

**ANNUAL REPORT OF UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS
INITIATIVES, CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UROMI, FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER,
2019**

SUBMITTED TO

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

JANUARY, 2020

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	Catholic Chancery Complex, Uromi Diocesan Chancery, Egbele, Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria.
Postal Address	P.M.B 7, Uromi, Edo State
E-mail	uromijdpci@gmail.com ,
Telephone:	+2348053328588, +2348034930414, +2348071894292
Website	Jdpciuromi.org
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	67
Project Executed	17

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We remain eternally grateful to God for the inspiration and insight bestowed upon Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiative (Uromi JDPCI) and with His saving help in her intervention as a church agent in the area of integral development, social transformation agenda and economic empowerment among his people in Uromi diocese (Esan land). To be candid 2019 was a year of divine favour as it manifested God's providence in Uromi JDPCI despite the terrible situation Nigerians especially those who dwell in the semi urban and rural areas where uncertainty and insecurity was all around coupled with lack/insufficient electricity in the land. If this is not enough, the people are confronted with lack of job opportunities and government deliberate abandonment made manifest in bad roads network and lack of teachers in government schools as well as with high school fees for public tertiary institution in the land and kidnapping that created overwhelming fear all over the country due to lack of security.

The Church cannot afford to remain indifferent in the face of these challenges because she believes that with good governance, upholding the rule of law and respect/value for the sanctity of human life, these aforementioned problems created by the government's indifference can be resolved. This is why Uromi JDPCI is carrying out intervention in good governance that promotes accountability, transparency and participatory democracy through civil engagement and dialogue between the elected political representative and their electorate in town hall meetings, election observation and democracy monitoring and one on one engagement of the elected officer. Several training and sensitization were given to the people i.e. the electorate to shun money politics during elections especially selling one's vote for mere peanut and to guarantee their vote counts. To worsen the situation, the Nigerian politics is something else especially during the last election if nothing drastic is done, Nigerians may continue to suffer since security agents liked policemen and women are often seen to remain helpless during election. Often times we result to calling on God to help when these politicians refuse to repent so we must do the needful by overhauling the Police ACT and Electorate ACT as proactive measures in addressing terrible election matter in Nigeria. More importantly, there seems to be violation of constitutional rights and abuse of power to promote sectorial agenda that undermine the general populace.

Uromi JDPCI has articulated agenda to advance the course of human rights through awareness campaign and sensitization of all rural populace of Uromi Diocese and the installation of paralegals and human rights advocates in twenty six communities. With this, Uromi JDPCI as a church organ is out to condemn all forms and shares of human rights violation and abuses. I will like to encourage both the young and old with similar words of Antonio Gutierrez, Secretary of the United Nations, 2020 New Year Message that “to keep speaking out, keep thinking big and keep pushing boundaries and keep up the pressure” against violation of human rights. It is of vital importance that reporting such violations to appropriate authorities for necessary action is needed to address issues like gender based violations, ill treatment of widows, female genital mutilation, rape, wife inheritance, female disinheritance and other growing dehumanizing treatment method on women as well as child abuse and servitude. We appeal to all stakeholders from all sectors and ramifications to abolish cultural hegemonic patriarchal tendencies that prevent female folks from self-actualization both in private and public domains. Let us promote authentic human rights advancement that guarantee gender equality and social justice.

In the same vein, Uromi JDPCI in conjunction with global standards condemns human trafficking in all its forms as well as irregular migration since it is a crime against the State (Nation). We have drawn the people's attention to the dangers inherent in the aforementioned trade by the human traffickers and smugglers. We must stand up to mitigate the root causes of human trafficking and irregular migration through awareness creation and sensitization as well as providing economic empowerment, skill acquisition and scholarship programs to the sectors of the population that are prey to traffickers and smugglers. At this point, I call all and sundry both in the private and public sectors to vehemently condemn such trades and collaborate with both government agencies and NGO/FBO/CSO like Uromi JDPCI to support victims of human trafficking and returnees with psychological support and economic empowerment while no agenda should be put in place to most vulnerable youth, young men and women to desist from it or become prey to traffickers or smugglers.

Empowerment of the less privileged in the society has always been one of the main policy thrust of Uromi JDPCI. Hence, she established the Micro Credit/PROMIC scheme for the purpose of empowering people, particularly active poor women and farmers through soft loans. These loans are given to beneficiaries in groups. This empowerment is aimed at reducing if not eradicating poverty in Esan land. Empowerment is capable of lifting people out of poverty into more meaningful living.

Prison Apostolate Desk is saddled with the responsibility of providing legal assistance to indigent inmates who are accused of minor offences and providing welfare services to inmate in general. The prison desk also organized Holy mass/service/spiritual and legal counselling to contribute towards the rehabilitation of the inmates for new life after incarceration.

Finally, in a bid to contribute towards a sustainable environment, Uromi JDPCI engaged in the sensitization of the community women on innovative cook stove, an initiative geared towards reducing



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo, Executive Director

the effects of global warming on our environment. We must be proactive to protect the earth that God has entrusted to man to manage for the betterment of himself (Gen. 2:5)

On behalf of Uromi JDPCI, I wish to sincerely appreciate the Catholic Bishop of Uromi Diocese Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun for his undying support and approval of all our interventions as well as the Board of Trustee of Uromi JDPCI staff and volunteers and priest, religious and lay faithful of the catholic diocese of Uromi for their support and encouragement. In a special way, Uromi JDPCI is highly indebted to our partners and funders MISEREOR, Caritas Nigeria, SWISSHAND, ECPAT France, MISSIO Germany, GPI, Italian bishop's conference for their support and collaboration. I pray the Almighty God to bless each and every one of you for your

support and encouragement especially the beneficiaries. Thank you and remain blessed.

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 2019. 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 57 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.

Uromi JDPCI in the course of the year (2019) steered a number of interventions geared towards positive impact and meaningful development in the lives of the rural populace especially amongst the vulnerable and the oppressed in the society with a lot successes recorded.

On the good governance scene, Uromi JDPCI in her continued partnership with MISEREOR Germany conducted quarterly meeting of civic groups in Edo Central Senatorial District. More so, the organization engaged and trained election observers who were deployed to observe the 2019 National and State house of assembly elections in Edo Central Senatorial District. The Eminent stakeholder's forum was also conveyed during the course of the year which provided a platform to dialogue on pressing issues affecting the inhabitants of Esan Land and the solutions to solving the problems.

In line with the vision to promote social justice and improve the knowledge and consciousness of the rural populace on human rights, Uromi JDPCI in partnership with MISEROR Germany embarked on a human rights education and paralegal scheme to help create awareness on human rights as well as track human rights violations. Thus far executed this year include: advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders, selection and inauguration of paralegals/ human rights volunteers and supervisors, 3 phases of trainings, gender equality sensitization, monthly, 3 quarterly and 1 biannual meetings, commemoration of child protection day, and world human rights day.

Uromi JDPCI sustained the collaboration with Caritas Nigeria and ECPAT as well as intensified her efforts in curbing the menace of human trafficking and irregular migration in Edo Central Senatorial District. The collaboration with caritas Nigeria was on the platform of the Sustainable Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT-P) which aimed at sensitizing school children, palace chiefs and community members on the need for safe migration while discouraging human trafficking in all its forms and empowering vulnerable households through provision of grants for income generating activities to caregivers, block grants for secondary school students,

scholarship for students in tertiary institutions and vocational training for out of school youths. Also, linkages and referrals were created for returned migrants who were formed into support groups. Thus, enhancing meaningful and productive living to reduce their susceptibility to human trafficking.

Uromi JDPCI collaborated with ECPAT France to carried out activity geared towards selecting would be beneficiaries of a project tagged “Don’t Pay with Your Life” which is aimed at ending trafficking among in-school adolescent girls in Edo Central Senatorial District through educational support and empowering them with grants for income generating activities via their caregivers so that they could be retained in school and not get lured by human traffickers. Consequently the caregivers were being trained on business orientation and management.

Amidst the year, Uromi JDPCI monitored beneficiaries of one her intervention that was executed last year (PACKING Project) in a bid to ensuring that beneficiaries businesses were thriving as they were given grants for small scale businesses.

With a view to propagate the liberating message of Christ by providing succor to those in prison, Uromi JDPCI facilitated regular visits to the inmates at Ubiaja prison to provide the inmates with support ranging from welfare, spiritual, health and skill empowerment.

Uromi JDPCI remains in the business of empowering the rural poor through her micro credit schemes which is currently serving 1092 persons with astounding successes recorded so far.

Also, staff capacities were built on different areas with support from JDPC Benin Province, Caritas Nigeria, MISEROR, IOM and Southern Nigerian Promic.

We wish to appreciate our partners and Funders; Misereor, Swisshand Foundation, Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria, 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 AND HUMAN RIGHT

Quarterly Meeting of Civic Groups in Edo Central Senatorial District

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 responsive and accountable representation, Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with the civic groups held five quarterly meetings across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose of the meeting was to share experience and develop synergy for effective grass root mobilization, political engagement and community development. The quarter meeting was also used as close-out meeting for the various civic groups to mark the end of the project. As such emphasis was on consolidating on the gains of civic group engagement and drawing strength in the capacity that has been built to sustain their activities in the various communities. An overview of their activities within the period and their perception about the just concluded elections was also articulated with a view to identifying areas of weakness that will be strengthened in subsequent election.

Director, Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo during the meetings thanked representatives of the entire group for their progress report and demonstration of improved capacity to dialogue for community development. He expressed his pleasure on the work the civic group were doing in their various communities and urged them to keep up the good work especially as the project was winding down. He noted that it was important to sustain the work of civic groups so as



The Program Manager addressing the civic group members during the meeting

to continuously engage political representatives for meaningful development. He urged the various civic groups not to give up on supporting their communities to grow and develop through engagement and dialogue with representatives.

The meetings were held at the Palaces of the Enijie in Uromi, Ubiaja, Igueben and Ekpoma while that of Esan Central was held at St Anselm Hall because the town hall designated by the Onojie for the meeting was under reconstruction. A total of 525 persons were in attendance

REPORTS FROM CIVIC GROUPS

Egbele Civic Group reported that the collaboration between the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and members of the community to engage some teachers to fill in for some subject in Afuda primary school has commenced. They mentioned that the community was still awaiting the commencement of the perimeter fencing of the Afuda primary school promised by the Edo State Government.

Ivye Civic Group: The facilitator reported that some roads have been graded in their community as promised by the Esan North East Local Government Chairman. He also reported that the civic group was working with the community to resolve the issue of shortage of teachers in Ivye primary school.

Error Civic Group reported that Fulani herdsmen were no longer ravaging farmlands with their cattle in the community as reported in the previous meeting this he said was as a result of the cooperation of the community elders and the Esan Renaissance vigilante group who ensured that farmers are protected and their presence have also deterred the herdsmen from destroying peoples farms.

Efandion Civic Group reported that some roads in the community have been graded by the Local Government as promised by the Local Government Chairman during the round table discussion.

Amedokhian Civic Group reported on the state of the dilapidated Idigun primary school that was posing a serious danger to pupils in the community. The scribe who also doubles as the youth chairman in the community explained that he had to mobilize some youths in the community and they demolished the school building to prevent the building from falling on the pupils. He recalled that the community has written series of letters to draw the attention of appropriate authorities to the situation but did not get any response. When the



Group photograph of some participants after the meeting

news of the demolished school building got to the Local Government Chairman, he sent policemen to arrest the youths in the community. The Honourable Member representing Esan North East and Esan South East in the Federal House of Representatives offered to rebuild the demolished building but the Local Government Chairman who is in a different political party, refused the offer since it was his immediate responsibility and instead commenced the construction of three class room block in the school premises. The State Universal Education Board also mobilized men and equipment to the school premises to commence the construction of three class room blocks when the news of the incident got to the ministry. Currently there are six class room blocks under construction at Idigun primary school. The youth leader was eventually celebrated rather arrested.

Egoro Amede Civic Group: The facilitator reported that the civic group embarked on an intensive voter's education campaign in the community to sensitize the community on voting procedures and how to conduct themselves on Election Day. He also reported that the group paid a courtesy visit to the new principal posted to the community secondary school where they

assured him of the full support of the community. He stated that the principal complained about the lack of science teachers in the school of which the civic group noted and promised that the community will assist in liaising with the State Ministry of Education to see that the problem was quickly resolved. The facilitator added that since the formation of the civic group in their community, its activities have impacted on the community in significant way. He thanked Uromi JDPCI for opening the eyes of members of the civic group and the community at large on the capacity building which has helped them to effectively engage political representative and other individuals for the good of their community.



