

**UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES  
(UROMI JDCPI)**

**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 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/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 and Don't Pay With Your Life
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"> <li>1. Grant Thornton chartered Accountants Emgn, Benin Branch</li> <li>2. Edforte, Fortne, Ehiagwina &amp; Associates 141 Benin-Auchi Road Ekpoma, Edo State</li> </ol>
Bankers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UBA BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi</li> <li>• ECOBANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi</li> <li>• FIDELITY BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi</li> <li>• Unity Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi</li> <li>• Union Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi</li> </ul>
Staff Strength	13
Number of Community Volunteers	65
Project Executed	16

## **INTRODUCTION**

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives sustained developmental effort across its thematic areas to contribute to peaceful coexistence, better information sharing and improved livelihood in the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District.

In the human rights desk, Uromi JDPCI sustained efforts at capacity building for Human Rights Club members and Paralegals in 25 communities. Quarterly meeting was also held to coordinate information and experience sharing. It also serve as a platform for shared learning, development of synergy and mobilization of local resources for effective response to human rights promotion in the selected communities. Uromi JDPCI joined the rest of the world to commemorate the World Human Right Day. The focus was on women's rights to inheritance and the cultural practice of widow inheritance: The position of the law.

Uromi JDPCI also engaged in sensitization across communities, schools, markets and churches to raise awareness on the danger of human trafficking and irregular migration and promote the need to curb the ugly trend in Edo Central Senatorial District. This led to the engagement of 24 vulnerable young persons into vocational skill acquisition in Esan South East and Esan Central LGAs. 100 caregivers of vulnerable young persons were also supported with grant of Fifty Thousand Naira (NGN50,000) each to start an Income Generating Activity or improve the one that they already had. All these were part of efforts to create alternative to irregular migration for the beneficiaries. Uromi JDPCI also completed the household assessment for another set of fifty household who's adolescent girls are in Government secondary school with a bid to improve their livelihood and economic capacity to retain their children in school so as to be less susceptible to human traffickers.

In the same vein Uromi JDPCI joined in the revigourated effort to promote environmental protection through the implementation of the Clean Energy Cook Stove Innovation which resulted in the sensitization of community women on the application of rock to their traditional cookstove.

In the same vein, Uromi JDPCI provided welfare and spiritual support to the inmates in Ubiaja prison through the celebration of Christmas Carol with the inmates.

The Micro Credit desk also sustained the empowerment drive with the provision of support to beneficiaries in groups across communities in Edo Central Senatorial District.

## **QUARTERLY MEETING OF PARALEGALS**

The third Quarterly meeting of paralegals was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at the chancery complex Uromi. The meeting reviewed the activities carried out by paralegals in their respective communities within the quarter. It also provided opportunity for them to express the challenges encountered in the course of intervention, make recommendations for improved performance as

well as share best practices and learning for improved implementation of the human rights intervention.

In the opening remark, the Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo emphasized that the purpose of the quarterly meeting was to appraise the activities of the various human right clubs in their respective communities, and to encourage those who were doing well in their implementation. He further implored all human rights club members to put in more efforts where they might be lagging behind by taking hints from their counterparts who are living up to expectation. He stressed the importance of knowing one's right so as to be able to sensitize the other members of the communities.

He informed participants of the World Human Rights Day celebrated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December annually and urged everyone to commemorate that day as human rights advocates.

Then after, the human rights clubs were guided to give their reports according to local government areas;



**Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo addressing participants**

**Emu Human Right Club:** Reported that they conducted human right sensitization in the markets and in the community.

The focus was on the need to shun gender discrimination which includes disinheriting women from their deceased father's properties. The elders of the community present welcomed the message with open arms and noted it was an issue that required consideration so as to embrace the rights of women in inheriting the properties of their deceased fathers.

**Ewatto Human Right Club:** Reported that they have addressed the community leaders on the need to allow women to inherit their father's estate and this was welcomed by the elders. The Paralegal noted that community sensitization would continue in the net quarter

**Ubiaja Human Right Club:** The paralegal reported that 3 different communities were fully sensitized on gender equality as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. He however stated that one of the communities was not ready to accept the idea of women inheriting properties at their Father's homes since they have been married out to other families.



**Paralegals giving report of activities**

He said they are planning for a repeat visit and would invite Uromi JDPCI team to join in the discussion.

A concern on the imposition of a traditional festival on the people was raised and the human rights club members were asked to sensitize their people on freedom of worship and freedom of association.

**Ahia Human Right Club:** In Ahia community, the paralegal reported that market sensitization was conducted to enlighten the women on their rights against discriminatory acts in relation to their line of trade.

**Okhuesan Human Rights Club:** The Paralegals reported that the human rights club members invited Uromi JDPCI to sensitize communities on female disinheritance prevalent in the community. At the end of the sensitization, community members were convinced on the need to consider the interest of the female children in the sharing of properties such that they would be allowed to inherit their husband's or father's estate, adding that participants clamored for more sensitizations.

**Ewohimi Human Rights Club:** They conducted community sensitization, sensitized motor cyclists and inaugurated human right club at Agadaga Secondary School to promote human right education among secondary school students

**Eguare Ekpoma Human Rights Club:** Reported that they conducted community sensitization and community members expressed commitment to promote the intervention. They also conducted school sensitization in Austin Best secondary school and have plans to establish human right club in the school



Another paralegal giving his report

They also conveyed the incidence of a child who fractured his leg as a result of the beating by the school teacher of which the paralegals intervened and reported the case to the law enforcement agencies but the mother of the child declined consent to persecute the case on the ground that the teacher had shown remorse and regretted her action.

**Emaudo Human Rights Club:** In addition to the sensitization to the security agencies (Police, DSS and NSCDC) within the Local Government Area, sensitizations on the rights of citizens pertaining arrest, gender equality and discrimination were also carried out in communities and schools. The paralegal stated that due to their awareness campaign, community members were now opened to the acceptance of their guaranteed rights with the assurance that in breach of the rights, they can easily seek redress through the aid of the human rights club functional in the community.

