

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

UROMI JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT PEACE AND CARITAS INITIATIVES,

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF UROMI,

CHANCERY COMPLEX, EGBELE UROMI

FROM JANUARY – DECEMBER, 2023

JANUARY, 2024

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CORPORATE FACT SHEET

Name	Uromi Justice Development Peace & Caritas Initiatives, (Uromi JDPCI).
Owner	Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Nigeria.
Legal Holder	His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus A Ogun (OSA)
Authorized Representative & Director	Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
Corporate Registration No:	CAC/IT/No: 50042 & ED/MWASD/NGOR/200/04
Status	Catholic Non-Governmental, Non-Profit making, Humanitarian and Development Organization.
Motto	Hope for the Oppressed and Empowerment for All
Areas of operation	Integral Development, Human Rights, Democracy, and Good Governance, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Prison Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit, and Caritas, TB and HIV/AIDS care and support, HIV Counseling and testing, Livelihood improvement, Migration and Countering Trafficking in Person, and VC programming
Project steered	Conflict Management, Training of Electorate, Election Observation, Budget Monitoring, Community TB Care, HIV/AIDS Awareness Creation and counselling, Micro-Credit Facilities, Rural Community Development Enlightenment Campaign, Prisoners' Welfare Services, Gender And Child Rights, Widowhood Association, Human Rights, Training Programmes for Police Officers and Youths, Women Development & Promotion through Micro Credit, Emergency Response, Legal Aid, VC Programming, Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance, Campaigns and Sensitizations Against Human Trafficking as well as Creating Alternatives to Human Trafficking through Vocational Skills Acquisition and Empowerment, Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme, Don't Pay With Your Life, Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking and Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award
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	Chancery Complex, Egbele, Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria.
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Auditors	1. Grant Thornton chartered Accountants Emgn, Benin Branch 2. Edforte, Fortne, Ehiagwina& Associates 141 Benin-Auchi Road Ekpoma, Edo State
Bankers	• UBA BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • ECOBANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • FIDELITY BANK PLC Mission Road, Uromi • Unity Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi • Union Bank PLC Mission Road Uromi • Zenith Bank PLC Mission Road, Uromi
Staff Strength	24
Number of Community Volunteers	72
Project Executed	26

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As we look back to the accomplishments made over the past year, I am privileged to serve as the Executive Director of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI). The unalloyed and dedicated efforts of our team and the support of our partners and stakeholders have helped us to make significant strides in advancing our mission towards creating positive changes in our community. We are grateful to Almighty God for His inspiration and wisdom that keeps us focused, resilient, and dedicated.

While the past year has brought its share of challenges, including but not limited to economic hardships and societal issues, we have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity. With the support of our Legal Holder, Most Rev. Donatus Ogun, Board of Trustees, and committed partners/donors, we have implemented innovative programs and initiatives to address pressing social and environmental issues. Whether through advocacy, outreach, or direct service delivery, Uromi JDPCI has remained committed to making a meaningful impact in the lives of her right holders.

Uromi JDPCI has been instrumental in advancing human rights, combating human trafficking and sexual/gender-based violence, whilst providing crucial support for vulnerable populations. Our micro-credit schemes have empowered disadvantaged individuals, and our interventions in the correctional facility aim to reform and empower inmates through skill acquisition programs and medical first aid.

The unwavering support of our generous donors and partners has been pivotal in enabling these achievements. As the executive director, I am dedicated to expanding and sustaining our essential work in these critical areas. I remain grateful for the ongoing support and contributions from all of our stakeholders.

Our financial stewardship and strategic planning have positioned us for continued growth and impact in the coming year. We have leveraged our resources effectively and efficiently to maximize our reach and impact, and we remain dedicated to our fiscal responsibility and transparency.

Looking ahead, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our noble organization. We are committed to building upon our successes and continuing to learn, unlearn, and relearn from our challenges. With the support of



our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, I am confident that we will continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey in 2024, I express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has played a role in our organization's success. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering support are the driving force behind everything we do, and I am honoured to lead such an incredible team.

Conclusively, I am excited about the future of our organization, and I look forward to the journey ahead. Together, I am confident that we will continue to create lasting change and leave a positive impact on the world around us. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission and our organization (Uromi JDPCI).

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Oriabure Arhedo
The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI

OUR VISION

A just and developed society where people coexist in peace

OUR MISSION

To promote integral human development through motivation and participatory actions with relevant stakeholders toward policy reforms, empowerment of the people, and enhancement of human dignity for meaningful living

OUR CORE VALUE

Integrity: Committed to doing the right thing at the right time

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible to all stakeholders

Transparency: We demonstrate openness, and honesty and welcome constructive criticism

Excellence: We do ordinary things in extraordinary ways

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

FOCUS GROUP

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

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

ORGANISATIONAL IDEOLOGY

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Uromi Justice, Development Peace, and Caritas Initiatives was established on the 13th of April 2006, as a social arm of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi. It is saddled with the responsibility to promote justice and peaceful coexistence, encourage meaningful development and provide succour for the less privileged thereby upholding social justice and equity. In the year 2023, Uromi JDPCI implemented series of interventions that have resulted in meaningful development in the lives of the people and their communities, especially among the vulnerable and the oppressed. Some of the interventions are presented below

Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme: This project is sponsored by Misereor Germany and the aim is to promote and protect the rights and dignity of the ordinary people in the communities. This project raised awareness on the increasing rates of human rights violations and built the capacity of the people to curtail the violations. This capacity was provided through training, community dialogues, commemorations, and facilitation of learning sessions in the communities and schools. The project also raised awareness through commemorations, town hall for sensitization on gender equality and annual congress. A total of 4672 persons made up of 2192 males and 2480 females were reached within the year.

Good Governance: Uromi JDPCI conducted a Peace Accord that had three political parties, and A total of 250 persons were in attendance. trained and deployed 49 accredited election observers were trained and deployed to 50 units in 16 wards across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the general election held on the 25th of February 2023. In the same vein 30 accredited election observers were deployed to 30 units in 10 wards across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the Edo State House of Assembly election held on the 18th of March 2023.

Anti Human Trafficking

In the same vein, Uromi JDPCI with support from Palladium SCALE Nigerian project (with funding from USAID) engaged series of stakeholders in advocating for the localization of trafficking in person response in Edo State with a total of 974 persons (484M,470F) reached. In the same vein, the ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg Don't Pay With Your Life Project sustained the activities geared towards strengthening prevention and reintegration efforts at countering trafficking in-person response with particular focus on child trafficking and exploitation. The project also prepared the ground for the commencement of the Act against Child Trafficking in Nigeria (AACTING) project which has reached a total of 191 persons (131M, 60F). The Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking (SCOPPH-T) project sponsored by Expertise France also saw the provision of economic support to a total of 75 persons (16M,59F) made up of 19 caregivers, 37 potential migrants 19 victims of human trafficking/returnees. The activities include the provision of start-up materials for vocational skills, and economic empowerment of caregivers to retain their adolescents in school.

The Integrated Child Health And Social Service Award

Uromi JDPCI is currently implementing the Child Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award (ICHSSA 2) project with coordination by the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) with funding from USAID. The focus of the project is on improving the well being of orphans and vulnerable children with a target to improve the well-being of OVC in Edo Central Senatorial District. Uromi JDPCI reached a total of 15,015 persons with various interventions implemented in the project

Micro Credit: Uromi JDPCI has continually sustained support to petty traders and rural farmers in Edo Central Senatorial District through soft loans to expand their economic and agricultural activities and improve their livelihood. A total of 150 groups made of 1689 persons are currently benefiting from the scheme

Correctional Center Apostolate: Uromi JDPCI also provided some welfare services, spiritual and legal counselling for the inmates. A hand of support was extended to them during easter when some food items were provided for them, as well as during Christmas when Christmas party and carol was organized for the inmates as an avenue to spread love to them.

Climate Change: As a contribution to improving community efforts to tackling climate change, Uromi JDPCI conducted sensitization in 5 communities and supported the procurement of 162 fruit seedlings to encourage tree planting in the communities.

Parish JDPC: Uromi JDPCI intensified efforts to strengthen Parish JDPC with the sensitization and formation of 7 groups in the year 2023. A total of 96 (48M,48F) joined the group in the seven Parishes.

We wish to appreciate our partners and Donors; Misereor, ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg, Swissland Foundation, Expertise France, Palladium SCALE Nigeria Project, Volunteers and the Monarchs in Esan Land for their support and contributions to our programmes. We also thank the Ministries of Social Development and Gender Issues, Education, and Justices, Edo State Taskforce against Human Trafficking (ETAHT), and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP). We express gratitude to the management and staff of Uromi JDPCI, especially the Executive Director, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo for being dependable collaborators in delivering on the set goals of Uromi JDPCI. Special thanks to the Bishop of Uromi Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Donatus Ogun for his involvement in all our interventions, 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!

Prepared by

Michael Iyoriobhe PhD
Director of Programmes

STRATEGIC GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Good Governance

Our strategic goal in this thematic area is to foster Increased dividends of democratic governance to the people with a target to engage 80 relevant stakeholders on active participation on issues of governance, facilitate the formation, inauguration and two phased training of 10 animated groups that will mobilize community stakeholders on issues of democratic dividends, conduct 10 community engagement fora and 5 town hall meetings on issues of governance in demanding accountability and stewardship from elected leaders, conduct one training of trainers on voters education, train 50 election observers and hold a Peace accord forum with a 100 relevant stakeholders in fostering peaceful, fair, conclusive and violence free election as well as 5 round table discussions with Political Leaders on budget drafting, monitoring and tracking for improved budget transparency and accountability. We also committed to undertake 5 advocacy meetings to relevant stakeholders on issues of governance and human rights and conduct one research on existing gaps in policies of governance and human rights.

In all these, we built capacity of 325+ community members on voters' education through our community human rights and civil group structures leading to heightened political participation. Additionally, we mobilized and trained 52 election observers for the 2023 general elections while fostering a commitment to peaceful and violence-free elections through our Peace Accord initiative in which a total of 250 relevant stakeholders were reached.

Health and OVC

Our goal is to improve the health and well-being of community members, focusing on increasing HIV awareness and suppression among affected populations and mitigating its impact on Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their households.

Our annual target was to disseminate HIV/AIDS messaging to 10,000 individuals, addressing associated stigmatization, conduct HIV testing and screening for 3,500 people, with at least 5 identified cases connected to treatment. Additionally, we planned to provide counseling to 250 HIV virally unsuppressed individuals, linking them to facilities for Enhanced Adherence Counseling (EAC), reach 500 individuals with TB (Tuberculosis) messaging and screening exercises, making at least 5 positive referrals and provide transport support to 5 TB patients for treatment and care as well as delivering 5 phased treatment adherence counseling. We also intended to sensitize 400 individuals on Malaria, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and cervical, breast, and prostate cancers, as well as facilitate screening exercises for 200 individuals on hypertension, diabetes, and obesity.

We likewise planned to train 200 OVC caregivers in vocational skills and financial literacy, extend conditional cash transfers to 10 caregivers and offer basic educational support to 10 OVC, link 800 OVC to obtain birth certificates, connecting 600 caregivers and children to a health insurance scheme, providing home gardening and agricultural inputs to 250 caregivers, and reaching 3,500

individuals with WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) messaging, along with refurbishing one public toilet facility.

Our accomplishments for 2023 include reaching a total of 7,558 individuals with HIV awareness messages, testing 9,988 people, and linking 12 identified cases to treatment and care. Furthermore, we counseled 187 HIV virally unsuppressed individuals, connecting them to facilities for Enhanced Adherence Counseling. We heightened awareness in rural communities about tuberculosis, sensitizing and screening 450 individuals. Additionally, 540 caregivers benefited from vocational skill training in soap making, perfume, fragrance, and snacks production. Financial literacy training was provided to 250 caregivers across seven communities.

Moreover, we expanded access to health services for OVC and their households by linking 613 caregivers and children to the Edo State Health Insurance Scheme. We successfully linked 750 OVC to obtain birth certificates and facilitated basic educational opportunities for 6 out-of-school OVC. Additionally, 500 caregivers received basic home gardening training, and 3,200 caregivers were reached with WASH messaging through house-to-house sensitization.

Livelihood

Our strategic commitment is to foster household economic stability through a wide range of initiatives spanning Agricultural extension services, vocational training, and household economic strengthening activities. Our target for 2023 included conducting a baseline/needs assessment in 10 rural farming communities, Train 200 farmers on effective farming system, form 15 farmers sub groups and build their capacity to access agricultural loans from the government, provide vocational and entrepreneurial development training, assess 1,000 indigent households to determine levels of household vulnerability, and provide household economic strengthening to 20 vulnerable households and 60 youths.

To this end, we proactively built the capacity of 156 rural farmers on effective farming system in the area of pest control, compost manuring and farm management skills, leading to increased yield and harvest and household income, 10 farmers' group were formed with ongoing plans to register them as cooperatives with the government for increased capacity to access government agricultural loans, 540 caregivers and 13 young people and were provided vocational training opportunities while 56 youths and 20 caregivers were supported with economic strengthening activities in the form of business start-ups and grants for income generating activities

Human Rights

Our objective within the human rights program is to enhance respect for human rights and promote access to justice in communities through initiatives such as gender equality and safeguarding, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation, human rights education, Paralegal services, and advocacy efforts. We set an annual target to conduct a comprehensive research project on gender equality and safeguarding, provide at least 200 Counselling Services on human rights/ SGBV issues, resolve at least 50 human rights/GBV conflict through Alternative Dispute Resolutions

(ADR), refer at least 5 Human rights/ SGBV cases for litigation, organize human rights sensitization sessions in five communities and five schools, enhance the capacity of Paralegals through a four-phased training session to provide human rights services to community members, conduct 12 community engagement meetings with 200 stakeholders on emerging human rights issues, and engage in three strategic advocacy sessions with security agents to improve human rights case management. Additionally, we planned to strengthen partnerships with relevant governmental agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Local Government Social Welfare Department, and the National Human Rights Commission, Edo State Chapter.

We successfully engaged 2 communities and sensitized a total of 68 stakeholders about human rights case management and executed 5 community sensitizations. More so, 40 Counselling services on human rights/ SGBV issues were carried out by Paralegals and Uromi JDPCI Counselling unit with 33 human rights/GBV conflicts resolved through ADR and 7 Cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence referred for litigation.

