

**ANNUAL REPORT OF UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS
INITIATIVES, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UROMI, FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER,
2018**

SUBMITTED TO

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

JANUARY, 2019

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, (Uromi JDPCI).
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Aimioshor Ogun (OSA)
Authorized Representative & Director	Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
Corporate Registration No:	CAC/IT/No: 50042 & ED/MWASD/NGOR/200/04
Status	Catholic Non-Governmental, Non-Profit making, Humanitarian and Development Organization.
Motto	Hope for the Oppressed and Empowerment for All
Areas of operation	Integral Development, Human Rights, Democracy, and Good Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Prison Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit and Caritas, TB and HIV/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.
Postal Address	P.O. Box 7, Uromi, Edo State
E-mail	uromijdpci@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	14
Number of Community Volunteers	55
Project Executed	16

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

I am highly elated and delighted to present Uromi JDPCI 2018 Annual report of her interventions in fulfillment of her mandate in the church and world. All this intervention focused on key sectors of social development ranging from good governance, human right, social-economic empowerment and other sectors that enhance integral human development, justice and peaceful co-existence.

A critical overview of the Nigerian nation reveals that there are high levels of poverty and inequality amidst plenty in both human and natural resources due to poor governance in all sectors as a result of ignorance of the poor and political apathy of the elites. The elected politicians seem not to be promoting services that focus on essential means of building human community and institutions rather promoting services which becomes means of oppression and marginalization. It is important at this juncture for all stakeholders to embrace electoral process of participation and call on politicians to be transparent and accountable to those who elected them into political positions of governance. In more concrete terms, politicians should be mandated to be credible, consistent and focused on common good and unity of the people than promoting tribalism, nepotism and electoral irregularities. So, I entrust all to work for the interest of Nigerians to peacefully conduct the forthcoming 2019 elections not only to record it as fair, conclusive and reliable but be seen to be so in all respect.

Nigeria at this time in history is witnessing a distressed political setback due to bad governance which is manifesting in hopelessness among the youths and adolescents resulting in different forms of social misnomer like irregular migration and human trafficking. The show of wealth in our rural communities by the young who claim to have travelled abroad have given another dimension to the very young to aspire to become like them and travel abroad, parents and the general society no longer believe there is dignity in labour/hard work. This has further led them into uninformed migration choices and become exploited in the process all in a bid to attain wealth. Uromi JDPCI to reduce human trafficking has made cautious efforts to address the high rate of vulnerabilities of young and idle youths from the hands of traffickers and other forms of crime by aggressively using campaigns and sensitization of both the young and old on the ills of human trafficking and dangers inherent in irregular migration which often time fuels trafficking in persons. Community Town Hall meetings, school campaigns, street/market rally as well as creating alternatives to vulnerabilities by providing economic empowerment, psycho-social support to victims and returnees(irregular migrants) as well as partnering with law enforcement agencies to assist in prosecution of traffickers and meaningfully engaging the youths through entrepreneurial and vocational skills with startup kits.

At this point, let us be our brothers' keepers' which will help in addressing these social maladies of our time. There is lot of bloodshed daily in our country due to the activities of nefarious elements, insurgency, Armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killings and political motivated killings.

This is not acceptable by all standards hence both government and its citizenry must work together to stamp out this evil.

I am very grateful to God almighty for the wisdom and enablement for Management, staff and volunteers of Uromi JDPCI to effectively carry out their intervention successfully. We also thank our Board of Trustee Members for your contribution of time in planning and advisory role. In the same vein, we are grateful to the Catholic Bishop of Uromi Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun for his active involvement in all our interventions.

We are also very grateful to our all partners: Misereor, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Nigeria, Promic Swissland, Girls Power Initiative (GPI) as well as Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Edo State Task Force on Human Trafficking, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP Benin Zonal Command), Nigerian Immigration Service (Benin Zone), Ministry of Education.

Our gratitude also goes to the traditional Monarchs in Edo Senatorial District as well as beneficiaries of our interventions. To all who have contributed in one way or another to this year's achievements we say thank you so very much and may God take us to another level in the coming year.

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis O. Arhedo
Executive Director

INTRODUCTION

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 2018. 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 is part of the national network of JDPC in 55 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 her Good governance intervention aimed at building the capacity of the populace for an all-inclusive governance process. The goal is 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 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 were 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 further present pertinent community development issues arising from civic group engagement for discussion and solution and present community issues to the newly elected LGA Chairmen for consideration within the year. This was done with support from MISEREOR as part of the project "Community Mobilization and Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance in Edo Central Senatorial District".

Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with Catholic Relief Services on 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 Adolescent Girls intervention in Obiyon and Egbele communities. This project was sponsored by Catholic Relief Services with support

from USAID (a five years project) and successfully brought to an end in August 2018 with a total of 7323 persons reached.

Uromi JDPCI Micro-credit/PROMIC desk also received a boost 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. A total of eight hundred and seventeen (817) beneficiaries reached (six hundred and seventeen (617) female and two hundred (200) male)

Within the year Uromi JDPCI concluded two interventions geared toward awareness creation in anti-human trafficking. One (PACKING) was focused on in school youths and their caregivers across the senatorial district with 4614 students reached, while the other (CAT-SaM) was dedicated to community, schools, places of worship and market in Esan North East LGA and a total of 7320 persons (M2829 & F4491) reached. Again another (SMAT-P) has commenced with a focus on community structures, schools, places of worship and markets in Esan Central and Esan South East LGA. The aim is to raise Awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration while creating alternatives through household support, educational grants/scholarships to most vulnerable groups in selected communities in Esan land.

Prison Apostolate in this year engaged in regular visit to the inmates at the Federal Prison, Ubiaja to provide support and assist inmates to meet some of their basic needs such as health, legal counselling and welfare. The sustainability and continuous improvement in the skill acquisition center was also considered 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, JDPC Benin Province, Southern Nigerian Promic 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, 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

As a way of strengthening the capacity of the civic groups in their engagement with elected officials at the local government level for a more accountable and responsive representation, Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with the civic groups conveyed 20 quarterly meetings across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the performance of the various groups, express challenges and learn from the experiences and best practices of other groups. The meetings also provided opportunity for Uromi JDPCI to provide technical support to the groups to effectively conduct their activities.

In the first quarterly meetings was held in the month of March, developmental driven discussions took the center stage, while members took time to share their experiences and learning from each other. The aim was to foster collaboration among the various groups, proffer solution to the challenges affecting them in their various communities, provide an avenue for the members of the various groups within the same community to build the spirit of solidarity and re-awake in



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

them the essence of true participation in governance. The meetings which were adequately attended provided opportunity for the various civic groups to share with each other the plans and inputs that they have resolved with the communities to present to their various Local Government Chairmen at the Town Hall Meeting which was tagged *Round Table Discussion*. Some of such inputs were grading of earth roads, provision of borehole for water supply, renovation of schools, health center and markets as well as electricity (overbilling by BEDC, epileptic and absence of power supply) and security issues in the various communities. Being the first meeting of the year 2018, the various groups also used it as opportunity to develop improvement plans with which to engage the newly elected Local Government Representatives for community development and responsible representation.

In the second quarter, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives also conducted five quarterly meetings across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The emphasis was on strengthening the relationship and collaboration between the newly elected Local Government Chairmen and their People through the civic groups. Inputs were also taken on the level of community participation in governance and how they were able to influence project to their various communities. The outcome of the round table discussion was further deliberated upon while members were encouraged to follow up with the various Local Government Chairmen to ensure that the implementation of what was promised during the round table discussion.

In the course of the meeting the Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo thanked the civic group members for their enthusiastic participation in the round table discussion with the Executive Chairmen of their Local Government Areas and implored them to ensure a follow up on the issues presented as well as to get their Councilors involved in the follow up. He further advised them to take advantage of the platform the council Chairmen have created for the continuous engagement to bring about progress in their respective communities. A dialogue with their councilors was important to constantly remind the Chairmen of their promises. He further urged them to be concern about project going on in their communities through monitoring to ensure that the projects met standard. He noted that transparency, accountability and participatory democracy were important to achieve community development and further implored them to collaborate with government for every project sited in their communities to ensure durability and strife to sustain it to the advantage of the community.



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

In the third quarterly meeting emphasis was on planning to sustain the civic group activities in the various communities across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District and development of plans to participate actively in the forth coming general election. In the opening remark the Director among other things encouraged them to resist the act of vote buying in their communities and to mobilize the people for active participation in the election process. He urged them to define the role they want to play towards having a free and fair election in the year 2019. They were reminded of the need to sensitize their communities in preparation for the election so as to have violence free elections as well as mitigate the effects of vote buying and money politics.

In the fourth quarter discussions were focused on strengthening civic engagement with representatives to promote active participation by the communities in governance with particular emphasis on community participation in the forth coming election. The Executive Director, very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo encouraged the people to recommend to their communities stakeholders and Independent National



The supervisor of Esan Central giving a report at the meeting

Electoral Commission (INEC) officials the way and manner they will prefer the ballot boxes to be positioned in their polling units on election days so as to discourage vote buying since the current arrangement has been hijacked by vote buyers who encourage those they bought their vote to show their ballot paper after thumb printing before submission in the ballot boxes. He again encouraged the civic group members to promote voters' education in

the various communities so as to help the people to vote wisely. He reminded them to invite the various candidates to their communities for political dialogue that could result in signing of social contracts with the stakeholders of their respective communities on what they would do when elected to office. He also urged the various civic groups to intensify campaigns on voters' education in their various communities especially on the issue of money politics.

CIVIC GROUP REPORT FROM COMMUNITIES

In the course of the year the civic groups reported that through dialogue and engagement with representatives and other developmental minded individuals and groups some projects were implemented in their communities. The communities and their reports are presented below:

Amedokhian Civic Group reported that a road was being constructed in their community and that they have gone to interact with the construction company who has promised to deliver a good work on the road. They added that during the construction process some water pipes were damaged by the construction company. This he said has affected the water project which is also on-going in the community. The facilitator explained that the civic group met with the construction company to find solution to the damaged pipes so as to restore water supply to the community. Construction Company accepted the responsibility to repair any damage caused by their work or activities in the community. They have also expressed commitment to replace the broken pipes for water supply which were damaged during the preparatory construction work in the community.



Group photograph the director and members of Esan West civic group.

Egbele Civic Group reported that the Local Education Authority has informed the community that one of their primary schools (Afuda primary school) was approved for reconstruction. This was a response to series of letters and appeal made by the community to relevant authorities for the school to be given attention.

Ubiaja Civic Group Reported that they observed that work stopped in the ongoing construction of road, as they sensed

that the project may be abandoned, they approached the Monarch to intervene. The Monarch sent delegate to accompany civic group to make enquires, this was actually done. Upon their prevailing pressure on the need to complete the project, the construction company has returned to site. The facilitator added that they engaged the LGA environmental sanitation units on the need to clear the refuse in the market, which has actually been cleared.

Okhuessan Civic Group reported that EU Project team has told the community that the result of their assessment showed that the borehole was beyond their capacity. Their capacity was 100ft but the water level in Okhuesan was beyond 150ft as such the community resolved to have

European Union build Health Center for them. The European Union accepted this recommendation and Memorandum of Understanding was signed and construction work has started at the health center site. He noted that they chose health center because the one in the community was dilapidated and lacking virtually all modern facilities.

Oria Civic Group reported that their scribe has been elected as councillor to represent their political ward and that they have been engaged in monitoring of the construction of block of class rooms in their school to prevent the contractor from using sub-standard equipment.

Ewohimi Civic Group reported that the European Union has completed 3 blocks of classroom in 5 schools and some Health Centers across their community through their intervention and sensitization of their influential members of the community on community development.

