

**ANNUAL REPORT OF UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES,
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UROMI, FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2017**

SUBMITTED TO

**MOST REV. DR. DONATUS A. OGUN (OSA)
CATHOLIC BISHOP OF UROMI DIOCESE,
EDO STATE, NIGERIA.**

JANUARY, 2018

OUR VISION

A peaceful and developed society where there is peaceful co-existence and promotion of human rights and empowerment of the people for meaningful living.

OUR MISSION

To alleviate poverty and promote integral development through the motivation and empowerment of the less privileged / oppressed and challenge unjust structures that enhances injustice, hatred and backwardness in Nigeria.

OUR CORE VALUE

Integrity

Accountability

Transparency

Excellence

FOCUS GROUP

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

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote human right 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 the society.
4. To promote human right as enshrined in the UN Charter and Banjul declaration of Human Rights.
5. To form animated groups to participate in their own development for peaceful co-existence.
6. To co-operate with international agencies, government and NGOs for integral development.

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CORPORATE FACT SHEET

Name	Uromi Justice Development Peace & Caritas Initiatives.
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Aimioshor Ogun (OSA)
Authorized Representative & Director	Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
Corporate Registration No:	CAC/IT/No: 500042 & ED/MWASD/NGOR/200/04
Status	Catholic Non-Governmental, Non-Profit making, Humanitarian and Development Organization.
Motto	Hope for the Oppressed and Empowerment for All
Areas of operation	Integral Development, Human Rights, Democracy, and Good Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Prison Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit and Caritas, TB and HIV/AIDS care and support, HIV Counseling and testing, Livelihood improvement, Anti-Human trafficking and VC programming
Project steered	Conflict Management, Training of Electorate, Election Observation, Budget Monitoring, Community TB Care, HIV/AIDS Awareness Creation & Counseling, Micro-Credit Facilities, Rural Community Development Enlightenment Campaign, Prisoners' Welfare Services, Gender And Child Rights, Widowhood Association, Human Rights, Training Programmes for Police Officers and Youths, Women Development & Promotion through Micro Credit, Emergency Response, Legal Aid, VC Programming, Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance, Campaigns and Sensitizations Against Human Trafficking as well as Creating Alternatives to Human Trafficking through Vocational Skills Acquisition and Empowerment
Focus Group	The rural populace, the economically deprived, families, children, students, youths, women and widows living among the poorest of the poor in the society. Inmates in Prison and Ex-inmates, persons stigmatized with deadly diseases.

Physical Address	Inside Uromi Diocesan Chancery at Egbele, Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria.
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E-mail	uromiidpci@gmail.com
Telephone:	+2348053328588, +2348034930414, +2348071894292
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
Staff Strength	17
Number of Community Volunteers	55
Project Executed	14

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

With gratitude to God for His unending love, blessings, providence and guidance, the year 2017 ended on a positive note. We can confidently say that 2017 was a year of success and accomplishment. This we say because we could positively impact on the lives of people we serve our beneficiaries, in line with Uromi JDPCI goals and objectives.

We present our Annual Report to our readers as a telescope to view and comprehend our summarized activities aimed at making positive changes in the lives of beneficiaries'. Also we cannot fail to appreciate God who has found us worthy to see another year amidst the hardships, economic recession which began with 2017, horrifying night mare on road networks, poverty fueled by the increase in insecurity of lives and property most especially with the birth of a new terrorist group under the auspices of Fulani herdsman. All has resulted from Nigeria condonation of misdeed and these issues have worsened due to non-visibility of Government presence especially at Federal and Local Levels, which has manifested in poor economic management, nepotism, gross dereliction of duty and the widening inequality in the land and irregular migration/human trafficking.

In responding to some of these issues raised and within our jurisdiction, Uromi JDPCI in her pursuit for good governance strives to draw the attention of stakeholders to positively respond to these issues aforementioned. Several eminent stakeholders' fora were held both at the local government and Senatorial Districts levels. The stakeholders were drawn from political officers, legislators, politicians, Monarchs, Community leaders, Religious leaders and other works of life. It was resolved at the fora that there is need to promote active participation in governance for the good of the community and establish collaboration between the electorate and elected to find lasting solutions to the problem identified.

Furthermore, in addressing hunger and poverty, Uromi JDPCI distributed high quality of protein Maize (HQPM) to 531 household in Esan North East L.G.A. She also provided nutrition education on the content of adequate diet as well as food demonstration using local product which are readily available and affordable for both the rich and poor.

Uromi JDPCI focuses on a society where all children especially the girl child and most vulnerable have access to good quality education in a serene and conducive environment. This led to the provision of 23 teachers tables and chairs and 20 student desks to 2 community public schools in Obeidu and Ivue respectively in Esan North East L.G.A. The essence of this intervention was to have a high rate of school retention. Also as an alternative to reducing incidence of trafficking, 27 vulnerable adolescent/school dropouts were enrolled into vocational skills acquisition, while 9 vulnerable young adults who had previously acquired skills were empowered with startup kits for self sustainability and a means of livelihood.

Women and Men were not left out as Uromi JDPCI continuously assist petty women traders with soft loan (Micro Credit) While men under the Agric Promic get assistance for farmers to assist them in expanding their farm and farm produce.

Our work in Prison apostolate also recorded a great achievement at the Federal Prisons Ubiaja with the construction and equipping of a skills acquisition centre to empower inmate with useful skills while in prison custody in the area of tailoring, computer appreciation, Barbing and laundering.

We at Uromi JDPCI are sincerely grateful to our Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Donatus A Ogun, our Partners, Catholic Relief Services/USAID, Misereor Germany, Missio Germany, Swissland Netherland, Caritas Nigeria, GPI/PACKING Project, Board of Trustees, Priests and Religious of Uromi Diocese and all well meaning people of Esan Land who contributed to justice and Peace.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo

Executive Director
Uromi JDPCI

INTRODUCTION

Again Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), Catholic Diocese of Uromi, presents her annual report which covers the activities of the Organisation from January – December 2017. We are indeed grateful to God for the grace provided to conclude the year with utmost fulfillment.

Uromi Justice, Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives, Catholic Diocese of Uromi, was established in the year 2006, as a social arm of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi saddled with the responsibility to promote justice and peace, encourage meaningful development, provide succour for the less-privileged thereby upholding the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ. Uromi JDPCI does this by identifying and addressing the social ills of our time concretely in line with the life and teaching of Christ. Uromi JDPCI is posed to fulfill her mission to the target beneficiaries on the basis of rights and needs, and not based on religion, race or ethnicity.

Uromi JDPCI of Uromi Diocese is part of the national network of JDPC in 53 Catholic Dioceses in Nigeria. It's coordinated nationally by the Catholic Secretariat based in Abuja, Nigeria. The co-ordination is further broken down to Provincial, Diocesan and Parish levels.

Within the year, series of interventions geared towards positive impact and meaningful changes in the lives of the people, especially the down trodden and vulnerable households were carried out. This was to ensure that preferential option for the poor and the less privilege, which the Organization promotes, was better felt. Amidst challenges that occurred during the year, Uromi JDPCI was able to scale up her mission with useful collaboration and sustainable intervention.

In the reporting year 2018, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives continuously facilitated a Good governance intervention that is aimed at building the capacity of the populace for an all-inclusive governance process. The intention was to sensitize and strengthen the capacity of the people to participate actively in engaging political representatives for sustainable development in the society. This was made possible by way of trainings, mentorship and meetings to discuss matters on good governance as well as address issues concerning barrier to participatory democracy in Edo Central Senatorial District. Discussions centered on resolving challenges to community development, promote active participation in governance for the good of the community and achieving collaboration between the electorate and the representatives. Eminent stakeholders' fora were also conducted at the Local Government and Senatorial levels. The aim was to present pertinent community development issues arising from civic group engagement for discussion and solution. This was done with support from MISEREOR as part of the project on "Community Mobilization and Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance in Edo Central Senatorial District".

Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services SMILE project (Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and Household Economic Strengthening) with the aim to improve the Livelihood of Vulnerable Children and their Households across selected

communities in Esan North East Local Government Area of Edo State, engaged in the provision of need based services to the households in the eight community of our intervention. The purpose was to promote the overall wellbeing of the beneficiaries and their households. The services provided include Health, Nutrition, HES, Psychosocial support, Gender Norms Integration and Care & Support services as well as a pilot intervention on Adolescent Girls Club. This project was sponsored by Catholic Relief Services with support from USAID

Uromi JDPCI Micro-credit/PROMIC desk also received a boost in this year following the availability of Agric- Promic to support rural and semi urban farmers, through which Uromi JDPCI is creating livelihood opportunity and promoting economic empowerment in EsanLand. The PROMIC Scheme was made possible through partnership with Swiss hand – Open Hand Foundation.

Within the year Uromi JDPCI concluded activities on empowerment and skill acquisition as an alternative means to the prevention of human trafficking. An intervention sponsored by MISSIO as a proactive measure to prevention human trafficking in Edo Central Senatorial District. A partnership that has resulted in the empowerment of 52 persons and enrolment of 20 others into various skills and vocational training has continued to improve the livelihood of the beneficiaries as Uromi JDPCI strives to sustain the intervention through mentorship and supportive supervision visits.

Prison Apostolate in this year engaged in regular visit to the inmates in Federal Prison, Ubiaja to provide support and assist inmates to meet some of their basic needs such as health, legal counselling and provision of basic necessities for their welfare. The provision of a skill acquisition center among other welfare and legal support were done this year.

During the course of the year, the capacities of staff members of Uromi JDPCI were built in different areas, with support from MISEREOR and Catholic Relief Services. Uromi JDPCI was also represented by some of the staff in trainings, workshops and community of practice held by her partners.

We wish to appreciate our partners and Funders; Misereor, Swissland, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria, MISSIO- Germany, GPI, Volunteers, Prison Authority- Ubiaja, and the Monarchs in Esan Land for their support to our programmes.