**Egoro-Amede Human Rights Club:** Community sensitization was done in various quarters in the communities on their human rights. Members of the community accepted the message. They however expressed the challenge faced due to delay in the justice system and the cost of litigation.

**Ukhun Human Rights Club:** Conducted community sensitization. The people expressed fear that even when their rights are violated, they do not have anybody to report such issues to. The Paralegals thus enlightened them on the need to speak up by reporting such issues of violations to them and they would ensure that appropriate authorities take up the matter.

**Akho Human Rights Club:** According to their report, a newly reformed and pragmatic human rights club was recently instituted by Uromi JDPCI to replace the dormant and insubordinate

club that deviated from the objectives of the human right club and they have begun to raise awareness on human rights.

**Usenu Human Rights Club:** The paralegal reported a situation of a child who is a double orphan but lives with the maternal grandmother and was sent out of the house by one of her uncles who also lives with the grandmother. The paralegal and the human right supervisor got involved and saw to the reconciliation of the child with the care givers.

**Agua Human Rights Club:** They reported that they conducted community sensitization on human right

**Ewu Human Rights Club:** They reported that they conducted community sensitization on the dignity of women and gender equality.

**Egbele Human Rights Club:** The paralegal reported that two markets were sensitized on human rights on two different occasions. Also they intervened in the educational needs of a child in the community who had already dropped out of school due to inability to meet with financial obligations imposed by the schools policy by mobilizing community support to retain the child in school, and it was very successful.



The program manger responding to a question

**Amedokhian Human Rights Club:** According to the report presented by the paralegal, sensitization on the rights of persons was conducted in the community. They also reported an incident that occurred in the community whereby a child was assaulted resulting to bodily injury and Paralegals intervened, and reported the case to the police, however in the process, the family of the accused, apologized to the victim, took responsibility over the cost of treatments and promised that such acts would not occur again.

**Ivue Community Sensitization:** The paralegal reported that sensitizations were carried out in schools and churches on the illegality of harmful widowhood practices which includes wife inheritance. He further reported that plans were being made to render advocacy visit and subsequent sensitization on human rights to relevant stakeholders in the community.

**Efandion Human Rights Club:** The paralegal reported that community sensitization was carried out on the rights of women to inherit properties and as a result, some participants were opened to the message while some others opposed the message of involving female children in inheriting properties. The paralegal added that sensitization was also carried out for the community Vigilante group, where they were encouraged to conduct their duties within the limit of the law without infringing on the rights of community members. He further stated that at the end of the sensitization, the vigilante group was very pleased to be educated on some key human rights issues. They thereafter promised to do their duties in the right manner.

The paralegal informed the house of an abuse of a child in the community and in an effort to intervene, the child was taken away from the community by family members and as a result the intervention was truncated due to inability to gather enough evidence from the victim.

**Eror Human Rights Club:** The paralegal reported that sensitization of community women on their right to inherit properties was carried out and it resulted to great joy and relief to the participants. She explained that the sensitization created a positive impact to the women who appreciated the human right members and the existence of the human rights club in the community.

**Ebelle Human Rights Club:** The paralegal reported that they conducted sensitization on human right in the community.

**Ewossa Human Right Club:** The paralegal reported that sensitization on female disinheritance and gender equality was carried out by the club members to the council of Chiefs. He said that the members of the council, positively accepted the message of allowing the female children inherit their late father's property however, there is yet to be a resent incident concerning female disinheritance in the community to test the impact of the sensitization.

**Eguare- Igueben Human Rights Club:** The paralegal stated that a step down training was organized and carried out by the paralegals to the human right club members.

**Idumeka Human Right Club:** The paralegal reported that community sensitization was carried out on general human rights. Also another sensitization of gender equality and female disinheritance was held for the elders in the community. According to him, while some elders were in support of willing their properties to their female children, some of the elders were against it; because they were of the



Group photograph by participants

view that such recognition of their female children can only be done if the female children retains their maiden surname instead of taking upon their husbands surname after wedding.

**Amahor Human Rights Club:** Reported that they were in the process of reconstituting their group for improved performance.

At the end of the report of all paralegals present, Very Rev Fr. Fidelis AHREDO commended the club members who took practical steps in creating awareness to community members, schools as well as advocacy visits to the various security agencies and community heads to inform them of the human rights club and what they stood for. He thereafter advised the paralegals who were yet to carry out their plans to do so and report it in the next quarter. Also he advised the paralegals to always inform and invite Uromi JDPCI to their subsequent sensitizations for a better and fruitful outcome, especially in communities where these campaign concerning human rights is novel.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, LITIGATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHT**

The training was attended by the Paralegals, Human Rights Advocates, Supervisors of the 5 focus Local Government Areas and staff of Uromi JDPCI with a total of 110 persons -49 Female and 61 male in attendance. The purpose of the training was to equip the Paralegals with the basic



knowledge of human rights and the various processes involved in seeking redress in case of violations.

Some of the issues treated were on human rights in Nigeria and its constitutional provisions, enforcement of human rights as well as its limitations. A historical introduction and summary of human rights promotion during the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial era was given. It was noted that the pre-colonial Nigeria which was neither cultural nor politically homogenous, but had its own notion of human rights informed largely by the material condition at that time; it was however pointed out that although human rights were somehow collectivized at communalistic ethos, there were cases of derogations such as Osu system where some people were regarded as outcast, human sacrifices and the killing of twins in the Eastern part of Nigeria.

