



GENDER AUDIT REPORT:

**A GENDER AUDIT CONDUCTED ON
PROTECTION SERVICES, TRAFFICKING SHELTERS
AND SAFE HOMES IN EDO STATE**

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY UNWOMEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY, IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (NAPTIP).

SEPTEMBER 2020

First published in 2021
©CLEEN Foundation

ISBN: 978-978-58667-2-8

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This project is supported by UNWomen, and the Government of Italy, in close Partnership with National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

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FOREWORD

The problem of trafficking in persons (TiP) and forced migration has in recent years become more sophisticated and involving layers of complex issues. It is a form of modern slavery that continues to evolve through the years. Human trafficking is fraught with serious negative long-term effects on the victims, their communities and the society at large. The trafficking of girls and women from Nigeria, especially from Benin City, capital of Edo State, to Italy, other European and African countries, is a serious phenomenon, as the volume of Nigerian young prostitutes keeps growing steadily and rising to levels that call for concern. Traffickers and their agents in the communities who benefit immensely from the profits of human trafficking constitute major challenges to addressing this problem in the states where the crime is prevalent, particularly Edo State. The current Covid-19 pandemic ravaging most parts of the world has further worsened the economic and financial situation of Nigerians, especially the youths. Although the triggers of human trafficking are largely economic-related and due to poor livelihoods, the criminal practice is further sustained by other secondary but equally important root causes, including cultural orientation, poor government policies that do not address the socioeconomic conditions of youths; and the problem of the lucrative sex market in Europe. In 2015, as a result of the new trends in the crime of trafficking in persons and the need to further strengthen the institutional framework, the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, was enacted with the aim of further strengthening the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The Agency was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria as an integral part of efforts to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria and its attendant human rights abuses in its entire ramification. It is also a fulfilment of Nigeria's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol supplementing the United Nation's Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).

Despite steps taken by government at both policy and operational levels to address trafficking in persons and forced migration, mainstream interventions have often been gender blind and have not necessarily taken into consideration the differences in the migration and trafficking experiences and impacts on men, women, boys and girls. Women and girls, however, remain the majority of trafficked victims and are disproportionately impacted by the negative consequences of the crime.

Interventions targeted at preventing human trafficking and forced migration therefore requires an integrated and evidence-based approach including critically assessing the current interventions provided for the protection of victims of trafficking, with a view to underscoring the effectiveness of services offered. The protection of victims of trafficking through gender-sensitive responses is paramount to the prevention of forced migration and trafficking of women and girls. From the findings of the Gender Audit Report, more collaborative actions among stakeholders and the capacities of primary responders need to be enhanced through specialised trainings to provide more gender sensitive protection

services.

This Gender Audit Report which represents a gender assessment of protection services offered to victims of trafficking in Edo State thus serves to present stakeholders and major frontline actors with evidence-based findings on gender related issues responders and frontliners face in the process of combating trafficking and forced migration and practical solutions to resolving those issues.

The Gender Audit was conceived under a project implemented by CLEEN Foundation in partnership with UN Women and the Government of Italy. The project is focused on "Preventing forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Nigeria: Build resilience, promote sustainable development." It is essentially aimed at identifying a range of gaps, challenges, and priorities for future policy and programming towards increasing gender sensitive information and awareness-raising in Nigeria on trafficking and migration working closely with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The project also seeks to support and strengthen the gender-responsiveness of interventions by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and other relevant government agencies. The project's focal states are Edo and Lagos States which both record the highest rates of these crimes respectively, in Nigeria. Since inception, the project has been engaging actively with relevant stakeholders including CSOs, CBOs, Law enforcement agencies including NAPTIP, NPF, NIS to foster more gender responsive law enforcement interventions and policy responsive frameworks.

This publication presents the data analysis and findings from a pioneer Gender Audit on protection services offered to victims of trafficking and forced migration in trafficking shelters, safe homes and by law enforcement officers in Edo and Lagos States. The publication is sectioned into two major parts. Sections One focuses on thematic findings from CSOs, CBOS and Trafficking shelters providing protection services, while Section Two is devoted to data and findings from law enforcement agencies.

It is without doubt that this Gender Audit Report will contribute richly as a useful resource to enhance stakeholders and citizens' gender perspectives of the trends and challenges faced in the provision of protection services to victims of trafficking in Edo State as well as support policy actions and interventions by frontline service providers towards creating a more gender sensitive environment within the context of protecting victims of trafficking and forced migration. The problem of trafficking in persons (TiP) and forced migration has in recent years become more sophisticated and involving layers of complex issues. It is a form of modern slavery that continues to evolve through the years. Human trafficking is fraught with serious negative long-term effects on the victims, their communities and the society at large. The trafficking of girls and women from Nigeria, especially from Benin City, capital of Edo State, to Italy, other European and African countries, is a serious phenomenon, as the volume of Nigerian young prostitutes keeps growing steadily and rising to levels that call for concern. Traffickers and their agents in the communities who benefit immensely from the profits of human trafficking constitute major challenges to addressing this problem in the states where the crime is prevalent, particularly Edo State. The current

