



UROMI JDPCI Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of Uromi Justice, Development and Peace Caritas Initiative (JDPCI) VOL. 39 NO. 47 JUNE, 2026 EDITION

INTRODUCTION

The second quarter of 2026 marked a significant milestone in the journey of Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) as the organisation celebrated 20 years of advancing justice, promoting human dignity, and empowering vulnerable communities. While reflecting on two decades of transformative impact, the quarter also demonstrated that Uromi JDPCI's commitment to building resilient, inclusive, and rights-respecting communities continues to grow stronger through innovative programmes and strategic partnerships.

Across its Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme, Uromi JDPCI strengthened community-based protection systems, empowered adolescents to recognize and report abuse, enhanced access to justice through Community Human Rights Groups, and deepened collaboration with government institutions and traditional leaders to safeguard the rights of women and children.

Through the Migration and Countering Trafficking Programme, Uromi JDPCI intensified efforts to prevent human trafficking by strengthening community child protection structures, building institutional collaboration, empowering Child Champion Clubs, and supporting the rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration of trafficking survivors, reaffirming that every child deserves safety, dignity, and opportunity.

The Custodial Centre Apostolate continued to

restore hope to inmates through psychosocial support, legal counselling, spiritual formation, and family reunification, while the Micro Credit Scheme expanded economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers by combining affordable finance with financial literacy and mentoring to strengthen livelihoods.

At the grassroots, the Parish Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) strengthened faith-based leadership for peacebuilding and social transformation, while the Environment and Climate Change Programme inspired communities, schools, and institutions to embrace environmental stewardship through awareness campaigns, waste management initiatives, and tree planting activities that contribute to climate resilience and the protection of our common home.

The Good Governance Desk also advanced democratic participation by promoting civic and voter education, encouraging informed citizen engagement, and fostering peaceful participation ahead of the Edo State Local Government Council Elections.

This edition of our newsletter captures these inspiring stories of transformation, resilience, and partnership. Together, they reflect Uromi JDPCI's enduring belief that lasting development is achieved when communities are empowered, institutions collaborate, and every individual is given the opportunity to live with dignity, justice, and hope.

UROMI JDPCI 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating Two Decades of Transforming Lives, Promoting Justice, and Building Hope

For twenty years, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) has stood alongside vulnerable communities, championing human rights, protecting children, promoting peace, and empowering thousands of individuals across Edo Central Senatorial District and beyond. On 20 May 2026, the organisation paused to celebrate this remarkable journey, bringing together partners, supporters, and beneficiaries

whose collective efforts have shaped two decades of lasting social impact.

The 20th Anniversary Celebration, held at the Catholic Chancery

Complex, Egbele-Uromi, attracted approximately 500 participants, including government officials, religious and traditional leaders, development partners, civil society organisations, financial institutions, volunteers, community-based structures, former staff members, and friends of the organisation. Their presence reflected the strong partnerships that have sustained Uromi JDPCI's mission of advancing justice, peace, human dignity, and sustainable community development over the years.

The celebration commenced with a Thanksgiving Mass presided over by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi, Most Rev. Dr Donatus Ogun, OSA. He offered gratitude for the organisation's achievements while renewing its commitment to serving the poor, vulnerable,



UROMI JDPCI 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	Faith-Based Non-Governmental, Non-For-Profit, 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, Correctional Center Apostolate and Legal Aid services, Peace Building, Micro-Credit, and Caritas, TB and HIV/AIDS care and support, HIV Counseling and testing, Livelihood and Food Security, Migration and Countering Trafficking in Person, and OVC 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, Galvanize Action for Effective Trafficking in Persons Response, Act Against Child Trafficking in Nigeria
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.
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Bankers	· UBA BANK PLC · Unity Bank PLC - Mission Road, Uromi Mission Road Uromi · ECOBANK PLC · Union Bank PLC - Mission Road, Uromi Mission Road Uromi · FIDELITY BANK PLC · Zenith PLC - Mission Road, Uromi Mission Road, Uromi
Staff Strength	22
Registered Volunteers	72
Project Executed	30

and marginalized. The liturgical celebration reminded participants that faith, justice, and compassion remain at the heart of Uromi JDPCI's work.



reflected the organisation's belief that lasting development is achieved through strong partnerships and shared responsibility.

One of the defining moments of the anniversary was the launch of two landmark publications: the Uromi JDPCI Legacy Book and the Esan Codes of Common Laws and Practices. While the Legacy Book chronicles the organisation's twenty-year journey of service and impact, the codification of Esan customary laws represents a significant contribution to preserving cultural heritage while encouraging dialogue on justice, equity, and community development.

Extensive media coverage, commemorative publications, branded materials, and goodwill messages from partners further amplified the celebration, highlighting the organisation's growing influence in promoting human rights, child protection, peacebuilding, environmental sustainability, and community development across Edo State.

