



KENYA

Annual report 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Kenya, the Freedom Fund employs the hotspot model to combat exploitative child domestic work (CDW), a largely invisible issue impacting thousands of girls across the country. The NIA (Not Invisible Anymore) program, implemented with 13 civil society organisations across Kakamega, Busia, Nairobi and Kisumu counties, made significant strides in 2024 to address child exploitation and strengthen systemic responses.

The program directly impacted 3,466 individuals, including children in domestic work, survivors and caregivers. Economic empowerment efforts supported at least 100 families in launching micro-enterprises, increasing household income and reducing reliance on child labour. Additionally, 621 caregivers received training in climate-smart agriculture, entrepreneurship and agribusiness skills to enhance financial resilience.



At the policy level, the program worked with government agencies and Members of Parliament to advocate for the harmonisation of the Basic Education Act (2013) and the Employment Act (2007), aligning the minimum working age with compulsory education. Efforts also focused on the ratification of International Labour Organization's Domestic Workers Convention (No. 189) and the Violence and Harassment Convention (No. 190), which if ratified and implemented would ensure decent work protections and a violence-free work environment for domestic workers. A major milestone was achieved through Childline Kenya's advocacy, leading to the disaggregation of data on child domestic workers in the National Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) and thereby improving statistical analysis and decision-making.

Community awareness remained central to the interventions, with more than 10,000 individuals engaged in dialogues, awareness campaigns and leadership training, strengthening local efforts to prevent exploitation. Additionally, Savings and Internal Lending Communities expanded, providing caregivers with financial security to reduce economic pressures that push children into domestic work.

Strategic partnerships with KCB Foundation and Family Group Foundation are creating new pathways for educational support and vocational training for vulnerable girls. A robust monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework was integrated to track progress and guide future interventions.

Looking ahead, the program will build on these successes to drive targeted, sustainable solutions that eradicate child domestic work in Kenya, ensuring a future where children are protected, educated and empowered.

OPERATING CONTEXT

The operating environment in Kenya has undergone significant changes in 2024, presenting both challenges and opportunities for efforts to address the exploitation of children in domestic work.

Political unrest

In June 2024, widespread protests erupted across Kenya in response to proposed tax increases on essential goods and services. These demonstrations disrupted businesses, education and transportation, particularly in major urban centres, directly affecting project implementation. Heightened political tensions also led to an increased presence of law enforcement, which in some cases resulted in crackdowns on civil society activities, affecting partner organisations working with vulnerable communities.

“One of the most significant challenges we encountered during this period was the broader economic instability in the country, compounded by harsh taxation policies. These factors heavily impacted the small businesses we helped establish for CDWs’ households. Rising costs of goods, burdensome taxes and inflation have made it difficult for these fledgling businesses to achieve profitability or even sustain their operations.”

Freedom Fund partner

Economic environment

The cost of living in Kenya has continued to rise due to government tax reforms and inflation. New levies, such as the housing levy and increased VAT on essential goods, have escalated operational costs for businesses



and NGOs. The closure of multinational companies and local enterprises has fueled unemployment, leaving many families struggling to meet basic needs. Cases of wage exploitation, abuse and trafficking of child domestic workers have been increasingly reported by our partners. The government has intensified efforts to provide legitimate work opportunities abroad through bilateral labour agreements. However, the demand for jobs far exceeds available positions, leading to the rise of fraudulent employment agencies that lure vulnerable individuals, including children, into exploitative labour and trafficking situations.

“We’ve seen an increase in the cases of wage exploitation and trafficking among children, with more reports coming from areas where the economic strain is most intense. Many children are being lured into false promises of better jobs abroad or in other regions, only to find themselves in exploitive labour conditions.”

Freedom Fund partner

Floods

Heavy rains and severe flooding from April to mid-year devastated many parts of the country, particularly in rural areas and informal urban settlements. Thousands of families lost homes and livelihoods, further increasing economic vulnerability. The displacement of families and destruction of schools disrupted education for many children, exposing them to higher risks of child labour, including domestic work.