Covid-19 pandemic ravaging most parts of the world has further worsened the economic and financial situation of Nigerians, especially the youths. Although the triggers of human trafficking are largely economic-related and due to poor livelihoods, the criminal practice is further sustained by other secondary but equally important root causes, including cultural orientation, poor government policies that do not address the socioeconomic conditions of youths; and the problem of the lucrative sex market in Europe. In 2015, as a result of the new trends in the crime of trafficking in persons and the need to further strengthen the institutional framework, the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, was enacted with the aim of further strengthening the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The Agency was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria as an integral part of efforts to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria and its attendant human rights abuses in its entire ramification. It is also a fulfilment of Nigeria's international obligation under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol supplementing the United Nation's Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This document is intended to serve as a resourceful support to strengthen the gender responsive interventions by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons

(NAPTIP), facilitate prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships in relation to forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Edo State.

The resources for producing this research report were largely sourced through the effort of all key stakeholders involved in intercepting forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Edo State through the intervention of CLEEN Foundation with support from UN Women and the Government of Italy. Concepts and theories for the Gender Audit Report on frontline services providers was developed and finetuned with the collaborative efforts and contributions of all critical stakeholders in the State.

CLEEN Foundation wishes to first express profound gratitude to the funding institutions behind this intervention, the Italian Government through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (UN WOMEN), for the timely and immense support provided on the project

Deep appreciations to Ivy Basil-Ofili the gender consultant and researcher for Edo State who laid out the step-by-step process that constitutes the structure for the Gender Audit, including assessing organizational readiness, surveying staff to understand perceptions of gender integration, perception and adequacy of policies and laws on forced migration and trafficking in persons using key informant interview and other means of conversation to explore what service provision are available for women and girls who are victims of forced migration and trafficking.

Special thanks to the CLEEN Foundation's leadership and team members especially Ruth Okugbeni, Esther Mabadeje, Oluwole Ojewale, Blessing Eromon, Blessing Kadiri,

Gabriel Akinremi, Anna White Agbo, Fikih Obaro and Nnamdi Odo, who provided support for the smooth process of the Gender Audit. Also, special thanks to Patience Aisha Igbin-edion and Lorine Ogheneke Daniel who took part in the field work and collection of data and information; and to Tosin Osasona and Osai Ojigho for their contributions towards providing editorial assistance, content, layout, and design.

Immense thanks and gratitude to Dr. Edward Akpomera, Mrs. Maria Edeko, Prof. Yinka Omorogbe, Mrs. Bose Aggrey, NAPTIP Edo Zonal Commander, Ijeoma Uduak, and staff of NAPTIP for their salient contributions to the success of the research and the development of the research report whose immense contribution to strengthening the report and the fieldwork cannot be estimated.

Finally, we wish to extend our deepest appreciations to the Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking ("ETAHT"), the Gender and Anti-Trafficking Units of the Nigeria Police Force Edo Command, Edo State Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth Development, the CBOs and CSOs who participated actively as respondents during the field work for this research, in particular: COSUDOW, Girls Power Initiative, FULIFE, Genius Hub, Idia Renaissance, RARDUJA, to mention a few.

DEDICATION

In memory of Mr. Innocent Chukwuma, Founder, CLEEN Foundation for his selfless service to humanity and improving public safety, security, and access to justice in Nigeria and Africa.

Gone but not Forgotten.

ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
COSUDOW	Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women
ETATH	Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GPI	Girl's Power Initiative
IDIR	IDIA Renaissance
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDA	Ministries Departments and Agencies
NACTAL	Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
RARDUJA	RARDUJA International
SEYP	Society for Empowerment of Young People
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UNWOMEN	United Nation Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.
UNODC/UNICRI	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/ United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project, "Preventing Forced Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls in Nigeria: Build Resilience, Promote Sustainable Development," funded by the Italian

Government, has the overall goal of supporting and strengthening the gender-responsive-ness of interventions by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to facilitate the prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships in relation to human trafficking & migration matters. The report presents findings and context specific insights from the mapping of protection issues and services in Edo State.

The project is specifically poised at enabling a gender sensitive policy environment that addresses forced migration and trafficking and increasing gender sensitive information and awareness raising in source migration trafficking sites. The intervention is framed within the context of a Gender Audit of protection services within existing shelters and safe homes and other frontline services and providers. The Gender Audit was concluded in Lagos and Edo States. A summary of findings indicates there is lack of coordination and collaboration amongst all service frontline providers, duplications of roles, no central disaggregated data statistics on trafficking and forced migration, limited knowledge and technical expertise on gender norms, gender mainstreaming and applicability of relevant laws and policies on trafficking in persons in Edo State. The key stakeholders that need strengthening apart from CSOs are the Ministries of Social Development and Gender issues, Youths and Sport, Justice, and the Edo State Task Force (ETAHT).

The report will form the basis for the development of tools and training mechanisms to enhance gender-responsive service delivery by frontline service providers including the social welfare, security, health, and justice sector agencies.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, provides in Article 3 that "trafficking in persons" means "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."

