

UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES (UROMI JDCPI) NEWSLETTER, December 2022 Edition

CORPORATE FACT SHEET

Name	Uromi Justice Development Peace & Caritas Initiatives, (Uromi JDCPI).
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus A Ogun (OSA)
Authorized Representative & Director	Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
Corporate Registration No:	CAC/IT/No: 50042 & ED/MWASD/NGOR/200/04
Status	Catholic Non-Governmental, Non-Profit making, Humanitarian and Development Organization.
Motto	Hope for the Oppressed and Empowerment for All
Areas of operation	Integral Development, Human Rights, Democracy, and Good Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Prison Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit and Caritas, TB and HIV/AIDS care and support, HIV Counseling and testing, Livelihood improvement, Anti-Human trafficking and VC programming
Project steered	Conflict Management, Training of Electorate, Election Observation, Budget Monitoring, Community TB Care, HIV/AIDS Awareness Creation & Counseling, Micro-Credit Facilities, Rural Community Development Enlightenment Campaign, Prisoners' Welfare Services, Gender And Child Rights, Widowhood Association, Human Rights, Training Programmes for Police Officers and Youths, Women Development & Promotion through Micro Credit, Emergency Response, Legal Aid, VC Programming, Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance, Campaigns and Sensitizations Against Human Trafficking as well as Creating Alternatives to Human Trafficking through Vocational Skills Acquisition and Empowerment, Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme, Don't Pay With Your Life, Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking and Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award
Focus Group	The rural populace, the economically deprived, families, children, students, youths, women and widows living among the poorest of the poor in the society. Inmates in Prison and Ex-inmates, persons stigmatized with deadly diseases.

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Bankers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UBA BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • ECOBANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • FIDELITY BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • Unity Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi • Union Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi • Zenith Bank PLC Mission Road, Uromi
Staff Strength	24
Number of Community Volunteers	72
Project Executed	18

INTRODUCTION

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) through her wide-ranging streams of interventions geared toward contributing to a just and developed society where people coexist in peace conducted several activities in accordance with her mission, which is to promote integral human development through motivation and participatory actions with relevant stakeholders towards policy reforms, empowerment of the people and enhancement of human dignity for meaningful living. These activities were spread across varied projects and interventions being implemented by Uromi JDPCI.

In the Human Rights Education and Paralegal scheme project, the following activities were conducted: quarterly learning sessions with school-based adolescent human rights clubs in 25 Secondary Schools across the 5 LGAs, quarterly meeting with Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates in 30 communities across the 5 LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District, community dialogues with stakeholders in 4 communities, and the commemoration of World Human Right Day.

In the migration and Countering Trafficking in Person (CTIP) desk, Uromi JDPCI implemented some activities across two projects, which were; the Don't Pay with Your Life (DPWYL) and the Galvanize Action for Effective Trafficking in Persons Response at the LGA Level in Edo State (GATIP). In the DPWYL project, the following activities were conducted: entry advocacy visits to the LGAs, Focus Group discussions with social protection officers, group discussions with caregivers, group discussions with young female returnees, and monitoring visits to adolescents enrolled in vocational skills acquisition. While the GATIP project implemented the following activities: training on understanding and embedding human trafficking and unsafe migration response in Nigeria, training on budget analysis and monitoring processes, cluster coaching, and learning session.

Uromi JDPCI through her Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award facilitated HIV testing and Screening, Operation Triple Zero (OTZ) Club Meetings for Adolescents Living With HIV/AIDS at Uromi Central Hospital and Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, Caregivers forum, 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, gender norms training in 10 secondary schools and review meetings with community case managers and Facility managers.

Uromi JDPCI also sustained her micro-credit empowerment Scheme by providing soft loans to Small and Medium Scale enterprises and active farmers within the 5 Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District to enhance their businesses.

Uromi JDPCI also paid an annual Christmas visit to the inmates in Ubiaja Correctional Center to celebrate the Christmas season with them.

