

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

**UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES,
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UROMI,
CHANCERY COMPLEX, EGBELE UROMI**

FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2025

JANUARY, 2026

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CORPORATE FACT SHEET

Name	Uromi Justice Development Peace & Caritas Initiatives, (Uromi JDPCI).
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus A Ogun (OSA)
Authorized Representative & Director	Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
Corporate Registration No:	CAC/IT/No: 50042 & ED/MWASD/NGOR/200/04
Status	Catholic Non-Governmental, Non-Profit making, Humanitarian and Development Organization.
Motto	Hope for the Oppressed and Empowerment for All
Areas of operation	Integral Development, Human Rights, Democracy, and Good Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Prison Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit, and Caritas, TB and HIV/AIDS care and support, HIV Counseling and testing, Livelihood improvement, Migration and Countering Trafficking in Person, and VC programming
Project steered	Conflict Management, Training of Electorate, Election Observation, Budget Monitoring, Community TB Care, HIV/AIDS Awareness Creation and counselling, Micro-Credit Facilities, Rural Community Development Enlightenment Campaign, Prisoners' Welfare Services, Gender And Child Rights, Widowhood Association, Human Rights, Training Programmes for Police Officers and Youths, Women Development & Promotion through Micro Credit, Emergency Response, Legal Aid, VC Programming, Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance, Campaigns and Sensitizations Against Human Trafficking as well as Creating Alternatives to Human Trafficking through Vocational Skills Acquisition and Empowerment, Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme, Don't Pay With Your Life, Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking and Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award. We also had Galvanize Action against Trafficking in Persons Response at the Local Level, Act Against Child Trafficking in Nigeria and Strengthening Awareness of the ACJL in Edo State
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 the Custodial Center and Ex-inmates, persons stigmatized with deadly diseases.
Physical Address	Chancery Complex, Egbele, Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria.
Postal Address	P.O. Box 7, Uromi, Edo State
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2 0 2 6 A N N U A L R E P O R T

Auditors	1. Grant Thornton chartered Accountants Emgn, Benin Branch 2. Edforte, Fortne, Ehiagwina& Associates 141 Benin-Auchi Road Ekpoma, Edo State
Bankers	UBA BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi ECOBANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi FIDELITY BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi Unity Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi Union Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi Zenith Bank PLC Mission Road, Uromi
Staff Strength	22
Number of Community Volunteers	72
Project Executed	30

OUR VISION

A just and developed society where people coexist in peace

OUR MISSION

To foster social Justice and holistic human development, empowering individuals to live meaningful life

OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity: We are committed to doing the right thing at the right time

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible to all stakeholders

Transparency: We demonstrate openness, honesty and welcome constructive criticisms

Excellence: We do ordinary things in extraordinary ways

Team Spirit: We uphold a friendly disposition and oneness toward achieving our goal

FOCUS GROUP

- The rural populace
- The economically deprived and vulnerable families, Unemployed youths, women, and widows living amongst the poorest of the poor in society.
- Inmates in Custodial Center and ex-inmates.
- People stigmatized with deadly disease
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote human rights as enshrined in the charters of human rights.
2. To co-operate with people of other faith and persuasion on issues of common social concern and uplift human conditions without discrimination or segregation.
3. To bear witness to the liberating Gospel of Jesus through continued prophetic action for the promotion of Justice, Development, and Peace in society.
4. To promote human rights as enshrined in the UN Charter and Banjul declaration of Human Rights.
5. To build the capacity of communities to participate in their own development for peaceful co-existence.
6. To co-operate with international agencies, government, and NGOs for integral development.
7. To promote and monitor activities geared towards community growth and development
8. To Promote the well-being and protection of Orphans and Vulnerable Children
9. To promote the protection and empowerment of women
10. To support Safe Migration and the Countering of Trafficking in Persons

ORGANISATIONAL IDEOLOGY

Uromi JDPCI's organizational ideology is premised on the mandate of God to humankind which is to take care of His creation, to be on the side of the poor, to live in peace with all people, and to preserve human dignity and the common good of all.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

It is with profound gratitude and a deep sense of stewardship that I present the 2025 Annual Report of the Uromi Justice, Development, Peace and Caritas Initiative (Uromi JDPCI). The year under review has been characterised by purposeful engagement, measurable impact, and a renewed commitment to our mandate of promoting and upholding human dignity, social justice, public health, environmental sustainability, and good governance across Edo Central Senatorial District. Guided by the conviction that “the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society” (Catholic Social Teaching), our interventions through the year sought not merely to respond to needs, but to restore hope, social responsibility and, build resilience within communities.

Human Rights Education and Paralegal Services

In the year under review, Uromi JDPCI intensified human rights education through sustained community and school-based sensitization programmes. Our paralegal scheme continued to serve as a critical pathway to justice for the poor and vulnerable, addressing cases of rape, domestic servitude, gender-based violence, and other violations of fundamental human rights. While grave cases were referred to the Nigeria Police Force and the Ministry of Social Justice for appropriate legal action, others were successfully resolved through community-based Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, thereby promoting reconciliation, peacebuilding, and the restoration of human dignity at the grassroots.

Migration and Countering Trafficking in Person

In response to the growing menace of human trafficking and irregular migration leading to unsafe migration, our outreach extended to communities, markets, schools, and religious centres. These engagements raised awareness on the deceptive tactics of traffickers and the socio-economic risks associated with irregular migration. A major highlight of the year was the empowerment of seven returned survivors, each supported with about ₦1,000,000 worth of business equipment. This intervention enabled them to rebuild their lives with dignity and resilience while significantly reducing vulnerability to re-trafficking and affirming the principle that development is most authentic when it restores self-worth and self-reliance.

HIV Programming, Orphans/ Vulnerable Children (OVC)/ Health Support

Despite the absence of external funding for the OVC programme, Uromi JDPCI sustained its commitment to 300 children living with HIV. Support provided during the year included food assistance to 35 households and community-driven efforts to ensure uninterrupted access to viral load suppressant medication. This intervention reflects our unwavering belief that access to healthcare is not a privilege but a moral imperative, especially for the most vulnerable members of society.

Livelihood and Microcredit Scheme

Our livelihood and microcredit scheme continued to support farmers and petty traders, contributing to improved household incomes and enhanced economic resilience. By

strengthening local livelihoods, this programme addressed the structural roots of poverty and affirmed the dignity of work as a means of participation in God's ongoing creative activity.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

In response to the growing climate crisis, we expanded community awareness of climate change, environmental protection, tree care, and the dangers of indiscriminate bushfires. These initiatives encouraged positive behavioural change and reinforced the understanding of creation as a shared heritage entrusted to humanity, a responsibility echoed in the call to care for our common home.

Custodial Centre Interventions

At the Custodial Centre, Uromi JDPCI provided spiritual counselling, legal aid, and welfare support to inmates, recognising rehabilitation as an essential component of justice. We also improved the facility by revamping the Skill Acquisition Centre and repainting the chapel, thereby enhancing opportunities for moral renewal, worship, and social reintegration.

Acknowledgements

We express our profound appreciation to the Catholic Diocese of Uromi and our Bishop, Most Rev Donatus Ogun OSA, for his unwavering pastoral and moral support. We also extend heartfelt gratitude to our partners and funders, including Misereor Aachen (Germany), Open Hand Foundation (Swissland), Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria, ECPAT France/Luxembourg, Expertise France, the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady of Edo State, the Ministry of Social Development and Women Affairs, Edo State Migration Agency, Ministry of Justice, the Edo State Government, the Nigeria Police Force, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP) Edo State Command, Local Government Social Welfare and Legal Departments, and our dedicated volunteers. Your invaluable support has been central to our achievements. As we continue to work together for the common good, may God bless us with wisdom, strength, and the grace to serve with humility and fidelity.



I sincerely appreciate the Board, management, and staff of Uromi JDPCI for their dedication and professionalism, as well as our rights-holders and beneficiaries, for trusting us with their stories, hopes, and aspirations.

Conclusion

The year 2025 stands as a period of breakthrough, progress, and fulfilment. As we look ahead, we pray that God strengthens our resolve, aligns our efforts ever more closely with Catholic Social Teaching, and grants us the grace to sustain and expand our interventions for the greater good of our people and the flourishing of our communities.

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fideli s Oriabure Arhedo

Executive Director, Uromi JDPCI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) advanced its mission of promoting human rights, social justice, child protection, public health, environmental sustainability, and inclusive governance across the five LGAs of Edo Central Senatorial District. Uromi JDPCI adopted multi-stakeholder collaboration, community-driven programming, and strengthened institutional partnerships to deliver impactful interventions that improved safety, dignity, and resilience among vulnerable populations.

Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme: The programme facilitated four quarterly meetings which helped to strengthen grassroots access to justice and build the capacity of Community Paralegals and Human Rights Clubs across 36 communities. A total of 1,680 participants (969 males and 711 females) took part in the four sessions, which were used to enhance their skills in ADR, case documentation, and referral collaboration. Human Rights Clubs handled 248 case-based interventions, with at least 54 cases resolved through ADR, and serious violations referred to security agencies. The Annual Human Rights Stakeholders' Conference convened 200 participants (126 males, 74 females) to reinforce institutional coordination and inclusive justice. Two commemorations were conducted (International Day Against Child Labour and Abuse, and World Human Rights Day). Adolescent human Rights clubs, Annual Congress and training for Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates were also implemented within the year.

Migration and Counter-Trafficking in Persons: This project facilitated Community and school sensitization activities which reached 135 community members (56 males, 79 females) and 620 students (266 males, 354 females) across five communities and six schools. Child Champion Clubs were also used to engage 736 community-based champions (169 males, 567 females) and 766 school-based champions (173 males, 593 females), while peer-education outreach reached 854 persons, made up of 675 children (184 boys, 491 girls) and 179 adults (61 men, 118 women). The project also facilitated two meetings with Local Government Child Protection Committees across the five LGAs with 331 actors (165 males, 166 females, including four males with disabilities) reached, and Community Child Protection Groups engaged 685 participants (301 males, 384 females), and they responded to 20 child-protection cases and reached an estimated 7,000 community members with prevention messaging. Two coordination meetings with frontline actors brought together 67 participants (39 males, 28 females), strengthening referral pathways and survivor-centred response.

Working with state and civil society partners, 21 referrals were screened and 10 eligible young female returnees received comprehensive reintegration support, including vocational training, psychosocial care, business development coaching, monitoring visits, and economic empowerment. Seven beneficiaries successfully completed training and were provided start-up kits and one-year shop rent to support sustainable livelihoods.

Health and OVC: The programme supported 288 active CLHIV, with transport assistance provided to 304 children and 285 household counselling visits conducted to strengthen adherence, emotional stability, and household resilience. Viral load monitoring covered 279 eligible children, with 245 results received and 186 children achieving viral suppression, reflecting strong retention and treatment outcomes.

Micro-Credit Scheme (Economic Empowerment): The scheme disbursed ₦71,547,000 to 501 beneficiaries (331 females and 170 males) across 70 groups in 51 communities, while recording ₦61,086,464 in loan repayments, ₦6,764,521 in savings, and ₦11,530,650 in interest earnings. Participants reported improved income stability, strengthened livelihoods, and enhanced household wellbeing.

Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability: Environmental sensitization and community action activities reached 851 participants (403 males, 448 females) across communities and parishes, while the tree-planting initiative distributed and planted 201 seedlings, promoting climate resilience, ecosystem restoration, and behavioural change toward responsible environmental stewardship.

Correctional Service/Custodial Centre Apostolate: Through monthly outreaches, spiritual counselling, legal support, and welfare interventions, Uromi JDPCI reached 368 inmates, including men and women. Activities included psychosocial guidance, catechesis, legal counselling, medical screening, reintegration support, and humanitarian relief, fostering dignity, hope, rehabilitation, and restorative justice. 384 inmates were reached during Christmas Party and fines were paid to release two inmates with minor offenses.

Parish JDPC (Faith-Based Social Action and Community Mobilization): This programme facilitated a Capacity-building and structural strengthening training for 98 Parish JDPC members (63 males, 35 females), it reactivated dormant structures, promoted civic and social responsibility, and enhanced parish-led engagement in justice, peacebuilding, environmental care, and community solidarity initiatives across the diocese.

Overall Impact

Across all thematic areas, Uromi JDPCI deepened community resilience, strengthened institutional collaboration, and expanded gender-responsive service delivery, and ensured equitable benefits for women, men, boys, and girls in the journey toward justice, dignity, and human development.

Dr. Michael Iyoriobhe
Director of Programme

UROMI JDPCI PROGRAMME FACT SHEET 2025

Thematic Areas	Key Activities / Outputs	Total Reached	Male	Female
1. Human Rights Education & Paralegal Scheme	Quarterly Paralegal / Human Rights Club Meetings across 5 LGAs	1680	969	711
	Adolescent Human Rights Clubs	1,848	645	1,203
	Town Hall Meeting and Community Sensitisation	950	576	374
	Training	100	66	34
	Validation of Codification Report	227	164	63
	Annual Stakeholders Conference	200	126	74
	Commemoration of International Day Against Child Labour and Abuse	201	110	91
	Commemoration of World Human Rights Day	153	106	47
	Case-Based Interventions & Mediation	174 cases	—	—
	Non-Case-Based Engagements	67	—	—
	Radio Discussion	23 Episodes		
2. Migration & Countering Trafficking in Persons (AACTING Project)	Community sensitization (5 communities)	135	56	79
	School sensitization (6 schools)	620	266	354
	Meeting with Transporters (Bakhita Day)	66	44	22
	Parents & Caregivers Biannual Forum	55	6	49
	Community Sensitization by Child Champions	854	245	609
	Local Government CPC biannual forums	331	165	166
	Community Child Protection Groups (quarterly meetings)	685	301	384
	Consultation Mechanism & Stakeholder Workshops	207	102	105

Thematic Areas	Key Activities / Outputs	Total Reached	Male	Female
	Child Champion Club members (communities)	736	169	567
	Child Champion Club members (schools)	766	173	593
3. Health & OVC — THRIVE Project	TB screening	285 children	157	128
	Household counselling	285	157	128
	Food/Nutrition support	47 households	0	47
	OTZ psychosocial sessions	67 CALHIV	33	34
4. Micro-Credit Scheme	Loans disbursed ₦71,547,000 across 70 groups in 51 communities; savings ₦6,764,521	501 beneficiaries	170	331
5. Correctional Service / Custodial Centre Apostolate	Psychosocial support (general counselling)	368 inmates	330	38
	One-on-one spiritual counselling	104 inmates	90	14
	Legal counselling	70 inmates	70	0
	No of Catechism sessions (42 classes) I added this row	20 inmates	20	0
	HIV testing & counselling	31 inmates	31	0
	Inmates released via fine support	2 inmates	2	0
	Welfare Support	417	403	14
6. Environment & Climate Change	Advocacy with LGA environmental unit	14	5	9
	Bush-burning sensitization (Ekekhen)	17 farmers	4	13
	Community waste & plastic sensitization	851	403	448
	Tree-planting / seedlings distributed & planted	201 seedlings	—	—
	Capacity-building training	98	63	35

2 0 2 6 A N N U A L R E P O R T

Thematic Areas	Key Activities / Outputs	Total Reached	Male	Female
7. Parish JDPC (Faith-Based Social Action)	Parish visits & reactivation sessions	23	9	14
	Environmental sensitization in parishes	162	65	97
	Reactivated Parish JDPC groups	2	—	—

Uromi JDPCI 2025 IMPACT SUMMARY

12,786 Persons Reached in 2025

5,956 Male | 6,830 Female



**Human Rights
Education**

5,359 Beneficiaries

2,767 | 2,592 Female



**Migration & Counter
Trafficking**

4,455 Beneficiaries

1,527 | 2,928 Female



**Health & OVC
(THRIVE)**

684 Beneficiaries

347 | 337 Female



**Micro Credit
Scheme**

501 Beneficiaries

170 | 331 Female



**Correctional
Apostolate**

622 Beneficiaries

596 | 26 Female



**Environment &
Climate Action**

882 Beneficiaries

412 | 470 Female



Parish JDPC

283 Beneficiaries

137 | 146 Female

TOTAL

12,786 Beneficiaries

5,956 Male | 6,830 Female

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SGBV**HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME**

The Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme, implemented by Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) with the support of Misereor Germany, remained a cornerstone of community-based justice and human rights protection in Edo Central Senatorial District throughout 2025. The project combined grassroots education, paralegal support, advocacy, and multi-stakeholder engagement to strengthen access to justice, protect vulnerable groups, and promote peaceful coexistence. The activities implemented within the year are discussed below

QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES
Strengthening Grassroots Justice through Paralegals and Human Rights Clubs

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened community-led justice mechanisms by convening four quarterly review and capacity-building meetings with Community Paralegals and Human Rights Clubs in 36 communities across the five Local Government Areas (Igueben, Esan Central, Esan North East, Esan South East, and Esan West) in Edo Central Senatorial District. The meetings were used to reinforce grassroots responses to human rights violations and promote peaceful coexistence.