Special thanks to the Bishop of Uromi Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus A. Ogun and the entire Diocese of Uromi for their support towards achieving the set objectives and goal of Uromi JDPCI. May God bless and reward you all abundantly----- AMEN!

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiative Good governance intervention is a process that is aimed at involving the populace in an all-inclusive government. This affirms that the people have a stand to checkmate the running of the government at the Local Level and participate actively in order to proffer solution that will promote sustainable development in the society.

It is in the light of this that Uromi JDPCI has worked relentlessly in ensuring that it accomplishes this aim through the building of the capacity of the 35 civic groups in communities across Edo Central Senatorial District (Esan land). This is made possible by way of trainings, mentorship and meetings to discuss issues on good governance as well as address issues concerning barrier to effective participatory democracy in Edo central senatorial district.

For the period under review a total of twenty quarterly meetings were held across the five Local Government Areas. Two eminent stakeholders meetings, two trainings and commemoration of human rights day were done in the year under review.

Quarterly Meeting of Civic Groups

Twenty quarterly meetings of civic groups were held across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The first, second, third and fourth quarterly meetings of civic groups in this project year (2017) were held across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The first quarter meeting was held in the month of March, 2017, the second quarter meeting was held in the month of June, 2017, the third was in the month of September while the fourth was held between November and December, 2017. These meetings took place at different locations within each LGA on different days. In Igueben, Esan South East, Esan West and Esan North East LGAs, the meetings were held at the palace hall of the Monarchs as usual while in Esan Central the meeting was held at St. Anselm Children hall because the community town hall assigned for meetings by the Monarch was under reconstruction. St. Anselm Children Hall was chosen because of its location at

central area which is easily accessible to all the communities.

The first quarterly meeting which was held in the month of March had an impressive attendance with robust discussions centered on resolving challenges to community development, promoting active participation in governance for the good of the community and achieving collaboration between the electorate and the representatives. The



The Director addressing members present at the meeting



The Director addressing members present at the meeting in Igueben



Executive Director addressing members at the meeting in Esan West

progresses made by the various communities were also reported. Some of the community needs identified during the needs assessment conducted by the communities were gradually being attended to by representatives at the State and Federal levels. The civic groups have exposed them to constructive engagement such that they can now engage representatives beyond the local level. Some communities reported how they were able to approach State and Federal representative to get things done in their communities. Among the communities were Oria where two boreholes have sunk, Ekpoma where palliative measures were done on the road, Ekpon where a customary court is being constructed, Usenu where a Senator provided the community with a Transformer to resolve electricity problem, Ebelle where the Speaker repaired the bad portion of their roads among others.



Very Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo addressing Ubiaja civic groups members

The Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo appreciated their effort and emphasized the importance of selfless service to the community and reminded them that it was time to hold all political representatives accountable to their campaign promises

and ask them what bills they are proposing to the house and how these bills would affect the community positively. He acknowledged the fact that there was hunger on the land however the people were

admonished not to use that as an opportunity to sell themselves or mortgage their future for perishable things.



Group photograph of members after quarterly meeting in Igueben LGA

He added that the result of our not complaining has been the cause of the underdevelopment that is being witnessed in our various communities. He stated that all over the world, pressure groups are present (set up) to checkmate the excesses and activities of those in government. He also said that he wanted to reawaken the consciousness of every participant and concluded by urging all to be good ambassadors in their various communities and be hard working because, it pays.

In the second quarterly meeting held in the month of June, emphasis was on meeting with the representatives at the State House of Assembly to dialogue a way forward in resolving some of the challenges in the communities. Some of such challenges were Fulani herdsmen attack on farmers, bad roads and poor electricity supply couple with inflated bills given to households by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company. Member set up a delegation to liaise

with the Legislators and determine convenient dates for the meetings. Committee was also to identify other stakeholders to be invited to the eminent stakeholders meeting.



Group photograph of members after quarterly meeting in Esan West LGA

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI in his remark at the various meetings, appreciating all for coming to the meeting and reminded them all that they were not messengers but think-tanks for the community and a mediator between the community and their political representatives and also encouraged them to continuously work relentlessly for the good of their various communities. He admonished them to share ideas that will work or was working for them in the various communities with other groups so as to get the desired goals in our societies.

On the issue of herdsmen and their cows, he encouraged all to be vigilant and be careful of the type of agreement reached with them as the society belongs to all of us. He also asked the committee set up for the proposed Eminent Stakeholders meeting with their Edo State house of Assembly Representative to speed up effort so as to meet with the set target.

Chief Ozah who represented HRH, Anselm Eidenojie 11 the Monarch of Uromi Kingdom, appreciated the Director, JDPCI and the civic group for the good work they were doing in his community particularly for the recent one where the organization distributed start-up kits to vulnerable persons from his kingdom in order to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in person, he said the monarch was very pleased and wish to attend one of the organizations meeting soon. He further advised all participants to feel free to report any case that has to do with peace and



Group photograph of members after quarterly meeting in Esan South East LGA

stability of his kingdom to him, that the 14 communities that makes up Uromi kingdom are his subjects and he is always ready to entertain

their advice.



Group photograph of members after quarterly meeting in Esan North East LGA

The third quarterly meeting which was held in the month of September, 2017 was well attended with 99% of members in attendance. The major issues discussed were on how to find solution to



A section of members during quarterly meeting at Uromi Esan North East LGA

incessant herdsmen attack/invasion of farm lands, curb irregular migration/human trafficking, curtail the excesses of Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) which has to do with estimated billing which result in over billing of consumers, resolving challenges to community development through functional Local Government system,



Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo addressing members at quarterly meeting in Igueben LGA

promoting active participation in governance for the good of the community and achieving collaboration between the electorate and the representatives. The progress made by the various communities as well as their effort to organize eminent stakeholders forum in the various Local Government Areas were also reported.

The civic groups who commended the project team for the technical support given to them noted that they have been exposed to constructive engagement such that they can now engage mobilize community support for community development as well as engage representatives beyond the local level. Some communities reported how they were able to approach State and Federal representative to get things done in their communities. Among the communities were Ewu where electric poles have been provided to the community by Representative at the House of representatives and erosion project is also being implemented to prevent the effects of erosion gully in the community, Eror/Arue community where a three block of class room and toilet were



A section of members during quarterly meeting at Esan Central LGA

built in Arue primary school by their representative at the State level, Ivue community where an illustrious son is building a town hall for



Group Photograph with members after quarterly meeting at Esan Central LGA

the community through civic group intervention,

Emiala community where a traffic Officer has been assigned to manage the traffic in front of their primary school through civic group intervention, Ujoelen community where speed breakers have been constructed to prevent accident which was hitherto common on the road, the clearing

of drainage by Local Government Council in Ukpenu community, the construction of side drain to control erosion in Ewohimi community.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo appreciated all the groups in attendance for their zeal and efforts, he further expressed his heart felt gratitude to the Royal Highnesses for the role they played during the eminent stakeholders forum. He thereafter enjoined all to continue to work hard to promote good governance and community development in their various communities.

The fourth quarterly meetings were held in the months of November and December, 2017 emphasis was on identifying community challenges that can be turned into improvement plan for the year 2018. Some of such challenges were dilapidated school building, lack of teachers in public schools, lack of students' desk, Fulani herdsmen attack on farmers, bad roads and poor electricity supply couple with inflated bills given to households by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company. The various groups reported their efforts at curbing these challenges. Some resulted to soliciting support from their illustrious sons and daughters to assist with the provision of desk and renovation of the school building as well as the employment of community teachers to complement the efforts of the few ones in the public schools. This however did not rule out their plans to keep pushing the government to carry out their responsibility to the affected schools. The members were again advised to put pressure on their representatives to



A section of members during quarterly meeting at Esan South East LGA

make laws to restrict the movement of cattle by land and prevent them from going round the communities with dangerous weapons such as cutlasses, daggers and others as was recommended at the



Group Photograph with members after quarterly meeting at Esan South East LGA

EMINENT STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

In order to create synergy and bridge the gap between community members and their elected representatives and also to seek collaboration and cooperation from relevant community stakeholders, Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with civic



Security agent addressing participants during eminent stakeholders' forum

groups organized two eminent stakeholders fora. The first one was conducted across the five LGAs within Edo



Uromi JDPCI Director given opening remark

Central Senatorial District, while the second one was done at the Senatorial level. Stakeholders involved were: Traditional, Religious and Community leaders, elected representatives, at the state and Federal levels, Security Agencies, Executives of Transporters Unions (Okada Riders, Vehicle and Tipper drivers), Leaders and members of Market Women Associations including youth leaders and Political ward leaders. This was needed towards proffering solution to some of the challenges faced in most communities in Esan land.

Issues addressed in the various forums were “Social Transformation and Good Governance, Local government functions, human trafficking, Drug and substance abuse and Finding Amicable Solution to the Incessant Herdsmen Attack across Communities in Esan Land”. These issues addressed were extracted from the community problems and challenges expressed by the



High Chief Iyasele, addressing participants at Esan South East

various civic groups during monthly and quarterly meetings.



Uromi JDPCI Director marking a remark during eminent stakeholders' forum

At the various fora, the Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo delivered a welcome address where he stated that the fundamental and primordial objective of the good governance intervention was to bridge the existing gap between elected officers and the electorate. He said that there was the need to examine the role of government in promoting peace, solidarity, human rights and responsibilities in our communities and the need to consider the place of human dignity, dignity of work and the rights of workers in our society. He also said the dialogue meeting was discuss issues around social transformation, good governance, herdsmen invasion and the ugly trend of human trafficking in Esan land and also to consider an amicable solution to these problems among all the stakeholders present and to achieved meaningful development.