HUMAN RIGHT DESK
HUMAN RIGHT EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME

Quarterly Learning Sessions for School-Based Adolescent Human Right Clubs:

Uromi JDPCI facilitated learning sessions with the Adolescent Human Right Club members in 25 Secondary Schools across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose of the learning sessions was to equip the adolescents with the right information and legal instruments to protect themselves and their peers from



sexual and gender-based abuses as well as other forms of human rights violations.

With an emphasis on the paramount best interest of the child, the students were taken through the following



topics in their manual: Summary of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law and the power in effective communication.

at the interactive session, the student expressed appreciation for the knowledge gained and also recognized the need to continuously sensitize children within their vicinity so that they could be more aware of their rights and how to prevent abuse and violations, protect their rights, and serve justice for the violated.



The teachers affirmed that the fact that adolescent school children are been exposed to the understanding of basic human



rights and child protection in their early stage of life, is an added advantage to the behavioral change we aim to see regarding respect of the rights of persons irrespective of sex, ethnicity, religious and disability status. This is because their knowledge would broaden their horizon and shape their manners and responses to issues related to human relations, making unlearning of norms that negate respect for human rights a necessity. A total of 525 (190 males, 335 females) persons participated in the learning session.

Quarterly Meeting of Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates:

The 7th quarterly meeting with Paralegals and Advocates of the 30 community-based Human Rights Clubs across the 5 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District was held at the various LGAs on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, and 25th of November, 2022 at Igueben, Esan North East, Esan South East, Esan Central, and Esan West Local Government Areas, respectively. It was attended by 300 persons- (Males 151 and Females 142) The meeting was an avenue for activity performance appraisal of the human rights paralegals and advocates in their various communities as it relates to the goal and objectives of the



scheme. During the meeting, reports received from paralegals showed that 9 women were assisted by the community



paralegals from gender-based violations, 8 cases of child rights enforcements were intermediated upon, 12 human right sensitizations were held, ADR was used to resolve 6 civil breaches of rights, 4 human rights violations were not successful due to the unwillingness of the victims to report to appropriate authorities because of some personal or other reasons and 2 human rights issues were still pending.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in the opening address emphasized the importance of the role of Paralegals in addressing the difficulties in the



enforcement of human rights due to social stratification in society. He explained that the satisfaction and inner peace derived from assisting the less privileged in the



community cannot be overemphasized. He beckoned on all participants to use their wealth of human rights knowledge to illuminate their communities for meaningful growth and development resulting from peaceful co-existence due to respect for the human rights of all.

Community Dialogue:

Uromi JDPCI sustained the effort to strengthen community structures to protect children and promote human rights in 30 communities across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District. This was done through community dialogue which focused on children and women's protection in the community. To this end, a total of 5 communities (Okhuesan, Uzea, Amahor, Opoji, and Emaudo) were visited for dialogue on key children and gender-related issues within the quarter. In two of the communities, the participants showed a reasonable understanding of child abuse and what it takes to protect the rights of children as they were able to describe an acceptable age of children according to their traditional practices, as such children were officially not given out in marriage irrespective of their

biological makeup. Children were exempted from all forms of responsibilities, duties, roles, and expectations of an adult. The participants from Emaudo further noted that due to the series of sensitization and enlightenment from our project in the community, the incidence of sexual assault such as rape and abuse are now handed over to the police for prosecution, as this was not the case in the past. However, there were expressions of dissatisfaction that the security personnel have not been effective enough in bringing such culprits to justice. The participants also expressed displeasure with the high level of morale decadence among children in the community and the support such children receive from their parents who shun any other concerned community member who tries to caution them against their ill manners. This brings to bear the need for improved parenting among caregivers in the community.