"The flooding has made everything more difficult. Many families have lost their homes and businesses, and children are being pulled out of school to help support the family. This only exacerbates the risk of child domestic labour."

Freedom Fund partner

"The period was also marked by severe flooding in most estates in Nairobi, forceful evictions along the railway line and riparian land, and political unrest, particularly protests by Gen-Z youth. These events disrupted many of the communities where we operate, displacing households and negatively affecting the stability of small businesses."

Freedom Fund partner



Shifts in child protection and legal frameworks

Kenya's child protection policies remain a work in progress, with limited enforcement of child labour laws in informal work sectors such as domestic work. While government agencies and civil society have made strides in strengthening child protection mechanisms, underfunded and overstretched services continue to leave many child domestic workers without adequate legal recourse or support systems.

"While there have been improvements in child protection, the reality is that the enforcement of laws in informal sectors remains weak. Children working in domestic labour still have no real access to legal protection and many cases go unreported."

Freedom Fund partner

Shifts in the education system

In 2024, Kenya's education system underwent significant changes with the continued implementation of the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). This curriculum emphasises competencies, character and creativity, aiming to develop critical thinking, problem-solving and digital literacy skills among students. While the CBC aims to provide a holistic education, its implementation has faced challenges. There are concerns that its adoption increases inequality, as some schools struggle with inadequate resources and infrastructure to effectively deliver the new curriculum. This disparity can lead to uneven educational experiences, potentially affecting children's engagement and increasing their vulnerability to exploitative labour practices.

"The new curriculum is a great step forward, but its implementation has been uneven. Some schools are struggling with basic resources, and children in these areas are at greater risk of falling into exploitative labour because they are not receiving a quality education."

Freedom Fund partner

PROGRESS TOWARDS SYSTEMS CHANGE

Systems change categories

Policy/legislative

One of the major milestones in 2024 was the push for the ratification of ILO Conventions 189 and 190. In September, our partner, African Institute for Children Studies (AICS) hosted a validation workshop to discuss findings from a cost-benefit analysis report on the implications of ratifying these conventions. The workshop brought together key government stakeholders, including representatives from the State Department of Labour and Skills Development. The analysis reinforced the advocacy for Kenya's adoption of these conventions, which would help formalise domestic work as decent employment and eliminate child labour from the sector.

Additionally, the National Policy on Gender-based Violence Protection Centers, commonly referred to as the Shelters Policy, is being developed through a collaboration between the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, the Freedom Fund and other civil society organisations (CSOs). This policy seeks to standardise and enhance shelter services for survivors, including children escaping exploitative domestic work. At the county level, our partner Baridi Kwa Baridi successfully advocated for the inclusion of child domestic work as a stand-alone issue in the Busia County Children Policy. Unlike the more general Child Protection Policy, this county-level framework will explicitly recognise child domestic workers, making them a priority in the county's development agenda. Currently under cabinet review, the policy was expected to be passed by February 2025, marking a significant step toward addressing modern-day child slavery at the local level.



Political will/public awareness/attitude change

Beyond policy advancements, there has also been a notable shift in political will and public awareness. The Directorate of Children's Services approved the inclusion of a new indicator, "Domestic Work/Exploitative Household Chores," in the Child Protection Information Management System. This change, advocated by Childline Kenya, ensures that cases of child domestic work are properly documented, making them more visible in national data and informing targeted interventions.

Meanwhile, community-led efforts in Busia County are playing a vital role in improving child protection. The Nyumba Kumi model, a grassroots community policing initiative, has been leveraged by our partner Busia Beyond Crime to organise households into clusters with designated representatives. This approach fosters trust, streamlines community mobilisation and sensitisation, and strengthens reporting mechanisms. As a result, awareness of child domestic work exploitation has increased and more cases are being reported and addressed.

