

CORPORATE FACT SHEET

Name	Uromi Justice Development Peace & Caritas Initiatives, (Uromi JDPCI).
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Aimioshor 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 Programming, Livelihood, 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
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	
Physical Address	Inside Uromi Diocesan Chancery at Egbele, Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria.
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Auditors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grant Thornton chartered Accountants Emgn, Benin Branch 2. Edforte, Fortne, Ehiagwina & Associates 141 Benin-Auchi Road Ekpoma, Edo State
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
Staff Strength	14
Number of Community Volunteers	55
Project Executed	16

INTRODUCTION

The efforts of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) in promoting good governance through community engagement, creating awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration as well as ensure meaningful living for the people of Esan Land continued to yield successes in the various intervention conducted in this quarter.

In the good governance desk, Uromi JDPCI conducted five quarterly meetings across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The plans of the various groups to participate in the forth coming election took the center stage of discussion with members suggesting diverse ways of preventing vote buying and money politics. Uromi JDPCI also conveyed a senatorial eminent stakeholder's forum which was attended by traditional rulers and political representatives across Esan land

Uromi JDPCI also conducted advocacies visits and awareness creation to communities, schools, churches and government institutions with the aim to sensitize them on the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration. As a way of creating alternative for households in the prevention of human trafficking Uromi JDPCI empowered 75 students and 75 caregivers with five thousand for school materials and eighty five thousand naira grant for business respectively.

The micro credit desk also attracted a lot of clients most of whom signified interest in the Agricultural empowerment. The petty traders were also empowered to sustain their businesses and improve their livelihood. With Micro credit support to rural and semi urban farmers as well as petty traders, Uromi JDPCI is creating livelihood opportunity and promoting economic empowerment.

Uromi JDPCI was also at the prison to celebrate the Christmas season with the inmates as well as collaborated with other persons to do the same.

CIVIC GROUP QUARTERLY MEETINGS HELD IN THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2018

A total of five quarterly meetings were held across the five local government areas in Edo Central Senatorial District with a purpose to strengthen civic engagement with representatives and promote active participation by the communities in governance with particular emphasis on community participation in the forth coming election. The Executive Director, very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo in his remark encouraged the people to recommend to their communities stakeholders and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) the way and manner they will prefer the ballot boxes to be positioned in their polling units on election days so as to discouraged vote buying since the current arrangement has been hijacked by vote buyers who encourage those they bought their vote to show their ballot after thumb printing on it before submission in the ballot boxes. He again encouraged the civic group members to promote voters' education in the various communities so as to help the people to vote wisely. He reminded them that the forth coming elections were close and that all civic groups should be working to see how candidates for the elections should be made to sign social contracts with stakeholders of their respective communities on what they would do when elected to office. He also urged the various civic groups to intensify campaigns on voters' education in their various communities especially on the issue of money politics.

He informed the people that the project has been extended for three months and the quest from election observation has been approved. Each civic group was to submit names for election observation.

ESAN CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The quarterly meeting of civic groups in Esan Central LGA was held on the 28th of December, 2018 at St. Anselm Children Hall, Irrua. The meeting started at 3:15pm with opening prayers after which Uromi JDPCI Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo gave the opening remark and then the groups proceeded to present the reports of their activities and engagements during the period.

Agua Civic Group reported that they did a follow up to the Senator to remind him of his promise to tar their community road. The Senator said that the contract has been awarded and the contractor mobilized though he was yet to resume work at the site, he was hopeful that the contractor will soon commence construction work on the road.

Ewu Civic Group reported that they mobilized the community to provide security for the staff of the newly renovated health center to ameliorate the fears of the staff because of the location of the health center. He added that they thereafter



The Director very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo addressing civic group members during meeting

reported to the LGA chairman who immediately employed a security officer for the Health Center.

Idumebo Civic Group reported that they visited the Local Government chairman to request for grading of some roads in their community. The Chairman told the community to submit three streets for grading in the community. This the community has done and the chairman promised to attend to it within one week.

Usenu Civic Group reported that they still have not been able to resolve the challenge with the transformer in their community, but noted that spirited efforts have been made by the community to involve more stakeholders to get it done.

Akho/Eguare Civic Group reported that they conduct sensitization to Okada riders on the need to report police exploitation to appropriate authority rather than keep mute and

allow the illegality to continue. The Okada riders went to the Divisional police Officer to address the issue. The DPO told the Okada riders to come directly to report any of his officers involved in such exploitation.