Human rights education was provided to school children in 26 secondary schools as well as conducted 4 phased training for 280 Community human right Advocates leading to enhanced capacity in human rights case management in the target communities, organized 9 community engagement meetings with 513 community stakeholders reached and held a successful advocacy engagement meeting with the Divisional Police Officer of Irrua command. Our efforts also resulted in strengthened partnerships with relevant state MDAs, (the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Local Government Social Welfare Department, the Nigeria Police) fostering better collaboration towards the promotion of human rights

Migration and countering trafficking in Persons

The program aims to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking and irregular migration through a multifaceted service approach encompassing prevention, protection, reintegration, referral, and prayer. Our 2023 plan included conducting three awareness campaigns to reach 200 individuals with messages about human trafficking, 10 advocacy engagements for the institutionalization of trafficking response structures at the grassroots, five community dialogue sessions involving 100 community stakeholders to forge local solutions against human trafficking, five caregivers' sessions, producing and promoting three jingles and three anti-human trafficking campaign hashtags, commemorating World Day Against Human Trafficking, forming adolescent human rights clubs in eight schools and eight communities, and providing training to club members. Additionally, we aimed to strengthen the economic capacity of 20 vulnerable households and 50 youths through entrepreneurial training and empowerment, provide educational support to 20 vulnerable and out-of-school children, facilitate family tracing and reunification for 10 returnees, conduct two sessions of reintegration counseling and group discussions with 10 returned migrants, hold 5 advocacy engagement with relevant stakeholders toward activation of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund (VTTF) and its Committee as well as 3 consultative sessions for the operationalization of the VTTF carry out five phased home visitations for effective reintegration,

link 10 survivors to support groups, facilitate one mentorship session with two existing support groups, provide economic reintegration activities for 20 returned migrants through income-generating activities (IGA) setup, vocational training, and entrepreneurial development, offer educational support to three returned migrants willing to go back to school, reinforce school retention and re-admission of 20 vulnerable and out-of-school children, refer two cases of human trafficking to relevant MDAs, and commemorate the International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking.

Milestone achievements included facilitating awareness programs in six communities, sensitizing 208 individuals about the perils of human trafficking. Four dialogue sessions engaged 102 prominent community stakeholders on the way forward in curbing human trafficking. 12 Strategic advocacy meetings were held with critical stakeholders in the State Executive Council and the Legislature to solicit consideration at localizing trafficking in-person response in Edo State and activation of the VTTF and its Committee in addition to 2 consultative sessions held with Judges and the Private sector towards operationalizing the VTTF in Edo State. Also, 2 sessions of reintegration counseling were provided to former victims, and 19 survivors received training on entrepreneurial skills and economic empowerment. Furthermore, entrepreneurial training and economic support were extended to 20 vulnerable caregivers and 56 youths. Three jingles were produced and used for public awareness campaigns, along with the commemoration of World Day Against Human Trafficking and the International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking. Additionally, one child with a disability and six other vulnerable, out-of-school children were re-enrolled in school.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Child Early and Forced Marriage (SGBV/ CEFM)

Our objective is to witness a reduction in the cases of SGBV and CEFM in the society. The annual target included five (5) advocacy engagements with a hundred community stakeholders to promote human rights and eliminate cultural practices that encourage SGBV and CEFM, conduct five (5) sensitization meetings on human rights, SGBV, and CEFM across 5 Local Government Areas, reaching at least 500 stakeholders, organize 108 sensitization sessions on human rights, SGBV, and CEFM in 27 schools, targeting at least 2700 school children, forming of adolescent human rights clubs in 5 communities and providing members with training on SGBV/CEFM avoidance and case management. We also planned to conduct community dialogues in 24 communities, run 12 media awareness campaigns on mainstream and social media addressing SGBV and CEFM issues, hold a public awareness rally against SGBV and CEFM, Conduct four strategic advocacy engagements to relevant MDAs to establish and strengthen partnerships on SGBV/CEFM case management, establish 5 referral pathways for case tracking and management, organize one capacity-building session on effective case management for security agents, LGA social welfare department, and government hospital personnel, refer 10 SGBV cases to relevant MDAs for speedy access to justice, hold 10 caregivers fora on SGBV protection and prevention, empower 15 caregivers with income-generating activities for enhanced livelihood options, refer 10 SGBV survivors to government hospitals for subsidized treatment and care, and provide first-point

counseling services to 10 survivors of SGBV and refer them to professional counselors for psychosocial support.

We diligently pursued these commitments and achieved the following: Conducted 2 community advocacy visits, reaching 68 community stakeholders; held 5 sensitization meetings, reaching 500 community stakeholders across 30 communities; conducted 77 sensitization sessions in 26 secondary schools; increasing awareness among 1542 school children about SGBV and CEFM through our adolescent school club programs, organized a public awareness rally in commemoration of 16 days of activism against sexual and gender-based violence; held 3 advocacy engagement meetings with the Divisional Police Officer of Irrua Division, Office of the First Lady of Edo State, and Ministry of Social Development and Gender issues, respectively for improved partnership on SGBV/CEFM cases; made 7 SGBV referrals to the Ministry of Social Development and Gender issues, Ministry of Justice, Medical Women Association of Nigeria, Office of the First Lady, Edo State Police Headquarters, and Social Welfare Department, Esan North East LGA; established 8 referral pathways for essential case tracking and management with the Nigerian Police, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Ministry of Justice, FIDA, Edo State Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Referral Centre, Edo State SGBV steering committee, Local Government Social Welfare Department, and the Specialist Teaching Hospital Irrua; referred one SGBV survivor to the Specialist Teaching Hospital, Irrua, providing treatment at no cost, provided first-point counseling aid to 2 SGBV survivors and referred them for professional counseling services; and empowered one caregiver of an SGBV survivor with economic opportunities, thereby reducing tendencies of re-victimization.

Legal/Correctional Centre Apostolate

The commitment here is to enhance access to legal aid services and improve the welfare of Correctional Centre Inmates through the provision of legal and spiritual counseling services, as well as welfare provisions. Our plan for the year included conducting five (5) legal counseling and ten (10) spiritual counseling sessions with Inmates at the Ubiaja Correctional Centre, facilitating one (1) catechism toward water baptism of the Inmates, providing pro-bono legal services to two (2) Inmates with minor offenses who lack access to legal representation, and facilitating biannual welfare provisions for the Inmates.

We successfully conducted one (1) legal and five (5) spiritual counseling sessions, along with biannual provisions of food items, first aid medications, and toiletries for inmates at the Ubiaja Correctional Centre.

Micro- Credit

Our Micro Credit program aims to alleviate the vulnerability of both caregivers and household heads by offering entrepreneurship and financial literacy services, as well as cooperative society services to enhance access to business funds, and social enterprise development. Our 2023 targets included sensitizing 200 individuals across 10 rural poor communities on entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and cooperative services. We aimed to provide entrepreneurship and financial

literacy training to 200 beneficiaries in 20 communities, foster the formation of 20 self-help business groups, and building the capacity of these groups on cooperative initiative. Additionally, we sought to facilitate access to a soft loan facility for 20 groups.

Our achievements for the year comprised the successful sensitization of 14 communities on entrepreneurship and financial literacy, reaching a total of 202 individuals. Furthermore, we provided comprehensive training to 490 beneficiaries across 20 communities, emphasizing the importance of entrepreneurship, financial literacy and cooperatives initiative. Notably, five groups expressed keen interest in registering as cooperative entities, while we successfully formed 14 self-help business groups, granting them access to soft loan facilities.

Environment and climate change

Our strategic commitment in this program is centered on enhancing environmental care. Our target for the year involved reaching 500 individuals in 10 communities with messages regarding the impact of bush burning and deforestation, the benefits of tree cover as well as promoting the utilization of renewable energy. Additionally, we aimed at connecting 10 individuals to renewable energy sources, and distribute and plant 200 tree seedlings in 10 communities.

Throughout the year, we successfully conducted sensitization efforts in five communities, addressing the detrimental effects of bush burning and deforestation while emphasizing the advantages of tree planting, ultimately reaching a total of 250 individuals. We engaged in one-on-one sensitization sessions, reaching 30 individuals with messages on renewable energy sources. Furthermore, we successfully linked 21 individuals to renewable energy sources, with 15 of them adopting its use. In addition, we distributed and planted 177 tree seedlings across six communities.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AREA

Organizational leadership and Governance

Uromi JDPCI has steadfastly committed itself to enhancing organizational governance and administrative procedures. Our target for the year included supporting the statutory biannual Board meeting of our Trustees, conducting one training session on Board functionality and responsibility, engaging Board members in fundraising activities, reviewing and approving five organizational policies by the Board, developing an annual report, producing four quarterly reports, holding monthly management meetings, and conducting weekly, monthly, and quarterly staff meetings, along with an annual staff professional retreat and the development of an annual operational plan.

Notable achievements for the year included the execution of two statutory Board meetings, successful completion of one board training, review, and approval of ten existing policies by the Board, production of an annual report and four quarterly reports, held 12 management meetings, including 47 weekly staff review meetings, 11 monthly meetings, and 4 quarterly meetings. Additionally, a staff annual retreat was successfully conducted, and an annual operational plan was developed.

Human Resource Development

In the realm of human resources, Uromi JDPCI is committed to bolstering productivity and welfare for the organizational workforce through various initiatives, including performance evaluation, development and operationalization of improvement plans, recruitment, development of organizational policies, staff capacity building, and staff welfare and recognition. The target for 2023 included conducting biannual staff appraisals, developing and implementing one staff performance improvement plan, recruiting and onboarding one additional staff member, conducting quarterly reviews of staff database and files, reviewing all organizational policies to reflect best practices, developing three additional policies, supporting staff attendance at 12 external trainings and at least one professional conference, reviewing components of staff welfare and reward systems in the human resource policy, adding new innovations, renewing staff health insurance subscriptions, enrolling all eligible staff in the pension scheme with monthly remittances made, making monthly remittances of staff taxation, paying the 13th-month salary, and holding a staff recognition and award ceremony.

Throughout the year, Uromi JDPCI conducted two staff appraisals, operationalized two staff performance improvement plans, recruited and onboarded four additional employees, conducted quarterly reviews of staff database and files, reviewed all organizational policies, and developed five new policies. Ten valuable training opportunities and one organizational development summit were proactively provided to staff members, fostering professional growth within the team. The welfare packages and reward mechanisms were reinforced with two new innovations added, staff health insurance subscriptions were renewed for existing staff, and eight new staff members were enrolled in the scheme. Monthly pension and tax remittances were made, including the payment of the 13th-month salary to staff and recognition award presented to outstanding staff.

Resource mobilization (RM) and Organizational sustainability

Built on the commitment to increasing and diversifying income sources for Uromi JDPCI, we set an annual target to carry out quarterly donor mapping, separately document resource mobilization strategy, policy, and plan, host an annual capacity-building session for Uromi JDPCI's resource mobilization unit, and write and submit at least eight winning proposals, with at least two turning out successful.

Among our achievements were the completion of donor mapping in three quarters, the existence of separate documents for RM strategy, plan, and policy, hosted five capacity-building sessions with the RM unit, and developed and submitted 16 proposals to both international and local donor partners.

Financial management

The effective and efficient management of organizational financial resources remains a core focus in our operations. Our plan for the just-concluded year (2023) included the development of an annual budget, biannual budget reviews, identification and profiling of two new pre-qualified vendors, monthly updates of the inventory asset and register, monthly production of financial reports, monthly petty cash counts, weekly analysis and updates of petty cash, conducting two

internal financial audits and one external audit, establishing and utilizing an online tax remittance system, filing statutory returns to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and EIRS, and registering with NHS and FRC.

We are pleased to report that we successfully accomplished the development of an annual budget, conducted one budget review, identified and profiled three additional vendors, performed monthly updates of our inventory and asset register, produced monthly financial reports, carried out monthly petty cash counts, and conducted weekly petty cash analyses. Additionally, we completed one internal financial audit and one external financial audit, along with the CAC filing for the year. We have also commenced the registration with FRC and made regular tax (PAYE and Withholding) remittances to the appropriate authorities

Organizational communication

Our organizational communication goal is to enhance visibility and publicity through website and media engagement, as well as contact building to foster improved partnerships and traction. In pursuit of our targets for the previous year (2023), we aimed to achieve a monthly update of our organizational website, implement a tracking system to monitor staff engagement with our website and social media handles, run monthly sponsored social media ad campaigns, link four of our social media handles to the website, produce quarterly newsletters and share them on the website. Additionally, we planned to publish monthly press releases in the Witness newspaper, develop and share weekly nuggets on social media, and establish contact and partnership with at least one radio station and one national newspaper, frequently engaging them.

Throughout the year, we consistently updated our website, established a tracking system to monitor staff engagement levels with the website and social media, developed four quarterly newsletters with that of the first three quarters shared on the website, and published monthly press releases in the Witness newspaper. Furthermore, we successfully secured partnership with two national newspapers (Daily independence and the Sun) and are currently in the process of partnering with one radio station (A's FM), frequently engage them across our program activities.

Partnership and Networking

Our commitment in this area is to expand partnerships and increase stakeholder participation, ensuring effective coordination and service delivery. In 2023, our plans included developing a partnership policy and manual, mapping and creating a directory for organizations providing protection and care services in Edo Central Senatorial District, sustaining monthly participation and attendance in meetings of networks (CONGOS, AOON, and CiSHAN), paying annual dues for CONGOS, AOON, and CiSHAN, collaborating with five Civil Society Organizations to co-create proposals, conducting yearly capacity-building workshops and meetings with Parish JDPC, supporting the establishment of JDPC in at least two parishes, and holding at least one coordination meeting with relevant protection and care providers.

Over the course of the year, we successfully produced a directory for protection and service providers in Edo Central Senatorial District, attended monthly meetings with three networks we are registered with, and paid the dues for the year. Additionally, we partnered with three Civil Society Organizations to write a proposal, conducted two capacity-building workshops with Parish JDPC, inaugurated five Parish JDPCs, and held one coordination meeting with Protection and Care Providers in Edo Central Senatorial District.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning (MERL)

Our objective for MERL is to establish effective organizational guidelines and standards on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and enhance data management for information and decision-making. In line with our targets for the year, we aimed to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and Plan, provide training for our M&E personnel on data management, update our organizational database monthly, review M&E tools for data collection, validation, and data analysis, conduct one training for M&E staff to operationalize and optimize organizational plans/framework, and ensure quarterly updates of our cloud storage system.