He emphasized on the need of government at all levels to have a positive moral function/obligation towards her populace. He ended his address by saying, that if elected political office holders are responsible in their conduct/actions and accountable to the electorates through organization of town hall meetings as platforms for interactions, it will help the people become more informed, involved in government processes and promote good



Senator Clifford Ordia addressing stakeholders

communication and enable the people to also express their challenges and present their input for consideration by the government.

Immediately after the address, the dialogue session was in full swing as all stakeholders bared their minds on the causes and way forward for the challenges faced in various communities/Local Government. The challenges of social transformation (Bad road, Functions of Local Government Council and BEDC Issues), good governance, herdsmen invasion/attack and the ugly trend of human trafficking in Esan land were the major issues discussed. After which resolutions were reached in each LGA and communiqué was issued in Esan West LGA where the State House of Assembly member Hon Monday Ehighalua was present

The Senatorial Eminent Stakeholders' forum held on the 22nd December, 2017 brought together 10 notable traditional rulers from different communities in Esan land to proffer common and lasting solution pertinent issues and challenges confronting the Esan people. Among other stakeholders present were: The convener, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, the Senator representing Edo Central Senatorial District, Engr. Clifford Odia (FNSE), Member representing Esan Central, Esan West and Igueben LGAs constituency in the Federal House of Representatives, Hon Joe Edionwe, Bishop of the Church of God of Prophecy, Bishop Anthony Okosun, other political, community and religious leader as well as members of the civic groups across the 35 communities. The issues discussed which were emanated from the previous stakeholders forum held at the LGA level were narrowed down to human trafficking/irregular migration and the inglorious activities of the Fulani Herdsmen in Esan land. The Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo who initiated/facilitated the process presented a summary of the key resolutions reached on the aforementioned issues during the eminent stakeholders' forum conducted across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The resolutions were adopted while the stakeholders were encouraged to play their part to ensure it actualization. The ones that requires policies and laws were referred to the Senator and House of Representative member for necessary assistance.



Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun giving the opening remark



The Director Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo giving a summary of resolutions

TRAINING ON SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The third phases of the Social Transformation training was held on the 25th-27th of May, 2017 with a total of 44 persons made up of 35 facilitators, 5 supervisors and 4 project staff in attendance. The training which was facilitated by Tunde Lawal was aimed at equipping the



A section of members during group work

participants with the knowledge of how to combat the 'Injustice' happening or faced in their community and what can be done as civic group in community to



Another section of members during a brain storming work

eliminate Injustice. The training began with an interactive session on resilience and later proceeded to presentation of activities implemented using the knowledge gained from the previous training. This was followed by a group work on how to handle challenges arising from the communities using real life experiences.

The facilitator made further presentation on injustice and asked the participants to in their groups discuss some possible ways to respond to injustice in the community. After the groups have made their presentation he presented a book containing the summarized version of the Law Prohibiting the ill treatment of Widows in Edo State. He also sensitized the participants on other laws that they needed to know as community worker to tackle injustice in their communities. The participants expressed appreciation for the knowledge gained and appeal to Uromi JDPCI to make copies of the laws available to them to promote their civic engagement in the communities.

The fourth and last phase of the Social Transformation training was held on the 9th-11th of November, 2017 with a total of 44 persons made up of 35 facilitators, 5 supervisors and 4 project staff in attendance. The training which was facilitated by Cosmas Olaniyan and Tunde Lawal was aimed at equipping the participants with the knowledge of how to be transformed so that they can transform others.



A group of participants during group work

During the opening remark the Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo noted that for one to transform others, he/she needs to first be transformed inwardly because one cannot give what he/she does not have. He said the system is faulty and that they (civic groups) have been called upon to correct that anomaly and that they should do their utmost best to cause a change in their communities. He added that the communities make

up the nation and that if the communities are in order, the nation will be better off. He concluded by stating that the social transformation training is meant to transform them individually to be able to transform their various communities.

The facilitators who took the participants through several topical issues divided them into five groups to deliberate on ways of improving the government impact on the people and also developing a sustainability plan for the civic group and their communities. The group then re-converged after 20 minutes and all the groups made presentations of their deliberations to the whole group. Each point was discussed and analyzed by the entire groups.



A section of participants at the training

He thereafter discussed the social factors affecting the way of life of the people and listed life style, attitudes and beliefs, education, social mobility, ethics and religion, historical issues and cross cultural communication as major factors affecting the way of life people. He explained how each social factor has affected the people negatively and influenced their culture and emphasized the need to trace the roots and make a change that will benefit the common good of the whole population. The groups were again given some time to deliberate on the highlighted factors and to add their own perceived factors where necessary. This was done by the groups and each group gave their opinions and the facilitator analyzed the issues raised by the various groups. The importance of awareness creation was emphasized while it was stated that the goal of awareness creation is to know and understand a thing adequately for acceptable decision and effective course of action to be taken. The training ended with the participants expressing their appreciation for the knowledge gained, skill built and the impact that the training has created in them.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

December 10th every year is commemorated the world over as Human Rights Day. Human rights were first expressed concretely in the **1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. The day is set aside to remember the indelible right of every human being on earth and to seek ways to educate the peoples of the world on the need for these rights to be upheld. These rights include; a right to live, education, food, shelter e.t.c. As part of its activity of programs, the Uromi JDPCI organized a one day public lecture to celebrate the 2017 edition of the Human Rights Day.

in welcome address delivered by the Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo, he spoke on the need for everyone present to make effort at all times to know their right and to make sure such rights are not denied them. He linked the lack of knowledge of fundamental basic rights to the recent trend of migrants (especially from Nigeria) in Libya been sold to slavery and stripped of their basic rights. He decried the sufferings and torture these individuals go through in the hands of smugglers and sometimes the Libyan authorities all the quest to seek a better live. The Uromi

JDPCI Director also emphasized the need for participants at the program to prepare themselves to be ambassadors of human right and take the message that will be presented to them through the paper presentation on ‘Human Rights abuses in the face of trafficking in persons’.



A cross section of participants with the resource person

The public lecture which was presented by a human trafficking expert and a staff of the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), Barrister Onome Oriakhi was centered on **‘Human Rights abuses in the face of trafficking in persons’**. She began by stating that promoting human rights and democratic governance are core elements of any developed society and that Standing up for human rights and democracy is not just a moral imperative but is in the best interests of making the world more stable and secure. She defined human rights as the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death

and stated that they apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life. They can never be taken away, although they can sometimes be restricted if it endangers the life of others.

The resource person defined trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. She further explained the ‘acts of



Barr. Onome giving the public lecture to participants

trafficking’: Recruitment, Transportation, Transfer, Harbouring or receipt, ‘means of trafficking’: Threat or use of force, Coercion, abduction, fraud and deception, abuse of

power or of a position of vulnerability, giving or receiving of payment or benefit. Purpose of Trafficking: Sexual, labour, organ, slavery. She also gave the features of trafficking to be: women, men and children are victims of trafficking; Trafficking may occur within national and international borders, trafficking and migrant smuggling differs.

In the course of mentioning this, she relied out some recent statistics of ten thousand Nigerians that have died crossing the desert and Mediterranean Sea between January to May of 2017 (Maroof Giwa of NIS in the Punch May 20, 2017). On the flip side, she quoted the NAPTIP statistics; so far has 334



Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun addressing the gathering

convictions with several others in court (NAPTIP DG Joy Donli in an interview on NTA News on 8/12/2017).

As for every action there are consequences that follow. The same goes for trafficking in persons. Barrister Onome Oriakhi gave a brief summary of the consequences of human trafficking to include: Health implications, Psychological Trauma, Memory loss, Economic loss to self and Nation, Loss of life. All these consequences according to her also have negative effects which include: Change in values, Further exploitation of the Girl/Boy child, Negative publicity of the state, Refusal of parents to invest in their children's education, Many children no longer aspire for academic excellence but desire to migrate and they often end up being trafficked, dying en-route in the long trek to Europe and at the Mediterranean.

HEALTH

The health department recorded significant impact in the lives of beneficiaries in the year under review especially with regards to care and support as most of the beneficiaries are now able to cater for their health needs. This is mostly attributed to the health information they have received from Uromi JDPCI which has usurped their ignorance and has enabled them to make informed decisions concerning their health status.

Uromi JDPCI in this reporting year also ensured that HIV positive beneficiaries become more independent with regards to providing for their health needs especially in the area of hospital appointments and drug re-fill. They have been made to carry out these functions themselves to ensure sustainability when the project phases out.

Uromi JDPCI also continued to ensure that HIV screening was conducted for care givers and children with unknown HIV status and was able to screen all enrolled children for HIV and ascertain their HIV status. There was also HIV screening for children at risk of contracting the virus ; this set of children were gotten from the administration of the HIV risk assessment form which determined if a child is at risk or not. Tuberculosis screening, support group meetings and community dialogue meetings to reduce stigma and discrimination were also done in this reporting period and significant successes were recorded.

The Commission's target was to ensure that all SMILE beneficiaries maintained a good health status through provision of health related services and this was achieved in this reporting period as all health challenges from the beneficiaries were addressed and their health restored.

HIV TESTING SERVICE

Uromi JDPCI in this reporting period focused on reaching all SMILE beneficiaries with HIV testing service. The target groups were those with unknown HIV status and those children at risk



The Care and Support Officer conducting HIV counseling prior to screening for Caregivers

of contracting HIV. The Commission was able to reach all children with unknown HIV status with HIV testing service and by so doing all SMILE vulnerable children enrolled by the Commission now know their status; the focus on children now stems from the pediatric HIV screening checklist which was administered to the children as those at risk of contracting HIV are now being screened by the Commission.

A total of 58 outreaches were conducted in this reporting period and the total number of beneficiaries reached was 1,731 out of which caregivers were 585 (445 female; 140 male) and children were 1,136 (668 female; 468 male). These outreaches saw 7 new HIV positive cases discovered and have all been retained in care.