Across the reporting periods, the quarterly meetings brought together 1,680 participants comprising 969 males and 711 females, including trained paralegals, human rights advocates, traditional leaders, officers of the Nigerian Police Force (Family Units), representatives of Social Welfare Departments, palace officials, and JDPCI legal supervisors. The strong turnout reflected growing trust in community-based justice systems and the increasing relevance of Human Rights Clubs as first responders to rights violations.

The quarterly forums served as platforms for reflection, peer learning, and accountability. Paralegals presented community-level reports on emerging human rights trends, challenges in case handling, and lessons from mediation and referrals. Uromi JDPCI provided continuous technical guidance, mentorship, and legal clarification, strengthening skills in documentation, advocacy, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and collaboration with formal institutions.



The participation of the Queen of Igueben Kingdom and her formal association with Igueben Human Rights Club symbolized growing traditional leadership support. Her public commitment to ending child abuse, rape, and neglect reinforced the legitimacy of the Human Rights Clubs and encouraged families to embrace peace and protection within the home.



Over the reporting periods, Community Human Rights Clubs handled a total of 248 case-based human rights interventions across the five LGAs. These included:

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence: 12 rape cases, 4 attempted rape cases, 43 domestic violence cases, and 5 cases of coercive sexual conduct or degrading treatment.

Child Protection Violations: 44 cases of child neglect and abandonment, 18 cases of denial of the right to education, 14 cases of forced child labour, and 9 cases of child trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Widowhood-Related Abuses: 7 cases of denial of inheritance rights, 5 cases of forced widow inheritance, and 6 cases involving oath-taking, separation from children, or ill-treatment of widows.

Civil and Political Rights Violations: 6 cases of arbitrary arrest and detention, 12 cases of assault and threat to life, 5 cases of intimidation, 6 cases of violations of freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and 7 cases of violation of the right to fair trial.

At least 54 cases were successfully resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution, while serious offences, particularly rape, sexual violence, and trafficking, were promptly referred to the police, leading to arrests and prosecution. In addition, five survivors received structured psychosocial and counselling support.

Real Lives, Real Change at Community Level

Behind the statistics were powerful stories of transformation. In Ewu, Ekpon, Efandion, and Ahia, rape and sexual violence cases involving minors and adults were escalated to law enforcement. In Ahia, mediation restored a woman's right to association and was followed by community sensitization on violence within marriage. In Usugbenu, Opoji, Ogwa, and Uhe, sustained advocacy prevented harmful widowhood practices, allowing widows to mourn with dignity.

Beyond individual cases, Human Rights Clubs intervened to prevent broader conflicts. In Ewohimi, dialogue averted an ethnic conflict, while in Egbele, mediation enabled the reintegration of a banished community member. Over 20 abandoned or at-risk children were supported through family mediation and referrals, and several out-of-school children, some trafficked under false promises, were returned to education.

Complementing case work, Human Rights Clubs conducted 39 community sensitization sessions across the five LGAs on gender equality, children's rights, domestic violence, access to justice, and relevant human rights laws. Additionally, 12 advocacy visits were made to traditional rulers and security agencies, strengthening referral pathways and accountability. Legal literacy dialogues also addressed harmful practices such as Idiogbe inheritance, clarifying that cultural norms cannot override constitutional guarantees of equality.



The quarterly paralegal meetings demonstrated the growing effectiveness of JDPCI's grassroots human rights network. Through capacity building, timely interventions, sustained sensitization, and strong institutional collaboration, communities are increasingly resolving conflicts peacefully and protecting vulnerable groups. By investing in trusted local actors, Uromi JDPCI continues to bridge the justice gap in rural Edo Central, ensuring that justice is present, accessible, and community-owned.



ADOLESCENT HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB

Empowering Adolescents as Human Rights Champions

Education remains a powerful driver of social transformation, particularly when adolescents are equipped with the knowledge and skills to understand their rights, make informed choices, and communicate effectively. Throughout 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), through its Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme, implemented structured Adolescent Human Rights Club Learning Sessions across 28 secondary schools in the five Local Government Areas of Igueben, Esan Central, Esan North East, Esan South East, and Esan West.



Across multiple learning cycles during the year, the sessions reached a total of 1,848 adolescents, comprising 645 males and 1,203 females. These engagements focused on leadership development, human rights education, effective communication, responsible decision-making, and the balance between rights and responsibilities. The strong female participation reflected both the relevance of the programme to girls and the safe learning environment created within schools.



The learning sessions addressed practical themes including “The Power of Effective Communication,” “Making the Right Choices,” “Communicating with Parents and Caregivers,” and “My Rights and Responsibilities.” Using participatory methods such as storytelling, role-play, peer discussions, and reflective exercises, students were guided to develop confidence, empathy, and critical thinking.

A key tool introduced was the Problem, Options, Cost, and Choice (POCC) model, which helped adolescents analyse real-life situations, weigh consequences, and take responsibility for their decisions. Students demonstrated growing confidence in expressing themselves respectfully, resolving conflicts peacefully, and aligning choices with long-term goals.

During the reporting period, three new Adolescent Human Rights Clubs were established in Opoji Commercial College, Gift Day Secondary School, and Obiyon Secondary School, expanding the network of youth-led advocacy structures. To ensure sustainability, leadership elections were conducted in multiple schools, allowing younger students to assume roles as Presidents and Secretaries as senior students exited for WAEC examinations. This transition strengthened continuity and ownership of the clubs.



Several schools recorded a revival of previously inactive clubs, while others reported increased membership as students volunteered to replace outgoing leaders. School authorities increasingly demonstrated ownership by assigning club coordinators, adjusting schedules to accommodate meetings, and supporting student-led initiatives.

From Learning to Action: Evidence of Impact

Beyond classroom learning, the sessions provided safe spaces for adolescents to discuss and report rights-related concerns. These engagements contributed to tangible outcomes. In Idunwele Girls Secondary School, a student previously denied access to education was successfully reintegrated following intervention by Uromi JDPCI's Child Protection Group. In Ewossa Secondary School, a student used her knowledge of human rights to prevent a peer from dropping out of school due to financial pressure.



Across schools such as Agba Grammar School, Irrua Girls Secondary School, Ewatto Grammar School, Sacred Heart College, Egoro Amede Secondary School, and Annunciation Catholic College, students reported applying communication and decision-making skills to resolve family conflicts, challenge verbal abuse, and support peers facing neglect, forced labour, or intimidation.



Teachers and facilitators observed increased confidence, self-expression, and moral responsibility among participants. Adolescents began sharing lessons with siblings, friends, and parents, extending the impact beyond schools into households and communities.

The Adolescent Human Rights Club Learning Sessions affirmed Uromi JDPCI's belief that adolescents are not only future leaders but present-day changemakers. By equipping young people with knowledge, voice, and values, the programme nurtured a generation that understands dignity, respects responsibility, and chooses peaceful engagement over conflict.

As these adolescents continue to grow as peer educators and advocates, they are laying the foundation for safer schools, stronger families, and more just communities across Edo Central Senatorial District. Uromi JDPCI remains committed to walking this journey with them—one informed choice, one confident voice, and one empowered young person at a time.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS AND COMMUNITY SENSITIZATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) intensified grassroots human rights education through community town hall meetings and sensitization sessions across Edo Central Senatorial District. Implemented under the Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme Project, these engagements were designed to challenge harmful traditional practices, strengthen legal awareness, and promote justice, equality, and peaceful coexistence in line with the Edo State Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law and the Nigerian Constitution.

Uromi JDPCI conducted 38 town hall meetings and sensitization sessions in 38 communities across the five Local Government Areas of Igueben, Esan Central, Esan North East, Esan South East, and Esan West. A total of 950 community members were directly reached, comprising 576 males and 374 females. The increasing participation of women reflected a growing shift toward inclusivity and recognition of women's voices in community decision-making.

Promoting Dialogue, Reform, and Legal Awareness

The town hall meetings provided safe and inclusive platforms for dialogue between traditional leaders, elders, women, youth, and community stakeholders. Discussions focused on critical human rights issues including rape, domestic violence, widowhood practices, child neglect, child labour, early marriage, female genital mutilation, spousal battery, unlawful eviction, and discrimination. Participants were sensitized on the fact that while cultural practices are important, they must not conflict with constitutional guarantees of dignity and equality.

Across several communities, such as Amahor, Ahia, Ogwa, Udakpa, Ukhun, Ewossa, Efandion, Ubiaja, and Ewatto, traditional leaders publicly acknowledged the need to reform or abolish harmful practices, including forced widow inheritance, degrading mourning rites, oath-taking rituals, parading women naked for alleged adultery, and discriminatory inheritance norms. These commitments marked important steps toward aligning cultural traditions with human rights standards.

Strengthening Access to Justice and Child Protection

Legal awareness emerged as a central outcome of the sensitization sessions. Community members were encouraged to report criminal offences like rape, sexual violence, and child abuse to law enforcement rather than resolving them privately. In communities such as Ahia and Ogwa, leaders pledged to actively support survivors in seeking justice. Emphasis was also placed on the appropriate use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for civil matters, while ensuring criminal cases are properly referred.



Child protection featured prominently in discussions. Communities such as Ogwa, Usenu, Amahor, Emu, and Uzea, committed to addressing child neglect, abandonment, school dropouts, and child labour, reinforcing parental responsibility and community-based monitoring. Awareness was raised on sections of the VAPP Law that criminalize neglect and abandonment.



Gender Equality, Youth Engagement, and Community Ownership

The engagements also addressed women's rights and gender equality, leading to improved attitudes toward women's participation in decision-making and growing support for female inheritance rights in communities such as Eguare-Ekpoma, Ewossa, Ahia, and Ukhun. Youth-related concerns, including substance abuse, theft, and indiscipline, were discussed in Ogwa and Udakpa, with calls for mentorship, parental oversight, and positive engagement.



Copies of the VAPP Law and IEC materials were distributed across communities to ensure sustained reference and compliance. Several communities pledged to replicate the sensitization within their quarters, reflecting growing ownership of human rights education.

Laying Foundations for Sustainable Change

The town hall meetings significantly shifted community perspectives on human rights, justice, and equality. Uromi JDPCI continues to inspire community-led reforms and build a foundation for safer, fairer, and more humane societies across Edo Central Senatorial District by bridging the gap between law and culture where human dignity is respected, protected, and upheld by all.



RADIO DISCUSSION Airwaves for Justice: Expanding Human Rights Awareness through Radio Advocacy

As part of its commitment to promoting justice, equity, and human dignity, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) sustained its weekly radio programme, "Uromi JDPCI Human Rights Half Hour," broadcast on A's 99.9 FM, Uromi, throughout the reporting period. This strategic public sensitization initiative continued to take human rights education directly into homes, markets, farms, and workplaces across Edo Central Senatorial District and beyond. A total of 23 episodes of the programme was aired to translate complex human rights issues into practical, community-centred conversations that empowered listeners with knowledge and voice.



The radio discussions addressed a wide range of pressing issues reflecting everyday realities faced by vulnerable groups. Topics included sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child abuse, neglect and abandonment, harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), child marriage, widowhood rites, and forced oath-taking, women's rights within cultural and religious contexts, codification of Esan customary law, and the role of community leaders in driving cultural reform. These conversations consistently emphasized that while culture is valuable, it must never undermine human dignity or override the law.

In response to listeners' feedback, Uromi JDPCI introduced a monthly Pidgin English summary, making the programme more inclusive and accessible to a wider audience. Call-in segments revealed the programme's real-time impact. One caller reported a case of child sexual abuse being handled through cultural rites rather than legal channels, prompting the hosts to stress the dangers of such practices and the importance of formal reporting and prosecution.

Several episodes focused on accessing support mechanisms, highlighting the role of community paralegals as bridges between citizens and formal justice systems. Discussions also explored psychosocial support needs, mental health concerns, and available referral pathways for survivors of violence, including collaboration with partners such as NAPTIP, FIDA, the Legal Aid Council, the Nigerian Bar Association, and faith-based organisations. A recurring gap identified was the lack of shelters for survivors in Edo Central, leading to renewed advocacy for community and government investment in safe spaces.

Listeners' stories further demonstrated impact, including cases of community leaders supporting vulnerable children's education and individuals seeking help after hearing the programme. These testimonies reinforced the message that justice must be accessible, compassionate, and community-driven.

Uromi JDPCI used the radio advocacy to challenge harmful norms, amplify community voices, and build a culture where every right counts and every voice matters.



TRAINING OF COMMUNITY ACTORS ON CONFLICT SENSITIVITY, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION

In May 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened grassroots peacebuilding efforts by organizing a training workshop on Conflict Sensitivity, Conflict Management, Resolution, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The training was used to equip frontline community actors with practical skills to address disputes ethically, peacefully, and effectively. The workshop brought together 100 participants (66 males and 34 females) drawn from community paralegals, child protection actors, social welfare officials, and law enforcement representatives across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. Participants shared field-based experiences, enriching discussions, and grounding the training in real-life community conflicts.



The training adopted interactive and practical learning approaches. Conflict was presented using the “tree” metaphor, enabling participants to understand root causes, core issues, and the wider impact of conflict on individuals and communities. The training deepened participants’ understanding of conflict drivers, types, and the distinctions between conflict sensitivity, management, and resolution.



A central focus was the “Do No Harm” principle, which encouraged participants to consider context and unintended consequences in all interventions. Participants examined conflict response styles like avoiding, accommodating, competing, compromising, and collaborating, alongside essential mediation tools such as active listening, neutral language, ethical decision-making, and conflict mapping.



Legal clarifications addressed sensitive issues, including female inheritance rights and the legal status of adopted children in family disputes, reinforcing rights-based and compassionate approaches to mediation. Through scenario-based exercises, participants applied new skills to real-world contexts and committed to integrating them into their community work.

This training enhanced the capacity of grassroots actors to prevent escalation, foster dialogue, and promote peaceful coexistence across Edo Central Senatorial District.

VALIDATION OF THE SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF ESAN CUSTOMARY LAWS AND PRACTICES

Between January and March 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) facilitated three validation meetings on the situational analysis and codification of Esan customary laws and practices. The meetings brought together traditional rulers, legal practitioners, religious leaders, community heads, academics, and representatives of government institutions, creating a broad-based platform for dialogue on the interface between culture, law, and human rights.