It was stated that the colonial domination was associated with gross injustice and inhumanity and one of the glaring index of colonial period was the denial of the fundamental rights of the colonized peoples since the colonized people were excluded from history, forgotten in geography and only existed in relation to a colonial point of reference and this was the very antithesis of human rights. Colonialism largely abridged rather than enhanced human rights, as **Gye- Wab** rightly points out:

Going further, it was noted that Post-colonial Nigeria saw Nigeria becoming a party to several international human rights treaties including the Convention relating to the status of refugees (1967), the convention on the political Rights of women (1953) the international convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination(1966) amongst others. However, abuse of human rights characterized the period of military rule in Nigeria, the degree depending on who was in power at a particular time. The brief return of constitutional Government in the second republic between (1979- 1983) reduced the violation although, the human rights record was poor because of the increasing powers of the police and other security agencies including the then National Security Organization (NSO)



**Barr. Dom Okojie during his presentation**

The facilitator noted that on attainment of Nigeria's Independence, the minor tribes were afraid of being dominated by the major tribes due to the heterogeneous nature of Nigeria and this led ultimately to the adoption of a bill of rights in the 1960 independence constitution. The adoption was preceded by the minority commission of 1958 headed by Sir Henry Willink and consequent upon the report of the commission, human rights were entrenched in chapter II of the 1960 constitution. He however, noted that the current constitutional provision of human rights in Nigeria is enshrined in chapter IV of the 1999 constitution as amended which includes inter alia;



- The right to life,
- Right to the dignity of human person;
- Right to liberty,
- Right to fair hearing,
- Right to private and family life,
- Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
- Right to freedom of expression and the press and
- Right to peaceful assembly.

On the enforcement of human rights, he stated that the Court has jurisdiction to handle matters on human rights violations, pointing out that the enforcement machinery in Chapter IV of the constitution of Federal republic of Nigeria 1999 is as provided for in section 46 (1) of the 1999 constitution which states that “any person who alleges that any of the provisions of this chapter has been, is being or likely to be contravened in any state in relation to it may apply to high court in that state for redress”. Accordingly, the facilitator explained that that one of the ways to enjoy an effective machinery for the enforcement of fundamental human rights in Nigeria is by having a functional independent and fearless judiciary, as well as the effective operation of the principles of separation of powers whereby the other arms of government do not interfere in the work of the judiciary and the Independence of Judicial officers. He stated further that the judiciary must be able to insist on the legality of the administrative action and control of the legislation by the other arms of government and thus avoid infringing on the right of citizens.

The facilitator explained that Section 46(1) of the constitution provides that an action for fundamental human rights enforcement can only be instituted in the State where the cause of action arose. The implication of this provision is that if a victim of fundamental right abuse for any reason permanently relocates to another State in the country and desires to pursue a claim against his assailant, he is required to do so in the state where the action arose and not where he presently resides.

Clearly, this would delay the expeditious determination of the claim and thereby limit access to justices and the enjoyment of fundamental rights. This he said appears to be an unnecessary restriction on the enjoyment of the fundamental human rights by citizens.

Additionally, outside the provisions of the constitution, he pointed that obstacles such as ignorance, high cost of litigation, undue delay in the administration of justice on the part of the judges could limit the enforcement of human right.



**Onuwabagbe Theresa during her presentation at the training**

The facilitator again emphasized that the constitutional provision which gives freedom of religion was supreme and as a result violators of this constitution ought to be brought to book, however the violators must signify interest in pursuing this goal hence the sensitization on human rights.

On the perception of society towards human rights enforcement in Nigeria, it was explained that as laudable as the provisions may be, the perception of these fundamental rights by citizens can best be described as negative and that this has impacted on the psychology of the citizens in the enforcement of their fundamental human rights. Some of the factors responsible for this negative psychology of societal members include: ignorance, poverty, the issue of principal or ancillary relief being the subject matter of a human rights application and at times, the disobedience to court orders by the executive arm.



Cross Section of participants with the Director of Uromi JDPCI

The participants appreciated Uromi JDPCI for their efforts to make the society habitable for citizens, adding that prior to the training, some of their fundamental rights had been violated because of their own ignorance. However, they are now fully abreast with their rights and how to enforce it.

In the closing remark, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis ARHEDO appreciated the facilitator and thanked the participants for their attention and demeanor all through the days of the training. He further informed them of more training programs ahead and charged them to use their knowledge to stand out in the communities and wherever they find themselves.

### **COMMEMORATION OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

Human rights day is celebrated annually across the world on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December to honor the United Nations General Assembly proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Uromi JDPCI commemorated the Human Rights day by organizing a workshop on Human Rights focusing on the position of the law on gender equality, women's right to inheritance and cultural practices of wife inheritance.



Magistrate Ojo delivering a lecture at the event

Amongst those present at the event were: Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis. Arhedo, Magistrate Maureen Ojo (Guest Speaker), Representatives of the Department of State Security representatives of the Nigerian Police, representative of NSCDC, paralegals, advocates, member of the Board of Trustee and the staff of Uromi JDPCI.

The keynote address on human rights for humanity presented by the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo explained the beauty of creation as is the glory of man being endowed by his creator Gen 1:26-27. This manifests the universal dominion of human



**Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo delivering keynote address**

equality as guaranteed by His very common essence with humanity. This is well articulated by the social doctrine of the Catholic Church which explains them thus: “The ultimate source of human rights is not found in the mere will of human beings in the reality of the state, in public powers, but in man himself and in God his creator. These rights are universal, inviolable and inalienable. They are universal because they are present in all human beings without being

one can legitimately deprive another person.

Inviolable in so far as they are inherent in the human person and human dignity... inalienable in so far as no

This was followed by a presentation made by the Magistrate; Maureen Ojo where she explained to the participants that customary laws were laws set down by the people but are not written and so they can be flexible but the supreme law which are the laws governing Nigeria as a state are superior to every other law.



**Group photograph of participants at the event**

She went further to explain that though the customary laws are allowed to exist, the supreme law is against any practice that is repugnant to justice, equity and good conscience and so tries to abolish laws that constitutes discrimination against women which may include levirate marriage (wife inheritance), inhuman treatment of widows and harmful widowhood practices ( such as asking the woman to drink the water used to bathe her dead husband just to prove she did not kill him; asking a widow to wear only dirty

clothes; to sit only on the floor etc) and refusal of daughters to partake in the inheritance of their fathers estate.

She encouraged people to take Will writing very seriously as it would help prevent fights amongst family members. She also encouraged women to empower themselves with a skill or a business so that at the demise of their husbands they will not be left stranded with nothing to keep the family going and also to tell people about their rights and how important it is to be aware of what our limitations are. The participants expressed happiness in the knowledge gained and appealed to her to be available to speak on other vital issues when called upon.