The total numbers of persons reached were those with unknown HIV status and also those at risk from the administration of the pediatric HIV risk assessment form. Test kits for these exercise was gotten from St. Camillus Hospital who has been the Commission's major source of test kits.

REFERRALS AND LINKAGES

Uromi JDPCI in this reporting period ensured that every HIV positive beneficiary that was discovered through HIV outreaches were referred and retained in care. Home visits were also conducted for previous beneficiaries with the aim of enforcing drug adherence.

In this reporting period, two HIV positive beneficiaries (mother and child) migrated from the community and brought the number of HIV positive beneficiaries to 18 made up of 11 caregivers (10 female; 1 male) and 7 children (6 female; 1 male). 16 of these beneficiaries have been retained in care while 2 of them (Father and child) are yet to be retained in care and this is due to the fact that the man who is the caregiver is still in denial concerning his HIV status and that of his child. The Commission still pays regular visits to the household and it is hoped that over time, the caregiver will succumb to the persuasion of the Commission to initiate ARV therapy for himself and that of his child.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

This reporting year saw Uromi JDPCI conduct 26 community dialogue meetings to reduce stigma and discrimination in the 8 communities where the Commission is currently carrying out



The Care and Support Officer addressing some stake holders during a community dialogue meeting

its intervention. In attendance were the community stakeholders and community heads and issues discussed centered on more involvement of the community stakeholders towards ensuring that HIV related stigma is reduced in the community and also to make the community stakeholders more responsible to the health needs of their community members especially the people living with HIV/AIDS. In all the meetings attended the community stake

holders promised to be more responsive to the plight of those

living with HIV in the community and also conduct HIV educational awareness campaign using the health workers in the health centers stationed in the communities. They also implored Uromi JDPCI to guide them towards ensuring that they continue to impact their community members positively. The Commission was able to reach 407 persons (299 male; 108 female) in this reporting period.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Uromi JDPCI in this reporting period conducted series of support group meetings aimed at reaching SMILE beneficiaries living with HIV. The Commission worked with St Camillus Hospital where most SMILE beneficiaries receive treatment and lectured them on HIV with emphasis of living healthily through adequate drug intake, diet and keeping their appointment date with the Doctor. This activity was able to reach 18 beneficiaries (11 care givers, 7 children) living with HIV.



Care and Support Officer facilitating a Support group meeting in St. Camillus Hospital.

TB SCREENING

The commission continued its bid to ensure that all beneficiaries in the project were screened for tuberculosis in this reporting year by embarking on TB screening using the TB screening checklist. The commission was able to reach 1135 persons made up of 1011 children (430 male; 581 female) and 124 care givers (54 male; 70 female) in this reporting period and none of them was found to be presumptive to tuberculosis.

WORLD AIDS DAY

As part of activities to mark this year's world AIDS day, Uromi JDPCI conducted series of activities to portray the theme "My health, My right". Uromi JDPCI intensified efforts to ensure that beneficiaries with unknown HIV status were reached and that children at risk were screened and their status ascertained. The Commission conducted both house to house testing and outreaches to ensure that the beneficiaries were reached with HTS. 182 beneficiaries made up of 134 children (45 male; 89 female) and 48 caregivers were reached with information relating to HIV and were also screened for HIV. None of the beneficiaries tested positive to HIV.

NUTRITION EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING

The implementation and coordination of effective intervention and programmes to eliminate or reduce malnutrition which is recognized as a global problem affecting children and households requires an urgent intervention. This is because malnutrition weakens the immune system and retard growth especially for children within the ages of 0-24months (the first 1000 days) of a child's life which is very critical to the child's survival and development. As a result Uromi

JDPCI in collaboration with the Catholic Relief Services SMILE project was able to reach Vulnerable children and their households in the 8 project communities (Egbele, Ivue, Obeidu, Eror, Onewa, Obiyon, Ebhoiyi and Efandion) in Esan North East Local Government Area of Edo State with nutrition activities as stated below :

1. NUTRITION EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING:

Nutrition education as a process whereby people learn about the essentials of good nutrition and then take necessary steps to improve the quality of their diets and thus their nutritional wellbeing. This was done during growth

monitoring in our monthly home visit, mother to mother support group meetings, food demonstrations, breast feeding week and global hand washing day. Caregivers were enlightened on the importance of locally available food in the environment and were made to know the importance of food hygiene in order to prevent food-borne disease which can lead to diarrhea-being one of the known contributors to infant mortality. A cumulative total of 1690 caregivers out of which 232 males and 1408 females were served



Counselling session with caregivers



Counselling session with caregivers

2. GROWTH MONITORING AND PROMOTION

Growth Monitoring and Promotion is the regular weighing and plotting of a child's weight on the growth chart to ascertain if the child is gaining enough weight or not and using the information generated to take necessary steps when counseling caregivers. During the



A volunteer taking the MUAC of a child

assessment, the weight, height and MUAC of the children were taken and they were found to be growing well except one who was referred to health facility and later transferred to Irrua Specialist



A child being weighed on the scale

Teaching Hospital when the case became complicated from where he was treated and discharged. A total of 5,215 VC's were reached with growth monitoring – 2658 males and 2557 females.

2017 BREASTFEEDING WEEK

Uromi JDPCI joined the rest of the world to mark the world breast feeding week which was held on 2nd, 3rd and 4th August, 2017 where it was emphasized that breast milk is the only single complete food that provides all the nutrients and water that a new-born baby requires for proper growth and development from the time the baby is born until he or she is six months old. The information was given to caregivers in three chosen communities which were Obeidu, Obiyon and Eror during this year's World breastfeeding week with the theme—Sustaining breastfeeding together . The discussion during the event was centered around the following headings using IYCF counseling card:



Nutrition Officer presenting seminar during the breast feeding week

- Exclusive breastfeeding and its importance
- Complementary feeding and its importance
- Signs of good attachment to breast
- Signs of effective sucking

- Signs of hunger

Interactive sessions were held in the three communities on the importance of breastfeeding to the family and community and how to sustain it. A total of 162 persons made up of 5 males and 157 females were present across the three communities.

COOKING DEMONSTRATION IN COMMUNITIES

The importance of nutritious food in maximizing health outcomes cannot be downplayed; hence, cooking demonstrations were carried out in the 8 communities .The essence of the demonstration was to educate caregivers on the importance of safe and good quality food in the community and to promote its consumption. The choice of food demonstrated was in agreement with caregivers in the various communities using farm produce which are highly nutritious as summarized below:

S/N	COMMUNITY	FOOD DEMONSTRATED
1	Egbele	Emieki,Soya milk
2	Ivue	Emieki,Vegetable soup
3	Eror	Emieki,Tom brown



Nutrition Officer presenting seminar during the breast feeding week



Nutrition Officer presenting seminar during the breast feeding week

4	Obeidu	Emieki,Tom brown
5	Efandion	Emieki,Soya milk
6	Obiyon	Emieki,Yam porridge
7	Ebhoiyi	Emieki,Soya milk
8	Onewa	Emieki,Soya milk

The above listed foods ingredients were cultivated and harvested in the communities and were provided by the caregivers for demonstrations. At the end of the exercise in the communities, most foods such as soya bean and its products which were



Food demonstrations in communities

not well known for its nutritional value was promoted as caregivers were enlightened on the benefits. Additionally, emieki which



Food demonstrations in communities

was a common household food was prepared to supply other vitamins because of the addition of tomatoes and crayfish. A total of 260 caregivers (1male and 259 females) were served.

COMMUNITY INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING

Promoting and supporting good IYCF practices is a key to preventing malnutrition especially among children between 0 to 2 years old. hence, the group is made was made up of lactating mothers, pregnant women, elderly mothers, young girls and men who came together in a particular community to discuss best practices about their children and how to improve infants nutrition as well as support young mothers to effectively breastfeed their children. The following topics were discussed, many of which are from the key message booklet for Community Infant and Young Child Feeding Counselling Package:

- Exclusive breastfeeding
- Good hygiene practices
- Nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Food variety
- Feeding the sick child less than 6 months of age
- Feeding the sick child more than 6 months of age
- Dangers of mixed feeding



Facilitators engaging caregivers during monthly IYCF meeting

- Complementary feeding
- Good attachment
- Breastfeeding positions
- Breastfeeding and working mothers
- Importance of early initiation of breastfeeding-Colostrum
- Breastfeeding on demand, both day and night.



Facilitators engaging caregivers during monthly IYCF meeting



Facilitators engaging caregivers during monthly IYCF meeting

4,303 caregivers (403 males and 3,900 females) were reached in the 30 functional groups in the 8 project communities.

GLOBAL HAND WASH DAY

By way of commemorating this year's global hand washing day with the theme "Our hands, Our Future, Uromi JDPCI organized a seminar on hand washing for Staff and pupils in Efandion Primary School and Vulnerable Children in Obeidu community of Esan North East Local Government Area of Edo State. This activity was carried out to promote hand wash among beneficiaries in other to prevent diseases including diarrhea and other illnesses especially in children which comes from germs through food and water. Frequent and proper hand washing with soap or ash and clean water kill and remove germs from the hands. The following **critical moments** of hand washing were explained to the participants:

- Before eating
- After going to toilet
- After washing/cleaning the baby's bottom
- Before preparing food
- Before feeding a child



A child demonstrating hand washing to others



The Nutrition Officer making a remark to the participants

Furthermore, the pupils enthusiastically participated in the discussion, agreeing to the fact that ash can be use in place of soap to wash hands and the seminar ended after demonstration of hand washing which was participatory. At the end of the seminar, both the 12 teachers and 106 vulnerable children reached were happy and promised to carry the information to others.