We successfully developed our M&E policy and plan, provided training opportunities for our M&E personnel on data management, resulting in regular updates of the organizational database. Monitoring tools, including success story templates were reviewed, staff capacity was built on the development and operationalization of annual operational plan, and quarterly updates of our cloud storage system were achieved.

This multifaceted approach to institutional capacity building collectively contributed to our organization's growth, effectiveness, and sustained impact in our mission and endeavors throughout 2023.

Despite dealing with resource constraints that impeded the realization of certain objectives for the year, (2023), we remain hopeful that our access to additional resources in the upcoming year (2024) will empower us to achieve greater impact across all pivotal domains.

Harriet A. Erhabor
Program Manager

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

HUMAN RIGHT DESK

The Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme is a three-year project sponsored by MISEREOR to contribute towards an improved peaceful coexistence of the village community and promotes social justice and respect for human right. This the project strive to achieve through the training of human rights members and paralegals to document, and intervene in the cases of human rights violations and provide advice to victims of human rights violations. This will enable Community members to have improved knowledge and consciousness of human rights and be more willing to report human rights violations. The project strives to encourage the active participation of women in the civil, cultural, economic, social, and political life of the target communities. The project is currently being implemented in 30 communities and 25 schools across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. In the year under review, the project reached a total of 4181(2233 males, 1554 females) direct beneficiaries through capacity building, community dialogue, sensitizations, Commemorations, and Stakeholder engagement.

Quarterly Learning Sessions for Adolescent School Based Human Rights Clubs

To build the capacity of the school based adolescent human right club members for effectiveness in carrying out their responsibility, 4 quarterly learning sessions were organized and carried out for each of the Adolescent clubs in 26 schools across the senatorial districts. Worthy of note is the fact that, a Principal in Esan North East Local Government Area, requested the formation of an Adolescent Human Right Club in her school, hence raising the total number of Adolescent Human Right Clubs to 26 clubs in 26 schools, instead of 25 clubs in 25 targeted schools. Within the year, the students were taken through refreshers training on the provisions of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act 2015 enacted by the National Assembly to combat violence against persons in Nigeria, in order to equip them with relevant authorities made



available to respect, protect and promote the dignity of their human persons as citizens irrespective of age, status, ethnicity, religious differences or disability status in the first quarter, the Fundamental Human Right under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as Amended in order to build their capacity on the legal framework available to effectively carry out their duties to



promote their human rights, prevent human right violations, identify threats educate their peers and do referrals to appropriate channels when necessary in the second quarter, a refreshers training of their rights as contained in the Edo-State Childs Right Law in order to equip them with relevant authorities made available to respect, protect and promote the dignity of their human persons as citizens irrespective of age, status, ethnicity, religious differences or disability status in the 3rd quarter and finally, a refreshers training on Childs Right Protection were participants were reminded of the duty of care they ought to enjoy from parents, guidance, responsible adults in the communities and the State in ensuring that their rights were enforced and protected. The session was highly interactive and educating. The students expressed happiness with the added knowledge gained on human rights education based on the learning session carried out within the year. They appreciated the fact that policies and laws were enacted by Nigeria government in tackling human rights violations and this increased the hope of realism to their safeguarding. A total of 2,226(845males, 1,381females) were reached

Quarterly Meeting of Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates

Uromi JDPCI conveyed a total of four quarterly meetings of Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates for the year 2023. The meetings were held across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District with participation from the Paralegals and members of the 30 community-based Human Rights Clubs across the 5 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District. The meeting provided an opportunity to review their activities within the quarters, discuss progress, and challenges, and adopt new learnings for improved engagement in their various communities. A review of the reports given by the Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates showed that most communities reported improvement in gender integration and reduced gender biases against female children who were hitherto denied the right to inherit their fathers' estate at the demise of their fathers, especially in the absence of a male child. Although it was noted that the right of female children to inherit the properties of their father was conditioned on the absence of a male child, it was recorded as an improvement because, in the past, the properties of the deceased were inherited by the closest male member of the deceased family thereby sidelining his biological female children for reasons of being female. It was however concluded that with more community dialogues and sensitizations, improved behavioural changes would occur in the community and more equitable distribution would be achieved.



The Paralegals and human rights advocates also carried out massive door-door human rights campaigns and sensitizations to effectively reach and engage community members about human rights issues. This led to increased reporting and interventions of human rights violations as well as a good survey mechanism to determine the impacts of the human rights interventions in the 30 communities since the inception of the project. The purpose of the door-to-door campaign was to increase the visibility of the Paralegals in their various communities so that community members can seamlessly locate them as well as gain their support in promoting and protecting the human rights of others for effective prevention and tackling human rights violations in the target communities.



The Paralegals also reported their interventions in human rights violations observed in their communities and how they effectively supported the victims to seek justice and overcome ill-treatment. Some of the reported incidences of human rights violations in which the Paralegals intervened were rape, deprivation of rights to inheritance for gender reasons, ill-treatment of widows and widow inheritance in addition to other services such as alternative dispute resolution, referrals and sensitization conducted by the Paralegals. A total of 926 (465 males and 461 females) were present.



Sensitization on Gender Equality:

Uromi JDPCI conducted Sensitization on Gender Equality for community leaders from 30 communities across the 5 Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. The sensitization focused on the Powers, and Limitations of Customary Law in the Pre-Colonial, Colonial, and Post-Colonial era. The purpose was to provide valuable insights into the historical heritage and the dynamics that have shaped our present-day legal and social landscape in the communities, as well as equip them with the knowledge to engage in informed discussions in advocating for gender equality and work towards a more just and equitable society. The sensitization assisted the participants to examine how customary laws held significant powers in maintaining social order and preserving the unique cultural heritage during the pre-colonial era. However, women were observed to be highly subjugated in the pre-colonial and



colonial eras with little or no decision-making power in society. In the colonial, era the customary laws faced some challenges and changed to meet the realities of that time with the introduction of a written constitution, which continued even in the post-colonial era. The sensitization further examined the evolvement of customary laws and their impact on the lives of community members. It also explored the gender implications of customary laws, shedding light on how they have affected the status and rights of women in our society. The sensitization raised awareness and fostered a better understanding of the interdependency of roles and the importance of promoting positive gender norms in our society for a better and brighter future where



gender equality is upheld and respected. compared to men. The sensitization concluded with a task on participants to sue for comprehensive legal reforms, community engagement, capacity building, and continued advocacy as possible ways to resolve the various forms of gender inequalities deeply rooted in our culture and tradition. Participants were then enjoined to channel into meaningful action the knowledge gained from the discussion by fostering conversations, challenging stereotypes, advocating for gender equality, and actively supporting legal reforms that uplift women and create a more inclusive society. The sessions were attended by a total of 525 (307 Males, 218 Females) persons made up of Community Heads, Religious Leaders, women leaders, youth leaders, Paralegals, Human Rights Advocates, and Project Staff.



Training of Paralegals

Uromi JDPCI conducted three training for the Paralegals and Human Rights Advocates in the 30 Communities in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose was to improve their capacity and enhance their knowledge to create the desired impact in the communities. The first training was on the Nigerian Legal System and Basic Legal Terms, Freedom of Expression and Speech Regulation in Nigeria, and Gender equality and related issues such as Gender Based Violence and Harmful Traditional Practices. The participants were better equipped with the understanding of the Nigeria Legal System and then appreciated the Legal System stating that the intentions of the founding fathers seemed good.



The second training was on “Child Abuse and Neglect, Sexual Offence (Rape) and Psychosocial First Aid. The purpose was to strengthen the capacity of paralegals and human rights advocates to respond effectively to human rights violations and abuse through counselling, referrals as well as support survivors and families with mental health services and psychosocial support. Participants were engaged in a critical and systematic study of issues, processes, and enlightenment on human rights and paralegal schemes with practical and brainstorming sessions that allowed them to demonstrate their understanding of the issues raised. The third training was on Family Law- Women in Marriage, Will-making, Inheritance, and concept of Next of Kin. The purpose was to build the capacity of the paralegals to be able to provide the necessary counsel and guidance for their community members as it relates to the relevant issues. The improved knowledge of the practice of family law has increased the number of successful counselling provided by Paralegals and Human Right Advocates in the communities.



A total of 390(218Males and 172Females) persons were trained

Annual Congress of Paralegals

Uromi JDPCI conveyed an Annual Stakeholders Congress which brought together key actors concerned with the promotion and protection of human rights across the 5 Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose was to share experience, identify, and resolve challenges hindering the promotion of the rights and dignity of persons, and increase networking among stakeholders for improved referrals and effective case management of human rights violations. The Congress also stressed the need to strengthen thought patterns for peaceful co-existence with an authentic understanding of human rights that eradicates violence in society, especially during the 2023 general elections. The stakeholders also agreed on the need to purify their different political and religious orientations and world views with the morality of human rights and the obligations it bestows on humanity.



The congress which was held on the 16th of February 2023 at the Chancery Hall, had the theme: “Promoting Human Rights for a violence-free society.” The event also featured paper presentations from the National Human Rights Commission and the National Orientation Agency. The Congress was used to deepen the consciousness of all, on the need to promote and respect people’s rights to life, freedom of thought, and expression especially as Nigerians prepared for the 2023 General Election. The congress also included the signing of a peace accord amongst the various party representatives, government representatives, INEC representatives, community leaders, religious leaders, and other relevant actors. The political parties gave their commitment to ensuring a peaceful election where people’s rights would be respected. The key stakeholders present at the annual congress sued for peaceful and violence-free elections in Edo Central Senatorial District.



Participants expressed delight with the outcome of the paper presentations and responses proffered to their questions because it raised new hopes and confidence in their minds. They were appreciative of the initiative and expressed great determination to contribute to the protection of human rights through a violence-free society by making exemplary efforts to make the upcoming general election a violent-free one.



The event thereafter proceeded to the signing of the peace accord after the document was read to the political parties present. A total of 250 (161Males, 89Females) were in attendance

COMMEMORATION OF THE 2023 CHILD PROTECTION DAY

Uromi JDPCI commemorated the 2023 Child’s Protection Day with Community and State Actors, Students, and Principals in Edo Central Senatorial District on the 26th of May, 2023 at Uromi Edo-State with the theme “Improved Quality Education through Adequate Funding”. The event was used to raise awareness of the importance of promoting the rights of children. The Executive Director Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo in his opening remark harped on the need for the government to invest in the education of children while also encouraging philanthropy, endowment funds, and community sponsorship and initiatives. The Guest Speaker, Rev. Sr. Christie Adegoroye, the Principal of



Stella Maris Girls College Iruokpen, in her presentation, emphasized the role of the community, the old students association, and the government in the development of the educational sector. The auspicious event also featured a Quiz competition that focused on the knowledge of human rights and other Legal Frameworks that protect the rights of Children in Edo State and Nigeria in general. The purpose was to test their knowledge of relevant provisions of the laws that guarantee the rights of children as they have been taught during the quarterly adolescent Human Rights learning session in their various schools. The participants for the quiz competition were drawn from 13 public Secondary Schools across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District with Irrua Girls, Ewu Grammar School, Ewu and Annunciation Catholic College, Irrua taking the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions respectively. The Schools and the Children were presented with Awards and Cash prizes respectively.



Conclusively, the importance of community involvement and contributions to the development and sustainability of quality education in community schools was emphasized. The role of PTA, engaging Old Students and illustrious sons and daughters to contribute to the development of schools was further highlighted while also noting with vivid examples some of such contributions in the past and how they have contributed to the growth and development of Education. Some Participants corroborated this opinion by their individual testimonies and benefits gotten from such support like scholarships through the community and Old Boys Association's generosity.



A total of 205 persons (98 Males and 107 Females) were in attendance.

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHT DAY

Uromi JDPCI commemorated the 2023 World Human Rights Day with a significant initiative that brought together community leaders, Religious leaders, Community-Based Human Rights Advocates, Clerics, and Security officials across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The event which was held on December 7, 2023 focused on the theme "Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future."

The distinguished presence of the Honourable Commissioner of Social Development and Gender Issues, Hon. Christabel Omon Ekwu, as the guest speaker, elevated the occasion and provided a platform for insightful discourse on the theme.

Hon. Christabel Ekwu emphasized the imperative of a collective effort to consolidate and sustain human rights into the future. She underscored the need for proactive measures in addressing and challenging human rights violations. She asserted that a future free from constant abuse or violation of rights hinges on the commitment of individuals to be change agents by making it a priority to educate the next person one at a time on human rights protection and respect for human dignity. She reminded Participants that traditions and cultures are made to serve humanity, not the other way around. She therefore urged everyone to stand against human rights violations, advocating for a society where traditions and cultures do not subjugate or subject individuals to inhumane treatment.



A key emphasis was placed on the need to reengineer family values and instill morals in children from a young age. Hon. Ekwu pointed out that many contemporary violations stem from parental neglect in fostering good morals, leading to the emergence of individuals indifferent to the rights of others. She called upon parents to treat their children equally, challenging stereotypes that perpetuate gender-based biases and advocating for equal opportunities for all to thrive.

Highlighting the Edo State Government's commitment in addressing widespread human rights violations. Hon. Ekwu mentioned that the State Government has domesticated a number of enabling legal frameworks, including the Violence against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law and the recently launched gender policy, adding that the Ministry is fully out to implement and enforce them. She emphasized that ignorance of these laws would not be an excuse, as violators, regardless of their status, would face penalties as provided in the laws. Community leaders were urged to disseminate the message of human rights protection and respect, modify customary practices that infringe on human rights, and champion the cause of upholding the rights of all individuals in their respective communities.