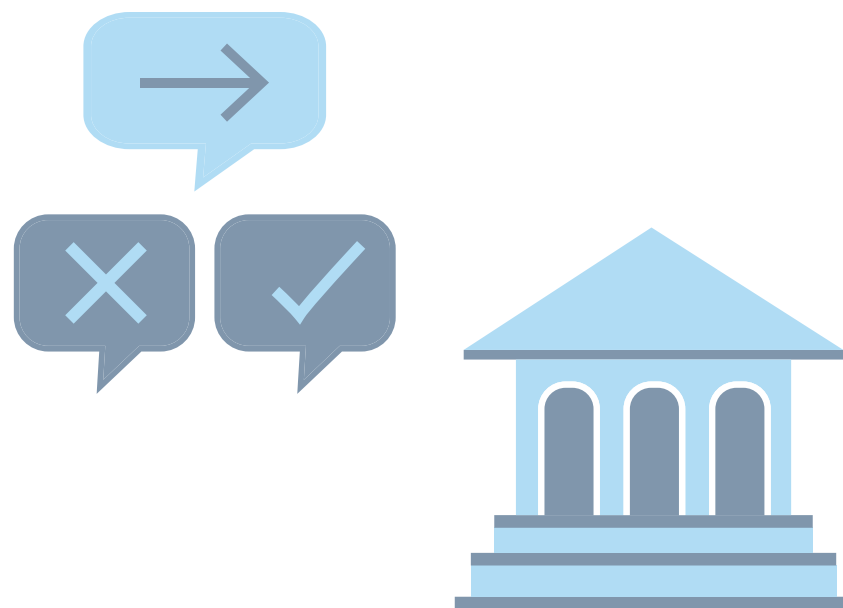
The Kenyan government has also demonstrated stronger commitment to tackling child labour. It has pledged to establish child labour committees in all 47 counties, with 11 already operational. These committees are tasked with addressing child labour and exploitation and providing a structured response at the local level. Our partners, including Baridi Kwa Baridi and Busia Beyond Crime, actively participate in these committees, ensuring that child domestic work remains a key issue in broader child protection discussions.

The adaptation of our partner ICS SP's Value-Based Life Skills Manual to include modules on leadership, child rights and understanding and responding to abuse demonstrates a shift from merely providing support to actively empowering survivors as advocates. The manual has been adopted in 17 other counties through support from other state and non-state actors. This is crucial for long-term attitude change, as it fosters child-led advocacy against domestic labour exploitation. Additionally, the child labour assessment conducted by ICS SP in Kisumu revealed that a significant

percentage of respondents acknowledged risks such as lack of pay (53.8%), physical abuse (38.7%), limited education (38.2%) and sexual abuse (26.6%). This suggests that awareness is increasing among those affected, as they are now able to recognise and articulate the dangers associated with child labour.

Government performance.

There has been a marked improvement in how local authorities respond to child domestic work cases. Sensitisation training sessions provided by hotspot partners have equipped law enforcement officers, chiefs, county-level Children Advisory Committees (CACs) and Child Labour Committees (CCLCs), child protection officers and community volunteers with critical knowledge on trauma-informed care, legal procedures and referral pathways. These trainings have strengthened coordination among local government actors, improving identification, intervention and support services for affected children.



HOTSPOT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Headline results

In 2024, the partners in the NIA program enabled the following key results:



3,466 individuals accessed critical social and legal services, including children in domestic work, survivors and caregivers. Services provided included psychosocial counselling, emergency food assistance, protective shelter care, healthcare, legal aid (such as birth registration), positive parenting training and family reunification support.



183 individuals gained access to government services, including social safety net programs for children rescued from child domestic work. This support ranged from family reintegration through the national Directorate of Children Services to enrolment in the national medical insurance scheme, birth certificate registration, school bursaries and other local government services. While progress is often slow due to administrative barriers navigating Kenya's complex bureaucratic processes, these efforts represent crucial steps toward sustained protection and long-term reintegration, ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need despite systemic challenges.



2,065 community members actively participated in Freedom Groups, including at-risk individuals, CDW survivor support networks, alumni groups, multisectoral committees, emergency response groups, self-help financial groups and Nyumba Kumi neighbourhood security groups. These groups fostered collective resilience, advocacy and economic empowerment, strengthening community-led protection mechanisms.



84 previously out-of-school children were enrolled in formal or non-formal education, including survivors and those at risk of child domestic work. These children accessed opportunities in public and private schools, vocational training programs, apprenticeships and community-based learning initiatives, increasing their prospects for safer, more sustainable livelihoods.