## **ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING DESK**

### **DON'T PAY WITH YOUR LIFE**

In continuation of the efforts to the Girl child in school through improved livelihood of caregivers of adolescent girls, Uromi JDPCI proceeded to conclude the household assessment it started in the previous quarter. An intervention which was supported by ECPAT France, ECPAT Luxembourg and co-financed by *The Agence Française de Développement*, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg and other private donors, including Air France geared towards ending sexual exploitation and trafficking among young girls and women in Edo Central Senatorial district. The implementation of this intervention began in the month of July, 2019. The assessment which commenced in the previous quarter from Esan south East, Esan North East and Esan Central Local Government Areas proceeded to complete Esan Central, Esan West and Igueben LGAs and a total of 132 households were assessed within the reporting period out of which 45 most vulnerable households have been identified. This exercise was conducted to ascertain their level of vulnerability using a national tool for Household vulnerability Assessment. The aim is to retain the girl child in school through the support of the caregiver which will take the form of improving their livelihood and would then be in position to meet the school or training needs of the children thereby reducing their susceptibility to human trafficking. It could take the form of provision of business support and business management training, direct payment to schools of beneficiaries to meeting their educational needs.

To effectively achieve the objective of the intervention, the project team had to verify that the selected students were still in their various schools by first visiting the schools in which they were sensitized and selected. The permission of the Principal was then sought to take the selected students to their various homes for the household's assessment. Those who were no longer in their former schools were traced to their new schools and then assessed in their new schools after being asked the reason for changing schools.

The selected beneficiaries were thereafter invited for orientation and training on Income Generating Activities

### **TRAINING OF BENEFICIARIES ON IGAs**

The training which held on the 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019 was attended by the selected caregivers (women) alongside with their daughters who have been earmarked for the support. The training was aimed at equipping beneficiaries with the knowledge of how to start and manage businesses for profitability and sustainability. A total of 90 persons comprising 45 women and 45 students were in attendance. They were thus taught how to identify bright business ideas and exposed to various business management topics such as record keeping and its importance, importance of cash and credit sales to business, marketing and its importance, customer's satisfaction and business savings and expenses.



The executive director, Uromi JDPCI; Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis AHREDO during his opening remark stated that the purpose of “Don’t Pay With Your Life project” was to eradicate exploitation of young female children by traffickers. He advised the care givers to make good use of the opportunity given to them by maximizing the training period so that they would be able to apply the knowledge gained for profit making venture. He further stated that as a faith based organization, Uromi JDPCI stands for accountability, excellence and transparency laying emphasis

on the non-discriminatory characteristic of the organization based on religion, ethnicity or tribe in selecting beneficiaries. He reminded them that children were gifts from God, with divine destiny and as such all care givers own it as a duty to see to the good nurturing of the children. Finally, he encouraged all participants to sensitize their fellow women on the dangers of human trafficking so as to discourage the nefarious acts.



Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo addressing participants during the training

The training thereafter started with a presentation on the objectives of the training, which was to equip beneficiaries with the knowledge of how to start and manage businesses for profitability and sustainability. It was stated that business activity commences with the right frame of mind, as well as the right value and organization of self which requires lots of sacrifices which might affect the social relationship of the business person, one of the Facilitators Harriet Erhabor



Project team facilitating group discussion

informed the participants that the world was changing fast and that developments in the global economy was in need of people who are more enterprising.



Facilitator during his presentation

Therefore, the key ingredient in becoming more enterprising was in having the right attitude and focus. Adding that individuals had all the natural endowments required to be successful in life thus having the right information at the right time, the skills relevant to enterprise and taking necessary actions would guarantee success in life.

She went further to enumerate and explain the steps to take before embarking on a particular business anywhere; accordingly, Understanding the people’s culture and value system, having a better attitude, getting organized by taking enterprising approach to one’s personal life and having proper confidence were the key steps to take when starting a business.

During the second presentation which was taken by Felix Ebhohimen, he emphasized the importance of making plans before starting a business, noting that improper plans made businesses unsuccessful. Hence it was explained that before commencing a business, the individual must take some time to plan on the exact type of business to venture into, the resources (financial and material) required, the business location, expectations in terms of returns, time in fully recovering investment, type of customers, dealers, market and market plans.



Facilitator during her presentation

Progressively, participants were exposed to the factors that influence business development such as social, technological, economic and political factors.

Following immediately was a final run down of lessons taught by the facilitators after which the participants were evaluated by asking them question based on what have being taught. They were told that on return to their various homes, they should brainstorm more on business ideas they could turn into profitable ventures as they would be guided on the last day of the training to develop business plans.



Facilitator during her presentation

The second day of the training, Erhabor Harriet took participants on “Business Startup”. She noted that Starting a business is an exciting challenge that could be the key that unlocks one’s true potential in life and explained the basic steps to take in starting up a business which includes, Taking a firm decision to start up a business, Generating different business ideas based on available business opportunities, Evaluating and short-listing ideas with reference to Value Chain Briefings, Identification of strengths and weaknesses in handling any of the short-listed ideas, Carrying out survey of the most viable idea and the Sourcing for funds/capital

and other resources.

The next topic that was taught to participants was on “Record Keeping and its Importance” Record keeping was referred to as the act of writing down how much money a business receives, how much money a business pays out and how much has been sold on credit which are requisite transactions in a business. She stated that it was important to keep records in business because neat accurate record keeping helps one find out how his/her business is doing in terms of making profits or loss, know one’s income and expenditures, helps a business person to solve problems in business, control cash, shows others how ones business is doing, and helps one plan for the future. Participants where shown the simple system of recording transactions and how to Analyse cost, sales and profit. Thereafter, the Facilitator enlightened participants on cash and credit sales; stating that the implication of the above was that while cash sales leads to cash inflow to

the business thereby bringing about business expansion, credit sales leads to stagnated cash inflow to the business which might result to the collapse of the business.