The anniversary also celebrated the individuals and institutions whose dedication has helped shape the organisation's success. Thirty-four distinguished awards were presented to religious leaders, members of the Board of Trustees, development partners, former staff, and long-standing collaborators in recognition of their exceptional leadership, financial support, loyalty, and sustained commitment to the mission of Uromi JDPCI. These honours

More than a celebration of past accomplishments, the anniversary marked the beginning of a new chapter. It reaffirmed Uromi JDPCI's unwavering commitment to working alongside communities, government institutions, traditional and religious leaders, development partners, and volunteers to build a more just, peaceful, inclusive, and resilient society. As Uromi JDPCI embarks on its next decade of service, the celebration served as both a tribute to an inspiring legacy and a renewed call to transform even more lives through justice, compassion, and hope.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PARALEGAL SCHEME ADOLESCENT HUMAN RIGHTS CLUBS

Adolescent Human Rights Clubs Empower Students to Speak Up Against Abuse

When a student at Ujoelen Grammar School found the courage to report the physical abuse of a child in her community, she was putting into practice lessons learned through her school's Adolescent Human Rights Club. Her timely disclosure led to the referral of the case to the Community Human Rights Group for follow-up, demonstrating how knowledge can inspire action and protect vulnerable children.

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) conducted quarterly Human Rights Learning Sessions in 28 secondary schools across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District of Edo State. A total of 445 students participated in the sessions, which focused



on helping adolescents recognize different forms of abuse, understand their rights, and confidently seek help through trusted reporting channels. Using storytelling, case studies, guided discussions, and

peer-learning activities, students explored issues such as physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, neglect, exploitation, and the importance of speaking up when rights are violated. The sessions went beyond classroom learning to inspire meaningful action within schools and communities. At Ewatto Grammar School, a Human Rights Club member successfully convinced the parents of a friend to allow the girl to return to school after she had been withdrawn from her education. At Obeidu Secondary School, club members established a peer-support platform with their teacher

coordinator to sustain discussions on child protection and human rights throughout the school year. Participants also shared how previous learning sessions had influenced their behaviour. Many reported actively discouraging bullying, promoting respectful relationships among classmates, and supporting peers experiencing abuse or neglect. Others said they had taken the conversations home, discussing children's rights with siblings, parents, and neighbours, thereby extending the programme's impact beyond the classroom.

This ripple effect was particularly evident at Sacred Heart High School, where club members pledged to regularly share lessons from each session with other students. Based



on participants' feedback, it is estimated that each student reached an additional three to five people within their families, schools, and communities, significantly expanding

awareness of child rights and protection.

The continued success of the Adolescent Human Rights Clubs demonstrates that young people are not only capable of understanding their rights but can also become powerful advocates for safer schools and stronger communities. The project's initiative to equip students with the confidence to recognize abuse, report violations, and support one another is helping to build a generation of informed young leaders committed to protecting the rights and dignity of every child.

QUARTERLY MEETING WITH PARALEGALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CLUBS

Community Human Rights Defenders Strengthen Access to Justice Across Edo Central Senatorial District

When a vulnerable child in Ewatto was forced out of school because of financial hardship, members of the Community Human Rights Group did more than sympathize; they mobilized about ₦45,000 to return the child to the classroom. In Okalo, two boys trafficked from Benue State and exploited as domestic servants were rescued, enrolled in school, and reunited with appropriate caregivers. These are just a few examples of how community volunteers are transforming lives through timely intervention and collective action.

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), convened its Quarterly Review Meetings with paralegals and human rights advocates across the five LGAs of Edo Central Senatorial District. (Esan Central, Esan West, Esan North East, Esan South East, and Igueben Local Government Areas) of Edo State. The meetings brought together 425 participants, including Community Human Rights Paralegals and Advocates, traditional rulers, representatives of the Nigeria Police Force, Social Welfare Departments, legal practitioners, and other stakeholders to assess progress, strengthen collaboration, and improve community-based responses to human rights violations. The review highlighted the growing effectiveness of Community Human Rights Groups in responding to rights violations and expanding access to justice at the grassroots. During the quarter, the 36 human rights groups handled 203 interventions and support services, including 96 case-based interventions, nine non-case issues, and 98 direct support services to vulnerable individuals and families. Sexual violence against children remained one of the most disturbing concerns. Eight rape cases involving minors were documented across the project communities.

In Eguare-Ekpoma alone, three separate incidents affected five children, including two sisters aged five and three years. Other reported cases involved rape survivors in Amedokhian, Amahor, Ukoni, and Ewohimi. Community Human Rights Groups worked closely with the Police and relevant authorities to ensure survivors received support while criminal investigations and prosecutions commenced. In some communities, the groups continued monitoring cases where suspects attempted to evade justice.

Domestic violence remained the most frequently reported human rights violation, with 26 cases recorded across several communities. Through mediation, counselling, and referrals, Community Human Rights Groups helped resolve family conflicts, supported survivors of abuse, and encouraged perpetrators to abandon violent behaviour. Cases involving prolonged abuse, threats to life, and violence against women were referred to law enforcement

agencies where criminal action was required. Protecting children's right to education also featured prominently during the quarter. Ten children who had dropped out of school due

to poverty, neglect, or family disputes were successfully returned to school through advocacy, mediation, and community support. In Illeh, local volunteers raised funds to pay school fees for three children at risk of dropping out, demonstrating the power of community solidarity in safeguarding children's futures.

