

## CHAPTER 5

### **JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND CARITAS (JDPC) IN AUCHI DIOCESE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**Clement Anaedevha**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) Catholic Diocese of Auchi was established in 2003 upon the canonical erection of the Diocese which was created from the Archdiocese of Benin City. The commission is a faith based organization (FBO) that falls under the Department of Church and State, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN) in Abuja.

**MISSION:** Promotion of sustainable Human Development through Research, collaboration and empowerment; without any form of discrimination.

**VISION:** A Nigeria Society where Justice, Equity and Rights for Sustainable development are fully enshrined.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Promotion of Justice, Development and Peace in the communities of intervention.

- Promotion of Justice by educating the people on their civic rights and responsibilities.
- Campaigning against Human rights abuses, social justice, child abuse and gender discrimination.
- Promotion of development by partnering with other agencies to carry out development projects in the Church and Society.
- Promotion of health care services by sharing information on behavioural change or early disease symptoms identification, method of prevention and control.
- Engaging in community development through humanitarian services.
- Involve in emergency response for internally displaced persons and refugees in accordance with the Catholic Social teaching in solidarity with the poor and needy in the society.
- Promoting health through; Defense of the rights and privileges of people living with HIV/AIDS, Lassa Fever tuberculosis and Sensitization on HIV/AIDS and malaria control etc.
- Promoting development through; Involvement of people in skill acquisition and sustainable empowerment
- Promoting health care through sharing information on behaviour changes for prevention and creating access to possible source and means for cure.
- Engaging in concrete activities for value reorientation and for the enhancement of the spiritual development to promote morality in society.
- Defense of human rights and violence against women/girls through: Women Trafficking and force prostitution, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Rape,
- Regular Sensitization and Advocacy against violence in the areas of; Sexual violence, Physical violence, Emotional and psychological violence, Harmful traditional practices and Socio-Economic violence
- Promoting Peace through;

**GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE:** Geographically, the Catholic Diocese of Auchi is situated in Edo North Senatorial district of Edo State which covers six Local Government Areas namely, Etsako West, Etsako East, Etsako Central, Akoko Edo, Owan East and Owan West. Out of these six Local Government Areas this project will be implemented in Etsako East and Etsako Central LGAs of Edo North Senatorial District.

**PAST PERFORMANCE:** Since inception, JDPC Auchi has carried out a series of interventions in various communities in the Catholic Diocese of Auchi geared towards the promotion of livelihoods, community development, sexual and Gender based violence, human trafficking, emergency response and household empowerment as well as care for orphans and vulnerable children in order to enhance the quality of life among community members. In an effort to contribute to food security, JDPC Auchi has also organized several workshops and seminars to educate local farmers on better methods of farming and the need to use improved seedlings for cultivation which lead to increased food supply. The Commission has established different farms in selected geographic areas of the Diocese. These include fishery, poultry, piggery and food crop production. Our involvement in farming has helped over 3,000 farmers to come out of poverty. We are strictly guided with the goal to mentor local farmers on improved farming methods that has ultimately impacted and improve food supply in the entire Edo North Senatorial district.

Over the years, our organization has also been involved in caring for the less privileged in the society which include widows and other indigent women (Care Givers). In the past, we have organized several seminars and workshops to train and educate widows and indigent women on ways of making productive use of their strength, talent and resources in gaining sustainable means of livelihood in order for them to be able to generate income to feed their children and meet other basic needs. Our organization has also given conditional cash transfers to several widows and indigent women to begin small scale farming and

petty trading in order to provide food for them and their families. This financial aid was not given out as loan but as charitable contributions of JDPC Auchi to provide means of livelihood for such women who were identified by the JDPC groups in their various parishes and Mass Centre. Such interventions have proven to be impactful as they ultimately aide vulnerable households in being self-sufficient for their daily meals. Our organization also has a skills acquisition centre where several women have acquired skills in relevant areas such as: sewing, weaving, catering, soap making and powder making. However, most of the women who were trained at the skills acquisition centre still live in abject poverty because they do not have the initial capital to begin the business skills they learnt.