17 legal cases received direct legal support, benefiting both child and adult domestic workers who had experienced exploitation. Support included legal representation in court, mediation services, assistance in filing complaints and securing protection orders. These interventions contributed to greater legal accountability and justice for survivors.



15 media stories were generated to raise awareness and influence policy. AICS produced a four-part radio series on the prevalence of child domestic work and the need for a harmonised legal framework. Our partner Maono Transformation Africa's podcast featured interviews with partners discussing interventions on behalf of children in domestic work, while multiple newspaper articles highlighted the program and the impact of partner organisations. These media engagements continued to shift public discourse, mobilise support and increase visibility for the issue.

Progress towards hotspot objectives

Objective 1: Strengthen child-centred advocacy on child domestic work

Busara Center for Behavioral Economics conducted qualitative research to identify key behavioural archetypes, barriers and enablers associated with exploitative child domestic work. These insights are shaping behaviourally-informed social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaigns that will be adopted by partners to enhance advocacy efforts. By targeting specific audiences, this campaign aims to increase the likelihood of behaviour change and prevent child abuse and exploitation in domestic work. Busara also identified communication gaps through institutional partner visits and is developing an advocacy capacity-strengthening module for NIA partners, ensuring that advocacy is both evidence-based and impactful.

Frontline partners provided life skills and child rights training to more than 300 child domestic workers in 2024. The children were engaged in multiple sessions, covering up to 15 modules that took three to four months to complete. A range of interventions across partners has enabled a material impact in communities across the counties they work in:

- Maisha Girls facilitated life skills training in safe spaces, equipping 65 CDWs with financial literacy and SRHR knowledge.
- GCDI's cascade model enrolled 81 children in life skills programs, leading to the formation of eight advocacy groups that engaged 1,600 community members.
- WeReach's football tournament provided a psychosocial support mechanism, reinforcing confidence and peer connections among survivors.
- ICS SP expanded these efforts through child-led advocacy, enrolling 233 children, forming four advocacy groups and engaging local leaders in evidence-based interventions.
- ICS SP also led a positive and skillful parenting program, which addressed critical topics such as family communication, financial management and children's rights. This initiative directly led to five CDWs being successfully reintegrated into school through parental action.

- To further strengthen community advocacy, partners facilitated the formation of 12 CDW support groups, 56 peer groups and 16 community freedom groups, reaching more than 600 caregivers, parents and community leaders.
- Maono Africa reached more than 2,000 students and teachers through participatory theatre in schools.
- Amka Justice conducted social media advocacy and made significant progress in making CDW visible as an undesirable and unlawful practice through social media sensitisation campaigns on Facebook, Instagram and X. Amka reached an estimate of 9,300 persons through seven Facebook posts, six Instagram Posts and six X posts.

Azadi's contributions aligned with these initiatives by developing a leadership training manual and conducting decision-making, public speaking and trauma-informed care sessions for CDWs. This long-term approach ensured sustainable impact, with some participants transitioning into trainers. The second phase of Azadi's work – storytelling and exhibitions – will further drive awareness. Meanwhile, Maono amplified survivor voices through digital advocacy, including a vodcast project, while its survivor-led initiatives empowered young advocates to lead systemic change.

Objective 2: Increase the reach of child and survivor-centred services for CDWs and former CDWs

Hotspot partners have collectively expanded and strengthened child and survivor-centred services for children in domestic work and former CDWs through direct support, improved stakeholder coordination and enhanced legal protections.

Childline Kenya has witnessed a notable increase in reports through their hotline, reflecting a growing trust in support systems. In collaboration with the Directorate of Children Services, police, and local government agencies, Childline provided psychosocial support, rescues, education assistance, and safe shelter, ensuring affected children received the necessary services. Additionally, Childline trained members of Children Advisory Committees on identifying and responding to exploitation, strengthening community-level protection systems.