A total of 227 participants (164 males and 63 females) actively engaged in the validation process, demonstrating strong community ownership of the initiative. The research, led by Prof. Matthew Izibili, covered 10 Esan kingdoms across five Local Government Areas (Esan Central, Esan South East, Esan North East, Igueben, and Esan West). It examined key customary practices relating to marriage, inheritance, widowhood rites, burial practices, child rights, and traditional governance systems.

The validation sessions provided an opportunity to review findings, correct inaccuracies, and ensure that documented customs reflect lived realities while aligning with constitutional provisions and human rights standards. Opening the meetings, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, emphasized that systematic documentation would enhance clarity, consistency, and fairness in the interpretation and application of customary law. A representative of the Judiciary, the President of the Igueben Area Customary Court, commended the initiative, noting its potential to strengthen dispute resolution within customary courts.

Critical discussions addressed gender disparities, particularly women's exclusion from inheritance, burial rites, and decision-making. Stakeholders recommended reforms to promote inclusivity and stressed that widow inheritance must be voluntary and free from coercion. Traditional rulers and community leaders committed to presenting the validated findings to their councils for formal adoption and integration with Nigeria's statutory legal frameworks.



The validation process marked a significant milestone in preserving Esan cultural heritage while promoting justice, equity, and respect for human dignity, laying a strong foundation for sustained legal and cultural reform.

ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE ON INCLUSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE

On 27 March 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) convened its Annual Stakeholders' Conference and Coordination Meeting in Edo Central Senatorial District under the theme "Strengthening Access to Justice, Enhancing Collaboration for Effective Case Management." The conference served as a strategic platform to review progress, deepen partnerships, and strengthen the human rights defense architecture across the district.



The meeting brought together 200 participants (126 males and 74 females), including representatives of the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, medical professionals, paralegals, traditional and religious leaders, and community advocates from the five Local Government Areas. The presence of senior officials such as Chief Magistrate Sir Barr. E.E. Asibor (KSC), Divisional Police Officers, and a Local Government Chairman, underscored a shared commitment to justice, accountability, and human dignity.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo emphasized collective responsibility in advancing human rights, noting progress made while calling for greater community visibility and responsiveness. He drew attention to the under-reporting of sexual violence against male minors and urged inclusive advocacy. Goodwill messages from traditional, religious, and security leaders reinforced the need for community-driven and culturally responsive justice.



A highlight of the conference was the presentation of Uromi JDPCI's achievements under the Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme, including the expansion of paralegal training and youth engagement, 174 case-based interventions and 67 non-case engagements, legal support for survivors of gender-based violence, and advocacy for the codification of customary laws aligned with national standards. Esan West LGA recorded the highest intervention footprint, with Eguare-Ekpoma accounting for 20 case resolutions.

Delivering the keynote address, Chief Magistrate Sir Barr. E.E. Asibor stressed the importance of timely, transparent, and corruption-free justice, encouraging stronger inter-agency coordination and use of the Legal Aid Act (2011). He reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to resolving cases within a three-month timeline.



The conference concluded with renewed stakeholder commitments, reaffirming that justice is a shared responsibility, requiring sustained collaboration between institutions, communities, and civil society.

COMMEMORATING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR AND ABUSE

On 11 June 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) joined the global community to commemorate the International Day Against Child Labour and Abuse. The event convened 201 participants (110 males and 91 females), including community and religious leaders, law enforcement agencies, education and health professionals, students, and human rights advocates, united by a shared commitment to child protection.

Opening the event, the Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, emphasized child protection as a collective moral and legal responsibility, calling on families, faith institutions, and public authorities to create safe environments and protect children who speak out against abuse. Goodwill messages from partners such as the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), the Nigeria Police Force, NSCDC, education and social welfare authorities, reinforced the importance of community vigilance, compulsory education, and accountability.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Elakhe O. Abraham highlighted the persistent challenge of child labour in Nigeria and called for systemic, multi-sectoral responses. He emphasized stronger enforcement of child protection laws, poverty reduction, access to education, and community-based reporting mechanisms, while encouraging children to know and assert their rights. Adding a health perspective, Dr. Irene Akhiden, President of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (Edo State), spoke on the long-term psychological impact of abuse and the need for emotional support and professional care.



Interactive discussions addressed pressing issues such as parental neglect, cultural acceptance of child farm labour, sexual abuse of boys, and child street hawking during school hours. Facilitators reaffirmed the protections guaranteed under the Child Rights Act (2003).

A student quiz competition involving six secondary schools highlighted youth engagement, with top performers receiving educational prizes. All participating students received learning materials, while the Medical Women Association donated dignity items for children.



The commemoration reinforced that protecting children requires sustained action, collaboration, and vigilance. Uromi JDPCI remains committed to safeguarding every child's dignity, rights, and future.

COMMEMORATING WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) commemorated the 2025 World Human Rights Day with the theme "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials." The event brought together 153 participants (106 males and 47 females), including representatives of the Office of the First Lady of Edo State, traditional and religious leaders, law enforcement agencies, social welfare departments, the media, paralegals, and human rights advocates.



In his opening remarks, the Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, emphasized that human rights are not abstract ideals but practical foundations of daily life, shaping access to justice, protection of women and children, humane treatment of persons in detention, youth development, and professional security operations. While acknowledging progress, he highlighted persistent challenges such as gender-based violence, exploitation, social exclusion, and insecurity, calling for collective responsibility and sustained collaboration.



Delivering the keynote address on behalf of the First Lady of Edo State, Her Excellency Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, Barr. Aiwekhoe Iyenoghogho Anne described human rights as lived realities that quietly shape dignity, freedom, and opportunity. She illustrated how rights-based interventions, such as a Uromi JDPCI-supported case where a widow reclaimed her inheritance, translate legal principles into tangible social change. She called for stronger institutions, legal awareness, gender justice, youth empowerment, and grassroots peacebuilding.



The guest lecture, delivered by Barr. Onomen Oriakhi, further reinforced that human rights are inherent, universal, and legally protected, affecting everyday access to education, healthcare, expression, and participation. She stressed the need for continuous vigilance, community engagement, and human rights education, especially for young people.

Interactive discussions addressed harmful cultural practices, judicial independence, freedom of expression, and youth inclusion. The event concluded with a call to intensify grassroots sensitization and an Award of Honour recognizing outstanding contributions to human rights promotion was presented to Uromi JDPCI by the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN) Edo State Chapter. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that human rights are respected and upheld as everyday standards for all.



Commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) joined the global community to mark the 2025 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, with a radio discussion and coordinated sensitization campaigns across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District: Esan Central, Esan West, Esan North East, Esan South East, and Igueben. The sensitizations were held at key community venues, including Ubiaja Palace Hall, Igueben Palace Hall, Okaijiesan Hall (Irrua), Chancery Hall (Uromi), and St. Gregory Parish Hall (Ekpoma) and stakeholders from 36 communities participated in the events. Participants included traditional and religious leaders, law enforcement officers, women and youth representatives, and human rights advocates.



Guided by the global theme “Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls,” the campaign addressed both traditional and emerging forms of gender-based violence, with a strong focus on digital harms such as cyberbullying, sextortion, online harassment, blackmail, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

In his keynote address, the Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, emphasized the growing threat of digital violence and its severe psychological and social consequences. He called for collective action to challenge harmful norms, protect women and girls, and promote safer online and offline spaces.

Interactive discussions highlighted rising domestic violence cases and risky online behaviours among young girls. Participants expressed commitment to timely reporting, survivor support, and sustained community advocacy.

The radio sensitization emphasized that although digital platforms offer opportunities for communication and learning, they have increasingly become spaces where women and girls are exposed to abuse, with serious psychological, social, and safety consequences.

Listeners were encouraged to promote responsible digital behaviour, challenge harmful norms, speak out against online abuse, and support survivors through appropriate reporting channels. Community leaders, institutions, parents, and digital users were called upon to work collectively to create safer online spaces and hold perpetrators accountable.

Uromi JDPCI used the events to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening prevention, protection, and survivor-centred responses to gender-based violence across Edo Central Senatorial District.



MIGRATION AND COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSON

In 2025, the Migration and Countering Trafficking in Persons Desk sustained the Organisation's commitment to building safer, more informed, and resilient communities to combat human trafficking and irregular migration across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. Through its integrated framework of Prevention, Protection, Rehabilitation, Referral, and Prayer, Uromi JDPCI strengthened the capacities of children, caregivers, survivors, and child protection actors to prevent trafficking, respond effectively to risks, and reduce vulnerability to re-trafficking.

ACT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA (AACTING) PROJECT

The Desk's annual operational targets were largely delivered through the Act Against Child Trafficking in Nigeria (AACTING) Project, a three-year initiative (September 2023 – July 2026) coordinated by ECPAT France and Luxembourg. The project seeks to reduce child trafficking prevalence, particularly for sexual exploitation in Edo State by strengthening community and institution-based child protection systems for timely response; equipping boys and girls with practical knowledge on trafficking risks, recruitment patterns, and available support services; and mobilizing key stakeholders, including government institutions, traditional and religious leaders, community gatekeepers, and civil society actors, to actively participate in prevention and response efforts.

Community and School Sensitization on Prevention of HUMAN Trafficking

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) expanded its anti-trafficking outreach to five newly engaged communities and six secondary schools across Edo Central Senatorial District. The sensitization initiatives were implemented in Ogwa (Esan West), Opoji (Esan Central), Agadaga-Ewohimi (Esan South East), Ewossa (Igueben), and Ivue/Obeidu (Esan North East), alongside their respective schools. In addition, Obiyon Secondary School in Esan North East was onboarded to replace Amendokhian Secondary School, which was withdrawn due to security concerns.

Across the outreach activities, a total of 135 community members (56 males, 79 females) and 620 students (266 males, 354 females) were reached. The sessions deepened awareness of trafficking risks, deceptive recruitment strategies, and exploitative outcomes faced by children and young people. Participants were encouraged to adopt preventive behaviours, strengthen vigilance, and support timely reporting and referrals through community-based child protection structures.



Parents in several communities expressed growing concern over emerging patterns where children leave home with traffickers without prior family consent, underscoring the need for increased engagement with both in-school and out-of-school children. The discussions fostered collective responsibility, emphasizing that trafficking thrives where silence, misinformation, and economic desperation persist.



In schools, students were encouraged to become peer advocates and to share information with their families and classmates. Practical guidance was provided on how to recognize red-flag situations and report suspected cases. They were linked to community and Local Government Child Protection actors, and key contact details, including Uromi JDPCI reporting channels, were shared to strengthen access to support. Testimonies from students, including one whose father successfully challenged a suspected trafficker, reinforced the importance of awareness, dialogue, and early intervention as the first line of defense against child trafficking.

Formation of Child Champion Clubs in Schools and Communities

Following the series of sensitization sessions conducted in the newly engaged communities and schools, Child Champion Clubs were established in the six schools and five communities. This initiative served as an essential platform for the continuous engagement of children to learn more about the risks of child trafficking. It



also provided an opportunity to equip them to take on peer education roles and protect themselves and their peers from child trafficking. This brought the total number of Child Champion Clubs to 15 in the community and 15 in Schools. Thus, expanding the reach and impact of the project towards reducing the prevalence of child trafficking in Edo State.

Formation of Child Protection Groups in Five Communities

Uromi JDPCI also inaugurated Community Child Protection Groups (CPGs) in the five communities that were sensitized. The purpose was to provide a support base for the child champion clubs in their various communities and to strengthen local efforts in combating child trafficking and safeguarding children's rights. Community



members who expressed a commitment to actively participate in the protection of children were selected and inaugurated. They were introduced to the roles and responsibilities of the CPGs, with a focus on raising awareness, reporting trafficking cases, and ensuring the protection of vulnerable children. A total of 78 persons (40 males and 38 females) were inducted into the groups across the five communities

Engaging Transport Operators as Frontline Actors in the Fight Against Trafficking

On 7 February 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) held an awareness session with transporters at the Benin–Auchi Motor Park, Uromi, in commemoration of the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, which is the International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking and modern slavery. The session brought together 66 transport stakeholders (44 males, 22 females) to strengthen vigilance and collective responsibility in preventing the movement of trafficked persons, especially children.

The Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, highlighted the strategic position of transporters as first-contact actors in many trafficking journeys. He encouraged them to remain alert, ask critical questions about travel purpose and identity, refuse to transport suspicious cases, and immediately report concerns to NAPTIP, the Police, or Uromi JDPCI. Reflecting on the life of St. Josephine Bakhita, he emphasized compassion, courage, and moral responsibility as key tools in combating exploitation.



Documentary screenings on human trafficking deepened understanding of trafficking risks and deceptive recruitment tactics. An interactive discussion followed, allowing participants to share real-life experiences and seek guidance on handling suspected cases ethically and safely.

Transport union leaders expressed appreciation for the intervention, noting that the session strengthened their awareness of trafficking dynamics and the vulnerability of children encouraged into irregular travel. Participants requested wider sensitization for parents and were provided with hotline numbers and Uromi JDPCI contact details for rapid reporting.



The session closed with a renewed sense of commitment among transport workers to act as protectors rather than passive witnesses, reinforcing their role as essential partners in trafficking prevention.

Strengthening Family Awareness and Protection: Biannual Forum with Parents and Caregivers

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) convened its third Biannual Forum for Parents and Caregivers, bringing together families, community members, and child protection actors to strengthen household and community resilience against child trafficking. The forum provided a safe and reflective learning space where parents and caregivers deepened their understanding of trafficking risks and explored practical strategies for protecting children from exploitation.



Through interactive dialogue, facilitators unpacked the signs, drivers, and root causes of trafficking, including neglect, limited parental supervision, peer influence, harmful comparisons among children, and social pressures that make young people vulnerable.

Participants also examined the deceptive recruitment tactics commonly used by traffickers, such as false employment offers, unsolicited financial gifts, emotional manipulation, and impersonation of trusted figures. The participants also discussed ways in which families can detect and respond to these threats early.

The session was enriched by some personal testimonies, which demonstrated real behavioural change from previous engagements. A caregiver and pastor shared how the forum strengthened his awareness and enabled him to integrate anti-trafficking messages into sermons and successfully intervene in a suspected trafficking case within his community. Another caregiver narrated how questioning her daughter about a dubious job proposal helped prevent a potential trafficking incident involving her and her friends.



The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to vigilance, collaboration, and timely reporting through Community Child Protection Groups and Local Government Child Protection Committees. A total of 55 participants (49 females, 6 males) took part in the forum, reaffirming their shared responsibility in safeguarding children and building safer communities.

Strengthening Child Champion Clubs in Schools and Communities

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened child-led prevention efforts by facilitating five learning sessions with Child Champion Clubs across 15 secondary schools and 15 communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. The sessions equipped 736 community-based Child Champions (169 males, 567 females) and 766 school-based Child Champions (173 males, 593 females) with knowledge, confidence, and practical skills to identify, prevent, and respond to child trafficking risks.



The trainings were interactive and child-centered, using case stories, games, group reflections, and real-life examples to help participants connect learning with everyday experiences. Key themes included risk factors and warning signs of trafficking, online safety, children's rights, reporting pathways, recognizing deceptive recruitment tactics, and supporting vulnerable peers. The sessions also revisited key national and international child protection laws and shared guidance on safe and regular migration procedures, helping children recognize exploitative offers disguised as opportunity.

The programme continues to demonstrate strong transformative outcomes, as Child Champions reported increased self-confidence, heightened awareness of trafficking risks, and greater willingness to speak up and seek help. Over the reporting period, 16 cases were reported through the clubs, including attempted trafficking, sexual exploitation, denial of education, abuse, and neglect, and all were referred to appropriate community or institutional structures for action.