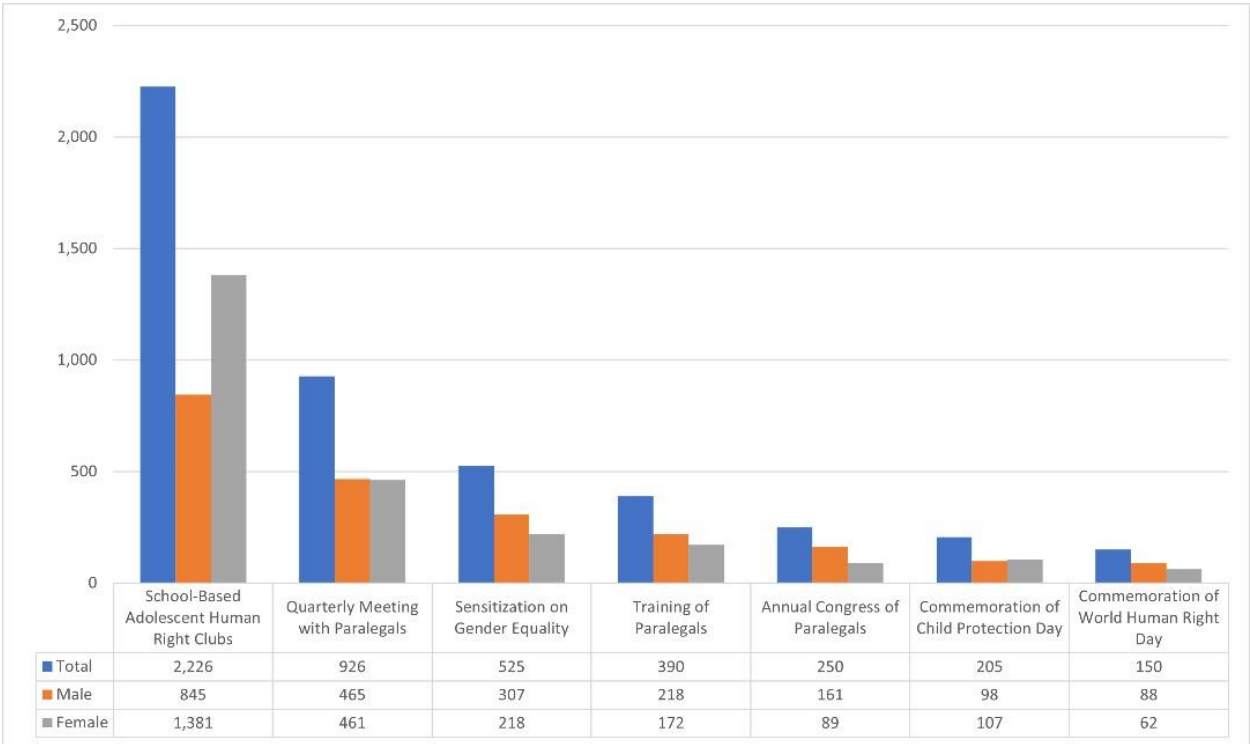


The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, in his opening remark implored the Honourable Commissioner to convene an engagement meeting with the Oba of

Benin, the Enijie of Esan land and other key traditional rulers in the State, to dialogue and chart a way forward towards modifying and abolishing customary practices that perpetuate inhuman treatment. He emphasized that addressing these practices is crucial for mitigating culturally imposed human rights violations.

The Ubiaja Divisional Police Officer highlighted some of the challenges in certain communities that hinder justice. He noted instances where residents resist the arrest of fellow kinsmen reported to have committed rape or other human rights violations, adding that penalties such as fines or isolations are often imposed by community leaders on the individual who had reported the crime to the police. He called for the abolition of such traditions, underscoring the paramount importance of ensuring justice prevails.

This event marked a significant step towards fostering a society where human rights are upheld, traditional practices are modified for the better, and proactive measures are taken to address contemporary human rights violations. A total of 150 persons (88 males and62 females) were in attendance



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Peace Accord

Uromi JDPCI conveyed a Peace accord that had three political parties (PDP, LP, and NNPP), community representatives from 30 communities, the State Director of the National Orientation Agency, Three Area Commanders of the Nigerian Police Force, representatives of the NSCDC, DSS and 5 Traditional rulers in attendance. The purpose of the peace accord was to dialogue with relevant stakeholders on possible ways to promote and ensure a peaceful atmosphere for the general election in the various communities across Edo Central Senatorial District. It was a contribution to promoting participatory democracy and violence-free, fair, and credible elections. The event featured a keynote address delivered by Very Rev Fr Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI which was followed by paper presentations made by the State Director of the National Orientation Agency Moses Teo Ajayi and the State Coordinator of the National Human Rights Commission Olumide Dosumu on Promoting Human Rights for a violence-free society.

Training of Election Observers

Upon the successful accreditation of 52 Election Observers for Uromi JDPCI by INEC and the training of two persons from Uromi JDPCI by Caritas Nigeria, Uromi JDPCI took a step further to conduct step-down training for the accredited observers on the guidelines for the conduct and observation of the election. The training also took participants through the reporting templates contained in the Caritas JDPC app which was used by the election observers to report on the day of the election. A total of 50 persons were trained

Election Observation

Uromi JDPCI deployed 49 out of the 52 accredited election observers to 50 units in 16 wards across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the just concluded general election held on the 25th of February 2023. This was part of her efforts to ensure transparent polls aimed at enhancing the credibility of the 2023 general election in Nigeria. Uromi JDPCI further sustained the commitment to election observation by deploying 30 accredited election observers to 30 units in 10 wards across the five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Edo Central Senatorial District to observe the just Edo State House of Assembly election held on the 18th of March 2023. This was a consolidation of the already established commitment to contribute to ensuring transparent polls aimed at enhancing the credibility of the 2023 Edo State House of Assembly election in Nigeria. It is important to note of the 49 observers trained by Uromi JDPCI to observe the general election, these 30 observers opted to observe the Edo State House of Assembly election pro bono

The 2023 general elections in Edo Central Senatorial District were largely peaceful and fairly credible. However, more still needs to be done by the INEC to improve the process to be more transparent and credible in subsequent elections. The introduction of the BVAS is a laudable initiative that should be sustained and improved upon to institutionalize a peaceful, fair, and credible election in Nigeria. Finally, it must be noted that since BVAS could not transmit results directly to IREV in the presence of the party agents and observers but done in secret made the elections not credible at all. This dented promises of transparency and credibility made by INEC to all Nigerians.

MIGRATION AND COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS DESK

INTRODUCTION

This report encapsulates the dynamic efforts and noteworthy accomplishments of Uromi JDPCI in the year 2023 within the expansive domain of migration and countering trafficking in person—one of the multifaceted thematic areas embraced by the organization with a specific focus to have an enlightened and empowered community with reduced vulnerability to human trafficking and irregular migration.

Uromi JDPCI fervently executed a spectrum of impactful activities, encompassing strategic advocacy engagements, sensitization and public awareness campaigns, consultative workshops and dialogue sessions, and capacity-building and learning sessions. The scope of these activities, extended to crucial psychosocial support activities to survivors of human trafficking, economic strengthening endeavours for vulnerable households and individuals, and economic reintegration for Survivors among other initiatives. All of these unfolded under the umbrella of four core projects namely:

Galvanize Action for Effective Trafficking in Persons Response at the LGA Level (GATIP), an intervention that seeks to mobilize relevant stakeholders and galvanize action towards the activation and institutionalization of Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Response at the Local Government Levels of Edo State by 2024.

The Don't Pay with Your Life Project: an initiative aimed at the prevention of trafficking of young girls in Edo State, Nigeria.

The Act against Child Trafficking in Nigeria (AACTING); which aims to significantly reduce the prevalence of child trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation, in Edo State

The Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking (SCOPPH-T) Project which worked to foster an enlightened community with improved socio-economic capacity to reduce the vulnerability of Youths to human trafficking and Irregular Migration by 2024.

GALVANIZE ACTION FOR EFFECTIVE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RESPONSE AT THE LGA LEVEL (GATIP)

This advocacy project led by Uromi JDPCI is implemented in partnership with 6 notable Civil Society Organizations in Edo State through a cluster arrangement. The joint effort is supported by USAID under the ambit of the Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) project. The GATIP project specifically aims to achieve a legislative review of the Edo State Trafficking in Person Prohibition Law 2018 to incorporate provisions for the establishment of Local Government Trafficking in Persons Response Units, the activation of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund (VTTF) and the Trust fund Committee as already provided by the Law in sections 67 and 68, and increased resource and budgetary allocation to the Edo State Taskforce

against human trafficking. In pursuit of these advocacy outcomes, Uromi JDPCI executed the following activities:

STRATEGIC ADVOCACY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

A total of 12 Strategic advocacy meetings were held with critical stakeholders in the State Executive Council and the Legislature to solicit their consideration for the review of the Edo TIP law 2018 geared towards localizing trafficking in-person response in Edo State and activation of the VTTF and its Committee. Stakeholders visited included the Deputy Governor of Edo State, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), the Hon. Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, the Permanent Secretary and Solicitor General, Edo State Ministry of Justice, the Director of the Law Reform Commission, the Executive Secretary of the Edo State Taskforce against Human Trafficking, Hon. Destiny Enabulele, Member Representing Ovia West Constituency in the Edo State House of Assembly, the Deputy Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Maria Edeko, Hon Jonathan Aighokhan, member representing Esan West Constituency, Edo State House of Assembly, the Acting Chairman and the Youth Leader of Orhionmwon Local Government Area and the Chairmen of Esan North East Local Government Area and Etsako West Local Government Area respectively. These engagements resulted in the expression of commitment by the stakeholders at various levels



Notably, Hon. Destiny Enabulele committed to rallying support for the bill among his colleagues, considering private member sponsorship if the Executive arm of government fails to take the lead. The Deputy Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly expressed fervent support for the law review, acknowledging existing gaps in the law, and pledged to advocate for the establishment of Local Government Trafficking in Persons Response Units administratively pending when the legislative review is done. Strong commitments were also gotten from the Attorney General who noted the possibility of considering an administrative establishment of the Units in the various LGAs of Edo State and committed to presenting the issues to the Executive Governor for consideration.



SENSITIZATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Two impactful sensitization and public awareness rallies were simultaneously conducted in Benin City, Uromi, and Auchi to commemorate the Feast of St. Bakhita which doubles as the International Day of Prayer against Human Trafficking and the World Day against Human Trafficking. These activities were done in collaboration with five other CSOs and the Edo State Taskforce against Human Trafficking (ETAHT). The primary goal was to elevate public consciousness surrounding the pervasive exploitation of human trafficking while advocating an end to the impunity of human trafficking. The Feast of St. Bakhita was also marked with prayers for victims and for Traffickers to have a change of heart. Uromi JDPCI through these events urged communities and the government to champion practices, laws, and policies that foster resilience against trafficking.



Concurrently, a call to action was directed at the government to extend anti-human trafficking efforts to rural communities through the establishment of Anti-Human Trafficking Response Units at the Local Government Level and the activation of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund which will serve as vital funding support for victims in their journey towards recovery and empowerment

CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOPS AND DIALOGUE SESSIONS:

Review Lab for Edo State Trafficking in Person Prohibition Law, 2018

A two-day Review Lab for the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Prohibition (TIP) Law of 2018 was conducted in January 2023. The workshop specifically gave attention to an in-depth review of the Edo State Trafficking Law of 2018 to identify areas of improvement and proffer recommendations that reinforce the need for the legislative review of the existing law to provide for local government TIP Response Unit and activation of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund. Participation was drawn from Government and the Civil Society Actors concerned with countering Trafficking in Persons in Edo State and includes a representative of the Chief Judge of Edo State the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Secretary to the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, NAPTIP, Caritas Nigeria, Pathfinder Justice Initiatives, the Joint National Association of Persons with Disability, and Benin JDPC



Participants critiqued the existing Law from the beginning to the end and suggested useful inclusion in some Parts and Sections of the law to further strengthen the provisions of the Law and expand the scope to be more inclusive and beneficial to people at the grassroots. A major inclusion was PART XII to capture the Establishment of the Local Government Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Response Unit.

Two Days consultation meeting with relevant stakeholders and LGA Focal Points on developing LGA TIP unit prototype

A two-day consultation meeting with relevant stakeholders and LGA Focal Points was conducted to develop the LGA TIP Unit Prototype. During the meeting, Participants expansively deliberated and developed the Term of Reference (TOR) for the proposed Local Government TIP response Unit; clearly articulating the objective of the unit, its membership, functions, tenure, and coordination. The TOR is to give context to the operations of the Unit so that all concerned Actors would have a clear blueprint to work with when it is established. The Unit's Objective was considered from the perspective of having an effective system at the grassroots that would aid prevention, detection, and service delivery such as psychosocial support, escalate and refer human trafficking, and related offenses. Stakeholders from the Government and Civil Society Sector participated in this meeting.



Social Dialogue Forum with Journalists

A Social Dialogue Forum was held with Journalists in Benin City to forge an alliance with journalists and boost publicity and support for the advocacy issues. Remarkably, commitments were secured from participating journalists, including the Daily Independence and the Curve Newspaper. Their consistent support through participation in events and publications on various platforms have significantly enhanced the visibility of Uromi JDPCI Cluster advocacy issues.



Consultation workshop with Judges and Magistrates; on the operationalization of the Victims Trust Fund

Similarly, Uromi JDPCI hosted a consultative workshop with Judges and Magistrates of the Edo State Judiciary; to discuss steps towards the operationalization of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund (VTTF) and secure commitments from the Judiciary to enforce victims' compensation and restitution against convicted traffickers through forfeiture of trafficking proceeds as a funding source for the VTTF as outlined in the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Law of 2018. The Judiciary pledged to enforce these measures, emphasizing the importance of activating the VTTF so that such monies forfeited can be put into the trust fund to alleviate the plights of victims. Concerns were raised about the low reporting of trafficking cases, with a reminder that effective



judgments depend on reported and pursued cases.

Social Dialogue and Interfaith Forum with Traditional and Religious Leaders across the three Senatorial Districts of Edo State (Edo Central, Edo South, and Edo North)

Uromi JDPCI, in collaboration with her Cluster member, organized a Social Dialogue and Interfaith Forum involving Traditional and Religious Leaders across Edo State's three senatorial districts in Uromi, Benin City, and Auchi. The forum engaged Traditional institutions, Christian, and Islamic communities, reaching a total of 112 participants (88 males, 23 females, and 1 Person with a Disability).

The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the Cluster's advocacy objectives, showcase its impact in countering human trafficking, and mobilize support from the Interfaith group. The goal was to leverage their influence to reach the Governor, recognizing that the success of the advocacy, especially regarding the activation of the VTTF, relies on the Governor's support.