The Nutrition Officer taking some notes

Uromi JDPCI SMILE donated two WASH buckets, a cotton of bar soap and 2 dozens of handkerchief to the school as a way of promoting hand washing.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT/EMPOWERMENT

SUSTAINABLE MECHANISM FOR IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD AND HOUSEHOLD EMPOWERMENT (SMILE PROJECT)

Uromi JDPCI started the implementation of activities for the year 2017 with high spirit and renewed enthusiasm as such efforts were directed at conducting activities that were geared towards the provision of quality need based services to enrolled vulnerable children (VC) and their households. Some of these services were rendered during home visits to households, while some others such as kids' club and care givers' forum were held in open places within the communities. This year also saw the commencement and conclusion of the Adolescent Girls pilot intervention in Obiyon community with the next phase bid to commence in January, 2018. Uromi JDPCI joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 16 days of activism against GBV.

The Household Economic Strengthening department also conducted series of activities aimed at improving the economic wellbeing of the beneficiaries. Among which were; enrolment of beneficiaries into vocational skills, provision of startup kits for those that have completed their training as well as provision of agricultural inputs to beneficiaries.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Uromi JDPCI continued to respond to the need of the vulnerable household within communities in Esan north east through SMILE project which is ``sustainable mechanism for improving livelihood and household empowerment'' by providing them with psychosocial support through kids club and caregiver forum, as well as strengthening community quality improvement team to promote sustainability of the intervention. Protection activities were also conducted, part of which were; commemoration of 16 days of activism against gender based violence gender norms integration which was intended to create gender awareness and Adolescent Girls Pilot intervention. These activities were conducted in eight communities (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Onewa, Efandion, Ebhoiyi, and Obiyon) in Esan North East Local Government Area. This year's activities were conducted with the aim of impacting positively on the wellbeing of the vulnerable children and their household. Twelve topics drawn from the kids club manual were taught while parenting responsibility job aid and gender norms were discussed among caregiver and the older children.

KIDS CLUB

The kids/youth club activity this reporting year was centered on building personality skills of the children through different topics drawn from the kids club manual. The topics that was taught to the children were to help them understand their feelings, know how to deal with anger and also their right as children. The children were engaged on role play that helped to sharpen their understanding of the topics. Some of the children within the eight communities participated actively during each club gathering as each topic for the month was a continuation of the previous topic. For instance one of the topic which was ``our right`` was followed by ``how to protect our reproductive right``. Each of the topic was to enable this children to understand how important they are to the society and to know the extent to which the government have helped in protecting their right and how they can protect further. The activities were also to help the children build confidence as well as personal skill to handle issues concerning them and to learn



kids' club in Efandion community

from others the
important of
having self-
esteem. A total
of 331



Kids' club in Obeidu community

Kids/youth club

were conducted

within the year and 10,200 children made up of 4705 male and 5495 female were in attendance.

ADOLESCENT GIRLS PILOT INTERVENTION

The Adolescent Pilot was made up of two cohorts with 60 participants who are all girls between the ages of 10 -17years. The adolescent girl's pilot 1 was made up of girls between ages 10-13 while the pilot 2 was made up of girls from 14-17 years. The kick off meeting which began in the month of May 2017 with 60 participants from both groups had their first two sessions within the month. The 1st meeting held in both groups was on the topic "getting to know each other," where all participants including the supervisor and the mentors in charge of the groups introduced themselves and also told the main purpose of the adolescent meeting, which was to make them know their right and responsibilities, how to protect it and also to make them a better

woman in the future. The girls in both pilot expressed joy and appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the pilot project. The 7 months pilot project was concluded in the month of November 2017 with graduation of participant who took their pledges in respect to what they were taught through the programme.

CAREGIVER FORUM

The caregiver forum as an interesting part of the activities conducted within this year by Uromi JDPCI, to see to the enlightenment of the vulnerable children's caregivers /guardians. This forum, provided avenue for Uromi JDPCI to discuss the affairs of the children and also provide educative support to the caregiver through the discussion on various issues drawn from the parenting job aids and manual as



Caregiver forum in Iruele Obiyon



Caregiver forum in Eror



Caregiver forum in Obeidu

well as everyday life experiences of the caregivers. 12 topical issues were discussed from the parenting manual and these topics were discussed expand the knowledge of the caregiver and improve their parenting skills for the good of their children. A total of 248 caregiver fora were conducted with 4278 persons made up of 64 male and 4278 Female in attendance.

Community improvement team

To foster the sustainability of the SMILE project, Uromi JDPCI saw the need to organize the Community Quality Improvement Team (CQIT) in the different communities where the SMILE project is being implemented. This year, 16 CQIT meetings were held in six communities. These meeting were held to intimate the team members on the work done by Uromi JDPCI in their communities through the volunteers. The platform was also used to inform them of some of the challenges in their communities as it concerns vulnerable children and what they can possibly do

to resolve the issues.. A total of 16 CQIT meetings were held with one hundred and eighty seven 187 persons in attendance.

Gender norms integration

Uromi JDPCI in this year continued with the integration of gender norms integration with aim to promote gender awareness especially for beneficiaries that were not reached previous year. The youth club and caregiver forum were used as plat form for the integration. This program saw the need for all the beneficiaries under the SMILE project to be involved in taking gender into consideration and for them to be aware of gender issues as it affects an individual and community at large. It also



Gender Norm session during caregivers forum

provided an avenue to address harmful cultural practices that affect them as a result of their sex. Gender norm specifically address issues of inequality and inhuman activity melted to certain persons as a result of their sex. This program was carried out for five month from March to July. Two sessions were held each month which was to complete the 10 sessions as specified by the gender norms curriculum. A total of 571 persons made up of 128 male and 443 female completed the sessions.

SPECIAL EVENT: In the month of May, Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with the Catholic Diocese carried out a special event to celebrate Children's day in lumen Christi international High School Hall. Uromi JDPCI through this event reached 314 (128 male and 186 female) children with psychosocial support, Nutrition Counseling, Health education and HIV sensitization. The children were organized by the volunteer in their community. Efandion



A community volunteer receiving certificate from the Director

community presented a short drama on the dangers of human trafficking while the Egbele community presented the welcome song. Quiz competition was conducted with questions drawn from all service domains in the SMILE project. All the children who attended



the ceremony participated in dancing competition.

On the 15th of December, 2017 Uromi JDPCI celebrated outstanding community volunteers of the SMILE project sponsored by CRS/USAID. It was an award giving day for three outstanding volunteers (Rachel Obokhalufoh from Efandion, Angela Oriabure from Obeidu and Endurance Imumhonlen from Awo-Obiyon) for their commitment and dedication to given task. Also certificate of community volunteer was given to 42 volunteers of the SMILE project in Esan North East Local Government Area for making great impact in their communities. The volunteers were further advised to keep the interest of the community to heart and even at the expiration of the project, and report cases that need the attention of Uromi JDPCI to the Office.

MALE FORUM ORGANIZED TO MARK 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The sixteen days of activism against gender based violence was carried out in Obiyon community. This program was to sensitize the entire community especially the male folk on the ills of gender based violence and its implications in the life of the



A participant making a contribution

victims. Also different issues were discussed during the process such as female genital mutilation, early marriage and stigma reduction. The male



A participant making a contribution

forum was used to pass this message to communities as most of the cultural practices that gives man the upper hand in the family and community at large (Masculinity norm) was the primary sources of GBV. A total of 52 male were in attendance

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING

Household economic strengthening (HES) is one of the core service areas in the sustainable mechanism for improving livelihood and household empowerment (SMILE) project. The goal of HES is to improve household income, through value chain analysis, skill acquisition and

empowerment, linkage to micro credit scheme as well as other livelihood opportunity. Monitoring visits to SILC groups, supervision of share-out meetings in eight (8) groups, registration of 27 vulnerable children in skill acquisition program, and provision of start-up kits to 9 beneficiaries were some of the activities implemented in this year. Among other activities conducted were the distribution of Agricultural inputs (High Quality Protein Maize (HQPM) to 531 households and provision of cash transfer to 15 households across eight communities in Esan North East Local Government Area as well distribution of clothes to some vulnerable households in selected communities within the same LGA.

LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITY:

In a bid to improve the livelihood of care givers under the SMILE project, Uromi JDPCI through the SMILE project sponsored by USAID in collaboration with CRS distributed improved High quality protein maize (HQPM) to caregivers who were registered in the SMILE project. The



Distribution of HQPM in Eror community

distribution was done across eight communities namely, Egbele, Onewa, Awo Obiyon, Efandion, Idigun Obiyon, Ivue, Eror and Obeidu in Uromi Esan North East LGA. A sharing formula of 1kg bag of HQPM was given per household in each of the communities visited. This process was supported by

Uromi JDPC SMILE project team and community volunteers across the communities visited. The caregivers in turn thanked and appreciated the Commission for their support and kind gesture towards them.



A group of caregivers gathered to receive HQPM

A total of 531 (five hundred and thirty one) caregivers (464 females and 67 males) benefited from the distribution of the High quality protein maize (HQPM) across the whole communities visited.

In this reporting year under review, a monitoring visit was paid to the farms of some caregivers who benefited from the improved HQPM maize. The beneficiaries who were at their farms during the visit were overwhelmed with the outcome of the crops. They testify and confessed to the fact that the HQPM was different



A caregiver inside a HQPM farm

from other species of maize hence they decided to reserve some for planting in the next farming session.

REGISTRATION INTO SKILL ACQUISITION PROGRAM

As part of the plan to reduce the vulnerability of households Uromi JDPCI through the SMILE project enrolled 27 beneficiaries into different skills of their choice. The purpose was to improve the economic well being of their households so as to be able to cater for the needs of their families. Uromi JDPCI with support from CRS SMILE engaged them in various vocational skills of their choice.

at the end, 10 beneficiaries were registered into hair dressing, 9 beneficiaries into tailoring, 1 phone repairer, 3 event decoration/hair beading, 1 furniture, 1 tiler, 1 Alumaco and 1 barber were registered. This summed up to 27 persons were

enrolled into various skill of their choice. The beneficiaries expressed joy and happiness on the successful enrolment and thanked Uromi JDPCI as well as their sponsors for the opportunity given to them to actualize their potentials. They promise to put their best into their chosen skills so as to achieve their dreams.