Notable examples include a participant in Efandion Community who confidently reported an adult attempting to lure her, prompting swift intervention from the Community Child Protection Group. In Irrua Girls Secondary School, a student and her parents stopped a relative from trafficking her cousin to Burkina Faso after recognizing the warning signs. Children in Ebelle, Okhuesan, and Efandion identified and rejected deceptive job and travel offers, while others resisted online grooming and requests for inappropriate photos, choosing instead to report and educate peers.



Through peer-education outreach, club members reached 854 people, made up of 675 children (184 boys, 491 girls) and 179 adults (61 men, 118 women) with trafficking-prevention messages, strengthening community awareness and vigilance.

The pre- and post-tests with selected participants showed encouraging shifts: 64% now feel confident asserting their rights, and 68% report stronger personal voice and agency. The Child Champion Clubs are emerging as safe, empowering spaces for youth leadership, where children are not only learning to protect themselves but are actively protecting others and shaping safer communities across Edo Central Senatorial District.



Strengthening Local Government Child Protection Committees

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened coordinated child protection efforts by convening two biannual meetings with the Local Government Child Protection Committees across the five LGAs of Edo Central Senatorial District. The meetings brought together 331 participants (165 males, 166 females), including four males with disabilities. The participants were from the Social Welfare and Legal

Departments, the Police Family Unit, NSCDC, National Orientation Agency, religious leaders, market associations, community child protection groups, field officers, and Uromi JDPCI staff.

The coordination meetings, which were held at Local Government Secretariats, provided a collaborative platform to review progress, address emerging risks, and reinforce joint action against child trafficking, particularly trafficking for sexual exploitation. Discussions emphasized that effective child protection depends on strong inter-agency collaboration, information sharing, community vigilance, and shared responsibility. Participants highlighted the need for sustained awareness, safe spaces for children, and stronger engagement of security agencies, religious and traditional leaders, and youth structures.



The committees also examined emerging trafficking trends, including the exploitation of underage girls in brothels, domestic servitude among child house helps, and the vulnerability of children involved in rural–urban migration without proper supervision.



Progress reports demonstrated tangible outcomes across LGAs, including school and community sensitization, strengthened surveillance, improved case identification and referral, re-enrolment of out-of-school children, provision of learning materials, and placement of vulnerable children in vocational training. Notably, coordinated efforts led to the rescue and safe return of two children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation, the resolution of neglect and exploitation cases, and the enforcement of community bye-laws on school attendance in Ogwa Community. Advocacy to traditional leaders also contributed to halting underage recruitment into brothels in Ebelle Community.



Pre- and post-tests administered to 30 committee members (17 males, 13 females) showed increased knowledge and confidence, with 55% reporting improved readiness to respond to trafficking and protection risks. These results reflect a stronger, more coordinated child protection system across Edo Central Senatorial District.

Strengthening Community Child Protection Groups

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened grassroots child protection systems by facilitating quarterly meetings with Community Child Protection Groups (CPGs) across 15 project communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. Across the year, the engagements brought together 685 participants (301 males, 384 females) and served as platforms for peer learning, review of community actions, identification of

emerging risks, and planning of coordinated responses to child trafficking and related exploitation.

Discussions focused on recognising trafficking patterns, early warning signs, and community-level prevention strategies. Members examined deceptive recruitment tactics such as false job and scholarship offers, secrecy demands, rushed travel arrangements, repeated visits to vulnerable households, and the growing use of online grooming and sextortion. The groups were also sensitised on the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015, with emphasis on offences linked to sexual exploitation and domestic servitude.



Throughout the year, the CPGs translated learning into action through community sensitisation in markets, churches, schools, health centres, a motor park, and households, strengthening surveillance and parental engagement. Collectively, these efforts reached an estimated 7,000 community members, promoting safer migration decisions, school attendance, and responsible parenting.



The groups also responded to approximately 20 child protection cases, including attempted trafficking, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, and educational neglect. Notable outcomes included the safe return of three internally trafficked girls rescued from sexual exploitation, prevention of several trafficking attempts through timely counselling and referral, and the re-enrolment of out-of-school children following advocacy and direct support. In one community, engagement with traditional leadership resulted in the cessation of under-age recruitment into brothels.



By year's end, the CPGs demonstrated stronger coordination, early-risk detection, effective referrals, and increased community trust, reinforcing their role as reliable, community-based child protection structures.

Strengthening Coordination for Child Protection and Anti-Trafficking Response

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened collaboration and service delivery across Edo Central Senatorial District by convening two coordination meetings with Local Government Caseworkers and Child Champion Club Mentors/Field Officers



under the AACTING Project. The meetings provided a structured platform to review progress, share field experiences, address referral and response gaps, and reinforce collective action against child trafficking and related exploitation. A total of 67 participants (39 males, 28 females) attended, representing Social Welfare and Legal Departments, security agencies, Community Child Protection Groups, school mentors, education officers, and information units across the five LGAs.

Through structured progress reviews and quarterly activity updates, stakeholders reflected on achievements, challenges, and lessons emerging from school- and community-level interventions. Refresher sessions strengthened participants' technical understanding of trafficking indicators, case documentation, and survivor-centred response.



The engagements deepened trust and strengthened linkages between statutory actors and community-based protection structures.

Evidence presented during the meetings highlighted the growing effectiveness of local protection systems. In Igueben LGA, advocacy by the Local Government Child Protection Committee led to a directive from the Monarch of Ebelle Kingdom discontinuing the recruitment of minors into brothels, resulting in the withdrawal of under-age girls and the safe reunification of two rescued victims with their families. In Esan West LGA, two girls trafficked from Imo State for sexual exploitation were supported to return home through coordinated action with the LGA Chairman and caseworkers.



Field officers also reported increasing vigilance among communities and caregivers. In Idunwele Community, continuous engagement with households harbouring domestic helpers resulted in improved awareness of child care responsibilities and reductions in exploitative practices. Individual case reflections demonstrated meaningful behavioural change, including improved care for vulnerable children and stronger intervention from community leaders.

Progress under the child-focused learning component showed that children are increasingly recognising risks and seeking help. Child Champions reported cases of neglect, abuse, and trafficking attempts, which were promptly referred to Child Protection Groups and resolved through counselling, caregiver engagement, and monitoring.



Stakeholders, however, raised concerns about the rising trend of internal child trafficking, particularly involving domestic servitude and denial of education. Participants committed to

intensified household mapping, targeted dialogue with intermediaries, and deeper community surveillance. The need for increased government funding to strengthen statutory response, especially for logistics and enforcement, was also emphasized.

Overall, the coordination meetings demonstrated measurable progress in cross-sector collaboration, strengthened case management systems, and improved child-centred response mechanisms. The network of frontline actors is increasingly united, proactive, and effective in safeguarding vulnerable children and preventing exploitation across Edo Central Senatorial District.



Strengthening Consultation Mechanisms Between Community and Institutional Justice Actors

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) strengthened multi-stakeholder coordination for child protection by convening three consultation meetings between community structures and institutional justice actors across Edo Central Senatorial District in 2025. The platform enhanced collaboration, referral efficiency, and joint response to child trafficking and related exploitation.

The inaugural meeting on 11 February 2025 formally established the consultation mechanism and brought together 60 participants (37 males, 23 females) from security agencies, immigration, social welfare, legal and education departments, healthcare institutions, civil society organisations, and community child protection groups. Discussions reinforced the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships, shared real-life case experiences, and produced commitments toward regular engagement, stronger referral pathways, and coordinated awareness initiatives.



The second consultation meeting, held on 17 July 2025, deepened collaboration among 70 participants (33 males, 37 females). Stakeholders reviewed progress, shared evidence of improved networking, and were introduced to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to strengthen survivor-centred identification, referral, and support. The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria highlighted joint sensitisation with school children and emphasized early psychosocial and medical care for survivors, reinforcing multi-disciplinary response standards.

The third consultation meeting on 30 October 2025 engaged 70 participants (32 males, 38 females) and featured capacity-building on the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015, improving their understanding of trafficking offences and sanctions. Stakeholders shared progress on community and market sensitisation, advocacy to traditional rulers, and strengthened collaboration among security agencies.



In all the meetings, participants identified persistent challenges like age verification barriers, weak victim protection leading to compromised cases, and limited enforcement logistics, as common issues encountered when dealing with victims. They then recommended stronger NAPTIP participation, improved penalties, wider dissemination of legal provisions, and expanded public sensitisation as solutions to an effective response.

Together, the consultation platform strengthened coordination, accountability, and collective action in preventing trafficking and protecting vulnerable children across Edo Central.



Workshop With Influential Actors: Strengthening Synergy for Child Protection

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) convened a strategic workshop to strengthen coordination among influential actors and institutions in preventing and responding to child trafficking. The workshop, themed “Building Stronger Synergy for Child Protection Against Trafficking,” brought together 77 stakeholders (43 males, 34 females), including representatives of NAPTIP, the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, Caritas Nigeria, security agencies, traditional leaders, and the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association.



Discussions focused on survivor-centred and trauma-informed approaches, timely referrals, collaboration across sectors, and improved protection pathways for children at risk of trafficking. Goodwill messages from participants reinforced the urgency of collective action and institutional accountability.



A notable outcome emerged from the National Vice President of the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, who announced that, following continuous engagement under the AACTING Project, he had discontinued oath-taking rituals used to control trafficking victims and committed to promoting anti-trafficking advocacy nationwide. The Iyase of Igubeen Kingdom reaffirmed royal support for survivors and disclosed plans to establish a community skill-acquisition centre to aid prevention and reintegration.



The workshop also featured a technical session on case management for child victims and a panel discussion on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which generated practical recommendations for strengthening coordination between community structures and formal institutions. The event closed with a renewed, unified commitment to safeguarding children across Edo Central Senatorial District.

Annual Meeting with Community and Religious Leaders

Uromi JDPCI convened its annual meeting with Community and Religious Leaders in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, bringing together key influencers to strengthen collective action against child trafficking. The forum aimed to deepen interfaith and inter-community collaboration, enhance community-based surveillance and reporting, and reinforce partnerships with law enforcement to ensure timely responses to suspected cases.



A keynote session on *“How Community and Religious Leaders Can Collaborate with Law Enforcement Agencies to End Child Trafficking in Line with the National Referral Mechanism”* provided participants with clear guidance on their roles in prevention, early detection, and referral of trafficking cases. The meeting recorded 85 participants (69 males and 16 females), including traditional rulers, pastors, imams, youth leaders, and representatives of security agencies.

Discussions highlighted the urgent need for sustained grassroots sensitization, stronger enforcement of anti-trafficking laws, and comprehensive reintegration support for survivors. Leaders pledged to intensify awareness campaigns within their congregations, improve community-based reporting channels, and deepen collaboration with law enforcement for prompt action. They also committed to promoting vocational empowerment for at-risk groups and advocating for the timely prosecution of traffickers.



The event reaffirmed the pivotal role of faith and community leadership in safeguarding children and building trafficking-free communities.

Advocacy Visit to the Edo State Migration Agency

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) paid an advocacy visit to the Director General of the Edo State Migration Agency, Hon. Chief Fortune Agazuma, following the agency's transition from the Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking in October 2024. The engagement sought to strengthen collaboration on migration governance, trafficking prevention, and community-level response in Edo Central Senatorial District. It also requested the agency's support in recommending returned victims of trafficking for economic and psychosocial reintegration under the AACTING Project.



The DG welcomed the partnership and committed to working with Uromi JDPCI to identify and refer eligible returnees for reintegration support. He further outlined plans to convene a multi-stakeholder meeting with CSOs, engage hotel and brothel owners to curb child sexual exploitation, and intensify action against domestic servitude and labour exploitation. He highlighted ongoing collaboration with the DSS, Police, EFCC, and foreign missions to strengthen trafficking response. A total of 7 persons (4 males, 3 females) participated in the meeting.



Advocacy Visits to Key State Institutions

On 23 May 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), led by the Executive Director, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo conducted advocacy visits to the Commissioners for Women Affairs and Social Development, Education, and the Commissioner of Police to strengthen institutional collaboration on trafficking prevention and human rights protection. At both Ministries, the delegation was received by the Permanent Secretaries, who commended Uromi JDPCI's work, expressed willingness to deepen partnership, and assured that the advocacy priorities would be communicated to the Commissioners.



At the Edo State Police Headquarters, the Commissioner of Police, CP Monday Agbonika, received the team in a session that included six Area Commanders, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Drugs and Illicit Trafficking, and NDLEA leadership. The CP reaffirmed his commitment to collaborative action against trafficking and human rights violations, highlighting the link between drug abuse, exploitation, and crime. He proposed the establishment of a multi-stakeholder coordination platform involving security agencies and civil society to strengthen prevention, response, and justice outcomes across the state.



Advocacy Visit to NAPTIP Benin Zonal Command

Building on the advocacy engagements with key stakeholders in the fight against human trafficking, Uromi JDPCI paid a strategic visit on the 24th of June 2025 to the Zonal Commander of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Barr. Sam Offiah, at the Benin City Zonal Office.



The visit aimed to strengthen collaboration with NAPTIP, particularly in the areas of prevention, survivor support, and coordinated response to trafficking cases. It also provided an opportunity to review ongoing initiatives, assess progress, and explore additional strategies to protect vulnerable populations in Edo State.

Barr. Offiah commended Uromi JDPCI's sustained interventions, acknowledging their measurable impact in reducing trafficking cases across the state. He emphasized the importance of continued stakeholder collaboration and reaffirmed NAPTIP's commitment to supporting the organization's ongoing anti-trafficking efforts.



Joint Advocacy Visit to NAPTIP with AACTING Project Partners

On 4 July 2025, Uromi JDPCI and Girls Power Initiative (GPI), alongside the AACTING Project Coordinator from ECPAT France, paid a joint advocacy visit to the NAPTIP Benin Zonal Command to strengthen collaboration and reinforce anti-trafficking efforts across Edo and Delta States. The visit reaffirmed NAPTIP's central role in the project, particularly in mapping trafficking-prone communities, referring survivors for



psychosocial and economic support, and participating in field implementation activities.

Uromi JDPCI and GPI expressed appreciation for NAPTIP's longstanding partnership and commitment to survivor protection. The NAPTIP representative, Mr. Stephen Selowo, commended the partners for their impact and reaffirmed the agency's readiness to deepen collaboration, especially in survivor referral and joint outreach. He further recommended expanding awareness and capacity-building efforts for legal officers and judicial actors to strengthen the application of trafficking laws.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with partners pledging continued cooperation. NAPTIP also provided IEC materials to support ongoing community sensitization and advocacy initiatives.



Reintegration Support to Survivors

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) advanced its commitment to restoring dignity and rebuilding the lives of young women who survived trafficking through a structured process of identification, profiling, and needs assessment to ensure reintegration support reached the most vulnerable. Working in collaboration with the Edo State Migration Agency, Caritas Nigeria, and the Great Esan Returnee Association, 21 referrals were received, out of which 10 young female returnees met the eligibility criteria. Their stories reflected similar exploitative experiences across Libya, Ivory Coast, Mali, Dubai, and Russia, often following deceptive migration promises. Many returned with limited support and pressing needs ranging from livelihood assistance to child welfare and psychosocial stability.

Orientation and Pre-Vocational Skill Workshop

On 30 April 2025, eight beneficiaries participated in an orientation and pre-vocational workshop under the AACTING Project. Each woman was matched to preferred vocational pathways, including tailoring, hairdressing, catering, makeup, trading, and hair installation, ensuring ownership and commitment to learning. The holistic reintegration model emphasized economic empowerment, psychosocial support, and continuous monitoring as pathways to dignity, independence, and sustainable livelihoods.



Family Tracing

Family tracing was conducted for 10 survivors across Uromi, Uzea, Okhuesan, and Ekpoma to strengthen family ties and supportive home environments. The exercise enabled socio-

economic assessments, support to one caregiver's small business, and the re-enrolment of a vulnerable child back into school.