A member presenting report from their community

ESAN WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

The meeting which was held on the 29th of November, 2018 at the Palace of the Monarch of Ekpoma started at 4:20pm with opening prayer which was followed by opening remark delivered by the Director, after which the various groups gave the report of their activities within the quarter

Egroro-Amende Civic Group reported that the community has mobilized resources to secure the transformer in their community. This, the facilitator said was as a result of the civic group suggestion to the community elders to use concrete work to hold the cables to the ground so as to prevent vandalism and theft of the transformer cables. He noted that the act stealing cables from transformers was on the increase in communities within and around the Local Government Area. The facilitator

added that through community interventions, an illustrious son of the land has volunteered to tar their road.



A member in Esan West presenting report from their community

Emaudo Civic Group reported that they have been involved in community mobilization to prevent vote buying in their community and that the elders have also given their support to the process. The facilitator added that they collaborated with the community youth to stop the

dumping of refuse on the road and that the youths were also liaising with the vigilante group to improve security in the community.

Emiala Civic Group reported that they had planned to visit the LGA chairman so as to request him to de-silt the drainages and dredge the pit in their community that help to collect erosion water but did not work out. However they still intend to do that in the next quarter. They added that the school roof which was blown off by storm has be repaired through collaborative effort of the Local Government, School and community.

Ukpenu Civic Group reported that their community transformer has been secured to prevent theft. Chief Omonua who is the facilitator of the group added that they invited the construction company engaged by the State Government to construct a nearby road to redirect the erosion channelled to their community and noted that the State Government promised to construct a tunnel to direct the erosion from causing havoc in the community. The facilitator also used the opportunity to commend the State Government for the speedy construction of a road across their community as a result of the dialogue.



A member from Emaudo community in Esan West presenting report from their community

Ujoelen Civic Group reported that they approached the LGA chairman on the need to provide toilet for Ujoelen primary school. The LGA chairman promised to build two toilets in the primary school within the shortest time. They added that they are strategizing to prevent the dumping of refuse a long major road that passed through the community. Comr. Babatunde who presented the report on behalf of the group added that the civic group collaborated with the community to mobilize resources for the construction of speed breakers to prevent further accident on the road. He noted that the speed breaker was necessity by the frequent occurrences of accidents on that particular road leading to serious injuries on the pedestrians.



Group photograph of members after the meeting

Ekpoma Civic Group reported that they collaborated with Ekpoma Eminent stakeholders' forum to complete the installation of barricades on the newly constructed road to prevent heavy duty trucks from using the road. They have also gone to strengthen their relationship with new community leaders and chiefs. They also intervned to ensure the covering of drainage within busy areas to prevent children from falling into it. The facilitator, Mr Osajie added that they were negotiating with a construction company to install speed breakers in front of one of the busy school along the route to protect the students from been knocked down by vehicles.

Ukhun Civic Group: The scribe of the civic group reported that construction work at the Ukhun primary school was still on-going with the plastering of the floor. This he said was done through community efforts. He also reported that some roads in the community were in very bad shape and that the group has concluded plans with stakeholders in the community on how to influence their representatives to work on the road.

Irukepken Civic Group reported that the problem of inadequate medical personnel at the General Hospital and teachers at the Irukepken Grammar school was still persisting. However the civic group with the help of some elders in the community has been able to influence the posting of some teachers to the school. As for the General Hospital, the community is still waiting for response from both the state and Local Government Area.

ESAN NORTH EAST LGA QUARTERLY MEETING

The quarterly meeting which was held on the 6th of December, 2018 at the Palace of the Monarch (Ojuromi of Uromi) started at 11:08 am with opening prayers and remark given by participants and Fr Fidelis respectively. Thereafter the various civic groups gave their reports



Fr Fidelis addressing members at the meeting in Esan North East

Ivue Civic Group reported that their group conducted voter's education in their community and has visited the party leaders in their community to sue for peaceful election. They have suggested to the community that in queuing up to vote, they should to allow for some metres away from the polling units so as to prevent vote buying by showing of thumb printed ballot paper to prospective buyers. They also promised to recommend to the community elders to pass sanction on anybody involve in violence during election. The facilitator added that teachers have still not been posted to Ivue primary school but that a team from the appropriate authority has come to assess the situation.



A member responding to issues from his community

Erer Civic Group reported that they worked with the community to prevent herdsmen attack in the community. The facilitator narrated how one of their community members was attacked but was quickly rescued by other community members in the farm. The police, LGA and monarch have been informed and that investigation was on-going.

Egbele Civic Group reported that they engaged with the head of herdsmen in the community to prevent invasion of farm lands by herdsmen. Through their intention, the community have employed three teachers for their primary school to improve learning in the school. The engagement of appropriate authorities to renovate the school was still in progress.