Monitoring visits to beneficiaries

MONITORING:



Monitoring visits to beneficiaries

The HES Officer paid monitoring visits to 27 new beneficiaries currently enrolled into different acquisition centers. The essence of this monitoring visit was to check mate the activities of beneficiaries at their places of work and to ensure



Monitoring visits to beneficiaries

that they were always at their places of work, to check their performance and also to cross check their attendance/ monitoring note book which they must sign in and out on a daily basis at the different places of work. The essence of the monitoring note book was to keep track and monitor the punctuality of the beneficiaries.

FLAG OFF ACTIVITY FOR 9 BENEFICIARIES

Uromi JDPCI through the SMILE project empowered 9 beneficiaries out of the 14 beneficiaries



Presentation of start up kits to beneficiaries by the Director

previously enrolled into different skill acquisitions of their choice in the previous year 2016. Present at the flag off ceremony was the Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev.Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo, the

Program Manager
Mr. Michael



Presentation of start up kits to beneficiaries by the Director

Iyoriobhe, the HES Officer Helen Eigbefoh, CQIT chairmen from different project communities, representative from the Local Government Council, members of civic groups, chiefs from the palace, parents of the beneficiaries, trainers and the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries who had early been registered into various skills of their choice by SMILE and had successfully completed their skill learning were given start-up kits to support them to start their on trade. They include 1 tailor, 3 hair dressers, 1 Alumaco, 1tiller and 3 catering and even decorators.

The flag off ceremony was done at the palace of the Ojuromi of Uromi where the Director of Uromi JDPCI in his opening speech encouraged all beneficiaries to take their work very serious so as to be useful to themselves, families and their communities at large. He also told them not to sell the equipment given to them for any reason but to use it to better their lives and future. Words of advice and encouragement were also given to the beneficiaries by the chiefs, CQIT chairmen, representatives from the council and members of the civic groups present at the ceremony.

VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS AND RANKING

Value chain analysis and ranking was carried out in 8 (eight) project communities namely: Efandion, Ivue, Onewa, Eror, Obiyon, Ebhoiyi, Obiedu and Egbele. The purpose of this analysis was to find out the kind of crops, agricultural input that will be supplied by CRS-SMILE with support from USAID. The

importance of this analysis was to ensure that the crops supplied were useful to the caregivers. These crops were rice, maize, yam, cassava and groundnut. The analysis was done



Caregivers signifying interest during value chain analysis in Eror community



by the HES officer and the community members present. After the analyses, the ranking was done immediately and yam seed was selected in Ivue, Efandion and Egbele communities while cassava was selected in Onewa community.

MOP UP CASH TRANSFER EXERCISE:

As a follow up to the cash transfer exercise conducted in 2016, Uromi JDPCI through the USAID/ CRS - SMILE project conducted a Mop cash transfer exercise as an effort to ensure that all household earmarked to benefit from cash transfer get it, this cash transfer Mop up was done for 18 beneficiaries who were initially selected but could not benefit for some reasons such as BVN issues, difference in names, ill health and travel.

A total of 15 beneficiaries were mobilized out of the 18 names received of which 14 of them got cash transfer. Two of the beneficiaries from Eror community could not benefit because one of them had an unresolved BVN issue, and the other one was sick and moved to Benin for treatment. One from Egbele migrated from the community, one other from Obiyon community was too old and therefore was indisposed to be moved.

Caregivers in the bank during verification for cash transfer

Clothing support

In a bid to contribute to the clothing needs of household in selected communities, Uromi JDPCI distributed some clothes to 33(22 male & 11 female) vulnerable households, 58 Vulnerable Children (all female) in 8 project communities namely Awo Obiyon, Obiedu, Ivue, Efandion, Onewa, Eror, Ebhoiyi and Egbele. The clothes were donated to Uromi JDPCI by some philanthropist, by name Mrs. Imhanatue and Mr. Ted. Inegbenosen. Also the sum of three thousand naira (3,000) was added to the clothes by Mr. Ted to support the beneficiaries in sewing the new materials given to them.



HES Officer give clothes to some children

SILC SHARE OUT

Eight (8) groups out of the 14 functioning SILC groups did their share out in this reporting year. They were Success SILC group 1&2 in Onewa, Akoamen SILC group in Obiedu, Progress SILC group in Egbele, Success SILC group in Efandion and Omon-Aluna 1&2 SILC



Secretary calculating SILC members contribution for share out

group Obiyon respectively. Before share out, the secretary calculated all members saving before every member seated. The share out was done using their SILC ledger, DCF and share out form. HES officer guided the various groups on the calculation of individual savings after which the share out were done accordingly. The groups were so happy and impressed that they all started another cycle immediately.

PROMOTION OF FOOD BANK

As a way of adding value to the most vulnerable household in Obiedu community, Uromi JDPCI through the community improvement team distributed yams to 22 households within the community. This was made possible with help of the community volunteers working in the community by sorting out the most vulnerable household in the 3 quarters in the community. The chairman of the community improvement team led the team to the yam barn where the yams were stored.



A caregiver receiving yams from food bank in Obiedu community

Before the distribution, the food bank guideline template was used to capture each household that benefited from the exercise. The yams were given to 22 caregivers whose children were most vulnerable across the 3 quarters of the community with each caregiver having 3 tubers of yams. In all a total of 66 tubers of Yam were distributed.

MICROCREDIT SCHEME/PROMOTING MICRO ENTERPRISE

Meeting the basic needs of the vulnerable members of the society has been one of the core goal of the Uromi JDPCI and this has always been achieved through empowerment of these target population using the Micro-Credit/Promic scheme as a platform.

The strategy employed by the Uromi JDPCI was through the use of soft loans which are strictly for active poor women and active farmers in the society. This scheme is opened to Catholics and Non Catholics within the diocese of Uromi.

The Uromi JDPCI is currently running the scheme in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC1, PROMIC 2 and AGRC-PROMIC (for farmers). A total of seven hundred and nine (709) persons are currently benefiting from these schemes.

This scheme has been of great assistance these women and farmers in the Diocese of Uromi since it's in inception in the year 2007. These soft loan range from twenty thousand naira to fifty thousand naira (₦20,000 – ₦ 50,000) for Group Micro-Credit scheme, PROMIC 1 and 2 schemes while the AGRIC-PROMIC scheme loan ranges from fifty thousand naira to one hundred thousand (₦50,000 – ₦ 100,000) with an interest rate of 3% payable within six (6) months.



PROMIC Officers & beneficiaries during registration Ugboba

GROUP MICRO- CREDIT SCHEME:

The Group Micro-Credit was formed from the individual category and currently a total of ten (10) groups comprising of one hundred and fifty persons (150) are currently benefiting from the scheme, they include: Oseikhuemen Group, Together We Stand Group, Onosetale Group, Blessed Group, Ekinaduese Group, Oseahumen Group, Osezele Group, Osemudiamen Group2, Goodness Group and Future Hope Group with each having membership strength of between fifteen to seventeen persons (15-17) per group.



Promic Officer giving mentorship training of beneficiaries at Illushi

PROMIC 1 SCHEME:

A total one hundred and ninety- two persons (192) from twelve (12) groups are currently benefiting from PROMIC 1. They are: Omokhuodion Group, Obeidu Wives & Daughters Group, Victory Group, Akhuemoiegebe Group, Ebosetale Group, Akhoamen Group, Glorious Group, Gracious Group, Osemudiamen Group 1, Success Group, Progress Group, Favour Group and Ofure Group with each having a membership strength between fifteen- eighteen persons (15-17) per group.

PROMIC 2 SCHEME

The PROMIC 2 scheme being an extension of PROMIC 1, was borne out of the need to support traders in Illushi community in Esan South East Local Government Area of Edo State, who lost their business to flood in the year 2012 and other active traders within the Diocese of Uromi. This scheme has been in existence since the year 2013. Presently, eighteen (18) groups comprising of two hundred and fifty-three (253) persons currently benefiting from the scheme. They are as follows: Ojoyin-mi-owo Group, God is One Group, Best Group, Osebhajimede Group, Perfect Group, Glory To Glory Group1, Glory To Glory Group 2, God's Grace Group, Overflow Group, God Help Us



Micro credit Officer with a beneficiary feeding his birds after empowerment

Group, Ateshi Group, Ukpahoiyo Group, Achemani Group, Uyon- Ogwa Group, Blessing Group, Success Group, God is Great and Progress Group.

AGRIC-PROMIC SCHEME

As a measure of enhancing the livelihood of poor active farmers and to increase the agricultural produce of these farmers in Edo Central Senatorial District, Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with PROMIC in September 2016 introduced a scheme strictly for active farmers. So far, eleven (11) groups comprising of one hundred and twenty-nine (129) persons are currently benefitting from the scheme. They include, Divine Mercy Poultry Famers Group, Akomu-Iyen Group 1 & 2, Akoamen Group, Ujoelen Group, Udo lane Farmers Group, Ujeolen Farmers Group, Holy Trinity Cassava Farmers Group, Obozokhae Yam Farmers group, Destiny Farmers Group and Ososeh Farmers Group.



PROMIC Officer & a beneficiary standing behind his yam produce at Obeidu.