Agua Civic Group reported that they suggested solution to the water problem to their community elders based on that they assigned one of their chiefs to accompany the civic group to approach Senator Clifford Ordia for assistance to repair the Borehole sunk in their community many years ago. The facilitator said that they met with the Senator and that he has come to repair the borehole and water is flowing in the community. He added that the members of the community have expressed happiness over the quick response by the Senator who has also promised to grade the road leading to the borehole site.

Idumebo Civic Group: The facilitator reported that the borehole dug by Deputy Speaker Honorable Victor Edoror which was not functioning for a period of time has been revived through the intervention of the civic group. He also reported that the community and the management of Benin Electricity Distribution Company had a dialogue meeting to resolve the outrageous estimated billings being imposed on the community. The Benin Electricity Distribution Company has promised to resolve the technical issues with their billings while they appealed to the community to help check illegal connection and other irregularities.

Ebelle Civic Group reported that they have approached the construction company working on the dualization of the federal road to assist them with the creation of more streets in Ebelle as part of their community support and that the company accepted to assist them. He added that government has engaged same persons to clean and clear the drainage system following their request to the appropriate authority.

Amahor Civic Group reported that the community has been informed that the road leading to their community of which they have requested the State Government assistance and got promises of the government have finally been approved for construction by Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Ukpenu Civic Group facilitator reported that they were working with urban planning to open up blocked roads and streets. The streets were obstructed by inhabitants who extended their fences beyond their boundaries thereby taking part of the road/street.

Eguare Civic Group: The facilitator reported their interface with the construction company handling the construction of the major road in Ekpoma and their intervention has stopped the obstruction caused by beer distribution depot to the construction company.

THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION/TOWN HALL MEETING HELD ACROSS THE FIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT IN THE MONTH OF MAY, 2018

Introduction

As a way of strengthening participatory democracy and collaboration between the Local Government Representatives and the People, the civic groups in collaboration with Uromi JDPCI organised town hall meetings which was tagged round table discussion with the newly elected Local Government Executive Chairmen across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The aim was to provide a sustainable platform for interaction between the people and their representatives as well as institutionalize participatory democracy in which the people can engage their elected officials and present their demands for consideration in the budget. It also afforded the Local Government Chairmen the opportunity to sensitise the people on the plans/policies of the Local Government as well as exchange ideas for the growth and development of their respective communities.

The Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo gave a brief background of the civic groups in Edo Central Senatorial District and the work UROMI JDPCI has been doing in various communities through the civic groups that were formed six years ago in Edo Central Senatorial District. He stated that the main purpose of the forum was to bridge the gap between the populace and government at the local level in areas of community development and getting to know first-hand what the local government plans to do in their respective communities. He advised the Council Chairmen to provide soft loans and improved seedlings to farmers and to sensitise their people on use of improved farming methods that can boost agricultural production because of the abundance of arable land in the senatorial district.

Igueben Local Government Area

The Town Hall Meeting was held on the 17th of May, 2018 at the Council hall in Igueben LGA. In attendance were the Executive Chairman, Igueben Local Government Area, the Divisional Police Officer, Igueben Division, The Head of Service, Igueben LGA, Chiefs and Community representatives as well as civic group members from across the communities in Igueben Local Government Area. This was followed by a brief introduction by the information and media officer who explained the purpose of the town hall meeting which was tagged round table



14 Very Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo giving his opening remark

discussion after which the Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo gave the open remark which explained the whole essence of the event.

At the end of the remark the various communities made their presentation which contained the needs of their communities to the Local Government Chairman for consideration in the budget.

In response, the chairman thanked Civic Groups for organizing the round table discussion and promised to lend his continuous support to the activities of the civic group in his domain.

Chairman's Response

Estimated Electricity Billing: The Chairman explained that it was beyond his power to bring about the reduction in the bills, he however noted that the issue was being handled at the State level by the Office of the Deputy Governor. But that in the

meantime communities should try to acquire bulk meters from the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) as this will go a long way in the reduction of electricity bills brought to them.



The Chairman addressing the people

Grading of Roads: The Chairman informed the gathering that he had asked councillors representing the various wards to submit the roads that needed to be graded in their respective communities and since the communities have come to submit their the list will be given appropriate attention.

Primary Health Centres: The chairman reiterated his commitment to the renovation of the Health Centres across the local government area. He informed the gathering that his administration has signed an agreement with CSDP to provide 90% funding while the LGA will provide the remaining 10% for the exercise. He also promised that more staff will be posted to the twenty health centres in the local government.



A community Representative making presentation on behalf of his community

Schools: The Chairman stated that he is aware that cultists and other hoodlums take advantage of some dilapidated classroom blocks in some primary schools as hideouts. He assured the people that the matter will be tabled at the security meeting of the council for appropriate action.

Markets: The chairman informed the people that plans have reached advanced stage to make Igueben and Ebelle markets function on daily basis. Part of the plan he said was to draw meat

sellers and other vendors who do daily sales to come to the market to display and sell their wares rather than sell on the street.

Security: The Igueben Local Government Chairman also informed the house that a bus has been refurbished, motorcycles purchased, dedicated phone numbers acquired for people to call in case of an emergency and an operational office for vigilante groups in the local government area has been assigned. One hundred and seventy five of them will be posted to schools and other establishments in the local government area.

Farmers: The Chairman spoke of his plans to educate farmers in all the communities on new farming methods and the use of improved seedlings to help boost agricultural production. He said that plans were also in advanced stage with IITA to help facilitate this process. The chairman also appealed to everyone present to assist in speaking to Idumogan community to release about 10 hectares of land he



The Chairman addressing the people

had earlier spent lots of money to clear and prepare to plant maize. The scheme, according to the chairman was to harvest the maize and sell to a ready market with the profit to be shared between the host community and the LGA. But the community resisted by ceasing the land for fear of it been taken by the government.

The Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo thanked the Chairman once again for gracing the forum with his presence and sued for his continuous support in the work the various civic groups were doing in his local government. He advised the chairman to sand-fill the earth roads before grading them and that grading of roads should be done during the dry season. He also advised the chairman to sign a memoriam of understanding (MOU) with the Idumogan community on the land issue to forestall any misunderstanding the two parties may have in the future as regards the matter. He also joined the Chairman to appeal to the community members to speak to the elders and leaders of the community to release the land to the Local Government for the noble venture they have planned to do there.



Cross Section Of Participant And Chairman

Esan North East Local Government Area

The town hall meeting which was held on the 21st of May, 2018 at the Local Government Hall in Esan North East LGA. In attendance were the Chairman of the Local government, Honourable

Austin Okhoibhole, community representatives and civic group members from across the communities in Esan North East Local Government Area. After the opening remark by the Director, Uromi JDPCI community representatives took turns to read out and present the list of projects they wanted to be done in their respective communities.

Chairman Response

In response, the Chairman, Hon Austin Okoibhole thanked Uromi JDPCI for organizing the town hall meeting and promised to lend his continuous support to



The chairman addressing the gathering

the activities of the civic group in his domain. He stated that he had planned to organize a forum like this with representatives of women groups, youths and elders of various communities in the local government and that the proactive act of the civic groups have actually made things easier for him. He then requested that the civic groups should make the forum more regular as he will always be available to participate and to render his stewardship to his people.

The Chairman informed the gathering of his plans to stop street trading and to keep the local government area clean. To this end, he stated that the council had embarked on de-silting the drains in the local government for erosion control. He warned that hence forth anyone caught throwing dirt in to gutters will be prosecuted. Hon. Austin also informed the people of the council's decision to move all round side parks to the central park in the local government for easy access of transportation and security reasons.



Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo giving the opening remark

Security: In the area of crime prevention and security, the chairman spoke of the council's desire to register and give reflective vests to commercial motorcyclists working in the local government. This he said was to prevent them been used by criminals to perpetuate crimes. The Chairman further informed the people of the State Government's directives to all local government chairmen to set up a seven man committee that will be made up of members from the police, civil defence, and other security agencies that will be tasked with the responsibility to register any Fulani herdsman and cattle that enters the state or local government. This model will be replicated in every ward and community in the Local Government Area.

Sanitation and Waste Disposal: In the area of cleanliness, the chairman spoke of the council's plans to engage waste managers who will henceforth collect waste from the people to prevent indiscriminate dumping of waste.

Education: Hon. Austine Okhoibhole informed the gathering of the state government's plans to renovate one schools per ward in every Local Government Area in the state and that the community in which a school is selected will have to sign an agreement to protect the equipment and school facilities from vandals. He then promised to ensure that the schools mentioned at the town hall meeting were given priority. He also mentioned that services of education marshals will be engaged to ensure pupils and students do not roam the streets during school hours.

Health: The chairman also mentioned that the councils intend to revamp the moribund Uzenema comprehensive Primary Health Centre to serve as a referral point for other Primary Health Centres in the Local Government Area. He added that the Primary Health Centres will also be given a face lift and refurbished to meet the needs of the people.

Skills Acquisition centre at Obiyon: the chairman promised to move some sewing machines from the council to the centre and revive the place so that schools and other establishments can get their uniforms sewed by people who would be engaged in the skills acquisition centre. He also promised to give good consideration to all the issues presented by the various communities since they were all in line with his plans for the Local Government Area. He noted that the budget for this year has already been prepared and that any of the items presented not captured in this budget will be captured in the next budget.

Grading of Roads: The Chairman stated that roads will be graded as requested and that the 1KM road leading to the Primary Health Centre in Egbele community will be constructed in addition to the grading of other roads in the community

Agriculture: The Chairman gave hindsight on the plans by the council to acquire and cultivate large hectares of land for planting pawpaw and other crops that already have markets that will be profitable for both the community and the local government. He added that the State Government had planned to partner with Local Government for Agricultural Production but he was facing the challenge of communities not releasing land for fear that the government would take the land and not return it to them. The Director of Uromi JDPCI urged communities



Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo responding to chairman's remarks

that have vast land to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Government to guarantee the safety of their land if they were afraid that the government may not return their land to them after use.

He once again thanked the Chairman for gracing the forum with his presence and sued for his continuous support in the work the various civic groups were doing in his local government. He advised the chairman to fill the earth roads before grading them and that grading of roads should be done in the dry season.

Esan Central Local Government Area

The Town Hall Meeting was held on the 24th of May, 2018 at the Council hall in Esan Central Central LGA. In attendance were the Executive Chairman of the Local government, the Vice Chairman and Secretary to the Local Government, Chiefs, community representatives and civic group members from across the communities in Esan Central Local Government Area. The media and information officer welcomed all to the gathering and introduced members of the civic group present to the chairman. The Director thereafter gave the opening remark after which the various communities made their presentation which contained the needs of their communities to the Local Government Chairman for



The Director giving the opening remark

consideration in the budget. Chief Umane from Agua community again re-emphasized the community needs and appealed to the Chairman to give the desired consideration to demand.

Chief Ehiremen Sydney from Ewu further stressed that the health centres beside renovations should be provided with borehole and electricity. He added the need to prevail on BEDC for effective service delivery and assistance to step down power supply to other part of their community that do not have electricity.



Chief Sydney Ehiremen addressing the Chairman

Chairman's Response

The Chairman appreciated the initiatives of the civic group and stated that the civic group was the only group that he has seen that do not seek their personal benefit but the good of the community and the general good of all. He noted that if the civic group is sustained at all level, it will give the government the opportunity to address the true needs of the people because of their method of engagement. He noted that the needs that have been submitted were in line with the plans of the Local Government Area and the State Government who have stated that governance must be about the people. He promised to give favourable considerations to the issues that have been presented to him by the various communities. He stated that most of the requests made by the representatives of the communities were already captured in the budget. He further stated that for those that were not captured in the budget, they were noted and would reflect in the budget of next year. He promised to share a copy of the work plan and budget with Uromi JDPCI so that the civic groups can have access to it. The Chairman also informed the people that he had asked the councillors from all the wards to submit the list of roads to be graded in their communities and any other project to be added in the

council's budget as such the communities were encouraged to work with their Councillors to achieve it.

The Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo thanked the chairman once again for gracing the forum with his presence and sued for his continuous support in the work the various civic groups were doing in his local government. He was pleased that the chairman was willing to share the budget and work plan of the local government with the Uromi JDPCI and promised to continually provide assistance in the area of capacity building whenever needed.



Chief Umane addressing the Chairman

The Director told the chairman that a meeting of such would be organized after one year so that the chairman can give his stewardship.

Esan West Local Government Area

The town hall meeting was held on the 4th of June, 2018 at the Local Government Hall, Esan West LGA. In attendance were the Chairman of the Local government, Honourable Patrick Aguinede, the Vice Chairman, Chiefs, community representatives and civic group members from across the communities in Esan West Local Government Area. The Director Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo gave the opening remark which was followed by the presentations of community needs by the community representatives.



The Director giving the opening remark, while the Chairman and the Vice Chairman sit beside him

Chairman's Response

The Chairman expressed appreciation for the opportunity that the town hall meeting has created for him to interact with his people and then went further to explain and respond to issues raised

Revenue: He explained to participants in the forum that the council was indebted to the tune of four hundred and sixty six million naira only and still had backlog of salaries to pay to workers and then assured the people that the financial challenges will not deter him from providing good governance to the people as he has already set plans in place to overcome the situations.



The Chairman addressing the people

Market: He promised to build 10 markets in 10 wards with the assistance of CSDP at Local Government Area because he understood the importance commerce plays in the lives of the people of Esan West Local Government Area. He added that he already has counterpart funding arrangement with CSDP.

Grading of Road: The Chairman noted the plight of the people and promised to grade all the earth roads in the Local Government Areas in the dry season. He stated that a grader will be assigned to each ward for a period of 6 days as such each community was to work with the grader to ensure their needs were met.

Erosion Control: As part of palliative work to help check the erosion menace ravaging several roads in the Local Government Area, the Chairman spoke of plans to de-silt tunnel/drainages at Opoji, Ujoelen and some strategic junctions to reduce the erosion.

Crime Prevention and Security: the chairman spoke of the council's desire to register and give slots to five representatives from each community per ward to monitor the movements of suspicious individuals in the community. He requested that the names be given to him before the end of the round table discussion session for necessary action.

Education: Hon. Aguinode informed the people of the state governments plans to renovate schools in the state but only after agreements have been signed with members of the communities where the schools are located to ensure the equipment and school facilities are protected from vandals. He also mentioned that services of education marshals will be engaged to ensure pupils and students do not roam the streets during school hours.



Group photograph with the Chairman

The Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo concluded by suggesting to the Chairman to sand- fill the earth roads before grading them and then commended his desire to promote good governance in the Local Government Area

Esan South East Local Government Area

The Town Hall Meeting which was held on the 14th of June, 2018 at the Council hall, Esan South East LGA. In attendance were the Executive Chairman of the Local government, Member Representing Esan South East Local Government Area in Edo State House of Assembly Hon. Festus Edughele, the Vice Chairman, elected Councillors representing various communities, Supervising Councillors, Chiefs (Iyasele of Ewatto and Oniha of Ubiaja), community representatives and



The Director making a remark

civic group members from across the communities in Esan South East Local Government Area. The Director thereafter gave the opening remark which was followed by presentations of community needs by the various communities.

Chief Iyasele of Ewatto Kingdom appreciated Uromi JDPCI and the Civic Groups who initiated this intervention because it was not an easy task to have this type of meeting with the chairman, that the civic group could make this possible, is highly commendable.

Chairman's Response

The Chairman thanked UROMI JDPCI and the civic group members for providing a platform for him to tell the people of the Local Government his plans and appealed for the continuous partnership and support of the group to help bring about meaningful development across communities in the Local Government Area. He commended the initiative of the civic groups and their communities to call for a town hall meeting to



The LGA Chairman addressing the people

begin the administration of the Local Government Area with him and requested the people to measure his impact on the various communities after a period of 6 months. He added that he went round some communities immediately he resumed Office and that what they communities have presented now were not different from what he was told at the communities he visited. He noted that it was based on that survey that he has designed a master plan for the year 2018 which he shared with the people as he respond to their needs.

Electricity Supply: The Chairman noted that he has submitted a situation report based on the complaint he earlier received to the deputy Governor and that hopefully there will be improved supply when the proposed planning by state Governor begin to manifest. He added that they have discovered that payments of bills were not getting to the appropriate quarter that was why they said people and communities were owning.



Group photograph of participants

Water: He noted that the government was working to resolve the dispute in Ugboha Dam and that when it is resolved, plans to ensure adequate water supply to the various communities in Esan South East LGA will commence.

Health Centres: The plans for the reactivation of Health Centres has reached an advanced stage. He noted that he may not be building new ones but he will make the existing ones become active.

Grading of Roads: The Chairman stated that grading of roads will be given due consideration but let it be known that he may not be able to grade all the roads at once but the ones that have been presented by the various communities will be given due attention.



Festus Edughele addressing the people

The Member Representing Esan South East Local Government Area in Edo State House of Assembly Hon. Festus Edughele expressed his happiness to be part of the town hall meeting which was adjudged needful and useful for participatory democracy. He appreciated the chairman for his expressed commitment to deliver on the needs presented to him by the various communities. He reiterated his commitment to promote community development by

highlighting his contribution to resolving security problem that bedeviled the communities in the LGA.

He also stated his involvement in rural electrification project and many other projects which has been influenced to the communities through him. He expressed his readiness to partner with the LGA Chairman to ensure that the needed development was achieved.

In response the Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo advised the Chairman to sand-fill the earth roads before grading them and suggested that the grading of roads be done in the dry season. He also expressed his pleasure for been able to hold a forum like this with the chairman of a Local Government Area present which has not been the case before now. He expressed gratitude to the council Chairman for sharing copies of his plans with the civic groups and community members. He also used the opportunity to inform the Chairman that a follow up forum would be organized towards the end of the year to ascertain the level of achievement of the projects presented by the communities.

EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL EMINENT STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

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



Onojie of Ewohimi making his contribution at the event.

Government Area, Hon Austine Okoibhole, The Vice Chairman of Esan Central Local Government Area, Representatives of Hon Sergius Oseasochie Ogun, Member Representing Esan North East and Esan South East Federal Constituency, community leaders, civic group members and other distinguished members of the communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were: peaceful and violence free election, money politics/vote buying, security challenges/kidnapping, Human Trafficking/Irregular migration and role of government in community development

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



A cross section of participants at the event

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

representation because the absence of quality and credible candidates compel some voters to demand for money before voting..

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

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



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

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



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

to have a ready market available for farmers to sell their products after harvest. This they said will go a long way in reducing the trend of irregular migration among young people. The convener appealed to

participants to intensify campaign against irregular migration to change the mind sets and advise the youths to equip themselves with academic or relevant skills so that they can contribute to the growth and development of their communities.

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

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Uromi JDPCI recorded significant impact in the lives of beneficiaries 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 through the SMILE project which has usurped their ignorance and has enabled them to make informed decisions concerning their health status.

Health Education and Sensitization

Quarterly out reaches for health education were conducted in the project communities to sensitize the people on public health issues as they occur. Some of the health issues were sensitization on how to prevent Lassa fever which was done during the outbreak of Lassa fever, sensitization on prevention of cholera, personal hygiene and environmental sanitation. This activity was conducted in eight communities (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, Ebhoiyi, Obiyon and Onewa) in Esan North East LGA where the SMILE project was implemented

HIV Prevention, Care and Support

Community Dialogue

Uromi JDPCI conduct twenty four (24) community dialogue meetings in 2018 with a total of 371 participants (235 male and 136 female) comprising of community heads, elders, chiefs, women leaders, CQIT chairmen and other stakeholders in the communities. The objective of the dialogue meetings was to sensitize and counsel community stakeholders on HIV/AIDS as well as

commit them to sensitizing their subjects on the need to stop stigmatization/discrimination against PLHIV in their communities/households.

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.

HIV Testing and Counselling

Uromi JDPCI focused on reaching all SMILE beneficiaries with HIV testing service. The target groups were those with unknown HIV status and those children at risk of contracting HIV which was determined using HIV risk assessment tool. All those at risk were referred for testing and eventually got tested. A total of 830 persons were assisted to access HIV testing and counselling services out of which one was discovered to be positive and she was enrolled and retained in care.

Treatment Care and Support

Uromi JDPCI supported eighteen (18) economically vulnerable PLHIV (6 OVCs and 11 caregivers) to access care and treatment through escort services. The essence of the escort services was to ensure that all PLHIV adhere to treatment and have viral load suppression. Uromi JDPCI also carried out community-based adherence counseling for the 18 PLHIV in their homes. During these visits, they were counseled on the importance of adhering to ARV drugs, as well as taking of adequate diet and maintenance of personal hygiene. 14 of the positive beneficiaries so far have recorded significant level of viral load suppression

USE OF EMERGENCY FUND

Emergency fund was used to support a 14 years old male OVC living with HIV from Obeidu community on two occasions. On one of such occasion he was admitted at Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital and then referred to St. Camillus Hospital, Uromi. The OVC was diagnosed of severe malnutrition, cardiomegaly and enlarged liver and was retained in care at the health facility. But unfortunately after much treatment and oxygen therapy, the OVC died in May, 2018.

Uromi JDPCI 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.

NUTRITION SERVICES

This year, Uromi JDPCI through SMILE intervention provided need based nutrition services in the following areas

Monthly growth monitoring

This was conducted for vulnerable children with the aim of identifying medical complications that affect nutritional status, track growth and weight trend and overall reduction of malnutrition in the households within the project communities. The weight, height and MUAC for those less than 5 years of age were taken during home visits and all the children who were assessed in the period stated above were all found to be growing well in comparison with their age using the Body Mass Index (BMI) and other measuring tools for those above 5 years of age. However, one of the two children referred to health facility died as a result of malnutrition coupled with compromised immune system. 1954 VC were served of which 990 were males and 964 were females.

Nutrition education and counseling

This was aimed at educating caregivers and older VC about the essentials of good nutrition to enable them take necessary steps to improve the quality of their diets and their nutritional well-being and health. This was done for older VC and caregivers following the result from growth monitoring using the Nutrition key Message booklet. Emphasis was on good diet which they were told is the best investment that they can make for their household with special interest on the pregnant women, lactating mothers and children because of nutritional needs. 752 caregivers were served out of which 89 were males and 663 were females.

Home garden

Following the training organized on home garden which was aimed at enhancing household food security and nutrition as well as provide income for the household, Caregivers were encouraged to establish the garden via the provision of Agricultural input because of its importance to food diversifications which in turn leads to better and overall utilization of nutrients and source of additional income to the family. 34 home gardens were established in 5 project communities which were: Ivue, Egbele, Efandion, Obeidu and Obiyon communities

Infants and Young Child Feeding group

Uromi JDPCI supported the running of 17 C-IYCF support groups established in the 8 project communities with the aim to develop and strengthen activities that will protect, promote and support adequate infant and young child feeding practices. The intervention was used to promote exclusive breastfeeding and to sensitize the community women on the content and nutritious value of breast milk to infants. The support group was designed to have elderly women, women of child bearing age, pregnant and lactating women as well as male. The forum was also used to encourage support for breastfeeding mothers by other members of the family. The 17 IYCF had a

total number of 250 caregivers out of which 9 were males and 241 were females. IYCF Counseling card and key message booklets were used to facilitate the session in the communities.