Home Visits

Three rounds of home visits to the same survivors provided follow-up on safety, well-being, and progress. Emergency assistance in the form of household relief, transport support, medicals and livelihood strengthening was extended to three beneficiaries, helping to boost morale and resilience.

Monitoring Skill-Training Beneficiaries

Monitoring visits confirmed steady progress, with seven trainees assessed as market-ready. One conflict between a trainee and trainer was successfully resolved, while another beneficiary temporarily paused training due to childbirth.

Psychosocial Support Sessions

Between August and December 2025, five group counselling sessions were conducted to provide safe, healing-focused spaces for survivors. Topics included inner strength, gratitude, rebuilding dreams, self-improvement, and support systems. A total of 10 women benefited and reported improved confidence, stability, and coping capacity.

Business and Financial Management Training

On 23 October 2025, seven trainees received business and financial management training covering entrepreneurship, customer relations, pricing, savings, and record-keeping, enhancing preparedness for business start-up.

Flag-Off Ceremony for Economic Empowerment

Uromi JDPCI formally empowered seven graduates of vocational training with start-up materials and one-year shop rent, valued at over one million naira each. The ceremony brought together key partners and stakeholders, marking the beginning of sustainable economic independence and renewed hope for survivors and their families.



HEALTH AND OVC

RESTORING HEALTH, DIGNITY, AND HOPE

In 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), through the THRIVE Project, delivered comprehensive health and social support services to Children Living with HIV (CLHIV) and their households across Edo Central Senatorial District. The programme adopted an integrated approach combining clinical linkage, treatment adherence support, psychosocial care, nutrition, household strengthening, and economic empowerment. These interventions not only improved individual health outcomes but also contributed meaningfully to the UNAIDS 95–95–95 targets, reinforcing Uromi JDPCI's commitment to ensuring that no child is left behind due to HIV status.

Caseload and Programme Coverage

Since project inception, a total of 329 CLHIV have been enrolled. As at the end of the reporting period, 288 children remained active on the programme. During the year, 28 new CLHIV were enrolled, 36 migrated, 1 was transferred out, and 4 deaths were recorded. Despite mobility challenges and socio-economic pressures affecting some households, the programme sustained strong retention through community-based follow-up and family engagement.

Strengthening Treatment Adherence and Viral Suppression

Treatment adherence remained central to programme implementation. To reduce access barriers, 304 CLHIV received transport support to attend ART refill appointments and viral load sample collection at designated health facilities. Targeted counselling sessions were provided to both children and caregivers, emphasizing consistent medication use, disclosure management, and long-term treatment planning.

Community networks enabled the identification and successful re-engagement of 10 CLHIV defaulters, who were safely returned to care and resumed ART. Programme performance exceeded targets in key areas: 285 CLHIV were active on treatment (106% of target), 279 were eligible for viral load testing, 245 received viral load results, and 186 children achieved viral suppression, reflecting steady progress toward sustained treatment success.

Bringing Care to the Doorstep

Recognising the complex emotional, social, and economic challenges faced by families affected by HIV, Uromi JDPCI conducted 285 household visits across the district. These visits provided personalised counselling to help children cope with stigma, anxiety, trauma, fear of disclosure, and emotional distress. Caregivers were supported to create stable, nurturing environments that promote adherence and well-being.

Household visits also served as a platform for financial literacy education, equipping caregivers with basic skills in budgeting, saving, and income planning. This economic strengthening component addressed financial stressors that often undermine treatment adherence and household stability, ensuring that care extended beyond clinical settings.



Integrated Health, Nutrition, and Child Protection Services

As part of comprehensive health support, TB screening was conducted for 285 CLHIV, resulting in 17 presumptive cases that were promptly referred for GeneXpert testing. This proactive approach reduced the risk of opportunistic infections and reinforced early diagnosis and treatment.



In addition, 28 CLHIV households were enrolled into the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme, strengthening access to education, nutrition, protection, and psychosocial services. Nutritional and food support made up of Rice, Beans, Yam, spaghetti and Tom Brown, was provided to 47 vulnerable households, helping to address food insecurity and reinforce dignity and care.

Adolescents benefited from Operation Triple Zero (OTZ) Club meetings, which reached 67 CALHIV. These forums promoted peer support, psychosocial well-being, viral load monitoring, and ART refills, fostering a sense of belonging and resilience. HIV Testing and Counselling services also reached 31 individuals, all of whom tested negative, reinforcing prevention and early detection efforts.



Education, Livelihood, and Legal Protection

Educational counselling was provided to 285 CLHIV, while three children received learning materials to support school attendance. A physically challenged caregiver received start-up support with hairdressing equipment, strengthening household income and caregiving capacity.

Beyond health services, Uromi JDPCI provided legal advocacy for children facing stigma and discrimination. In one notable case from Esan North East LGA, a CLHIV who was subjected to defamation and exclusion was supported through legal intervention, thereby restoring dignity and ensuring accountability.



Transforming Lives Through Community Care

The impact of sustained care was evident in stories like that of a 17-year-old CLHIV whose viral load reduced drastically from 56,000 copies/ml to 89 copies/ml, achieving viral suppression through consistent counselling, adherence support, and caregiver engagement. Such outcomes highlight the transformative power of integrated, community-led care.

Uromi JDPCI continues to restore health, dignity, and hope, ensuring that children living with HIV are not only surviving but truly thriving within supportive families and communities.

MICRO-CREDIT SCHEME

ADVANCING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

In 2025, the Uromi JDPCI Micro-Credit Scheme continued to strengthen household incomes and community resilience by expanding access to small-scale finance, savings, and financial literacy across Edo Central Senatorial District. The scheme remained focused on promoting economic independence, reducing poverty, and supporting sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women and small-scale entrepreneurs.

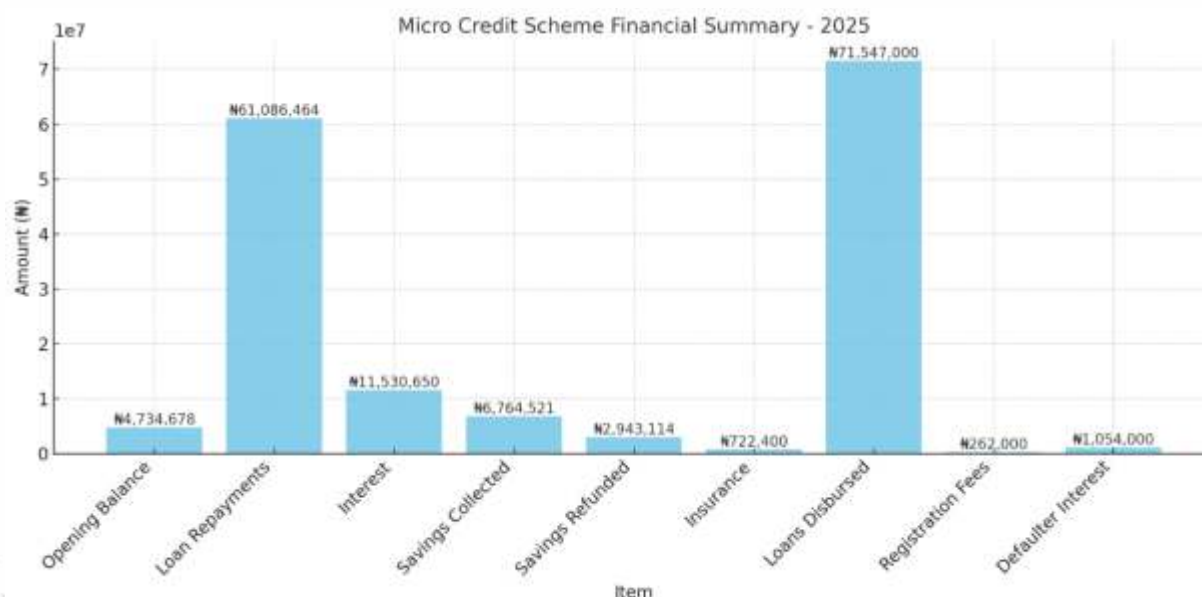
Throughout the year, core interventions included the disbursement of micro-loans to farmers and small business owners, collection of loan repayments, savings and insurance contributions, financial literacy and refresher trainings, and regular monitoring and mentorship to ensure proper loan utilization and accountability.



Reach and Financial Performance

At the start of the year, the scheme recorded an opening balance of ₦4,734,678. During the reporting period, beneficiaries repaid a total of ₦61,086,464 in loans, demonstrating strong repayment discipline. An additional ₦11,530,650 was generated as interest, while ₦6,764,521 was mobilized as savings. To support liquidity and financial inclusion, ₦2,943,114 in savings was refunded to members, and ₦722,400 was collected as insurance contributions.

The scheme disbursed ₦71,547,000 to 501 beneficiaries (170 males and 331 females) organised into 70 groups across 51 communities. Registration fees from new members generated ₦262,000, while ₦1,054,000 accrued from defaulters' interest. Women accounted for over 66% of beneficiaries, reflecting strong progress in gender inclusion and economic empowerment.



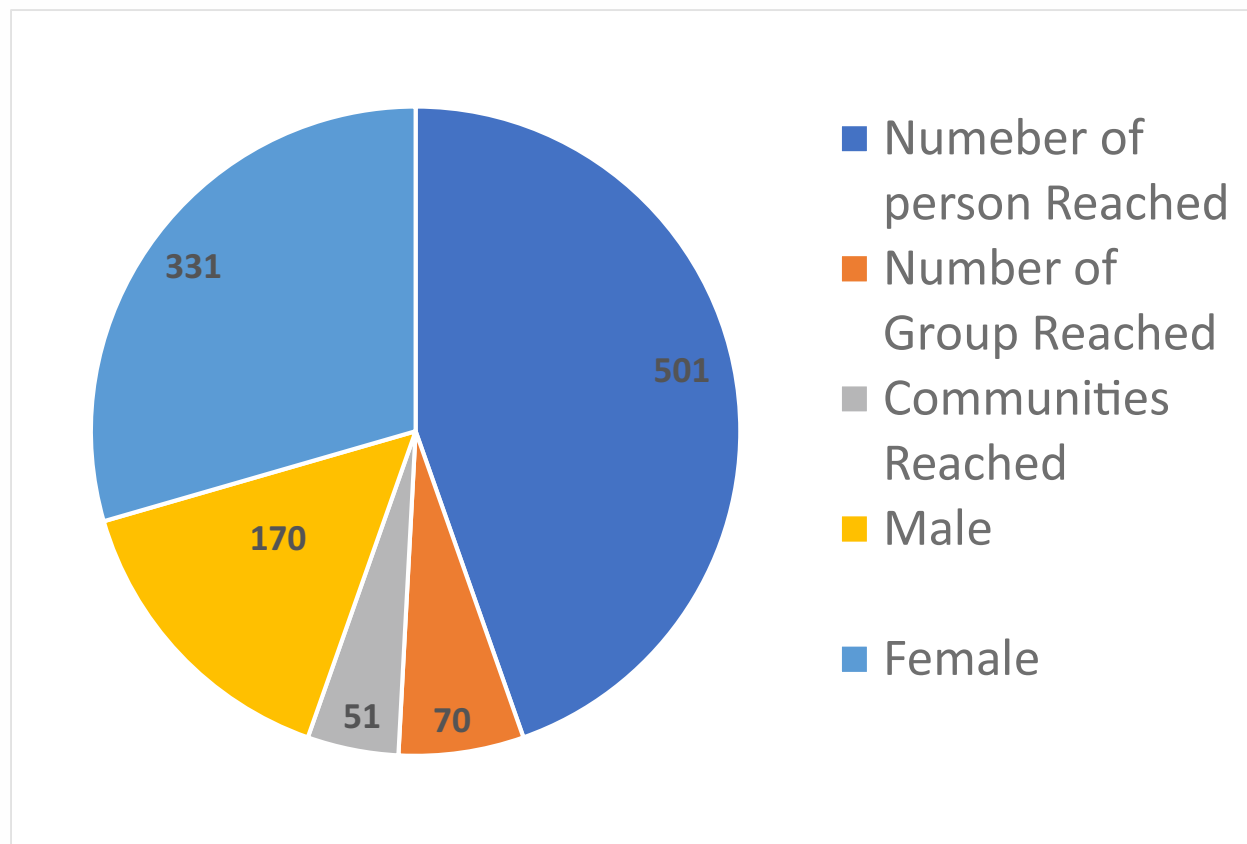
Impact and Change

Beneficiaries reported business expansion, increased income, and improved family well-being. Financial literacy sessions strengthened budgeting, record-keeping, and repayment consistency. One beneficiary in Igueben transitioned from hawking traditional medicine to running a thriving provision store, increasing her weekly profits and acquiring business assets. Another beneficiary expanded her shop through incremental loans, growing her customer base and household stability.



Learning and Way Forward

Despite challenges such as limited funds, seasonal income fluctuations, and rising costs, strengthened monitoring, group savings, and continuous financial education sustained performance. In 2025, the Micro-Credit Scheme made a meaningful contribution to economic empowerment, poverty reduction, and community development, positioning beneficiaries for long-term financial stability.



CORRECTIONAL SERVICE/CUSTODIAL CENTRE APOSTOLATE

RESTORING DIGNITY, HEALING, AND HOPE AT UBJAJA CUSTODIAL CENTRE

In 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) sustained its commitment to restorative justice, rehabilitation, and the protection of human dignity through regular outreach to the Ubiaja Custodial Centre. Through a holistic apostolate that integrates spiritual counselling, legal support, medical services, welfare assistance, and seasonal humanitarian interventions, Uromi JDPCI continues to walk alongside inmates on their journey toward healing, accountability, and reintegration.

Between January and December 2025, Uromi JDPCI conducted monthly visits to the custodial centre, reaching 368 (330 male and 38 female) inmates across multiple sessions. Each visit was intentionally designed to address the spiritual, psychological, legal, health, and material needs of inmates, reinforcing the message that incarceration does not strip a person of dignity, worth, or the possibility of renewal.

Spiritual Counselling: Healing the Inner Person

Spiritual counselling remained the foundation of Uromi JDPCI's correctional apostolate. Across multiple visits in 2025, inmates participated in themed, scripture-based, and interactive spiritual sessions focused on forgiveness, inner peace, accountability, conscience formation, restitution, and hope. Key themes included *Renewed Hope and New Beginnings*, *Finding Inner Peace*, *Atonement and Restitution*, *Overcoming Shame, Guilt, and Regret*, and *Finding Purpose in Adversity*. Using biblical texts such as Isaiah 43:18–19, John 14:27, Philippians 4:6–7, Matthew 5:23–24, and Psalm 51, facilitators encouraged inmates to view incarceration as a season of reflection and transformation rather than condemnation.



Inmates shared deeply personal testimonies. One inmate abandoned plans for revenge after embracing forgiveness; another resolved to correct a wrongful implication of an innocent person in his case. Several inmates expressed renewed commitment to moral living, reconciliation with victims, and spiritual growth. Over the year, 104 inmates received one-on-one spiritual counselling, while 20 inmates enrolled in catechism classes, culminating in the baptism of six inmates during the Christmas outreach. Spiritual materials such as rosaries, Holy Bible, catechism booklets and over 60 copies of *Our Daily Strength* prayer manuals were distributed to support ongoing reflection beyond each visit.



Legal Counselling: Strengthening Access to Justice

Legal counselling formed a critical pillar of the apostolate, ensuring inmates were informed of their rights, responsibilities, and available legal remedies. Through group sessions and

individual consultations, inmates received guidance on fair hearing rights, legal representation, court processes, family contact, and preparation for reintegration.