For several years now, JDPC Auchi has also been working in partnership with Global Fund/ AONN through the State Ministry of Women Affairs to take care of orphans and vulnerable children, MoWA, ACOMIN, CCFN, CISHAN USAID, Misereor, CRS etc.

## **PRESENT PERFORMANCE**

**PROMOTING MICRO-ENTERPRISE:** Promoting Micro Enterprise (PROMIC) project is to empower the poor, active and energetic people, individual or solidarity group who are able to do business and become self-reliant. From 2016 till date, promic 1 project has given out 70,000 and 50,000 each to 1600 women women in Iyerekhu, Ugiekhai, Ibiename and Auchi communities. Also from 2019 till date PROMIC project 2 has given out 50,000 each to 1139 women each in Jattu, Afashio and Auchi communities. Also refresher training were done for beneficiaries in both PROMIC 1 & 2.

**SANTA MARTA GROW-EDO PROJECT:** This project is funded by United Kingdom in a view to prevent trafficking in persons amongst young boys and girls in Edo North. The first set of students numbering

about 6 (ie 3 male and 3 females) have graduated from learning how to make, keep a poultry and general poultry management. After graduation, they had set up their individual poultry farms in various locations. This is fulfilling the mandate aim of the project. Engaging these young ones has also helped to drastically curb the desire to go to Europe through Libya or Mediterranean Sea. The new sets of students have begun their training both in theory and practical with a day old layers.

**ODUMA PROTECTION SQUAD (OPS):** This is a security outfit coordinated by JDPC Auchi with support from Afemai Sons and Daughters worldwide. It has trained above 350 men from the six Local Government Areas of Edo North Senatorial District. Each local government has their commanders and deputies. The Afemai Amalgamated Forum which the Oduma Protection Squad in under gave out 38 power motor bikes, one Hilux and Six Sienna buses with which the members work to support other security agencies to provide security for the entire Edo North. Recently in December during the Second Phase launching, the OPS had uniforms given and stipends paid to three (300) hundred gallant men.

The outfit was hugely supported by the traditional rulers and state government through the Area commanders and DPO's in every Local Government Area in Edo North.

Presently, OPS presence in the entire Edo North is huge and impactful. We consistently call for support in order to meet up with the maintenance and general up keep of the security Personnels.

## **PROJECT ON COVID-19 RESPONSE MECHANISM (C19RM) & COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING TOWARDS RESILIENT AND SUATAINABLE SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH (CSS-RSSH)**

Global Fund recently started a project which supports COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM) grant in 12 states and Community Systems Strengthening towards Resilient & Sustainable System for Health (CSS-RSSH) grant in 6 states in Nigeria and this will last for the period of January 2022 – December 2023. The Grant is being implemented through a Principal Recipient, the National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (NACA).

The ATM (Aids, tuberculosis and Malaria) CSO Networks are implementing the community component of the grant. The activities implemented are civil society coordination, sustained advocacy to decision-makers particularly at the State and LGA levels, providing oversight and accountability, monitoring and evaluating results, participating in policy formulation, and mobilizing resources for C19 and health interventions. The members of the ATM CSO Networks (NEPWHAN, TB Network, and ACOMIN) are responsible for the implementation at the State, LGA, and community levels to achieve the objectives of the RSSH/C19RM grant, through strategic interventions, institutional capacity building and support, gender-based violence prevention and post violence care, response to human rights and gender-related barriers to services; community-led monitoring and advocacy and social mobilization.

**Justice Development and Peace Commission/Caritas (JDPC) Catholic Diocese of Auchi and 14 other CBO's** were chosen as Implementing CBOs towards the actualization of the grant objectives in Edo State which are;

**Objective 1:** To conduct strategic activities to hold communities, PHC Centers, LGAs, Service Providers and all relevant stakeholders

accountable for C19RM/RSSH and ATM-focused service provision and results

**Objective 2:** To engage in sustained, measurable advocacy efforts for improved state and LGA support for C19RM/RSSH

**Objective 3:** To improve the coordination of CSOs and Community Structures for informed inputs into C19RM/RSSH the following activities were carried out;

**PROJECT START UP MEETING:** The project start up meeting was held in Benin with the 15 selected CBO (5 for malaria components, 5 for Tuberculosis and 5 for HIV/AIDs), State program officer and the coordinators for HIV, tuberculosis and Malaria in Edo North, Esan Central and Benin to further list out responsibilities of all CBO's and to sign agreement for engagement.