Efandion Civic Group reported that work was in progress to get desk for all students and that the civic group has already began sensitization of community members on the need to shun vote buying and vote according to their conscience on Election Day. The facilitator also reported that the group has agreed to meet with the councillor of the ward to assist in seeking audience with the Council Chairman on certain roads to be graded in the community since the dry season has commenced.



Group photograph of members after the meeting

Amendokhian Civic Group reported that herdsmen issues were being addressed through the use and involvement of vigilante group. Destruction farms and attack on community members have not been recorded since the involvement of vigilante in the community. The scribe added that the civic group intervened to ensure that the teachers transferred from their primary school were replaced so as to have sufficient teachers in the school. He added that the civic group was monitoring the on-going construction of road and drainage in the community to ensure standard.

ESAN SOUTH EAST QUARTERLY MEETING

This meeting was also held on the 6th of December, 2018 at the Palace of the Monarch of Ubiaja, but started at 3:30pm with opening prayers and remarks given by participants and Director respectively. Thereafter each civic group presented their reports of activities within the quarter.

Ubiaja Civic Group reported that the LGA council has evacuated the refuse dumped along the road and that the LGA council has made regulations to limit indiscriminate dumping of refuse within the community. The Facilitator added that the vigilante group effort to mitigate the activities of kidnapping in the LGA was yielding good result with the arrest of some culprits within the period.



The program Manager addressing the people at the quarterly meeting

Okhuesan Civic Group: The facilitator reported that through their intervention a committee has been set up by the Onojie (Monarch) of Okhuesan to look into the outage of electricity supply to the community. He noted that civic groups were members were part of the committee which has been tasked to see how the high electricity bill said to be owed by BEDC can be reduced so that power can be restored to the community. He noted that the bill imposed on the community by Benin Electricity Distribution Company before power can be restored was outrageous; hence they have resulted to negotiate with BEDC on the way forward. He also reported that the group was holding its meetings regularly and that they were still trying to find their feet under the new facilitator and scribe after the death of the previous facilitator.

Ewatto Civic Group reported that one of their representatives at the federal House of Representatives provided bore-hole for their community. However the borehole has not started working because some machines have not been provided. They added that the civic group paid advocacy visits to the chiefs in seven quarters in Ewatto community. Their purpose was to solicit their support to stop money politics in the community especially toward the forthcoming election

Ewohimi Civic Group reported that BEDC has started replacement electric poles in their community in preparation to restore power to the community. The facilitator added that they approach the construction company working in the community to install speed breakers at the primary school

junction to avoid student related accidents and the company has installed the breakers.



Group photograph of members after the meeting

Emu Civic Group reported that the contractor handling the Niger Delta Development Commission road contracts in their community has mobilized their equipment to site but have not begun work. The facilitator added that in their attempt to get electricity supply restored to their community, they have been able to pay two million naira out of the twenty million naira imposed on the community as indebtedness by BEDC but that the BEDC insisted that they pay additional one million naira (#1,000,000) before electricity can be restored to the community.

They were advised to find out from BEDC how they arrived at the amount the community is said to owe before further payment can be made. Members were again urged to lay emphasis on voter's education campaign in their respective communities especially on the issue of vote buying.

IGUEBEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT QUARTERLY MEETING

The quarterly meeting of Igueben civic group was held on the 7th of December, 2018 at the palace of the Monarch of Igueben. The Executive Director, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo gave the opening remark after the opening prayer was said by a member of the civic group. The various groups then presented their reports of activities held within the period.



A civic group member presenting a report during quarterly meeting

Ekpon Civic Group reported that the letter to the Governor was ready but has not been delivered because they have not been able to mobilise enough fund to convey community representatives to the state capital. They appreciated the Monarch who made some money available but will not be enough to convey the number of persons to Benin City. They were

advised to send the number of persons that the money they have can support rather than trying to send a large delegate that they cannot fund.

Ewossa Civic Group reported that they have concluded plans to send delegates from the palace to the chairman to remind him of his promises during the eminent stakeholders' forum. He noted that the civic group members had gone there earlier but the chairman was not available.

Amahor Civic Group reported that the roads in their community esquires urgent attention. The community is still awaiting response from Mobil network in the community.

Ebelle Civic Group reported that road construction has commenced in their community as promised by the chairman and that security in the community has been strengthened with vigilante group. The facilitator added that construction of market stalls were in progress. The community intends to visit the chairman for appreciation and also ask him to assist the community with health centre.



Group photograph of members after the meeting

Eguare Igueben Civic Group reported that some construction market stalls has commenced in the Igueben market as promised by the chairman during round table discussion. They were advised to visit the chairman to appreciate him for the work and sue for speedy completion so as to facilitate daily market.