In some other communities, participants noted that childhood was based on the discretionary belief of a



family therefore, the responsibilities, roles, and duties of a person were subject to the will of a family setting. Hence, the participant related that a person with matured physical attributes



irrespective of age could take on any adulthood responsibilities including marital contract. On issues of sexual offenses and abuse, it was also related that the culprit was customarily chastised by taking responsibility for the survivors' needs as well as being fined in some cases. However, where there are denials of offense and available evidence points to the culprit, or where the culprit refuses to comply with the decisions of the traditional head, it is only on such grounds that the culprit was handed over to the police. The illegality of such an act was explained using the relevant laws. The communities came to realize that rape and sexual assaults were criminal offenses that were not within the jurisdiction of the community head to resolve.

On the issue of widowhood practice, the dialogue sessions revealed that the ill-treatment of widows has reduced in some communities due to the abolition of some obnoxious rites hitherto practiced in many communities. However, the issue of widow inheritance is still being practiced in varied forms in virtually all communities. What is more worrisome is the fact that any widow who does not consent to be inherited is sanctioned by the community. Widows who reside within their late husband's community bear the bigger pain, as they are restricted from socializing with other women and denied the right to participate in community activities. Moreso, the community will not participate in any ceremony that concerns her and her children. The widows are therefore compelled by these situations and fear of the consequences of isolation and other inferences to accept to be inherited by a member of the deceased husband's family. The female participants lamented the trauma such practice puts widows through and affirmed their support to call for the total elimination and abolition of widow inheritance as has been provided by the extant law. Some of the community leaders present at the dialogue sessions promised to present the issues for deliberations at the general community meeting so as to consider a review of the traditional practices to meet the current provisions of the law. The community stakeholders admitted the need to reform the customary practices since they were negations to the protection and promotion of the human rights of the widows however, it would require time as it would be a gradual process. A total of 125 (78males, 47female) community stakeholders were reached in the 5 community dialogues



Commemoration of World Human Right Day: Uromi JDPCI Commemorated the 2022 World Human Rights Day to mark the end of 16th day of activism against gender-based violence. The high-level delegation meeting was held on the 9th of December 2022 at the Catholic Chancery Complex Uromi with the theme: “Promoting Unity amongst key actors in response to sexual and gender-based violence: The Roles and Duties of Law enforcement Agencies”. Uromi JDPCI through this event called on all stakeholders including Community Leaders, religious leaders, the family unit, Health workers, Law enforcement Agencies, the Judiciary and the media, to join hands and synergize in the fight against all forms of sexual and gender-based violence whilst assisting survivors of human rights violations in accessing Justice.



Notable recommendations during the event in addressing sexual and gender-based Violence includes: the need for Traditional Authorities to redress customs and traditions that support violence against women and girls such as harmful widowhood practices, Legislators to formulate policies that will help in the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women as well as amend provisions that seek corroboration during



proceedings in cases involving rape; Security Agents to enforce legislations against the sexual offense, Trafficking in Persons, child labor etc. and promote effective awareness



of these Laws while the Judiciary should ensure adequate attention to cases of human rights violations without compromise. The participants made commitments to be more supportive of survivors of human rights violations for speedy dispensation of justice

MIGRATION AND COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

**Don't Pay With Your Life (DPWYL) Project
Entry Advocacy Visit**

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) commenced activities for the AACTING project with entry advocacy visits to chairmen of the 5 targeted Local



Government Areas (LGA) in Edo Central Senatorial Districts and the Heads of Social Welfare Departments in the five LGAs to abreast them of the project intervention which aims at supporting and strengthening the operation of the community and institutional structures for the protection of children against human trafficking and sexual exploitation and other related offenses. The advocacy visits were also used to solicit their collaboration to build the capacity of social protection Officers in the various LGAs for effective response to human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Project Coordinator and Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in his advocacy message noted that Uromi JDPCI seeks to strengthen community and institutional structures for the protection of children against human trafficking, Child prostitution, and all forms of sexual exploitation especially the kinds that are targeted at Children. He added that Uromi JDPCI intends to collaborate with the Local Government by providing capacity-building support to Officers in the Social Welfare Department to be better equipped to provide social protection services to people within the Local government Areas with the ultimate goal to counter human trafficking and sexual exploitation. He, therefore, implored the cooperation of the HOLGA to designate the relevant staff in charge of social protection services to work with Uromi JDPCI. He mentioned that the project would engage the concerned Officers in several interactions and training that would help reinforce the institutional mechanisms for effective response to human trafficking cases including prevention strategies as well as enable them to have a functional case management system.