Neglect and abandonment emerged as the second most common category of reported violations, with 23 cases recorded. Community Human Rights Groups mediated family disputes, reunited abandoned children with relatives, and persuaded absent parents to resume their responsibilities. Where necessary, temporary care and protection were arranged while long-term solutions were pursued. The review also showcased encouraging progress in combating child labour and human trafficking. Nine cases of child labour and one case of human trafficking were addressed during the quarter. Beyond rescuing affected children, the groups facilitated school reintegration, strengthened referrals to law enforcement agencies, and intensified community awareness campaigns on child protection, trafficking, and children's rights.

Other interventions included securing the release of a boy unlawfully detained by a vigilante group, resolving assault cases involving vulnerable persons, supporting widows experiencing abuse, counselling families dealing with child delinquency, and promoting peaceful conflict resolution. Across the project communities, sustained awareness campaigns on gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, parental responsibility, and child protection have continued to encourage early reporting and stronger community action against human rights abuses.

The quarterly review reaffirmed that access to justice is strongest when communities become active participants in protecting the rights of their most vulnerable members. Through the dedication of Community Human Rights Paralegals, Advocates, traditional institutions, security agencies, and government partners, lives are being restored, families are receiving support, and communities across Edo Central Senatorial District are becoming safer, more inclusive, and more responsive to the rights and dignity of every person.



COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR AND ABUSE

Edo Central Unites to Give Child Labour The Red Card

The voices of young people took centre stage as students, government officials, traditional rulers, security agencies, civil society organisations, and community leaders gathered to declare that every child deserves a childhood free from exploitation. Their shared message was clear: child labour and abuse have no place in society.

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), with support from MISEREOR, commemorated the 2026 World Day Against Child Labour and Abuse with the theme, "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair Play for Children, Decent Work for Adults." The event provided a platform for stakeholders across Edo Central Senatorial District to renew their commitment to protecting children and promoting their rights.



Delivering the keynote address, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, called for stronger collaboration among families, communities, schools, government institutions, and development partners to end child labour, abuse, trafficking, and neglect. He stressed that every child deserves a safe environment, access to quality education, and the opportunity to develop their full potential.

The event featured an engaging presentation by Dr. Mrs. Isoken Osemwengie, Safeguarding Officer of the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), who challenged participants to become active champions of child protection. Through practical examples and interactive discussions, she



highlighted the importance of recognizing the signs of abuse, responding promptly to child protection concerns, and ensuring that every stakeholder plays a role in safeguarding children.



A major highlight of the commemoration was a lively quiz competition involving students from fifteen secondary schools across Edo Central Senatorial District. The competition tested participants' knowledge of child rights, child protection, and safeguarding while encouraging healthy learning and teamwork. Egoro Amede Grammar School claimed first place, followed by Igueben Grammar School and Igueben College in second and third positions respectively. The winning schools received prizes and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performance and commitment to promoting children's rights.

Beyond the competition, the event created an important platform for children to actively participate in discussions about issues affecting them. Students confidently shared their understanding of child rights and safeguarding, demonstrating that young people are not only beneficiaries of protection efforts but also valuable advocates for positive change within their schools and communities. The commemoration reinforced public awareness of the dangers of child labour and abuse while encouraging timely reporting of child protection concerns. More importantly, it strengthened partnerships among key stakeholders and renewed the collective resolve to create communities where every child can learn, grow, and thrive in safety, dignity, and freedom.



INDEPENDENT EVALUATION CONFIRMS LASTING IMPACT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME

An independent evaluation of the Human Rights Education and Paralegal Scheme has confirmed that many communities across Edo Central Senatorial District are already experiencing a stronger culture of human rights protection, increased access to justice, and growing community ownership of child safeguarding efforts.

The evaluation, which was led by Dr. Cosmas Olaniyan assessed the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the programme implemented by Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) with support from MISEREOR. The exercise covered intervention communities in Esan North East, Esan West, Esan Central, Esan South East and Igueben

Local Government Areas. The evaluation engaged a broad range of stakeholders, including adolescents, Community Human Rights Groups,



traditional rulers, government institutions, law enforcement agencies, Social Welfare Departments, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) personnel, project beneficiaries, and Uromi JDPCI staff. Their collective feedback painted a compelling picture of a programme making a measurable difference in people's lives.

Findings showed that adolescents are becoming more knowledgeable about their rights, more confident in reporting abuse, and increasingly willing to take on leadership roles in promoting child protection within their schools and communities. Community Human Rights Groups were also recognised for their growing ability to mediate disputes, respond to human rights violations, and connect vulnerable persons with essential legal and social support services. Traditional rulers and government officials commended the programme for strengthening collaboration among community structures, security agencies, and service providers, leading to more effective



responses to cases of child abuse, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and human trafficking. Beneficiaries equally shared testimonies of

improved access to justice, timely mediation, and life-changing support.

