

**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**

As part of her efforts to promote social justice, improve the knowledge of human rights of citizens and a means to devise a more effective Alternative Dispute Resolution system, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiative in partnership with MISEROR Germany, embarked on an advocacy for human rights education and paralegal scheme to help create awareness as well as track human right violations. A target of 27 human rights clubs, 57 paralegals, 250 human rights advocates and 5 supervisors was set and executed and thus far executed in this first quarter. This advocacy visits were made to traditional leaders, institutional leaders, religious leaders, FIDA, NBA, NSCDC, the Nigerian Police Force and the ministry of justice.

In a similar line, Uromi JDPCI also intensified efforts to sensitize communities, schools, markets and churches on the need for safe migration while discouraging human trafficking and irregular migration on the platform of sustainable measures against trafficking in persons (SMAT-P). In this respect, contact was made with 1571 made of 716 males and 852 females including children from amongst 1 market, 14 schools and 2 churches in 2 LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District.

In the same vein, Uromi JDPCI provided welfare and spiritual support to the inmates in Ubiaja prison. The first was the provision of food items from the Bishop, another was collaboration with a family to celebrate Easter at the Prison, then the baptism of 26 inmates and procurement of materials for the prison skills acquisition center.

The Micro Credit desk sustained the empowerment drive with the provision of support to 76 beneficiaries in 9 groups across communities in Edo Central Senatorial District.

## ADVOCACY VISITS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives commenced the implementation of the intervention on Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme in Edo Central Senatorial District with advocacy visit to traditional and institutional leaders that are concerned with the implementation, enforcement and interpretation of the laws and policies that are human rights related. The aim was to abreast the stakeholders with the plans of Uromi JDPCI to conduct an intervention geared towards awareness creation and sensitization of the people about their fundamental human rights, as well as encourage them to speak out against violators by reporting human right violations to the appropriate



**Presentation of Advocacy letter to the Onojie of Ekpoma HRH Anthony Abumere by Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo**

authorities for necessary action. Among those visited were: 10 traditional rulers, 25 commissioners of police, 3 ACPs in charge of the three area commands in Esan Land, 6 divisional police headquarters spread across



**The Program Manager addressing the Onojie of Igueben, HRH Ehizojie Eiluojerior**



**Presentation of advocacy letter to the Area Commander, Irrua Command of the Nigerian Police**

the 5 LGAs, DSS in the State and LGAs, NSCDC in the State and LGAs, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of the State, NBA, FIDA etc.



**Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo with the Area Commander, Uromi Command of the Nigerian Police**

During the advocacy visit which was led by the Executive Director, Very. Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, copies of the letter of information and collaboration which contained a summary explanation of the goal and objectives of the interventions as well as the strategies to be implored was presented to the various stakeholders each of which were dully acknowledged by them or their designated aids such as secretary or personal assistant. The project reiterated that Uromi JDPCI planned to conduct this intervention because of her passion to uphold and promote human dignity, equal rights and justice in Edo Central Senatorial District. Hence the project team was



**The executive Director with a Monarch during advocacy visit**

seeking their cooperation, collaboration and participation to carry out the intervention on Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme in their various domains and areas of interest.. The goal is to see that a contribution is made



**Executive Director with the Onojie of Ewatto, HRH S.O. Ikhumhen**

towards improving peaceful coexistence of the village communities and promoting social justice and respect for human rights. The objectives include training of 55 Paralegals to document and intervene in cases of human rights violations as well as provide advice to victims. This is to ensure that community members have improved knowledge and consciousness of human rights and are willing to report human rights violations. This project will also promote the active participation of women in the civil, cultural, economic,



**Presentation of advocacy letter to the Monarch**

social and political life of the target communities with a view to eradicating ill treatment of widows, all forms of gender based violence including



**The Executive Director explaining Human Right Education intervention to the Ojuruwa of Irrua, HRH Alhaji W.O.Momodu II**

female genital mutilation, wife inheritance, female disinheritance and other dehumanizing treatment melted on women in the community.

The stakeholders were informed that the plan of the intervention is to select five communities and two persons from each of the selected community in each of the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District to be trained as paralegals and human rights defenders. Each of the selected Paralegal will also be encouraged to have a team of five persons made up of males and females to serve as human right clubs members in selected communities. This will instill human right consciousness in our communities and reduce violations to the barest minimum as well as promote Justice and Peace in the target communities.

The project team also expressed the desire for the introduction of a more effective Alternative Dispute Resolution system to strengthen the justice system in the communities and thereafter



sought their collaboration for the successful implementation of the intervention so as to ensure a well-informed society with less human rights violations.



**Advocacy visit to a community Chief in Idumebo, Irrua**

The traditional rulers appreciated the project team for the initiatives which was described as quite essential to the people and the community leaders who are the custodians of the tradition and cultural practice of the people at the various communities. They expressed desire to support the strengthening of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism so as to make justice accessible to the people. They however noted the need to engage in wide consultation

with and sensitization of the people to ensure that cultural and traditional policy makers understand the position of the law in the implementation of cultural and traditional beliefs. Some of them also stated that were the tradition and the law were at conflict, such situations should be brought to their notice for immediate mediation and quick resolution.

The security agencies acknowledged the bold step and also expressed desire to collaborate with the project team. Some however expressed concern about the dimension of human rights violation and the urgent need for awareness creation and sensitization of the people to utilize available channels to report human rights violations rather than viewing such violations as normal situations. They promised to participate in the intervention and collaborate with the project team in the quest to reduce human rights violations. Some of the security heads noted willingness to send some of their men to participate in the training sessions.

The Ministry of Justice, Nigerian Bar Association and FIDA also expressed their readiness to partner with Uromi JDPCI



**Explanation of the intervention to the Monarch**

in the efforts to reduce human rights violations and promote justice and peace in the target

communities



**Advocacy visit to the Onojie of Ewohimi, Lord Peter Ojenafoh Usifo**

## **IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB MEMBERS TWENTY SEVEN COMMUNITIES IN THE FIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT.**

As part of efforts in promoting social justice and improving the Human Rights knowledge of citizens, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) in partnership with Miseror, Germany embarked on Human Right and Paralegal project to sensitize citizens from selected communities on their Rights. This it intends to do with engaging volunteers in Human



**Inauguration of Human Rights Club in Ivue community, Esan North East LGA**

Rights clubs and paralegals to help raise this awareness as well as track human rights violation in the target 25 communities across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District.