Focus Group Discussion with Social Protection Officers: Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) conveyed a one-day Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with social protection officers across the 5 LGAs (Esan Central, Esan West, Esan South East, Esan North East, and Igueben) in Edo Central Senatorial District. The FGD was held on the 13th of December 2022 at the Catholic Chancery Complex, Egbele, Uromi and was tailored towards supporting the operation of the existing community and institutional mechanisms for the protection of children against trafficking. Thus, the discussions were primarily to understand the operations and activities of the LGA social welfare department, i.e. the nature of their interventions in relation to social protection, what works for them, their challenges, and areas of collaboration so as to strengthen their work for improved protection against human trafficking and sexual exploitation. A total of 14 Participants (4 females and 10 males) comprised the LGA Social Protection Officers, Community representatives, and Staff of Uromi JDPCI.



Commitments to collaboration were made by the various LGA Protection Officers. Thus, if provided the needed support, they would have improved capacity to conduct their operations in the fight against trafficking. Participants agreed to maintain the same representation during subsequent meetings to build on the discussion and foster continuity.

Monitoring visits to Adolescents enrolled in Vocational Skill Acquisition

The Project Team of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) paid monitoring visits to the young female children from vulnerable families enrolled in vocational skill acquisition by the Don't Pay With Your Life Project.

The visit was done to assess whether the beneficiaries were still actively learning their chosen skills and to as well appraise their progress and improvements, note their challenges, recommend durable solutions, and encourage them to be focused on the training. This exercise was conducted between November and



December 2022; with a total of 13 Beneficiaries visited. However, follow-up visits were done for 2 of the Beneficiaries who initially portrayed negligence towards training but were now focused and committed after several encouragements, counselling, and close monitoring by the Project Team, making it 15 visits done altogether. 6 were visited in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA, 4 in Uromi, Esan North East LGA, 1 in Irrua, Esan Central LGA, 1 in Ebelle, Igueben LGA and another in Ewohimi, Esan South East LGA.



From the visits, all 13 children enrolled in diverse vocational skill training were still active in training and have made measurable progress in their learning endeavours. As of the period of the commencement of training, 69% percent of the beneficiaries had zero knowledge of the skill they are currently learning while only 31% had a rudimentary knowledge of the skill. However, within three months of training, the Beneficiaries are gradually mastering the skills and

are enthusiastic to improve daily as they envision the skills as a vocation, they can take up to earn a good living. They all have prospects to start up their own businesses after training and become a boss of their own and mentor young people who have an interest to acquire skills. They advised young people who are through with their secondary education with no family support to further to the University, to acquire a skill, because “hand work” is very lucrative and a sure means of livelihood that will enable them to cater for themselves and become independent and responsible adults in the nearest future. The Beneficiaries greatly appreciated ECPAT France, ECPAT Luxembourg, and Uromi JDPCI for the support given to them.

Their Trainers also gave good commendations about them, though a few of them were pointed to be unfocused at the beginning with some displaying unacceptable behaviours which have improved over time.

It was also observed that a few of the children had some family support. One of the Children learning Make-up and Decoration was supported by her elder brother to purchase a make-up box which was a key work tool for her to practice what she is being taught thereby improving her learning.



Major challenge reported by the children includes the high cost of transportation to the training centre due to the distance from their houses and inflation in the cost of fuel leading to a hike in the cost of transportation.