Idumeka Civic Group A member of the Idumeka civic group reported that approval has been given for daily market to commence in the community by the Onojie (Monarch). He also said the civic group with the help of elders in the community and school authorities have been able to curtail the incidences of students roaming around during school hours.

EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL EMINENT STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

As part of the efforts to consolidate on the plans of promote a peaceful and more developed Esan land Uromi JDPCI conveyed a senatorial eminent stakeholders' forum to discuss some fundamental issues affecting the people and communities within the senatorial district. The event was held on the 7th of November, 2018 and had in attendance three traditional rulers (HRM Lord Peter Usifoh Ojenoifo, the Onojie of Ewohimi, HRH Ehizogie II, the Onojie of Ogwa, HRH Aigbomian, the Onojie of Ukhun) the representatives if the following Enijie: Ekpoma, Uromi, Ewatto, Ido, Ubiaja and Ewu. The event also had 15 community Chiefs various kingdoms across Esan land, the Executive Chairman of Esan North East Local Government Area, Hon Austine Okoibhole, The Vice Chairman of Esan Central Local Government Area, Representatives of Hon Sergius Oseasochie Ogun, Member Representing



Onojie of Ewohimi making his contribution at the event.

Esan North East and Esan South East Federal Constituency, community leaders, civic group members and other distinguished members of the communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were: peaceful and violence free election, money politics/vote buying, security challenges/kidnapping, Human Trafficking/Irregular migration and role of government in community development

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo who set the pace for discussion noted that the aim of the forum was to create a platform for stakeholders to brainstorm and suggest way forward for good governance and community development in Edo Central Senatorial District as well as bridge the gap between the electorates and their representatives. He noted that the trend of money politics and vote buying was disturbing and capable of undermining community development in the senatorial district. He also hinted on the ugly trend of human trafficking and irregular migration as well as the recurring problem of human trafficking and the dangers constantly posed by herdsmen to farmers in the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. The near absence of government in most communities in Esan land was not left out as he called on all present to use every available opportunity to draw the attention of government to the situation.



A cross section of participants at the event

Money Politics: The forum declared as worrisome the rate at which politicians have monetized the political system. The traditional rulers and other stakeholders who spoke condemned in strong terms all forms of financial inducement before, during and after election. While some politicians blamed vote buying on the electorates who are always willing to sell their votes buying asking for money before voting others noted that it was the politicians who instigate the electorates to act in that manner by deliberating impoverishing the people by their acts of corruption and embezzlement. It was noted that if public funds were used for public good, life would have been better off for the people as such would not need money from any politician before voting. The stakeholders resolved to embark on an aggressive campaign at their various domains to enlighten their people on the need to desist from selling their votes or voting for a candidate because he/she has given them money. The security agencies were also advised to live up to expectation in prosecuting those who are caught in the act of vote buying according to the law. The stakeholders also suggested a reduction in the salaries and emoluments of political office holders so as make political positions less attractive and to reduce the tendency of them spending huge sums of money to buy votes from electorates in the course of vying for elective positions. Community leaders were advised to encourage good people in their communities to get involved in politics so as to give the electorates the opportunity to vote for quality representation because the absence of quality and credible candidates compel some voters to demand for money before voting..

Voter Education: The reluctance of electorates to collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVC) and go out to vote on Election Day was deliberated on by stakeholders at the forum. It was also resolved that like in the issue of money politics, an aggressive campaign will be mounted across communities in the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District on the importance of making informed decision on who to vote which should begin with the collection of permanent voter' card (PVC) as well as go out to vote on Election Day.

Human Trafficking/Irregular Migration: The stakeholders described as unfortunate the ugly trend of human trafficking and irregular migration in Esan land. Some participants took time to recount their personal, family or community experience of irregular migration. It was noted that the menace has eaten deep into the fabric of every community in Esan land. The huge loss of lives of young men and women from Esan land who embark on this perilous journey in the Sahara desert and Mediterranean Sea has been alarming. While some stakeholders blamed it on economic hardship (poverty, unemployment, fall in the value of naira, unfavourable economic policies etc) and government insensitivity to the plight of the people, other said it was consequence moral decadence, greed, failure in parental responsibility and societal influence. The forum has therefore resolved that all stakeholders; traditional rulers, parents, guardians and political leaders must put all hands on deck to ensure that this ugly trend is stopped. More young men and women should be empowered with alternative means of earning a living so that they can fend for themselves and their families and contribute their quota to the growth and development of the community, State and Nation at large. It was also recommended that the government should deliberately plan and invest in the lives of their citizens to meaningfully contribute to development.



The Esan North East LGA chairman making his remarks at the event.