**Inauguration of Human Rights Club in Amahor community, Igueben LGA**

The process began with the mapping of communities which was followed by rapid assessment of the community structures, organs and system of justice administration and then advocacy to relevant stakeholders. After which Uromi JDPCI project team proceeded to identify opinion leaders, age grades, women groups, community spokes persons and CBOs working in target communities for representation and selection to be Human Rights Advocates as well as members of the Human Rights Clubs.



**Inauguration of Human Rights Club in Okhuesan community, Esan South East LGA**

Uromi JDPCI initially planned for human right clubs in 25 communities but ended up with 27 human rights clubs in 27 communities because of



**Inauguration of Human Rights Club in Usenu community, Esan Central LGA**

expressed interest and zeal by two other communities in

two different Local Government Areas (Esan South East and

Esan West)

During the inauguration of the Human Rights Clubs in the various communities, the project team explained the roles and expectations of Human Rights Advocates to the community members. They were told that each group should not have less than ten (10) members of which 40% should be females and that two of them (1 male and 1 female) will be selected and trained as Paralegal alongside two other members of the groups who will support the Paralegal in the training of other members of the groups. They were to report, track and document human rights abuses and

violations in their communities as well as assist community members to resolve their differences amicably through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADR). To be effective as human right defenders, some capacity building, education and learning sessions lined up for them were highlighted. These they were told will enable them to be agents of change and promoters of justice and peace in their various communities. They were also tasked to be prepared for awareness



Inauguration at Ewu Esan Central LGA

raising and sensitization in their various communities so as to be able to enlighten their communities on human rights promotion and protection.



Inauguration at Egbele, Esan North East LGA

It was noted that Human Rights violations persist because there are little or no structures within the communities for victims to seek redress.

This is why Uromi JDPCI in partnership with Misereor, Germany embarked on this intervention to create awareness on Human Rights, strengthen the channels for reporting Human Rights violation and create a platform where victims of Human Rights can get justice. The communities where Human Rights clubs were inaugurated include: **Esan Central;** Irrua, Usenu, Ewu, Agua and Idumenbo. **Esan West;** Eguare-Ekpoma, Egoro-Amede, Ukpenu, Ukhun, Emaudo and Ujoelen. **Esan North East;** Egbele, Eror, Ivue, Efandion and Amedokhian. **Esan South East;** Ubiaja, Okhuesan, Ewohimi, Ewatto, Emu and Ahia Udakpa. **Igueben;** Eguare-Igueben, Uhe/Idumeka, Ebelle, Ewossa and Amahor



Group photograph after inauguration in Ivue

At the end a total of 298 persons made up of 179 males and 119 females were selected and inaugurated in the 27 groups across the five



Inauguration of Human Rights Club at Ebelle

LGAs in Edo Central

Senatorial District. The representation of women was 39.93%



## MEETING WITH SUPERVISORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME PROJECT



Mr. Michael Iyoriobhe speaking to the supervisors

Uromi Justice Development peace and Caritas Initiatives held the first meeting with the selected supervisors from five Local Government Areas in the senatorial district which comprise of Esan West, Esan

North East, Esan Central, Esan South East and Igueben



Project team members during the meeting

who will supervise the paralegal and human rights defenders in the various Local Government Areas. The meeting which had in attendance the five Local Government Supervisors, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI and other project team members was held to first sensitize the Supervisors on the needs, importance and expectations of the project. Their roles as supervisors were elaborately explained to include the provision of technical support to the various groups under their domain, provision of legal counsel and advice to the groups on human rights issues brought before them in the course of the project, coordinate the activities of the various Human Rights Clubs in each of the LGAs as well as to assist in the training of Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates among other responsibility. Emphasis was laid on the importance of Alternative Dispute Resolution as a tool for the promotion of justice and peace in the community while the Supervisors were encouraged to provide the needed support to achieve this goal. The Supervisors thereafter expressed willingness and acceptance to work on the project



Very rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo explaining to the supervisors about the Human Rights project

After the briefing, the project team and the Supervisors proceeded to the venue of the inaugural meeting where the other members were gathered.

## THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE PROJECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL

The inaugural meeting started at 2:30pm with opening prayer by Mr. Imhontu Peter from Ewohimi after which roll call of Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates from the various communities was taken. A total of 114 persons made up of 5 project staff from Uromi JDPCI, 5 LGA Supervisors and 100 Human Right Club members (52 Paralegals and 52 Human Rights Advocates) from 27 target communities in Edo Central Senatorial District were in attendance.



**Participants asking questions for clarification during the meeting**

The Executive Director of Uromi Justice Development peace and caritas Initiatives Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo during his opening remark welcomed all the



**Mr. Michael Iyoriobhe explaining the project objects to the club members**

supervisors and human rights club members to the meeting. He then explained the need for the project which he said was to build the capacity of the Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates to raise human rights awareness in their various communities so as to deter violators from further perpetuating the act. He added that the Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates will track, document and report human right violations in their communities as well as assist victims to access justice. He remarked that the project was community based project as such, the intervention is to be carried out in the target communities. He noted that with adequate training human, rights defenders will be able to advise their community leaders on cultural practices that are inimical to human rights and natural justice. It was emphasized that the project will be for a period of two year as such they were all encouraged to work together for the promotion of human rights for people irrespective of sex and place of origin.



**Group photograph of participants with Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo**

Some focus areas in the project were outlined and explained to include; Protection of Children through the Child Rights Act/Law, promotion of gender equality and



**Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo addressing the participants during the meeting**

women inclusion, discouraging harmful cultural practices against women and ill-treatment of widows as well as tracking and report human rights violations by security agents and other institutions. The use of alternative dispute resolution mechanism will also be a major focus in the project. He explained that not all issues should go to police station as the mechanism of Alternative Dispute resolution can be used.