A presentation on the concept of Marketing and its Importance was made. Marketing was said to be activities undertaken by a trader to make people aware of the products he/she is selling and making sure that the product was available to be bought; which is achieved by understanding who customers are and what they need and want.

On the third day of the training, participants were taught the following topics: Satisfying your customers, Business Savings and Expenses and SILC Methodology. The first presentation on customer's satisfaction was taken by Erhabor Harriet immediately after recap of the previous



Group photograph with participants

day's work. She started by explaining who customers are which were said to include; people that buy from you (Adults, youths (Boys and girls) and children), people who hope to buy from you and people who stopped buying from you but hope one day to come back. It was reiterated that



Presentation on business savings and expenses with graphical illustrations

Customers are the most important people to a business. If you do not provide what they want and treat them with respect, they will buy somewhere else. Without customers there will be no sales and business will have to close down. It was noted that satisfied customers will come back and buy more from one's business.

On business savings and expenses, Felix Ebhohimen taught participants on the need to save part of the profits made from their businesses and invest another percentage back to business and then put a little aside for expenses. He demonstrated this using graphical pictures, illustrations and analogies. Participants were also introduced to SILC which stands for Savings and Internal Lending Communities in which they could save into a purse and borrow for business purposes.

At the end of the training, the participants were led and assisted by the team of Uromi JDPCI in setting up their business plans by stating their business names, type of business, product of services, target customers, business objectives and strategies and financial plans to realize the business objectives.

The participants were filled with immense Joy and happiness and appreciated Uromi JDPCI and the donors of the project.



## SUSTAINABLE MEASURE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (SMAT-P)

### COMMUNITY SENSITISATION



**Sensitization at Idumonton Irrua**

In continuation of the sensitization efforts geared towards the prevention of Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration, Uromi JDPCI project team visited Eight communities, Three markets and One Church for sensitization on Human Trafficking; the purpose of which was to create awareness on the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration. The communities visited were Ogbe Eguare Ewohimi, Igbo

community Illushi, Akhokpamen, Ikekato, Idumonton, Idisaba Ewohimi, Omhen Ewohimi and Idumu-Oliha Ewatto.

The team spoke on the dangers of human trafficking and the risk it poses to the lives of young persons, their families and the community in general. The team explained that a lot of the people who are carried through irregular routes ends up in bondage and then become victims of human trafficking. It was noted that victims of human trafficking were exposed to untold hardship, exploitation and dehumanizing circumstances. The team emphasized that many caregivers do not have knowledge of the dangers that irregular migration and human trafficking possess on their wards and communities as they are of the habit of coercing their children to travel overseas in order to better their living conditions. Adding that often times a lot of people fall prey to human trafficking because of the promise of leaving Nigeria to Europe for a better life which often times proved false. Hence the reason for the sensitization which is meant to expose them to the dangers that lies in human trafficking and irregular migration. They were shown video documentaries depicting the state and menace of human trafficking and irregular migration. Participants were thus admonished to go out and replicate the knowledge passed to them to other members of their communities and their fellow men and women who did not come for the sensitization. One of the women after listening to the team and watching the documentaries said some prayers for those who were already enslaved. A total of 241 persons made up of 99 males and 152 females were reached.



**Community members watching documentary and listening to sensitization**

### SENSITISATION IN THE MARKET

Uromi JDPCI project team was at Atuagbo, Illushi and Eidenu markets to sensitize the market women on the ills of human trafficking. The habit of selling family possession or property to send their children abroad was condemned while women were asked to desist from pressuring

their daughters into inglorious acts that were capable of making them end up in the hand of human traffickers or Irregular Migration.



**A staff addressing people in the Market**

With keen attention, participants made up of mostly women and young girls participated in the sensitization which was centered on the dangers involved in travelling through desert and Mediterranean Sea and the ordeals of those who were trafficked. The different stages of human trafficking were also shown from the resident



**A staff addressing people in another part of the Market**

country through desert and Libya. They were advised to stop risking their lives and that of their children for the sake of making money abroad, the pain involved in travelling via desert or Mediterranean Sea as well is more than the ones will may think we are experiencing in Nigeria- the importance of freedom cannot be overemphasized. The sensitization ended with about 146 participants 45 males and 91 females.

### **His Glory Church Irrua**

In this church, the project team admonished members to



**A cross section of the congregation**

advise their children on the need to work and learn a skill. The Pastor of the church



**A member of the project team addressing members of the church**

appreciated the team for coming to sensitize the members of the church and he admonished all to advise their children not to embark overseas through irregular means and should neither coerce them to migrate irregularly. Two questions arose; one was why do we speak about prostitution and we should advise men, another question was is human trafficking only for women. In response to the questions, the team said that prostitution is bad even in the site of God and that both men and women are involved in trafficking but the women suffer more. The documentary was shown which arose statements like “*oh no no I will advise my children*”. In attendance were 190 persons made up of 135 female, 55 males.

## SCHOOL SENSITIZATION

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives in a bid to sustain the campaign against the menace of human trafficking and irregular Migration visited 7 schools to sensitize the students on the ills of Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration. During the sensitization the team explained to the students what human trafficking entails as means of exploitation as well as its effects in the life of the victims. They were admonished not to be deceived by the glossary attraction from friends and relatives whose means of livelihood cannot be ascertained or explained beyond going abroad or having relatives abroad. Some ugly situations experienced by victims of human trafficking and irregular migration were explained to the students, after which they were shown a documentary of the experiences of victims of human trafficking and another on the dangers migrants face in passing through irregular routes, the desert and the Mediterranean Sea. The students also saw the experiences of persons who have travelled and their ordeal in transit countries such as Libya.

At the end of the sensitization in each school, the students were encouraged to report any attempt to lure them to NAPTIP or Uromi JDPCI. A total of 303 students were reached comprising of 148 males and 155 females.

The Uromi SMAT-P team enlightened the children/pupils on the meaning of human trafficking which is illegal and irregular migration of victims internally and externally for exploitation purposes. The causes behind such heinous acts



**Sensitization at community Primary school Ubiaja, Esan South East LGA**

were explained to include poverty, greed and ignorance.