Stakeholders in the interfaith forum expressed full commitment to join the Cluster in presenting the advocacy issues to the Governor through an interfaith initiative once an appointment is secured. They conveyed unwavering confidence in the Cluster's advocacy, acknowledging its potential to significantly enhance the State Government's initiatives against human trafficking. This endorsement reflects the unified support of the interfaith group and their collective determination to support the Cluster's advocacy efforts.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEARNING SESSIONS

A 3-day capacity-building workshop on Communication for Development and Social Media Advocacy

Uromi JDPCI conducted a 3-day workshop to enhance the communication and social media advocacy skills of its Cluster members. The workshop aimed to improve the Cluster's understanding of Communication for Development, emphasizing its relevance in advocacy. It also focused on strengthening member's capacity to identify, analyze, and optimize the role of social media in advocacy efforts. Participants gained skills in creating compelling media content for effective advocacy and learned practical ways to collaborate with the media. The training resulted in an enhanced understanding of communication for development, increased collaboration with media organizations, and effective utilization of social media to drive the Cluster's advocacy goals. Considerable progress has been achieved as a direct outcome of the training.



A 2-day training on Legislative Advocacy and Development of Policy Briefs:

This capacity-building training targeted members of the Uromi JDPCI-led Cluster and was aimed at equipping the Cluster with the knowledge, skills, and collaborative networks necessary for impactful advocacy in legislative and policy domains and sharpen the technical proficiency of Cluster members in crafting compelling policy briefs to bolster its ongoing advocacy efforts.

Quarterly Cluster Coaching Session

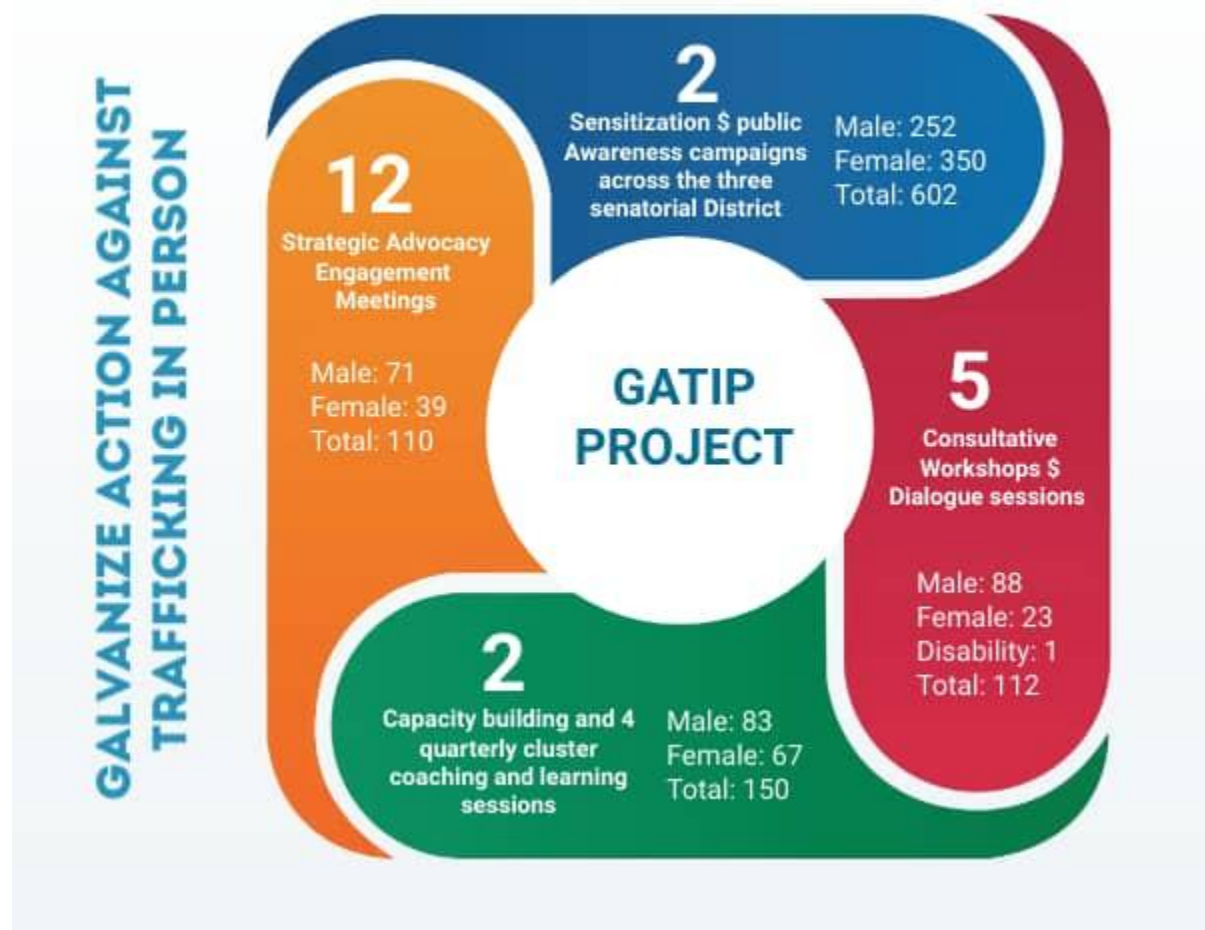
Three Cluster Coaching sessions were conducted by Uromi JDPCI with members of her Cluster collectively known as the Localizing Trafficking in Persons response Cluster (LOTIP-R). These sessions assessed progress and achievements on the advocacy issues, strategized next steps towards actualization of the set objectives of the Cluster, reinforced feedback for a harmonious working relationship, deepened cluster members' roles and responsibilities, and provided an opportunity to advance the collective advocacy work. The session also featured a review of the cluster declaration, and Monitoring tools.

Learning Session

Four Learning sessions were held within the period. The first session focused on Private Sector Engagement in implementing the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund. It was attended by heads of private organizations, business members, and civil society actors and aimed to foster collaboration for coordinated responses to human trafficking, emphasizing victim empowerment and reintegration. The Private sector recognized the importance of the Victims Trust Fund and the need to support Victims to overcome their trauma and be reintegrated into the society. The second



session delved into the role of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund in Victims Reintegration, addressing its prospects, challenges, and the way forward for its activation in Edo State. Its objective was to promote peer learning and collaboration among Civil Society Organizations countering trafficking in persons in Edo State. The third session concentrated on enhancing grassroots efforts to combat human trafficking. It aimed to explore effective strategies and initiatives for empowering local communities, and reinforce the need for the establishment of local response structures on human trafficking.



DON'T PAY WITH YOUR LIFE (DPWYL) PROJECT:

Don't Pay with Your Life" project was implemented from July 1st 2019- June 30th, 2023. The Project was coordinated by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) France and ECPAT Luxembourg and developed by an alliance of operational Partners including Uromi JDPCI, GPI and IFRA) with Funding by the Agence Francaise de Developement (AFD) and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg. Our focus on the project was to reinforce prevention strategies at all levels: family, community, child protection, and local authorities and to improve the social and economic reintegration of victims of human trafficking to avoid any further victimisation.

Notable achievements of this intervention were the provision of a one -year educational scholarships to 50 vulnerable female children with 48 of them successfully completing their secondary education, a tertiary education scholarship of Two Hundred Thousand Naira (NGN 200,000) each to three Children, Vocational skill training enrollment for 13 of the secondary school graduates who took up vocational skills as an alternative to tertiary education, a grant of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (250,000) to their caregivers for income generating activities to foster the progression and retention of the children in school and enhance their household income, provision of business start-ups to 15 returned migrants which helped them to be productively engaged, group discussion sessions with the caregivers on better parenting, group sessions with returned migrants as part of psychosocial support activities as well as group sessions with the Children enrolled in vocational training programs amongst others.

Three-phased discussion session with Adolescent Children:

The sessions aimed to raise awareness about human trafficking, enhance their capacity as peer educators, and instill resistance to trafficking. It also featured some self-discovery activities and gave room for participants to learn and gain motivation from their peers. This has enhanced their ability to detect human trafficking situations and enhanced their tenacity to resist such urges. This was evident in the experiences shared by some of them. A total of 13 female Adolescent children enrolled in vocational skill training attended the 3 sessions.



Group discussion with Young Female Returnees:

The aim was to promote their psychosocial wellbeing and also enhance their skills towards economic self-sufficiency for sustained reintegration. 10 young female returnees participated in this session which opened them to understand that they must continuously work towards the goals they have set for themselves if they must be turned into reality.



Two Phased Monitoring of Supported Households and Adolescent Children enrolled in Vocational skill training

The project's monitoring efforts showed positive outcomes, with the majority of the supported households still active in their businesses and recorded notable enhancements in their livelihoods, particularly in areas of nutrition and other fundamental household requirements. Follow-up visits to 13 out-of-school children acquiring vocational skills further demonstrated the project's effectiveness in facilitating sustained preventive measures as the Children exhibited commendable progress in their training, expressing optimism about establishing their own businesses upon graduation.



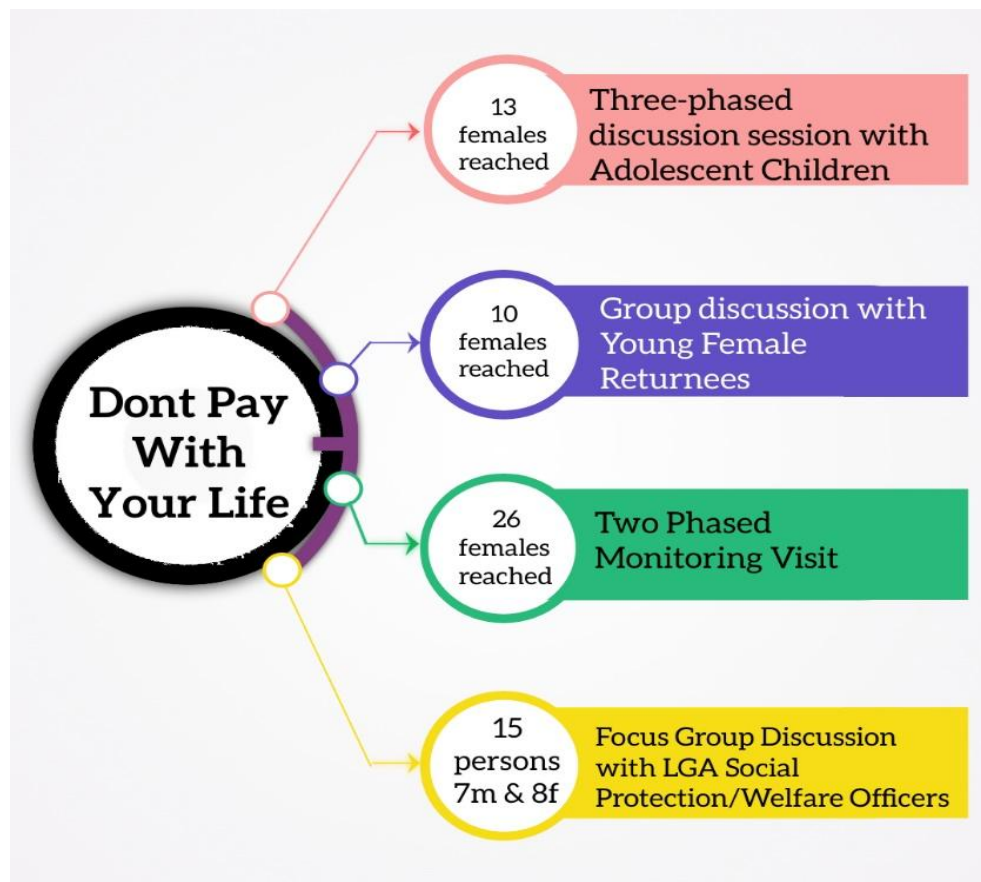
Focus Group Discussion with LGA Social Protection/Welfare Officers

Uromi JDPCI conveyed the second Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the Local Government Social Protection/Welfare Officers across the 5 Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District. The FGD was held on the 13th of March 2023 and had in attendance a total of 15 Persons (7 Males and 8 Females) made up of Social Protection Officers from the Five LGAs, and 10 Community representatives.

The FGD built on the previous discussion held in December 2022 and looked at new areas of interventions carried out by the Protection Officers in the area of social protection and care as well as the Challenges faced in carrying out these interventions including areas to build synergy and collaboration for improved protection of children and girls against sexual and gender based violence, human trafficking and human rights in general. Also discussed were strategies to bring Trafficking in Persons response to the Local Government Level.



The discussion also stressed the importance of collaboration among social workers in the various LGAs and community structures for enhanced response to social issues and effective service delivery.



ACT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA (AACTING) PROJECT

This project is an offshoot of the Don't Pay with Your Life project spanning from September 1, 2023, to August 30, 2026 and specifically seeks to have better control over the risks associated with trafficking and strengthen protection systems through innovative operational mechanisms that are adapted to the evolving forms of trafficking with the mechanisms easily accessible to child victims, particularly those trafficked for sexual exploitation, ensure that girls and boys in Edo State are fully aware of the risks associated with trafficking and are well-informed about the key actors involved in the fight against trafficking, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation; and make the fight against trafficking in Edo State a top priority which will be achieved through the concerted efforts of a coalition of influential actors, dedicated to combating trafficking in the region.

Key strategies employed by the AACTING project include targeted awareness campaigns, strategic capacity building, and economic reintegration for Victims. The activities below were implemented within the year

Entry advocacy visits to Community Leaders.

A total of 15 Community Leaders across the 5 Local Government Areas (LGA) of Edo Central Senatorial District were visited. This was basically to introduce and abreast the community leaders of the project which at the community level would focus on intensifying awareness and conscientizing parents and young people on the antics and dynamism of human trafficking through targeted outreaches and Community club platform for out of school Children and by so doing parents and children would become agent of change, shunning human trafficking in all its forms, embrace and value education and take personal initiative to succeed legally through hard work and personal advancement. The intervention was highly appreciated by the community leaders who pledged support for the project. A total number of 121 persons (99 Males and 22 Females) were reached across the 15 communities with participants made up of the Kings, Community Leaders, Community Chiefs, and Elders



Advocacy Meetings with State MDAs

Advocacy meetings were held with State MDAs (Ministries, Department and Agencies) as part of the entry activities for the Project. The State Actors visited were the Executive Secretary of Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, The Edo Zonal Commander for NAPTIP (National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons) as well as the Permanent Secretary, and the Honourable Commissioner of Social Development and Gender Issues. These high-stakes meetings were strategically designed to introduce and align our project with these key players actively combatting human trafficking in the State and sought their collaboration, to be integral participants in the capacity-building sessions and consultative meetings scheduled throughout the project's duration with commitments of partnership secured from them.

