

How we changed the outcomes based on your responses

Thank you for participating in Round 0 of our E-Delphi on outcomes for recovery, wellbeing, and reintegration for survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking. We had a monumental response, with 53 people participating in Round 0, including 36 survivors. Respondents were from a wide range of ethnicities, identifying as Asian, White, British, African, and Nigerian. Of the 53 respondents, 43 were living in the UK but there were also people living in countries as far and wide as South Africa, the USA, Kenya, and Nigeria.

We are very grateful for all the positive comments we received in Round Zero. Many of you commented on how thorough the longlist of outcomes was, and how the outcomes were filling a crucial gap in work with survivors. People were especially impressed by the breadth of our outcomes and the in-depth descriptions we provided alongside them.

We are very appreciative of the detailed suggestions you made in the open-ended responses sections of Round 0 of the E-Delphi. We have read and discussed our response to your comments multiple times. Where two or more people have made similar suggestions, we have addressed these and made the relevant changes that will now be reflected on the outcomes list for Round 1. If your point has not been addressed, it is likely that it was either covered elsewhere or that no one else raised it.

We have put the following document together responding to your thoughtful comments and explain here the changes we have made to the list of outcomes because of them. We hope that you can also participate in the next, much shorter, round of consensus building where we will try to narrow down the list of outcomes to be included in the core outcome set. Please do remember that the long list of outcomes that has been determined from Round 0 still stands as an important list of outcomes that could and should be considered in service and intervention design and assessment. Your input has already been invaluable, and we hope that you'll be kind enough to continue contributing to the MSCOS project.

General Comments

A few comments stated that our outcomes operate across a number of levels, including on the individual, organisational, governmental, and societal levels. At the individual level, there are also many different actors, from survivors to mental health professionals to charity staff to government officials. We would like to say that our outcomes are not simply survivor outcomes, they are any outcomes that might serve survivors and impact their recovery, wellbeing, and reintegration. This helps us move away from survivor responsibility for ensuring outcomes, towards the institutional, governmental and charity responsibility and contexts. In the same vein, these outcomes are not obligatory, but reflect areas of healing that may be useful for many survivors, and which have predominantly been raised as important outcomes impacting recovery, wellbeing, and reintegration by survivors themselves.

Our expansive understanding of what an outcome is reflects feedback from our exploratory workshops in Autumn 2021. In these workshops, we brought together academics, policymakers, survivors and charity practitioners to discuss what outcomes are within the scope of our project. Attendees encouraged us to think as broadly and creatively as possible about outcomes. Relatedly, outcomes have not been filtered according to feasibility and we have not detailed how we expect outcomes to be realised, we are only saying that the outcomes in our longlist are legitimate aspirations, and in principle measurable.

One or two respondents also noted that the survey was very long. We have made sure that the next round is much shorter. It should last no more than 30mins.

Consistency and Stability

'Cherishing the everyday' received the most comments in this domain. Respondents thought that the word 'cherishing' was a potentially impossible outcome with exclusionary religious connotations. We have, therefore, renamed this outcome to 'reclaiming normalcy and appreciating the everyday'. We've also replaced 'going to the gym' with 'exercising' in the 'keeping busy' outcome to better reflect the difficult financial position of many survivors. We've also expanded the 'healthy lifestyle' outcome by including indicators on the importance of knowledge around diet and healthy meals, and the 'life skills' outcome by including understanding social values or norms (in response to the one thoughtful comment from a survivor). Finally, we've added 'affordable and reliable transportation' as an outcome in response to one person's studious comment and using some of their words. Transportation underlies so many of the outcomes in this longlist around access and community but is often overlooked.

Recognition, Understanding and Awareness

Respondents suggested that many of the outcomes in this domain be renamed to improve clarity and reduce overlap. Consequently, we have changed 'respect and recognition from practitioners' to 'respect and recognition from healthcare practitioners and service providers', the outcome 'belief and respect from immigration officials, police, judges and service' to 'belief and respect from public authorities, courts, and tribunals', and the outcome 'understanding of treatment' to 'improved understanding of mental health treatments'. Several comments stated that the 'resisting victimizing stereotypes' outcome was phrased too negatively. We have changed that outcome to the more positive 'living a stigma free life'. Survey responses also suggested that some of the outcomes in this domain could be broadened out. We have now, for example, included friends and family in the outcome 'less public judgement, more understanding'.

Opportunities

Many respondents commented on the unnecessary focus on university in the 'obtaining meaningful qualifications' outcome. We have, therefore, removed reference to universities and made clear that meaning qualifications at any level are important. Similarly, the 'access to education' outcome now includes 'foundational courses for work preparedness' in its description. Several comments suggested that financial security can come through securing welfare as well as employment in the 'personal and family prosperity' outcome, and we've changed that outcome accordingly. Many respondents also commented suggested that obtaining any form of employment was not sufficient, and that employment should be meaningful. We have, therefore, renamed this outcome to 'obtaining and maintaining meaningful employment'. One person asked for skills around hobbies to be included in access to education. However, we felt that the social aspect of shared hobbies was crucial to highlight and included hobbies in the 'being part of a community' outcome in the next domain.