Thereafter the program manager gave an overview of the project and explained that the goal of the project was to ensure that a contribution was made towards improving peaceful coexistence of the village, community and promoting social justice and respect for human rights. He

highlighted the objectives and indicators of the project to all participants. A rundown of the project activities were also given some of which were: advocacy visit to traditional and community leaders as well as other relevant stakeholders. Identification and selection of Paralegals as well as formation of Human Rights Club in 25 communities, monthly, quarterly, Bi-annual and Annual meetings, commemoration of child protection day and human rights day as well as series of training which were planned to build the capacity of the Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates to effectively perform their roles in the project.

He noted that advocacy visit to relevant stakeholders had been conducted and that more will still be visited in the course of the project and that the administration of questionnaires for baseline assessment was on going, of which they will also be expected to support the process in their various communities. This he said will enable the project to assess the knowledge of the people as it concern their understanding of human rights and human rights violations in the target communities.

It was reiterated that close monitoring will be carried out by

the project team to allow for the provision of technical support and mentorship to the various clubs. Copies of the programme outline was shared with all participates to enable them prepare ahead for every event. The participants thereafter appreciated the project team and described the project as a laudable intervention which can empower them to promote respect for human rights as well as enlighten the community people on the position of the laws regarding some of their cultural practices and help them see the need to discard such practices.



Opening prayer to declare the inaugural meeting open

## COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) organized an event to commemorate the International day for the protection of children. The event which was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 brought together dignitaries and stakeholders from across communities in the five Local Government Areas (LGAs), some of which were community Chiefs from Ekpoma, Uromi, Ewatto, Ewohimi, Igueben, Ewossa, Ebelle and other communities. Local Government representatives and legal practitioners were also at the event.

In the opening remark, the Executive Director of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo traced



Chief Oza representing the Onojie of uromi making a remark

the origin of the



Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo presenting opening remark and keynote address



celebration of children to Rev Dr. Charles Leonard who designed and held a special service which focused specifically on children in 1856 as an annual event. By 1954 it was universally declared that June 1st should not just be seen as a yearly celebration of children but rather established as the international day for protection of children in order to protect children's right, end child Labour and guarantee access to education. It was noted that the issue of the protection of children is of cardinal importance to the world hence United Nation General Assembly adopted the 1989 convention on the Rights of the Child and passed it as an international Law on September 2, 1990. Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo stated that at the convention, 54 articles were enumerated to address the basic human rights that children everywhere are entitled to, Such as: right to survival; right to develop to the fullest; protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; Right to participate fully in the family, cultural and social life among others.

It was emphasized that child rights are fundamental rights that must be protected by all hence policy makers and community stakeholders were invited to be part of this year's event so that they can be collaborators and partners in the promotion of the rights of children and protection of same in all spheres of life. This he said was necessary due to the vulnerability of children for which community and social safety net was direly needed to guarantee their protection.

He commended the international Labour Organization who launched the world day against Child



**Participants in a group photograph**

Labour in 2002 to draw global attention to the reality of child labour and its effects on children so as



**Some Community Chiefs at the event**

to harness actions and

efforts required to eradicate child labour and also engage government, employers, workers, organizations and civic society as well as people across the globe to highlight the impact of Child Labour on children and how to eliminate it. He further noted that in Edo state the Child Rights Law was passed in 2007 as part of the State Government's effort to promote the protection of children and then urged the stakeholders to sensitize their people on the existence of the law as a tool for child protection. He encouraged parents to desist from engaging their children in domestic or farm work during school hours as all children ought to be in school at such times.

Some children who were invited to the ceremony made drama presentation to sensitize the people on the ills of child abuse and the need to promote safe space for children so as to protect them from abuse and occasions of abuse.



Thereafter the guest speaker Barr Onomen Oriakhi made a presentation titled “Protection of Children in the light of Child’s Right’. She started the session with a role play on the importance of guidance and protection for all children and then emphasized that children are violated



Some Children presenting a Drama during the event

because we fail to protect them. She took participants through some Laws that have been enacted for the protection of children at various levels and then categorized the 2003 Child Rights Act into four main pillars which were health, development, protection and participation. She emphasized some aspects of the Child Rights Act that deals with certain prohibitions like Female Genital

Mutilation and child

abduction. She reiterated the fact that the Act placed the responsibility of care and guidance for children on the parents, guardian as well as other authorities in that have direct dealings with care of children. They have

the mandate to provide the necessary guidance and educational training to enable children grow and develop in the right path. The guest speaker defines child abuse as acts or inactions that cause harm to children. It could be emotional, sexual, ill treatment, neglect or deprivation of any child. She encouraged the provision of safe spaces for children where they will be free to express feeling as well as educate children about child protection system and network. She also recommended the building of network of concern individual and groups to help children develop support systems in the communities and concluded with a charge on the participants to begin the process of creating conducive environment for the promotion of children’ rights and the protection of children in the society.



Guest Speaker, Barr Onomen Oriakhi making a presentation during the event

After the presentation, the participants asked questions for clarifications and answers were provided by the guest speaker to clear all doubts. A total of 112 persons made up of 60 males and 52 females were in attendance.

## **TRAINING ON INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARALEGAL SCHEME**

As part of activities for the project on Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme, Uromi JDPCI organized three days training on introduction to Paralegal and Human Rights Advocacy with the objective to build the capacity of target communities as human rights advocates and paralegals to defend, track, document and report incidences of abuse within their communities.

Participants for the training cut across 27 communities (Ewohimi, Ewatto, Okuesan, Emu, Ahia, Ubiaja, Eguare-Igueben, Ewossa, Amahor, Ebelle, Idumekan, Ivue, Eror, Amendokhia, Efandion, Egbele, Ewu, Agua, Akho/Eguare, Usenu, Idumebo, Ukhun, Ukpenu, Ujoelen, Emaudo, Eguare-Ekpoma and Eгоре-Amede) in the 5 Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District being the area covered by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi.