Our advocacy also extended to the Ministry of Education, where we shared our plans for school operations through the establishment and



Meeting with the Commissioner for Social Development and Gender Issues



Meeting with Chief Education Officer Ministry of Education

facilitation of child champion clubs in Secondary Schools and requested approval to operate in the schools. This was granted by the Ministry who recognized and commended the impactful interventions of Uromi JDPCI in schools.

Mapping of Social Protection Services in Edo Central Senatorial District

Uromi JDPCI conducted two mapping exercises of social protection services across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The exercise was aimed at identifying functional social protection and care service Providers in Edo Central Senatorial District. This was to foster better collaboration and build synergy among the service providers in rendering social protection services and also develop a Social Protection service directory for Edo Central Senatorial District. The directory when produced would help actors to leverage the pool of resources available within the various LGAs in responding to social protection issues and make the environment safe for all.

Participants were drawn from the Health Sector, Civil Society Actors, Community animated groups, the Nigerian Police, and Local Government Social Protection Officers. A total of 30 persons participated in each of the exercises (15 males and 15 females). Through the activity, better insights and clarity were given on the various services provided by the different actors, gaps, and areas of improvement were also noted and synergy was galvanized; which we hope would help to build a formidable case management group in Edo Central Senatorial District.

Project Commencement Meeting:

The project commencement meeting was held on the 30th of November 2023 and it was used to promote shared understanding of the project's goal, objectives and scope among relevant stakeholders and foster effective communication and collaboration among the project stakeholders. In attendance were community leaders from 10 target communities, Local Government Heads of Social Welfare Department, The Chief Education Officer for



Cross session of participants during the mapping exercise



Edo Central Senatorial District, School Principals, Field Officers, the Project Team, and the Zonal Commander of NAPTIP who participated virtually.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (SCOPPH-T)

Household Empowerment

In furtherance of her commitments to counter human trafficking in Edo Central Senatorial District; Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives through her SCOPPH-T Project (Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking) empowered 37 potential migrants (26 females, 11 males) and 19 Returnees (4 females, 15 males) with business starter packs across 15 skill areas namely Aluminum Fabrication, Barbing, Carpentry, Tailoring, Generator repair, Welding, Fishery, Electrical Installation, Cosmetology, Make-up, mechanical work, Pane-beating, Phone Repair, Ankara Craft and Baking including clothing business while 19 female caregivers were each given cash transfers of a hundred thousand naira for Income Generation Activities. This support was geared towards improving the economic capacity of vulnerable households in advancing their livelihood opportunity and addressing poverty which makes them

susceptible to human trafficking and irregular migration. The empowerment was done on the 28th of April, 2023 and was made possible through the Financial Participation of the European Union, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Luxembourg.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, in his opening remark expressed overwhelming joy and the privilege of working together on the SCOPPH-T project with Expertise France and other Partners in the fight against



human trafficking by providing sustainable alternatives through the



empowerment of survivors of human trafficking, potential migrants and the caregivers.

The Executive Director gave a rundown of several interventions that has helped in improving the lives of vulnerable households by Uromi JDPCI in the past 9 years. Specifically, the SCOPPH-T project has over the period empowered 31 most vulnerable caregivers in varied income generating



activities and has directly supported 75 most vulnerable children (32 males, 43 females) with Schools inputs to



promote school retention. Fr. Arhedo said Uromi JDPCI is today empowering another set of 19 caregivers which will make a total of 50 caregivers so far empowered by the project including the presentation of startup materials to 56 young persons as a contribution to enhancing their economic stability and livelihood opportunities thereby making them less vulnerable to human trafficking and victimization.

The representatives of the various LGAs gave their goodwill messages, thereafter the terms of agreement containing the roles and expectations of the beneficiaries and that of Uromi JDPCI was read to the hearing of everyone after which the beneficiaries signed the document in agreement to the provisions contained therein. This was followed with the presentation of the items to each beneficiary. The Items were provided based on the priority needs of the beneficiaries with diligent consideration on items the funds budgeted could accommodate. Group empowerment was done for two beneficiaries in Aluminum fabrication as they both operate from the same shop and direly needed an aluminum cutting machine which was very expensive. It is expected that the joint empowerment would enable the concerned beneficiaries to be accountable to one another and lead to sustenance of the business



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING (SCOPPH)



**Empowerment of
Vulnerable household**

NETWORK OF TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS' CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING HELD IN EDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Uromi JDPCI collaborated with the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking to mobilize traditional and religious leaders for a capacity building training on human trafficking conducted by the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking with support from the International Organization for Migration under the Project; Managing Migration through Development (MMDP) 2.0 in Edo State.

Subsequently, we participated in the capacity building session held on the 22nd of August 2022 at Uromi; which helped to better enlighten religious leaders from the Christian denomination and Muslim Clerics as well as community Chiefs about human trafficking, Migration, and related concepts. The session was also used to identify local opportunities and resources that could be tapped into to support Victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable populations within the senatorial district.

ORPHAN AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN DESK

The ARFH ICHSSA 2 Project is a 4 year project, implemented in Edo Central Senatorial District by Uromi JDPCI with funding from USAID. Its' overall goal is to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on vulnerable children and their households through multi-programmatic approaches.

Among the activities conducted within the year were:

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence: This has helped to create and increase awareness on gender equity and equality among the people in Uromi metropolis while encouraging them to invest to prevent violence against women and girls. This activity had a total of 26 persons (14M, 12F) in attendance.



A group photograph of the ICHSSA2 team during the 16 days of Activism rally

Caregivers Forum

11 caregivers' fora were conducted across project LGA, in attendance were 540 participants (520F 20M) who were taken through some skills in income generating activities such as buns, perfume,



Liquid soap making skill acquisition at Arue community



Soap making ongoing

air freshener, and liquid soap making, thus contributing to improving their standard of livelihood

Operation Triple Zero: In view of engineering adolescents between the ages of 10 to 17 years to take charge of their health, Uromi JDPCI conducted series of OTZ club meetings at UCH and ISTH, which had in attendance a total of 800 (555 F 245 M) CLHIV, enlightening them on the right treatment literacy as well as building their capacity on leadership skills and as peer educators, resulting in more CLHIV being self-reliant thus translating into greater ART adherent more CLHIV becoming virally suppressed.



HIV Testing and Screening Services: Community HIV testing and screening services were also conducted across 77 communities to screen for HIV-positive persons. 9876 persons were screened out of which 12 persons (4 PLHIV, 8 CLHIV) were identified and linked to treatment.

Adherence Counselling: A total of 187 virally unsuppressed CLHIV residents in Edo Central Senatorial District were provided with community-based adherence counseling and also with logistics for linkage to Enhanced adherence counselling at their respective treatment facilities resulting in a total of 182 of them becoming virally suppressed.

In the same vein transport logistics was provided for a total of 210 and 250 CLHIV for viral load sampling and ART drug pickup respectively resulting in the awareness of their viral load and greater adherent to their ART drugs and ultimately greater viral suppression amongst the CLHIV.

Emergency Food/Nutritional Support: Furthermore Uromi JDPCI sustained viral suppression through the promotion of ART adherence by providing food support for a total of 31 virally unsuppressed CLHIV and vulnerable CCMs households on the ICHSSA 2 Project.



Virally un suppressed households with their food items

Uromi JDPCI also provided



Display of food items

Emergency health and nutritional support for a total of 6 indigent children leading to their healthier living; in addition to the improved living standard of a total of 613 caregivers /OVC enrolled on the community

based health insurance scheme.

School Enrolment: In the same light 6 out of school children were re enrolled to school. 2 victims of defilement are also receiving legal and psychosocial support resulting in their psychosocial stability, while a total of 750 OVC had their birth registered, thus socially and legally protected.

Similarly a total of 1020 households were provided with psychosocial support through the home to home monitoring visits carried out by the organization, hence improving their psychosocial stability.



Also, Uromi JDPCI sustained the saving culture, through the formation of 13 Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) with a total 252 (247F 5M) member in 13 communities. The purpose is to increase their financial base for enhanced livelihood opportunity. Similarly, a total of 230 (200F 30M) caregivers had their capacity built on financial literacy, equipping them with basic skills on how to manage their businesses and finances, consequently leading to better economic stability of their households.



Ofure VSLA meeting on going at Irrua

Review Meeting: Uromi JDPCI conducted 9 sessions of review meetings with her 12 Community Case Managers (CCMs) and 4 Facility Case Managers (FCMs). The review meetings were used to provide technical support as well as encourage shared learning of best practices amongst the case managers; a practice which has helped them to be better OVC managers. Similarly, Uromi



Finance Manager facilitating CCM review meeting

JDPCI participated in 3 programmes coordination meetings where her efforts on ICHSSA 2 programme were evaluated and reviewed, and thus provided with the necessary technical support needed for a better programme implementation hence the ICHSSA 2 project is better understood and implemented by the Uromi JDPCI.



Quarterly coordination meeting ongoing at the state level

Gender Norm Sessions: Uromi JDPCI facilitated 10 sessions of gender norms in 10 Secondary Schools across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose was to keep adolescents and caregivers abreast with information about gender equity. A total of 550 in school children were reached.



Gender norm session on going

No-Means-No: In like manner Uromi JDPCI empowered a total of 120 female students within the ages 9-13 with essential knowledge and skills related to consent,

boundaries, and sexual violence prevention through the No means No platform; thus

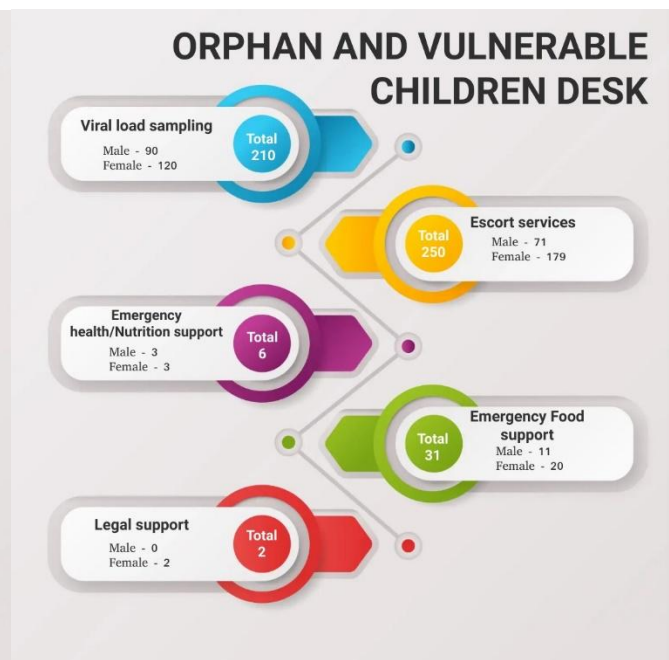
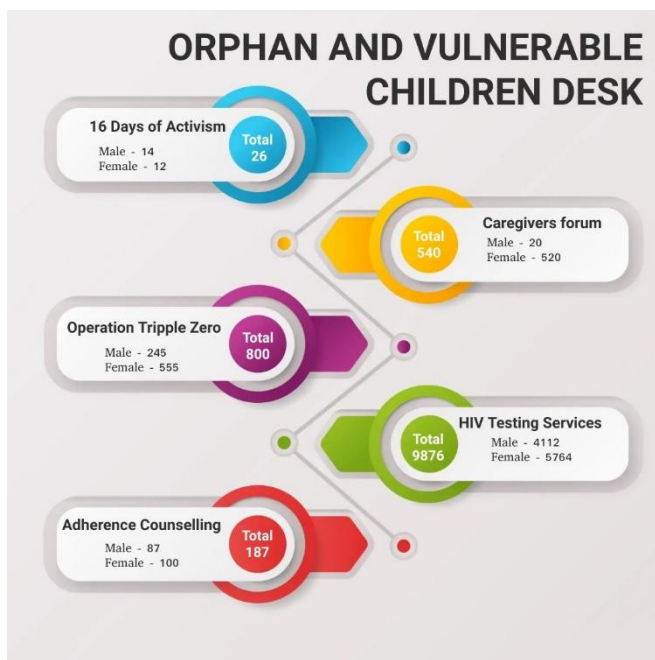


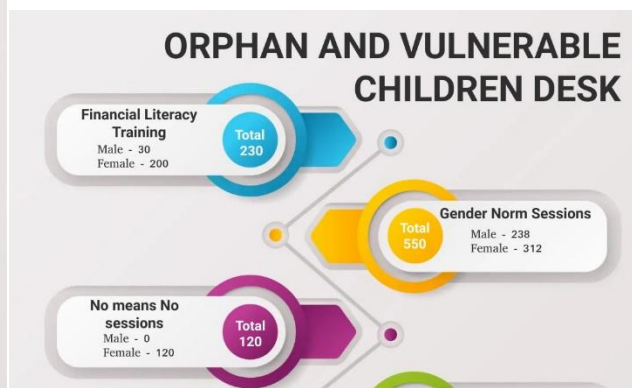
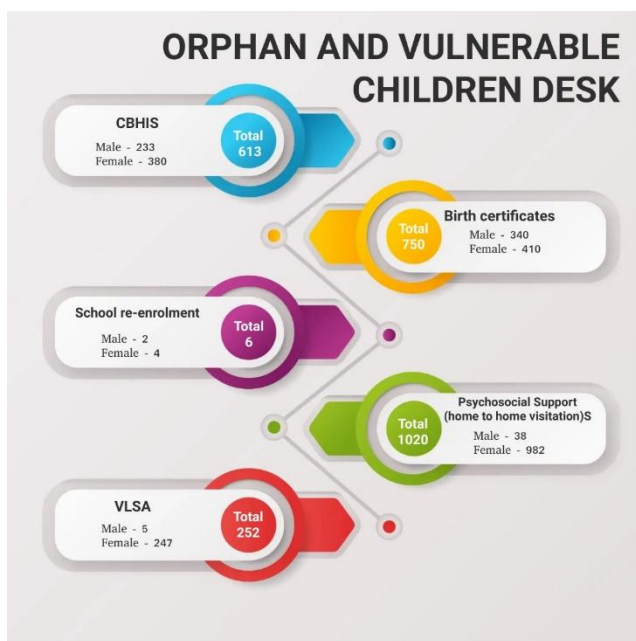
Engaging the participants in energizers during the No means No classes



No means No classes on going

resulting in student-advocate educated and equipped with the necessary tools to navigate interpersonal relationships, address issues related to consent as well as prevent sexual violence





MICRO-CREDIT DESK

The micro-credit program operates within the coverage area of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, providing revolving and repayable small short-term loans coupled with business empowerment training to active poor farmers and traders. The goal of the scheme is to empower individuals and families through micro-enterprise development, thereby contributing to poverty reduction in families, communities and society in general.