The Director, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo addressing the civic group members

Emaudo Civic Group: The facilitator of the civic group reported that voter's education program was done in the community before the February general elections. However, he expressed his displeasure at the manner voters in the community conducted themselves in some polling units despite the sensitization that was conducted. He said some voters were displaying their ballot papers and the candidates they voted for all because they have already collected money from some party leaders.

Emalia Civic Group: The facilitator reported that the civic group reported that their primary school was under construction with support from SUBEB. This he said was as a result of series of appeals made to appropriate authorities.

Ukpenua Civic Group reported that the just concluded general election was peaceful in the community. However, there were cases of vote buying and turnout of voters was low at the House of Assembly elections compared to the Presidential elections. He recommended that for the next election voters' education should be intensified so that the electorates will be more informed on how to conduct themselves on Election Day



A community Chief addressing the people with the Director, during the meeting

Ujoelen Civic Group reported that voter education exercise was done by the group in all the quarters of the community before the February elections. He added that arrangement has been concluded by the civic group working with the community to meet with the Local Government

Chairman to assign traffic wardens to assist school children to cross the road during school hours in selected busy roads and junctions

Eguare-Ekpoma Civic Group: The facilitator reported that they conducted voters' education in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to enlighten the people on how to make their vote count. He noted that the election was violence free and fair and that vote buying was not obvious but was observed to have taken place.

Ukhun Civic Group: Reported that they conducted voters' education during which they enlightened them on INEC guideline and procedure as well as promote the need for free and fair election in the community.

Iruekpen Civic Group reported that they conducted voters education and engaged some candidates on the need for peaceful election in the community and that the election was eventual peaceful, although incidence of vote buying was observed especially during the Edo State House of Assembly elections.

The project team thanked various civic group

for their zeal and commitment since the inception of the project and emphasized the need for all the civic groups to intensify voters education campaign to all the nooks and crannies of their communities especially on the issue of vote buying and money politics.

Akho/Eguare Civic Group reported that the renovation of the community market has commenced. This they said was a product of their persist engagement of the Local Government Chairman on the need to improve the condition of the market.

Agua Civic Group reported that the Senator representing Edo Central Senatorial District has sank a borehole in the community market to ease the water problem in the market. He mentioned that the community has been cut off from power supply because Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) claimed the community owed the sum of two hundred



Group photograph of some participants after the meeting



A cross section of members during meeting

and forty thousand naira only (N 240,000) to the company as such the faulty transformer will not be fixed until the bill is cleared.

USENU Civic Group: The facilitator reported that the work has commenced and was near completion in the borehole which was almost abandoned in the community. She however stated that the community was still battling with the issue of lack of electricity but that efforts were still on by the civic group and community elders to resolve the problem. They noted that the Local Government Chairman had earlier intervened but that something went wrong with the repair hence the power supply collapsed again

Ewu Civic Group: The facilitator reported that some roads were graded by the Local Government Council in their community. This was in fulfilment of the LGA Chairman's promise to grade some roads in the community during the round table discussion.

Idumebo Civic Group reported that the armoured cable that was reported stolen from the transformer in the last quarter has been replaced by the community. He said the community also went further to secure the cables with cement and concrete to prevent it from being vandalised in the future. He also reported that some roads in the community where been graded by the Local Government Council. He expressed firmed commitment that the group will sustain its activities to consolidate on the gains of the intervention in their community.



A group photograph of the participants at the meeting.

Eguare-Iguben Civic Group: The scribe of the civic group reported that the group was working with some elders in the community to curtail the nefarious activities of two BEDC staff in the community who were in the habit of exploiting community members. The two staff have been reported to the authorities of BEDC and disciplinary action against them were being awaited. The scribe added that a new medical doctor has been posted to the General Hospital after the death of the former and the group plans

to pay him a courtesy visit.



The Program Manager addressing members during meeting

Idumeka Civic Group: A member of the Idumeka civic group reported that an illustrious son from the community influenced the posting of a resident doctor to the General Hospital. He appealed to Uromi JDPCI for provision of vestments and fez caps with inscriptions to be made and distributed to members of the civic groups in Igueben Local Government Area to differentiate them with other groups operating in the Local Government Area. He explained that these would act as an additional form of identity. He also proposed that the name of the Idumeka civic group be changed to “*Uhe-Idumogbo*” civic group to reflect the true composition of the group.

The Director Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo welcomed the idea of the vestments and fez caps and told the supervisor of the Local Government to work with Uromi JDPCI in producing one for the civic groups. On the issue of the name change of the civic group the Director also gave his nod.

Ebelle Civic Group reported that 5 roads were under construction in the community through instrumentally of SEEFOR and Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) with support from the state government

Amahor Civic Group reported that the

community has been suffering power outage for a long time and this was as a result of the huge estimated bill of one million naira that the BEDC claimed that the community owed them. He said that negotiations were on between the community and the BEDC on how the bill can be settled so that power can be restored to the community.

Ekpon Civic Group: The facilitator reported that the letter for construction of roads in Ekpon and renovation of Ekpon Grammar school has been delivered to the governor. He has promised to construct some roads in the community and that the school will be given attention for renovation when they have commenced renovation of some secondary schools across the state.

Ewossa Civic Group: The facilitator reported that a new matron (midwife) has been posted to the community Primary Health Care (PHC). He also said that the civic group on behalf of the



Group Photograph with members after meeting



The Director, addressing members of civic group during the meeting

community visited her to assured her of the community's full support in the discharge of her duties.

Ewohimi Civic Group Reported that the visitation to SKAFF Construction Company has resulted in the construction of some drainage in community, the Primary and Secondary schools were also under renovation by the Government.

Ubiaja Civic Group Reported that the general hospital road was under construction by the Local Government as well as MTN road. The Local Government was also renovating some primary school in Ubiaja community. The Facilitator noted that this was part of the demands submitted to the chairman during round table discussion. Facilitator added that they called the House of Representative and House of Assembly candidates to do a pre-election brief as well as address them on the need for a violence free election.



A section of members during meeting

Okhuesan Civic Group reported that the member representing them in the Federal House of Representatives Hon. Sergious Ogun donated a borehole for the community following an appeal made to him by members of the community. The facilitator added that the civic group was currently working with some elders in the community to get Nurses and Health workers posted to the Health Center. They met with some officials of the Edo State Ministry of Health to discuss the matter and the community was still waiting for feedback from the Ministry.

Ewatto Civic Group reported that the issue of lack of power supply was still on and that it was seriously affecting commercial activities in the community. He also said that the civic group conducted voters' education and sensitization in the community to enlighten the people on the need to vote for a candidate of their choice.



Group photograph with some members after meeting

Emu Civic Group Facilitator reported that the state government was constructing a bridge in their community to linking Emu and Ohordua and that Niger Delta Development Company (NDDC) was also constructing a road in the community through one of their illustrious sons

VOTERS' EDUCATION AND SENSITIZATION IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) as part her efforts to promote violence free/peaceful election and encourage active participation of the grass root people in the election of their representatives, embarked on voters' education and sensitization across communities in the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District to create awareness on the need for the people to perform their civic responsibility and

exercising their right to vote for their preferred candidate. Uromi JDPCI used the opportunity to

encourage the people to shun money politics and desist from selling their vote as it amount to mortgaging their future and that of their children. It was emphasized that no meaningful development can take place when the people keep voting because of financial or material inducement rather than vote for credible and responsive representation that will guarantee good governance. A total of twelve communities (Ebelle, Igueben, Idumeka, Amahor, Ukhun, Ewu, Eror, Amendokhian, Ewohimi, Ubiaja, Idumebo and Irrua.) and one church were visited within this period. During one of such visits to Eror community, Uromi JDPCI team was told that their representatives at the civic group has taken the message of *"DO NOT SELL YOUR VOTE"* to the community and that when one of the candidates came to their community, he shared money for them after campaigning. The community women humbly rejected the money and promised



Voters' education and sensitization in Amendokhian community



Voters' education and sensitization in Ewu community

him of their votes only if he can influence some infrastructure to the community when elected. It was reported that the candidate noted that Eror was the only community where he has seen such action and then promised to respond to their demands if elected. Uromi JDPCI also used the civic group quarterly meetings and other platforms as avenue to carry out voters' education. The exercise was supported by INEC office at the state level with the provision of, flyers and leaflets for the voter education and sensitization.

ELECTION OBSERVATION

As part of Uromi JDPCI's mission of enhancing justice and promoting integral development, The Uromi Justice, Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) recruited, trained and deployed 38 INEC accredited election observers and 150 citizen observers across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the general elections held on the 23rd of February and 9th of March, 2019. The deployments were done based on sampling of areas with the greatest number of eligible registered voters. The election observers were given check lists to record proceedings at each designated polling unit they were deployed to. For the purpose of having a comprehensive information of events on the field, the checklist was divided into four broad sections, (Arrival, Accreditation/Voting, Sorting and Counting and Official Polling Results) each depicting the various stages of the electoral process.

Arrival

The Observers reported that polling officials arrived in most of the polling units between 7:30am and 8:15am and that they arrived with the election materials which were intact. The polling units were divided into voting points to ease congestion and facilitate quick attention to voters. The ballot boxes were displayed in public view and that women were adequately represented in the adhoc staff, which in most polling units were equal to men. The numbers of officials were 8 in most polling units and they were eventually shared between voting points. Some of the polling units started behind schedule due to card readers challenges which were later resolved and the time lost was compensated by INEC with extension such that all those who were on the queue voted. Nobody was reported disenfranchised for reasons of time lost.

Security

It was observed that security personnel were present in all the polling units and that they were not armed. The streets and roads were devoid of the heavily armed security presence associated with past elections but they were seen at the collation centers. No casualty was reported in any of the polling units in Edo Central Senatorial District where we observed as the election was reported to be peaceful. However an independent observer informed us that ballot box was snatched at Ewatto (Ward 3 unit 5) Esan South East Local Government Area.

Accreditation and Voting

The process of accreditation and voting were done simultaneously such that eligible voters get accredited and vote immediately. Accreditation and voting in most polling units did not start earlier than 09:00am because the poll officials were trying to sort things out and prepare the arena to ensure a hitch free exercise. All those who voted were authenticated by the card reader, their names were ticked in the voters' register and cuticles marked with ink to proof that they have voted. Incidence form was not used as all voters were made to pass through the card reader for accreditation. The ballot papers were stamped by the poll official before handing over to

voters for voting. The sorting and counting of ballot paper was done in the full view of the political party agents, observers and some voters who waited behind after casting their votes.

Incidences in the State House of Assembly Election

Incidences of violence between party agents were recorded by our observers in wards 4 unit 7 and wards 3 in Esan North East Local Government Area (Girls model Primary School, Uromi). Sporadic gun shots were fired by several detachments of mobile police men to scare mischief makers who had approached the polling unit to make trouble. The Army was later called in to quell the violence.

There were also incidences of financial inducement to voters especially by party agents in several polling units across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. Some of these party agents wore the tags of other parties that did not feature candidates in the election at the state or senatorial level whereas they were sponsored by either of the major parties to facilitate the nefarious activity of vote buying.

In Esan Central Local Government Area precisely in Eko Ojemen Primary School, there were sporadic gun shots by some hoodlums who scared voters away from the polling unit. In Esan West Local Government Area, some voters complained to our election observers that party agents thumb printed on their ballot paper while they were trying to spread it out on the cubicle at Emiala Primary School. In Esan South East Local Government Area, Ward 3 unit 4, Our Observer noticed that some voters were intimidated to vote for a particular party against their choice. Cases of harassment were also reported in Esan West Local government Area Precisely at Ward 7 unit 15. Some party agents and their supporters instructed voters to openly display their ballot papers so as to know who they voted for and this was done in the presence of security personnel and INEC ad-hoc staff without any opposition from them. In the words of the Observer, it was “operation vote and show”. This brazen act was done throughout the voting process.

Findings:

1. That the police officers deployed to the polling unit did not have the capacity to protect electorate from intimidation and prevent vote buying. This was observed from their show of indifference to the complaint of voters who could not cast their vote because some party agents thumb printed on their ballot paper while they try to put it down on the cubicle to vote. Also when people showed their ballot papers after voting to party agents the police looked helplessly even when people try to resist it.
2. The police could not apprehend even a single person among all those who voted and showed their ballots openly to party agents so as to be able to collect money after voting.
3. INEC ad-hoc staff did not display adequate knowledge of the voting guidelines and completion of the requisite forms as some had to rely on the assistance of party agents.