**ENTRY FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS:** Entry focus group discussion were done twice for different sets of persons in the year 2022( ie August and October). The purpose of the Entry FGD was to get feedback on the following thematic areas; Resilient and Sustainable systems for health (RSSH) which includes ATM health products supply chain management, integrated service delivery and quality improvement, community system strengthening, health management information systems and laboratory system strengthening, COVID 19, Prevention(LLIN,TPT and COVID-19 Vaccine), treatment( ART, ACT etc), gender and human rights, and basic service provision and demand generation at community level. The persons in attendance were: community chief, youth leader, women leader, market woman, NURTW, rep from Ward development committee, pregnant women, Imam and Clergy. Issues raised from these meetings were taken to stakeholders at community and local government levels for further actions.

**EXIT FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION:** The exit focus group discussions were conducted in September and December, 2022. The

purpose was to give feedback on the advocacies visits carried out to stakeholders at local and community level and also to get new issues that needed urgent solutions.

**CLIENT ENTRY INTERVIEWS:** This was done four times at the community PHC with clients that come for one check up, ante natal, COVID- 19 vaccination, testing/counseling, delivery etc to elicit information from them on the ATM services rendered in the PHC.

**ADVOCACY VISITS:** Advocacy visits were conducted to the King of Ihievbe Kingdom, the Daudu, the youth leader, the community leader, prominent stakeholders, Local immunization officer, Head of Local Government, director budget planning in the Local government, PHC coordinator and his assistant on issues raised during the Entry focus group discussion/Key informant interview and Client Entry interviews.

**KEY INFORMAT INTERVIEW FOR HEALTH FACILITY:** this was carried out twice with the head nurse in the PHC to ascertain the effectiveness on the ATM and COVID 19 services carried out in the facility and to also get their challenges in offering these services.

**KEY INFORMAT INTERVIEW FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** this was carried out twice at the Local government head quarters in Afuze first with the PHC coordinator and the director of budget and planning in the local government to know if the ATM/ COVID 19 services are properly budgeted for and how has the allocation for these services increased in the past years.

**MONTHLY COODINATION MEETINGS:** The monthly coordination meeting is held once in a month to discuss issues raised during implementation, successes recorded, recommendations, best practices and submission of attendance / payment forms during Exit FGD. The meeting had in attendance all PO's of Various CBO, SPO

and Coordinators of TB, HIV and Malaria, representative of NACA and representative of Ministry of Health.

**MEDIA ROUND TABLE MEETINGS:** The media round brief is a meeting held with all Executives directors from the fifteen CBO's. The purpose of the meeting was to keep the media abreast of ongoing activities in the ACOMIN project.

**TRAININGS ATTENDED:** In the year under review the following trainings were organized by Uromi JDPCI with support from Palladium/USAID, Caritas Nigeria, New Apostolic Centre for Development and Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.

### **TRAINING ON PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND RESPONDING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN EDO STATE**

This training was organized by the New Apostolic Center for Development (NAC) from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 at Prenox hotel and suits Benin City. The workshop is a part of the agents for citizens driven transformation (ACT) programme of the British council with funding support from European Union to build the capacities of CSOs in responding to human trafficking and gender based violence.