Throughout 2025, over 70 inmates received direct legal counselling, with support including:

- Assistance in contacting family members and court registrars
- Clarification of case status and legal procedures
- Guidance on restitution and reconciliation
- Referrals for legal representation where necessary

Legal sessions emphasized that justice is not only punitive but restorative, encouraging accountability, cooperation with legal processes, and lawful conduct within the facility. Inmates were also helped to understand institutional rules, security restrictions, and appropriate communication channels, fostering peaceful coexistence within the custodial environment.

Welfare Support: Upholding Dignity in Daily Living

Recognizing the harsh realities of custodial life, Uromi JDPCI consistently provided welfare support to address immediate needs and restore dignity. Female inmates received sanitary pads, while male inmates received sacramentals and hygiene items during routine visits.

Significant welfare interventions included:

- Distribution of food items, toiletries, clothing, footwear, and drinking water
- Provision of detergents, bathing soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soft drinks
- Donation of a sewing machine to support vocational training
- Repainting of the prison chapel and Skill Acquisition Centre to improve the learning and worship environment



These gestures reinforced the belief that dignity must be preserved even within confinement.

Medical Support: Promoting Preventive Health

In November 2025, Uromi JDPCI expanded its apostolate to include medical intervention, focusing on voluntary HIV testing and counselling. Following sensitization and pre-test counselling, 31 inmates voluntarily accessed HIV testing, demonstrating trust and willingness to engage in preventive healthcare.

Medical counselling emphasized confidentiality, informed consent, and post-test support, contributing to improved health awareness and responsible self-care among inmates.

Christmas Party: Light, Freedom, and Renewal Behind Bars

The Christmas outreach on 15 December 2025 stood as one of the most profound expressions of Uromi JDPCI's correctional apostolate. Held in the spirit of the Year of Hope, the visit combined Holy Mass, psychosocial counselling, welfare distribution, and acts of mercy expressed in baptism.

A historic highlight was the payment of fines leading to the release of two inmates, made possible through support from Caritas Nigeria. This tangible restoration of freedom powerfully embodied the message of redemption and second chances.



The outreach also received first-time support from the Office of the First Lady of Edo State, whose ₦250,000 contribution enabled the purchase of detergents, medicated balms, and biscuits for all the inmates, and sanitary pads for nine female inmates. The Executive Director described this support as the first of its kind in nearly two decades of prison Christmas outreach.

The event featured:

- Baptism of six inmates
- Distribution of food, clothing, hygiene items, and relief materials
- Welfare support and facility beautification
- Testimonies of transformation and skill acquisition success



The Officer in Charge of the Ubiaja Custodial Center CSC Dennis Agili expressed deep appreciation for Uromi JDPCI's consistency, compassion, and partnership in rehabilitation efforts at the Ubiaja Custodial Center.

Uromi JDPCI continues to restore dignity and hope behind prison walls through sustained spiritual care, legal empowerment, medical outreach, welfare support, and seasonal humanitarian action. The Ubiaja Custodial Centre Apostolate stands as a living testimony that no one is beyond redemption, and that justice, when rooted in compassion and accountability, becomes a powerful force for transformation. Uromi JDPCI remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that incarceration does not extinguish hope, but rather becomes a pathway to healing, responsibility, and renewed life.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) deepened its commitment to environmental sustainability and climate justice by implementing targeted advocacy, community sensitization, and practical climate action initiatives across Edo Central Senatorial District. Uromi JDPCI promoted responsible environmental practices, strengthened climate resilience, and fostered a culture of ecological stewardship through policy engagement, grassroots education, and community-led action.



Advocacy for Improved Waste Management

As part of efforts to address environmental degradation and public health risks, Uromi JDPCI conducted an advocacy visit to the Environmental Department of Esan North East LGA, engaging 14 stakeholders (9 females and 5 males). The discussion focused on the growing challenge of indiscriminate refuse dumping and the need for coordinated waste management strategies in Uromi town.

Uromi JDPCI raised concerns over environmental health hazards, urban sanitation, and the reputational impact of poor waste disposal practices. In response, the Environmental Department outlined existing efforts and key constraints, including weak household waste management culture, unregulated population growth, political interference, and inadequate funding. The engagement resulted in shared recommendations, including increased advocacy to traditional and religious leaders, establishment of a joint task force against indiscriminate dumping, creation of alternative dumping sites, expanded public awareness campaigns, and improved monitoring mechanisms. This dialogue marked an important step toward sustained collaboration for cleaner and healthier communities.

Community Sensitization on Climate Risks

To address climate-related practices at the grassroots, Uromi JDPCI conducted a sensitization session on the dangers of bush burning in Ekekhen, Igueben LGA, reaching 17 farmers (13 females and 4 males). Participants examined the environmental and health consequences of bush burning,



including air pollution, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and wildfire risks. Farmers were introduced to sustainable alternatives such as composting, crop rotation, and controlled

vegetation clearing. They were encouraged to act as peer educators within their communities by extending the sensitisation to other members of the community.

Beyond bush burning, Uromi JDPCI intensified waste management sensitization campaigns across Ubiaja, Igueben, Opoji, and selected parishes, including St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Efandion, and St. Thomas Catholic Church, Idunwele Ewu. These sessions reached 851 participants (403 males and 448 females), promoting practical solutions such as proper waste disposal, reduction of single-use plastics, composting, and community clean-up initiatives. Community-led advocacy efforts emerged, including calls for local watchdog groups to curb environmental offences.

World Environment Day and Climate Action

On 5 June 2025, Uromi JDPCI commemorated World Environment Day under the theme “Ending Plastic Pollution”, convening 70 stakeholders comprising government officials, traditional leaders, religious institutions, waste managers, and Parish JDPC members. The event emphasized collective responsibility, policy enforcement, and behavioural change as essential tools in tackling plastic pollution.

Tree Planting for Climate Resilience

As a long-term climate mitigation strategy, Uromi JDPCI expanded its Tree Planting Initiative, distributing 171 improved fruit seedlings made up of avocado, citrus, coconut, cashew, palm, mango, and grape, at subsidized rates to community members. An additional 30 pawpaw seedlings were nursed and planted at the Chancery Complex, bringing the total to 201 seedlings. This initiative addressed deforestation, land degradation, and food security while promoting environmental ownership.



Building a Sustainable Future

Through advocacy, education, and practical climate action, Uromi JDPCI continues to empower communities to protect their environment and adapt to climate challenges. These interventions are laying the foundation for cleaner communities, healthier ecosystems, and climate-resilient livelihoods, ensuring that environmental care remains a shared responsibility for present and future generations across Edo Central Senatorial District.

PARISH JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION (PARSH JDPC)**STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS STRUCTURES FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE**

In 2025, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) intensified efforts to strengthen Parish Justice, Development, and Peace Commissions (JDPCs) across the Diocese of Uromi. Through a combination of capacity building, follow-up support, parish visits, environmental sensitization, and structural expansion, Uromi JDPCI continued to empower parish communities to promote justice, peace, and responsible citizenship in line with Catholic Social Teaching.

**Capacity Building and Coordination**

A major milestone during the year was the two-day capacity-building training organized with support from the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN). The training equipped 98 Parish JDPC members (63 males and 35 females) drawn from 25 parishes with practical skills in justice advocacy, peacebuilding, community development, and parish-level coordination. Participants reported improved understanding of JDPC principles and increased confidence to initiate parish-based interventions.

In addition, virtual engagement sessions were held via WhatsApp, bringing together JDPC members from nine parishes to review progress, share experiences, and reinforce organisational structures. Activity reports were submitted by participating parishes, strengthening accountability and documentation practices.

Follow-Up, Reactivation, and Parish Outreach

To sustain momentum and address gaps in participation, Uromi JDPCI conducted follow-up phone calls reaching over 100 Parish JDPC members across the Diocese. These engagements provided technical guidance, encouraged step-down trainings, and helped identify structural challenges. As a result, two previously inactive Parish JDPCs (St. Anthony Catholic Church, Ewatto, and Annunciation Catholic Church, Irrua) were successfully reactivated.



Direct parish visits to St. Ignatius Catholic Church (Efandion), St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church (Ewu), and Mary the Queen Catholic Church (Arue) further strengthened grassroots engagement, reaching 23 parishioners (14 females and 9 males). These visits created space for dialogue on justice, peace, and practical community action.

Environmental Stewardship and Reporting

As part of promoting responsible citizenship, environmental sensitization campaigns on plastic waste pollution were conducted in selected parishes, engaging 162 parishioners (97 females and 65 males). Participants discussed waste reduction, proper disposal, and community clean-up initiatives, reinforcing the link between environmental care and human dignity.



Throughout the year, 11 parishes consistently submitted monthly JDPC reports, reflecting improved communication, monitoring, and parish-level ownership. The inauguration of a new Parish JDPC at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Egbele Uromi, increased the number of active Parish JDPCs to 22 across the Diocese.

Progress, Challenges, and Way Forward

These interventions resulted in stronger coordination, renewed enthusiasm, and expanded parish participation. However, challenges such as limited financial resources, weak leadership in some parishes, and irregular participation persist. Uromi JDPCI will continue to prioritize mentorship, refresher trainings, closer collaboration with parish priests, and expanded parish outreach as key strategies to sustain progress. Uromi JDPCI remains committed to building vibrant Parish JDPCs that serve as living platforms for justice, peace, and integral human development across the Diocese of Uromi.

CARITAS (HUMANITARIAN) SUPPORT

Compassion in Action: Responding to Urgent Human Needs

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) implemented compassionate interventions aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals and households facing critical health, shelter, and educational challenges.

Medical assistance was provided to a vulnerable young man by facilitating and fully funding a life-saving hernia surgery at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital. This intervention restored his physical well-being and protected him from further health complications during a period of acute vulnerability.

To address the risk of homelessness, Uromi JDPCI also provided accommodation support to a visually impaired father of four through the payment of one year's rent. This intervention averted eviction, ensured household stability, and reduced the family's exposure to further hardship and insecurity.

In addition, Uromi JDPCI supported four (4) indigents but academically promising students in institutions of higher learning through the payment of their session fees. This educational

assistance enabled the beneficiaries to continue their studies and helped protect them from the risks of school dropout and negative social influences.

These interventions reflected Uromi JDPCI's commitment to compassion, dignity, and solidarity with the most vulnerable, while responding promptly to urgent needs and promoting hope for a better future

EMPLOYEE AND ORGANISATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

End-of-Year Party and Award Ceremony

During the Organisation's End-of-Year Party and Award Ceremony, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) formally recognised staff and volunteers whose consistent performance, dedication, and service played a critical role in advancing programme outcomes and strengthening organisational systems. Staff awards were presented to Dr. Iyoriobhe Michael for Outstanding Professional Excellence, Erhabor Harriet for Teamwork and Collaboration, Agbonmwanre Maxwell for Innovation and Initiative, and Ijenoza Gabriel for Staff Growth and Improvement, acknowledging individual contributions that enhanced leadership, coordination, operational efficiency, and professional development within the Organisation.



Volunteer contributions were equally acknowledged across programme areas. Yunusa Mohammed Ajara received the Volunteer of the Year Award (Health & OVC Desk) for her compassionate frontline service to vulnerable children and households, Imarlu Patience was honoured as Volunteer of the Year (Migration and Countering Trafficking in Persons Desk) for her sustained engagement in community-based anti-trafficking initiatives, while Rachael Obokhalufoh O. A. and Omoye Onobhamioriobe were recognised as Volunteers of the Year for the Human Rights Desk in appreciation of their roles in rights education, case support, and access to justice.



The Longest Serving Volunteer Award was presented to Mr. Imhontu Peter in recognition of his years of loyal service and enduring commitment to the mission of Uromi JDPCI.

These recognitions reinforced the Organisation's culture of excellence, accountability, and appreciation for the human capital that drives its impact across communities.

Organisational Awards and Recognition

During the year, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) received three awards in recognition of its work and impact. The Organisation was honoured by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Esan West Division, for its selfless service and contributions to advocacy and peacebuilding within communities.

Uromi JDPCI also received an award from the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN), Edo State Chapter, in appreciation of its support and partnership in promoting health, care, and community wellbeing, in line with MWAN's mission of healing with the love of a mother.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI was also honoured with an award of meritorious service in recognition of selfless service to humanity and sustained commitment to sustainable development by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOs).



Leadership Recognition and Board Appointment

On 16 December 2025, the Executive Director of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) was formally inaugurated as a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOs).

CHALLENGES

Limited financial resources and funding constraints affected the scale of several interventions, including parish structures, environmental campaigns, and micro-credit support expansion.

Weak leadership and irregular participation in some Parish JDPCs reduced consistency in parish-level engagement and activity implementation.

Seasonal income fluctuations and rising economic costs affected loan repayment patterns and business stability among micro-credit beneficiaries.

Inadequate waste-management culture and limited government funding constrained environmental sanitation efforts at the community level.

Unregulated population growth and political interference further complicated local environmental and sanitation systems.

Logistical and operational limitations prevented full implementation of some planned advocacy and media activities across programmes.

Social and economic vulnerabilities among households and survivors continued to heighten risks of exploitation, trafficking, and livelihood instability, requiring sustained support.

LESSONS LEARNED

Stronger monitoring, mentorship, and continuous financial education significantly improved repayment culture, accountability, and business sustainability among beneficiaries.

Capacity-building, follow-up support, and closer collaboration with parish priests are essential for sustaining active Parish JDPC structures and participation.

Multi-stakeholder coordination and community-based structures (CPGs, paralegals, parish groups) enhance early-risk detection, referrals, and community trust in justice and protection systems.

Grassroots advocacy and awareness creation remain critical in environmental stewardship, trafficking prevention, and social protection, especially where formal systems are weak.

Integrated psychosocial, spiritual, legal, and livelihood support strengthens rehabilitation, reintegration, and resilience among vulnerable and at-risk groups.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Health and OVC

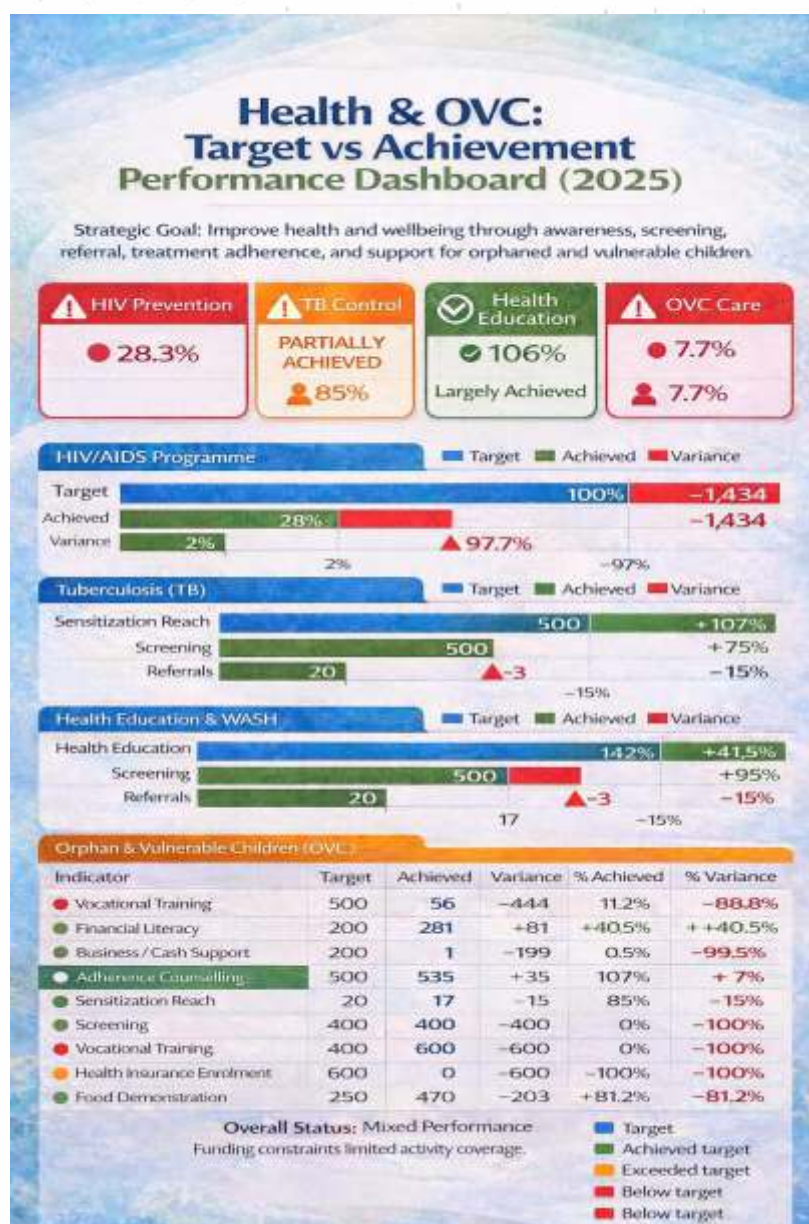
The Health and OVC Desk planned to strengthen awareness creation, screening, early case identification, referral, and adherence support across HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), Health Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) interventions, with the overall outcome of improving the health and wellbeing of community members.