Cooking demonstration

This was an intervention conducted to promote the consumption of locally available food and demonstrate the right ways to prepare the food so as to retain the relevant nutrient in the food. 8 cooking demonstrations were carried out under this reporting period and 206 caregivers (2 males and 204 females) were reached. The following foods were demonstrated in the 8 project communities: Tom Brown, Emieki, Soya milk, Jollof rice, Vegetable soup and Fruit salad

The outcome of the demonstration was the creation of awareness on the importance of local food which were before the activity neglected in the communities, this was measured via behavioral change notice during home visit.

Breastfeeding Week

This was commemorated to sensitize caregivers particularly young women of child bearing age on the importance of breast milk to children especially for the first six months of exclusive breastfeeding which 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/she is six months old. Additionally, the week activity helped to promote and support exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life and ensure the provision of specific feeding recommendations for infants irrespective of their circumstances of birth and health status. This year's event was commemorated with caregivers in Obeidu and Egbele. A total of 103 persons (8m&95f) were reached.

LIVEHOOD SUPPORT AND HOUSEHOLD EMPOWERMENT

In a bid to address the difficulty experienced by vulnerable children and their households in eight communities (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, Ebhoiyi, Obiyon and Onewa) in Esan North East Local Government Area of Edo State, Uromi JDPCI adopted some strategies to strengthen systems and procedures for effective service delivery and to encourage community ownership and sustainability by getting the community, policy makers and relevant stakeholders involved in all process of our interventions.

The target beneficiaries were vulnerable children and their Households (caregivers). Caregivers' capacity were assessed and built to enhance their ability to access basic needs to their households through training and mentorship part of which has resulted in the provision of cash transfer, vocational skills acquisition and agricultural inputs to selected households. Some children who were enrolled into vocational skills the previous year were supported with start-up kits to improve their livelihood and economic wellbeing. Efforts were also made to promote

psychosocial support activities, child protection among others through sensitization and counselling support.

Cash Transfer

Two sets of SMILE beneficiaries got cash transfer of twenty thousand (NGN20,000) naira per beneficiary this year. The first was a set of 109 households who were selected for the cash transfer exercise. They were all given cheques which they all cashed without hitches. The activity was marked with a flag-off ceremony at the Palace of the Ojuromi of Uromi Kingdom on the 10th of May, 2018. By September, another set of 358 households benefitted from the cash transfer exercise too and each of them also got twenty thousand (NGN20,000) cash, bringing the total of beneficiaries in 2018 to 467. This transfer was made to the benefitting households to meet their consumption need following the outcome of their assessment which showed that they were economically vulnerable. The cash transfer was sponsored by CRS with support from USAID through the SMILE project.

Vocational Skill Training/Presentation of Start-Up Kits to 21 Beneficiaries

A total of 27 older vulnerable children who were enrolled into different vocational skills including (tailoring, hairdressing, welding & fabrication, aluminum works, catering & decoration, barbing, mechanic, phone repairs, tiling & mason, knitting, electrical works, plumbing, pastries and soap making) in the previous year were assessed by Uromi JDPCI in preparation for set up. Out of the total number of 27 enrolled, 21 trainees that met prerequisites for graduation and start-up support, were provided with start-up materials in their respective chosen vocations.



The Director of Uromi JDPCI making a remark during flag-off ceremony

The ceremony which was flagged off on the 28th March, 2018 at the Esan North East Local Government Hall had in attendance the Ojuromi of uromi His Royal Highness Anslem Edenojie II who was ably represented by one of his high Chiefs the Oliha of Uromi kingdom Chief Ozah and other Chiefs.



CRS-SMILE representative making a remark

Also present was the Chairman of Esan North East LGA who was represented by the Vice Chairman Hon. Prince Saturday Iyoha, the Director of



Esan North East LGA Vice Chairman making a speech during the flag-off ceremony

Uromi JDPCI Very
Rev, Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, Civic groups

supervisors/facilitators, the Head of social development in LGA, state Technical Adviser on HES Mr. Ernest Oriabure, CQIT chairmen from Obiedu, Eror, Egbele, Awo-Obiyon and Idigun, communities, Community Volunteers, press men from NTA Irukepen and parents of beneficiaries, trainers, and the beneficiaries.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in his opening remark expressed gratitude to God for making this dream come through. He encouraged the beneficiaries to hold fast to the opportunity that has been provided for them. He appreciated the sponsors of the project the Catholic Relief Services through the SMILE program funded by USAID. He urged the beneficiaries to be committed and dedicated to their chosen skills and not to consider irregular migration as an alternative to hard work, because it could make them end up as victims of trafficking in foreign land. He noted that the start-up kits given to them were part of the efforts in the SMILE program to improve their livelihood opportunity and to better their lives.



The Director presenting hair dryer to a beneficiary

Chief Ozah, on behalf of the Ojuromi of Uromi thanked and appreciated the Director and sponsors of the project. He also congratulated the successful beneficiaries and applauded their dedication to duty for the upliftment of their lives, families and communities. He advised the selected beneficiaries to show good example in their learnt skill and aspire to grow better and become better role models to others. He also thanked Fr. Fidelis and the SMILE project sponsored by USAID for coming to the aid of the Beneficiaries, for not allowing them to go abroad to start engaging prostitution stealing and other form of misbehavior.

He encouraged them to use the equipment well for themselves and to serve others within and outside their communities.

The community improvement team chairman from Obiedu Mr. Alex Okhilua appreciated Uromi JDPCI and the SMILE project for their numerous help in different angle such as the micro credit



Obiedu CQIT Chairman, Mr Alex Okhilua expressing appreciation on behalf of others

scheme, agric loan, cash transfer, enrollment of their children in skill acquisitions scheme and provision of start up kit. He also said that Uromi JDPCI through the SMILE project gave them the idea of the formation



Rev Sylvester Akhigbe making a presentation on behalf of the LGA

of food bank which they have been using to support the less privileged in their community. He also encouraged the beneficiaries not to sell their equipment but to use them for the development of themselves and that of the communities. Other stakeholders present also thanked the organizers and the implementing team of the SMILE project. Blessing of items was done by Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo and the presentation of items to beneficiaries was carried out by the Director of Uromi JDPCI with the support of the stakeholders and Trainers present. Items were presented to the twenty one (21) beneficiaries. nine (9) tailors, eight (8) hair dressers, two (2) catering and Decoration, one (1) Tiller, and one (1) Alumaco.

Agricultural Input

Uromi JDPCI SMILE project enhanced household food security during the 2018, farming seasons. In 2018, the first delivery of Agricultural input was High Quality Protein Maize Pro-Vitamin A Maize in which a total of 307 (three hundred and seven) caregivers benefited from the distribution (high quality protein maize HQPM - 171 and Pro vitamin A VA - 136) across the whole project communities



Distribution of Agric inputs to caregivers

Another group of 260 (88 male and 172 females) persons benefitted from the tree crops made up of coconut, oil palm and mango seed that were distributed across the 8 communities. In all a total of five hundred and sixty seven (567) persons made up of 208 males and 359 females benefitted from the distribution. These crops were provided to enhance household food and nutrition security and to serve as income sources for the households either from the sale of the roots, grains or their processed products.

Food Bank

A total of 17 caregiver/households benefited from the distribution of yams (3 tubers each) from food bank in Obeidu community. The yams were contributed by members of the community improvement team for the service of the most vulnerable ones in their mist.

Clothing Support

In this quarter also, Uromi JDPCI distributed clothes and shoes to some vulnerable household head in 4 communities namely Eror, Efandion, Ivue and Obiyon. A total number of seven (7) households head (all male) benefited from the clothes and shoes which were donated to Uromi JDPCI by name Mr. Ted Inegbenosen from Eror community which is also one of the SMILE project communities of intervention.

PROTECTION AND CARE SERVICES

Child/Legal Protection

A total of 90 children were assisted to get birth certificate by Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with volunteers who had access to the households. The caregivers were also given awareness about the importance of birth certificates for their children at various fora during which they were advised to access the services in their various health centers.

Gender Equality, Female Empowerment and male involvement intervention

Gender Norms

Uromi JDPCI mainstreamed gender norms into caregivers' forum and youth clubs across the project communities. The purpose was to create gender awareness in the project communities. The gender norms manual and job aids were adopted to facilitate the 10 sessions of gender norms integration in the communities. A total 1045 (6 male and 1039 female) caregivers were reached and 1372 (649 male and 723 female) youths completed the 10 sessions on gender norms.

Male Involvement

The introduction of this intervention was to create gender norms awareness among the male folks majority of whom are the household heads. This was as a result of the fact that most of the male did not participate in the previous sessions of the gender norms awareness that was done using the caregivers' forum which was dominated by women. The first attempt at male involvement was with the commemoration of 16 days of activism against gender based violence where 62 men were reached. But with the implementation of male forum another 70 men were reached in seven communities (Idigun-Obiyon, Ebhoiyi, Obeidu, Ivue, Awo-Obiyon, Egbele and Eror) with gender awareness.

Adolescent programming

Uromi JDPCI implemented the adolescent girls programme in three phases; the first was the pilot intervention in Obiyon community in 2017 during which 60 adolescent girls were reached with HIV prevention and reproductive health messages in two different cohorts which was disaggregated into ages 10-13 and 14-17 for age appropriate learning. Two mentors were engaged for the two cohorts. By the second quarter of FY18 the scale up adolescent girls intervention was implemented in the same Obiyon community



Adolescent girls Age 14-17 years during one of their club discussion in Egbele community

reaching another set of 60 adolescent girls in two cohorts.



The PM Uromi JDPCI addressing the girls during their Graduation ceremony in Egbele community

The third quarter of 2018 saw a shift from Obiyon to Egbele community where the third batch of 60 adolescents were taken through the HIV prevention and reproductive health messages bringing the total number of persons reached to 180 adolescent girls.

Kids Club

The kids/youth clubs activity for this reporting year was centered on the provision of psychosocial support to the children by engaging them in life building skills and recreational activities to build their brain towards the development of self-esteem as well as to help them develop some essential life skill such as; the ability to trust, develop self-confidence, understand their environment, learn how to use the assistance of others to overcome difficulties, and to guide them towards the achievement of their life goal, dreams and aspirations. Each of the topic discussed was to enable the children understand how important it was to work with team which will bring out the best in each of them. These activities were organized and carried out in eight communities (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, Ebhoiyi Obiyon and Onewa) in Esan North East LGA. The kids/youth clubs were held every month, at the end a cumulative total of 331 Kids/youth club were conducted within the year and 10,200 children made up of 4705 male and 5495 female were in attendance.



The children during one of the kids club in Ivue playing puzzle game

Caregiver Forum

Uromi JDPCI organized caregiver forum across eight communities (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, Ebhoiyi Obiyon and Onewa) in Esan North East LGA to enlighten caregivers /guardians on some important parenting skills as well as create gender norms awareness. These fora, provided avenue for Uromi JDPCI to discuss the affairs of the children and also provide educative support to the caregiver using various topical issues with guidance from the parenting manuals and job aids. A total of 248 caregiver fora were conducted with 4278 persons made up of 64 male and 4214 Female in attendance.



Caregiver forum in Efandion community

Community Improvement Team

To ensure the sustainability of Uromi JDPCI interventions in the communities, Community Quality Improvement Team (CQIT) were constituted in some of the community of intervention in Esan North East LGA. Uromi JDPCI with support from SMILE further assisted them to hold regular meetings, to that effect a total 14 CQIT meetings were held across the communities within the year. These meeting were held to intimate the team members on the progress of work in their communities, inform them of challenges if there are any and then request their assistance for the implementation of some cultural base issues within the community. They assisted a lot in proffering solutions to community issues and have helped to sustain community response to vulnerability issues. A total of Eighty seven 87 persons were in attendance during the meetings.