4. It was also observed that the number of those who failed authentication and yet voted were more than those who were successfully authenticated by the card reader.

Recommendations:

1. Adequate training of ad-hoc staff through a simulation methodology should be encouraged. They should be allowed to try their hands on the forms during training.
2. If the police must be deployed, they should not just be given ceremonial roles they should be seen to act according to the law by protecting voters from intimidation and abuse. If they cannot guarantee the protection of voters, it will be assumed that they have been compromised. They should therefore redeem their integrity.
3. Vote buying should be discouraged by apprehending and prosecuting those involved starting with electorates who displayed their ballot paper after voting. If this is not done, then INEC is not sincere with the fight against vote buying.
4. INEC is encouraged to upgrade to a type of electronic voting that will allow for real time transmission of results from the polling unit to the headquarters.

Conclusion:

Judging from the reports from the observers in the field, Uromi JDPCI can say that the election was largely peaceful apart from some skirmishes and financial inducement to sway voters in certain locations and the polling units highlighted above where hoodlums attacked. It must be stated here that this conclusion is based on the areas that were covered by Uromi JDPCI election observers.

ESAN EMINENT STAKEHOLDERS MEETING HELD AT THE CHANCERY ON SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST, 2019

As part of her efforts in contributing to the growth and development of Esanland, the Diocese of Uromi in conjunction with Uromi Justice, Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) convened another Eminent Stakeholders meeting to discuss pressing issues plaguing citizens of Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose of the Eminent Stakeholders meeting



Hon. Sergius Ogun making a remarks at the event

was to provide a platform where regular dialogues on issues like; the menace of kidnapping, violent crimes

and



Prof Anthony Omoregie making a contribution at the forum

destruction of farmlands by killer herdsmen can be discussed with meaningful resolution on the way forward. The meeting which was conveyed by His Lordship Most Rev Dr. Donatus Ogun, the Catholic Bishop of Uromi Diocese had in attendance prominent Esan traditional leaders such as the Enijie of Uromi, Igueben, Ogwa, Orowa, Ewatto, Ido, Urohi and Ujiogba. Some traditional Rulers such as the Enijie of Ewohimi, Opoji and Uzea also sent prominent high Chiefs to represent them at the gathering. The Member Representing Esan North East and Esan South East in the National House of Representative Hon. Sergius Ogun and the Local Government Chairman of Igueben Local Government Area were also in attendance. The Archbishop of Bendel, Anglican Communion was ably represented by Venerable Usueni and three other Clergies while Bishop Anthony Okosun was present at the event. Among other prominent civil and socio-cultural groups present were the Esan Renaissance People Vigilante, Esan Progressive Union, Lagos, Center for Esan Development Studies, Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa. The Catholic Episcopal Deans of the five Deaneries, Knights of St. Molumba, Diocesan Laity Council, Catholic Men Organization, Catholic Women Organization, Catholic Youth Organization were also represented at the ceremony.

In his opening remark, the Bishop of the Catholic Dioceses of Uromi, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun (OSA) thanked all the Enojie and other dignitaries for honouring the invitation and expressed a deep pleasure that the resolution of the previous stakeholder's forum yielded results with noticeable changes in the attitude of citizens of Esanland. He emphasized that the need for calling for another eminent stakeholders meeting was to brainstorm on the thorny issue of herdsmen, and their cattle destroying farms raping women, kidnapping and killing farmers who go to their farms. Bishop Ogun stressed that this menace need to be curbed as farmers were staying away from their farms which might lead to food shortages and a huge crises in the long run. He stated that he avoided mentioning names of particular ethnic groups so as not to create ethnic colouration to the crises thereby deviating from the main issue. He stated that the herdsmen were able to cause so much harm because of possible conspiracy and collaboration with some indigenes. He appealed to all participants at the event to critically analyze the situation and suggest solutions to end this crisis that is threatening the whole of Esan land and preventing Esan sons and daughters from freely accessing their home towns.

In his remark, the Honourable Member representing Esan North East and Esan South East Federal constituencies in the National Assembly, Hon Sergius Ogun expressed the need to preventing the herdsmen and cattle dealers in the community from living in isolation. He also



One of the Monarchs making some remarks at the event

suggested that drones be used as surveillance on suspected hideouts of these herdsmen and further tasked the religious leaders to



During the opening prayers at the event

He promised to take whatever decision reached at the forum in form of a resolution to the National Assembly if requested by the stakeholders at the forum to do so.

The Chairman of Esan Renaissance People Vigilante Mr Joel Adamebor highlighted some of their contributions and efforts to improve the security situation in the five Local Government Area of Esan land. He listed funding, non-commitment from some government functionaries who have the responsibility of securing lives, inadequate support from some traditional rulers and non-consensus among the Local Government Officials on the need to support them as part of their challenges. He suggested a merger of the vigilante groups across the five Local Government Areas in Esan land for effectiveness and avoidance of the issues of jurisdiction in course of chasing criminal herdsmen from one Local Government Area to another.

The Secretary to Esan Renaissance People Vigilante further suggested that herdsmen be registered in the Local Government where they live and do business so as to ascertain the good ones from the bad ones.

His Royal Highnesses the Onojie of Ewatto and Onojie of Ogwa in their contributions at the event decried the politicization of the security situation which is tearing Esan land apart and appealed that politics should be put aside in tackling the issue of security because it affects everyone, irrespective of political affiliation.

Some other discussant at the event presented the summary of the findings in some of their studies on the situation made the following recommendation:

1. That open grazing should not be discouraged; those that want to rear cattle should do so in a ranch. The importance of ranching in cattle business was expatiated, citing relevant examples from some countries around the world where they have conducted observatory study. They



Another Monarch making his remarks at the event

concluded that cows can actually be domesticated by anybody as against the belief that such a venture was

the



Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun giving the keynote address at the event

prerogative of a particular tribe or ethnic group.

2. A review and profiling of herdsmen in each community to allow for easy identification of intruders was further recommended. A similar situation was also recommended for cattle

such that each herd of cattle belonging to a particular herdsman would have unique numbers and code to allow for tracing and identification of any invasion and destruction

3. The issues of homage from herdsmen and foreigners with ulterior motive of requesting for land to settle should be critically considered because it promotes influx of herdsmen into such communities, thereby endangering peace and security.
4. A review community Laws that allow herdsmen to carry arms and dangerous weapons around the communities was also recommended.
5. The traditional, religious and political leaders were particularly admonished to ensure that there was a consensus to put politics and religion aside so as to promote the security of our people
6. It was also recommended that a review of traditional rites and ceremonies be made to allow for the patronage of Local animals rather than cow since the meeting point between the Esan people and the Herdsmen was cow.

In conclusion, the convener of the eminent stakeholders meeting, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun thanked all the stakeholders for their contributions and appealed to the Enijie, Political and Religious leaders to support every good initiative that will advance the growth and development of Esan Land.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) commenced the implementation of the intervention on Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme in Edo Central Senatorial District with advocacy visit to traditional and institutional leaders that are concerned with the implementation, enforcement and interpretation of the laws and policies that are human rights related. The aim was to abreast the stakeholders with the plans of Uromi JDPCI to conduct



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

an intervention geared towards awareness creation and sensitization of the people about their fundamental

human rights, as well as encourage them to speak out against violators by reporting human right violations to



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

the appropriate authorities for necessary action. Among those visited were:

10 traditional rulers,

25 community leaders, the Commissioners of Police, 3 ACPs in charge of the three area commands in Esan Land, 6 divisional police



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

headquarters spread across the 5 LGAs,



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

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

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



The executive Director with a Monarch during advocacy visit

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



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

towards improving peaceful coexistence of the village communities and promoting social justice and respect for human rights. The objectives

include training of 55 Paralegals to document and intervene in cases of human rights violations as well as provide advice to victims. This is to ensure that community members have improved knowledge and consciousness of human rights and are willing to report human rights violations. This project will also promote the active participation of women in the civil, cultural, economic,



Presentation of advocacy letter to the Monarch

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



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

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

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

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

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



Advocacy visit to a community Chief in Idumebo, Irrua

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

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

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

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



Explanation of the intervention to the Monarch

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

communities



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

IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB MEMBERS.

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



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

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

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



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

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

expressed interest and zeal by two other communities in

two different Local Government Areas (Esan South East and

Esan West)



Inauguration of Human Rights Club in Amahor community, Igubeben LGA



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

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

amicably through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADR). To be effective as human right defenders, some capacity building, education and learning sessions lined up for them were highlighted. These they were told will enable them to be agents of change and promoters of justice and peace in their various communities. They were also tasked to be prepared for awareness raising and sensitization in their various communities so as to be able to enlighten their communities on human rights promotion and protection.



Inauguration at Ewu Esan Central LGA

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

Uromi JDPCI in partnership



Inauguration at Egbele, Esan North East LGA

with Misereor, Germany embarked on this intervention to create awareness on Human Rights, strengthen the channels for reporting Human Rights violation and create a platform where victims of Human Rights can get justice. The communities where Human Rights clubs were inaugurated include: **Esan Central**; Irrua, Usenu, Ewu, Agua and Idumenbo. **Esan West**; Eguare-Ekpoma, Egoro-Amede, Ukpenu, Ukhun, Emaudo and Ujoelen. **Esan North East**;



Group photograph after inauguration in Ivue

Egbele, Eror, Ivue, Efandion and Amedokhian. **Esan South East**; Ubiaja, Okhuesan, Ewohimi, Ewatto, Emu and Ahia Udakpa. **Igueben**; Eguare-Igueben, Uhe/Idumeka, Ebelle,



Inauguration of Human Rights Club at Ebelle

Ewossa and Amahor

At the end a total of 298 persons made up of 179 males and 119 females were selected and inaugurated in the 27 groups across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District. The representation of women was 39.93%

MEETING WITH SUPERVISORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME PROJECT



Mr. Michael Iyoriobhe speaking to the supervisors

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

North East, Esan Central, Esan South East and Igueben



Project team members during the meeting

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



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

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

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

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



Participants asking questions for clarification during the meeting

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

opening remark welcomed all the



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

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



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

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

gender equality and



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

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

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

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

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

It was reiterated that close monitoring will be carried out by

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



Opening prayer to declare the inaugural meeting open

COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

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

and other communities. Local Government representatives and legal practitioners were also at the event.



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

In the opening remark, the Executive Director of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo traced the origin of the celebration of children to Rev Dr. Charles Leonard who designed and held a special service which focused specifically on children in 1856 as an annual event. By 1954 it was universally declared that June 1st should not



Chief Oza representing the Onojie of Uromi making a remark

just be seen as a yearly celebration of children but rather established as the international



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

day for protection of children in order to protect children's right, end child Labour and guarantee access to education.

It was emphasized that child rights are fundamental rights that must be protected by all hence policy makers and community stakeholders were invited to be part of this year's event so that they can be collaborators and partners in the promotion of the rights of children and protection of same in all spheres of life.

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

Thereafter the guest speaker Barr Onomen Oriakhi made a presentation titled "Protection of



Participants in a group photograph

Children in the light of Child's Right'. She started the session with a role play on the importance of guidance



Some Community Chiefs at the event

and protection for all children and then emphasized that children are violated because we fail to protect them. She took participants through some Laws that have been enacted for the protection of children at various levels and then categorized the 2003 Child Rights Act into four main pillars which were health, development, protection and participation. She encouraged the provision of safe spaces

for children where they will be free to express their feelings as well as educate children about child protection system and network. She also recommended the building of network of concern individual and groups to help children develop support systems in the communities and concluded with a charge on the participants to begin the process of creating conducive environment for the promotion of children's rights and the protection of children in the society.

A total of 112 persons made up of 60 males and 52 females were in attendance.

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Uromi JDPCI commemorated the Human Rights day by organizing a workshop on Human Rights focusing on the position of the law on gender equality, women's right to inheritance and cultural practices of wife inheritance.

Amongst those present at the event were: Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis. Arhedo, Magistrate Maureen Ojo (Guest Speaker), Representatives of the Department of State Security representatives of the

Nigerian Police, representative of NSCDC, paralegals, advocates, member of the Board of Trustee and the staff of Uromi JDPCI.