Under the HIV/AIDS programme, the 2025 target was to conduct 20 awareness programmes reaching 2,000 persons. As at the reporting period, one structured awareness programme was conducted at the Ubiaja Correctional Centre, reaching 31 persons, while 535 persons were reached through individual sensitisation. HIV testing activities targeted 2,000 persons, with at least five cases to be identified and linked to treatment. Progress shows that 46 persons were tested, with one individual identified and linked to treatment. Adherence support targeted 300 virally unsuppressed persons, of which 288 were counselled and 54 were linked to Enhanced Adherence Counselling (EAC).

Within the Tuberculosis programme, targets included 15 sensitisation meetings reaching 500 persons, screening of 500 persons, and 20 referrals for treatment. Progress indicates that 535 persons were reached through individual TB sensitisation, 535 persons were screened, 16 presumptive cases were identified, and 17 suspected cases were referred for further care. However, no TB treatment adherence counselling sessions were conducted against a target of 20 sessions.

Health Education activities planned 10 awareness sessions reaching 400 persons and two screening sessions reaching 100 persons for hypertension, diabetes, and cancers. Progress revealed that 566 persons were reached through health awareness activities. Under the WASH component, four hygiene awareness campaigns were planned to reach 300 persons, while 285 persons were reached through individual awareness on safe water, handwashing practices, and environmental sanitation.

For the OVC component, the target included training 500 caregivers in vocational skills, providing financial literacy training to 200 persons, supporting 200 beneficiaries with business start-ups or cash transfers, providing educational support to 500 vulnerable children, facilitating birth registration for 400 children, enrolling 600 caregivers and children into health insurance schemes, and conducting 20 food demonstration sessions reaching 250 caregivers. Progress records show that financial literacy training exceeded the target, with 281 persons trained.



Other interventions recorded limited progress due to funding constraints. Vocational start-up support was given to one person with disability, educational material support to three children living with HIV, and food assistance to 47 vulnerable households.

Human Rights

The Human Rights Programme focus on strengthening awareness, access to justice, peaceful dispute resolution, and institutional accountability through human rights education, paralegal services, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and strategic advocacy across communities.

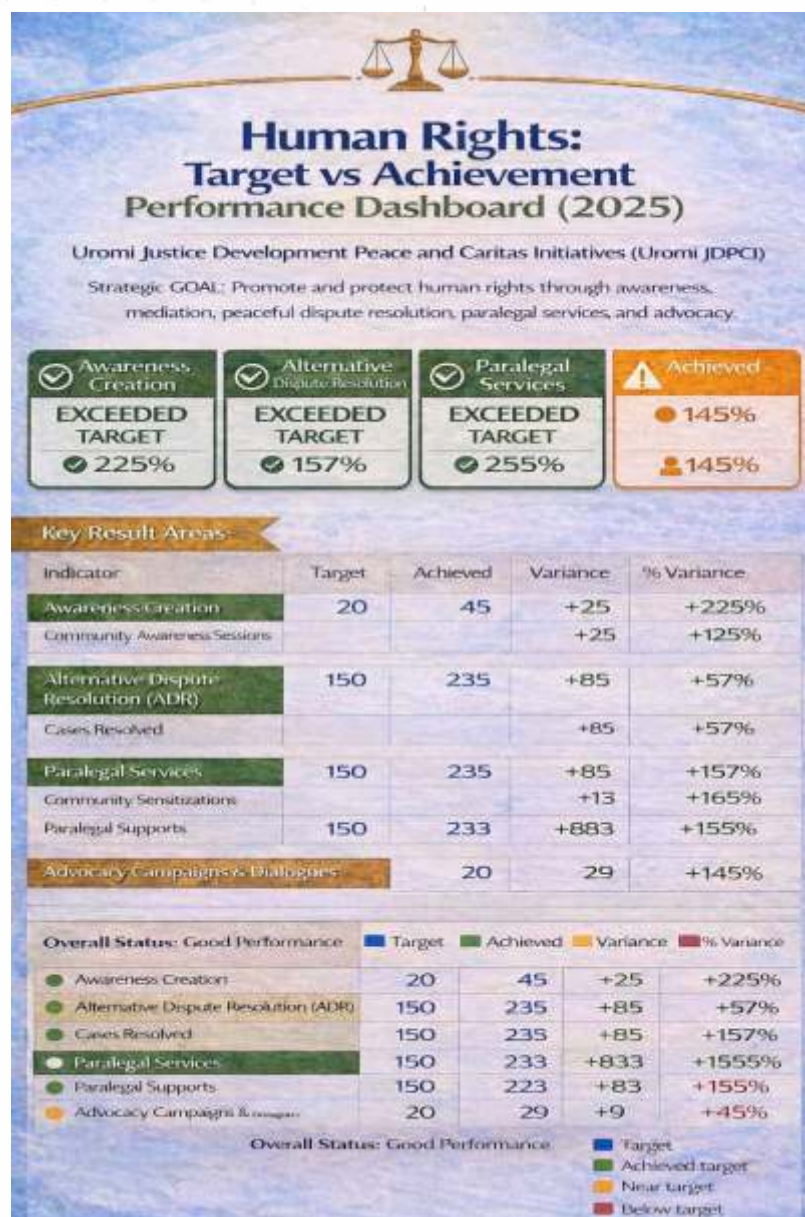
Under the gender equality and safeguarding component, the programme planned to conduct 20 awareness sessions led by paralegals and human rights advocates, alongside two commemorations and one annual conference. Progress exceeded the planned targets, with 45 awareness sessions conducted, reaching 603 persons, as well as two commemorations and one annual congress, which collectively reached 554 participants.

To increase access to peaceful dispute resolution, the programme targeted the conduct of 150 ADR cases, the resolution of 100 cases, and the referral of 50 cases for settlement.

As at the reporting period, 235 ADR cases were handled on civil human rights issues, of which 233 cases were successfully resolved, while five cases were referred to third-party mediators, reflecting strong performance in non-litigation dispute resolution.

In promoting human rights education, the programme planned to conduct at least three stakeholder workshops, support community sensitisation through 20 human rights clubs, and hold quarterly adolescent human rights club sessions in 28 secondary schools across five LGAs. Progress shows that three stakeholder workshops were conducted, reaching 554 persons; 33 communities carried out human rights sensitisation activities; and four quarterly adolescent human rights club sessions were held in 28 schools, reaching 1,796 adolescents.

To strengthen paralegal service delivery, the programme planned four quarterly meetings, provision of at least 150 paralegal services, and four quarterly assessments. Progress exceeded expectations, with four quarterly meetings conducted, 383 paralegal services provided, including ADR, psychosocial support, referrals, and legal assistance and four quarterly assessments completed.



Under strategic advocacy, the programme planned at least 10 advocacy visits to community stakeholders, three engagements with security agencies, and 10 engagements with relevant government institutions. Progress records indicate that 25 advocacy visits were conducted with community stakeholders, two strategic engagements were held with the State Police Headquarters, and two engagements were conducted with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and the Ministry of Education.

The Human Rights Programme recorded strong performance across most indicators and made significant strides in promoting respect for human rights and improving access to justice within communities.

Migration and Countering Trafficking in Persons.

The programme implemented prevention, protection, reintegration, referral, and prayer-based interventions across communities in Edo Central Senatorial District with the aim of reducing vulnerability to human trafficking and promoting safe migration practices.

Under the prevention component, the programme targeted to conduct five awareness and sensitisation activities across five LGAs, reaching at least 500 persons in schools and communities. Progress shows that sensitisation activities were conducted in six schools and five communities, reaching a total of 788 persons. In addition, the programme planned 11 community dialogue sessions reaching 200 community stakeholders; however, 13 dialogue sessions were conducted, reaching 1,445 community, religious, local government, and state actors.

To strengthen local response mechanisms, the programme planned four advocacy visits to institutional actors. Progress records indicate that five advocacy visits were conducted, resulting in stakeholder commitments and the establishment of a Local Government desk of the Edo State Migration Agency in Esan North East LGA to bolster local response and prevention efforts.

The programme also planned to conduct three caregivers' fora across five LGAs, reaching 48 caregivers per session. One caregiver's forum was conducted, reaching 55 participants. In addition, the programme targeted the formation of five school-based and five community-based adolescent anti-trafficking clubs, as well as the training of 30 adolescent anti-trafficking clubs, reaching at least 300 adolescents. Progress records show that 10 clubs were formed, while 30 clubs were trained, reaching a total of 1,502 children and young persons.

To strengthen economic resilience and educational continuity, the programme planned to support 10 vulnerable households and 10 youths through economic strengthening activities. Progress records indicate that 10 youths were trained, with seven supported with income-generating activities, while one vulnerable household received livelihood support. Educational support targets included assistance for five in-school children and the re-admission of two out-of-school children. As recorded, three out-of-school children were re-admitted, and five adolescents were supported to continue their education.

Under the protection component, the programme planned to strengthen community-based response mechanisms by forming and training five community child protection groups and enhancing the capacities of 15 child protection groups to prevent and respond to human trafficking, with a minimum target of five cases to be handled or escalated by these structures. Progress records show that five additional community child protection groups were successfully formed and trained, while the operational capacities of 15 community child protection groups were strengthened. As a result of this enhanced capacity, the groups intervened in approximately 20 child protection cases, exceeding the minimum target.

Uromi JDPCI also planned to provide emergency support to at least 10 survivors of human trafficking. As at the reporting period, three survivors were provided with emergency support, including one-year accommodation assistance and a six-month stipend to support feeding and medical needs.

For reintegration, family tracing was planned for 10 returnees, 4 reintegration counselling sessions, 2 home and monitoring visits and economic support to 10 returnees. Progress shows that family tracing was conducted for 10 returnees, five reintegration counselling sessions were held, three rounds of home visits were conducted, 10 survivors were linked to support groups, seven survivors received economic reintegration support, and 10 survivors were trained in entrepreneurship skills. Educational support planned for one returned migrant was not implemented during the reporting period, as no eligible case emerged based on assessed need.



Under the referral component, the programme planned to refer five trafficking cases to relevant authorities. Progress records show that three cases were formally referred to institutional actors, including the Edo State Migration Agency and the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

In addition, the programme planned one commemoration of the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, which was conducted and reached 67 persons, serving as a moment of prayer, reflection, and advocacy in solidarity with victims of human trafficking.

SGBV/CEFM

The programme aims at reducing the incidence of SGBV and CEFM and strengthening response mechanisms within communities.

Uromi JDPCI planned to conduct one stakeholder workshop and commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Progress exceeded the planned workshop target, with two workshops conducted to raise awareness on SGBV and CEFM, alongside the successful commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, thereby strengthening community and stakeholder engagement on prevention efforts.

To improve case management, the programme planned to conduct two referral coordination mechanisms for effective case tracking and management. Progress shows that four referral coordination meetings were held, marking an important step toward coordinated response services.

Under the legal services component, the programme targeted at least 10 referrals to relevant justice and protection institutions, including the Edo State CID, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights Commission, and Social Welfare Department, to support survivors' access to justice at low or no cost. As recorded, 10 SGBV cases were referred to relevant agencies for intervention and are currently under ongoing intervention.

The programme planned to strengthen the capacity of Paralegals, Human Rights Advocates, and Adolescent Human Rights Club members to detect, prevent, and report cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) through four quarterly coaching and mentoring meetings and the facilitation of 28 Adolescent Human Rights Clubs. This was achieved, as four quarterly meetings were conducted and 28 Adolescent Human Rights Clubs were facilitated, resulting in improved capacity for detection, prevention, and reporting of SGBV and CEFM cases.



We also planned to assist at least 10 survivors with logistics for medical care, treatment, and medical reporting. Seven survivors were assisted with logistics for medical care, treatment, medical reports, and case transfer.

The programme planned to provide at least 10 survivors of SGBV with psychosocial/counselling support. Seven survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) received psychosocial counselling support, with one survivor further referred to the Uromi Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for additional counselling Support.

Legal/Custodial Centre Apostolate

The Programme focus on improving inmates' access to legal aid, psychosocial and spiritual wellbeing, and overall welfare through regular legal counselling, representation support, counselling services, and material assistance within the custodial centre.

We planned to conduct 11 monthly legal counselling sessions reaching at least 240 inmates. As recorded, 11 legal counselling sessions were successfully conducted; however, 101 inmates received legal counselling services during the reporting period. In addition, the programme planned to provide legal representation for two inmates with minor offences who lacked legal representation. While this activity was planned, no progress was recorded during the period under review.

To improve psychosocial and spiritual well-being, the programme planned 10 psychosocial counselling sessions and 10 spiritual counselling sessions, each targeting 200 inmates, alongside 12 catechism classes and one baptism. Progress records show that 10 psychosocial counselling sessions were conducted, reaching 377 inmates, exceeding the planned reach. Nine spiritual counselling sessions were held, reaching 72 inmates, while seven catechism classes and one baptism were conducted. In addition, six inmates received baptism and First Holy Communion, reflecting meaningful spiritual engagement and support.

Under welfare services, the programme planned the provision of welfare packages, including food items, medical supplies, and toiletries, as well as special visits during Easter and Christmas. Progress shows that two welfare visits were conducted, one during the Easter celebration in April and another during the Christmas celebration in December. During these visits, 28 inmates were reached at Easter and 40 inmates at Christmas. A wide range of food items, hygiene materials, clothing, and basic supplies were distributed, contributing to improved living conditions and morale among inmates.

Micro-Credit, Livelihood and economic strengthening



The Micro-Credit Programme focus on strengthening household livelihoods through entrepreneurship development, financial literacy, access to credit, and the promotion of community-based financial structures across five LGAs.

Under entrepreneurship and financial literacy, the programme planned to conduct 20 training sessions across 20 communities, targeting 400 beneficiaries. Progress records show that implementation exceeded planned outputs, with 70 training sessions conducted across 51 communities in five LGAs, reaching a total of 501 beneficiaries. These trainings enhanced beneficiaries' skills in entrepreneurship and basic financial management, contributing to improved income-generating capacity at the household level.

In the area of social enterprise development, the programme planned 20 training sessions on effective loan management, reaching 400 beneficiaries. As recorded, 70 loan management training sessions were conducted across 51 communities, with 501 beneficiaries trained. This reflects strong uptake and increased community engagement in responsible credit use and loan sustainability.