The evaluation concluded that the programme has successfully fostered community ownership of human rights protection while promoting positive behavioural change across participating communities. Stakeholders recommended expanding the initiative to more schools and communities, strengthening youth leadership opportunities, and sustaining capacity-building efforts to build on the remarkable progress already achieved.

MIGRATION AND COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSON ACT AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA (AACTING PROJECT)

Child Protection Committees Strengthen Community Response to Trafficking across Edo Central

The vigilance of a community child protection volunteer made all the difference when a woman travelling with a baby raised suspicion at a police checkpoint in Irrua. Trusting instinct over silence, the volunteer alerted the police, leading to the arrest of the woman and the rescue of the stolen child. It was one of several remarkable interventions highlighted during the Bi-annual Meetings of the Local Government Child Protection Committees (LGPCs) convened by Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI).

The meeting which was held across the five Local Government Areas of Edo Central Senatorial District, brought together 125 participants, including officials from Social Welfare Departments, the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the National Orientation Agency (NOA), faith-based organisations, Community Child Protection Actors, market women representatives, and Uromi JDPCI staff. The forum provided an opportunity to review progress, strengthen collaboration, and reinforce community efforts to prevent child trafficking and other forms of child exploitation.

The Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhedo, in his opening remark, underscored the importance of teamwork, timely information sharing, and stronger collaboration between community volunteers and government institutions. He encouraged protection actors to work closely with agencies such as the NOA and NSCDC during awareness campaigns to enhance public confidence and encourage greater community participation.

Reports presented during the meetings revealed that sustained sensitization in schools, churches, mosques, and communities is yielding positive results. Increased public

awareness has strengthened community vigilance, leading to earlier reporting of child protection concerns and more coordinated responses by relevant authorities.

Among the most significant successes was the rescue of two young girls trafficked to Côte d'Ivoire for sexual exploitation. Acting on information provided by the Emaudo Community Child Protection Group, the NSCDC arrested the suspected traffickers, secured the safe return of the girls, and transferred the case to NAPTIP for prosecution.



Participants also shared other inspiring interventions. In Usenu, a vulnerable girl who planned to migrate to Ghana after suffering abuse from her guardian was counselled on the dangers of irregular migration and chose to remain in school and within her community. In another case, a child forced into hard labour and denied an education by a caregiver was rescued by the NSCDC and safely reunited with her biological parents.

The meetings also highlighted the growing role of faith-based institutions in child protection. The Imam of Ewu Mosque pledged to expand child trafficking awareness campaigns across mosques in his community, recognising the influence of religious leaders in protecting vulnerable children and supporting families.

The bi-annual meetings reaffirmed that when communities, government institutions, faith leaders, and security agencies work together, children are better protected, trafficking is more effectively prevented, and vulnerable families receive the support they need to build safer



futures.

Child Champion Clubs Equip Students to Take A Stand Against Human Trafficking

Knowledge became a powerful tool for prevention as students across Edo Central Senatorial District strengthened their resolve to protect themselves and their peers from human trafficking. Through engaging discussions and practical learning, members of Child Champion Clubs are increasingly emerging as young advocates for safe migration and child protection within their schools and communities.

During the quarter, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) facilitated the 11th Quarterly Learning Sessions for Child Champion Clubs in 15 secondary schools. The sessions equipped 182 students with a deeper understanding of human trafficking, their rights, and the actions they can take to prevent exploitation and report suspected cases. Participants explored key legal frameworks that protect children, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Palermo Protocol, Nigeria's Child Rights Act, and the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act. They also learned about the roles of institutions such as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the Edo State Migration Agency, Local Government Child Protection Committees, Community Child Protection Groups, law enforcement agencies, school authorities, and Uromi JDPCI in responding to trafficking cases.

The students used practical case studies and interactive discussions to gain confidence in recognizing warning signs of trafficking and understanding the importance of reporting concerns through trusted adults and established child protection structures. One discussion took on added urgency when a coordinating teacher raised concerns about the growing sexual exploitation of young girls in brothels within Ekpoma. The issue sparked meaningful dialogue, with Uromi JDPCI informing participants about ongoing interventions by government agencies to address the situation. They included rescue operations, enforcement actions against traffickers, engagement with brothel operators, and sustained public awareness campaigns. Students



were encouraged to remain vigilant and to promptly report suspected trafficking cases.

The learning sessions reaffirmed the important role young people can play in preventing human trafficking. The sessions empowered students with knowledge, confidence, and practical reporting skills that would help them as Child Champions to build a generation of informed peer educators committed to protecting children and promoting safer communities.

Stakeholders Strengthen Collaboration to Combat Child Trafficking

A heartbreaking case of two young girls lured to Ghana with promises of employment but forced into sexual exploitation became a powerful reminder of why strong partnerships are essential in the fight against child trafficking. The case, presented during a stakeholder consultation meeting, reinforced the urgent need for communities and institutions to work together to protect vulnerable children.