**Sensitization at community Primary school Ubiaja, Esan South East LGA**

Furthermore, the pupils were taught that human trafficking could lead to death of the victims because of the sufferings, sexual harassment and other vices they often encounter. Thereafter, the intricacies of human trafficking were shown to the pupils via a documentary of true life coverage of human trafficking.



**Sensitization at Set Apart Primary School, Irrua**

The students accepted the message with few questions asked by them.



**Sensitization at Idinwe Primary School**



## VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP

Uromi JDPCI project team held three meetings each with members of the victim support groups in Esan South East and Esan Central at Ewohimi and Irrua respectively. In the month of November, December and January, 2020, the emphasis were on the profiling for appropriate linkage and utilizing their potentials to achieve improved livelihood.



Based on some of the members were linked to another project for vocational training and empowerment. The group also expressed desire to meet with

association of greets Esan Returnees so as to be able to expand their frontiers. This arranged is currently being facilitated by Uromi JDPCI as part of effort to sustain their reintegration process.



Members of the support group expressed appreciation to Uromi JDPCI for linking some of their members to vocation skills acquisition in Benin and appealed that if more opportunities of such



are available they should be informed as more of their members who have not be trained would be interested. A member noted that he applied for web design and was told he will be called but have not heard from the sponsors. He was told by the team to be patient that he would be contacted.



## MEETING OF ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLUB MEMBERS

Uromi Justice Development Peace/Caritas Initiatives in her effort to reduce human trafficking among children of school age thereby addressing the ills of irregular migration and human trafficking facilitated four Anti-human trafficking clubs meeting in four schools across two LGAs within this quarter.



Anti Human trafficking club in ACC, Irrua

The schools visited were Irrua Girls secondary school and Annunciation Catholic College in Esan Central LGA while



Figure 1Anti Human trafficking club in ACC, Irrua

Uhomebho Secondary School Ewatto and Agadaga Secondary School Ewohimi were also visited in Esan South East LGA.

In each of the schools, the principal welcomed the team and proceeded to call the members of the club for the meeting .The meeting was presided over by the team. After a review of the previous



Anti human trafficking club in Irrua Girls Secondary school

session the types of human trafficking and how they recruit vulnerable people were treated.

In annunciation

catholic College, 10 members of the club



Figure 2 Anti human trafficking club in Irrua Girls Secondary school

were in attendance. In the address by the president of the club, he recommended that more persons join the club because he believes that the club has few members to address the issue among classmates. The team in response said that by the next quarter, more members will be added.

In Irrua girls secondary school, the meeting started with an opening prayer by president Augustina thereafter the team welcomed the members and stated why the team called for the meeting. The president said a member of the club has stopped coming to school as she could not afford the fees for enrolment. The team noted that the enrolment under the project has been concluded by the organization but however the organization will ascertain if she can be helped in other interventions the office is implementing.

In the same vein anti-human trafficking meetings were held at



Anti human trafficking club members at Agadaga secondary school

Uhomebho secondary school and Agadaga secondary, Ewohimi with ten members each in attendance at the two schools. The members suggested the need to have a



Anti human trafficking club members at Uhumowbo secondary school

manual shared for them so as to better equip them to speak to their peers with confidence

## MEETING WITH THE BENEFICIARIES OF IGA IN ESAN CENTRAL AND ESAN SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



**Group photograph with beneficiaries in Irrua**

As part of effort to ensure that the beneficiaries of IGA grants in the SMAT-P project use the grant for the purpose it was meant for, Uromi JDPCI project team led by the Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo went round the various communities to meet with the beneficiaries immediately

after the notice that they have been credited by the designated bank. The team informed the



**Wife of the traditional ruler addressing beneficiaries in Irrua**

beneficiaries that the purpose of the meeting was to remind them that the money they received was to start an income generating activities which they had earlier indicated interest to do and not for any other purpose. He stated that the money was already in their respective accounts and if they encounter any problem as regards withdrawal of the money, they should inform the office who would in tune inform the bank for necessary actions and then get back to them.



**Group photograph with beneficiaries in Ewohimi**

He reiterated that on no account should beneficiaries disclose their pin numbers or Bank Verification Code to anybody and should ignore any fraudulent calls they receive from fraudsters asking for pin number to assist them. A beneficiary asked for office lines they can call to

lodge their complaints and the team directed that they should communicate



**Fr Fidelis addressing beneficiaries at the Palace in Ewohimi**

their complaints to their frontline advocates who would in turn get the message across to the office. The beneficiaries were also told that they would be monitored by the front line advocates and the essence of the monitoring was to ensure that they are doing the business which they opted for and also ensuring that the money was effectively utilized for the business. The beneficiaries appreciated the team for the fund and for assisting them to make their lives meaningful and promised to put the money to adequate use.



## SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TRAINERS



**Signing of MoU in a Mechanics Workshop**

In achieving the objective of reducing human trafficking and illegal migration in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Area, Uromi JDPCI in partnership with Catholic Caritas

Foundation of Nigeria with



**Signing of MoU in a Hairdressing Workshop**

support from the Italian Bishop Conference carried out activities to support improved access to formal education and vocational training of 90 Vulnerable children/youths through provision of block grant (text books and notes books, tuition fee and enrollment), scholarship and vocational skill enrolment.

Uromi JDPCI Project team led by the Executive Director Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo went round the selected vocational centres across Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas to sign memorandum of understanding with the respective trainers of beneficiaries of the vocational training.

**Signing of MoU in a welding Workshop**

The Memorandum of Understanding was read out to each of the trainers and the provisions therein were explicitly explained to them for better understanding.



**Signing of MoU in a welding Workshop**

They assented to the provisions contained in the memorandum after which the trainers and their respective witnesses signed the necessary columns. The beneficiaries who were present for the activity were

advised to adhere to the instructions of their trainers



**Signing of MoU in a Tailoring Workshop**

and effectively maximize the training period in order to emerge successful in their various vocations at the end of the training.