To strengthen access to finance, the programme planned the formation of 20 farmers' and petty traders' self-help groups to create pathways to credit facilities. Progress records show that 70 groups were formed, comprising 53 farmers' groups and 17 petty traders' groups, significantly exceeding the target. These groups were subsequently supported with access to credit, as 17 petty traders' groups and 53 farmers' groups received credit facilities, benefiting 501 individuals through soft loans.

In addition, the programme planned six sensitisation sessions on the importance of functional cooperative societies, targeting 300 beneficiaries across five LGAs. Progress indicates that 10 sensitisation sessions were conducted, reaching 250 beneficiaries, many of whom expressed interest in formal registration as cooperative societies.



Environment and Climate Change

The Environment and Climate Change Programme aim to promote environmentally friendly practices, increase awareness of climate change risks, and encourage sustainable resource management across communities in five LGAs.

Under climate change awareness, the programme planned awareness campaigns in 10 communities, targeting 750 persons on the effects of bush burning and deforestation. As recorded, awareness activities were conducted in five communities, reaching 58 persons.

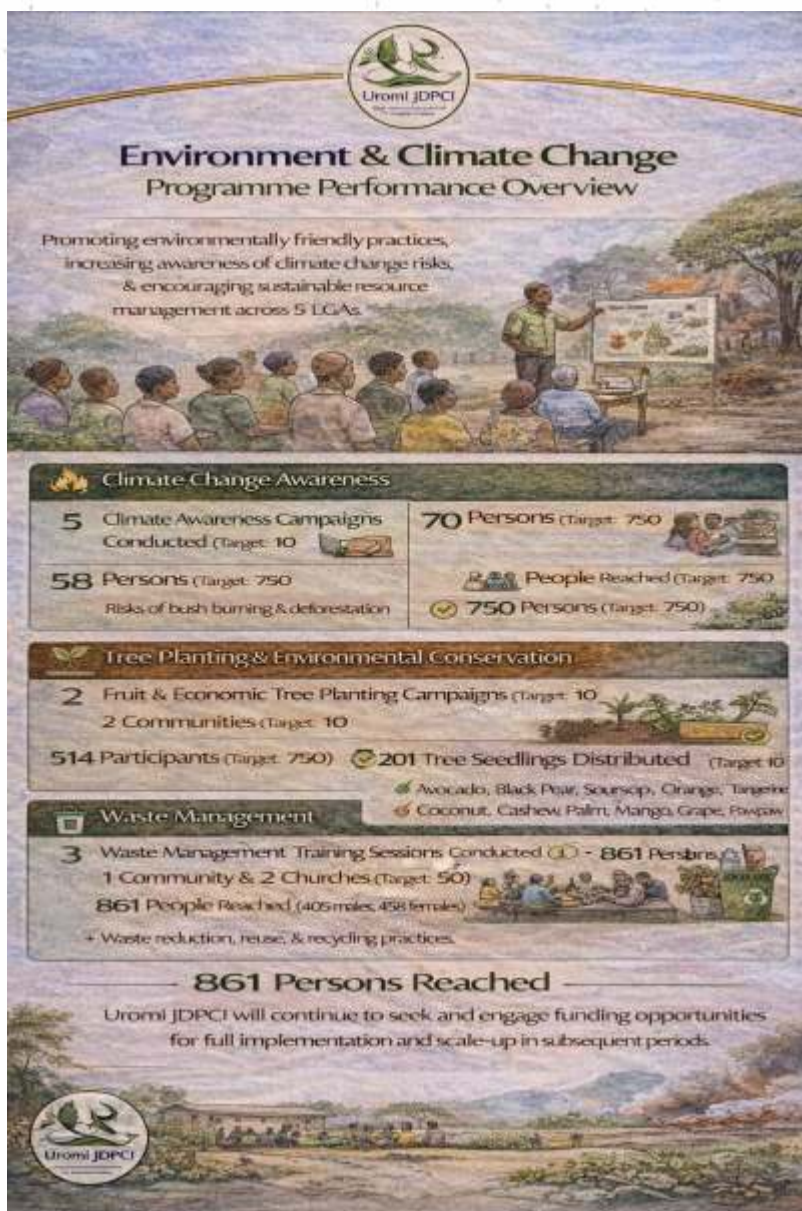
In the area of renewable energy awareness, the programme planned similar awareness campaigns in 10 communities, reaching 750 persons, as well as linking 10 adopters to renewable energy sources. However, no progress was recorded in these areas during the reporting period.

To promote tree planting and environmental conservation, the programme planned fruit and economic tree planting campaigns in 10 communities, targeting 750 persons. Progress shows that two communities were sensitised, reaching 514 persons. In addition, the programme exceeded its seedling distribution target, with 201 tree seedlings distributed and planted.

These included avocado pear, black pear, soursop, oranges, tangerines, coconut, cashew, palm, mango, grape, and pawpaw seedlings, contributing to long-term environmental sustainability and livelihood support.

Under waste management, the programme planned one training session reaching 50 persons, with at least 50% adoption of waste management techniques. Progress records indicate that three waste management training sessions were conducted across one community and two churches, reaching 861 participants (403 males and 458 females). This significantly exceeded the planned reach and demonstrated strong community interest in waste reduction, reuse, and recycling practices.

Although some planned activities were constrained by funding limitations, particularly within the Good Governance Desk, Uromi JDPCI will continue to seek and engage funding opportunities and partnerships to enable full implementation and scale-up of planned interventions in subsequent periods.



FUTURE OUTLOOK

PROGRAMMATIC AREA	TARGET FOR FY26
Good Governance	Target Conduct voter education on peaceful, fair, conclusive and violence-free elections in 20 communities and reach 1000 persons Conduct 5 community engagements on governance issues on the new tax policy with 100 persons reached
Health/OVC (Orphan and Vulnerable Children)	Target Conduct 5 awareness programme on HIV/AIDS and stigma reduction with 2,000 persons reached. Conduct community-based HIV testing services for 3,000 individuals, ensure that at least 10 people who test positive are linked to treatment, and implement HIV index case testing resulting in the identification and linkage to treatment of at least 5 cases. Conduct community Adherence counselling for 200 virally unsuppressed persons and link them to facilities for Enhanced Adherence counselling (EAC) Train 200 beneficiaries in skill acquisition geared towards improved livelihood opportunities. Train 2000 persons on financial literacy. Support 200 beneficiaries with business start-ups or cash transfers Provide basic and secondary educational support to 300 vulnerable children Link 300 children to health insurance scheme Train 250 caregivers on home gardening and support them with agricultural inputs/seedlings Conduct 10 Tuberculosis (TB) sensitization and awareness programs with 300 individuals reached Facilitate TB screening for 500 persons, with at least 10 cases identified and linked to treatment Facilitate access to treatment and care for 10 TB patients, through the provision of incentivised transport support Conduct 10 TB treatment adherence counselling sessions Conduct 20 awareness and sensitization programs on general health issues, including malaria, diabetes, hypertension, Obesity, Cervical cancer, prostate cancer, and breast cancer, reaching 500 persons. Organize 2 screening session for hypertension, diabetics, Cervical cancer and obesity with 100 persons reached Conduct 20 awareness campaigns on hygienic practices, focusing on topics such as safe drinking water, handwashing moments, and environmental sanitation. We aim to reach a target audience of 2000 persons
Human Rights	Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates conduct at least 20 community awareness sessions on gender equity and safeguarding at the community level. Commemorate 2 special events and hold one annual congress to raise awareness on gender equity and safeguarding.

	Strengthen the capacity of Paralegals and Human Rights Clubs to conduct at least 150 ADR with 100 cases resolved through ADR, and 50 cases referred to community leaders or relevant institutions and resolved Conduct 3 stakeholder workshops, facilitate community sensitization by 20 Human Rights Clubs, and implement 4 quarterly adolescent human rights club sessions in 28 secondary schools to promote human rights education and access to justice. Hold 4 quarterly capacity-building meetings and conduct 4 quarterly performance assessments for Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates, with Paralegals providing at least 150 services to vulnerable individuals and communities. Conduct 10 strategic advocacy engagements with community stakeholders on emerging human rights issues Conduct 3 strategic advocacy visits to newly appointed heads of security agencies to strengthen collaboration on human rights case management. Conduct 10 strategic advocacy visits to key government institutions to strengthen partnerships for human rights protection and access to justice.
Migration and Countering Trafficking in Persons	Conduct 5 advocacies to relevant stakeholders to sustain collaboration and strengthen local prevention structures with at least 2 stakeholders committing to sustain collaboration Conduct 10 stakeholder dialogues with community, religious, and institutional actors through consultative meetings, Child Protection Network coordination meetings, workshops with influential actors, and an annual stakeholders' meeting to identify local solutions to human trafficking and build sustained commitment for prevention, reaching 1,000 stakeholders, and generating a minimum of 5 community-led prevention actions or follow-up initiatives. Hold 2 caregivers for a, reaching 96 caregivers with better parenting skills, geared at the prevention of human trafficking. Commemorate World Day against human trafficking to increase awareness about trafficking risk with a target to reach 100 persons. Facilitate 4 capacity building sessions with 30 Adolescent Anti Human Trafficking clubs in schools and communities, reaching at least 300 children and young persons. Provide economic strengthening activities to 5 vulnerable households through their caregivers and 5 Youths through entrepreneurial training, vocation skill training, and business support. Provide educational support to 5 children for school retention and see 2 out-of-school children re-admitted back to school. Facilitate 4 quarterly meetings and capacity building for 15 community child protection groups for rapid response to Human Trafficking issues, seeing at least 10 cases handled or escalated to appropriate bodies by the groups. Provide 5 Survivors with emergency support for medicals, accommodation, feeding and other urgent household needs. Facilitate Family tracing and reunification activities for 2 returned Migrants Hold 4 counselling and group discussion sessions targeted at building resilience and self-development of returned Migrants, reaching at least 10 survivors of human trafficking Conduct 4-phased home visitation and business monitoring for 10 supported survivors of human trafficking.

	Link 10 Survivors to support groups and facilitate 1 mentorship session with 2 existing support groups Support 3 returnees/ survivors of human trafficking with business start-up and entrepreneurial development skills. Support 1 returned migrant to pursue basic and secondary education based on needs Refer 3 cases of Human Trafficking to NAPTIP, Edo State Migration Agency and community and local government child protection structures Commemorate the International Day of Prayer against human trafficking/ Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita
SGBV/CEFM	Conduct one stakeholder workshop to raise awareness on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), and commemorate the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to strengthen public awareness and advocacy. Conduct two referral coordination mechanism meetings to strengthen essential SGBV case tracking and management. Make at least 10 GBV referrals to the Edo State CID, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights Commission, Social Welfare Department, SARC and other relevant institutions to support survivors in accessing justice at low or no cost. Provide coaching and mentorship through four quarterly meetings for Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates, and facilitate 28 Adolescent Human Rights Clubs sessions to strengthen their capacity to detect, prevent, and report cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM). Provide logistical support to at least 10 GBV survivors to enable access to medical care, treatment, and medical reports. Provide psychosocial support and counselling services to at least 10 survivors of SGBV.
Legal/Correctional Centre Apostolate	Conduct 10 psychosocial support sessions for 380 Inmates Conduct 10 legal counselling sessions for 80 Inmates. Represent at least 2 Inmates with minor offences who do not have legal representation Conduct 10 spiritual counselling sessions for 95 Inmates Conduct 44 catechism classes and 1 Baptism session Facilitate the distribution of food items and welfare provision for 400 Inmates at the Ubiaja Custodial Centre during Easter and Christmas celebrations Conduct Christmas party with Inmates at the Ubiaja Custodial Centre
Micro Livelihood Economic Strengthening Credit, and	Conduct 70 Entrepreneurship and financial literacy training sessions for 70 groups in 25 communities with 500 persons reached Conduct trainings on effective loan management for 70 groups in 25 communities for 500 beneficiaries in 5 LGAs Build knowledge and skills of 10 farmer's groups on pest control, compost manuring, use of fertiliser, and farm management skills. Conduct a baseline survey and needs assessment in 10 farming communities to identify farming needs and guide the formation of farmers' groups for micro-credit support Form 15 Farmers and petty traders' groups. 85 farmers and petty traders groups provided with credit facility for household economic empowerment

Environment and Climate Change	Build the Capacity of 15 groups on the benefit of cooperative society Conduct community awareness and sensitization on climate change in 15 communities, reaching at least 300 persons, to improve knowledge on climate change, and environmental protection, including the commemoration of at least two international environmental days. Implement environmental education programmes in 10 schools to reach 50 students and in 5 faith-based institutions (churches) to reach at least 750 persons, integrating climate change and environmental protection education. Carry out tree planting and ecosystem restoration activities by planting at least 200 trees across 5 LGAs. Conduct waste management and environmental sanitation campaigns in 10 communities to reach 100 persons and in one market to reach 300 persons, promoting proper waste disposal and environmental hygiene. Undertake 5 advocacy and policy dialogue engagements with LGA Chairmen, Heads of Environmental Departments, and key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration, commitments, and actions on environmental protection and climate action. Build the capacity of 20 staff and 50 Parish JDPC members on climate action and environmental protection, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching.
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FINANCE

UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES									
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025									
S/N	PROJECT	GOAL	FUNDER	RECEIPTS (NGN)			PAYMENTS (NGN)	BALANCE (NGN)	BURN RATE (%)
				BALANCE B/F	GRANT RECEIVED	TOTAL			
1	Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme Project	A contribution is made to improving peaceful coexistence of the village community and promoting social justice and respect for human rights.	MISEREOR (KZE) @ 94.14% & Uromi JDPCI @ 5.86%	2,545,559.00	88,267,864.00	90,813,423.00	82,749,946.00	8,063,477.00	91.12
2	ACT against Child Trafficking in Nigeria (AaCTING) Project	Aims to significantly reduce the prevalence of child trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation in Edo and Delta State	ECPATFRANCE & LUXEMBOURG	29,807,155.02	69,042,000.00	98,849,155.02	82,637,899.47	16,211,255.55	83.60
3	Strengthening Public Awareness for Effective Performance of the Criminal Justice System in Edo State.	Enhanced Fairness and Efficiency in Edo State's Criminal Justice System to Build Trust and Safeguard Human Rights.	International IDEA with Funding from the European Union (EU)	1,932,955.32	0.00	1,932,955.32	1,882,955.32	50,000.00	97.41
4	Micro Credit Scheme	Provision of soft loans and entrepreneurial training to generate income and promote business self confidence for sustainable livelihood	UROMI JDPCI	97,695.00	2,639,100.00	2,731,795.00	2,484,529.00	247,266.00	90.95
			UROMI JDPCI	3,885,995.00	45,071,951.00	48,957,946.00	47,653,602.00	1,304,344.00	97.34
			UROMI JDPCI	151,545.00	3,420,334.00	3,571,879.00	3,438,344.00	133,535.00	96.26
			UROMI JDPCI	604,443.00	27,366,250.00	27,970,693.00	27,406,845.00	563,848.00	97.98
5	OTHER SOURCES	A just and developed society where people coexist in peace	Uromi Diocese and others	20,708,777.20	113,110,950.42	133,819,727.62	113,966,700.31	19,853,027.31	85.16
	TOTAL			59,729,124.54	348,918,449.42	408,647,573.96	362,220,821.10	46,426,752.86	88.64

FRIENDS

Individuals and Organizations wishing to identify with and support the work of Uromi JDPCI are urged to become “friends”. Friends of Uromi JDPCI make regular contributions, advice, support and encourage Uromi JDPCI. They receive some publications for enlightenment free of Charge.

You can assist the work of Uromi JDPCI in the following ways;

Through prayers

Bringing human rights cases and developmental issues to our attention

Giving support and financial contribution to the Commission through;

UBA Nigeria PLC

Account No: 2031144843

Acct name: Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives.

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