Maisha Girls Safe House, alongside CANA Family program, played a crucial role in providing protective shelter services for rescued CDWs, often handling referrals from government agencies. However, the lack of government-run shelters has placed a heavy burden on civil society organisations. Child domestic work survivors received safe housing, psychosocial counselling and healthcare, with 89% reporting satisfaction with services. Community Health Promoters (CHPs) helped mobilise and empower CDWs, ensuring they accessed services. Additionally, training workshops by ICS SP and Azadi have made government and civil society services more trauma-informed and survivor-centred, equipping social workers, chiefs and law enforcement with the skills to handle cases with sensitivity.

ICS SP has witnessed improvements in the capacity of service providers to effectively support children in domestic work and survivors. This progress has enhanced both the reach and quality of services available to CDWs and their caregivers. For example, a mentor and a community facilitator trained in trauma-informed care referred one female caregiver and three female CDWs to psychosocial support services, recognising their needs through their interactions. In reflection meetings, mentors and community facilitators reported adopting better stress management practices, which helped them address their own challenges. They also successfully shared the knowledge gained from parenting and life skills groups with others. Additionally, four



community facilitators, who also serve as child protection volunteers, expressed feeling overwhelmed by the number of cases they were managing and requested group therapy to help them cope with the issues they faced.

Amka Africa Justice Initiative focused on legal aid, advocacy and capacity-building, improving law enforcement's response to child abuse and exploitation. The organisation pursued legal follow-up on a child trafficking case involving the detention of eight children at Goldmarks Educational Centre, though parental reluctance prevented further legal action. Amka also partnered with ICS SP to train 16 duty bearers and five CSO representatives in Kisumu on child domestic work, trafficking and legal frameworks. Specialised law enforcement training strengthened child-centred investigations, though court delays and witness intimidation remain major challenges, highlighting the need for stronger judicial protections.

Across all efforts, hotspot partners strengthened collaboration with the Directorate of Children Services and local government agencies, ensuring better access to medical, legal, psychosocial, educational and rescue services for CDWs and survivors. The establishment of stronger referral networks has improved service coordination, making interventions more efficient and survivor-centred. However, persistent challenges such as limited shelter availability and legal delays underscore the need for sustained advocacy and resource mobilisation.

Objective 3: Increase economic resilience of at-risk communities and households in CDW source and destination areas

In 2024, partners including WeReach, ICS SP, GCDI and Cana Family made significant strides in increasing the economic resilience of at-risk households, focusing on financial literacy and entrepreneurship to reduce vulnerability to child domestic work. ICS SP trained 573 parents and caregivers in positive parenting, financial literacy and incorporating climate-smart agriculture to improve household incomes. GCDI trained parents on entrepreneurship and income-generating activities, equipping them with skills to create sustainable livelihoods. As a result, more than 70 households started new businesses, enabling them to reduce their reliance on child labour. Additionally, more than 100 CDWs and survivors received vocational training in skills such as

hairdressing, carpentry, tailoring, catering and pottery, with some already establishing income-generating activities in their communities.

Mark, one of the program participants at Baridi Kwa Baridi (BKB), used to work as a CDW earning a monthly salary of KES 2,500 (USD 19), which was not commensurate with the kind of hard labour he undertook. Mark endured long hours of work, up to 17 hours a day, which was adversely affecting his health. He was later enrolled in vocational training by BKB, where he undertook a course in hairdressing and beauty. On completion of his course, Mark received a starter business kit and offered his services in the community. Mark is now employed in a local hair and beauty shop and currently earns an average of KES 6,500 (USD 50) per month. He is determined to save enough to set up his own beauty parlour.

“I am deeply grateful and I hope other CDWs get hope and inspiration from my experience.”

Partners also linked families to government financial assistance and social protection programs, including civil registration services and the national medical scheme. For example, in Nyando, Kisumu, 61 families received emergency cash transfers and 32 children affected by floods were provided with scholastic materials to prevent school dropouts.