To achieve this goal, Uromi JDPCI continued her economic support to rural farmers and petty traders across the five Local Government Areas in Edo Central Senatorial District. In the year under review, a total of fifty-two disbursements were made to fifty two different groups within the year out of which forty five were farmers groups while seven were petty traders' groups. It is important to also note that fourteen of these groups with 100 members were new groups (11 farmers' groups and 3 petty traders' groups) formed within the year. The farmers groups were supported with soft loans to expand their farms while the petty traders groups were supported to expand their businesses.



The entire scheme currently has a total number of 88 active groups with 782 persons accessing loans to enhance their livelihood opportunities.

The repayment within the period was quite encouraging and Uromi JDPCI is grateful to the various groups for their solidarity and urged them to cooperate with the organization and show more commitment to repayment that could possibly qualify them for another round of loans.

During monitoring activity, the team visited some beneficiaries one of which fries and sells Akara (Bean Cake) as a business re-established with the soft loan received from Uromi JDPCI. According to her, before her encounter with Uromi JDPCI, she was out of the business owing to financial constraints necessitated by the economic hardship and desired to restart the Akara business because such business was not available in her area but did not have any assistance until she met Uromi JDPCI. She was given the sum of N50,000 as well as other members of her Group. While affirming that she is experiencing tremendous growth in the Akara business as her customer base is now about 40 customers per day, she stated that her family's living condition has improved. She expressed gratitude in singing to Uromi JDPCI for their benevolence and initiative to improve the livelihood of the people in Esan Land, that is, Edo Central Senatorial District.



Similarly, a beneficiary empowered through the Agric PROMIC scheme noted that prior to his involvement with Uromi JDPCI, he used to grapple with the challenge of expanding his business and increasing profitability due to lack of access to financing for his farming enterprise. At that time, he and other group members received the sum of N50,000, from then, a positive transformation in his business began. Since then,



he has received an increasing sum of loan overtime and his farming operations has expanded from cultivating 500 hectares of land to an impressive 1,000 hectares. This expansion led to abundant harvests, providing enough produce for his family's consumption and surplus for sale. The remarkable improvements in his life attracted the attention of fellow farmers in his community, who were eager to learn about his success and exceptional performance compared to other farmers in the area. The beneficiaries shared information about Uromi JDPCI and the valuable services it offers. This newfound interest among other farmers in his community eventually led to the formation of four farmers' groups in the community made up of over 43 members.



In the same vein, the Secretary of Akugbe group 1 in the idoa community expressed their success story on behalf of the group since their association with Uromi JDPCI. Prior to their engagement with Uromi JDPCI, they were forced to borrow from another group that imposed a staggering interest rate on all borrowed amounts. Due to their lack of funds for their farming business, they had no alternative but to continue with this arrangement. This practice hindered their business growth, as the profits from their products were primarily used to repay these loans. They could only set aside a small portion of their produce for personal use and their immediate families. Their



introduction to Uromi JDPCI came through one of their chiefs, who had experienced remarkable growth in his



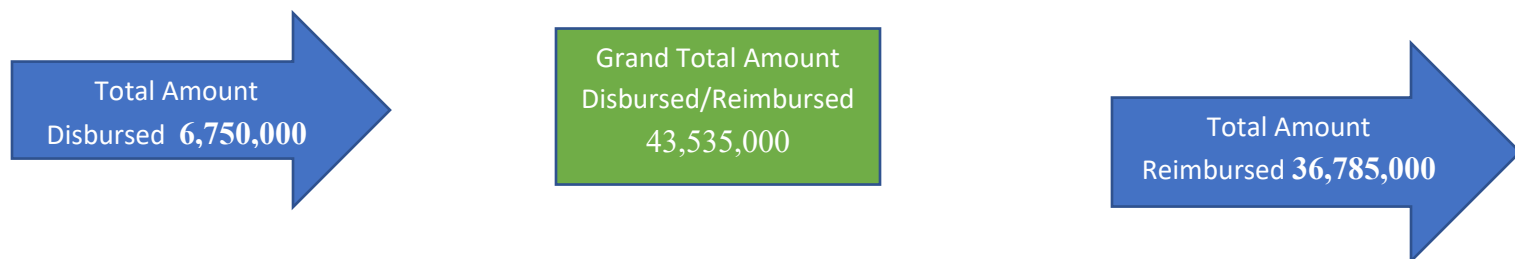
own farming business as a beneficiary of Uromi JDPCI. He recommended Uromi JDPCI to them, and after a thorough assessment, they qualified and gained access to a soft loan. Since their association with Uromi JDPCI, their farming business has thrived significantly. This growth has led to higher profitability and an improved standard of living for all group members.

DISBURSEMENT FOR YEAR 2023

Group Micro credit and Agric Micro Credit	Number of New Group 7	Amount Disbursed 4,100,000
Agric Promic	Number of New Group 4	Amount Disbursed 1,700,000
PROMIC 1	Number of New Group 2	Amount Disbursed 500,000
PROMIC 2	Number of New Group 1	Amount Disbursed 450,000

REIMBURSEMENT FOR YEAR 2023

Group Micro credit and Agric Micro Credit	Number of Existing Group 20	Amount Reimbursed 20,415,000
Agric Promic	Number of Existing Group 14	Amount Reimbursed 15,300,00
PROMIC 1	0	No Reimbursed
PROMIC 2	Number of Existing Group 4	Amount Reimbursed 1,070,000



Expression of Gratitude

Members of the scheme expressed appreciation to Uromi JDPCI for the opportunity to benefit from the loan scheme, pledging continued adherence to the rules. They also expressed gratitude to Uromi JDPCI for their assistance in addressing issues related to pests on farms crops. They narrated how their crops were steadily damaged by pests, until they received training on pest control from Uromi JDPCI, during which they gained valuable knowledge about the appropriate pesticides to use for pest control in their farms. The said that after participating in the training the quality of their farm produce has significantly improved.

CORRECTIONAL CENTER APOSTOLATE

The Correctional Centre Apostolate of Uromi JDPCI is saddled with the responsibility of promoting the human dignity of inmates in the correctional center through the provision of spiritual and legal counselling. Uromi JDPCI also provided some welfare services for the inmates as well as extend a hand of support to them during festive periods such as easter, and Christmas when Christmas party and carol was organized for the inmates as an avenue to spread love to them.

Spiritual and Legal Counselling: Uromi JDPCI visited the Ubiaja Correctional Center six times within the year to provide spiritual and legal counselling fo inmates. The spiritual counselling were provided by Rev Fr Ferguson Ukpebor while the legal counselling was done by the legal officers Theresa Odion and Agatha Aletor.



Fr Ferguson Ukpebor, Deputy Controller with staff of the Correctional centre

The emphases of spiritual counselling were on the need for a change of heart while working on themselves. The sessions

used appropriate Biblical references to explain the need to keep their hopes alive and transform themselves in the Correctional Center to become better persons in society.



Fr Ferguson ukpebor speaking to the inmates during counseling

A passionate appeal to inmates to refrain from crime and imbibe a Christian way of life when they eventually get their freedom and not to be in any position where they would be rearrested as outlaws. He admonished innocent and falsely accused, to leave vengeance to God

Welfare Services

Easter Visit to Ubiaja Correctional Center

As part of the determination to sustain support to the Inmates Uromi JDPCI presented food items on behalf of the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Most Rev Dr. Donatus Ogun to inmates in the Ubiaja Correctional Center. The items were sourced from the gift presented to the Bishop during the Cathedraicium held at Ubiaja Deanery. This annual gesture is an initiative of the Uromi JDPCI to support the welfare of the inmates at Ubiaja Correctional Center which is also in tune with the Church's teaching to offer gifts to those in need during the Lenten season. The items that were presented to the inmates through the welfare officer, James Obhakhobor, include; 3 bags of Garri, 17 tubers of yam, 10 liters of Palm Oil, 3 Pineapples, 2 sachets of salt (one small sachet and one big sachet), 59 balls of Onions, 6 Tins of Tomatoes, 6 Milk Cups of Ogbono Seeds, Half bunch of plantain and 2 big Sachets of Good Mama detergent



The Welfare Officer of the Correctional Center Officer James Obhakhobor, thanked the team and promised to use the items judiciously for the benefit of the inmates in the correctional center.

Annual Christmas Party with Inmates

The Executive Director, Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo and the entire staff of Uromi JDPCI in collaboration with the family of Engineer M.B Amedu, organized Christmas party celebration for 308 inmates and Staff in the Ubiaja Correctional



Center on the 13th of December, 2023.



greater part of the lessons. While Uromi JDPCI choir sang melodious Christmas carols. The Christmas message was centered on Love, with emphasis on the need to spread love during the

Christmas season and beyond as a sign of true Christianity. The inmates were also encouraged to continuously hope in God and look out for the lessons Christ wants to teach them through the current phase in their lives. The family of Engr Amedu supported the Christmas party with food, drinks and water which were shared for the 308 inmates at the center at the time of the visit. Uromi JDPCI further presented some items: a Sewing Machine, 4 Pressing Irons, 5 rechargeable clippers, and personal toiletries such as 308 body cream, 308 toothbrush and paste, 308 bathing soap as well as drugs requested by the correctional health center for the benefit of the inmates.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Uromi JDPCI's commitment to mitigate the impact of climate change and promote practices that aid protection of our environment in Edo Central Senatorial District, led to the tree planting campaign and sensitization on the effects of bush burning and indiscriminate waste management in five communities. To



Planting of orange seedlings in the chancery compound

further demonstrate the relevance of the campaign, Uromi JDPCI procured 162 fruit seedlings which were distributed across Parish community for planting. The fruit seedling comprising 112 oranges, 4



The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI/Parish Priest of St. Theresa

tangerines, 4 grapes, 8 soursops, 6 mango and 2 guava. The campaign also saw the planting of 15 flowers to

serve as erosion control and wind breakers.

PARISH JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION

Uromi JDPCI carried out sensitization and awareness creation on the workings of Uromi JDPCI, the need to have a functional JDPC in all the Parishes/Mass Centers in Uromi Diocese, and seek membership and collaboration. This was done in seven Parishes namely, St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ukoni with 10 (4 Males, 6 Females) persons, and St. Patrick Catholic Church, Ebhoiyi with 9 (1 Male and 8 Females), Corpus Christi Catholic Church Emiala 12 (5M 7F), Church of the Nativity of Mary, Uhiele 9 (7M 2F), St. Mary Catholic Ibore 13 (1M 12F), Christ the king Opoji 8 (6F, 2M) and St. Augustine Ukuesan 35(25M, 10F).



Sensitization in St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ukoni

with a cumulative total of 96 (48M,48F) indicating interest in joining the group.

The activity was preceded by the Holy Mass, and Uromi JDPCI teams were given the opportunity to address the parishioners during an announcement in all the Masses during which the parishioners were taken through Uromi JDPCI areas of interventions which are; Good Governance, Human Rights, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Migration/Anti Human trafficking, Health, legal/correctional Center, and Environment and Climate Change amongst others. The team thereafter sought their cooperation and collaboration in cascading of the outlined thematic areas. The functions of the Parish JDPC were to settle disputes among families or community members, advocate for development, and sensitize the community on the aforementioned areas.



Sensitization in St. Patrick Catholic Church, Ebhoiyi

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES

Professional Retreat and Fiscal Year Commencement: In commencing the 2023/2024 fiscal year, a 2-day professional retreat was carried out for all Staff of Uromi JDPCI on the 5th and 6th of January, 2023 at Sacred Heart Convent Atani, Uromi with the theme “Workers Life of integrity and Self Discovery

Staff weekly and monthly review meetings: A total of 47 meetings were held within the period.; where weekly plans were discussed and issues of concerns resolved.

Also, 12 monthly review meetings were executed and featured presentation of reports and review on monthly work plan

Staff Capacity Enhancement: Uromi JDPCI proactively invested in staff development to enhance both individual and institutional capacities through engagement in diverse range of training programs spanning critical areas such as sub-granting, participatory appraisal for competitive advantage, gender-based violence reporting, election observation, and the utilization of election mobile apps, comprehensive workshops covering the National Policy on Protection Assistance to Trafficked Persons and protocols for identification, safe handling, return, and rehabilitation of trafficked individuals, Monitoring and Evaluation and Proposal Development, Human Rights-based Approach to Migration, Operationalizing Strategic Plans, Data Visualization, Advocacy Campaigns, Report Writing/Storytelling and Documentation as well as online trainings on change management and risk management with a number of webinar sessions around setting up Monitoring and Evaluation Systems in Organizations, Prioritizing investments in gender-based violence prevention: Accelerator for gender equality, Community Led monitoring: Issues and strategies, Alternative to donor funding, Best practices in Sexual and Gender Based Violence

(SGBV) Prevention and Response Programming, Interactive session on mental wellbeing of SGBV case workers, Artificial Intelligence and Organizational Strengthening Opportunities, Resource Mobilization Strategies for CSOs amongst others.

Collectively, these trainings and webinars have significantly elevated staff performance and has enhanced the overall impact of our programs.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, our organization actively engaged in various institutional strengthening activities to enhance our overall capacity and effectiveness. Key initiatives included:

Board Training: The Board of Trustees of Uromi JDPCI underwent a two -day comprehensive training on Board governance, functionality, and roles of the Board. This training was supported by SCALE (Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement) Palladium, aimed to empower our leadership with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective governance.

Board Meeting: We convened two Board Statutory meetings. These gatherings served as pivotal moments for the Board of Trustees to deliberate on critical matters, make strategic decisions, and ensure alignment with statutory requirements. The frequency and purpose of these meetings underscore our commitment to transparent governance and effective oversight, providing a structured platform for key stakeholders to contribute to the organizational direction and success.

Onsite Status Update Visit: The SCALE team conducted an onsite visit to provide a status update, focusing on our progress in implementing recommendations from a previous Organizational Capacity Assessment. This visit served as a valuable opportunity to assess and address gaps identified during the initial assessment.