FACT SHEET

NAME OF SCHEME	NUMBER PER SCHEME	NO OF MALES PER SCHEME	NUMBER OF FEMALES	AMOUNT GIVEN	AMOUNT EXPECTED
AGRIC PROMIC	129	83	46	8,725,000	10,955,500
PROMIC 1	192	8	184	4,050,000	5,485,350
PROMIC 2	253	12	241	7,250,000	9,016,200
MICRO CREDIT	135	14	121	3,750,000	4,516,200

PRISON APOSTOLATE

Uromi JDPCI prison apostolate in achieving its goal as it concern indigent inmates in prison, carried out welfare services, Spiritual/Legal counselling sessions in Federal Prison Ubiaja. Uromi JDPCI also promoted Bible studies for inmates and prison officials and trained inmates and officers on liquid soap making. Uromi JDPCI also supported the provision of medical care to inmates that need intense medical attention as well as providing health talk to both inmates and prison officials.

VOCATIONAL SKILL ACQUISITION CENTER

In the a bid to empower inmates with vocational skill, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi , Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Aimiosho Ogun OSA in collaboration with Uromi JDPCI

constructed a vocational skill acquisition center at Federal Prison, Ubiaja. The center was equipped with computers, sewing machines, clippers, sterilizers and generators. All these were done to enable inmates acquire skills while in prison, so that when they eventually leave the prison they will have something to fall back to instead of being idle. The event was



The Bishop, Comptroller of Prisons Edo State, Uromi JDPCI Director, Officer in Charge of Ubiaja Prison and other Officials during Blessing and presentation of Vocational Skills Acquisition Center

attended by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Aimiosho Ogun, the Director of Uromi JDPCI Very. Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, the Controller of Prison, Edo State, Mr Osayende Amadi, Controller of prison Ubiaja, Mr Oriabure, Member representing Esan North East/Esan South East constituency in the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Sergius Ogun, and, Rev. Fr. Gregory Abuya, 'Rev. Osasogie', Rev. Fr. Odion Mark, staff of Uromi JDPCI and other invited guests. The Catholic Bishop who presented the key to the control of Prison Edo State command, urged the Prison Officials and the inmates to make good use of the center, noting that the vocational skill center was donated as a contribution to make the prison a true reformation center that it ought to be. The concept of the center from the design through the construction work to the presentation was done by the Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo.



Bishop cutting the tape to commission the center

COLABORATION FOR PRISON WELFARE

The CWO (Catholic Women Organisation) in Uromi Diocese joined the rest of the world to celebrate WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women Organisation) which was an opportunity to evangelise and reach out to the less privileged. The women used the opportunity to visit the inmates in prison where they provided some basic necessities to the inmates. They shared food, drinks, fruits, bread and toiletries (tooth brushes, tooth paste, washing



CWO in a group photograph during visit to prison

and bathing soap and toilet roll) with the 282 inmates and Officers of the Prison. There was also celebration of holy mass, after which some of the women advised the inmates to give God a chance in their lives.



Cathedral, CYON, their Chaplain and some prison Officials during visit to prison

In the same vein the youth of St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral during the celebration of their youth week made out time to visit the inmates at Ubiaja prison. The visit was made possible with the assistance of the Uromi JDPCI. They shared their food and drinks with the inmates and Officials of Federal Prison Ubiaja after some words of admonition were offered by their

Chaplain and executives. Uromi JDPCI also collaborated with the Catholic Nurses Guild to present health talks on Tuberculosis in Federal Prison Ubiaja. This became necessary as a result of the outbreak of Tuberculosis (TB) in Ubiaja prison sometime in 2016. The effort was to educate the inmate and Officials on the various ways to prevent further outbreak of Tuberculosis and promote healthy living in the prison yard.

Uromi JDPCI also accompanied the staff and students of lumen Christi International High School to celebrate the birthday of their Principal Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Theophilus Itaman, who saw the need to appreciate the goodness of God over his life with the inmates. The ceremony which began with holy mass which was co-celebrated by the celebrant Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Theophilus Itaman, and Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo proceeded to merriment for the inmates who were offered food, drink, toiletries, and other essential materials needed for healthy and hygienic life. Thereafter a tour of the cells was conducted during which gift items like: tooth paste, tooth brush, washing soap, detergents a slippers were distributed among inmates who did not have the opportunity to come out from their cells. Drugs were also presented to the prison clinic.

Uromi JDPCI in improving the lives of inmates in prison organised a workshop on the production of liquid soap, this was done to empower inmates with entrepreneurial skills. The trainer Iselen Blessing Success told them the importance of the workshop and how it has helped her positively. The basic materials for making liquid soap were listed and every stage was explained to the participating inmates who were not only listening but also given the opportunity to practice every stage of the preparation process as was explained to them by the trainer. A total of 33 persons were in attendance (8 females and 25 males).

Uromi JDPCI Prison Apostolate Officer took delivery of some clothing materials which was donated by a philanthropist to support the prison apostolate desk. The clothes where given to the Prison Welfare Officer for onward distribution to the inmates in need. In the same



Delivery of some clothes to the prison Welfare Officer

vein, Uromi JDPCI also provided the sum of ₦10, 000.00 (ten thousand naira) to support an inmate who was granted bail but could not meet the bail condition of ₦10, 000.00 (ten thousand

naira). Another inmate who had eye defect was assisted to assess medical attention including the purchase of the drugs that were prescribed for him by the doctor.

As part of the efforts to raise fund to support prison Apostolate, Uromi JDPCI went round 25 Parishes and Mass Centers to sensitize Parishioners and solicit their support for Prison Apostolate.

CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH INMATES



Group photograph with Director and Prison Officials after Christmas party

Uromi JDPCI as part of their welfare duties to the prison at the end of every year organized Christmas party for inmates. This year was not left out as the Board of Trustees, Uromi JDPCI staff, friends and well-wisher of Uromi JDPCI visited the



Some Staff singing Carols during Christmas party with inmates

prison to celebrate the year 2017 Christmas with inmates.

Uromi JDPCI took alongside food items and drinks for the celebration. Both inmates and prison officials took part in the ceremony which was marked with a Christmas Carol led by a member of the board of trustees and staff of Uromi JDPCI while the Director Very Rev. Fr. Dr Fidelis Arhedo presided over the ceremony. Uromi JDPCI also used the occasion to present hair dryer, a generator set to the female session of the prison to run a vocational skills acquisition center for the female inmates, while two pressing iron was provided to support the training of inmates in laundry popularly known as dry cleaning.

The Prison Officials expressed appreciation to Uromi JDPCI for the continuous support and effort to make the prison true reformation center. They also extended the appreciation to the various groups that collaborated with Uromi JDPCI within the year.

LEGAL AIDS AND COUNSELLING

Legal Counselling

As the part of our activity to render legal counselling, the prison apostolate/Legal officer in 2017 reached 12 inmates who were charged with various offences ranging from stealing, escape from unlawful custody, breaking and entering, armed robbery etc. The inmates needed the assistance of Uromi JDPCI to reconcile them with their families and the offended but it was difficult to meet their needs as it was not easy reaching the family of the accused person. This was because they could not give relevant contact to reach their family members and victims.



Spiritual Counselling

In other to uplift the spirituality of inmates and bringing the inmates closer to God, Uromi JDPCI within the year organised two sessions of spiritual counselling and a bible study for inmates. Rev. Fr. Peter Ebalunegbeifoh made the first visit to the prison to render spiritual counselling to inmates with reflection taken from the book of Luke 4:18. After the general counselling to which inmates participated by asking question for clarification, opportunity was also given for one on one counselling.

Rev. Fr. Peter counselling some inmates

The second spiritual counselling was rendered by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Umahonlen. The theme of his reflection was the "Holy Spirit". The message was drawn from 1 John 4:1-3. Fr. Umahonlen told the inmates about importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the children of God and the need for the inmates to use the opportunity of their incarceration to invite the Holy Spirit into their lives while they are genuinely sorry for their offences. Thereafter the inmates were given the opportunity to ask questions on how they can reconcile themselves to God through the Holy Spirit.

As the year went by the inmates also benefited from Uromi JDPCI in increasing their knowledge of the word of God. The plan was actualized as the Prison Apostolate Officer accompanied by Felix Ebhohimen and Leslie Idahosa visited the prison to render Bible study to inmates. Reflection was taken from the book of Jeremiah 29: 4, 10, and 11. They were informed of how the Israelite sinned against God and were taken to Babylon and after 70years



they were brought back to the land that God promised them. The story of Joseph in the bible was used to illustrate patience and God's time concerning human life. They were

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Umahonlen counselling some inmates

advised to see their being in prison as a school of reformation and when eventually they are free, they will become better persons. 20 inmates and 1 prison official took part in the bible study.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In order to ensure the prevention of child labour/trafficking in persons, the Anti-Human Desk of Uromi JDPCI imbibed an alternative measure which entails the empowerment of fifty-two skilled vulnerable out of school youths and enrolment of twenty others into skills acquisition. From the spill over we had from September 2016 –March 2017, Uromi JDPCI enrolled eight (8) more beneficiaries as well as empower 2 more. These and all those who were previously enrolled and empowered have been duly monitored till date.

The Anti-Human Trafficking desk of Uromi JDPCI also carried out sensitization exercises on human trafficking at Egbele youth club, Okhuesan Civic Group, and Iruale Obiyon Youth Club respectively and a total of fifty (50) persons were reached in all.

A candle light procession for campaign to end trafficking in persons as well as pray for victims of trafficking was also conducted by Uromi JDPCI on the 8th of February, 2017, to mark the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who is the patron Saint of victims of trafficking.

Uromi JDPCI has also commenced the process of sensitizing the in School adolescent on the dangers on human trafficking. This effort is in collaboration with Girls Power Initiative Benin with support from European Union.