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) convened the 5th Consultation Meeting with Community and Institutional Actors of Justice. The meeting brought together 70 participants representing the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Immigration Service, Social Welfare and Legal Departments, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), health institutions, civil society organisations, and Community Child Protection Groups. The forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders to review emerging child protection concerns, exchange case updates, and strengthen coordination in responding to child trafficking and other forms of exploitation across the project communities.

A key highlight was the presentation by the NSCDC, Ekpoma Division, on the trafficking of two girls from the area to Ghana for sexual exploitation. The case was initially reported through the Emaudo Community Child Protection Group after the victims' families raised concerns about their disappearance. Investigations revealed that the girls had been deceived with false promises of employment before being subjected to exploitation under constant threats and close surveillance. The NSCDC briefed participants on ongoing efforts to apprehend those responsible while working with its State Command and the victims' families to facilitate the girls' rescue and safe return.

The discussion underscored the vital role of community-based reporting systems in detecting trafficking cases early and enabling timely intervention by law enforcement agencies. Participants also emphasized the need to sustain awareness campaigns that educate young people and families about the warning signs of trafficking and the dangers of deceptive migration offers.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from community and institutional actors to strengthen collaboration, share information more effectively, and build a coordinated response that better protects children from



trafficking and exploitation across Edo Central Senatorial District.

New Beginnings for Two Young Survivors of Human Trafficking

What began as a desperate search for a better future ended in exploitation, but through coordinated action and community support, two young sisters have been given a second chance to rebuild their lives.

The sisters, aged 18 and 20, were trafficked to Ghana for sexual exploitation after being deceived by a recruiter from the village Farm Settlement who promised them legitimate jobs as sales representatives. Burdened by economic hardship and determined to help their indebted mother, they accepted the offer, unaware of the dangers that awaited them.

The case was referred to Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) through the Esan Awareness Initiative. Working closely with the Amedokhian Police Division and the Edo State Migration Agency, Uromi JDPCI supported efforts that led to the arrest of the recruiter

and the establishment of contact with the trafficker in Ghana, ultimately securing the sisters' safe return on 30 April 2026.

Recovery did not end with their rescue. Recognising the importance of long-term reintegration, Uromi JDPCI provided the survivors with psychosocial counselling, medical support, and enrolment in vocational training in hairdressing to help them build sustainable livelihoods. To enable them to access quality training unavailable in their rural community, Uromi JDPCI also provided one year of accommodation, essential household items, and food support through contributions from its staff and the Efandion and Amedokhian Community Child Protection Groups. To reduce the family's economic vulnerability, the sisters' mother received counselling and a livelihood grant of ₦100,000 to strengthen her small business.

The intervention reflects the power of collaboration in restoring hope to survivors and demonstrates that with timely support, compassion, and economic opportunities, survivors of trafficking can begin a new chapter of dignity, healing, and self-reliance.

CUSTODIAL CENTER APOSTOLATE

Bringing Hope and Healing to Inmates at Ubiaja Custodial Centre

For many inmates at the Ubiaja Custodial Centre, rehabilitation is about more than serving a sentence. It is about rediscovering hope, rebuilding relationships, and preparing for a better future. Through its monthly Custodial Centre Apostolate, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continues to walk alongside inmates on this journey of transformation.

During the second quarter of 2026, Uromi JDPCI carried out three apostolate visits to the facility, providing psychosocial support, legal counselling, spiritual guidance, and welfare assistance aimed at promoting rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society.



A total of 124 inmates participated in interactive psychosocial sessions that challenged them to reflect on personal responsibility, resilience, forgiveness, and the possibility of positive change. Guided by themes such as *Becoming a Positive Influence*, *Can Something Good Still Come Out of Me?*, and *Taking Responsibility Without Self-Destruction*, participants were encouraged to see beyond their past mistakes and embrace opportunities for personal growth.

The visits also nurtured inmates' spiritual lives. Thirty-five inmates received individual spiritual counselling, while 41 others participated in catechism classes in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism. To support their faith journey, Uromi JDPCI provided catechism books and copies of the Daily Strength devotional,

helping inmates to deepen their spiritual reflection and hope for renewal.

Recognising that rehabilitation also requires practical support, Uromi JDPCI offered legal counselling to 34 inmates, helping them better understand court processes, legal representation, and the progress of their cases. Welfare assistance, including essential hygiene materials, was provided to vulnerable inmates, while a pregnant inmate received antenatal support to safeguard her health and that of her unborn child.

Family ties, often fractured by incarceration, were also strengthened through mediation and tracing efforts that successfully reconnected four inmates with their relatives. In a further demonstration of compassion, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Uromi donated six bags of rice to support inmate feeding.

Through these sustained interventions, Uromi JDPCI continues to affirm the dignity of every person, proving that rehabilitation is not only about correcting the past but also about creating opportunities for hope, healing, and a meaningful new beginning.