Group Discussion with Caregivers

Uromi JDPCI conducted another phase of group discussion with caregivers on the 14th of December 2022. The Topic discussed was Building Social Support during which they were sensitized on the need to give Social Support to those that are in need of it, the importance of social support, and the various ways of giving social support. The caregivers also had the opportunity to share their experience on the type of social support they have ever received, how it has helped them, and where they have been of support to others too. They further identified the various social supports that were available to them most of which were charitable individuals and non-state actors. The participants also identified the need to strengthen community and government structures and institutions to effectively facilitate social support services for ordinary people. The session was attended by 40 Caregivers, (all females). It was facilitated by the Director of Programs Uromi JDPCI; Dr. Michael Iyoriobhe.

In the opening remark; Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo urged the caregivers to open themselves up for social interactions that can help

them cope with stress. He encouraged them to identify support systems in their family, communities, and friends from where they can



draw strength and support. He noted that everyone is in need irrespective of social and economic status. The difference is that our needs differ, as such we need each other to succeed and achieve wellness, strive to support each other, and not die in silence, but look for support in the right places.

They were told that social support is important because it helps to relieve an individual from stress and other physical illnesses. Social support can be in the form of giving your time, knowledge, and even experience sharing. It was noted that one must not be extremely wealthy before social support can be given and the need to make themselves accessible to persons in their communities that might be in need of social support was also emphasized, stating that social support may necessarily not be material or financial but could be in kind or other forms

Uromi JDPCI and the project donor were greatly appreciated for the support that was given to them to improve their means of livelihood and put smiles on their faces. A caregiver noted “I have never really received genuine support from any source until this DPWYL came my way. My relative has given me some money in the past but I stopped asking them for help because they always find a way to mock or ridicule me”.



Participants were thereafter taken through an exercise of reflecting back on some of the social support that they have received in times past and how it has helped them in improving their livelihood. One of the Caregivers related that Uromi JDPCI was a great support system to her family as she was a widow who had lost hope in her children’s education due to the absence of a sustainable means of livelihood. But she regained hope through the economic support and encouragement provided by Uromi JDPCI as such all her children are in school and their living conditions have improved. Another participant recalled how her son almost dropped out of school but for the goodwill of a Catholic Priest in Ekpoma who paid two session school fees for her son to graduate from the University even when she was not a Christian. At the end of the session, the participants thanked the project team for the opportunity to examine their lives and identified ways to improve them.

Group Discussion with Young Female Returnees

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) held a group discussion with young female returnees as part of psychosocial support activities for survivors of human trafficking on the 15th of December, 2022. The topic discussed was “Building Social Support” with the objective to raise their understanding of what social support entails and how they can utilize social support systems to overcome difficulties, and challenges, manage stress, and maintain a sense of well-being.



It was an interactive session and involved a series of discussions and experience sharing. The session was facilitated by Erhabor Harriet and Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo. It had a total of 10 Returnees; all females in attendance with four project staff – (2 males and 2 females)

During the session, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo dwelt extensively on building social support. It was emphasized that as human beings, there is a need to seek help and reach out also when the need arises so as to ease stress as no man is an island. However, they were advised that in seeking help, they should know the right source to go for such help so as to get a positive result.

They were also encouraged to build **Emotional Support** which involves acting as a confidant for someone. It is not necessarily about finding solutions, but about showing empathy, knowing that someone else cares about you, and having someone who listens to and encourages you. While also trying to utilize **Information and Knowledge support which** entails having someone you can talk with when you need more information about assessing a service or asking how one dealt with a similar situation. Getting great insight and new perspectives that you might not have considered and having someone who helps you see things more positively.