Objective 4: Strengthen policy framework and implementation

Efforts to strengthen Kenya's child protection policy framework and implementation have been significantly advanced through coordinated advocacy, legal reform initiatives and improved service coordination. Childline Kenya has played a key role in reinforcing child protection mechanisms by organising sub-county case conferences that resolved 34% of 38 stagnating CDW cases, sensitised 396 stakeholders through 19 Children Advisory Committee meetings and enhanced referral networks by developing a directory of 179 service providers. Their successful lobbying resulted in the recognition of CDW as a stand-alone category in the National Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS), enabling better case tracking and response. Media advocacy efforts, including features on Milele FM radio and in the The Sunday Standard, further raised awareness

of exploitative CDW, contributing to stronger national and community-level child protection responses.

AICS and Amka collaborated to address legal inconsistencies in child employment and domestic work, with Amka's report serving as a foundation for stakeholder discussions facilitated by AICS on harmonising the Kenya Employment Act 2007 and Basic Education Act 2013. Stakeholders in these engagements emphasised the urgency of aligning labour and education laws to close loopholes that permit child labour while mandating compulsory education. Additionally, AICS led the development and validation of a cost-benefit analysis to support the ratification of ILO Conventions 189 and 190, with stakeholders recognising the conventions' potential to enhance labour protections while also expressing concerns about implementation costs. ICS SP also contributed to national advocacy efforts by participating in the validation meeting for the ratification of ILO Conventions 189 and 190, reinforcing the importance of aligning national policies with international labour standards.

Amka also pursued legal action against child trafficking perpetrators, advocating for stronger accountability through judicial review, constitutional petitions and professional misconduct complaints. Their strategic litigation aims to ensure that policy gaps are addressed while holding duty bearers accountable for failing to protect vulnerable children. As one stakeholder noted during the legislative harmonisation forum:

“For too long, gaps in our laws have left children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This process is a critical step in ensuring that every child in Kenya is protected under a coherent and enforceable legal framework.”

ICS SP strengthened collaboration with national and county-level stakeholders, particularly in Kisumu, by participating in child labour committees, CAC meetings and community sensitisation forums alongside government agencies. Their advocacy for stricter enforcement, community awareness and poverty alleviation strategies was echoed in a Child Labour Committee meeting that brought together 16 key stakeholders to map out strategies for combating child exploitation.

SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Four community of practice (CoP) sessions were conducted over the course of 2024, taking place in January, May, September and November. The sessions were designed to facilitate collective learning, exchange of best practices and the strengthening of partner relationships. Some of the key highlights from these sessions include:

Referral systems

Regional partners have established robust referral systems within their operational areas, enabling them to facilitate the provision of multiple interventions to program participants. This collaborative approach has ensured that children engaged in exploitative domestic work receive comprehensive and holistic care. During the year, GCDI and ICS SP referred cases to Childline Kenya for psychosocial support services and CDWs from Maisha Girls Safe House and CANA were referred to Azadi for leadership development training.

Joint advocacy and sensitisation forums

Partners collaborated to host sensitisation training for frontline workers, including law enforcement officers and members of Nyumba Kumi groups, Children Advisory Committees and other local government agencies in four counties. Partners also organised and participated in observances such as World Day Against Child Labour, the Day of the African Child, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons and International Youth Day.



Collective learning for program enhancement

The CoP sessions offered partners capacity-building opportunities to enhance their delivery of program objectives. Key areas of learning included meaningful survivor engagement, monitoring and evaluation, and financial grant management. Partners were also able to actively contribute to the development of the NIA Program's communication strategy. The September 2024 CoP session centred on partner reflections after a year of implementation, lessons learned and planning for the next year based on feedback.

CASE STUDY

Rukia,* a 16-year-old from Alwala Village in Kisumu County, Kenya, faced hardship after her parents' separation and her mother's illness. Due to financial constraints, she had to drop out of school and started doing laundry and babysitting for her neighbours. However, she would often work under extremely difficult conditions. Sometimes she experienced delayed payments and long hours without rest that would leave her extremely exhausted and frustrated. On one occasion, she went two months without receiving any pay and was overwhelmed with work. Her employers would not provide lunch and expect her to cater for her lunch through her salary which was not guaranteed.