The stakeholders further noted that Edo Central Senatorial District is blessed with abundant fertile land which is favourable for the cultivation of cassava. They therefore suggested that it would be economically viable for total value chain in cassava production to take priority in agricultural policy of the state government. The forum recommended that a SWOT analysis be conducted to ascertain to a large degree the various by- products that can be gotten from cassava so as



A group photograph of the Director Uromi JDPCI and traditional rulers at the event.

to have a ready market available for farmers to sell their products after harvest. This they said will go a long way in reducing the trend of irregular migration among young people. The convener appealed to participants to intensify campaign against irregular migration to change the mind sets and advise

the youths to equip themselves with academic or relevant skills so that they can contribute to the growth and development of their communities.

Security: The persistent problem of Fulani herdsmen destroying farms with their cows in Esan land has become a huge monster that government seem helpless in finding a lasting solution. This problem has resulted in poor harvests, farmers not been able to repay loans/credit they secured for farming, women being raped and men being killed in their farms. The stakeholders expressed sadness that little or no effort has been made to find a lasting solution to the problem by the government. Though the problem is national, more efforts were needed to curb this dangerous menace. They warned that if the problem was allowed to continue it may result to a bigger problem which may be more difficult to manage. The forum has resolved that a different strategy should be adopted by all stakeholders to see to the end of these crises, especially now that kidnapping was also becoming a major issue in some communities. The security agencies were advised to be firm in discharging their duties as the only way to earn the trust of the people and make the people report issues to them is when they see that justice is rightly served.

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND SAFE MIGRATION (CAT-SaM)

Uromi JDPCI conducted sensitization to six schools and three churches within the quarter. The schools visited were; Ivue, Eror, Arue and Efandion Primary schools as well as Ebhoiyi Secondary School and Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School while the churches visited were; Church of God Mission Int'l Inc. Uromi, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Efandion and St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral Uromi, the aim was to create awareness on the dangers of human trafficking.

SENSITIZATION IN CHURCHES

Uromi Justice Development Peace /Caritas Initiatives in her determination to reduce human trafficking in Esan North East Local Government area of Edo State, was in Church of God Mission Int'l, St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Efandion and St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral, Uromi to campaign against human trafficking and raise awareness on safe migration. The sensitizations was done on Sunday 14th October, 4th and 18th November, 2018 during their service in which participants made up of men, women and youth enthusiastically listened to the message on the dangers of human trafficking and safe migration tips. The team from Uromi JDPCI condemned in totality the frenzy at which young people especially adolescents get involved with irregular migration using the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea as their route to Europe. The team emphasized that the dangers of irregular migration were huge as such parents should not encourage their children to engage on such journey because it in most cases leads to



A section of parishioners at the Cathedral

human trafficking, exploitation, servitude prostitution, organ harvest or death. The importance of education and skills as a means of overcoming susceptibility and vulnerability to human trafficking was also emphasized

Parents present in the church were asked to reject any offer of taking their children especially the female to abroad in the name of furthering their education or working in a salon, as such relatives could be traffickers. Participants were told that human trafficking is an evil act that unfortunately seems to be very attractive and drawing many followers among the young people especially those who want to make it by all means.

They were encouraged to send their children to school or allow them to learn a trade to earn them



The congregation viewing a short video at the church

better and brighter future and that if they must travel, it should be for something good and profitable to the society by following the genuine route.

Parents and youths present at the church service were therefore



A section of Parishioners in St Ignatius Efandion

counseled to watch out for traffickers who deceive people with unrealistic promising future as well as caution their children to desist from acts and desires that lure them to trafficking and irregular migration.

The participants who listened with keen interested nodded their heads in affirmative support to the message while the Priests in both Churches further urged their members to learn from the mistake of others rather than wait to be a victim before realizing the truth.

Bishop Mathew Okpebholo further lend his support to the message by encouraging his members to listen to the voice of reasoning and get involved in the lives of their children in a positive way and then appreciated the team for the sacrifice to work even on Sunday for the good of the people.

The project team conducted sensitization in two masses in St. Ignatius while three masses were attended in the Cathedral and one service was attended in Church of God Mission. A total of 1909 persons made up of 825 males and 1054 females were in attendance.

SENSITIZATION VISITS TO SCHOOLS

In the same vein, sensitization was conducted in six schools (Ivue, Eror, Arue and Efandion Primary schools as well as Ebhoiyi Secondary School and Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary

School) in Uromi, Esan North East Local Government Area, Edo State. A total of 732 persons made up of 266 males and 466 females were reached.