A total number of 110 Human rights advocates, paralegals, LGA supervisors and staff made up of male and female were present for the training

The training started with welcome and introductory session which was facilitated by the Program Manager of Uromi JDPCI who welcomed participants to the training and stated that the objective of the training was to make participants understand who they are as Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates and the various roles they are expected to play in the communities. The participants were told to write down their expectations and thereafter the ground rules were established and agreed by all.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, during the first presentation gave an overview of the project (Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme). He explained to the participants that human right education is important because people need to know their rights and the different laws and principles that govern such rights. He said the project aims at achieving the following objectives:



**Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo making a presentation on understanding the role of a paralegal**

1. To train human rights club members and paralegals to prosecute, document and intervene in cases of human rights violations and provide advice to victims of human rights violations
2. To improve knowledge and willingness to report human rights violation.
3. To increase active participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, social and political life of their communities.

Thereafter he introduced participants to the topic “Understanding the role of paralegals”. He explained that paralegals are community based persons trained with basic knowledge of the law and legal system and qualified through education, training or work experience to perform substantive legal work customarily performed by a lawyer and which requires knowledge of legal concepts. He emphasized that paralegals are not lawyers.



Other sub headings under the topic include: who can become

**Group discussion by participants**

a paralegal, duties of a paralegal and the ethics of paralegals.

The training also featured a group work where participants were shared into five groups to discuss and highlight the qualities of a paralegal and some of the notable qualities presented by the groups were: excellent writing and listening skills, discipline and patience.

Questions and scenarios were raised by participants with responses given by the facilitator.

Thereafter Theresa Onuwabagbe, Uromi JDPCI Legal Officer made a presentation on “Understanding Human Rights”. She explained the meaning of human rights, the constitution, categories of rights and sections of the constitution where such rights could be found.

The other days of the training started with recap of lessons learnt in the previous sessions of the training by participants.

Thereafter, the Program Manager of Uromi JDPCI took the participants through the topic “Monitoring and Reporting Human Rights Violation”. He said human rights violation is one of the major challenges Africans are faced with. He gave examples of such violations to include: Arbitrary arrest, illegal detention, torture and ill treatment, rape, disappearance etc.

He also explained who a local human monitor is and further stated that the local human monitor has the task of reporting specific cases or incidents of violations within their communities to Uromi JDPCI through the Local Government Supervisors.

The following sub heading were discussed as the duties of a local human rights monitor:

- Contact building
- Monitoring
- Fact finding
- Documenting
- Reporting
- Record keeping

The training also featured a brainstorming session in which participants were shared into five groups with the following question to brainstorm on:

What they understood by human rights monitoring and what should be monitored by Human Right Monitor.



**The Program Manager making a presentation on Monitoring and Reporting Human Rights Violations**



**Opening session of the training**

The participants were taken through the concept of Documentation and Reporting, Gender sensitivity and Torture. They were also given some simulation exercises on reporting and documentation, during which they were given samples of the reporting templates to demonstrate their understating of reporting and documentation.

The training ended on a good note as participants appreciated the knowledge that has been impacted to them which has better equipped them with the needed skills to perform efficiently in their roles as paralegals and advocates thus meeting their expectations for participating in the training

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

Uromi JDPCI intensified effort to sustain sensitization of communities, schools, markets and churches on the need for safe migration, while discouraging Human Trafficking and Irregular migration. In this quarter, a total of eleven (11) communities (5 in Esan Central and 6 in Esan South East LGA), two churches in Esan Central LGA, One (1) Market and fourteen schools were visited for sensitization on Anti-Human Trafficking. A total of 1571 persons made up of 716 males and 852 females were reached. Out of which 851 (413male and 438 female) were (Students) reached in school and 727 (313 male and 414 female) were reached in the communities (churches and market inclusive).

The communities visited were Idumuguokha-Ewohimi, Idumuogo-Ewohimi, Ikhekhe- Ewatto, Idiselu -Ewatto, Idumurohi, Abaji in Illushi Idumebo, Ekoneukhuo- Irrua, Eko-Ewu, Uwenujie and Ehanlen-Ewu. The Churches visited were Assemblies of God Church, Eko Iyobhebhe and Potters Watch Church, Irrua while Omioboyo Market in Ewatto, Esan South East LGA was also visited.

#### **Community Sensitization**

In the quarter under review, Uromi JDPCI team visited eleven communities, two Churches and one Market to raise awareness on the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration. 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 end 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 parents were encouraged to desist from pressuring their children to go abroad and to stop selling properties to send their children abroad especially when they do not have any form of skills, necessary requirement, or specific business to conduct abroad. It was said that travelling abroad was not a bad thing but doing so without relevant information, necessary requirements or through irregular means was dangerous as it can make them fall prey to human traffickers. The team thereafter showed a documentary title “Libya Journey to hell” and another in which a victim of trafficking was narrating her ordeal to



the community which they watched with interest. A total of 727 (313 male and 414 female) were reached

In **Idumuguogha community** Participants with key interest sat and watched the film which



described dangers involved in travelling through desert and the ordeals of those who were trafficked. The different stages of human trafficking were also shown from the resident country through desert and Libya. Reacting to the video



clip, a pastor in the community lamented the fact that most churches that supposed to be the hope of the common man has failed, according to him, members contribute to build Schools for the church but are prevented from attending the school because of the high fees, another community elder stated that focus should not be on the negative aspect of travelling abroad but should also project those who have made it. Responding to the comment made by the two members of the community, It was emphasized that the team is not against travelling abroad but should be legal with purpose in mind to avoid being enslaved in another man's country. They were discouraged to travel via illegal route because of the numerous dangers rather to encourage their children to meaningful trade if they can send them to school. The sensitization ended with 52 participants-27 males and 25 females.

After the presentation in **Idumuogo** community Elder Ebhohon William from Idumugo community spoke extensively on the need for the youth to be focus and avoid



Sensitization at Idumogu Community

bad company which are ready to lure them to this dangerous journey. Also, Participants were advised to watch out for family members or outsiders who pretend to



Sensitization at Idumogu Community

be helpers requesting them to allow their children to follow them to cities for education with the interior motive of trafficking them. The sensitization in the communities ended with 50 participants-21 males and 29 females.

Following the presentation, one of the participants in Ikekhen community in Ewatto pointed to the fact that the parents present should train their children well to make a good community, he added that parents who refuse to bring up their children well we always regret at their old age.