Belonging and Social Support

Respondents generally felt that the outcomes in this domain should be much broader. Based on people's comments, we've updated the 'health relationships' description to include all forms of intimate relationship, equality and power in relationships, and having knowledge about what health relationships look like. The 'socialising' outcome has also been expanded to comprise online social activities and the need for long-term socialising opportunities, such as buddy systems. This was related

to a general desire for outcomes to include in support in engaging with social activities. Accordingly, we've also reframed the 'being part of a community' outcome to include 'being supported to be part of a community'. There were two comments suggesting that safety should be added to the 'feeling comfortable in social environment'. However, we felt that this would create too much overlap with outcomes in the safety domain. The one exception to this desire for broader outcomes as the 'living in a good location' outcome. People felt that this was too broad and subjective, and they recommended using the terms 'appropriate' and 'desired'. This is exactly what we've done in the new outcome name 'living in an appropriate or desired location'.

Agency and Purpose

We have updated the 'self-sufficiency, control and independence' outcome so that the name matches the description. We have also added a new outcome 'meaningful and creative activities'. Otherwise, only a few small changes were requested of this domain. We have now emphasised the importance of reclaiming, rediscovering/discovering personal identity in the 'moving on and starting a new life' outcome, adding text suggested by one very helpful respondent. We have also slightly altered the 'advocating for self and giving to others' outcome, so that it encompasses a broader range of activities and giving, rather than only NGO advocacy.

Safety

Again, many of the comments in this domain recommended expanding outcomes. In response, we have broadened out the outcome 'a safe mental health work and home environment' to include 'therapy in own language, creative or arts-based therapies', and a slightly greater emphasis on work environment. 'Appropriate protection from family members for survivors' has also been added to the 'family safety and contact outcome' and the outcome 'safety from trafficker' has been renamed to 'safety from any trafficker or other abuser'. One respondent suggested that we should make more effort to avoid the harmful narrative that survivors should keep themselves safe (as opposed to public institutions, society, and charities). This is an ongoing aspiration of ours, and we welcome comments on where we can improve. We have changed our phrasing in several outcomes across the longlist, and have now removed the line 'survivors value feeling confident and able to advocate for and exercise their right' from our 'preventing re-exploitation' outcome.

One person commented that the 'preventing re-exploitation' outcome should not conflate exploitation from different types of people. For example, they warned against relating exploitation from a trafficker with that from a university researcher. However, we feel that it is powerful placing them alongside each other, as this will help people think about how exploitative experiences can continue post-trafficking. Relatedly, we have emphasised the repeated and worrying comment by several survivors that safe houses are not safe, partly because exploitation can continue in these settings through a variety of different actors.

Health and wellbeing

This was the second largest domain in terms of outcomes, and one commentor noted how there are too many outcomes in this category. Many of the comments in this domain talked about the importance of the outcomes, with many survivors feel strongly about certain outcomes. We are hoping that the voting process in the next round will narrow them down for the core outcome set. We'd rather give people the option to choose specifically what they think is most important from the outcomes. That said, we did make small changes to the outcomes in this domain, renaming 'improved vital functions' to 'improved physical wellbeing', adding grounding techniques into the 'coping with

mental health problems’ outcome and emphasising the need for informed and tailored medical treatment in the ‘access to medical treatment’ outcome.

Rights, justice and dignity

The ‘less racism’ outcome received more comments than any other outcome in the entire longlist. Several people noted how less racism was not enough and, as a result, we have renamed the category to ‘no racism’. A few commentators wanted this outcome to include other forms of discrimination. We believe that this would dilute the particular importance of racism in the trafficking context and have instead created a new additional outcome ‘no discrimination against LGBTQ+ people’. Alongside racism, this was the most common form of discrimination that people felt was relevant to our outcomes.

Feedback also suggested separating out compensation and prosecutions as these operate via different legal routes. We have renamed the ‘compensation and prosecutions’ outcome ‘prosecutions’ and incorporated compensation into the ‘dignified treatment of survivors’ outcome’. Otherwise, small changes were made to broaden out outcomes. This included to emphasise survivor preference in the ‘family reunification’ outcome to include the ‘removal of statute of limitations’ for the ‘prosecutions’ outcome, adding confidentiality to ‘the dignified treatment of survivors outcome’, and added documentation to the renamed ‘immigration status and documentation’ outcome. Finally, we renamed the ‘charity accountability’ outcome to ‘service accountability’ and moved it to the support services domain.

Supportive services

There have been two major changes in this domain. Firstly, this domain is bolstered by the addition of the ‘service accountability’ outcome from the ‘rights, justice and dignity’ domain. Secondly, the ‘staff that fight for your rights’ outcome has been subsumed within the ‘compassionate, trauma-informed staff behaviour’ outcome. We’ve also made smaller updates, including ‘keeping promises’ as part of ‘being able to trust support workers and other practitioners’ description, and ‘information on the support available’ in the ‘inclusive and sensitive support’ outcome description.

Creating change

In this domain, the most commented outcome was ‘increased male involvement’. Comments highlighted issues were around safety for women and unfairly singling out men. In terms of the former, we have changed the outcome description to be clear that male involvement should be done in a safe and inclusive way. In terms of the latter, this outcome has been drafted after charity and researcher feedback that it has been difficult to recruit and engage with male survivors, despite men constituting around 30% of survivors. There is also a further problem of representation in terms of charity staff and volunteers. We have, therefore, kept this outcome as part of the longlist. We also renamed the ‘defining new government policies’ outcome to ‘improving policy’, emphasising the need for government to directly engage and reach out to survivors, and included ‘financial compensation’ in the ‘recognition of activism’ outcome. Finally, we were very grateful for a comment suggesting that we expand the ‘survivor leadership’ outcome to leadership in all fields and organisations, not only around charities.