Rukia's life took a turn when a village elder, who attended the partners' community sensitisation sessions, informed her about the Freedom Fund NIA project led by ICS SP. With the project's support and collaboration with the local chief and child protection volunteer, she was readmitted to her former school and in no time, excelled in her studies. Rukia's family is now committed to supporting her as she pursues her education. She participates in life skills training sessions and is receiving psychosocial support from one of the other NIA partners, Childline Kenya.

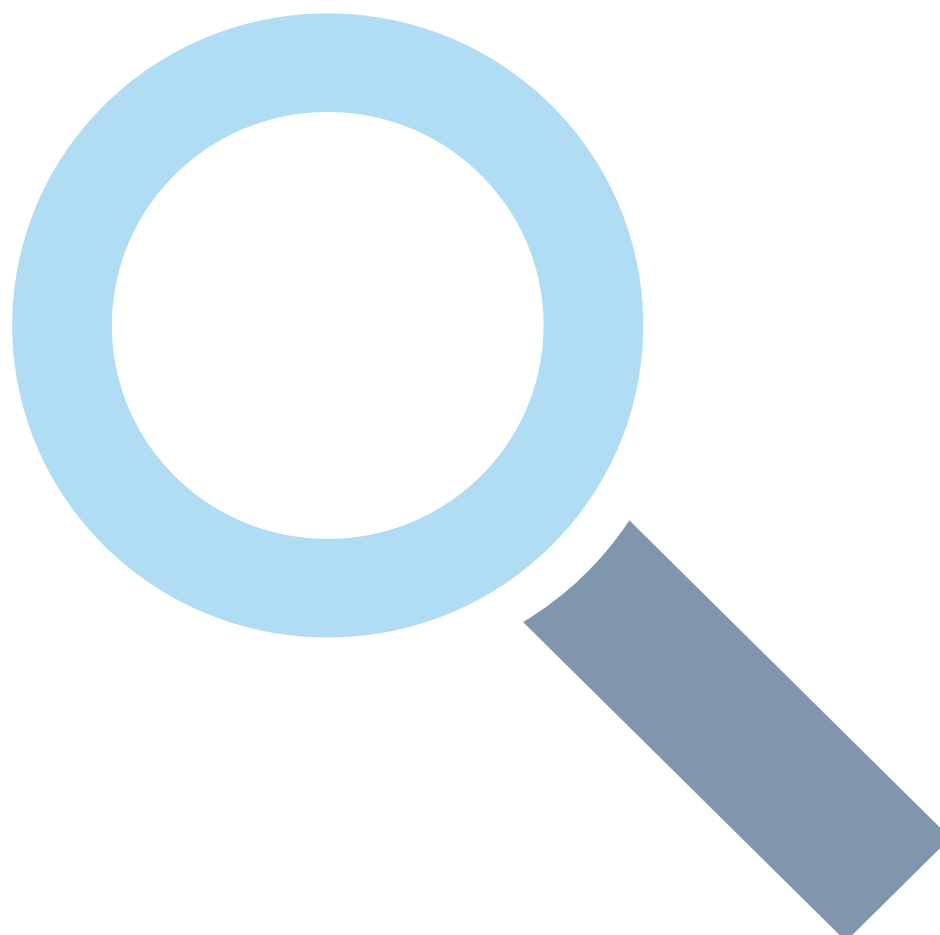
"I am grateful to the project and I promise to attend school consistently and work hard to improve my performance,"

says Rukia, who is determined to overcome the challenges she faced as a child domestic worker.

*Name changed to protect identity.



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION AND RESEARCH



Qualitative research study on Factors influencing Child Domestic Work in Kenya

A 2024 qualitative research study by the Busara Center for Behavioral Economics investigated the factors influencing child domestic work in Kenya. The study examined the barriers and enablers of child domestic work from the perspective of child domestic workers, caregivers, employers and facilitators from the four counties of operation. The behavioural insights obtained from the findings significantly informed the development of the NIA program's communication strategy, including the design of the multimedia campaigns, and provided guidance on how to steer child domestic workers away from exploitative practices.