### **TRAINING ON MONITORING, EVALUATION, DATA UTILIZATION, DOCUMENT & LEARNING FOR CSO WORKING WITH VICTIMS OF SGBV & CEFM**

Caritas Nigeria-SCALE project is a USAID-funded project implemented by Caritas with JDPC Benin, Makurdi and Maiduguri Dioceses as implementing partners. The main objective of the project is to strengthen: recovery for survivors of Sexual and Gender Based violence (SGBV) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), Prevention and Service Delivery, Effectiveness, Capacity building of

Civil Society Organizations and Local Actors in Borno, Benue and Edo States. As a capacity building and Advocacy project, it is targeted at building and strengthening the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, Government Stakeholders as well as survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM). To this end Caritas Nigeria again invited CSO's in Benue, Borno and Benin for a 3 days training on **Monitoring, Evaluation, Data Utilization, Documentation & Learning For CSOS Working With Victims Of SGBV & CEFM**. The purpose of this training is to review the four stages in a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system which is planning, data collection, making data usable and using data for decision-making to help organizations reflect on and strengthen their plans. To train selected CSOs on Monitoring, Evaluation, Data Utilization, and Documentation & Learning for CSOs Working with Victims of SGBV & CEFM.

### **JDPC AUCHI STAFF ATTENDED A FOUR DAYS TRAINING ON PSS AND VICTIM CENTERED & TRAUMA INFORMED MANAGEMENT APPROACHES**

To further improve participant's knowledge and to further strengthen capacities, strategies and best practices. JDPC Auchi staff attended a four days training on PSS, Victim Centered & Trauma informed Case Management Approaches organized by CARITAS Nigeria with support from SCALE Palladium. The training took place at Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Resource Centre Durumi, Abuja from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 2022. The objective of the training was to build and strengthen the capacity of CSOs in providing PSS, victim centered and trauma informed case management to SGBC and CEFM survivors.

## **TRAINING ON EFFECTIVE CITIZEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

DPS Nigeria organized a two dialogue workshop on effective citizen's Engagement in 21st Century. This training took place at Golden tulip hotel, Benin City from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2022. The aim of the workshop was to look into innovating ways of Civil and Political engagement and how Misereor partners are faring in their various roles in promoting good governance in Nigeria.

### **The training Objectives were:**

1. Gain deeper understanding in what we are engaged in.
2. Map out broad realistic engagement strategies or approaches that could produce better, visible and measurable positive results in the region.
3. Review past and identify what can be done differently
4. Come to common agreement on steps that would make 2023 election more credible in the region.

## **TRAINING ON PREVENTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)**

Caritas Nigeria-SCALE project organized a 3 days training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Confidentiality and Child Protection and Safeguarding at Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Recourse Center Durumi, Abuja. This training was funded by USAID and has Caritas Nigeria, JDPC Benin, Makurdi and Maiduguri Dioceses as implementing partners. As a capacity building and Advocacy project, it is targeted at building and strengthening the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, Government Stakeholders as well as survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM). This training was attended by representatives from some selected CSO's from Benin City Archdiocese, Makurdi and Maiduguri dioceses.

The training objectives were;

- To train selected CSOs on Prevention of Sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), Confidentiality, Child Protection and Safeguarding for CSOs working with victims of SGBV & CEFM.
- To strengthen the capacity of selected CSOs towards identifying, preventing and responding to the cases and victim PSEA in a timely and appropriate manner.
- To support the selected CSOs effort towards eliminating PSEA in their operational locations in line with the overall goal of the SCALE project.
- Support CSOs to set up strong systems to respond to cases of PSEA and safeguarding.

### **TRAINING ON REFERRAL PATHWAYS AND LINKAGES**

JDPC Auchi staff attends a four days training on Referral pathways and linkages at Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria Resource Center Durumi, Abuja from 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022. This training was organized by Caritas Nigeria with support from SCALE (Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement) and it has Caritas Nigeria, JDPC Benin, Makurdi and Maiduguri Dioceses as implementing partners.

**The training objectives were:**

1. To standardize the operational process in making and receiving referrals and ensuring their completion.
2. To support CSO's in mapping services and developing a comprehensive and active referral directory.
3. To ensure all referral network members understands the purpose of the referral network, their role within it and the specific steps involve in making and receiving referrals and being an active participant.