MICRO CREDIT

Small Loans, Big Dreams: Micro Credit Scheme Transforms Livelihoods Across Edo Central Senatorial District

What began with a ₦100,000 loan to sell second-hand clothes has grown into two thriving businesses and a renewed sense of hope for one determined entrepreneur. Today, she owns a flourishing provision store while managing an online business selling women's fashion. With increased income, she is able to support her family, pay her bills on time, and continue expanding her businesses. She credits her success to the opportunity provided through the Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) Micro Credit Scheme, describing it as the turning point that helped her build a more secure future. Her story reflects the experiences of many entrepreneurs whose businesses continue to grow through the programme's commitment to economic empowerment and financial inclusion.

During the second quarter of the 2026 financial year, Uromi JDPCI provided affordable micro-loans to 107 beneficiaries (41 men and 66 women) organised into 17 groups across 13 communities. The loans enabled small-scale traders and farmers to increase working capital, expand existing businesses, improve agricultural productivity, and strengthen household incomes at a time when access to conventional financing remains limited.

Beyond providing credit, the scheme continued to invest in the long-term success of beneficiaries through financial literacy training, which is helping to equip beneficiaries with practical skills in responsible loan management, savings, record-keeping, and basic business planning, enabling them to make sound financial decisions and build more resilient enterprises. Uromi JDPCI paid regular monitoring and mentoring visits to ensure that loans were invested in productive activities and provided beneficiaries with guidance to overcome business challenges. This close engagement strengthened accountability, encouraged responsible financial management, and helped sustain the growth of

businesses supported by the scheme.

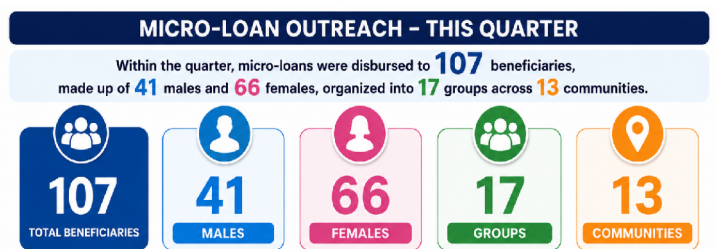
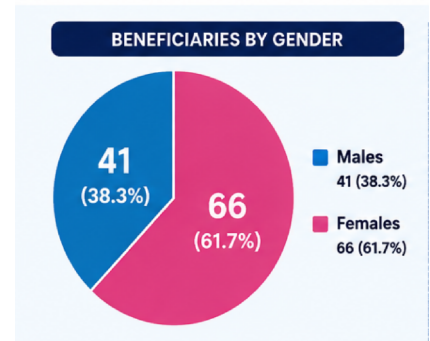
The programme also recorded encouraging levels of loan repayment, reflecting the commitment of beneficiaries to responsible borrowing and reinforcing the sustainability of the revolving loan fund. At

the same time, continued savings mobilisation helped members develop stronger financial discipline, while new registrations during the quarter demonstrated growing community confidence in the scheme.

As families expand their businesses, increase their incomes, and build financial resilience, the Uromi

JDPCI Micro Credit Scheme continues to demonstrate that access to affordable finance, combined with mentoring and practical business skills, can unlock opportunities, restore dignity, and

create lasting pathways out of poverty for individuals and communities across Edo Central Senatorial District.



PARISH JDPC

Strengthening Parish Communities as Centres of Peace and Social Transformation

A growing number of parishioners across the Catholic Diocese of Uromi are stepping forward to become ambassadors of justice, peace, and community development, demonstrating that lasting social change often begins within local faith communities.

Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) expanded its efforts to strengthen Parish Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) structures, equipping parish members with the knowledge and skills to promote human dignity, peaceful coexistence, and active citizenship. A major milestone was the sensitization programme held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Ewu, where parishioners were introduced to the mission and work of the Parish JDPC. The engagement highlighted the important role parish structures play in responding to social challenges, promoting justice, and encouraging community participation in the Church's social mission.

The Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Amos Abhulimen, encouraged parishioners to embrace the initiative and called on members of the congregation to support the work of the Church through dedicated service to their communities. Inspired by the message, eleven parishioners volunteered to become pioneer members of the new Parish JDPC group, laying the foundation for a stronger community-based structure that will champion justice and peace within the parish and beyond.

To further strengthen existing Parish JDPC structures, Uromi JDPCI also organised an online capacity-building programme for members across the Diocese. The training, themed "Peacebuilding as a Core Mission of Parish JDPC: Promoting Justice, Unity, and Social Harmony in Our Parishes and Communities," equipped participants with practical skills in conflict prevention, dialogue facilitation, non-violent communication, and community reconciliation. Facilitated by Rev. Fr. Ferguson Ukpebor, the session challenged participants to see peacebuilding as more than the absence of conflict. Instead, they were encouraged to become bridge-builders, early warning responders, and advocates for justice who can identify emerging tensions, promote dialogue, and help resolve disputes before they escalate.



Uromi JDPCI strengthened Parish JDPC structures by investing in the capacity of their members to continue the building of a network of faith-based volunteers committed to creating peaceful, inclusive, and resilient communities. The initiative reflects Uromi JDPCI's belief that when local parish communities are empowered to promote justice and reconciliation, they become powerful catalysts for lasting social transformation across the Diocese.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Communities Take Action to Protect the Planet on International Mother Earth Day

Protecting the environment begins with everyday choices, and across Edo Central Senatorial District, communities are increasingly embracing the responsibility of safeguarding the planet for future generations. As part of its commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continue to strengthen community-led climate action, foster environmental stewardship, and encourage collective responsibility for the protection of our common home.