In Esan South East, a total of 10 (MOU) were signed for 15 beneficiaries (4 for tailoring, 2 for Diesel mechanic, 3 for hair dressing, 4 for wielding, 1 for pop and tiles, 1 for mechanic while in Esan Central, 9 (MOU) were signed for 13 beneficiaries (8 for tailoring, 1 for hair dressing, 3 for wielding and 1 for ICT)). The beneficiaries were excited and appreciated the team for this kind gesture. Consequently, the training fees were paid to the accounts provided by the trainers as



stipulated in the MoU and they also acknowledged receipt of payment. The beneficiaries have since commenced training in their various centres.

## **PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIP FOR VULNERABLE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ESAN CENTRAL AND ESAN SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA**



**Presentation of school materials in ACC Irrua, Senior**

In the same vein, Uromi JDPCI distributed books and paid enrolment fees and dues for seventy (70) students in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Area. Six students in tertiary institutions were also given scholarship to assist them in paying their school fees and other educational needs. All these efforts were geared



**Presentation of school materials in ACC Irrua, Senior**

toward curbing the incidences of human trafficking among school children, so that they would be retained in school, study and become meaningful and productive members of their various communities starting from their homes.

The team from Uromi JDPCI visited Annunciation Catholic College, Irrua Girls Secondary School, Iduwele Girls Secondary school and Ewu Grammar school in Esan Central and then Ewatto Grammar School, Okaigben Secondary School and Unity Secondary School Ewohimi in Esan South East Local Government Areas. The purpose was to distribute school materials such as text books and note books to the beneficiaries as well as pay the tuition and enrollment fee for all concerned.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo while addressing the students in the various schools advised them to focus on their studies and not to travel through irregular means; stressing that education is key for attaining success in life. He noted that the kind gesture to support their education came from the Italian Bishop conference. In Annunciation Catholic College Fourteen (14) students in the senior secondary classes and Six (6) in the Junior secondary classes were reached, three of which were students who had dropped out of school due to inability to meet their school needs but returned to school by the SMAT-P project (1 in JSS1, 1 in JSS3 and the other in SS3). The students were presented with their books for the session and enrolment fees were paid for those in enrolment classes (SS3 and JSS3) while those who were not in the enrolment class had their PTA dues, exam fees and lecture fees paid for. Payment was also made for new school uniform, sport wear and cardigan. The Principals of both the Senior and Junior schools acknowledged the receipt of cash received by them for the students while some of the students who were full of joy appreciated the project team for the kind gesture



**Presentation of school materials in Irrua Girls Secondary School**

In Irrua Girls Secondary School four (4) students in the junior secondary school, while thirteen (13) in the senior classes were reached. Five (5) students in the senior session had their enrolment fee paid for and one enrolment in the junior session. The



**Presentation of school materials in Irrua Girls Secondary School**

following payments and provisions were also made: Chair payment, PTA levy, Exam Fees, cardigan, sport wear, uniform, school sandals, text books, exercise books and customized bags. The SMAT-P project also returned two students who had already dropout to school in Irrua Girls Secondary school.



**Presentation of school materials in Ewu Grammar School, Ewu**

In Ewu Grammar School six (6) students from the senior session and eight (8) from the junior session benefited from the educational support. The team was informed that one of the beneficiaries in SS3 who is an orphan had already withdrawn from school due to economic



**Presentation of school materials in Ewu Grammar School, Ewu**

hardship. Upon further enquiry from the caregiver it was revealed that the boy had been given out to somebody who promised to support his education. Uromi JDPCI encouraged the caregiver to return the boy home as the project would bear all the educational cost for the remaining one year. The caregiver who was in tears appreciated the team for coming to her rescue and then received the books on behalf of the child and promised to return the boy home and get him to start school the very next day. This has since been done. The Executive Director advised them to study their



**Presentation of school materials in Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu**



**Presentation of school materials in Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu**

books and further their education than playing with their future. The principal also acknowledged payment received from Uromi JDPCI and the teachers appreciated the team on behalf of the school.

Similar activity was carried out in Idunwele Girls Secondary School wherein five (5) students from the Senior Session benefitted from the educational support.



**Presentation of school materials in Ewatto Grammar School, Ewatto**

In Esan South East Local Government Area, two (2) students benefitted in Ewatto grammar school one in SS3 while the other in JSS2. The one in SS3 stopped schooling because she could afford the cost of external examination and was moved to the city to stay with a relative when her issue was reported by



**Presentation of school materials in Ewatto Grammar School, Ewatto**

the Principal, the project team approached her family to bring her back with a promise to support her education, the girl agreed and returned to school. The Executive Director promised to sponsor her tertiary education if she pass her external examination. The following payments and provisions were made: PTA levy, Enrolment fee for external examination, School Uniform and Examination Fee, school sandals, text books and exercise books. The principal acknowledged receipt of payment and appreciated the organization while Unity Secondary School had one beneficiary who is a returnee that was returned to school by Uromi JDPCI. The vice principal acknowledged receipt of payment from the organization. Similarly Six (6) students from Okaigben Secondary School benefitted from the educational support as well.



**Presentation of school materials in Okaigbe Secondary School, Ewohimi**

Additionally, Six (6) students –Five (5) from Ambrose Alli University and One (1) student from St Camillus Hospital school of Midwifery benefitted from tertiary school scholarship. The Executive Director received the students in his office and admonished



**Meeting with beneficiaries in Tertiary Institutions**

them to always study their books and be good students who would become good and influential members of the society. They appreciated the efforts of the organization in supporting their education and promised to be good ambassadors of their schools after which they acknowledged receipts of the scholarship fund.



## MONITORING OF BENEFICIARIES IN ESAN CENTRAL AND ESAN SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNEMENT AREAS



**A beneficiary with her new grinding Machine purchased with the IGA grant**

Following the schedule plan set up by the organization to visit the caregivers who were empowered with grant of fifty thousand naira, Uromi JDPCI visited thirty seven (93) beneficiaries in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas. The beneficiaries were seen to have invested their monies in the choice business activities that they said they were going to engage themselves in. some of the



**A beneficiary in her shop set up the IGA grant received**

beneficiaries monitored had IGA of various types in different localities, among which were grinding machine, provision store, weaving of traditional attires, sales of firewood, sales of engine oil, sales of fruits and vegetables, sales of frozen fish, Poultry farming, sales of rice, Akpu (FUFU) processing, sales of video CDs among others.