## **TRAINING ON BUDGET ANALYSIS & MONITORING**

Localizing trafficking in person (LOTIP) Response cluster anchored by Uromi Justice Development Peace and Caritas initiatives (UROMI JDPC1) organized a training on Budget analysis and monitoring processes with support from SCALE Palladium on the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, at VICHI Gates Hotels GRA , Benin City. These training was attended by representatives from the LoTIP cluster.

The training objectives were:

- (a) To increase understanding of the cluster on budgeting process, Analysis, monitoring and Control.
- (b) To improve understanding of the cluster on budget advocacy and the approaches that can be used to undertake effective budget advocacy and lobbying.
- (c) To Strengthen Capacity of the cluster to advocate for increased budgetary allocation for the ETAHT for effective TIP responses in Edo State.
- (d) To Build Capacity of the clusters on how to influence the budget making space for Trafficking in persons response.

## **TRAINING ON UNDERSTANDING AND EMBEDDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION RESPONSE IN NIGERIA HELD FROM THE 17<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2022 AT VICHI GATES HOTEL**

With the goal to invest in the capacity of cluster members, Uromi JDPCI, Anchor for the LOTIP-R Cluster organized a two-day training for the Cluster on **UNDERSTANDING & EMBEDDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING & UNSAFE MIGRATION RESPONSE IN NIGERIA**; to help deepen understanding of key issues around Human Trafficking and key provisions under the trafficking in person Act 2015, and the Edo State trafficking in person law (2018) so as to effectively engage relevant stakeholders towards the actualization of the Cluster's advocacy objectives.

The training was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 at Vichigates Hotel, Benin City comprising the Anchor and representatives of Cluster Member Organisations (Ideal Resource and Development Centre, Girls Power Initiative, Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, Willi Johnson Foundation, Justice Development, and Peace Commission Auchi and Josemaria Escriva Foundation) inclusive of two resource Facilitators - Barr. Nduka Nwanwene, Zonal Commander of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking In Person (NAPTIP), and Barr Onomen Oriakhi, Anti Human Trafficking Lead, Caritas Nigeria.

The Specific Objectives of the training included;

- Facilitate a clear understanding of human trafficking issues and other related concepts
- Understand the forms of exploitations, vulnerability, and indicators of human trafficking
- Increase knowledge and strengthen skills in the process of return and reintegration
- Understanding the global compact on migration
- Increase knowledge of the law and referral pathways and coordination mechanism for effective response.

## **COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

World Day against Trafficking is marked annually on 30 July to make people aware of those who are being trafficked and taken away without their consent. The day aims to educate people that trafficking in persons are considered to be a crime, including exploitation of women and children for tragic jobs of forced labour and sex. This day is an opportunity for people to understand the harms of human trafficking and its impact on people's life.

The theme for the year 2022 is “Use and abuse of technology”. It focuses on the role of technology that acts as a tool to enable and impede human trafficking. With the global increase in the use of technology intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic and our shift towards usage of online platforms, the crime of human trafficking is dominating cyberspace, which is why the theme assumes greater importance because the internet and digital platforms offer traffickers numerous tools to recruit, exploit, and control victims; organize their transport and accommodation; advertise victims and reach out to potential clients; communicate among perpetrators; and hide criminal proceeds – and all that with greater speed, cost-effectiveness and anonymity. For people on the move, online resources can become a trap, especially when it comes to phony travel arrangements and fake job offers targeting vulnerable groups. To successfully eradicate human trafficking, cooperation with the private sector is important to harness innovation and expertise for the development of sustainable, technology-based solutions to support its prevention and to combat it.

**#EndHumanTrafficking**

It is to this end that JDPC Auchi and Willi Johnson Foundation conducted rally/road walk with support from United State Agency for International Development (USAID) and Palladium. The rally/road walk which began at 9am, started from Immaculate Conception Cathedral Gate through AP Junction to Jattu Junction and beyond. The main purpose of this rally was to create awareness/ sensitize the people on the safe use of internet and social media that could help mitigate the risk of people falling victim of trafficking online.