Magistrate Ojo delivering a lecture at the event

The keynote address on human rights for humanity presented by the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo explained the beauty of creation as the glory of man being endowed by his creator (Gen 1:26-27). He noted that the ultimate source of human rights is not found in the mere will of human beings in the reality of the state, in public powers, but in man himself and in God his creator. These rights are universal, inviolable and inalienable. This was followed by a presentation made by the Magistrate; Maureen Ojo where she explained to Customary laws to the participants.



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo delivering keynote address

She went further to explain that though the



Group photograph of participants at the event

customary laws are allowed to exist, the supreme law is against any practice that is repugnant to justice, equity and good conscience and so tries to abolish laws that constitutes discrimination against women which may include levirate marriage (wife inheritance), inhuman treatment of widows and harmful widowhood practices (such as asking the woman to drink the water used to bathe her dead husband just to prove she did not kill him; asking a widow to wear only dirty clothes; to sit only on the floor etc) and refusal of daughters to partake in the inheritance of their fathers estate.

She encouraged people to take will writing very seriously as it would help prevent fights amongst family members. She also encouraged women to empower themselves with vocational skills or a business so that at the demise of their husbands they will not be left stranded with nothing to keep the family going and also to tell people about their rights and how important it is to be aware of what our limitations are.

GENDER EQUALITY SENSITIZATION IN FIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Group photographs with some community Chiefs in attendance at Esan West LGA

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives conducted sensitization on gender equality in the five Local

Government Areas of Edo



Teaching session by Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in Esan Central LGA.

Central Senatorial District. The purpose was to create awareness on the importance of gender equality in the perspective of human rights and improve knowledge and consciousness of certain laws that prohibit certain cultural and traditional practices that are inimical to the dignity of women as human being and repugnance to the law of equity and natural justice. The focus for this year was women disinheritance and inclusion in decision making at the family, community and society in general. This sensitization was held in each of the five LGAs as listed below:

1. Esan North East :Monday 19th August, 2019 at the place of the Ojuromi of Uromi
2. Esan South East :Monday 19th August, 2019 at the local government council hall, Ubiaja
3. Esan West : Wednesday 21st August, 2019 at the palace of the Onojie of Ekpoma
4. Esan Central: Thursday 22nd August, 2019 at St. Anselm Catholic Church, Irrua
5. Igueben: 23rd August, 2019 at the palace of the Onojie of Igueben

Participants for the sensitization in the respective LGAs cut across religious and community leaders, members of the human right club, political leaders, Opinion leaders, men and women as well as the youths from selected communities.

The sensitization was aimed at engaging the people to deliberate on issues of gender equality particularly on female disinheritance and women inclusion in decision making in family and



**Hon Victor Emuakhagbon LGA
Chairman giving his contribution**

societal life. It was emphasized that Uromi JDPCI has not come to impose new ideas on them or to abolish their culture but to logically discuss and seek ways to modify those cultural practices that are detrimental to the promotion



**Group photograph with participants in
Igueben LGA**

of human rights as recognized in the constitution.

The discussion extensively treated issues around gender, sex, gender equality, gender roles and division of labour, female disinheritance and women inclusion in decision making, cultural perceptions that limit women involvement in social, political and economic activities in the Senatorial District.

Participants were exposed to relevant laws and judicial precedents that gave credence to women's right to inheritance in their fathers' and husbands estates' thus any culture or tradition that still upholds the practice of female disinheritance was considered to be acting contrary to the constitutional provisions of the state and as such, perpetrators could be sued to court. Hence the facilitator advised that such practices should be made obsolete and expunged from the communities.



**Group photograph with participant, in Esan
Central LGA.**

QUARTERLY MEETING OF PARALEGALS

Three Quarterly meeting of paralegals were held in this year. The first was in the month of June, the second was 19th of September and the third was on the 6th of December, 2019 at the chancery complex Uromi. In attendance were at least 62 participants (in each of the meeting) made up of paralegals from the various human rights clubs and supervisors from the five Local Government Areas and the five project team. These meetings were held to review activities carried out by paralegals in their respective communities in the various quarters, note their challenges, make recommendations and share best practices for the implementation of the human rights intervention. Very Rev Fr. Fidelis Arhedo commended paralegals and supervisors for their active participation during the trainings, adding that the series of training they have been exposed to were intended to build their capacity so that they can function effectively and efficiently in the various roles they perform as paralegals in their respective communities. Hence he admonished them to always take the trainings seriously and also endeavor to step down the trainings in their respective human right clubs so that members of the club can better respond to cases of human

right violations within the communities. The meeting then proceeded to take report from the various paralegals across the target communities.

AKHO Human Right Club: it was reported that a step down training was conducted for human right club members in Akho, though the activity was not documented in the reporting template. They were encouraged to learn the process of documentation as it was a vita requirement from Paralegal

USENU Human Right Club: reported that step down training was done for members of the human rights club in Usenu on the 18th of August 2019. They also reported a case of a 75 years old man who tried to defile a 12 years old girl. However, the Paralegal said the girl's mother told her that the issue has been resolved and that justice was rightly served. Very Rev Fr Fidelis ARHEDO stated that the case was a human right violation as it has to do with child and sexual harassment, thus when such an issue is reported to any member of the human right club, they should report it immediately to their supervisors so that the issue can be taken up.

AGUA Human Right Club: reported that he was at the elders meeting to sensitize them on human right issues using the knowledge from the training so far conducted. One of the Paralegals noted that some of the elders were still yet to accept the reality as it concerns the position of the law on certain cultural practices. He therefore requested that the project team would have to visit the community for proper sensitization.

IDUMEBO Human Right Club: reported that there was an issue of rape in the community. The case was reported to the police station and subsequently the girl's mother withdrew the case from



Another paralegal reporting for his human right club

the police station and left with the daughter to Lagos while the alleged rapist has also left the community. Fr Fidelis ARHEDO told the paralegal to always bring such

issues to their



A Paralegal giving a report during quarterly meeting

supervisor's attention as they cannot do the work on their own. He advised that more sensitization on human right violations should be carried out and people should be encouraged to speak out and stand for their rights.

EWU Human Right Club: reported that there was a step down training for members of the human right club and sensitization was also conducted to reach out to the community members on issues of human rights violation

EGBELLE Human Right Club: reported that they conducted sensitization among women group and they are planning to invite the project team to sensitize community chiefs and elders.

This they said would be necessary to let people know that they can find help if they report violations

AMEDOKHIAN Human Right Club: reported that step down training was done for members of the human rights club and sensitization on human rights was carried out in 18 quarters of the community and that the elders expressed support for the initiative.

IVUE Human Right Club: reported that creation of awareness and sensitization on human right issues have been carried out in Ivue community by members of the human rights club. He stated that the group's attention was called on a dispute involving a tenant and a landlady and they were able to resolve the conflict amicably. He also said that the elders of the community has promised to fix a date for the group to come and sensitize them, though they are yet to hear from them. Fr Fidelis Arhedo advised that they should be more proactive by meeting with the elders to arrange for a date for the sensitization rather than waiting for the elders to put a call across to them.

EFANDION Human Right Club: reported that human rights sensitization has been carried out in the community and that they hope to reach the other quarters in the community soon.

EROR Human Right Club: said that a rape case was reported to them and the perpetrator was on the run as his whereabouts was unknown, the issue has been properly documented and the Police on the issue.

EWATTO Human Right Club: reported that step down training was carried out and that they were working with the community to strengthen the already existing ADR system.

UBAIJA Human Right Club: reported that the human rights club at Ubiaja community carried out sensitization at St. Francis secondary school and at the Ubiaja police station and issues discussed during the sensitization were on cultural beliefs, dispute resolution and the establishment of human right clubs in schools. The authorities in the various institutions visited expressed firm commitment to support the intervention

AHIA Human Right Club: reported that human rights sensitization was carried out in the community. He also conveyed that a woman was fined two goats and two fowls because she touched a masquerade during a community burial which was seen as an abomination, though the woman refused to provide the items and she was told by the elders that a bigger masquerade would come and dance in her compound at night. Very Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo advised that members of the human rights club should investigate issues to determine what transpired between the woman and the masquerade and that if the woman was at fault they should assist her to resolve the issues with the elders, if not report to the LGA Supervisor for further advise and action.



Uromi JDPCI Executive Director in a group photograph with paralegals after quarterly meeting

OKHUSEAN Human Right Club: Joel reported that community sensitization focusing on human rights issues was carried out and church sensitization was also held.

EWOHIMI Human Right Club: Peter Imhontu reported that sensitization in two quarters within the community was carried out to educate members of the community on human right and the work of paralegals in the community.

EMU Human Right Club: reported that community sensitization was conducted and the elders of the community showed intention to hear from Uromi JDPCI project team.

UKHUN Human Right Club: reported that step down training on the Nigerian Legal System was done for members of the human rights club and the group also went out for sensitization on human rights and admonished the people to report cases of human rights violations to the appropriate authorities and that if they have challenges with that the human right club can assist them.

EGORO AMEDE Human Right Club: The paralegal reported that meetings were held with market women to sensitize them on the issues of human rights violations and that they also intervened to resolve potential community conflict between farmers and goat owners.

EMAUDO Human Right Club: reported that sensitization has not been carried out in the community because the community was mourning the demise of one of the community elder. But they have begun to use the knowledge gain from training to resolve disputes in their communities.

EGUARE-EKPOMA Human Right Club: reported that they intervened in the unlawful arrest of a young boy by the anti-cult unit in Police State Command, they consulted with their supervisor and after investigation the boy was proved innocent and released by the Police. They also reported that their supervisor counseled a woman that was labeled a witch and was asked to go to a shrine to drink concoction in order to prove her innocence. After the counsel, the woman picked the courage to make her decision as she was promised of legal support should she have any form of threat or undue pressure that could violate her rights.

EBELLE Human Right Club: reported that through the group's intervention a woman that was ostracized from the community and denied any form of contact with her children was pardoned as they were able to settle the issue with the council of elders.

BI ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE
The Human Right Education and Paralegal scheme project which is aimed at contributing towards an improved peaceful coexistence of the village community and promotion of social justice and respect for human rights has as part of its planned strategies to conduct Bi-Annual Stakeholders' Conference with a view to facilitate the establishment of a collaborative platform of instrumental stakeholder and the human rights defenders and paralegals for the defense of human rights at the grassroots. In view of this, Uromi JDPCI held its first biannual stakeholders conference on the 26th of September 2019 at Uromi Diocesan chancery complex. In attendance for the conference were Human rights supervisors, paralegals and human rights advocates across the target communities with a total of 110 persons present, comprising 61 male and 49 female.

In the opening remark, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo charged the audience to be proactive in the discharge of their responsibilities as paralegals and



A female Paralegal contributing to discussion

human rights advocate. He noted that the training they have been exposed to so far was to abreast them of their duties and obligations to vulnerable community members. He advised them to act with wisdom and respect towards community members, be it the victim or the suspect, charging them to inculcate the civil attitudes and shun that which was barbaric. He encouraged them to be industrious, intelligent,



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo addressing participants during conference

courageous, wise and calculative and increase the awareness of the existence of Human Rights clubs to community members. He urged them to introduce themselves to all the Lawmakers and executioners in the community so that they can have some measure of relevance.

Thereafter the various activities carried in the course of the project, was sequentially projected and explained,

The Program Manager emphasized that paralegals are to facilitate monthly human rights club meetings at their various communities and most of the communities were already doing so.



The Executive Director and members in a group photograph after conference

Immediately after the activity review, participants were given opportunity to ask questions on areas they are having challenges in the discharge of their duties to allow for possible recommendation and clarifications, thereafter



Barr Omozejie Osas making contribution to discussion

answers were given to clarify all doubts.

TRAINING ON INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PARALEGAL SCHEME



Group discussion by participants

track, document and report incidences of abuse within their communities.

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

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

The objective of the training was to make participants understand who they were as Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates and the various roles they were expected to play in the communities.

Participants were thereafter introduced to the topic



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

“Understanding the role of paralegals”. It was however emphasized that paralegals were not lawyers.

Other sub headings

during the training include: who can become a paralegal, duties of a paralegal and the ethics of paralegals, understanding human rights, monitoring and reporting human rights violation as well as documentation.



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



Opening session of the training

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

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

TRAINING ON JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT FOR PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE



Participant asking question for clarity during the question segment

Uromi JDPCI organized training on Justice Administration and Conflict Management for paralegals and human rights advocates. The purpose of which was to strengthen the capacity of participants to understand the Nigerian Justice



Group photograph with participants after the first day of training

system, its administration as well as the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanism in conflict

management. A Total of 110 persons (69 males & 41 females) were in attendance for the training.