The session, helped the Participants to better understand the need to develop and use social support in their daily lives. They thereafter expressed commitment to building a social support network that can help them to assist one another in any way possible, and also reach out to others when faced with difficulties beyond their control

Galvanize Action for Effective Trafficking in-Person Response at the Local Government Level in Edo State

Training on Understanding and Embedding Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration Response in Nigeria

The LOTIP-R Cluster anchored by Uromi JDPCI organized a two-day training on Understanding and Embedding Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration Response in Nigeria for the Cluster members. The purpose was to help deepen understanding of key issues around Human Trafficking and key provisions under the Trafficking in Person Act 2015, and the Edo State trafficking in person prohibition law (2018). The training was to enable participants to effectively engage relevant stakeholders toward the actualization of the Cluster's advocacy objectives. The training which was held in Benin City had a total of 25 Participants (14 females and 11 males) in attendance

The training thoroughly examined the concepts of human trafficking including its key elements, recruitment tactics, its types and causes, the push and pull factors, the forms of exploitations, vulnerability indicators, effects of human trafficking, migrant smuggling, the concept of return and reintegration, the stages of return and reintegration, effective communication, the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, the Trafficking in



Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI making a contribution during the session

Person Act 2015 as amended, the Edo State Trafficking in Person Prohibition Law 2018, Referral pathways, and Local response in tackling Trafficking In Person with emphasis on what has worked, the challenges and what needs to be improved. The participants expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the training as their capacity was strengthened for a more productive and improved engagement

Training on budget analysis and monitoring processes

In the same vein, a 2-day training on Budget Analysis and Monitoring Processes was held for Cluster members with support from the SCALE project sponsored by USAID. The training which was held from the 6th -7th of December, 2022 in Benin City was to increase the understanding of the participants on the budget process, including budget analysis, monitoring, and control. It also helped to improve the understanding of the Cluster members on budget advocacy and the approaches that can be used to undertake effective budget advocacy and lobbying. The training which covered a wide range of issues around budget preparation, approval, and releases helped to Strengthen the capacity of the participants to advocate for increased budgetary allocation for improved and effective Trafficking in Persons (TIP) response in Edo State, amongst others.

The highlights of topics covered in the course of the training were; Translating developmental plans into actions, The budget process with emphasis on what happens at each stage and ways to engage and influence the budget at the different stages, the legal regulations of budgeting, the Components, classification, and structure of the Edo State Budget and discussions on how to improve the Budget efficiency for ETAHT. Participants had a better and improved understanding of the budgetary process and got to realize how they could be part of the budgetary process. 24 participants (12 males and 12 females), from 12 organizations were trained.



Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI making a contribution during the session

Second Cluster Coaching Session

The LOTIP-R Cluster held its 2nd quarterly cluster coaching session on the 19th and 20th of October, 2022 at Vichi Gates Hotel, Benin City. This activity brought together all cluster member organizations to discuss the extent of the work that has been done by the cluster; looking at what is changing on the Cluster's advocacy issues, how much progress has been made, an opportunity that exists, and priorities to work on going forward.

The session also helped in deepening the understanding of Cluster members on their roles and responsibilities and the next steps needed to advance her advocacy work as well as deepening the understanding of the Cluster to conflict sensitivity, Gender and social inclusion (GESI) issues and improve GESI



The PM demonstrating with the outcome harvester

mainstreaming around her advocacy issues. It also provided the opportunity to reiterate and activate a practice of feedback to enable ongoing performance improvement, create opportunities for cluster members to take ownership of the collective impact session by leading meetings, and sharpen members' skills to capture results and turn them into success stories. A total of 17 Participants (9 females and 8 males) were in attendance

The outline of discussions during the session included a reflection on Advocacy strategy road map to gain better insight into the steps to follow in Advocacy work, Lessons in the practice of collective impact and the cluster approach, a review of the cluster declaration to ascertain its validity, update of the Cluster PEA tracker to ascertain if the PEA factors identified by the Cluster are still relevant to the clusters advocacy work and x-raying recent development in the political/economic environment that can impact the Cluster's work, presentation of progress made in the various project areas and key successes recorded within the quarter, taking into account systematic steps taking in these areas and exploring possible areas of impact and developing strategies, setting of new priorities, commitments, tasks, and assignment of roles as well as the Cluster feedback session.