The rally procession/ road walk comprises of Representatives from Etsako West Local Government Area Council ( ie HOLGA/ Acting representative, HOD Social Welfare, HOD Planning and HOD Administration and Finance), Media Persons, Representatives from Federal Road Safety Corps, representatives from returnees, representatives from Etsako West Youth Council, Representatives from

Etsako West Market Women Association, Staff of JDPC Auchi and Willi Johnson Foundation.

**Key messages used during the rally were:**

- Traffickers fit scam you with Social Media therefore shine your eyes.
- Don't be a victim, traffickers are online.
- That perceived good job offer on the internet have you verified it? Don't pay with your life.
- Use technology to report cases of trafficking in your neighborhood
- Do not trade your life or that of a relative for a promise of wealth that does not exist.
- That school admission abroad may be fake, think it twice and do things the right way.
- Be vigilant while making use of the internet and report suspicious cases of exploitation.
- Verify all job offers and interview on the internet before attending because recruiters may be traffickers. Etc

**IN HOUSE TRAINING:** In the year under review, JDPC Auchi staff had refresher training on Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), Child early and forced marriage (CEFM), human trafficking, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDs and its related diseases, Psychosocial support, referral, trauma, Child Protection, promotion against sexual exploitation and abuse, Monitoring, Evaluation, Data Utilization, Documentation & Learning to update their knowledge and further build their capacities on new and trending issues.

## **AWARENESS CREATION ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND CHILD AND EARLY CHILD MARRIAGE**

Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC), Catholic Diocese of Auchi in a bid to constantly sensitize the general public/ create awareness on the ills of gender based violence and child early and forced marriage went to Church of Divine Mercy, Sabo and Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Ibienufe, both in the Catholic Diocese of Auchi on the 15th and 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2022. The theme of the awareness creation/ sensitization was STOP SGBV and CEFM. She made parishioners understand the meaning of Gender, Gender Based violence, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Child Early and Forced Marriage. The following were highlighted points during the awareness creation:

1. Child upbringing is the duty of both parents; too much attention should not be given to only the girl child i.e boys and girls should be treated equally.
2. Women learn how to talk to your husband because emotional abuse is worse than physical abuse because it can lead to depression and suicide.
3. Sexual and Gender based Violence can happen to a man or a woman.
4. Men should always speak up when they are abused by their wives i.e. physical, emotional, sexual and mental abuse vice versa for the women.
5. All issues of rape should be reported because it is now a criminal offence under the Nigeria law anyone caught in the act will be prosecuted.
6. Report any case of Child Early and forced Marriage to JDPC Auchi and community leaders.
7. Laws that encourage gender based violence either for men and women should be looked into.
8. Victims of SGBV and CEFM should always be free to talk to JDPC Auchi or anyone that can relate the issue to JDPC Auchi and they were promised confidentiality.

9. She ended by saying it is better to live alive that to die in an abusive marriage or relationship.

Rev. Fr. Clement Anaedevha the Director of JDPC Auchi added that saying that a young girl preparing for marriage should not allow herself to be bullied either verbally or physically, that anytime she notices a change in behaviour she should quit the relationship because it might development to more complex issue in future. He gave them many instances of how husband beat their wives and vice versa, reiterating that an abusive marriage should not be endured. Lastly he said JDPC Auchi is open 24/7 for complains on SGBV and CEFM. 1000 plus persons were reached with these message.

### **MEETINGS/LEARNING SESSIONS ATTENDED**

**UROMI JDPCI SCALE PROJECT INCEPTION/PLANNING MEETING:** Uromi JDPCI as the cluster head invited Josemaria Escrivia Foundation, Girls Power Initiative, JDPC Auchi, Willi Johnson Foundation, Edo State Taskforce for human trafficking and IDRC for an inception/planning meeting on the project Galvanize Action for Effective trafficking in Persons response at LGA level in Edo state funded by USAID/palladium. This meeting took place at Lumen Christi Pastoral Centre, Uromi on 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2022. The purpose of the inception meeting was to give overview of the project and shared key roles and planned activities in the project to various cluster members for effective collaboration.