In this training, the participants were exposed to the Nigeria Legal System comprising of the Law, the Courts, the Personnel of the



Cross section of Supervisors during the training

Courts and the Administration of Justice System in the State and Country. The Hierarchies and Descriptions of the Nigeria Courts as well as the personnel of Courts were explained.

Furthermore, the mode of resolving conflicts were identified to include; Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). They were elaborately explained to the participants

The facilitator advised that parties to conflicts must ensure that a person with proven intellect and integrity who is unbiased must be chosen as a mediator whose verdict could be relied upon.

In conclusion, the participants were urged to spread the impact of the training to their various communities by assisting them to establish an alternative dispute resolution mechanism to settle minor disputes and conflict within the communities. Participants expressed satisfaction and appreciation to the project team for the improved knowledge gained through the training and promised to put it to use in their operations as paralegals and human rights advocates in the various communities.

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

The training was attended by the Paralegals, Human Rights Advocates, Supervisors of the 5 focus Local Government Areas and staff of Uromi JDPCI with a total of 110 persons -49 Female and 61 male in attendance. The purpose of the training was to equip the Paralegals with the basic knowledge of human rights and the various processes involved in seeking redress in case of violations.



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

He however, noted that the current constitutional provision of human rights in Nigeria is that enshrined in chapter IV of the 1999 constitution as amended which includes inter alia; the right to life, right to the dignity of human person; right to liberty, right to fair hearing, right to private and family life, right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, right to freedom of expression and the press and right to peaceful assembly.

On the enforcement of human rights, he stated that the Court has jurisdiction to handle matters on human rights violations, pointing out that the enforcement machinery in Chapter IV of the constitution of Federal republic of Nigeria 1999 is as provided for in section 46 (1) of the 1999 constitution which states that “any person who alleges that any of the provisions of this chapter has been, is being or likely to be contravened in any state in relation to it may apply to high court in that state for redress”.



Cross Section of participants with the Director of Uromi JDPCI

The participants appreciated Uromi JDPCI for their efforts to make the society habitable by citizens, adding



Onuwabhagbe Theresa during her presentation at the training

that prior to the training, some of their fundamental rights had been violated because of their own ignorance.

However, they are now fully abreast with their rights and how to enforce it.

ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Uromi JDPCI marked the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita with sensitization rally at Ewohimi, Ubiaja and Ewu markets. The week long activities was held to pray for the those who have died as victims of trafficking and slavery as well as raise



Sensitization at the Ewu market

awareness on the dangers inherent in human trafficking and irregular migration. The prayer procession commenced immediately from the entrance



A section of Audience at Ewohimi Market during sensitization to mark feast of St. Bakhita

of the market through some major streets, back to the

Market square and the motor park with placards carrying messages on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration. There were stops at intervals to address the market men and

women on the dangers of human trafficking. The trend of travelling outside the country with no aim whatsoever was discouraged as it exposes those involved to the risk of human trafficking. It was further stated that people should consider and support more honorable alternatives for the members of their communities. They should learn skills that will empower them to become responsible citizens of the various communities. The procession then continued and ended at a center of the market where the team showed a video clip to portray the message of human trafficking and this attracted the attention of market women and men to the scene while the team explained the context of the video in bit with local language. This was followed by a life testimony of a young girl who just returned from one of the African countries and has decided to join the team in the crusade against human trafficking. She narrated her experience in the hand of human traffickers and discouraged listeners from travelling through the desert to Libya and other Africa countries because of the dangers involved rather those who want to travel should follow the legal route. An estimated number of 670 persons were reached-171 males and 499 females.



A returnee narrating her ordeals in the hands of traffickers

SUSTAINABLE MEASURE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSON (SMAT-P)

In furtherance of the awareness raising efforts in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas, Uromi JDPCI, in collaboration with Caritas Nigeria through the SMAT-P project sponsored by the Italian Bishop Conference visited a total of forty one (41) communities, 5 markets and 5 churches for sensitization. A total of 2395 persons made up of 1086 males and 1309 females were reached

Sensitisation of Chiefs and Community Leaders

Uromi JDPCI visited some palaces and communities to first sensitize the Chiefs and community leaders on the importance of the SMAT-P project which is aimed at raising awareness on the dangers of Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration in their communities. The team also used the opportunity to solicit their support and cooperation to conduct sensitization round the



Right view of participants at Ewohimi Palace

communities in their domains.

The team highlighted indecent behavior, lack of parental responsible and absence of community involvement in raising children as part of the factors that exposes young people to human trafficking and irregular migration and implore parents and caregivers to take interest in the upbringing of their children.



Left view of participants at the sensitization in Ewohimi palace

They further outlined forced prostitution, domestic servitude, forced labour, organ harvesting, drug peddling as part of the dangers inherent in human trafficking.

The team elaborated further on the rigorous activities involved in irregular migration and the dangers involved in the journey through Sahara desert and the Mediterranean Sea and encouraged the Chiefs and community leaders to caution their children against it. Some safe migration tips were thereafter given. The Chiefs and community leaders, expressed commitment to mobilize their various quarters and clan for effective

sensitization on the dangers of human trafficking. Among the Council of Chiefs sensitized were that of Irrua in Esan Central LGA, Ewohimi and Ewatto in Esan South East LGA

Community Sensitization

Sequel to the stakeholders' engagement, Uromi JDPCI thereafter visited some communities to conduct sensitization on the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration.



A cross section of participants in Ukhiodo, community, Ewu

The project team reminded the people that travelling abroad has certain procedures and



Community sensitization at Okede, Ewohimi. Esan South East LGA

requirements as such anyone interested genuine migration should do so through the proper channels.

They were told that the desert and Mediterranean Sea were not the best route to take for a regular migrant because of the horror in those routes. Those who pass through these routes are endangering their lives and the chances of getting to their destination are very slim.

Thereafter a film on human trafficking was shown to the community members using a projector



Community sensitization at Agadaga, Ewohimi Esan South East LGA

and as the film screens, explanations were made to the community members, highlighting the dangers and



A section of women at the Idumabi Community sensitization

implication of human

trafficking.

The men and women as well as their children came out in large number to listen to the message



Sensitization of community elders in Akho community Irrua

and as well the visual presentation. The project team emphasized the need for hard work and commitment either as a student or an apprentice.

The participants expressed concern about the unfortunate trend of irregular migration among the young people and wonder why some of them do not take counsel. They however expressed confidence that with intense sensitization more awareness on the dangers of irregular



Sensitization in Agua community, Irrua

migration and its linkage to human trafficking will be created and a reduction in the trend



Sensitization at Oloshi quarters in Illushi

will be achieved.

CHURCH SENSITIZATION

In the same vein Uromi JDPCI visited six churches within the reporting period to conduct sensitization on human trafficking. The churches visited were St Anthony Catholic Church, Ewatto, Assemblies of God Church, Usenu-Irrua and St Anselm Catholic Church, Irrua, Potter's Watch Church, Irrua Church



Sensitization in St. Anselm Catholic Church, Irrua

of God Mission Irrua and Assemblies of God Church Eko Iyobhebhe. The trend of travelling outside the country with no aim whatsoever was discouraged as it exposes those involved to the risk of human trafficking. It was further stated that people should consider and support more honorable alternatives for the members of their communities and churches to learn skills that will empower them to become responsible citizens of the country. The project team showed video documentaries of experiences of victims of human trafficking and irregular migration in two churches (Assemblies of God and St Anselm Catholic Church) to portray the message of human trafficking while the team explained the context of the video. The Senior Pastor appreciated the project team for the service done to his people while the visiting Pastor implored the project team to engage the Government to understand that the young people need alternatives as well as conducive business environment to be able to fend for themselves.



Sensitization at Assemblies of God Church, Usenu Irrua

The Rector of St Anselm Catholic Church Irrua, who is also the Director of Uromi JDPCI admonished his parishioners to be advocates of anti human trafficking in their various community. This he said was necessary to promote the dignity of human person. The program Manager for the SMAT-P project Onomen Oriakhi and the SILC coordinator Amina Muhammad were also at St Anselm Catholic Church to lend their voice to the campaign. An estimated number of 742 persons were reached-279 males and 443 females.

MARKET SENSITIZATION

Similarly Uromi JDPCI visited 6 markets in Esan Central and Esan South East LGAs to conduct sensitization on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration. A total of 427 persons made up of 89 male and 338 female were reached.



Some participants viewing documentary at Opoji market



Participants which were made up of both men and women as well as youth in the market were told about the evils of human trafficking and the need for safe migration.



Some participants viewing documentary at Omioboyo market

Parents and youth present were therefore counseled to watch out for traffickers who deceive people with unrealistic promising future and to stop giving their children out as house boys/girls because of the many dangers of turning those children to slaves and other forms

of child abuse. They were admonished to do their best by sending their children to school otherwise should encourage and support them to learn a trade. The participants shudder in disbelief of the horrible experience they saw irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking passed through in the documentary and affirm support to the sensitization.

SCHOOL SENSITIZATION



Sensitization at Irrua Girls Secondary School

Similarly, a total of forty eight schools (48) schools were also visited for sensitization and formation of Anti-Human Trafficking during the period. A

total of 4734 students

made up of 2236 males and 2498 females were reached.



Sensitization at Scarlet Group of Schools, Eko-Ewu

The event at the various schools all began with remark by Uromi JDPCI team, who welcomed the students to the event and explained the purpose of the exercise which was to create awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and the ways to avoid being a victim. The students were told

that it was not a bad thing to travel abroad either to seek for greener pastures or for educational purpose but that it was important for the intending migrant to have a good knowledge of the laws and customs of the country they intend to migrate to, as well as have all the necessary valid documents for the journey. The team then proceeded to explain the meaning of human trafficking to the students and highlighted some of its devastating effect on the victims, families and the community at large. The team told the students that there are two types of trafficking; external and internal. The explained the internal as that which takes place within the shore of a country while the external involves the movement of people out of their country of origin to another for the purpose of exploitation, force labour, prostitution and other inglorious activities which are meant to benefit the trafficker.

The team also spoke on the dangers of irregular migration because of its tendency to end up in human trafficking and heightened some of the ordeals as well as dehumanizing circumstances that victims have to go through in the perilous journey. The



Sensitization at Ewu Grammar School, Ewu

team recounted the experiences of some migrants who had to drink the urine of their co travelers in the Sahara desert when they ran out of water, while some



Sensitization at Covenant Group of School, Ewu

were held prisoners by smugglers and kept in prisons where they were constantly beaten and extorted, and the female among them were repeatedly raped and tortured. For the once that are able to get through this harrowing experience and get to the Mediterranean Sea, they end up either drifted off to unknown areas by human traffickers or drown because over crowded boat.

The students were admonished not to be deceived by relatives or family friends who come to them promising them jobs abroad, as these were some of the tricks adopted by human traffickers to lure their victims. They were advised to study hard so that they can achieve their dreams of becoming great individuals in the future.



Sensitization Film show at ACC, Irrua

A short clip was shown to the students on how migrants



Sensitization Film show at ACC, Irrua

suffer going through the desert and the Mediterranean Sea to get to Europe and a documentary of the personal tales of victims of trafficking who suffered untold hardship and exploitation in the hands of traffickers. After which some students asked question to clarify their doubt from the different schools and response were provided.

FORMATION OF ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLUBS

Uromi JDPCI project team visited seven schools to form Anti-Human Trafficking Clubs. The schools were Irrua Girls Secondary School, Ewu Grammar School, Ewu, Annunciation Catholic College, Irrua, and Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu,



Formation of Anti Human Trafficking Club in ACC Irrua, Esan Central LGA

Agadaga Secondary school Ewohimi, Okaigben Secondary school and Ewatto Grammar School. Uromi JDPCI project team, told the students essence of the club, which

was to enable them speak against the ills of human trafficking and act as advocate of anti-human trafficking. 10 students were selected from each of the schools while two students were also selected in each school as president and secretary of the clubs in

the various schools.



Formation of Anti Human Trafficking Club in Irrua Girls S.S, Esan Central LGA

VICTIM SUPPORT GROUP MEETING



Victim Support group meeting in Ewohimi

In the period under review, Uromi JDPCI with support from Caritas Nigeria formed 2 support groups and



facilitated 10 monthly meetings with each of the groups. One was formed in Esan South East Local Government Area while the other was in Esan Central Local Government Area. The inaugural meeting for Esan South East was held on the 14th of March at Ewohimi with 17 persons in attendance (14males &

3females) while that of Esan Central was held in Irrua on the 15th of March 2019 with 10 persons in attendance (6males &4Females). Uromi JDPCI project team led by the Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo informed the groups that the essence of the support group was to develop synergy for improved influence to better their lives as well as to serve as advocates for the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking. Some of the victims narrated their ordeals and regretted their action because of the huge lost it has caused.