**A beneficiary displaying her weaving materials purchased with the grant received**

From the visit made to the beneficiaries in within this period, it shows that they are going to do well with the money given to them to improve their livelihood and supporting their families. The beneficiaries have so far shown high level of

enthusiasm towards making a difference with the grant that they received by immediately investing in the chosen IGA.



**A beneficiary displaying goods in the Market**



## THE INNOVATIVE COOKSTOVE

As part of efforts to contribute to the preservation of the Ozone layer, combat the effect of climate change on our environment and promote environmental protection, Uromi JDPCI



**Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo distributing IEC materials to participants**

partnered with Caritas Nigeria to conduct an intervention on the Cookstove Initiative which is geared towards the sensitization of community women to reduce the

amount of fire wood burnt



**A staff demonstrating the cookstove setup**

daily for cooking purpose. This intervention targets the rural women whose basic source of energy for cooking is the fire wood. Initiative is aimed at encouraging women to add some rocks to their fire wood so as to reduce the quantity of fire woods consumed for cooking in the various households. The intention is to reduce the intake of smokes from cooking with fire



**A staff explaining the cookstove to another set of participants**

woods, because cooked with fire woods absorbs CO<sub>2</sub> which can cause respiratory/lungs diseases. It is also intended to promote environmental protection and preservation of the forest so as to avoid deforestation and all its

Avast effects on the environment. It is estimated that about 3 billion people use fire woods each day,



**A staff explaining the cookstove to participants**

and they do this by cutting down trees that ought to serve as erosion control measures and this trees that are cut down are usually not replaced by the generation of people who cut them down which in effect destroys the earth. This is a major contributing factor to global warming which is increasing by the day.

Searching for fire woods in some places has caused some women to be sexually abused and they spend the time they would have used for some other things to search for fire woods for cooking. And this is why the normal way of cooking with solely fire woods requires attention for a more positive approach that is environmental friendly and less harmful to human being and the environment.

This is the reason the innovation of the traditional cook stove was introduced. It requires fewer amounts of fire woods to cook your cook thereby reducing the cut down of trees, CO2 would also be reduced and the stress of looking for much firewood for cooking and the risk of sexual abuse would be reduced as well.

Uromi JDPCI has commenced this sensitization and demonstration in some communities and Parishes with a total of 74 women so far reached in the communities and parishes visited. The project team gathers the women, set up traditional cook stove but with very little quantity of fire wood and then add some rocks, when the fire is set the fire woods burn, leaving the heated rock to cook the food thereby serving a lot of fire woods per cook.

The women who participated in the exercise appreciated the team for the innovation and noted that though the process may require more time to cook food compared to their traditional use of fire wood, it was worth it because it will save them a lot of money spent on the purchase of fire wood as well as the time and energy used to search for fire wood in the forest.

## **MICRO CREDIT**

Empowerment of the less privileged in the society has always been one of the major policy thrust of Uromi JDPCI. For this reason the Micro credit scheme was established to provide soft loans for enterprise development. These soft loans are always given to groups as well as registered cooperative society. Each group consists of poor, active women and active farmers in the society. This scheme is open to Catholics and Non-Catholics within the Diocese of Uromi. The scheme is currently supporting a total of 1080 persons in all the five Local Government Areas covered by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi.

The scheme is in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC I, PROMIC II and AGRIC PROMIC (for farmers only). It is a basic requirement that beneficiaries form themselves into self-selected group before they are considered for assessment and training. Upon successful registration, validation and documentations, the members of the group then qualify to get soft loan which must be disbursed to them through their bank accounts.

The Agricultural scheme was introduced to enhance the production and livelihood opportunity of the farmers. The scheme is designed to address the plight of the rural farmers to help increase their agricultural productivity and also for active farmers who wish to move from subsistence



**Cross section of micro credit officer and beneficiaries during refresher training at Obeidu 1**

farming to small scale commercial farming.

In this quarter a total of 4 groups with 49 members

were supported to improve



**Cross section of micro credit officers and beneficiaries during collection**



their businesses including farming business across communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. Monitoring visits to the various groups showed that the beneficiaries have gainfully invested their soft loans in their businesses and farms in line with the objectives of the scheme

Uromi JDPCI appreciated the various groups for their solidarity and urged them to co-operate with the organization and show more commitment to repayment that could possibly qualify them for another round of loan. The various groups led by their group leaders thanked Uromi JDPCI for their support and promised to improve on their members' commitment, and pleaded for increase of the soft loan as things were becoming very expensive.

## **PRISON APOSTOLATE**

### **CHRISTMAS PARTY CELEBRATIONS WITH INMATES IN UBJAJA PRISON**

The welfare and support of prisoners forms parts of the humanitarian services of Uromi JDPCI through her prison apostolate. Consequent upon the above, the Executive Director and staff of Uromi JDPCI held a Christmas party celebration with the inmates of Ubiaja Prison on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019 to share the joy of the season with them.



Items for celebration at Christmas party

The event which took the form of Nine lessons and Carol started with the blessings of the congregation by the Executive Director Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, after which some participants took the readings which was each followed by rendition of Christmas songs. After the Epistle which was taken by Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo, he proceeding to give some Christmas message. He stated that the nine lessons and carol was a ceremony religiously practiced to mark the season of Christmas and then gave a historical overview of the salvation story of man starting from the fall of man in Genesis, to the salvation of man in the Gospel. He charged the congregation to be holy and humanitarian in all they do. He added that the world would be a better place if all men seek the good of each other. At the end of the Sermon, he led the congregation on prayers supplication after which the congregants in joy rounded off the Spiritual aspect of the event.



A cross section of participants

The welfare Officer of the prison expressed deep appreciation and thanked the team of Uromi JDPCI for their kind gesture and the time spared to celebrate the season with them.

Thereafter the food and drinks were served to all the inmates of Ubiaja prison.