### **QUARTERLY COACHING/ LEARNING SESSIONS**

In the year under review JDPC Auchi has attended 2 quarterly coaching/ Learning sessions.

The first coaching/learning session was the inaugural one which took place at Lumen Christi Pastoral Centre, Uromi on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022. While

**The second one was held** on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 2022 at Vichi Gates Hotel, Benin City. These learning sessions brought together all cluster member organizations to discuss the extent of the work that has been done by the cluster; looking at the what is changing on the Cluster's advocacy issues, how much progress has been made, opportunity that exist and priorities to work on going forward.

The sessions also helped in deepening understanding of the Cluster to conflict sensitivity, GESI issues and improve GESI mainstreaming around her advocacy issues. It also provided opportunity for feedback to enable ongoing performance improvement and created opportunity for cluster members to take ownership of the collective impact session while sharpening members' skills to capture results and turn them into success stories. The cluster which had Uromi JDPCI as the anchor head and the following organizations: JDPC Auchi, Willi Johnson Foundation, IDRC( Ideal Resource and Development Centre), ETAHT(Edo taskforce against human trafficking), JOSEF(Jose Maria Escrivia Foundation) and GPI(girls power Initiative) attended these meetings with 4 representatives from the anchor organization and 2 representatives from other cluster members.

### **CLUSTER LEARNING SESSION ON PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENTS IN LOCALIZING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RESPONSE IN EDO STATE**

The cluster also had two learning sessions on private sector engagements in localizing trafficking in person's response in edo state. The first was held on the 15th of July, 2022 at Lumen Christi Pastoral Centre, Uromi while the second was held at Vichi Gates Hotel, Benin City on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2022. with a good representation of Actors and Stakeholders involved in countering human trafficking in Edo State. The focus was to critically x-ray the role of the Private Sector in

TIP response by leveraging Public-Private Partnership to adequately empower Edo Youths to live life to the fullest and ultimately address the issue of human trafficking since relevant index has continuously shown that lack of jobs increased the problem of human trafficking as unemployed persons due to their economic vulnerability are highly susceptible to human trafficking.

**VALIDATION OF SITUATIONAL AND STAKEHOLDERS ANALYSIS ON COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RESPONSE IN THREE PILOT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE HELD ON FRIDAY THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF OCTOBER, 2022 AT EDO STATE TASKFORCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSON COMPLEX, BENIN CITY**

The LOTIP-R Cluster on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of October, 2022 held a research validation workshop on the situational and stakeholders analysis on countering trafficking in persons response in the three pilot LGAs of Edo State; which was carried out by the Edo State taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT) to generate evidence documentation for improved understanding of contextual issues around the implementation of the Edo State trafficking in person prohibition law 2018 amongst others. The workshop provided an avenue to discuss the preliminary findings of ETAHT on the research study with a view to reviewing the findings based on the terms of reference and make necessary input to enhance the research.

In attendance for the meeting were the Cluster members, the Chairperson of ETAHT, Prof Yinka Omoregbe and her Team, the SCALE Technical Advisor for CTIP and CSO representatives from Caritas Nigeria with a total of 26 persons (15 females and 11 males).

**STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS/ADVOCACY VISITS/MEETINGS** to Otaru of Auchi, Honourable Commissioner of local government & chieftaincy affairs, Chief wipe, speaker/deputy speaker edo state house of assembly, clerk of house of assembly, chief judge etc. the LOTIF cluster with anchor organization visited/ had meetings with the above

relevant stakeholders at various levels to see how countering human trafficking in edo state gets to the grass root level and also;

1. Wants the local government to form a local taskforce against trafficking in persons in all local government areas so to coordinate all activities of human trafficking in the local government with support from state government and to upgrade ETAHF from committee to agency,'
2. Activate victims of trafficking trust funds(VTTF) so that these person will be properly cared/ carter
3. Solicit for the increment of funds for ETAHT activities