Victim Support group meeting in Irrua

In subsequent meetings they various groups constituted executives to pilot their affairs and cordinate their activities. Uromi JDPCI and Caritas Nigeria also linked some of them to vocational skills acquisition as well as sustained the provision of psychosocial support to the victims and returnees.

FORMATION OF COMMUNITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Uromi JDPCI project team was also at some communities to form Community project implementation Committee (CPIC). The committee was made up of members drawn from different groups and age grades in the community. The Head Teacher of the community Primary School was also included as a



Inauguration of CPIC at Agada/Okede in Ewohimi

member of the community. The Program Manager explained to the members the purpose of the community project implementation committee which was to collaborate with the project team in the effective implementation of the SMAT-P project in their community. The members expressed appreciation to the project team for choosing their communities to implement the SMAT-P project and promised to make themselves available to serve their communities with us.

Community Meeting



Group photograph of participants in Irrua community meeting

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



Esan Central and Irrua community meeting

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

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



Fr Fidelis addressing participants at community meeting in Ewatto

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

VALIDATION EXERCISE FOR LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

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



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

the validation on the 13th and 14th of June 2019 with beneficiaries selected from different communities in Irrua for validation after selecting from the list of vulnerable household. Some beneficiaries were selected and validated. The beneficiaries signified interest in various forms of trade such as food stuff business, Rice business, Akpu, fish, oil, Garri, articles like biscuit, bread and many other forms of trades. The team adopted certain criteria in the selection process, among which were the number of persons out of school in the household, the number of adolescents in the house, the number of children given out as house help, among others. The



Validation Exercise in Idumebo community Esan Central LGA

exercise was conducted on the 13th of June in Esan Central at the four different venues (Akho, Usenu, Idumebo and Ukhiodo-Ewu) while that of Esan South East was done on the 14th of June at seven venues (Agadaga, Okede, and Palace in Ewohimi, Uhomebho, Idinegbon and Palace in Ewatto and then Illushi

community). At the end of all that were assessed a total of hundred persons were eventually selected to benefit

from the project.

VALIDATION AND PLACEMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Uromi JDPCI project team led by the executive director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo went round the various schools to assess the selected beneficiaries educational needs and requirement using the template provided. The school Principals gave a list of the basic requirements and appreciated the project for the initiatives which they said was direly needed to sustain the



Fr with Principal during placement

vulnerable students in school. The Principals also assisted with the validation of the list and placement of the students in their appropriate classes. In Irrua Girls Secondary School it was discovered that two of the students whose names were



Fr with Another Principal during placement

earlier submitted have been given scholarship by another group. These students were congratulated and replaced by other students from the Principal's list earlier submitted to Uromi JDPCI. This replacement was done with inputs from the school authorities. A total of 70 beneficiaries made up of 41 males and 29 females were validated in 6 schools.

TRAINING ON INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES, RECORD KEEPING, MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING IN ESAN SOUTH EAST AND ESAN CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Uromi JDPCI conducted a step down training on income generating activities for selected beneficiaries in two Local Government Areas (Esan South East and Esan Central) with 50 women trained in each of the two LGAs. The objective of the training was to equip selected beneficiaries with the knowledge of how to use book keeping, management and marketing principles to run a viable business and how they can identify business/ market opportunities within and outside their environment.



Facilitator making a demonstration for the people



A participant responding to questions during training Esan South East LGA

The facilitator took participants through some topics such as Record keeping, its importance and how it can help improve business. The importance of customer satisfaction was also emphasized using the marketing mix popularly known as the 7Ps- Product,

Price, Place, People, Promotion, Processes and

Physical Evidence. This was followed with a presentation on Market Opportunity Identification.



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo addressing beneficiaries in Esan Central LGA

In conclusion, participants were urged to have positive expectations for their businesses and allow such positive expectations to motivate them at all time because being motivated by the right reasons is strength. A total of 100 beneficiaries, 2 SILC agents and 10 frontline advocates were present for the IGAs training in Esan South East and Esan Central Local Government Area (56 in Esan South East and 56 in Esan Central)

DISTRIBUTION AND ACTIVATION OF PREPAID ATM CARD FOR BENEFICIARIES

On the 30th of October, 2019, Uromi JDPCI project were at United Bank of Africa PLC Uromi Branch to assist in the identification of beneficiaries who have been shortlisted to benefit from the SMAT-P project grant for Income Generating Activities. The project team assisted with coordination and



A beneficiary being captured for BVN



Some beneficiaries with their Prepaid Wallet at the ATM for activation of Wallet

activation of the cards for the beneficiaries. A total of one hundred beneficiaries who were all women turned out for the exercise. The bank required that the beneficiaries come with identity card and encouraged all of them to open account with them so as to enable them keep funding the Wallet prepaid card that will be given to them. This process of opening account number took sometimes and they eventually were able to open account for all of them except for those who had account with the bank before now. Uromi JDPCI deployed four staff to support the process hence, the one hundred beneficiaries were all attended to in one day. Three of the beneficiaries



Signing of MoU in a Mechanics Workshop

could not activate their cards because their pins were longer than usual numbers. However the contact person immediately forwarded the complaint and assured us that the issue will be promptly



Signing of MoU in a welding Workshop

resolved and will not in any way affect the beneficiaries.

SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH VOCATIONAL CENTRES.

In meeting with the objective to empower vulnerable youths and out of school children with



Signing of MoU for ICT training

vocational skills so that they could lead productive lives and not fall prey to human traffickers, Uromi JDPCI Project team with



Signing of MoU in a Hairdressing Workshop

support from Caritas Nigeria went round the selected vocational centres across Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas to sign memorandum of understanding with the respective trainers of beneficiaries of the vocational training.



Signing of MoU in a welding Workshop

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



Signing of MoU in a Tailoring Workshop

assented to the provisions contained in the memorandum after which the trainers and their respective witnesses signed the necessary columns. The beneficiaries who were present for the activity were advised to adhere to the instructions of their trainers and effectively maximize the training period in order to emerge successful in their various vocations at the end of the training.

In Esan South East, a total of 10 (MOU) were signed for 15 beneficiaries (4 for tailoring, 2 for Diesel mechanic, 3 for hair dressing, 4 for welding, 1 for pop and tiles, 1 for mechanic while in Esan Central, 9 (MOU) were signed for 13 beneficiaries (8 for tailoring, 1 for hair dressing, 3 for welding and 1 for ICT)). The beneficiaries were excited and appreciated the team for this kind gesture. Consequently, the training fees were paid to the accounts provided by the trainers as stipulated in the MoU and they also acknowledged receipt of payment. The beneficiaries have since commenced training in their various centres.

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



Presentation of school materials in ACC Irrua, Senior

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



Presentation of school materials in ACC Irrua, Senior

children, so that they would be retained in school, study and become meaningful and productive members of their various communities starting from their homes.

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

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo while addressing the students in the various schools advised them to focus on their studies and not to travel through irregular means; stressing that education is key for attaining success in life. He noted that the

kind gesture to support their education came from the Italian Bishop conference. In Annunciation Catholic College Fourteen (14) students in the senior secondary classes and Six (6) in the Junior secondary classes were reached, three of which were students who had dropped out of school due to inability to meet their school needs but returned to school by the SMAT-P project (1 in JSS1, 1 in JSS3 and the other in SS3). The students were presented with their books for the session and enrolment fees were paid for those in enrolment classes (SS3 and JSS3) while those who were not in the enrolment class had their PTA dues, exam fees and lecture fees paid for. Payment was also made for new school uniform, sport wear and cardigan. The Principals of both the Senior and Junior schools acknowledged the receipt of cash received by them for the students while some of the students who were full of joy appreciated the project team for the kind gesture



Presentation of school materials in Irrua Girls Secondary School

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



Presentation of school materials in Irrua Girls Secondary School

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



Presentation of school materials in Ewu Grammar School, Ewu

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



Presentation of school materials in Ewu Grammar School, Ewu

hardship. Upon further enquiry from the caregiver it was revealed that the boy had been given out to somebody who promised to support his education. Uromi JDPCI encouraged the caregiver to return the boy home as the project would bear all the educational cost for the remaining one



Presentation of school materials in Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu



Presentation of school materials in Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu

year. The caregiver who was in tears appreciated the team for coming to her rescue and then received the books on behalf of the child and promised to return the boy home and get him to start school the very next day. This has since been done. The Executive Director advised them to study their books and further their education than playing with their future. The principal also acknowledged payment received from Uromi JDPCI and the teachers appreciated the team on behalf of the school.

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



Presentation of school materials in Ewatto Grammar School, Ewatto

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



Presentation of school materials in Ewatto Grammar School, Ewatto

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



Presentation of school materials in Okaigbe Secondary School, Ewohimi



Meeting with beneficiaries in Tertiary Institutions



Presentation of school materials in Okaigben Secondary School, Ewohimi

Additionally, Six (6) students –Five

(5) from Ambrose Alli University and One (1) student from St Camillus Hospital school of Midwifery benefited from tertiary school scholarship. The Executive Director received the students in his office and admonished them to always study their books and be good students who would become good and influential members of the society. They appreciated the efforts of the organization in supporting their education and promised to be good ambassadors of their schools after which they acknowledged receipts of the scholarship fund.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED IN THE VARIOUS SCHOOLS

S/N	NAME OF SCHOOL	NO. OF MALE	NO. OF FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Annunciation catholic College, Irrua (Senior)	13	0	13
2	Annunciation Catholic College, Irrua (Junior)	8	0	8
3	Irrua Girls Secondary School, Irrua (Senior)	0	13	13
4	Irrua Girls Secondary School, Irrua (Junior)	0	4	4
5	Idunwele Girls Secondary School, Ewu	0	5	5
6	Ewu Grammar School, Ewu (Senior)	6	0	6
7	Ewu Grammar School, Ewu (Junior)	12	0	12
8	Ewatto Grammar School, Ewatto	0	2	2
9	Okaigben Secondary School, Ewohimi	3	3	6
10	Unity Secondary School, Ewohimi	0	1	1
TOTAL		42	28	70

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



Group photograph with beneficiaries in Irrua

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



Wife of the traditional ruler addressing beneficiaries in Irrua

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



Group photograph with beneficiaries in Ewohimi

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



Fr Fidelis addressing beneficiaries at the Palace in Ewohimi

lodge their complaints and the team directed that they should communicate

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

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



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

Following the schedule plan set up by the organization to visit the caregivers who were empowered with grant of fifty thousand naira, Uromi JDPCI visited thirty seven (37) beneficiaries in Esan Central and Esan South East Local Government Areas. The beneficiaries were seen to have invested their monies in the choice business activities that they said they were going to engage themselves in. some of the



A beneficiary in her shop set up the IGA grant received

beneficiaries monitored had IGA of various types in different localities, among which were grinding machine, provision store, weaving of

traditional attires, sales of firewood, sales of engine oil, sales of fruits and vegetables, sales of

frozen fish, Poultry farming, sales of rice, Akpu (FUFU) processing, sales of video CDs among others.



A beneficiary displaying her weaving materials purchased with the grant received

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

by immediately investing in the chosen IGA.



A beneficiary displaying goods in her stall

DON'T PAY WITH YOUR LIFE



Household assessment in Uzebun-Okaigben

To end sexual exploitation and trafficking among young girls and women in Edo Central Senatorial district, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (JDPCI) in

collaboration with End



Household assessment in Unuwazi, Arue

Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) carried out activity to select would be beneficiaries in a project tagged

“Don’t Pay with Your Life. The implementation of this intervention began in the month of July, 2019 with the identification of intending beneficiaries which was drawn from the list of the students who participated in the assessment conducted in the previous project. A total of 132 students were selected from 71 schools across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. Since the assessment for the students had already been conducted it was easy to draw from the list from the most vulnerable students for a follow up assessment of their households. The assessment which commenced in the previous August from Esan south East, Esan North East and Esan Central Local Government Areas proceeded to complete Esan Central, Esan West and Igueben LGAs and a total of 132 households were assessed within the reporting period out of which 45 most vulnerable households have been identified. This exercise was conducted to ascertain their level of vulnerability using a national tool for Household vulnerability Assessment. The aim is to retain the girl child in school through the support of the caregiver which will take the form of improving their livelihood and would then be in position to meet the school or training needs of the children thereby reducing their susceptibility to human

trafficking. It could take the form of provision of business support and business management training, direct payment to schools of beneficiaries to meeting their educational needs.