Sensitization at Ikekhe Community

More so, one of the community elders admonished participants to always stand for the truth and speak against evil. He added that parents should discipline their children so that they can be useful to the family and pride to the community. The sensitization ended with 20 participants-9 males and 11 females.

After the sensitization in **Eko-Noukhuo in Irrua** one of the



Sensitization campaign in Ekonoukhuo Eidenu Irrua

community member said what about people who gain

scholarship to study abroad, in response the community members were told that travelling abroad is not bad but go through the legal means and not the desert. The people were told to



A team member explaining to the community members the dangers of human trafficking

always speak for the truth and tell the youths when they go wrong and

advise them and not said they are not my personal child as the youth's needs encouragement. The sensitization ended with 31 community members comprising of both males and females.

In **Idumebo community**, one of the participants asked about the roles of the government in fighting against human trafficking, responding to the



Some participants during sensitization in Idumebo

question, He was told about NAP TIP-National Agency For The Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons which is set up by the



Some participants during sensitization in Idumebo

government to fight against human trafficking. The government has made effort to protect citizens who are already victims of human trafficking by returning and integrating them to their families, many of them are already receiving attention from notable bodies even some Christian organization are



willing to assist to prevent others from being deceived. More so, one of the elders who also participated in the sensitization aggressively condemned the practice of many youth who want to reap where they did not sow and would not want to listen to the advice of the parents are always victim of human traffickers, he therefore encouraged them to concentrate on whatever they are doing so that they will not be a liability to the community rather be pride to the community. The sensitization in the communities ended with 55 participants-7 males and 48 females.

**Idiselu Community-Ewatto**



**Participants during visual presentation on human trafficking**

After the presentation in Idiselu, Elder Asuelimen Jacob from the community spoke extensively on the need for the youth to be focus and avoid bad company which are ready to lure them to this dangerous journey. He suggested that parents should watch out for their children and the company they keep. Additionally, Participants were advised to watch out for family members or outsiders who pretend to be helpers requesting them to allow their children to follow

them to cities for education with the interior motive of trafficking them. The sensitization in the communities ended with 16 participants-11 males and 5 females

**Ibaji Community, Illushi**

Participants in the community were informed that irregular migrants go through terrible ordeals on their journey to Europe. Most of them are eventually trafficked on the course of the journey, some migrants have to drink the urine of their co travelers in the Sahara desert when they run out



**Participants listening and watching the film during sensitization**

of water to drink, some are held prisoners by smugglers and kept in prisons where they are constantly beaten and extorted, and the female ones among them are raped and tortured. For the once that are able to get through this harrowing experience and get to the Mediterranean Sea, they end up either drifting off to unknown areas or drown because the boat they are travelling in is overcrowded and is

more of a balloon than a boat.

The elders and the youths present were enjoined not to be deceived by relatives or family friends who come to them promising them of jobs that they can provide for them abroad. These are some of the tricks the traffickers play



**Participants listening and watching the film during sensitization**

to lure people who they eventually end up selling to smugglers. The sensitization in the communities ended with 35 participants-13 males and 22 females.

### **Ehanlen Community, Ewu**

This community was visited on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019 with the aim to conduct sensitization. During which a brief documentary was shown to the participants for the people to see the dangers of travelling through the Mediterranean Sea and they all watched with



**The participants watching the documentary with kin interest**

kin interest. Some participants asked few questions about how it can be stopped and in response the team told them to advise their children to go to school and for those who would not want to go to school should



**A section of participants**

endeavour to learn a trade to make them good children and the essence the team came is to discourage people from falling prey to traffickers. Total number of 35 men were in attendance to listen and watch the documentary.

### **Idumu-Urohi Community-Ewohimi**

Participants with key interest sat and watched the film which described 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 country through desert and Libya.

One of the community elders stated that one of the major reasons many youth travel abroad was unemployment. One of the youth who participated in the exercise added that the government had made the country uninhabitable to the citizens hence many are going out for greener pasture. The project team then emphasized that the message was not against travelling abroad rather on irregular migration and human trafficking because of their dangers inherent in them. It was also noted that the failings of the government should not be enough justification to sacrifice the lives of our children on the altar of greener pasture, since we can have alternatives to this through skill acquisition, proper education and economic



**Sensitization at Idumu-Urohi community, Ewohimi**

empowerment. The pain involved in travelling via desert or Mediterranean Sea as we saw in the video is more than the ones we may think we



**Sensitization at Idumu-Urohi community, Ewohimi**



are experiencing in Nigeria-the importance of freedom cannot be overemphasized. The sensitization ended with 45 participants-17 males and 24 females.

### **Eko-Ewu Community, Ewu**

After the the sensitization exercise, some participants blamed the situation on the failures of the Government to meet the needs of the people. The emphasized that the government needs to provide social security for the youths to enable them meets their dreams and aspiration. Some noted that the youths need to be engaged economically so as to take their attention away from deceptive and despirate circumstances that expose them human trafficking and irregular migration.

They were appreciated for their contributions and encouraged to start the engagement from the family level and thereafter seek assistance for the ones that they could not do. A total of 9 persons made up of 5males and 4 females were reached



**Sensitization at Eko Ewu community**

### **Uwenujie Community, Irrua**

Some community members after watching the documentaries, commended the project team for the sensitization and appealed for the creation of alternatives through empowerment or vocational training for the youth. They added that some of those who fall victims to human traffickers did not envisage that they would end up that way. They embarked on the journey to Europe out of despiration with a view to making a out of their life since the situation in their country has prevented them from achieving their dreams and aspiration. They were encouraged to imbibe the right attitude and orientation on their children as no amount of despiration can take the right attitude away from a well cultured child and that life is more precious than silver and gold. A total of 64 persons made up of 16 males and 48 females were in attendance



**Sensitization at Uwenujie community**

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**Sensitization at Eko Ewu community**

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Sensitization at Uwenujie community

## **CHURCH SENSITIZATION**

### **Assemblies of God Church, Eko-Iyobhebhe**

In the same vein Uromi JDPCI visited Assemblies of God Church, Eko-Iyobhebhe to conduct sensitization on human trafficking. The trend of travelling outside the country with no aim whatsoever was discouraged as it exposes those involved to the risk of human trafficking. It was further stated that people should consider and support more honorable alternatives for the members of their communities and churches to learn skills that will empower them to become



Members of Assemble of God watching the documentary

responsible citizens of the country. The project team showed video documentaries of the experiences of victims of human trafficking and irregular migration in the two churches to portray the message of human trafficking while the team explained the context of the video. The Pastor



The Team speaking to members on the dangers of human trafficking

appreciated the project team for the service done to his people. An estimated number of 67 persons were reached-25 males and 42 females.