Students watching documentaries at Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School, Uromi

The purpose was to equip the children and youth with knowledge of the dangers of human trafficking and tips on safe migration. Before the film show, the project team condemned the practice of celebrating wealth without finding out the source, noting that this attitude has continued to



Students listening to sensitization in Ivue Primary School

fuel irregular migration. Some instances where parents sold lands or borrow money to send their children abroad as well as the high rate of death recorded on the Mediterranean Sea and Sahara desert were highlighted. Following this brief explanation, the participants with key interest sat and watched the film which described how a young girl was taken from her community by a supposed aunt to sponsor her education in the city. This brought happiness to her parents who willingly allowed the woman to take their daughter to city but on arriving the city, the girl was treated like slave in the house, she was maltreated, beaten and denied of many basic needs including education and eventually beaten to a point that the neighbor invited the Police who arrested the trafficker and eventually lead to her liberation and reunited to her family. The sensitization and film show caught the attentions of both staff as well as pupils and students of the schools visited in all the communities during which the pupils and students could not hold themselves seeing how the little girl was beaten mercilessly, they vowed not to be a victim of such but to study their books and actualize their God's given future.

Another documentary was shown on some of Libya returnees who narrated their ordeals and warned viewers to remain in their country to avoid all the bad experiences they went through.

From the film show, the following route and their characteristics were explained as follows:

- Travelling across the desert which is characterized with dryness,
- Travelling across the sea which normally takes the life of majority of the irregular migrants who traveled through it over the years



Students listening to sensitization in Efandion Primary School

- Travelling by air which is safer and faster but stands the risk of losing huge investment if not in possession of valid travel documents.



Students listening to sensitization in Eror Primary School

Migrants who travel via illegal route have little or no chance of reaching their destinations, in the event of been stranded, many are forced into robbery, servitude and commercial sex. The campaign ended with the team encouraging the pupils and students to desist from engaging in a perilous journey of irregular migration but to always take the right routes and

channels if they must travel out of their country. A total of 732 students made up of 266 males and 466 females were reached in the 6 schools visited.

PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS ESPECIALLY CHILDREN AND WOMEN COMING FROM NIGERIA AND VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING (PACKING) PROJECT

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives in a bid to expand her frontiers in rendering assistance to vulnerable households to retain their children in school collaborated with Girls Power Initiatives (GPI) with support from ECPAT- FRANCE in a project titled “Protection of migrants and asylum seekers especially Children and Women coming from Nigeria and Victims of Trafficking (PACKING)” to empower 75 households with grants for income



Beneficiaries in a group photograph with empowerment items in front

generating activities to support their children’s education. The empowerment process which was conducted between October and December, 2018 provided support to the beneficiaries in three phases; The first was the disbursement of the first tranche to the first twenty five beneficiaries, which were selected from across the 5 Local Government Areas. The sum of fifty thousand (50,000) naira only was given to each of the selected beneficiaries, with a promise to give them a second tranche of thirty five thousand naira (35,000) if the first tranche was adequately and effectively invested according to the plans they shared with Uromi JDPCI during the business training and orientation session.

The second phase was organized in a more elaborate form to include the invitation of key stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking in Edo State as guests in the ceremony. Among such stakeholders were the Coordinator of Girls Power Initiatives, Mrs Grace Osakwe and the Zonal Commander of NAPTIP, Benin Zonal Command, Barr Nduka, among others.

The third phase was done on the 11th December, 2018 with Uromi JDPCI Board of Trustee members in attendance.

At the flag off ceremony executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo noted that the event was remarkable because of its holistic approach and emphasis on in school adolescent. He noted that before now Uromi JDPCI interventions in anti-human trafficking was focused on out of school Adolescent but with the PACKING project, the needs of in-school adolescents has become obvious. He explained the purpose of the project which was to support the retention of the girl child in school so as to prevent them from falling prey to human traffickers. He reiterated that among the diverse numbers of students assessed from 71 schools only 75 of them were selected using set criteria. He noted that Uromi JDPCI took further initiative to train the selected beneficiaries on business education and selection of Income Generating Activities. This he said was to equip them with the relevant skills to select a profitable and viable business as well as help them to maximize profit so that after being empowered they will be able to continue their business and the training of their children in school.



AWEA Coordinator making a presentation to beneficiaries



GPI Coordinator Grace Osakwe after presentation to a beneficiary

The Coordinator of GPI grace Osakwe introduced the members of her team and gave a brief history of their collaboration



GPI Coordinator Grace Osakwe addressing beneficiaries during the flag off ceremony

with Uromi JDPCI. She said that all this was done to

enable parent assist their children in school and also the children should assist their parent to make the goal of the project successful. She specifically advised caregivers on the need to educate female children. She appreciated Uromi JDPCI for their intervention in Esan land and the partnership in this intervention. She concluded by saying that 71 schools were visited in Esan land and 7100 children were assessed, 142 children were selected and later reduced to 75 persons (using set criteria) who were the beneficiaries



NAPTIP Zonal Commander addressing the beneficiaries

present at the event.