In this reporting period Household vulnerability assessment was concluded for the 132 identified beneficiaries in the five Local Government Areas (Esan North East, Esan South East, Esan Central, Esan West and Igueben LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District.

To effectively achieve the objective of the intervention, the project team had to verify that the selected students were still in their various schools by first visiting the schools in which they



Household assessment in Uroh

were sensitized and selected. The permission of the Principal was then sought to take the selected students to their various homes for the household's assessment. Those who were no longer in their former schools were



Household assessment in Ebhoiyi

traced to their new schools

and then assessed in their new schools after being asked the reason for changing schools. The household assessment were conducted in the homes of the various beneficiaries. For ease of identification and location of the places of residence of the beneficiaries, the project team went to the schools of the beneficiaries, sought the approval of the school authorities to allow the various students take the project team to their homes for assessment.

Uromi JDPCI proceeded to organized a training on business orientation and management for the



Opening remark by Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo

45 caregivers of the selected students in the project “Don’t Pay with Your Life” which is aimed at



Group photograph with participants

ending trafficking among in-school adolescent girls in Edo Central Senatorial District through educational support and empowerment for them with grants for income generating activities via their caregivers so that they could be retained in school and not get lured by human traffickers.

The training which held on the 11th - 13th of December, 2019 was attended by the selected women alongside with their daughters who have been earmarked for the support. The training

was aimed at equipping beneficiaries with the knowledge of how to start and manage businesses for profitability and sustainability.

They were thus taught how to identify bright business ideas and exposed to various business management topics such as record keeping and its importance, importance of cash and credit sales to business, marketing and its importance, customer's satisfaction and business savings and expenses. Participants were guided to fill a business plan in which they identified the respective businesses they intend to do. A total of 90 persons comprising 45 caregivers (all women) and 45 students (all girls) were in attendance.

MICRO CREDIT

Empowerment of the less privileged in the society has always been one of the major policy thrust of Uromi JDPCI. For this reason the Micro credit scheme was established to provide soft loans for enterprise development. These soft loans are always given to groups as well as registered cooperative society. Each group consists of poor, active women and active farmers in the society. This scheme is open to Catholics and Non-Catholics within the Diocese of Uromi. The scheme is currently supporting a total of 1092 persons in all the five Local Government Areas covered by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi.

The scheme is in four (4) platforms namely: Group Micro-Credit, PROMIC I, PROMIC II and AGRIC PROMIC (for



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

farmers only). It is a basic requirement that beneficiaries form themselves into self-selected group before they are considered for

assessment and training.

Upon successful

registration, validation and documentations, the members of the group then qualify to get soft loan which must be disbursed to

them through their bank accounts.

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

One of Beneficiary of the Tertiary Educational support signing receipt of the scholarship fund



Cross section of micro credit officers and beneficiaries of Onosetale group during collection

Individual Micro Credit:

Although the Uromi JDPCI has stopped giving loans to individuals due to high rate of default and delay repayment from beneficiaries, a total of eighty seven (88) persons are still benefiting from the individual specially programmed micro credit scheme. A total of two million, three hundred and forty four thousand, eight hundred and forty naira (₦2,344,840) only was realized this year as repayment from the Individual Micro credit scheme

Group Micro-Credit:

The group Micro Credit scheme currently has twelve (12) benefiting groups with one hundred and eighty three (183) persons and a membership strength of between ten to twenty four (10-24) persons. Three (3) of the groups are still active while the remaining 9 are not active but some members of these groups are still owing. In this reporting year, all the active groups were visited for collection. However, some of the non-active groups well al so visited for collection. A total amount of one million, nine hundred and sixty three thousand, five naira (₦1,963,005) only was collected as repayment from beneficiaries in the Group micro credit scheme during this reporting year.

Also, the sum of one hundred and twenty seven thousand, two hundred naira (₦127,200) was refunded to some beneficiaries from two groups who no longer want to continue with the scheme. More so, formation/training was conducted for one (1) new group while refresher training was conducted for two (2) existing groups.

There was disbursement to a group and reimbursement to two (2) groups in this reporting year.

Agric Micro Credit

A total of one hundred and Twenty two (122) persons from Ten (10) groups are currently benefiting from Agric Micro Credit Scheme with each group having a membership strength of between seven to sixteen (7-16) persons. In this reporting year, all the groups were visited as and when due for collection. A total amount of seven million, four hundred and seventeen thousand, five hundred naira (₦7,417,500) only was collected this year as repayment from the loan

given out.



The Poultry of beneficiary at Ewu

Also, the sum of sixty thousand naira (₦60,000) was refunded to some beneficiaries of three (3) groups who do not want to continue with the scheme. More so, formation/training was conducted for eight (8) new groups while refresher training was conducted for five (5) existing groups.

There was disbursement to 7 groups and reimbursement to 6 groups in this reporting year.

Promic I Collection:

The Promic I scheme currently have a total of two hundred and twenty seven (227) persons from sixteen (16) groups benefiting from the scheme with each group having a membership strength of

between (8-18) persons. However, only three (3) of these group are active while the remaining (13) are not active with some members of the group still owing. In this reporting year, all the groups (active) were visited for collection. However, some non-active groups were also visited for outstanding collection. Also, formation/training was conducted for two (2) new groups while refresher training was conducted for three (3) existing groups.

A total amount of two million, two hundred and twenty eight thousand, seven hundred and fifteen naira (₦2,228,715) only was collected this reporting year as repayment. There was no refund of savings to beneficiaries during this reporting year.

There was disbursement to 2 (two) groups and reimbursement to three (3) groups in this reporting year.

Promic 2:

The PromicII scheme currently have a total of twenty seven (28) groups comprising of three hundred and twenty eight (336) persons with each group having a membership strength (6 -18) persons. Nine (9) of these group are active while the remaining nineteen (19) groups are not active though some members of these groups were still owing.

In this reporting year, all the active groups were visited for collection. In a bid to retrieving outstanding loan from beneficiaries, non-active groups were visited for collection.

Also, five new groups were formed and trained while refresher training was conducted for five (5) existing groups.

A total sum of three million, nine hundred and thirty eight thousand, four hundred and seventy naira (₦3,938,470) only was realized as repayment this year. Also, the sum of one hundred and forty five thousand, one hundred and ninety naira (₦145,190) only was refunded to some beneficiaries of four (4) groups who do not want to continue with the scheme after completing their repayment while the sum of eighty seven thousand, fifty four naira (₦87,054) was paid to Regional Promic Coordination as contribution.



Micro Credit officer and beneficiaries of Purity group 1 Ewu during collection at Efundion



Cross section of micro credit officers and beneficiaries of Comfort Group during collection at Ubiaja.

There was disbursement to 5(five) new groups while 5 (five) existing groups were reimbursement after successfully completing their repayment.

Agric Promic:

The Agric Promic scheme currently has a total of twenty one (21) groups comprising of two hundred and sixteen (216) persons benefiting from the scheme with a membership strength of between eight to fifteen (8-15) persons. However, sixteen (16) of these groups are active while the remaining five (5) groups are not active with some members of the groups still owing. In this reporting year, active groups whose repayments were due were visited for collection and farm inspections/assessments were carried out at Obeidu, Ekpoma, Okhuesan, and Ukhun. Also, formation/training was conducted for four (4) new groups while refresher training was conducted for eight (8) existing groups.

A total sum of ten million, eight hundred and seventy nine thousand, seven hundred and eighteen naira (₦10,879,718) only was realized as repayment this year from the Agric Promic Scheme. Also, the sum of seventy four thousand, seven hundred naira (₦74,700) was refunded to some beneficiaries of five (5) groups who no longer want to continue with the scheme after completing their repayment while the sum of two hundred and forty five thousand, four hundred and seventeen naira (₦245,417) was paid to Regional Promic Coordination as contribution.

There was disbursement to 4 new groups consisting of forty one (41) persons after successfully training them while 8 existing groups consisting of eighty four (84) persons were reimbursed after successfully completing their repayment.

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

ACHIEVEMENT

18 new groups made up of One Hundred and Seventy Eight (178) persons were formed, trained and empowered in this year while 27 existing groups made up of Two Hundred and Fifty Nine (259) persons were reimbursed after successfully completing their repayment. This made a total of forty five (45) groups with Four Hundred and Thirty Seven (437) persons empowered in the year under review.

Database for tracking number of persons/groups as well as those owing electronically available and maintained

Total repayment of the scheme amounting to over 26 million naira (₦26,000,000)

Inspection/assessment of beneficiaries farms on the impact of the scheme/loan to them

IMPACT

Mrs. Marbel Uwakhonye of Iyobor farmers Association who relocated to Ewohimi from Lagos after an accident told the team during inspection/assessment at Ewohimi that the loan has been of great help to her. With the aid of the loan, she was able to cultivate banana and yam in addition to her cassava farm. She is using the proceeds from the farm to train four of her children who are still in school.

Mr Monday Ukpebor who is a beneficiary from Iyobor farmers association said joining the scheme has been a blessing to him. Stating that before joining Uromi JDPCI, he was in a scheme where the interest rate was extremely high thus; prevented him from maximizing the loan. He quitted the scheme when he heard of JDPC and ever since, he has expanded his farming activities and the proceeds from the farm is used to take care of himself and family.

Mrs. Stella Ole whose provision shop was almost closed before encountering Uromi JDPCI, said the loan which she has been benefiting from has helped her immensely in reviving her shop and presently, her shop is doing well as she had introduced other items to her stock for sales as well as diversified her source of income through the profits from the shop

Mrs. Omonadoni Joy of God's Favour group 1, Ekpoma said during assessment/inspection that she had idea of Ogbolo business but since there was no financial support, the idea never materialized to anything. However, the idea became reality after encountering JDPCI. According to her, the loan helped her in starting the business and ever since, the business have been helping her hugely in taking care of herself and children.

Mr Okhilua Alex informed the team that the loan from Uromi JDPCI micro credit enabled him to expand his Yam/Maize/Cassava farm. This



Cross section of micro credit officer and Mr Alex Okhilua after successfully harvesting his yam at Obeidu

expansion has yielded him more income after sales of his produces and as a



Mr Alex Okhilua yam barn at Obeidu

the university.

result he has been able to roof his other building and paid the tuition fee of one of his children who is still in

Mr Joel Ibhaniruneafe stated that the Agric loan which was given to his group has assisted them greatly, adding that they now have more than one farm where different crops are cultivated for sales. Mr Ageh Saturday, who is one of the beneficiaries of Ososeh farmers association reported that the loan has helped him immensely, that previously he used to farm for himself and family's consumption but since encountering Uromi JDPCI Agric PROMIC scheme, he is now into commercial farming because his farms have expanded greatly.

PRISON APOSTOLATE/LEGAL WELFARE SERVICES

Uromi JDPCI collaborated with a friend of the Organization to celebrate the New Year with inmates in Ubiaja Prison. The celebration which began with praises led by the inmates, saw some reflection on the word of God as delivered by Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo where he emphasized the redeeming power of Jesus and the willingness of God to always forgive our human sins, if we are ready to approach His throne of mercy. He noted that



A section of participants at the ceremony

freedom begins with realizing your fault, forgiving yourself and others. He advised the inmates not to allow themselves to be used by the evil one because the devil never gives anything for free. He concluded by reminding them that no sin is too great to be forgiven by God if only you can humble yourself and ask for forgiven with a sincere heart of repentance, God is ever ready and just to forgive.



Rev Fr Peter Udo delivering the homily

The family of Engr and Lady John Amedu used the opportunity to admonish the inmates to put their trust in God and always turn to him in prayer because freedom was sure some days but they should be prepared for a

new life in Jesus. He also thanked the Prison Officials

for given him the opportunity to celebrate with the inmates.

In the same vein Uromi JDPCI accompanied the family of Sir and Lady A.A. Esene to visit Ubiaja prison in the month of April. The visit was part of the



Very Rev Fr Fidelis Arhedo addressing the inmates

Esene's family effort to bring the good news of the risen Christ to the inmates through the celebration of the Easter season with them. The event which began with the celebration of the Holy Mass had Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis O. Arhedo as the chief Celebrate while Rev Fr Peter Udo was the homilist.