In commemoration of International Mother Earth Day, Uromi JDPCI organised an environmental awareness campaign at Ewu Market under the global theme, "Our Power, Our Planet." The outreach engaged about 270 traders, market leaders, and community members, creating an opportunity to reflect on how everyday actions can either protect or harm the environment.



The campaign highlighted the growing environmental challenges caused by indiscriminate waste disposal, blocked drainage systems, bush burning, and the excessive use of plastics. Participants explored the link between these practices and flooding, disease outbreaks, and environmental degradation, while learning practical steps they could take to promote cleaner and healthier communities. Beyond raising awareness, the initiative encouraged community ownership of environmental protection. During a meeting with market leaders at the Ehalen Youth Secretariat, Uromi JDPCI advocated for sustained action through regular sanitation exercises,



improved waste management, and continuous public education within the market. The leaders welcomed the initiative and pledged to champion environmental responsibility among traders and visitors.

The positive response demonstrated a growing recognition that climate action is most effective when driven by local communities. Uromi JDPCI is encouraging simple but meaningful behavioural changes through campaigns that reinforce the message that protecting the Earth is a shared responsibility and that every individual has a role to play in building cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient communities.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Environmental Champions

Building a sustainable future begins with educating young people to care for the environment today. As part of its commitment to strengthening environmental stewardship and promoting climate resilience, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continues to empower students with practical knowledge that encourages responsible environmental behaviour and community action. During the second quarter of 2026, Uromi JDPCI conducted waste management sensitization sessions in Obiaza Mixed Secondary School, Agadaga Secondary School, Efandion Secondary School, and Emaudo Secondary School. The interactive sessions encouraged students to see themselves not only as learners but also as environmental ambassadors capable of influencing positive change within their schools and communities.

The sessions with the students adopted discussions and practical exercises to examine how poor waste disposal contributes to environmental pollution, flooding, disease outbreaks, and the degradation of ecosystems. Rather than simply identifying



problems, participants worked together to develop practical solutions, including proper waste sorting, responsible disposal practices, regular classroom sanitation, and peer-led campaigns to discourage littering.

The sessions inspired lively conversations as students reflected on waste management practices within their schools and homes, identifying simple actions that could make a lasting difference. Many pledged to adopt healthier sanitation habits, encourage their classmates to keep their surroundings clean, and promote environmental responsibility among family members and friends.



The programme demonstrated that environmental education is a powerful tool for building long-term climate resilience. The sessions equipped young people with knowledge, practical skills, and a sense of shared responsibility, which is nurturing a new generation of environmental champions committed to protecting their communities and preserving the environment for future generations.

Working Together for Cleaner and Greener Schools

Creating a healthy learning environment begins with shared responsibility. Guided by this belief, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continues to promote environmental stewardship by engaging schools as key partners in building cleaner and more sustainable communities. During the second quarter of 2026, Uromi JDPCI held a strategic meeting with the Principal of Opoji Commercial Senior Secondary School to discuss practical solutions to environmental challenges affecting the school. The engagement formed part of the organisation's broader efforts to strengthen environmental responsibility through stakeholder collaboration and community ownership.

Discussions focused on the growing challenge of indiscriminate littering within classrooms and the school compound, highlighting its impact on students' health, sanitation, and the overall learning environment. While acknowledging the problem, the Principal shared measures already introduced by the school, including the installation of incinerators and the provision of classroom waste bins. She explained that many of the bins had been damaged over time but reaffirmed the school's commitment to replacing them and improving waste management practices.

Building on these efforts, Uromi JDPCI encouraged the establishment of a more structured sanitation system by empowering student leaders to take ownership of environmental cleanliness. The organisation proposed that the Sanitation Prefect coordinate waste management activities alongside class prefects, helping to promote accountability and responsible environmental behaviour among students.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to creating a cleaner, healthier, and more environmentally friendly school where students not only learn about environmental responsibility but also practise it every day. The engagement reaffirmed that sustainable environmental

change is best achieved when schools, educators, and students work together as partners in protecting their surroundings.

Planting Trees, Nurturing Hope for Future Generations

Every tree planted today is an investment in tomorrow's climate, food security, and environmental wellbeing. With this vision, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continues to translate its commitment to environmental sustainability into practical action through tree planting and ecosystem restoration.

As part of activities marking the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi, Uromi JDPCI planted 36 improved fruit and economic tree seedlings within the Catholic Chancery Complex, Egbele-Uromi. The initiative also contributes to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) Green Revolution Campaign, which seeks to plant 5.5 million trees over five years as a faith-based response to climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, and rising carbon emissions. The trees planted include oil palm, coconut, avocado, guava, soursop, black pear, orange, and pawpaw, which were carefully selected for their environmental, nutritional, and economic value. Beyond beautifying the environment, they will enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, strengthen carbon sequestration, contribute to food security, and provide long-term livelihood opportunities for surrounding communities.