Key behavioural insights from the research include:

- The decision to send children to work is typically driven by social norms that consider domestic work acceptable for children, as families facing financial instability often view this as a normal solution. Gender norms also influence this decision, with girls being preferred and boys prioritised for education.
- Many CDWs felt that they lacked control over events in their lives, especially those who did not choose domestic work for themselves. They also demonstrated low levels of agency when negotiating salaries and discussing working conditions, regardless of whether they chose to work or not.
- Employers across regions misunderstand the nature of their relationships with CDWs and underestimate the amount and difficulty of work CDWs do.
- Caregivers may experience dissonance given competing incentives. The incentives for sending children into domestic work that transform into incentives for caregivers to keep their children at their jobs conflict with their desire to keep their children safe, healthy and happy despite exploitative work conditions.
- All CDWs were unaware of any laws or protections for domestic workers in general.

Modern slavery risks among people lacking documentation

In 2024, the Freedom Fund commissioned research in partnership with the United Nations University (UNU) to examine modern slavery risks among people lacking documentation globally, including in Kenya, Nepal and Brazil. The main objectives of this research project were to identify actionable mechanisms and inform responses by CSOs in the three countries, generate practical policy recommendations, provide credible evidence to inform responses from multilateral institutions and direct funders towards this vulnerable population. Reader friendly pieces (comics and animation) including policy briefs were developed and published on multiple social media platforms that brought these critical insights to life. An [article](#) published by The Guardian in November 2024 highlighted these realities, creating an interest from key actors, World Bank's ID4D (Identification for Development) program and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC).

"I read Esther's story with both a heavy heart and a deep sense of urgency. What a stark and tragic illustration of the ways in which something as fundamental as a birth certificate can reshape the course of a life. I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your powerful contribution in shedding light on such a profound and life-altering issue. The impact of a missing birth certificate – and the broader challenges of legal identity – are immense, and your piece brings much-needed attention to these struggles."

Anne Schuchardt, Digital Inclusion Consultant for the World Bank's ID4D (Identification for Development) program



ANNEX 1

Safeguarding/fraud/mismanagement

In May 2024, a safeguarding assessment revealed numerous concerns with KUDHEIHA (Kenya Union of Domestic, Hotels, Educational Institutions, Hospitals and Allied Workers), a trade union partner meant to protect workers in various sectors, including domestic workers. The Freedom Fund provided TA support to develop and implement internal safeguarding systems and mechanisms. However, due to KUDHEIHA's lack of genuine commitment to implementing these systems, the partnership was terminated a few months later. The Kenya hotspot will use this valuable experience to inform future partner engagements.

Operations

In 2024, the hotspot completed the first phase of the OCAT (Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool) assessments with three partners (CANA, Maisha and WeReach). The partners identified capacity gaps that needed support, including human resources, monitoring and evaluation, and fundraising. The partners have submitted their OCAT action plans which will be implemented in 2025.



IMAGES

Illustrations by Njung'e Wanjiru	Cover, pages 1 and 11
Snidah Atieno, Kakamega Hope for Survivors Network Lead, feeds chickens that are for sale as part of their growth and sustainability plan. ©We Reach	Page 1
Couple standing in their home damaged by flooding in Kilimambogo, Kenya ©Julian - adobestock.com	Page 3
Flavian joined the Freedom Fund project at Maisha Girls Safe House in 2023. She is now working at a hair salon after receiving vocational skills training as part of the program. ©Melanie Hargreaves/The Freedom Fund	Page 8
Training session with Maono Africa. ©Melanie Hargreaves/The Freedom Fund	Page 10
Page from comic illustrated by Daniel Locke and produced by PositiveNegatives from research undertaken by the African Migration and Development Policy Centre, and United Nations University Centre for Policy Research in partnership with the Freedom Fund.	Page 13
WE REACH partnered with the Capacity Training Institute (CTI) to offer a three-day intensive home management course, certified by the National Industrial Training Authority. This training equipped 30 survivors with practical skills in operating modern kitchen appliances, mastering culinary techniques, and handling home management responsibilities with professionalism. ©We Reach	Page 15

VISION

Our vision is a world
free of slavery.

MISSION

We invest in frontline organisations
and movements to drive a measurable
reduction of modern slavery in high-
prevalence countries and industries.

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