Orientation on Civil Society Self-Regulatory Framework: Uromi JDPCI participated in an orientation session that delved into the Modalities and Mechanisms of Civil Society Organization (CSO) Self-Regulation. Supported by the European Union Agents for Citizen-driven Transformation (ACT) and USAID Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) Programs, this initiative aim to establish common standards for CSOs, emphasizing accountability and efficacy both internally and externally.

A significant outcome of this exercise was Uromi JDPCI's subscription to the self-regulatory framework, leading to the development of an action plan across three modalities: Information Service, Code of Conduct, and Self-Assessment. This strategic move signifies our commitment to implementing Civil Society Self-Regulation in Nigeria.

Policy Development and Review: Over the course of the year, we achieved significant milestones in policy management. Five new policies were developed—Volunteer Management, Branding and Marking, Documentation Strategy, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Policy, and Change Management Policy. Simultaneously, we conducted comprehensive reviews of existing policies.

These endeavors were undertaken to fortify our organizational systems and processes, fostering heightened accountability and ensuring alignment with international best practices. The commitment to robust policy development and continuous refinement underscores our dedication to excellence and adherence to the highest standards within the global context.

These institutional strengthening activities reflect our dedication to continuous improvement and adherence to best practices, positioning Uromi JDPCI as a more robust and accountable organization within the civil society landscape.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Challenges:

1. There is a high level of conservative attitude to cultural practices that engenders gender inequalities across most of the communities in Edo Central Senatorial District.
2. The strong belief in the spiritual repercussions for actions or inactions committed by community elders
3. The fusion of traditional practices with religious rites such that there is no clear dichotomy between cultural practices and religious rites. This very often causes friction in the communities
4. The non-codification of customary laws and practices in the communities which exposes the laws to varying interpretations

LESSONS LEARNED AND IMPROVEMENT MADE

In the course of the year, Uromi JDPCI learned some lessons across the various interventions implemented

In the Human Right Education and Paralegal Scheme, it was learned that the community leaders' conservative attitude to change was due to fear of ancestral repercussions. They believe strongly that their cultural and traditional practices were bequeathed to them by their progenitors as such they must practice them as they were given, less they would be punished by their ancestors. The project also learned that most of these beliefs and practices that they hold tenaciously were the ones that concern women and girls whereas the ones that concern men could easily be changed or reversed with consultations and sacrifices to their ancestors. For instance, the consequence for adultery was reversed from the death or affliction of a husband to that of the wife who commits adultery. The list of items for the burial of parents and the list of items accompanying the bride price for marriage continues to increase without consultation with the ancestors but forced levirate marriage and widow inheritance remain issues that require consultation with the gods as such cannot be changed.

Sustained dialogue is recommended to address these gender inequalities in cultural practices across communities in Edo Central Senatorial District.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Goals and objectives for the year 2024 and the strategic priorities and focus areas are captured below

PROGRAMMATIC AREA	TARGET FOR 2024
Good Governance	• Hold 2 strategic engagements with 20 relevant political stakeholders on issues of governance and service delivery by political leaders • Conduct 2 trainings for at least 100 members of animated groups on issues of governance • Engage 10 communities on issues of governance with 1000 community members reached. • Mobilize 25 animated Groups to engage at least 500 community stakeholders on issues of democratic dividends and community development. • Organize 5 Town hall meetings at LGA level with community, religious and political leaders (Eminent stakeholders Forum) to demand accountability of stewardship from elected leaders, reaching 250 persons • Train 100 persons on voter's education • Convey 1 peace accord /community surveillance sessions with 100 stakeholders reached • Train 50 Persons on election observation and deploy same for election observation across 50 wards in Edo Central Senatorial District • Conduct 5 roundtable discussions with political leaders on budget drafting, monitoring and tracking aimed at presenting the needs of community members to their political leaders • Undertake 5 Advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders on issues of governance and human rights.
Health/OVC (Orphan and Vulnerable Children)	• Conduct 5 HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and its associated stigmatization with 2,000 persons reached • Conduct community and index HIV testing for 2,500 persons with at least 5 identified cases linked to treatment • Conduct community Adherence counselling for 200 virally unsuppressed persons and link them to facilities for Enhanced Adherence counselling (EAC) • Provide vocational skill training to 200 caregivers • Train 200 caregivers on financial literacy • Provide conditional cash transfers to 10 Caregivers • Provide basic and secondary educational support to 10 OVC • Connect 300 children to secure birth certificates • Link 600 Caregivers and children to secure health insurance • Train 250 caregivers on home gardening and provide them with agricultural inputs • Conduct two Tuberculosis (TB) sensitization, reaching 500 individuals and facilitate screening for 500 persons, with at least two cases identified and linked to treatment • Facilitate access to treatment and care for two tuberculosis (TB) patients, and offer them two adherence counseling sessions.

	• Conduct 2 awareness and sensitization on general health issues, Malaria, diabetes, hypertension, Obesity, Cervical cancer, Prostrate cancer, and breast cancer, reaching 400 persons • Organize 2 screening session for hypertension, diabetics and obesity with 400 persons reached • Conduct four awareness campaigns on hygienic practices, focusing on topics such as safe drinking water, handwashing moments, and environmental sanitation. Aim to reach a target audience of 2000 individuals • Refurbish 1 public toilet facility
Livelihood	• Conduct baseline survey in 4 rural communities to assess their farming needs • Enhance knowledge and skills of 1000 farmers on effective farming system • Form 75 Farmers sub groups • Provide vocational training to 20 vulnerable young people and women • Equip 20 youths and women with entrepreneurial development skills • Assess 20 indigent households to determine levels of household vulnerability and support needed. • Provide 20 vulnerable households and 20 Youths across with economic strengthening activities
Human Rights	• Conduct research on codification of customary laws • Provide 200 counselling services on human rights/ SGBV issues • Resolve 50 human rights/GBV conflict through Alternative Dispute Resolution • Refer 5 Human rights/ SGBV cases for litigation • Hold 5 community sensitization meetings on human rights conducted, reaching at least 500 persons across 30 communities • Hold 108 Sensitization sessions on human rights in at least 26 selected schools, reaching 2700 school children • Conduct 4 learning and experience sharing session with 140 human rights paralegals • Carry out 12 Community Engagement meeting on emerging human right issues, reaching 240 Stakeholders • Hold 3 strategic advocacy engagements with security Agents to foster effective human rights case management • Conduct 1 strategic advocacy engagement with the Ministry of Justice to strengthen partnership in the protection of human rights
Migration and Countering Trafficking Persons in	• Conduct 22 Awareness and sensitization programs on the ills of TIP and the need for safe migration in 12 communities and 10 schools, reaching at least 500 persons reached • Conduct 10 advocacies with relevant stakeholders towards establishment of local response structure and get at least 5 stakeholders commit to the ask. • 15 community dialogue sessions held in 15 communities of Edo State • 500 prominent community stakeholders reached • Conduct 5 community dialogue sessions in 5 communities of Edo State on forging local solutions and way forward in curbing human trafficking in

	communities. A target of 100 prominent community stakeholders to be reached • Hold 2 caregivers for a, reaching 96 caregivers with better parenting skills, geared at prevention of human trafficking • Commemorate world day against human trafficking with a target to reach 300 persons • Establish and train Adolescent Anti Human Trafficking clubs in 10 schools and 10 communities • Provide economic strengthening activities to 5 vulnerable households through their caregivers and 5 Youths • provide educational support to 5 children for school retention and see 2 out of school children re-admitted back to school • Establish 10 community child protection groups and build their capacity for rapid response to Human Trafficking issues, seeing at least 10 cases handled or escalated to appropriate bodies by the groups • Provide 5 Survivors with emergency support • Facilitate Family tracing and reunification activities for 10 returned Migrants including 2 phased home visitations for effective reintegration • Hold 2 reintegration counselling and group discussions sessions targeted at building resilience and self-development of returned Migrants • Conduct 5 advocacies to relevant stakeholders towards activation of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund and its Committee and gain buy-in and support OF THE stakeholders • Hold 2 consultative sessions for the operationalization of the victims of trafficking trust fund • Link 10 Survivors to support groups and facilitate 1 mentorship session with 2 existing support groups • Provide economic reintegration and entrepreneurial development skills to 10 returnees • Support 1 returned migrant to pursue basic and secondary education based on needs • Refer 5 cases of Human Trafficking to NAPTIP, ETAHT • Commemorate the International Day of Prayer against human trafficking
SGBV/CEFM	• Conduct 5 sensitization meetings on human rights, SGBVs and CEFM with at least 30 communities and 500 persons reached • Conduct 108 Sensitization sessions on SGBVs and CEFM in 27 selected schools, reaching at least 2700 school children • Conduct 24 Community dialogues across the 5 LGAs on SGBV/ CEFM cases • Conduct 12 Awareness campaign on mainstream and social media on issues of SGBV/ CEFM and their case management • Conduct 1 public awareness rally against SGBV/ CEFM • Convey 4 strategic Advocacy visits to relevant MDAs to establish and strengthen Partnership on SGBV/ CEFM case management • Populate SGBV cases to the GBV Dash Board • Establish 5 referral pathways for essential case tracking & management

	• Provide 1 capacity building for security agents, LGA Social Welfare Department and Personnel of Government Hospitals (50 Stakeholders) in total; on effective case management of SGBV/CEFM cases • Make 10 referral of SGBV and CEFM Cases and assist Survivors to access justice at low or no cost • Hold 5 caregivers fora across 5 LGAs to improve knowledge and skill in the protection and prevention of SGBV/CEFM • Empower 15 caregivers with income generating activities for Enhanced livelihood options and income; hence they are less vulnerable to SGBV/CEFM • Refer 10 Survivors of SGBV to government hospitals for treatment at subsidized cost • Provide first-point counselling services to 10 Survivors of SGBV and refer 10 SGBV Survivors to Professional counsellors for psychosocial support
Legal/Correctional Centre Apostolate	• Conduct 5 legal counselling sessions with 20 Inmates that have minor offences. • Provide legal representation for 2 Inmates with minor offences without legal representation • Hold 10 sessions of spiritual counselling with Inmates and 1 catechism towards Baptism • Facilitate Biannual distribution of food items and welfare provision for Inmates at the Ubiaja Correctional Centre
Micro Credit	• Conduct 50 Entrepreneurship and financial literacy training session for 1000 beneficiaries across 50 communities • Form 20 Farmers and petty traders sub groups • Provide credit facility to 100 farmers and petty traders sub groups • Build Capacity of a 100 self-help groups on the benefit of cooperatives society
Environment and Climate Change	• Create awareness on the effect of bush burning, deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels in 10 communities, reaching 750 individuals • Create awareness on the use of renewable energy in 10 communities, reaching 750 individuals • Link 10 adopters to renewable sources of energy • Conduct awareness campaign on the benefit of tree cover in 10 communities, reaching 750 persons • Distribute and plant 200 tree/fruit seedlings in 10 communities • Conduct awareness campaign on waste management in 10 communities, reaching 750 persons • Conduct 1 training on waste management with 50 persons trained on use of waste techniques.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

S/N	PROJECT	GOAL	FUNDER	INCOME (NGN)			EXPENDITURE (NGN)	VARIANCE	BURN RATE (%)
				BALANCE B/F	GRANT RECEIVED	TOTAL			
1	Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme Project	To contribute towards an improved peaceful co-existence of the village community and promote social justice and respect for human rights	MISEREOR	691,128	43,875,388	44,566,516	41,192,782	3,373,734	92.43%
2	Strengthening Community Participation to Prevent Human Trafficking (SCOPPH-T) Project	An enlightened community with improved soci-economic capacity to reduce the vulnerability of youths to human trafficking and irregular migration by 2024	Expertise France	4,785.09	20,979,200	20,983,985.09	20,890,380.02	93,605.07	99.55%
3	Don't Pay With Your Life (DPWYL) Project	To end trafficking in human beings and more specifically protecting young women from Edo State from trafficking of human beings and exploitation among in school girls	ECPAT France and Luxembourg	1,314,140.27	5,699,748.96	7,013,889.23	7,012,788.21	1,101.02	99.98%
4	ACT against Child Trafficking in NiGeria (AaCTING) Project	Aims to significantly reduce the prevalence of child trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation in Edo and Delta State	ECPAT France and Luxembourg	1,801.02	40,215,700	40,217,501.02	9,799,263.25	30,418,237.77	24.37%
5	Galvanize Action for Effective Trafficking in Persons Response at the Local Government Level in Edo State (GATIP) - SCALE Project	Activate and Institutionalize Trafficking in Persons Response at the Local Government Level of Edo State.	Palladium	4,153,412.32	53,362,334.2	57,515,746.52	50,980,610.6	6,535,135.92	88.64%

6	Community Mobilization and Engagement for Transparency, Accountability and Sustainable Governance in Edo Central Senatorial District Project	There is improved community participation in Governance for accountability, transparency and effective service delivery	British Council		704,531.34	830,033	1,534,564.34	1,532,485.72	12,078.62	99.86%
7	Integrated Child Health and Social Service Award (ICHSSA 2) Project	To mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) and their caregivers in Lagos and Edo States.	ARFH	Institutional Support Fund	29,563.75	15,610,667.56	15,640,231.31	15,516,160.46	124,070.85	99.21
				Program activity fund	5,427.25	4,366,394.25	4,371,821.50	4,366,350.50	5,471.00	99.87
8	Micro Credit Scheme	Provision of soft loans and entrepreneurial training to generate income and promote business self confidence for sustainable livelihood	Uromi JDPCI	PROMIC 1	13,003.00	836,140.00	849,143.00	627,563.00	221,580.00	73.91
				MICRO CREDIT	613,362.00	28,363,450.00	28,976,812.00	27,774,728.00	1,202,084.00	95.85
			Swiss hand Foundation	PROMIC 2	74,989.00	2,622,274.00	2,697,263.00	2,403,810.00	293,453.00	89.12
				AGRIC PROMIC	473,477.00	21,617,600.00	22,091,077.00	20,866,069.00	1,225,008.00	94.45
9	Other Sources	A just and developed Society where people co-exist in peace	Uromi Diocese and others		731,599.34	72,828,375.94	73,559,975.28	71,801,824.58	1,758,150.70	97.61
	TOTAL				8,811,219.38	311,207,305.91	320,018,525.29	274,764,815.34	45,253,709.95	85.86

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