The initiative reflects Uromi JDPCI's belief that climate action begins with simple, practical steps that inspire wider community participation. Uromi JDPCI is promoting tree planting as both an environmental and faith-driven responsibility to help to cultivate a culture of stewardship while contributing to healthier ecosystems and more climate-resilient communities. As these trees grow, they will stand as living symbols of hope, reminding present and future generations that protecting our common home requires commitment, patience, and collective action.

From Seedlings to Legacy: A Harvest of Hope

Three years ago, a handful of fruit tree seedlings were planted within the Catholic



Chancery Complex in Egbele-Uromi with a simple but ambitious vision, to demonstrate that caring for the environment today creates lasting benefits for future generations. This year, that vision bore its first fruit. In a symbolic milestone for Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI), the Executive Director, Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Fidelis Arhede, harvested the first ripe orange from the trees planted as part of the organisation's environmental sustainability initiative. While the harvest may have consisted of a single fruit, it represented something far greater: the rewards of patience, responsible stewardship, and long-term investment in nature.

Over the past three years, the once-fragile seedlings have matured into healthy fruit-bearing trees through consistent

care and maintenance. Their growth reflects Uromi JDPCI's enduring commitment to environmental conservation, climate resilience, and the promotion of sustainable practices that benefit both people and the planet.

The success of the initiative demonstrates that meaningful environmental change is rarely immediate. Like the trees themselves, lasting impact grows steadily through commitment, care, and persistence. Beyond producing fruit, the trees contribute to biodiversity, improve the local environment, and serve as a living classroom that inspires others to embrace tree planting as a practical response to

climate change.

As the first harvest was celebrated, it also served as a reminder that the seeds planted today, whether in the soil or within communities, can blossom into a legacy of hope, sustainability, and shared responsibility for generations to come.



GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

Promoting Inclusive Democracy Through Stakeholder Dialogue

Democracy thrives when citizens are informed, engaged, and empowered to participate in shaping their communities. Guided by this principle, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) continued its commitment to promoting democratic governance and active citizenship by strengthening civic and voter education ahead of the Edo State Local Government Council Elections.

As part of this effort, Uromi JDPCI participated in a Town Hall Stakeholders' Meeting on Civic and Voter Education convened by the Edo State Independent Electoral Commission (EDSIEC) at the Esan West Local Government Secretariat, Ekpoma. The forum brought together government officials, traditional and religious leaders, civil society organisations, community representatives, market leaders, and other stakeholders to explore practical strategies for promoting peaceful, credible, and inclusive local government elections.



A major highlight of the meeting was a presentation on "Strengthening Democratic Participation at the Grassroots: The Role of Citizens in Local Government Elections," which emphasized the importance of active citizen participation, peaceful electoral processes, and shared responsibility in strengthening democracy.

Contributing to the discussions, the Executive Director of Uromi JDPCI Very Rev Fr Dr Fidelis Arhedo advocated for issue-based political campaigns that encourage candidates to engage directly with citizens on their programmes and policies. He also called for greater involvement of civil society organisations in election observation to enhance transparency and public confidence in the electoral process. Furthermore, he emphasized the importance of continuous voter education to reduce voter apathy, minimize invalid votes, and encourage informed participation.



The meeting reinforced the value of dialogue and collaboration among government institutions, civil society, and community stakeholders. It also reaffirmed Uromi

JDPCI's commitment to supporting democratic processes by empowering citizens with the knowledge and confidence needed to participate peacefully and responsibly in elections.



Taking Civic Education to

the Grassroots Ahead of Local Government Elections

From busy markets and motor parks to places of worship, Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiatives (Uromi JDPCI) brought civic and voter education directly to the people, ensuring that more citizens were equipped with the knowledge needed to participate confidently in the Edo State Local Government Council Elections.

Building on recommendations from the Edo State Independent Electoral Commission (EDSIEC) Stakeholders' Town Hall Meeting, Uromi JDPCI extended its voter education campaign to strategic public locations, including Uromi Main Market, Uromi Motor Park, St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ukoni, and Agape Baptist Church, Amedokhian. The outreach reached more than 1,170 people, providing practical information on voter registration, Permanent Voter Card (PVC) collection, and peaceful electoral participation.



Community members received guidance on the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) process, transfer of voter registration, correction of personal details, replacement of lost or damaged PVCs, and the importance of exercising their constitutional right to vote. Participants were also informed of the date of the local government elections and encouraged to participate peacefully and make informed choices at the polls.

The outreach generated positive engagement, with many participants asking questions about electoral procedures and expressing appreciation for receiving accurate information within their own communities. Uromi JDPCI made electoral information more accessible to ordinary citizens by taking civic education beyond formal meetings and into everyday public spaces.

The sensitization campaign reinforced Uromi JDPCI's belief that strong democracies are built on informed and active citizens. Uromi JDPCI will sustain public engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders to promote peaceful elections, responsible citizenship, and greater public participation in democratic governance across Edo Central Senatorial District.