MICRO CREDIT

Introduction

Meeting the basic needs of the less privileged in 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 to promote Micro-Credit enterprise as a platform.

Giving of soft loan to active poor women and active farmers in the society is part of the strategy used by Uromi JDPCI. This scheme is open to Catholics and Non-Catholics within the Diocese of Uromi.



Onosetale group in Ivue community

The scheme is in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC I, PROMIC II and AGRIC PROMIC (for farmers only) and a total of eight hundred and seventeen (817) persons, six hundred and seventeen (617) female and two hundred (200) male are currently benefiting from these schemes. Nineteen (19) groups were formed and empowered after training them on importance of savings, causes, penalty and risk of default, conditions, methods of repayment and size of the loan for selected clients who were registered into the Scheme, verification of their business type among others. The amount given to individuals in each category as soft loan ranges from twenty thousand naira to fifty thousand naira (20,000 - 50,000), while that of Agric-PROMIC Scheme ranges from fifty thousand naira to one hundred and twenty five thousand naira (50,000-125,000) only. Each individual in the groups are expected to repay the loan in installment within a period of 6 months for traders and not more than 9 months for farmers.

Group Micro-Credit

The group Micro Credit currently has ten (10) benefiting groups which comprises of one hundred and fifty seven (157) persons. They include: Osekhumen group 1, Oseahumen group, Onosetale group, Osezele group, Success group, Goodness group, Blessed group, Ekinaduense, Together we Stand group, future hope and Wisdom group with each having a membership strength of between ten to eighteen (10-18) persons.

Agric Micro Credit

Uromi JDPCI Micro Credit is also giving out Agric loan to active farmers and a total of fifty seven (57) persons from four (4) groups are currently benefiting from AGRIC MICRO CREDIT Scheme. They include: Favor Farmer association Ewohimi, Osose farmers association Group 11 Okhuesan, Gods Grace farmers association Ewohimi and Obozokhae Farmers association group 2 Ukhun. These groups have membership strength of between ten to fifteen (10-15) persons in each group.



Destiny farmers during confirmation of account number

Promic I

A total of one hundred and sixty-six (166) persons from thirteen (13) groups are currently benefiting from PROMIC I scheme. They include: Glorious group, Osemudiamen group1, God is one group, Akoamen group, Ofure group, Osebhajimede group, Obeidu Wives and Daughters group, Progress group, Gracious group, Akhumoiegbe group, Ebosetale group, Omonkhuodion group and Purity group. Each group has membership strength of between 7-15 persons.

Promic II

Nineteen (19) groups comprising of one hundred and seventy five (175) persons namely: Ojoyin-mi- owo group, Achemani group, God help us group, God is one group, Blessing group, Success

group, Future hope group, Ateshi group, Ukpahajo group, Uyio-ogwa group, God is great group, Progressive 1 group, Osebhajimede group, Perfect group, Victory group, Queen of Angels group, Famous group, Oseahumen group and Happiness group. Each group has membership strength of between six to fifteen (6-15) persons. Most groups are through with their repayment except for some groups that defaulted and are gradually clearing their debt. Letters of remainder of outstanding loan has been distributed to some defaulters.

Agric Promic

Seventeen(17) groups comprising of one hundred and eighty one (181) persons, with membership strength of between eight – fifteen (6-15) persons, namely: Akoamen co-operative farmers group, Obeidu, Ojore rice farmers Illushi, Divine Mercy poultry farmers Uromi, Thimson and sons irrigation farmers, Akomu-Iyen co-operative group 1 & 2 Egoro-Amede, Holy Trinity Cassava farmers group, Efandion, Udo lane farmers association group, Ujoelen farmers association group, Obozokhae farmers association group1&3 Ukhun, Stand out cooperative Association, Destiny farmers association, Agadaga-Ewohimi, Ososeh Farmers Association Group1&3, Okhuesan, Akugbe Farmers Association Ekpon and Akugbe cooperative society Idoa are currently benefiting from the AGRIC PROMIC scheme.

Achievement/Empowerment

Nineteen (19) new groups comprising of one hundred and ninety three (193) persons were formed this year, five (5) from Agric PROMIC Scheme, five (5) from Agric Micro-Credit Scheme, seven (7) from PROMIC 2 Scheme, one (1) from PROMIC (1) Scheme and one from Group Micro-Credit Scheme. Namely: Akugbe Farmers Association, Thimson and Sons Irrigation Farmers, Ososeh Farmers Association Group 3 Obozokhale Farmers Group 3, Akugbe cooperative society Idoa, Favour Famers Association, God's Grace Farmers Association, Standout cooperative society Ekpoma, Obozokhae group3, Ososeh Association Group 2 Okhuesan, Purity group1 and 2, Divine Grace group, Oseahumen dev. Group, Victory group, Queen of angel group, Famous group, Happiness group and Wisdom group Ekpoma,

In the year under review, a total of fifteen (15) groups comprising of one hundred and sixty seven (167) persons were reimbursed with different category of soft and Agric loan. (Soft loan for six groups with fifty four persons and nine (9) groups from Agric comprising of one hundred and thirteen (113) persons)

Uromi JDPCI have four prospective group, that have been trained and registered but yet to be empowered due to inadequate fund to meet the growing demands of clients.



Micro Credit addressing Ososeh farmers during confirmation of account number

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING

UROMI JDPCI MARK THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA WITH RALLY AND CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives marked the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita with rallies in three major towns (Uromi, Irrua and Ekpoma) in Uromi Diocese to sensitize the general public on the dangers and ills of human trafficking. The candle light rally which was held on Wednesday 8th February, 2018 across the three towns began with a prayer led by the Director Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo. He thereafter gave the testimony of St. Josephine Bakhita who was born in Sudan in 1869, enslaved as a child and eventually forced into prostitution but later brought to freedom through the help of the Canossian Sisters of Charity.



CWO President leading prayers to conclude the rally in Uromi

In Uromi the rally began with a mass movement from St. Anthony Cathedral, down to Uromi market square with songs and placards (with inscriptions discouraging trafficking and irregular migration) and handbills shared out to the populace. This was necessary so as to educate and inform the people on the dangers of sending their wards especially their girl child to Italy, Dubai and other countries for prostitution.

At the market square in Uromi, a member of Uromi JDPCI used the medium to advice parents and guidance to discourage their children from travelling out of the country without proper documentation and validation from the destination country. The importance of education and



Director and some participants at the rally in Irrua

vocational skills acquisition as a means of livelihood was emphasized as against the get rich quick mentality being pursued by many young people, which can land them in the den of traffickers. He reminded them of the dangers involved in the journey that a lot of youth die in the process and some who finally get there are being forced or compelled to do a lot of terrible things over there. He concluded by asking all to be hardworking, and be contented with what they have, after which, a member of the CWO led the prayers for both parents and their children that God may give them the sense of direction and help to make good choices in life. She also prayed for victims of trafficking that God may help retrace

their steps to freedom and better life. Also, Mr Felix Ebhohimen translated the message in Esan language so as to drive the message home properly.

The procession which had in attendance a large crowd of Catholic Women Organization (CWO) from the Cathedral and Uromi Deanery started from the Cathedral through the market square, then moved through Udo street into the centre of the market where the same message were repeated while participants moved round the market to share fliers. At the end of the market awareness, the participants again processed back to the Cathedral with songs and messages against human trafficking.

In Irrua, the procession commenced from Zuma Memorial Hospital through the Market square to the Palace of the Monarch and then to Annunciation Catholic Church where it was concluded. During the procession, prayers and songs were rendered to God for victims of trafficking while cards and banner carrying messages against human trafficking were also displayed. There was a stop at the market square where the Director of Uromi JDPCI addressed the market men and women on the dangers of human trafficking. He said that the trend of travelling outside the country with no aim whatsoever was so common in our communities and should be discouraged. He said there were more honorable alternatives for the members of these communities to learn skills that will empower them to become responsible citizens of their communities. He also mentioned that the procession was very timely as our youths and young girls were all leaving the country for the so called “greener pastures” which in truth is not really green and that when they get there, they are being trafficked against their will and end up becoming a nuisance to those around them. The Motor cycle association in the market was also sensitized by the team during the rally



The Director and Rev. Sr. Marie leading the rally in Ekpoma

In Ekpoma the candle light procession started from Mary the Queen Catholic Church Ekpoma through the Market square with singing and prayers at intervals. Cards and banner bearing messages against human trafficking were also carried to drive the message to the general public. At Ekpoma market square, the Director of JDPCI addressed the market men and women to support the campaign against human trafficking. He noted that

the trend of travelling outside the country irregularly and without proper documentation with the appropriate authorities is alarming in our communities and should be discouraged. He said there were more honorable alternatives for the members of these communities to learn skills that will empower them to become responsible



The director leading the rally in Ekpoma

citizens of their communities. He also mentioned that the procession was very timely as our youths and young girls were all leaving the country for the so called “greener pastures” which in truth is not really green.

Rev. Sr. Marie (RSJM) from Brother Roman Catechetical Centre of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi who was present at the rally thanked the Director and his team as well as all participants for organizing the procession to pray for victims of human trafficking and to sensitize the general public on the dangers inherent in human trafficking.

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

Introduction

Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with GPI embarked on the PACKING project with a focus on mechanism to prevent human trafficking through the retention of the girl child in school. The intervention also considered the empowerment of the care givers of the selected beneficiaries so as to ensure that the households are economically engaged to depend less on external support for their means of livelihood. To achieve this Uromi JDPCI participated and consolidated on the step down trainings conducted by GPI in 71 Government Secondary Schools in Edo Central Senatorial District by administering the child status index on all the students who participated in the step down training on anti-human trafficking. 134 out of 4614 students assessed were identified as most vulnerable. Uromi JDPCI then proceeded to further conduct Household vulnerability assessment to determine the final beneficiaries of the project. This assessment assisted to reduce the number of beneficiaries to 75. The assessment which was the second phase of the project was completed in July while the third phase was the empowerment phase which comprised of educational support of NGN 5,000 to 75 students, enrolment of 16 beneficiaries in external examination (WASSCE) and the empowerment of 75 caregivers with grant to run choice business that can support livelihood and the education of their children.

Step Down Training

Uromi JDPCI actively participated in 30 step down training conducted by GPI in 71 government owned secondary schools in the Five LGAs of Edo Central Senatorial District. The training was



Step down raining in Arue Secondary School, Uromi

centered on the meaning, cause and prevention of human trafficking, migration and how to say no effectively to traffickers. These topics were taught to equip the students in becoming good peer educators and masters in the areas of human trafficking. The trainings had in attendance 4 GPI facilitators, 2 Uromi JDPCI Staff, school teachers/heads and students.



Step down training in Esan Model Grammar School, Uromi

The training commenced with the introduction of the facilitators present and a pre-test on the topics to be discussed. Expectations on the intended areas of discussion were also taken from the students present. The training facilitator thereafter explained the meaning, types, causes and prevention of human trafficking to participants. She defined human trafficking (trafficking in persons) as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of threat or the use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position of vulnerability; or the giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Migration and the methods of safe migration and how to say no effectively to traffickers was also explained to the students. The training was further digested by the students with the film-screening shown on the dangers of human trafficking. At the end of the film-screening, a post test was conducted and a peer educator guide was administered to the students. Information to produce national birth certificates for students was obtained by the facilitators so as to produce free birth certificates for them.



Step down training at Uroh Secondary School, Uzea

At the end of the training, voices were obtained from the students to assess what they had learnt. The student representatives were highly pleased with the training as they mentioned various gaps that the training had filled. A student mentioned that she had learnt who a trafficker was and how they can be identified and another mentioned that she had learnt how to say no effectively to traffickers. Evaluation of the training was thereafter conducted to which the students and facilitators adjudged as excellent.

