of GFEMS and the fight against modern slavery.

-- Dr. Jean Baderschneider, GFEMS CEO, Chair of the Board
GFEMS EXPANSION JANUARY-JUNE 2020

India and Bangladesh

GFEMS was pleased to launch its most recent round of programming with the Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (Norad). The projects support the Fund’s Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sector work in India and its Ethical Recruitment work in India and Bangladesh. Read the program overview or learn more about specific projects:

- Systemic Improvements in Survivor Care: Supporting and advancing survivor rehabilitation and reintegration in Bangladesh
- Reducing Vulnerability to Forced Labor: Building a safe labor migration ecosystem in source communities
- Investing in Ethical Recruitment: Seefar partnership testing ethical recruitment agency in India
- Transforming Survivor Livelihoods: Meeting market demand and breaking exploitation cycles

Kenya and Uganda

GFEMS officially expanded into Africa in the first half of 2020, soliciting for partners in Kenya and Uganda for interventions to strengthen formal labor migration pathways and reduce commercial sexual exploitation through stronger justice responses, victim protection, and community engagement.

2020 GFEMS Quick Facts (YTD)

On track to award $20 MILLION USD BY END OF 2020

Total spend has doubled from 10.3M USD in 2019

Started work in Africa, securing programs in Kenya and Uganda

Adapted all ongoing projects to continue operating in the COVID environment

Learn more about our portfolio.

WWW.GFEMS.ORG
GFEMS HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY-JUNE 2020

Driving Action with the Financial Sector

GFEMS remains committed to working with the financial sector to combat trafficking, following taking part in the Liechtenstein Commission for Mobilizing Finance Against Trafficking and Slavery. So far in 2020, the Fund has partnered with the Knoble and SAS Institute to jumpstart the Cross Industry Data Initiative, working to create solutions for improving cooperation between financial institutions and law enforcement to better help track illicit financial flows, disrupt traffickers’ profits, and protect the vulnerable.

CIDI participants are working together to identify actionable steps to facilitate better data gathering and sharing and paths for collaboration.

Five New Topic Briefings on CSE, Migrant Labor, and Apparel

Ahead of launching a new round of projects, GFEMS conducted extensive scoping work in India and Bangladesh on migrant laborers, tech tools fighting CSE, and forced labor in the apparel industry. Read about our findings:

- Understanding Exploitation: Indian and Bangladeshi Labor Migration to GCC Countries
- Identifying Solutions to End Forced Labor Conditions in Home-Based Production
- Building a Business Case for Fair Labour Practices: Spinning Mills in Tamil Nadu
- 28 Tech Tools Fighting Sex Trafficking in India
- Measuring Deterrence of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Maharashtra
Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future of the Fight

This year, GFEMS has partnered with the Council on Foreign Relations to explore the fight against modern slavery, the challenges we face, and the potential paths forward. Thus far, we have discussed the implications of COVID-19 on our fight, argued for increased investment in safe and ethical recruitment models, and made the case for diversifying research methods to enable more data driven decisions.

• COVID-19 and Modern Slavery: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future of the Fight
• COVID-19, Migrant Labor, and the Case for Labor Recruitment Reform
• Modern Slavery Research Methods: Enabling Data-Driven Decisions

Looking Ahead

In the face of many unknowns for the rest of 2020, GFEMS is forging ahead with its plans for geographic and programmatic expansion. With additional projects still to launch this year, the Fund looks forward to deploying new, transformational projects to the field, working closely with our local partners, and gaining new learnings from our entire portfolio of work.

Expanding the evidence base of the field is one of the Fund’s most closely held values. Throughout the rest of this year, GFEMS will publish and disseminate learnings from our projects, including survey results, case studies, briefings, and more, to deliver on this value and to strengthen the fight and our shared mission of ending modern slavery. We look forward to future discussions, collaborations, and partnerships surrounding our work and the progress within the field at large.

Subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on Twitter for the latest updates on our activity.