CREATING ALTERNATIVE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH EMPOWERMENT



A beneficiary of empowerment (barber)

As part of the effort to prevent illegal migration and reduce susceptibility to human trafficking, Uromi JDPCI embarked on an intervention (Prevention of Child Trafficking through Skill acquisition/Empowerment Project) in September, 2016. In continuation of that effort eight (8) more beneficiaries were enrolled into various skills of their choice as follows: three (3) in Catering, two (2) in tailoring, two (2) in hair dressing and one (1) in barbing. Three (3) were from Esan North East, one (1) from Esan South East, one (1) from Esan Central, two (2) from Esan West and one (1) from Igueben local government area of Edo Central Senatorial District. The beneficiaries who were drawn from different communities across Esan land were optimistic that this intervention will put food on their table and help them to overcome the poverty that might expose them to exploitation in

the hands of traffickers.

To provide support and mentorship, Uromi JDPCI ensued regular monitoring and supportive supervision to the various Centres where the beneficiaries were engaged in vocational skill training. Those who were empowered with start-up Kits were also visited to ascertain their progress and the impact of the project on beneficiaries. In the process, it was discovered that 98% of the 52 beneficiaries empowered with start-up Kits have fully established themselves with report of improved income and a raise in the standard of living.



A beneficiary of skill acquisition in a hair dressing shop



COMMEMORATION OF THE FEAST DAY OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA



A cross section of participants in the St. Bakhita Rally in Esan Central

Uromi JDPCI had a Candle Light Procession /Prayer Rally in commemoration of the International Day of Prayer for victims of trafficking on the 8th of February, 2017. The procession was held in Esan



A cross section of participants in the St. Bakhita Rally in Esan West

North East, Esan Central and Esan West Local Government Areas of Edo State. The essence of the Candle light procession was to honour St. Josephine Bakhita who worked and prayed tirelessly for the freedom of trafficked persons and also to pray for the victims of trafficking as well as sensitize the public of the dangers inherent in human trafficking or illegal migration. The rally featured the Director /Staff of Uromi JDPCI as well as members of Civic groups from the three Local Government Areas.

SENSITIZATION OF COMMUNITIES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO EGBELE/OBIYON YOUTH CLUBS AND OKHUESAN CIVIC GROUP MEMBERS.

The Anti-human trafficking Officer of Uromi JDPCI joined the community volunteers of Afuda-Egbele, Obiyon at their youth club meetings as well as the Civic group members of Okhuesan Communities. The purpose of the visit was to create awareness on human trafficking and the dangers attached to it. She explained that human trafficking is a modern day slavery which is worse than kidnapping. She reiterated that illicit travelling abroad to Europe and Libya was not as lucrative as people think. Also, that traffickers usually deceive young girls/boys only to exploit them of their earnings from prostitution, baby factory, drug pushing, organ harvesting and other illegal acts. These acts she stated can be both dehumanizing and deadly, as many have contracted HIV/AIDS, some died in the desert while others got drowned in the sea in the process of crossing over from Libya to Europe. A total of twenty-two (22) youths were in attendance.

Furthermore, she encouraged parents/guardians from Okhuesan Civic group to encourage their children/wards to be focussed on their educational pursuit or learn a skill of their choice to enable them have a place of integrity and be self-dependent in the society. The participants expressed appreciation

with the information and knowledge gained while some related the sad experiences of some the newly repatriated youths in their community.



Uromi

Sensitization of Adolescents in Egbele community



JDPCI also

Sensitization of Adolescents in Obiyon community

collaborated with GPI Benin, to carry out sensitization on human trafficking and safe migration in twenty-one government schools across Esan West and Esan Central Local Government Areas. The plan is actually to reach 71 schools and empower 25 vulnerable students and their households with education and livelihood support across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The participating students were trained as peer educators on human trafficking and were given the responsibility to go to their various schools and neighbourhood to propagate the message of saying effective “NO” to human trafficking. The essence of this was to dissuade vulnerable youths from illegal migration to Libya and European countries and hence, from becoming victims of human trafficking.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Community of Practice Meeting

The Nutrition Officer participated in two community of practice meeting on the 21st and 22nd February 2017, at Akwanga-Nassawa State and 9th and 10th August at Double K Resort, Otukpo, Benue State. The bi-annual meetings were aimed to share best practices and kindle peer learning for quality programming outcomes, provide clarification on documentation and reporting of nutrition activities and to provide guidance and

discussion on developing and writing good nutrition related success stories.



Nutrition Officer Felix Ebhohimen during the COP

On the 22nd -25th of January 2017 the HES officer attended community of practice (COP) meeting in Makurdi. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review the work done within the last quarter of



A section of participants during HES COP

the fiscal year and also how to make best use of the new fiscal year by reaching and improving on the vulnerability status of various households who need urgent attention. Also a brief training on value chain analysis was conducted and all participants were told and taught how to conduct the value chain analysis across their project communities.

Also on the 28th -29th of July 2017 the HES Officer attended another community of practice (COP) meeting in Abuja. The purpose was to discuss HES issues so as to have a better service provision in FY17. The meeting provided an opportunity to demonstrate best practices employed in each organization to leverage on by others as well as to have information on SILC, Agriculture, enrollment & empowerment, communal farming, value chain analysis, income generating activities, monitoring, documentations and making good reporting.

Uromi JDPCI participated in two COP on Gender and Child protection, the first took place at Double K Hotel Otukpo while the second one was held in Starview Hotels Abuja. Emphasis at both meetings were on providing need based services and promoting gender integration to reduce gender based violence in the target communities. The need to promote and balance equality with equity was also discussed.

There was also a community of practice meeting for Care and Support Officers purpose of which was to identify challenges and address them and also emphasize the need for everyone to finish the project strongly and leave a lasting impact in the lives of the beneficiaries. Strategies for meeting the goal of the project were outlined and adopted by participants.



a session during the Community of Practice meeting for Care and Support Officers.

Also, The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and the Data Clerk attended community of practice (COP) meetings at Meremu Hotels, Auchi from the 6th to 8th of December, 2017. The meeting was an avenue for monitoring and evaluation officers in the SMILE project to share best practices and challenges in the course of monitoring and evaluating various aspects on the SMILE interventions been carried out in their respective communities. The meeting was attended by monitoring and evaluation officers and Data Clerks from Edo and Kogi states as well as SMILE CRS monitoring and evaluation officials. The meeting saw presentations made on overview for community of practice and challenges in the National Orphans and vulnerable

Management Information System (NOMIS). An update for the NOMIS was also developed and demonstrated at the meeting.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

ADOLESCENT GIRLS PILOT INTERVENTION TRAINING

The VC officer attended a workshop on adolescent girls' intervention from 30th of January to 2nd of February 2017. The objective of the workshop was to create a common understanding of key principles in youth and adolescent girl programming. The findings from the focus group discussion carried out by SMILE field agent in three states (Edo, Nassarawa and FCT) was also reported to the participants present.

CASE MANGEMENT, GENDER AND CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

From the 13th to 25th of February 2017 the VC Officer again attended two weeks training on case management, gender and child protection, and community of practice (COP) meeting. The VC officers were trained on case management and child protection by the different experts on the different ways of handling a case as well as the case management cycle. The content and importance of child protection and child safe guarding policies were also discussed. Gender integration training was also inculcated into the two weeks period. Possible ways of mainstreaming gender into the various structures were recommended and a practical use of the manual was demonstrated. The important of gender awareness was further emphasized and the different methods of identifying gender based violence victim were discussed.

OVC PILOT SURVEY AND 2ND FY 17 GRADUATION

Two (2) staff participated in the central training on OVC pilot survey and graduation which was aimed at building capacity and devising strategies to achieve set goals on the SMILE project.

The OVC pilot survey and 2nd FY 17 graduation was meant to introduce partner CSOs to the criteria for graduation. Participants were made to understand that meeting the need of the beneficiaries in the care plan at baseline is a pre-requisite for graduation.

POSITIVE HEALTH DIGNITY AND PREVENTION TRAINING

Uromi JDPCI care and support Officer participated in the five days training on Positive Health Dignity and Prevention (PHDP) organized by The Catholic Relief Service (CRS) under the

SMILE project. This training which had in attendance Care and Support Officers from Benue, Nasarawa and Edo State was facilitated by the senior technical specialist on Care and Support, Harrison Matey, technical specialist, Benue Susan Amosun and technical specialist, Dr. Femi.

Issues discussed centered on components of PHDP and how it can be implemented in the communities to achieve the 90:90:90 global targets.

The objective was to build the capacity of Care and Support Officers with regards to PHDP and as a result impact the SMILE beneficiaries in the communities positively.

TRAINING ON FOLLOW UP ASSESSMENT

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in Conjunction with Program Manager and the Care and Support Officer attended a two day meeting/training at Constantial Hotels Benin on tools for the third follow up assessment exercise for SMILE beneficiaries. The meeting was attended by all SMILE project implementing partners from Edo and Kogi State. The forum was used to also re-examine the Household and the Child Status Index follow up assessment tools that would be used for the follow up exercise.

CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS OF UROMI JDPCI

Despite the efforts and achievements recorded above, some difficulties were still being experienced in carrying out some of our activities, these include:

- Inadequate Fund: The commission has been faced with the major challenge of inadequate capital, as we would have reached out to more people during the period under review if not for the fact that our source of funding is limited.
- Absence of elected Local Government executive has also slow down some planned activities in the good governance desk
- Poor understanding of human and electoral rights which limits peoples' interest zeal for good governance.

CONCLUSION

The Uromi JDPCI is grateful to the various groups and individuals for their solidarity, support and cooperation. Together we have achieved great successes in this year and it is hoped that even greater achievements will be made in the year ahead.

FRIENDS

Individuals and Organizations wishing to identify with and support the work of Uromi JDPCI are urged become "friends". Friends of Uromi JDPCI make regular contributions, advice, support

and encourage the Commission. 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 Uromi JDPCI through;

UBA Nigeria PLC

Account No: 2031144843

Acct name: JDP/Caritas, Uromi Diocese.

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