Students Assessment

In the months of January to June 2018 Uromi JDPCI conducted sets of assessment/enrolment in 71 schools across the LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District. A total of 4614 students were



A staff assessing student at Obeidu Secondary School

assessed and enrolled out of which the most vulnerable students were selected for empowerment after their households were also assessed to correlate the information of the students. With the co-operation of the staff appointed by the Principals in the various schools, the exercise was done in all the schools using the attendance taken during the training and film show. At the point of assessment, it was discovered that not all students who were present at the training were on ground for assessment because some



A staff assessing student in Igueben

students had relocated, while others changed their school.

Household Assessment

In the months of July to September 2018 Uromi JDPCI conducted the final set of assessment of the 130 households who were selected using the information from student assessment conducted across communities in the five Local Government Areas



Household assessment for the selection of final beneficiaries

in Edo Central Senatorial District. The 130 beneficiaries were selected using the National OVC Management Information System (NOMIS) to analyse the vulnerability status of the various students assessed in the project. This assessment was done using Household Vulnerability Assessment forms (HHVA) with a bid to further reduce the figure to 75 most vulnerable beneficiaries.



Household assessment for the selection of final beneficiaries

At the end of the exercise, 15 households were selected in each of the Local Government Area for empowerment and trained on income generating activities (IGA) selection, business



Household assessment for the selection of final beneficiaries

planning and management as well as value

addition.



Household assessment for the selection of final beneficiaries

Orientation and Business Planning Meeting with Beneficiaries

In the months of September and October 2018 Uromi JDPCI organized sensitization on business planning and management for selected beneficiaries in the PACKING project. The exercise which was conducted for three days (20th and 25th of September, and 18th October 2018) started with assessment of business plans and available skills with the caregivers; this was followed with identification and orientation on Income Generating Activities that are peculiar to the locations

of the beneficiaries. The exercise later progressed into value chain analysis and then sensitization on the importance of value addition to choice of economic activities identified by the various caregivers. The beneficiaries were later told to go home and reflect on the orientation exercise and then come up with a plan for their preferred choice of business. It was again emphasized that the essence of the economic empowerment was to be able to support the selected child in education, so as to promote retention and progression of the girl child in school, by mentoring them to appreciate the value of education and also use the opportunity to sensitize the students and their households on issues of human



Participants during the first business training and orientation



Participants during the second business training and orientation

trafficking.

Elaborate demonstration of business and the risk involved in its management was conducted Mr Felix Ebhohimen using the BEST GAME. He gave them the different circle involved in business starting with the capital given, the expenses, the savings and the tax to government. He told them that the money coming

(profit) from the business must be saved to guarantee the continuity and sustainability of the business. He also listed the different expenses that money can be used for

such as transportation, feeding, health, school fees and rent and that their expenses should be done within the limit of their profit and not from the capital to prevent business liquidation. He concluded the session by saying that when one wants to start up a business, thorough calculation should be done to avoid liquidation as well as plan to mitigate all business risk.

Empowerment of Beneficiaries

The empowerment of selected beneficiaries was done in three phases; the first was the disbursement of the first tranche to the first twenty five beneficiaries, which were selected from across the 5 Local Government Areas. The sum of fifty thousand (50,000) naira only was given to each of the selected beneficiaries, with a promise to give them a second tranche if the first tranche was adequately and effectively invested according to the plans they shared with Uromi JDPCI. This exercise was held on the 27th of September, 2018.



Beneficiaries in a group photograph with empowerment items in front

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

The third phase was done on the 11th December, 2018 with Uromi JDPCI Board of Trustee members in attendance. It is important to note that one of the children (Omoaka Juliet from Uroh



Some items for empowerment

Secondary School) who was selected for the second batch of empowerment in the PACKING project could not be reached as we were told by the relatives that she has travelled out of the country. She was replaced with Abhulimen Maria from Arue Secondary School, Uromi.

At the flag off ceremony executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo noted that the event was remarkable because of its holistic approach and

emphasis on in school adolescent. He noted that before now Uromi JDPCI interventions in anti-human trafficking focused on out of school Adolescent but with the PACKING project, the needs of in-school adolescents has become obvious. He thanked Girls Power Initiative for the extra resources sourced from the DANISH project to increase the number of beneficiaries from fifty (50) to seventy five (75), stating that the extra 25 will go a long way in increasing the impact of the project in Edo Central Senatorial District. He explained the purpose of the project which was to support the retention of the girl child in school so as to prevent them from falling prey to human traffickers. He reiterated that among the diversified numbers of students assessed from 71 schools only 75 of them were selected using set criteria. He noted that Uromi JDPCI took further initiative to train the selected beneficiaries on business education and selection of Income Generating Activities. This he said was to equip them with the relevant skills to select a profitable and viable business as well as help them to maximize profit so that after being empowered they will be able to continue their business and the training of their children in school.



AWEA Coordinator making a presentation to beneficiaries



GPI Coordinator Grace Osakwe after presentation to a beneficiary

The Coordinator of GPI grace Osakwe introduced the members of her team and gave a brief history of their collaboration with Uromi JDPCI. She said



GPI Coordinator Grace Osakwe addressing beneficiaries during the flag off ceremony

that all this was done to enable parent assist their children in school and also the children should assist their parent to make the goal of the project successful. She specifically advised caregivers on the need to educate female children. She appreciated Uromi JDPCI for their intervention in Esan land and the partnership in this intervention. She informed the caregivers that monitoring will be done for two years to create relationship with them. She concluded by saying that 71 schools were visited in Esan land and 7100 children were assessed, 142 children were selected and later reduced to 75 persons who were the beneficiaries present at the event.

NAPTIP's representative Bar. Nduka Nwawenne addressed the caregivers and their children on the issue of trafficking. He said that trafficking is something that cannot be handle by one organization but through collaborative effort. He urged the participants to be fully involved in the fight against trafficking in their homes and communities. He said that traveling abroad is not prohibited; doing it the legal way is the best to avoid death along the way to destination country as well as to reduce exposure to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. He advised them to say no to human trafficking and further advised them to contact NAPTIP office at any time there is an issue of trafficking whether in Nigeria or person trapped abroad and want to come back home.



NAPTIP Zonal Commander addressing the beneficiaries

The representative from AWEA (Africa Women Empowerment Aid) also admonished the beneficiaries on the need for them appreciate and manage whatever is given to them so as to make a meaningful living out of it.



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

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

The Director Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo appreciated the participants for gracing the events and again explained the selection process and the modalities for empowerment as well as the rationale for adopting the mechanism used. He reminded the caregivers of the need to effectively invest the first tranche of fifty thousand naira (₦50,000) and that after the organization must have come to monitor what they have used this first tranche to do and if satisfied they will be given the remaining thirty five thousand naira (₦35,000). He noted that the four grinding machines were purchased at ₦95,000 each. Thereafter, the cash and items



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

were presented to the beneficiaries by the different representatives while the children were also given money (₦5,000, each) for their school

materials.



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



NAPTIP Zonal Commander presenting an envelope to a beneficiary



Group photograph of participants at the flag off event

Monitoring Visits to the Beneficiaries across Five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives in a bid to expand her frontiers in rendering assistance and empowering in-school youths through their caregivers carried out monitoring visit to beneficiaries in the month of October,



Monitoring visit to beneficiary's hair dressing salon after the first tranche was given

November and December, 2018 in the 5 Local Government Areas of Edo state. The exercise was aimed at ensuring that the financial assistance given to them to start up



Monitoring visit to beneficiary after the first tranche was given

their own business was effectively utilized.

Following the schedule plan set up by the organization to

visit the caregivers whose capacity were built and supported to establish the type of business of their choice so as to continue the sponsoring of their children's education, the Project manager of PACKING with other staffs of JDPCI visited 25 beneficiaries from the five Local Government Areas (Esan North East, Esan Central, Esan West, Esan south East and Igueben) where the project is being implemented to ascertain how far they have invested the money given to them. It was observed that all of them have started their choice businesses while those who had businesses before the empowerment have strengthened and improved their businesses, except one who just delivered and is still nursing her baby but promised to start something as soon as the baby is mature. For those having their own stores in front of their house, it was found that they have greatly improved and have started going to their community market.

In one of the communities in Esan North East, the caregivers who initially indicated to sell yam decided to buy some plots of cassava farm to process and later sell in the market after doing market survey which according to her was more lucrative. She took the project team to the farm for monitoring.



Monitoring visit to beneficiary's Cassava farm after the first tranche was given

During the visit made by the team to Esan Central LGA, one of the beneficiaries changed her plan of selling oil to purchase of grinding machine since there was none in her community and this will create a better opportunity for her to make more profit. She added that she would use the proceed from the grinding business to start oil palm business



Monitoring visit to beneficiary petty trade after the first tranche was given

More so, a beneficiary from Emaudo-Ekpoma who could not sell in the market because of the money the market association demanded from her was able to buy products and she is presently selling in the



Monitoring visit to beneficiary's palm oil business after the first tranche was given

market without embarrassment from the association due to the intervention of Uromi JDPCI when she complained during the business training organized for beneficiaries before giving them the money. The Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo referred her to the Monarch who is a friend of Uromi JDPCI and has control over the market association, so they could allow her to sell until she is stable enough to join them.

Conclusively, the beneficiaries and their household with great joy expressed their profound gratitude to the sponsor of the project via the team for the support given to them to start and own a business that will make them independent as well as to be able to retain their children in school.

From the visit made to the beneficiaries in the five LGA's within this period, it shows that they were doing well in their various businesses.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND SAFE MIGRATION (CAT-SaM)

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) entered into partnership with Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) to conduct intensive campaigns in five communities (Obeidu/Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion and Obiyon) in Esan North East Local Government Area being one of the LGAs covered by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi. The intervention was a six months (June-November, 2018) project which focused on awareness creation on the dangers of irregular migration/human trafficking in the selected communities. The project began with the identification and selection of volunteers to act as Community Watch Groups in the selected communities which was followed with mobilization for sensitization and rallies in the target communities, markets, motor parks, law enforcement agencies, churches, mosque and schools. The aim was to create awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration as well as sensitize them on tips for safe migration.



Fr Arhedo, Barr Onomen, Chiefs and elders at the gathering

Advocacy Visits to Stakeholders

A total of twelve Advocacy visits were conducted within the project life to the following persons Pa Ogbebor Michael the Odionwele (community head) of Eror community, Pa Eigbokhan Izoku's the Odionwele (community head) of Egbele community, Pa Onolememen, the Odionwele (community head) of Ivue community, the odionwele (community head) of Obeidu community, Chief William Oniha, Chief Ozah and Pa Oleabhiele Okiti the Odionwele (community head) of Idumobodo-Efandion community. Others were the head teachers in Amendokhian, Awo and Iruale Primary Schools, Chief Iyasele and Chief Onogbosele in Obiyon, Uromi.



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo presenting kolanut to the Odionwele in company of Barr Onomen from CCFN

The purpose of the visits was to gain their support to implement the project in their various communities and domains as well as to sensitize them on the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking. A total of 48 persons made up of 45 males and 3 females were reached

Community Sensitization

A total of six community sensitizations were conducted to Obeidu, Eror, Ivue, Egbele, Obiyon and Efandion communities all in Esan North East LGA in the period of the project with 482 persons made up of 148 males and 334 females reached in the six communities visited. The first two sensitizations were held in the month of July, 2018 to Obeidu and Eror while the third sensitization was held on the 6th of August in Ivue community, the fourth was to Egbele community and it took place on the 10th of August, 2018 while the fifth and sixth were on the 20th and 30th of August, 2018 at Obiyon and Efandion respectively.