The PM explaining the outcome harvester

Second Cluster Learning Session

similarly, Uromi JDPCI organized a learning session on Private Sector Engagement in Localizing Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Response in Edo State. The focus was to critically x-ray the role of the Private Sector in TIP response by leveraging Public-Private Partnerships to adequately empower Edo Youths to live life to the fullest and ultimately address the issue of human trafficking since the relevant index has continuously shown that unemployment increases the problem of human trafficking as the unemployed; due to their economic vulnerability are highly susceptible to human trafficking. A total of 43 participants drawn from 12 organizations in Edo State were in attendance (22 females and 21 males).

Discussions were specifically around: The role of the private sector in the job creation strategy of the Edo State Government, how the strategy is linked with the reduction of youth vulnerability to human trafficking, the extent to which the strategy worked in the creation of job employment and the reduction of youth vulnerability to human trafficking, the involvement of the Private Sector in the fight against human trafficking in Edo State and how to improve the role of the private sector in countering trafficking in person at the LGAs Level. Other issues discussed were the



relevance of the agricultural sector to youth empowerment and countering human trafficking in Edo State, the Perceptions of the youth to Agro- Enterprise as an occupation and how to strengthen Private Sector Engagement for effective Local response to countering trafficking in person

Notable recommendations from the discussion included

1. Increased Advocacy to the Government to create an enabling environment in the country for Private Sectors to thrive and be in a capacity to employ more youths with favorable work conditions. Addressing those factors that hamper their profit goals such as high taxation, bad roads, Stringent bureaucracies in business operation, epileptic power supply, and the high cost of running alternative power supply (Diesel) as well as advocate for Legislative laws that would compel the Private Sector to improve their employees' working conditions through standardization of remuneration.
2. Advocating the Government to make Agriculture attractive to youths by investing in mechanized farming, the adaptation of greenhouse that is cost-effective, and other SMART farming systems such as sack farming, Strengthen security in farming communities so that people can be safe to go to the farms, Strategic Engagement with the Government to increase access and linkages of farmers to the market and address the issue of Unionism which hinders access to market, Advocating for the active engagement of Agricultural Extension workers to improve the farmers' capacity to farm improved crops that can be exported as well as sensitize women and youth to be engaged in various aspects of the Agricultural value chain to improve the household economy,



ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN DESK

The ARFH ICHSSA 2 is a 4-year project, implemented in Edo Central Senatorial District by Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with Association for Family and Reproductive Health with funding from USAID. The goal of the project is to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on vulnerable children and their households through multi-programmatic approaches which are summarized in four domains Schooled, Healthy, Stable, and Safe. Among the activities conducted within the quarter were HIV testing and screening of 723 (441F 282M) persons across the project LGA which resulted in the identification of 2 positives who have been linked to treatment and care as well as enrolled on the Integrated Child Health and Social Services Award Project; thus contributing to case finding an epidemiology control, in the same vain a total of 36 CLHIV (16F 20M) and 20 CLHIV (8F 12M) were supported with the sum 1500 each to facilitate their ART drug uptake and viral load sampling while a total of 19 (10 M 9F) CLHIV were provided with community-based adherence counselling as well as linkage to enhanced adherence counselling



The PM with OTZ club members at ISTH

Also in view of engineering adolescents between the ages of 10 to 17 years to take charge of their health, Uromi JDPCI conducted 2 operations triple zero (OTZ) club sessions at Uromi Central Hospital (UCH) and Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital (ISTH), which had in attendance a total of 40 CLHIV (25F 15M) resulting to more ART adherent CLHIV hence higher viral suppression among the infected children.

Uromi JDPCI broadened the knowledge and skills of 71(F) caregivers at Ugbokhare and Amendokian communities of Esan Central and Esan North East respectively on improving the



social, emotional, physical, and financial needs of a child and the household at large by training



Young girls actively taking part in the soap-making process

them on buns and soap making through the caregivers' forum platform which has resulted in more economic stability in these households who have harnessed the skills learnt in the generation of income.