**Sensitisation at Potters Watch Church Irrua**

The team of Uromi Justice Development peace and caritas Initiatives visited potter’s Watch Church Irrua to sensitize members on the dangers and ills of human trafficking and irregular migration. The team explained to the congregation the dangers of human trafficking and encouraged parents to train their children as even the word of God said train up your child in the way he should go and he will not depart from such godly upbringing.



**The Congregation watching the documentary with interest**



**A staff speaking to the congregation in Potters watch church**

Thereafter a documentary to show

the danger in crossing the Sahara desert and another in which a victim narrated her ordeal in the hands of human trafficker were shown and explained to the congregation to dissuade people from falling victims of human trafficking and from travelling through the illegal route. The pastor appreciated the team for coming to educate congregation about the dangers of human trafficking and promised to continuous emphasis the message in his church. A

total of 86 persons made up of 32 males 54 females were reached

**Omioboyo Market -Ewatto**

Participants which were made up of both men and women as well as youth in the market were told about the evils of human trafficking and the need for safe migration. Parents and youth present were therefore counseled to watch out for traffickers who deceive people with unrealistic promising future and to stop giving their children out as house boys/girls because of the many

dangers of turning those children to slaves and other forms of child abuse. They were admonished to do their best by sending their children to school otherwise should



**Some participants viewing documentary at Omioboyo market**



**Some participants viewing documentary at Omioboyo market**

encourage and support them to learn a trade.



## 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 6 schools in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas 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 851 students were reached comprising of 413 males and 438 females.



Sensitization at Eguare Ewatto Primary School

In the month of May, Uromi JDPCI project team went to four Primary schools (two in Esan Central and two in Esan South East LGA) for sensitization on

human trafficking and



Sensitization at Uwenujie Primary School

irregular migration. The schools visited were Usenu and Uwenujie Primary schools in Esan Central LGA as well as Eguare primary school, Ewatto and Agadaga primary school, Ewohimi both in Esan South East LGA. The event began with the introduction of the team members to the students and teachers who were present for the sensitization. The project team explained to the



Sensitization at Agada Primary School

students the purpose of the sensitization which was to create awareness on the dangers of human trafficking. The team spoke on the dangers of human trafficking and how victims were ill-treated and



Sensitization at Usenu Primary School



exploited by the traffickers. They were also told of the dangers of irregular migration because they will end up with traffickers who will not care for them. The team admonished the students not be deceived by relatives who will promise them job abroad that those are ways human traffickers use to lure people to fall prey as victims. The students were advised to study their books and become good people in the society. A total number of 262 students were reached 127 males and 135 females.

**Idumu-Agbor Primary School**



**Pupils and staff of Idumu-Agbor Primary School during sensitization**

Following the message in the above named school, one of the pupils asked if is a right to follow a relation to city to continue education, she was advised to ensure that plans are properly made for her education and not for any other purpose and that her parents must give approval with the condition that if any other thing aside education the suppose relation



**Pupils and staff of Idumu-Agbor Primary School during sensitization**

will be held responsible. However, there are better schools around for them under the supervision of the parents who are better caregivers to the children than any other person. The sensitization ended with 51 pupils-22 males and 29 females.

**Niger Bank Primary School**



**Pupils listening and answering questions on human trafficking**

In the above named school, one of the pupils asked how to identify human traffickers, in response, he was told as well as other students who participated that traffickers always come presenting themselves as helpers seeking the good of their victim making fake promises. They were asked to be careful with people who believe one can make it without hard work, those who claim



**Pupils listening and answering questions on human trafficking**

that everything is bad in Nigeria that until you travel out you cannot make it. More so, the pupils were encouraged to face their studies and report any suspected cases to their teachers as well as the frontline advocate who are indigenes of the community.

## Sensitisation at Ideal Secondary School Irrua

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives in a bid to reduce menace of human trafficking and irregular Migration went to Ideal Secondary School in Esan Central Local Government Area to sensitize the students on the ills of Human



Students watching documentary

Trafficking and Irregular Migration. The team told the student what human trafficking entails as means of exploitation as well as its effects in the life of the victims.

Thereafter the students were shown a documentary about the

dangers migrants face in the Mediterranean Sea and the students also saw the experiences of persons who have travelled and their ordeal faced in Libya. Some students asked few questions like when parents want you to go to persons the students do not know what should they do? The team responded that they should endeavour to resist such act respectfully and tell their parents that human trafficking is bad and even if forced they can report to relevant authorities like the principal and also call Uromi JDPCI or NAPTIP through the phone numbers in the flyers given to them. Another student asked to know how human trafficking can be stopped. The students were told that by sensitization and reporting of perpetrators of the act. A total of 93 students were reached comprising of 45 males and 48 females.



A student asking a question in Ideal Secondary School

## Sensitisation at Usugbenu Grammar School

The team of Uromi Justice Development peace and caritas visited Usugbenu Grammar School to sensitize the students on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration. The team explained to the students the dangers of human trafficking and why they should avoid being victims. The students were told to shun anybody who comes to them with false hope and



A staff speaking to the students on human trafficking

deceptive promises as such persons could be traffickers. The team emphasized the importance of education and hard work rather than seeking quick money which could end them in huge regret. A

documentary was shown to the students about the dangers

of passing through the Sahara desert and some life experiences of

people who have been victims of human trafficking. Question was asked by a student on how to report incidence of trafficking and the team told the students to call the number on the flyers to report incidence.