The sensitization was part of the effort to reduce human trafficking and irregular migration in Esan North East Local Government Area. The team adopted the use of film shows to sensitize the people. Some of the key issues addressed during the sensitizations were: the need to desist



A community leader making a contribution in Efandion

from celebrating wealth as well as for parent to stop comparing their children and wards to people whose source of wealth were doubtful. Parents were told to stop selling their lands and property to take their children abroad



Barr. Onomen addressing the community members in Ivue

through irregular means because many have lost their lives through that way. The young ones were encouraged to take interest in education or skills as a means of livelihood. Documentaries of victims regretting their sojourn and using their life experiences to campaign against irregular migration were also played. The project also used some Libya returnees as advocates during sensitization in the Churches

Sensitization Visits to Schools



Barr Onomen addressing the students in Obeidu Primary School

A total of sixteen schools made up of 10 primary and 6 secondary (Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Afuda, Egbele, Idigun, Awo, Iruale, Efandion, Idumobodo Primary schools and, Obeidu Arue, Agba, Obiyon, Amendokhian, Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary schools). 1951 persons (M-852 &F-1099) were reached during the sensitization visit to schools.

The purpose was to create awareness on the dangers of irregular migration and to encourage them to be mindful of the people around them especially those who want to take them away from their communities,

because if they end up being trafficked they will not be able to complete their education thereby may not attain the height they once envisaged. They were told to learn to say no to offers that will make them become house helps or expose them to child labour and other forms of exploitation. They were advised to watch out for certain acts that were common to most traffickers which were always built on deceit. The students were reminded that human trafficking can come in any form, as such if their parents ask them to go to the city to stay with some body they should refuse and if possible report to their teachers for investigation and linkage to source of help so as to avoid being trafficked or used as for child labour.

The Director again encouraged the teachers to be close to their students so that they can always confide in them. The head teachers from the schools sensitized thanked the project team and sued for more collaboration on issues of this nature.



Fr Fidelis addressing Junior students in Obeidu Secondary school

Sensitization Visits to Churches

A total of eight Church sensitizations were conducted to eight Churches (St John The Evangelist Ivue, Our Lady of Lourdes, Idigun, St. Patrick, Ebhoiyi, Church of God of Prophecy, Egbele, Redeem Christian Church, Uromi, Church of God Mission Int'l Inc. Uromi, St Ignatius, Efandion and St Antony Catholic Cathedral) in the project period with 3072 persons made up 1257 males and 1815 females reached in the eight Churches visited. The first sensitization was held on the 9th of September in St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Ivue and St. Patrick Catholic Church, Ebhoiyi. The others conducted on the 16th of September were Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and Church of God of Prophecy Uromi, while Redeem Christian Church of God was done on the 30th of September, 2018. Church of God Mission Int'l inc. was visited in October while St. Ignatius and St. Anthony were visited in the month of November, 2018.



A cross section of the congregation at Church of God of Prophecy, Uromi

The sensitizations in the said places of worship were during their days of worship in which participants made up of men, women and youth enthusiastically listened to the message on the dangers of human trafficking and safe migration tips. Before the said date, letters were sent to the Priest and Pastors of the churches visited.

The message on anti-human trafficking as well as the dangers inherent in it were enumerated and explained to the congregation at the various churches visited. Parents present in the church were asked to reject any offer of taking their children especially the female abroad in the name of furthering their education or working in a salon, as such relatives could be trafficked. They were told to always insist on those who want to help to bring the money here for the education of the children as education is far cheaper here than abroad. Furthermore, participants were told that human trafficking is an evil act that unfortunately seems to be very attractive and drawing many



A cross section of the congregation at Redeemed Christian Church of God, Uromi

followers among the young people especially those who want to make it by all means. Human trafficking has become an issue of concern especially in our community where young children are not ready to go to school or learn a trade but would rather focus their interest on the latest car and building without hard work. This unfortunate desire has continued to spread the quest for irregular migration and human trafficking in the community.

More so, some of the Libya returnees added to the presentation by telling parents and youth of their ordeals on the way to Libya, they stated that the journey was not palatable as they were promised. According to them, many died of starvation and hunger on the way and those that eventually succeeded were imprisoned by some persons who posed as Libyan soldiers. They gave various instances where parents were asked to send money to rescue their children on their way to Libya, this they said led to the death of many whose parents could not afford the said amount. Parents were therefore admonished to desist from the act of selling their properties to send their children abroad via this irregular means. They were encouraged to send their children to school or allow them to learn trade to earn them a better and brighter future and that if they must travel, it should be for



A cross section of the congregation at St John Catholic Church, Ivue

something good and profitable to the society by following a genuine route. Parents and youth present were therefore counseled to watch out for traffickers who deceive people with unrealistic promising future as well as caution their children to desist from acts and desires that lure them to trafficking and irregular migration.

Bishop Anthony Okosun of the Church of God of Prophecy thanked the team for coming to his Church, he also mentioned some of the interventions carried out by Uromi JDPCI within the local government to keep youth from travelling indiscriminately abroad and joined his voice with the speaker to warn his members on the dangers of this irregular migration while identifying one of the returnees from one of his branches at Idumonza-Uromi who came with the team. He stated

that he was better here before he travelled to Libya but thanked God he came back alive to tell the story of his ordeals.

Priests and Pastors in other Churches visited also commended the effort of Uromi JDPCI and admonished their members to listen to good and godly counsel so as to save the future of their children and the society.

Sensitization at Uromi Central Mosque

Uromi Justice Development Peace/Caritas Initiatives in her determination to reduce human trafficking in Esan North East Local Government area of Edo state with support from Caritas-Nigeria under the CAT-SaM project carried out sensitization in Uromi Central Mosque on the 7th of September 2018. On arrival at the mosque, the Muslim faithful with keen interest listened to the



Uromi JDPCI staff addressing Muslim faithfuls at Uromi Central Mosque

message on the dangers of human trafficking and tips for safe migration. Stories on how young men suffer and die in the desert were told as well as young girls who were trafficked for sexual exploitation. They were counseled to be contented with whatever Allah has blessed them with, children should be sent to school or allow to learn trade instead of selling lands and houses for them to go abroad uninvited. At the end of the message, the Chief Imam thanked the team for coming and requested for another day to talk more on it with videos on the said issues. The sensitization had in attendance 86 participants- all males.

Sensitization Visit to Motor Parks

Uromi JDPCI Anti human trafficking project team was at the Uromi central motor park on the 29th August 2018 to create awareness and sensitize the people on the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking, an ugly trend among the youth in Uromi. The team led by the Director Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo accompanied by



Fr. Fidelis addressing the people while Onomen is working on the film show

Barr. Onomen Oriakhi Program Manager on Anti-Human Trafficking Caritas Nigeria used film show as a means to sensitize the people. The Chairman of the Motor



Some persons watching the documentary on anti-human trafficking

Park graciously made a space available in one of the garage to set up the projector for the film show. Members of the project team and

volunteers went round the park to invite people to the venue of the sensitization. The team then began with projection and presentation of the films which was also explained to the people in local language. One of the films was on the *journey to hell* a documentary on the journey of irregular migrants through the Sahara desert and the Mediterranean sea all in the bid to travel abroad. The film revealed the horror, trauma and pains experienced by migrants who also narrated their experiences during the interview in the documentary. This left the people in self-pity as they expressed sympathy towards the victims. Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo and Barr. Onomen used the occasion to encourage the people to desist from irregular migration as well as advise their friends and relatives based on what they have seen. The drivers were admonished to be promoters of safe migration by the virtue of the fact that they travel all routes and carry some of these people and hear their discussions and plans to engage in irregular migration.



Some persons watching the documentary on anti-human trafficking and human trafficking. A total of 319 persons (111males &208 females) were reached

The participants appreciated the team for the visual presentation which awakened in them a sense of reality of the ugly situation and promised to lend their voice to promote safe migration and discourage irregular migration



Some volunteers at the Motor Park inviting people to the stand for film show and sensitization

Market Rally Conducted by Uromi JDPCI in Uromi Market

As part of the effort to curb irregular migration which in most cases leads to human trafficking and promote safe migration in Esan North East Local Government Area, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi under the CAT-SaM project conducted a market rally which was used to sensitize the market women and men on the inherent risks at being trafficked to Europe and other foreign countries and the consequence it has on the family left behind. The key message of the rally was ***Say no to Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration***. The rally held on the 29th of August 2018 had in attendance the Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo, the anti human trafficking Program Manager for CCFN Barr. Onomen Oriakhi, Staff of Uromi JDPCI, Community Watch Groups and volunteers of Uromi JDPCI.



Director addressing the people at Uromi market

The rally commenced from St Anthony Catholic Cathedral and



Another scene at Uromi market during rally

progressed through the major road down to Uromi market with commentary on the dangers of irregular migration and how some of them were deceived into the act by their supposed relatives and closed ones. Placards (with inscriptions



Some volunteers with the Director at the market

discouraging trafficking and

irregular migration) and handbills were also displayed and some shared out to the market women. This was necessary so as to educate and inform the people on the dangers of sending their wards especially their girl child to the perilous journey into human trafficking. Some staff and volunteers took handbills and posters into the various shops and stands in the market to sensitize traders who could not leave their wears to join the team at the center of the market

Barr Onomen Oriakhi who represented the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria took time to explain to the market women the dangers of irregular migration and the importance of safe migration. She challenged them to asked those who have returned with so much money in their community the type of work they did abroad to earn the money they have and see if such persons



Some participants displaying banner and placards with various inscriptions discouraging human trafficking

will tell them the truth or identify any legitimate business they did to earn money. As the women gathered round the rally train Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo urged them to beware of persons who come to them requesting to take their children abroad or to the city for school or job opportunities. He said traffickers indulge in deception to lure their victims. Those who migrate through irregular means sometimes end up in the hands of traffickers who exploit their vulnerability and ignorance or enslave them in debt bondage. He noted that poverty and economic hardship should not be excuses for parents to sacrifice their children to traffickers through irregular migration. Fr. Fidelis encouraged those who want to travel abroad to follow the right ways as highlighted in the tips to safe migration which was in the handbills shared and read out to the people.

Some of the women who spoke to the team expressed regret over the unfortunate situation, describing the frenzy with which people seek wealth and materialism as shameful and immoral.

An estimated total of 1325 persons (305 males and 1020 females) were reached during the market rally

Sensitization Visit to Uromi Divisional Police Officers

The sensitization visit was carried out on the 10th of July, 2018 at the Uromi Divisional headquarter. The Director-Very Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo introduced the team before the commencement of the message which was centered on human trafficking. Human trafficking was defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by the means of treat, or use of force or other forms of coercion, or abduction, fraud or deception of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of another person, for the purposes of exploitation. The reasons for human trafficking was explained to include poverty and greed, stating example and illustrations of how some parents support their children which they say is due to poverty in the land. Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo urged the Police to assist in extending the counselling to parents stating that if anyone must travel, he or she should follow the right means and know where he or she is going. He again admonished them on the dangers of irregular migration among which were organ harvest as well as commercial sex and domestic servitude which is modern day slavery in some of those countries in which our youth are exposed to. These according to the speaker reduces the dignity of the human person and the collective integrity of the country.

The four stages involved in human trafficking were explained to include; departure stage which can be by force, transit stage which can be legal or irregular, destination stage which is the place of exploitation and the rescue stage which can either be voluntary retunee or deportation.

More so, the Director admonished the Officers that human trafficking has become a worldwide problem, especially in Nigeria, so, dealing with the issue, one needs to carefully and systematically evaluate and examine every premise before concluding especially as a peace making and law- enforcement agent. He at this juncture, appealed to the Police Officers to protect the victims from further victimization from those who may claim to extort money from them and also help to prosecute perpetrators of this evil act so as to protect victim from being re-victimized or further exploited.