The Program Manager addressing the parish JDPCI on the ills of Gender-Based Violence

Among the activities also conducted within the quarter is, the 16 Days activism, which has helped to create and increase awareness on gender equity and equality among the Esan people. This



A group photograph of the ICHSSA2 team with the Parish JDPCI

activity was commemorated by Uromi JDPCI with 85 persons representing parish JDPC in 15 parishes.

In conformity with best practices regarding gender norms awareness in the implementation of the ARFH-ICHSSA 2 project in Edo State; as well as keep adolescents abreast of information regarding gender equality and equity, Uromi JDPCI- ICHSSA 2 Project Team collaborated with the Human Right desk of the organization to conduct a 10-hour gender norms training session for adolescent. The five-day training was divided into two-hour daily sessions held between October 18 to 24, 2022, and had discussions centered on Gender and sex, Gender norms, Gender-based violence, Gender, and child protection, and Sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents. The training took place in the following public schools (Eguare secondary school (40F, 12M), Emuado secondary school (25F, 0M), Egoro Amede secondary school (10M, 10F) Uhiele Secondary School (31M 14F) Obiaza mixed secondary school ((6M 15F)), St Johnbosco college Ubiaja (8M 13F) Okhuesan secondary (4M 36F) and Ujoelen secondary school (27M,31F). The gender norms training has kept the youth abreast with best practices regarding gender norms, hence contributing to the goal of reducing societal vices.



Uromi JDPCI also conducted 2 review meetings within the reporting quarter for her 12 community case managers (CCMs) and 4 facility case managers (FCMs) which was to provide supportive supervision over the services rendered to the enrolled beneficiaries. This act has led to better work



Supportive supervision by Uromi JDPCI

output from the case managers who now have a better understanding of their job description, in the same vein the state team also provided supportive supervision for Uromi JDPCI, resulting in better program delivery from



Supportive supervision by the state team

the Project staff.

Also within the reporting quarter Uromi JDPCI also provided emergency health support for a vulnerable HIV-exposed infant who was hospitalized and diagnosed with acute plasmodiasis and severe anaemia, the support assisted in footing the medical bills of the child who is now hale and healthy

MICRO CREDIT DESK

Uromi JDPCI has continued to empower small-scale enterprises and active farmers within Edo Central Senatorial District through her micro-credit scheme which provides soft loans for economic development to farmers and petty traders. Soft loans are given to groups of women and men who are active in business and small-scale commercial agricultural activities to enable them to boost their business which would ultimately lead to an improvement in their livelihood conditions. The Scheme has empowered over 1631 persons across 140 groups with 69 active groups currently in place.



Within the period, thirty-one (31) groups, were visited for collections and mentorship in communities across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District. Eighteen (18) groups were also given training to prepare them for empowerment in the scheme. The Micro Credit officer while appreciating the members of the group for their commitment in meeting up with the six (6) months repayment provision of the scheme, restated the need for all the members to remain committed as the money they would get will be greater than the cycle they



just concluded because they have demonstrated resilience and commitment to their business and the repayment process.

The members of the groups expressed readiness to obtain higher support as they pledged their commitment to the process. They were thereafter given another round of soft loans to boost their business and agricultural activities through bank transfers.

CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Christmas Party with Inmates

Uromi JDPCI paid an annual Christmas visit to the Ubiaja Correctional Center in collaboration with the family of Engr and Lady John Amedu to celebrate the Christmas season with the inmates. The celebration was marked with the nine lessons and carols in which the inmates had the opportunity to take part in the readings. This brought a feeling of belongingness to the inmates who shared their joy with Uromi JDPCI for making them feel the joy of the season through their participation in the Christmas carol. Words of exhortation were shared by Rev Fr Ferguson Ukpebor who praised the efforts of the prison officials at maintaining a neat and tidied environment at the correctional center. Thereafter, food, drinks, and sleeping mats were presented to the inmates as Christmas gifts to the inmates and the



Some materials shared for the inmates during Christmas visit



Group photograph with officials

correctional center. A total of 50 Mats were given to the center to support the mattresses which were no longer adequate.