Some students with placards while the staff explains to the students

### **Okaigben Primary School-Ewohimi**

Following the message in the above named school, one of the pupils asked the reason while many Nigerians are treated as slaves in Libya and Europe. Responding to the answer, the team told her that those who are treated as slaves from Nigeria are irregular migrants and that many of them travel without legal visa, dubious people use this as opportunity exploit them and use them as slaves. However, the pupils were encouraged to study hard and



**Sensitization at Okaigben Primary School, Ewohimi**

be obedient to achieve their aim in life and to shun all kinds of evil to attract God's blessings here in Nigeria and if for any good reason, they want to travel, they must finish their studies or learn a trade so that they can be responsible and no one will treat them as slaves. The sensitization ended with 72 pupils-43 males and 29 females reached.

### **Uhomebho Primary School-Ewatto**

In the above named school, one of the pupils asked if one can be trafficked and still use air as a means of transportation. Responding to the question, they were told that traffickers can still transport people abroad via this means though very expensive and getting there they will tune their victim to slave till he or she is able to work and pay any amount they wish to collect at the detriment of the victim. Pupils were advised to watch out for family members who pretend to be helpers with interior motive of trafficking individuals. They were asked to be careful with people who believe one can make it without hard work, those who claim that everything is bad in Nigeria that until



**Sensitization at Uhomebho primary school, Ewatto**

you travel abroad you cannot make it. Nigeria is a blessed country in which you can study your books or learn a trade and be successful than going to become a slave in another man's country. The sensitization ended with 26 pupils in attendance (6 males and 20 females).

### **Ehanlen Primary School**

The pupils asked some questions to know why people travel at night and whether educated people still travel irregularly. They were told that irregular migrant travel at night because they want to escape from border security in the transit countries and the ones they want to enter illegally. It was also explained that even if a person was educated s/he could still be victim if s/he



**Sensitization at Ehanlen Primary School, Ewu**



does not have the right information on the country S/he wants to go to. They children were encouraged to study their book, obey their parents and their teachers. The school thereafter appreciated the project team for the sensitization and the information shared. A total of 85 pupils were reached comprising of 47 females and 38 males.

**Eko Ojemen Primary School**



Sensitization in Eko Ojemen Primary School

In this Primary School, some students wanted know how they could say no to their parent when they are asked to stay with a stranger or live with relatives



Sensitization in Eko Ojemen Primary School

outside their homes. They were told to

suggest to their parent to find out the actual occupation of the relatives and while such a relative wants the child to live with them. It was said that if their parent do a genuine investigation they would be able to know whether it was necessary or not but that if they eventually feel threaten or maltreated by the relatives, they should look for the nearest Police Station to report to and asked to be returned home. They were encouraged not to follow a stranger at all unless they were adults who could take care of themselves. The total students who were in attendance were 62 comprising of 37 males and 25 females.

**Eko-Iyobhebhe Primary School**

The teachers in this school thanked the project team for the sensitization and thereafter request the team make the exercise a routine as the children needed continuous reminder and enlightenment to make it a part of them. They also appealed to the team support the children’s education with materials, especially for the indigent ones. They noted that doing so will also contribute to the fight against human trafficking in the



Sensitization in Eko Iyobhebhe Primary School

society. A total of 39 pupils were reached comprising of 18males and 21



Sensitization in Eko Iyobhebhe Primary School

females



## Eguare Ewu Primary School

The children who watched the documentary with keen interest asked question to know why the victims of irregular migration were beaten by their captors and why they were not able to fight back. They were told that the beaten was to instill fear in them so that they would be submissive to their captors and that they could not fight back because they were like slaves in captivity as



Sensitization in Eguare Primary School and 34 females.

such fighting back could cause them their lives. The children shook their heads shuddered in disbelief. A total of 64 pupils were reached comprising of 30 males



A pupil asking a question in Eguare Primary School

## Victim Support Group Meeting



Program Manager profiling a victim

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. The meeting in May was used



Meeting with Victim support group in Ewohimi

to profile and assess some of the individual members who turned up for the meetings. Some of the issues discussed were on livelihood and psychosocial support. Members expressed interest to work with the project team and also shared their challenges since their return to Nigeria. Some of them requested for assistance to return to their means of livelihood before their departure while others wanted to start all over again. During discussion it was observed that many of them would require psychosocial support especially in the area of counselling to fully understand and appreciate their current situation as well as help them to develop the skill of harnessing their individual resources to make a meaning out of their lives by starting with the little that they have and then grow it into something big. Many of them have very high expectation and think that they cannot start any meaning enterprise unless they have Millions.

In the month of June further emphasis was laid on solidarity and the need for them develop zeal for productive venture for a meaningful living. The plan to sustain the groups was also initiated

at the meeting and members appreciated the idea of having executives to manage their own affairs so as to continually share idea for growth and development. In Irrua they were encouraged to invite their co-returnees so as to push for the sustainability of the group

in the month of July, Uromi JDPCI project team met with members of the victim support groups in Esan South East and Esan Central at Ewohimi and Irrua respectively. The meetings which were earlier scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019 were adjusted to enable Uromi JDPCI project team participate in the commemoration of the Anti-Human Trafficking Day. The meeting in Esan South East Local Area was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019 while that of Esan Central was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2019. Some of the issues discussed were on promoting sustainability of the groups through the constitution of executives and the development of strategies to link them to their various Local Government Councils.



**Victim Support group Irrua**

In Esan Central the members appointed from among themselves, some members to serve as executives and scheduled the 30<sup>th</sup> of August as their next meeting day. They also suggested that they would like to meet at least one more time before approaching the Local Government Chairman for introduction. However that of Ewohimi asked for more time to organize themselves before they constitute executives as so a date for next meeting was to be communicated to them. Some new members were welcomed in Esan Central and encouraged to share in the vision of the group which was explained to them



**Victim Support group in Ewohimi**

**Validation Exercise for Livelihood Support**

There was a validation exercise conducted by Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria the program manager for the SMAT-P project Barr Onomen Oriakhi and provincial Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis



**Validation Exercise in Idumebo community Esan Central LGA**

Arhedo were available for the validation on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 with

beneficiaries



**Fr Fidelis and Onomen at Validation Exercise in Usenu community Irrua. Esan Central LGA**

selected from different communities in Irrua for validation after selecting from the list of vulnerable household. Some

beneficiaries were selected and validated. The beneficiaries signified interest in various forms of trade such as food stuff business, Rice business, Akpu, fish, oil, Garri, articles like biscuit, bread and many other forms of trades. The team adopted certain criteria in the selection process, among which were the number of persons out of school in the household, the number of adolescents in the house, the number of children given out as house help, among others. The exercise was conducted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June in Esan Central at the four different venues (Akho, Usenu, Idumebo and Ukhiodo-Ewu) while that of Esan South East was done on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at seven venues (Agadaga, Okede, and Palace in Ewohimi, Uhomebho, Idinegbon and Palace in Ewatto and then Illushi community). At the end of all that were assessed a total of hundred persons were eventually selected to benefit from the project.