Rev Fr Peter Udo in a message tagged be connected to Jesus admonished the people to be positive in their actions, words and thoughts because the prison was meant to reform them. He added that if after imprisonment on earth, one still cannot make heaven then such a person is doomed to everlasting imprisonment in hell. He urged them to strive for perfection at every opportunity, noting that their imprisonment may be to purify them for the kingdom of God. He admonished them to know and hold on to Jesus who alone gives life.

Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo corroborated the Easter message of the resurrection and asked those who seek genuine repentance to indicate interest so that process of Catechism could be negotiated with the Prison Officials. 26 inmates signified interest and some Knights of the Catholic Church were given the responsibility to take them through catechism for a period of time after which they would be baptized. The family thereafter gave out Rosary to all inmates and also gave drinks and Biscuits as sign of love and celebration to the inmates.

Similarly, Uromi JDPCI accompanied the family of Sir and Lady D.K Iyere to celebrate with the inmates at the Ubiaja Prison. The ceremony which began with the Holy Mass had in attendance Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, friends and family members of Sir and Lady D.K Iyere.



Sir & Lady D.K. Iyere with Fr Fidelis Arhedo , Prison welfare officer with the food items and drinks for the celebration

Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo who gave the homily emphasized the importance of the message of Transfiguration to the Catholic Church because of the manifestation of the Glory of God at the event. He admonished the inmates to seek repentance and put their trust in God as He was able to save and deliver through the manifestation of His Glory. He noted that if the people would repent and strive for peace and righteousness they will see the manifestation of God's glory and that all what was required to achieve this is faith and trust in the name of Jesus.

The celebrants appreciated the Prison Officials for the good work at reforming the inmates and



CAN representatives and staff of Uromi JDPCI during the visit to the prison

urged the inmates to see their imprisonment as opportunity for reformation rather than as punishment. The Prison Welfare Officer thanked the family for their generosity and also used the occasion to appreciate the continuous



Inmates listening to Exaltation

support of the Catholic Church through Uromi JDPCI. The family thereafter shared food and drinks with the inmates.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) also visited the inmates with staff of Uromi JDPCI. Sister Egbebor who introduced the team from CAN gave some words of exaltation on the topic “Word of Hope”. She encouraged the inmates to put their trust in the Lord and should not trust on their own understanding. She advised the inmates not to have double standard in life and stressed that God does not disappoint, hence they should not lament rather they should appreciate



Group Photograph of Hon Ebhodaghe, the team of Uromi JDPCI and Officers in the Prison

God for giving them the opportunity to be alive and admonished the inmates to always study God’s word as contained in the Holy Bible. The following items were presented to the inmates by CAN; toilet rolls, bathing soap, washing soap and tooth brushes

The family of Hon and Mrs Louis Ebhodaghe also visited the prison in the course of the year. Honorable EBHODAGHE while addressing the inmates charged them to be law abiding, good citizens and cooperate with the plans of God concerning

their lives emphasizing that their current predicament should not define them nor make them feel less of a human. He finally promised to put in more effort to visit the inmates again. The family also assisted one inmate with purchase of an inhaler.



Some of the food items presented to the Prison during Easter

Uromi JDPCI also facilitated the delivery of some food items to the Prison to support the inmates. The items were provided by the Catholic Diocese of Uromi during the last Cathedralium. The items delivered were; half bag of beans, half bag of rice, half bag of Onions, 2 bags of salt, 25 litres of palm oil, 10 bags of Garri and 98 tubers of yams. Thus

fulfilling the mandate of our Lord to give food to those in prison as they inmates had lots of foods to eat during the Easter celebration.

As part of efforts to support welfare and hygiene of inmates in Ubiaja Prison, Uromi JDPCI with support from some Parishes provided some basic necessities to the prison for the services of inmates. The Welfare Officer who appealed to Uromi JDPCI for assistance also received the items on behalf Ubiaja Prison. The items which were presented on the 27th of September include 6 rolls of tissue paper, 288 bathing soaps, 288 washing soap and 280 toothpaste.



Prison welfare officer accepting the items from the Legal officer of Uromi JDPCI

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

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



An inmate being baptized at the event

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

thereafter chose a new name with which they were baptized.



An inmate being anointed with holy oil at the event

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

Also, Uromi JDPCI gave out two copies of Abide in my Word to the inmates so that they could use it during their devotions in order to grow spiritually.

SKILL ACQUISITION CENTER AT THE PRISON

Uromi JDPCI also supported the prison's skill acquisition center with two super taper clips to assist them to keep their hair tidy



Part of the barbing saloon section

and support those who want to acquire barbing skills to do so. The sets of clippers were handed over to the Officer in Charge and the Welfare Officer of the Ubiaja Prison by Very Rev Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo

As a follow-up to this, Uromi JDPCI visited the skills acquisition centre of the Ubiaja Minimum Prison for inspection. The various sections of the skill acquisition centre



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo donating clippers to skills acquisition centre

(barbing, tailoring and computer) were functional with the inmates productively engaged. The inmates were advised to remain focused and leverage on the opportunity provided via the skill acquisition scheme to learn new skills.

THE INNOVATIVE COOKSTOVE

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



Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo distributing IEC materials to participants

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

amount of fire wood burnt



A staff demonstrating the cookstove setup

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



A staff explaining the cookstove to another set of participants

woods, because cooked with fire woods absorbs CO₂ which can cause respiratory/lungs diseases. It is also intended to promote environmental protection and preservation of the forest so as to avoid deforestation and all its

Avast effects on the environment.

It is estimated that about 3 billion people use fire woods each day,

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



A staff explaining the cookstove to participants

Searching for fire woods in some places has caused some women to be sexually abused and they spend the time they would have used for some other things to search for fire woods for cooking.

And this is why the normal way of cooking with solely fire woods requires attention for a more positive approach that is environmental friendly and less harmful to human being and the environment.

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

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

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

CHARITY

Uromi JDPCI as part of her mission and vision to reach out to vulnerable children and their caregivers with a view of promoting meaningful living engaged in some charity work to support some indigent women to start up petty businesses to enable them cater for their families. 2 women were thus supported to start catering and Fish businesses respectively. Also school fees was paid for a student in the tertiary institution who could not afford to pay his school fees as a result of his mother's ill-health. Additionally, 1 person was given financial assistance for the child's medical care. A total of ₦930,500 was given out this reporting year for charity

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR STAFF

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Income Generating Activities

Uromi JDPCI Administrative secretary participated in a three day training of trainers (TOT) on income generating activities organized by Caritas Nigeria in Benin City from 6th-8th August 2019. The TOT was tailored towards training of selected beneficiaries under the livelihood component of the SMAT-P Project on income generating activities.



Learning session at the training

In attendance for the training were: The Administrative Secretary of Uromi JDPC, JDPC Provincial Secretary (Benin), Program Manager of JDPC Auchu, JDPC Isseleruku, JDPC Benin and JDPC Ogoja, respectively, SMAT-P Program Manager for CARITAS Nigeria; Bar Onomen Oriakhi and the training facilitator; Amima Mohammed (SILC Coordinator CARITAS Nigeria)

Provincial Training on Proposal Development

Seven staff of Uromi JDPCI participated in a three day training on Proposal Development organized by JDPC Benin Provincial Secretariat to build the capacity of JDPC staff in the province on proposal writing. The training which was held at Brother Roman Catholic Centre Ekpoma had in attendance 31 participants from the following organizations: Sisters of the Sacred Heart Benin, St. Camilus Catholic Hospital Uromi, JDPC Auch, Warri, Benin, Isseleuku and



Very Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo facilitating in the Proposal Development Training

Ogoja, respectively. The following topics were elaborately treated during the training: Proposal Development Overview, types of proposals, proposal sections, methods of conducting stakeholders analysis and stakeholders participation. Definition of terms in proposal development, characteristics of a good objective, SWOT and SMART analysis, context and gender analysis, project design framework, problem statement, Detail Implementation Plan, Work plan, budget, Monitoring and Evaluation, proposal solicitation and proposal development team

Southern Promic Workshop

The Agric Promic and Promic 2 officers of Uromi JDPCI attended a workshop/meeting with Regional Promic Coordination at the Pastoral Center, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State on the 7th – 9th November, 2019. The theme of the workshop was on management of conflict in Promic organisations. The participants noted that the workshop was very insightful as they were exposed to the meaning of conflict, causes of conflict, the effect of conflict and how to manage conflict in promic organizations.



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS DURING THE WORKSHOP/MEETING WITH REGIONAL PROMIC COORDINATION AT ABAKALIKI, EBONYI STATE.

Train the trainer program for Catholic Diocese in Nigeria



Facilitator giving a demonstration on the cook stove

Uromi JDPCI participated in a capacity training on Climate Change Mitigation through the Innovative Traditional Cookstove organized by Caritas Nigeria and Powered by CCMAI.

The innovative cookstove is a way of reducing the amount of smokes that is been emitted from the normal way of using firewood which have been proven ineffective and harmful to health and the environment. The innovative cook stove uses rock beds (small stones) and little of



Participants at the training

fire wood which saves 1/3 firewood and the ash gotten from the cookstove could serve as disinfectant, fertilizer and used as detergent to wash clothes and the back of pots

Psychological First Aid Training

The Executive Director and two staff of Uromi JDPCI participated in the training on Psychological First Aid organized by International Organization for Migration. The Program Manager and the Executive Director attended the training in the months of May and August respectively while the Anti human trafficking officer attended Psychological first Aid (PFA) training in November 2019. While the first and second were held at Golden Tulip Hotel, Benin City the third was held at Edo Heritage Hotel Benin City Edo State.



PFA training session

The purpose of the training was build the capacity of participants to effectively response to the needs of returnees and migrants in an emergency situation.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

A staff of Uromi JDPCI also participated in a training on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support organized by International Organization for Migration (IOM) from the 27th-29th May, 2019. The objective of the training was to equip participating organization with the general understanding of the relationship between migration and Mental Health and to better understand the emotional, social and cultural complexity and there adjustment challenges the returnees might face upon return. It also provided an avenue to understand the processes and the skills that are involved in effective communication and helping with individuals and in groups. As well as how to respond to the psychosocial needs of returning migrants

Community Dialogue Training of Trainers

Uromi JDPCI also participated in the training of trainers on Community Dialogues which was organized by IOM as part of her efforts at raising awareness on the dangers of irregular migration including human trafficking and promote safe migration. The five days training was held on the 20th -25th May, 2019 at the Golden Tulip Hotel Asaba. The essence of the training was to encourage home grown prevention activities against irregular migration, human trafficking and ensure cohesion among returned and potential migrants as well as promote successful reintegration of returned migrant.

Strategy Workshop on Better Ways of Human Rights Promotion in Nigeria

Uromi JDPCI participated in this workshop which was held in the Social Center of Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria on 16th and 17th of May, 2019. This workshop was organized by the Dialogue and partnership Service of Misereor to synergize the efforts of participants, analyze and reflect on strategies that have been adopted so as to be able to rethink a more effective approach towards the promotion of human rights in Nigeria. Participating organization shared their ideas and challenges while representative of the National Human Rights Commission was available to share some lights into efforts being made to promote and sustain human rights in Nigeria.

Impact Orientation Workshop

Uromi JDPCI was represented by two participants in a five day workshop which was tagged impact orientation workshop organized by MISEREOR through their DPS office in Nigeria from

the 25th -29th December, 2019. The workshop was aimed at strengthening partners relationship with MISEREOR as well as provided opportunity for first hand dialogue with MISEREOR technical team in charge of proposal review and quality assurance. The team provided detail explanations on questions raised and conducted simulations to explain social changes impact, outcome and output as well as goal, objectives, strategies and indicators.

Second African Regional Conference of the Santa Marta Group held in Kenya from 1st to 4th October 2019 at Dimesse Sisters Centre, Karen Nairobi-Kenya.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo participated in this conference which was aimed at Sensitizing Local Communities on Human Trafficking in African. The conference was well attended by delegates including Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Religious, and other lay faithful including law enforcement personnel, Judges and other dignitaries from both church and state and from most English speaking countries in Africa.

The focus of the conference was to address the issue of human trafficking from the perspective of the church and law enforcement agents in handling the issue



Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo at the Conference

of human trafficking in a holistic perspective towards eradicating both the internal and external dimensions of human trafficking in African societies. The conference which lasted for four

featured seminar, lecture, discussion, decision taken and action plan to achieve the aim of the conference. At the end, all

delegates assented to the resolutions taken to tackle the issue of human trafficking in Africa and a communique was released.



Fr with some participants at the conference