NAPTIP's representative Bar. Nduka Nwawenne noted that trafficking is something that cannot be handle by one organization but through collaborative effort. He urged the participants to be fully involved in the fight against trafficking in their homes and communities. He said that traveling abroad is not prohibited; doing it the legal way is the best to avoid death along the way to destination country as well as to reduce exposure to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. He advised them to say no to human trafficking and further advised them to contact NAPTIP



Beneficiaries in a group photograph with Fr Fidelis and GPI representatives after the final disbursement

office at any time there is an issue of trafficking whether in Nigeria or person trapped abroad and want to come back home.

The representative from AWEA (Africa Women Empowerment Aid) also admonished the beneficiaries on the need for them to appreciate and manage whatever is

given to them so as to make a meaningful living out of it.

Representative of Esan West Local Government Council Mr Itua expressed happiness and satisfaction on the selection process as the number of female caregivers benefiting were far more than the male caregivers because when a women is empowered a nation is empowered. He also advised the beneficiaries to make good use of the money given to them so that they can take care of their children.



NAPTIP Zonal Commander presenting an envelope to a beneficiary

The Director Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo appreciated the participants for gracing the event. He reminded the



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo making a presentation at the final disbursement

caregivers of the need to effectively invest the grant given to them so as to achieve the desired goal.

Thereafter, the cash and items (four grinding machines worth ₦95,000 each) were presented to the beneficiaries by the different representatives while the children were also given money (₦5,000, each) for their school materials. A recent visit to the beneficiaries showed that they have all invested the money in their chosen businesses.

SUSTAINABLE MEASURE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (SMAT-P)

Uromi JDPCI entered into partnership with Caritas Nigeria in October, 2018 to implement a two years project with support from Catholic Bishop Conference of Italy. The intervention is geared



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo, addressing the Executive Chairman, Esan Central LGA

towards raising awareness about human trafficking through integrated approach which includes advocacies to key stakeholders, community mobilization and sensitization,



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo, addressing the Executive Chairman, Esan South East LGA

sensitizations in the churches, mosque,



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo and Onomen with the king of Ewohimi Lord Peter Ojenoifo

schools, markets and motor parks. The intervention also aims to address the economic vulnerability that makes some households susceptible to human trafficking by empowering such households to depend less on external support in meeting their livelihood needs. This the project seeks to do by offering livelihood support, providing



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo addressing the king of Ewohimi Lord Peter Ojenoifo

grant/scholarship school dropout. The component of

savings and internal lending communities (SILC) will also assist the beneficiaries to develop the culture of savings. The intervention which commenced in November is implemented in two Local Government Areas (Esan Central and Esan South East).

Since its commencement, the project has conducted advocacy visits to the LGA Chairmen of Esan Central and Esan South East, Monarchs and key stakeholders in selected communities (Idumebo/Idumabi, Irrua, Ewu, Ewatto, Ewohimi, Ewatto and Illushi) in the two target Local Government Areas. The project has also trained 10 frontline Advocates from the selected communities (Idumebo/Idumabi, Irrua, Usenu, Agua, Ewu, Ewatto, Ewohimi and Illushi) in the two target Local Government Areas.

During Uromi JDPCI SMAT-P project team visit to the Chairmen of the two selected Local Government Areas (Esan Central and Esan South East), the team informed them of the proposed intervention in their Local Government Areas and solicited their support, cooperation and

collaboration towards a successful implementation so as to achieve the set goal of the project. The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo who led the team explained the various objects and components of the projects to the Local Government Chairmen. He also highlighted the various communities in which the project will be implemented in the various Local Government Areas

The Chairman noted that it is worrisome that irregular migration is on the increase because of the type of flamboyant life style people want to live. Parents encourage their children to engage in inglorious activities because of quest for wealth. Rather than encourage their children to follow a career line they force their children into quick money or getting immediate wealth. These factors have continued to propel human trafficking.

The Executive Chairmen expressed their commitment to the project of promoting sustainable measures against human trafficking. They agreed that the trend was ugly and the all stakeholders need to put their hands together to forge a way forward. They commended the project team and promised to give the team the desired support.