Group photograph with officers and Director after sensitization meeting

Additionally, He further explained that in combating human trafficking, the Police being the largest representative of government (in term of security), they should be seen as key instrument and first responders of crime. Emphasis was on the need for the Nigeria Police to properly investigate human trafficking cases with care and caution so as not to treat victims as offenders.

However, one of the Officers noted that government were the major cause of human trafficking because they refused to create jobs for youth, hence, many are riding Okada with their certificates. Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in his response stated that indeed, the government



Group photograph with officers and Director after sensitization meeting

has failed but that should not make us sell ourselves as slaves or give room for others to exploit us, he re-emphasized that those who want to travel should follow the legal way, have knowledge of the destination country and know what he or she wants to do there.

Following the same line, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) admonished his colleagues to be professional in dealing with issues of human trafficking and appealed to them to cooperate with the organization to reduce this irregular migration in the community. He thanked the Director and his team for coming and promised to do their best in this regard while the Director thanked them for listening and prayed for them. A total of 37 Police Officers were reached (25 males and 12 females)

SUSTAINABLE MEASURE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (SMAT-P)

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



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

integrated approach which includes advocacies to key stakeholders, community mobilization and sensitization,



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

sensitizations in the churches, mosque,



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

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



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

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

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

During Uromi JDPCI SMAT-P project team visit to the Chairmen of the two selected Local Government Areas (Esan Central and Esan South East), the team informed them of the proposed intervention in their Local Government Areas and solicited their support, cooperation and collaboration towards a successful implementation so as to achieve the set goal of the project. The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhede who led the team explained the various objects and components of the projects to the Local Government Chairmen. He also highlighted the various communities in which the project will be implemented in the various Local Government Areas

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Reintegration Efforts of Uromi JDPCI

As part of efforts to help victims of human trafficking and irregular migration who have returned to Nigeria adjust into the society and engage themselves for meaningful living, Uromi JDPCI assisted three Libya returnees to pick up their lives through a reintegration process. Two were enrolled into vocational skill of their choice while one of them was re-enrolled into school to continue her secondary education. Recent monitoring visit shows that they have adjusted to their chosen vocations as their trainers and teachers expressed satisfaction with their conduct and commitment at work place and school respectively.

PRISON APOSTOLATE

Uromi JDPCI Celebrates Easter with Inmates

In the spirit of the season Uromi JDPCI visited the Ubiaja to offer them gift to celebrate the Easter season. The visit was made by the Executive Director Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo and some members of staff. The ceremony began with opening prayer led by an inmate. The Reflection for the day was taken from John 19:28. He laid more emphasis on forgiveness that the inmates should learn to forgive one another and also learn to practice self-forgiveness. Thereafter the Director presented the food items comprising of 95 tubes of yam, 5 bags of garri, 3 gallons of red oil (20 litre each), 1 bag of onion, some heads of plantain and salt to the Prison Officials. The Director told them that the items were provided for them by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi.



The Director presenting Items to Ubiaja Prison

A release warrant from court was presented to the officer in charge of records for the release of the two inmates with option of fine (50,000 and 20,000) respectively was paid by Uromi JDPCI.

Prison's Skill Acquisition Center

Uromi JDPCI prison apostolate desk as part of her effort at providing support to indigent inmates and to improve their wellbeing and livelihood opportunity by engaging them in activities that can enhance their survival skills after their release from prison, sourced the support of a friend of the organization to train the inmates on basic computer skills. This was part of the effort to support the utilization of the skill acquisition center donated to the prison by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi through Uromi JDPCI. The Officer in charge of the centre has informed us of some achievements recorded in the skill acquisition center. He stated that in the tailoring section uniforms were made for a Catholic school at Ewohimi from the center and that 6 inmates awaiting trial have acquired the barbing skill and many more are willing to acquire the skill and 3 have acquired skill in the laundry section.



A cross section of participants at the HTC services at the prison

SPIRITUAL COUNSELLING

Uromi JDPCI rendered three spiritual counselling to inmates in this year 2018. The first session done with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Alex Onowanse, the assistance Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Catholic church Ewu The topic treated was *our help is in the name of Lord*, while the reflection was taken from *Judges 12*. The second was bible study section for inmates which were

conducted by Ebhohimen Felix. The topic was *God of Mercy*, and the reflection was on Psalm 102:13. The third spiritual counselling was done with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Amos Olenin the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Theresa Catholic Church Ukon. The topic for the day was “*God’s love for you is inalienable*”. 88 Inmates were reached in all the three sessions.

Health Education and HIV Screening for Inmates

Uromi JDPCI also visited the prison to conduct health education and HIV counselling and screening for Prison officials and inmates. The inmates were first taken through some sensitization on the mode of transmission and prevention of HIV as well as the distinction between HIV AND AIDS.

The health officer went further to counsel inmates on the need for regular screening and its importance for healthy living. Early discovery and adherence to drug were good ways of putting the disease under control. After the sensitization exercise, the trained testers invited those who were interested to come forward for the test. Both the prison officials and inmates participated in the screening exercise, at the end of the exercise a total of 110 persons (108 male and 2 female) were screened for HIV/AIDS virus.



HTC services at the prison

COLABORATION FOR PRISON WELFARE

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



Group photograph with the Esene's family



Mount Carmel school distribute items to inmates for Christmas

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

thereafter the students / staff were taken on a tour round the prison ward 270 inmates were reached

Christmas party



A section of participants in the 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's event was marked with nine



A group photograph after the Christmas party

lessons and carol in which the staff and

friends of the Uromi JDPCI joined in the joyous occasion to sing Christmas songs to lift the moods and spirits of the inmates. The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo in his Christmas message admonished the inmates to use the season to reflect on their lives and strive for reconciliation with God and those they have offended. He concluded that it was only in genuine repentance that they can find the freedom and happiness they seek.

Uromi JDPCI thereafter shared with the inmates some food items and drinks to celebrate the moment and then presented some tubers of yams and Garri donated by St Joseph Catholic Church Okaigben to the Prison Officials. Uromi JDPCI also gave some equipment such as testing meter, screw driver, soldering iron, a set of screw drivers (ale key) to the prison officials to improve learning at their skill acquisition center.

CHARITY

Uromi JDPCI as part of their mission and vision to reach out to the vulnerable children and their caregiver and make life meaningful for them engaged in some charity work to support some indigent students in Secondary and Tertiary education with either partial or full tuition fees while some others got school materials to proceed and progress in their education. 7 students who could not meet up with the payment of school fees due to some evidence based challenges and were at the verge of dropping out from school were supported by Uromi JDPCI to continue their education. These students are at different levels of education and in different schools both in secondary and tertiary. 3 persons were given financial assistance for drugs and treatment, A total of NGN1,335,470 were spent on charity by the Uromi JDPCI.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Community of Practice Meeting

Uromi JDPCI Nutrition Officer participated in two community of practice meeting held in Makurdi (15th and 16th February) and Abuja. The bi-annual meetings were part of SMILE projects efforts aimed at sharing 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. During the meetings which was attended by 49 CSOs from Edo, Kogi, Benue, Nassarawa and Abuja, Uromi JDPCI made a slide



Nutrition Officer Felix Ebhohimen during the COP



Participants in a group discussion

presentation which was used as a guide for others. At the end of the capacity building meetings, the following points were adopted to improve nutrition actions in the various CSO's:

- NOMIS is the authorized software that should be used in capturing data, which is also being endorsed by the funders because of its capacity to filter data and analyzed it.
- The LGA's nutrition officers should be invited to participate during trainings and other nutrition activities.
- Nutrition officer should guide the community volunteers on the writing of success stories, as these will

greatly help their work.

The VC officer also attended two community of practice meetings. The first was 25th February while the second was 7th – 9th June, 2018. The goal was to strengthen SMILE CSO partners' capacity in implementing high quality child protection, adolescent and gender responsive and transformative programs while the objective was to validate and move forward SMILE project-specific learning around adolescent programming, to share and analyze new USAID indicators and their impact on SMILE gender and child protection program implementation strategies, to address specific capacity gaps and ensure a strong foundation for gender and child protection concepts, gender and child protection integration, and skills for effective referral and linkages.

The Care and support Officer Participated in two days community of practice meeting held in FCT, on the 1st and 2nd of March. The meeting was aimed at strengthening the capacity to



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

response to the needs of PLHIV and promotes strategies that will ensure all the enrolled beneficiaries knew their HIV status so as to finish strong as the project was winding down.

The HES officer attended community of practice (COP) meeting in Abuja. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and review the work done within the last quarter of 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.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

CENTRAL TRAINING ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS INTERVENTION

The VC officer participated in two adolescent girls intervention training organized by Catholic Relief Services under the SMILE project in the year 2018. The first was in the month of January while the other was in June. The participation was with four mentors out of which two were chosen based on merit to facilitate the sessions and mentor the adolescent girls in their various clubs. The goal was to ensure that adolescent girls in target communities reached their full potentials with decrease HIV infection transmission risk while the three strategic Objectives were **(SO1):** Adolescent girls have reduced HIV related vulnerability, **(SO2):** Caregivers of AG have improved capacity for sexual reproductive health common with their children/wards and **(SO3):** Community leadership promotes behaviours and norms protective of adolescent girls.



A section of participants during training

Two Days Step Down Training on Positive Health, Dignity and Prevention

Uromi JDPCI conducted a 2-day step-down training for community volunteers in the SMILE project on Positive Health Dignity and Prevention. The training summarized the role of case managers of PLHIV to enforce continuum of care by ensuring that PLHIV receive anti-retroviral therapy ART and not drugs only. This training was meant to build the capacity of the community volunteers with regards to effective PHDP for PLHIV/AIDS. All community volunteers were in attendance and matters relating to HIV status disclosure, stigma and discrimination, drug adherence for PLHIV, EID and referrals and linkages were discussed.

Southern Promic Workshop

The one day workshop coordinated by the southern PROMIC Coordinator (representative for all the Southern PROMIC partners) was attended by the Executive Director, and two Micro Credit officers. The workshop featured presentation on the causes of loan default, major risk, credit methodology and ways of reducing loan default. The participants expressed satisfaction with the knowledge gained.

Provincial Training on Anti-Human Trafficking

Seven staff of Uromi JDPCI participated in three days provincial training for stakeholders in anti-human trafficking held on the 19th – 21st November, 2018 at Brother Roman Center Ekpoma. The training which was facilitated by Mrs Grace Osakwe had the purpose to build the capacity of participants on the fundamentals of anti-human trafficking interventions and strategies for effective implementations. Some of the issues covered during the training were: the legal framework for human trafficking, access to justice, the indicator for Human trafficking (how to know trafficked persons and traffickers) and children on the move. Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo and Bar Onomen Oriakhi were co-facilitator at the training which was also meant to build the capacities of the project officers in the sustainable measure against trafficking in person (SMAT-P) project



A group photograph of participants after the training

Other Capacity Building Meetings and Workshop

The program manager of Uromi JDPCI also participated in series of capacity building meetings and workshops within the year. Among which were; budget and workplan modification meeting. This meeting was used to modify the already approved budget and workplan to accommodate new inputs and germane activities needed for a successful project closeout. Another was end of project report writing workshop and orientation meeting. These meetings were held to build the capacity of the participants to effectively put together a good and comprehensive end of project report that will meet donors intention. Uromi JDPCI also participated in a two days workshop for the development of sustainability plan. Three consultants were engaged to build the capacity of the participants to develop strategic document for sustainability plan in their respective organizations. Uromi JDPCI also participated in the review of the state priority agenda (SPA), a document which is meant to appraise the efforts so far made in OVC response in Edo State and to develop improvement plan in areas that still require attention.

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 Uromi JDPCI would have reached out to more people during the period under review but for inadequate fund to implement certain interventions and retain some of the staff whose capacity were built over the years.

CONCLUSION

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 to 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.

CONTACT ADDRESS:

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives,

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