## **JDPC AUCHI DIRECTOR ATTENDS ANNUAL LEARNING SUMMIT**

Annual Learning Summit (ALS), took place on the 20th and 21st of September at the Sheraton Hotels & Towers, Abuja. The ALS is a key evaluative process that brings together all SCALE clusters to measure project progress for the current fiscal year (October 2021 – September 2022) and apply learning's to the coming fiscal year (October 2022 – September 2023). It is an invaluable opportunity for the over 100 civil society project partners to share their views on what worked, challenges and constraints encountered and how to work better, moving forward. The ALS is also an annual space for partners to learn, build and measure progress using a range of project tools that promote 'Collective Impact'. To enable us to evaluate how our interventions have supported your work during the year, we will deploy an annual progress index survey in the coming week to be completed by every member of each cluster. It is very important that every organization within each cluster completes the survey promptly as the analysis is an essential part of the ALS.

**JDPC AUCHI DIRECTOR ATTENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF JDPC PROVINCIAL DIRECTORs AND COORDINATORS HELD FROM OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> – 26<sup>TH</sup> 2022, AT THE CSN RESOURCE CENTER DURUMI, ABUJA**

The JDPC annual General meeting brings together Coordinators, Directors from the 9 Catholic Provinces which consist of the 57 Catholic Dioceses across the Nation. The meeting is set to create synergy between the National Office and the Dioceses, to create an avenue for progress between the church and society in terms of best practices, challenges and recommendation.

**EDO NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT HOLD TOWN-HALL MEETINGS** In order to increase the understanding of community stakeholders on the goal and objectives of the project (GALVANISE ACTION FOR EFFECTIVE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RESPONSE), salient provisions of the Edo State trafficking in Person Prohibition Law for effective Trafficking in Person’s Response and the community stakeholders’ role in ensuring prevention of human trafficking, the Localizing Trafficking in Persons Response Cluster members which comprises of JDPC Auchi and Willi Johnson Foundation organized town hall and community dialogue meeting with support from SCALE PALLADIUM. The meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, 2022 at Aibotse Community Hall, Etsako West LGA, Edo North Senatorial District with a good representation of community Actors and Stakeholders.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. Sensitize and increase understanding of community stakeholders on the goal of the project and the importance of the outcome to them as a people.

2. Promote clear understanding of communities on salient provisions of the Edo State Trafficking in Person Prohibition Law for effective TIP response
3. Increase understanding of community stakeholders on their role in ensuring prevention of human trafficking.
4. Expand support and collaboration of community stakeholders on the Advocacy objectives of the cluster.

## **OUTPUT**

1. Reduced cases on human trafficking
2. Increased knowledge on the ills of human trafficking
3. Community stakeholders pledge of commitment
4. Constitution of committee for strategic engagements

**SUPPORT FOR ORPHANS/VULNERABLE CHILDREN:** from our yearly appeal we were able to assist 216(110 and 106females) males and children in various ways ranging from feeding, payment of school fees, house rent and vocational and skill acquisition. Yet we have more vulnerable children and young people who still need this help.

**SUPPORT FOR OUT OF SCHOOL YOUTH:** We discovered that several out of school youth is due to frustration and poverty. With this JDPC Auchi has assisted over 306 out of school youth in Edo North in signing for various vocational training, starting of petty trade etc. Our mission is to bring merry and life to them in preparation for their future.

**SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS AND INDIGENT WOMEN:** Through the year 2022 we have been able to assist 67 widows in diverse ways to find meaning and purpose in life. Some received help to start new businesses, others to feed, some to learn new trade/ build existing trade so that they can fend for themselves and their family members.

**HOSPITAL VISITATION:** As part of our routine spiritual exercises to visit the hospitals and provide necessary help to the sick. JDPC Auchi visited the general hospital/private hospitals in Edo North to provide succour to the sick, house bound and physically challenged people at regular intervals.

### **ESTABLISHED CENTRES OF JDPC FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS**

1. Women Network for Peace building Centre
2. Good Governance Centre
3. Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre
4. Prison Aposolate Centre
5. Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre

If you desire to be friends of JDPC Auchi kindly indicate which project you want to support and send to donations to : JDPC AUCHI CARITAS ACCOUNT 1014548964-ZENITH BANK.