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo addressing the King of Irrua, Alhaji W.O. Momodu II and some of his Chiefs

In the same vein the Onojie (King) of Ewohimi, His Royal Majesty, Lord Peter Usifoh Ojienoifoh on the 1st of November, 2018 at his palace in Ewohimi



Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo in a hand shake with the King of Irrua, Alhaji W.O. Momodu II

noted that other NGOs have come to speak in the community but have not

been able to present enduring packages as the ones contained in the SMAT-P project. He promised the Project team of his support in the mobilization of his community to ensure a successful implementation. He blamed the unfortunate high rate of migration on bad governance which has created hardship and made life unbearable for young people. He noted that people work so much in Nigeria but get too little pay. If the people have something to depend on especially handwork, they will be more disposed to listening to the message of anti-human trafficking. He added that some parents put too much pressure on their children that the children become exposed to human trafficking and exploitation by others. If we can encourage the people with examples that there is dignity in labour, the problem of trafficking will be greatly reduced. This is because some people develop the desire to travel abroad out of frustration, as such if effort is sustained to dissuade young people from irregular migration through evidence based documentaries and experience sharing, it will scare them from deception and lure of traffickers. He expressed confidence that the people will listen to the campaign and amend their way. *“I am hopeful that the project will succeed”*.

The Ojuruwa of Irrua Alhaji W.O Momodu II JP who was seated with some of his Council members at the time of the visit appreciated the team for the kind gesture, describing the intervention as timely because of the endemic nature of irregular migration in the community. He gave the team the approval to extend the message to the selected communities and the institutions earmarked for the project.

Other stakeholders visited also shared their experiences and commended the project team for the initiatives which they described as noble.

MICRO CREDIT

Introduction

Uromi JDPCI takes economic empowerment of the less privileged as a basic responsibility as such work to ensure that they are meaningfully engaged for a productive living. Part of the strategy is to empower the target population through the micro enterprise promotion otherwise known as the micro credit scheme. It involves the giving of soft loan to active poor women and active farmers in the society. This scheme is open to Catholics and Non-

Catholics within the Diocese of Uromi.



Onosetale group in Ivue community

The scheme is in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC I, PROMIC II and AGRIC PROMIC (for farmers only) and a total of eight hundred and seventeen (817) persons, six hundred and seventeen (617) female and two hundred (200) male are currently benefiting from these schemes. Five (5) groups were formed and empowered after training them on importance of savings, causes, penalty and risk of default, conditions, methods of repayment and size of the loan for selected clients who were registered into the Scheme, verification of their business type among others.



Micro Credit addressing Ososeh farmers during confirmation of account number

The amount given to

individuals in each category as soft loan

ranges from twenty thousand naira to fifty thousand naira (20,000 - 50,000), while that of Agric-PROMIC Scheme ranges from fifty thousand naira to one hundred and twenty five thousand naira (50,000-125,000) only. Each individual in the groups are expected to repay the loan in instalment within a period of 6 months for traders and not



Destiny farmers during confirmation of account number

more than 9 months for farmers.

COLLABORATION FOR PRISON WELFARE

In the course of the year Uromi JDPCI collaborated with the family of Sir & Lady A.A. Esene to visit the inmates in prison. This visit was done to mark their 50th marriage anniversary. The ceremony which was celebrated with a Holy Mass in the prison Chapel had three Priests in attendance: Very Rev Fr



Group photograph with the Esene's family



Mount Carmel school distribute items to inmates for Christmas

Dr Fidelis Arhedo, Rev Fr Dr Benjamin Ogbeifun and an assistant from St Benedict Catholic Church Ubiaja. In the spirit of the festive season Mount Carmel group of School also visited the prison to celebration their end of year party with inmates, this was made possible with the assistant of Uromi JDPCI. The visit was made by staff, some students and staff of Uromi JDPCI. The gift items (soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, toilet rolls, Noodles, spaghetti, detergent, beverages and biscuit) brought for inmates were presented to the welfare officer and thereafter the students / staff were taken on a tour round the prison ward 270 inmates were reached

Christmas party

Uromi JDPCI as part of their welfare duties to the prison at the end of every year organized charismas party for inmates. This year' event was marked with nine lessons and carol in which the staff and friends of the Uromi JDPCI joined in the joyous occasion to sing Christmas songs to lift the modes and spirits of the inmates. The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo in his Christmas message admonished the inmates to use the season to reflect on their lives and strive for reconciliation with God and those they have offended. He concluded that it was only in genuine repentance that they can find the freedom and happiness they seek.

Uromi JDPCI thereafter shared with the inmates some food items and drinks to celebrate the moment and then presented some tubers of yams and Garri donated by St Joseph Catholic Church Okaigben to the Prison Officials. Uromi JDPCI also gave some equipment such as



A section of participants in the Christmas party



A group photograph after the Christmas party

testing meter, screw driver, soldering iron, a set of screw drivers (ale key) to the prison officials to improve learning at their skill acquisition center.