## Community Meeting



**Group photograph of participants in Irrua community meeting**

Uromi JDPCI as part of the efforts to sustain the achievement of the SMAT-P project organized two community meetings, one in



Esan Central and Irrua community meeting

one in Esan South East LGA. The meeting in Esan Central was held at Irrua on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 with 52 persons (38 males and 14 females) in attendance while that of Esan South East LGA was held at Ewatto Palace on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 with 50 persons (30males and 20 females) in attendance.

The sessions began with an appreciation of the efforts that have so far been made on the SMAT-P project, starting with the advocacy visits which heralded community entering and then community sensitizations which was followed with assessment of vulnerable households and the selection of children and young adults from vulnerable households for skill acquisition and educational support. Consequently a follow up validation was done across the communities by a team from Caritas Nigeria. The team thereafter thanked them for their cooperation so far urged them support the remaining process so as to be able to sustain the impact of the project in the communities.



**Fr Fidelis addressing participants at community meeting in Ewatto**



The Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo also used to opportunity to sensitize the community stakeholders again and urged them to be advocates of anti human trafficking in their various communities. The stakeholders also used the opportunity to expressed support for the project while condemning trafficking and all it associated problems.

## **PRISON APOSTOLATE**

### **WELFARE SERVICES**

As part of Uromi JDPCI mission to promote integral development for all, the legal/welfare department of Uromi JDPCI facilitated the delivery of some food items to the Prison to support the inmates. The items were provided by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi during the last Cathedralium. The items delivered were; half bag of beans, half bag of rice, half bag of Onions, 2 bags of salt, 25 litres of palm oil, 10 bags of Garri and 98 tubers of yams.

In the same vein Uromi JDPCI accompanied the family of Sir and Lady A.A. Esene to visit Ubiaja prison in the month of April. The visit was part of the Esene's family effort to bring the good news of the risen Christ to the inmates through the celebration of the Easter season with them. The event which began with the celebration of the Holy Mass had Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis O. Arhedo was the chief Celebrate while Rev Fr Peter Udo was the homilist.



**Some items presented to the Prison during Easter**



**Rev Fr Peter Udo delivering the homily**

Rev Fr Peter Udo in a message tagged be connected to Jesus admonished the people to be positive in their actions, words and thoughts because the prison was meant to reform them. He added that if after imprisonment on earth, one still cannot make heaven then such a person is doomed to everlasting

imprisonment in hell. He urged them to strive for perfection at every opportunity, noting that their imprisonment may be to purify them for the kingdom of God. He admonished them to know and hold on to Jesus who alone gives life.



**Very Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo addressing the inmates**

Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo corroborated the Easter message of the resurrection and asked those who seek genuine repentance to indicate interest so that process of Catechism can be negotiated with the Prison Officials. 26 inmates signified interest and some Knights of the Catholic Church were given the responsibility to take them through



catechism for a period of time after which they will be baptized. The family thereafter gave out Rosary to all inmates and also gave drinks and Biscuits as sign of love and celebration to the inmates.

Uromi JDPCI also supported the Barbing session of the skill acquisition center in the Prison with two WAHL Supper Tapper Clippers to assist them to keep their hair tidy and teach those who want to learn barbing skills. We are still planning to improve on the skill acquisition center at the prison with hair dressing equipment to allow the female inmates access to vocational skills training as some of the men were already doing.

## **SPIRITUAL SUPPORT**

Sequence to the indication of interest by some inmates to receive Christ into their lives and the subsequent affirmation by the designated Knights led by Sir A.A Idoni that the inmates were ready for a new life, the Director Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo proceeded to baptize the 26 inmates on Pentecost Day. The twenty-six inmates who had gone through some necessary catechism classes and met the requirements that qualified them for baptism assembled with some staff of the Ubiaja prisons at the Chapel to receive the Sacrament of baptism. During the homily the inmates were called to see themselves as new creatures from that moment hence forth and to do away with their old life style. They were told not to forget the meaning of baptism which is a sacrament that cleans one from original sin



**An inmate being baptized at the event**

and to make them members of the church. The inmates were therefore told to live by the promise they would be making before the Altar of God and strive to turn a new leaf. Each inmate

thereafter chose a new name with which they were baptized.



**An inmate being anointed with holy oil at the event**

A staff of the Ubiaja prison at the ceremony appreciated Uromi JDPCI for the initiatives and prayed God to continue to strengthen the Director in His ministry. One of the newly baptized inmates also thanked Very Rev. Fr. Dr Fidelis Arhedo for baptizing them and promised that they would all live differently from henceforth and be good to others.

## **MICRO CREDIT**

Empowerment of the less privileged in the society has always been one of the major policy thrust of Uromi JDPCI. Uromi JDPCI established the MICRO-CREDIT/PROMIC SCHEME for the purpose of empowering people through soft loans. 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. We are currently covering all the five Local Government Area in Uromi Diocese.

The scheme is in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC I, PROMIC II and AGRIC PROMIC (for farmers only) total number of nine hundred and sixty eight (968) persons are currently benefiting from these schemes. Uromi JDPCI now disburse money to beneficiaries through their Bank account, and before the schedule is sent to the bank all the beneficiaries will confirm their account numbers by signing on it to avoid error or wrong transfer.

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 farming to small scale commercial farming.



**A group of beneficiaries in Ukhun community**



**Another group of beneficiaries**

In this quarter a total of 9 groups with 76 members were supported to improve 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