Human trafficking can best be described as a global problem and a modern form of slavery. Women and children are the key target groups because of their unequal socio-economic status and the lack of awareness of their legal rights¹. In 2008, ILO estimated that 98% of women and girls are the most trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Nigeria in addition to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, has ratified many international instruments that support the elimination and punishment of trafficking. These includes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, the ILO Forced Labour Convention of 1930 (No. 29) the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999 (No. 182), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979.

Nigeria is a source, transit and destination country for women and children subjected to trafficking in persons including forced labour and forced prostitution. Trafficked Nigerian women and children are recruited from rural areas within the country's borders – women and girls for involuntary domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and boys for forced labour in street vending, domestic servitude, mining, and begging. In order to curb this menace, Nigeria established the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in 2003, the National Labour Migration Policy, 2014 and the National Policy on Migration, 2015, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015, amongst other laws to tackle all forms of trafficking in persons and to protect victims of human trafficking.

Although trafficking is a major national challenge in the country, however, recent experiences and documented accounts have shown that Edo State is an endemic hotspot for the menace of external trafficking for sexual exploitation.

Human Trafficking and Forced Migration in Edo State

Edo State is a state in Nigeria where most prevalent occurrences of trafficking especially

1 Gender Issues in Human trafficking in Edo State, Nigeria by Clementina O. Osezua

exploitative sex-work migration are common. Edo State continues to be the locus of the trafficking problem in the country with over 94% of people trafficked internationally hailing from this State² (IOM 2020). Odorige (2016) claims that 85% of Nigerian sex-workers in Europe originated or migrated from Edo State. IOM (2018) puts the figure at over 60%.³ It would seem that the same percentages are also applicable to forced migration. In Edo State, Orhionmwon, Esan North East and Ikpoba Okha local government areas constitute some of the main recruiting centres for traffickers, while also being the main areas of departure of irregular migrants seeking to reach Europe.⁴

The experience of 'unsuccessful' migrants particularly those who have returned to Edo State without wealth, does little to undermine peoples' dreams of success. Shamed by their apparent failure, their voices are silenced. In this context, frontline service providers are expected to provide the required support services to survivors of forced migration and trafficking to help overcome the shame and silence. Such services include health, policing, justice, and social services.⁵ However, to ensure frontline service providers who are playing crucial roles to survivors of forced migration and trafficking in women and girls are well equipped and coordinated; and the available legislations and policies are in place to respond to gender issues in Edo State; there is need to conduct a Gender Audit to review some of the laws, policies and support services provided by the frontline service providers.

Why A Gender Audit?

Nigeria experiences a huge number of cases of trafficking annually. Women, girls and children constitute the majority of those trafficked. A large proportion of poor women migrants and women trafficked to Europe, especially Italy, are from Nigeria (UNODC/ UNICRI, 2003). Most movement of Nigerian women and girls is facilitated either formally through agents, or informally through family and acquaintances. Trafficking of women is part of both the continuum of labour exploitation and Violence Against Women (VAW), as many of the women who migrate or are trafficked are subjected to serve as domestic or plantation workers or for sex exploitation. For survivors of VAW and trafficking in persons, the following questions comes to mind:

1. Are the required support services (health, policing/justice, and social services) adequate and well equipped? What are the support services provided and what classes of victims receives such services?
2. Do service providers have technical expertise, skills, and knowledge on issues of Trafficking and forced migration?
3. Is there a centralised disaggregated data statistics on trafficking in persons in Edo

2 IOM. "'Voodoo Curses' Keep Victims of Trafficking Under Bondage." International Organization for Migration. Last modified January 20, 2020. <https://www.iom.int/news/voodoo-curses-keepvictimstrafficking-under-bondage>.

3 Why the high figures of sex work migrants in Edo State, Nigeria? Considerations for social work practice

4 Challenge fund strategy document by SoTiN

5 Why the high figures of sex work migrants in Edo State, Nigeria? Considerations for social work practice

State and

4. Are there referral mechanical or SOPs as well as knowledge and adequate awareness of available laws, polices and the National Referral Mechanism?
5. What is the level of coordination of all service providers in the State?

To address some of the challenges and strengthen the institutional framework to tackle the issues of human trafficking and migration, the Nigerian government has enacted a number of legislations - the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, the National Labour Migration Policy, 2014 and the National Policy on Migration, 2015, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015, amongst others. These legislations and policies have been made in response to address gender and non-gender related crimes in Nigeria. However, a cursory review of some of the laws, policies and protection services on trafficking and migration indicate that they are gender blind, devoid of gender sensitivity required to achieve the prevention of irregular migration and trafficking and greater responsiveness to the needs of victims of trafficking. Hence, the need for Gender Audit of protection services within existing shelters, safe homes and other frontline services by providers.

Objectives

1. To develop a Gender Audit tool for the assessment of existing protection services for victims of trafficking in Edo State from a gender perspective.
2. Undertake the assessment of the protection services in the State using the Gender Audit tool developed.
3. Analyse the findings and produce two (2) reports on the Gender Audits (gap-analysis) of the protection service centres for victims of trafficking in the State with highlights of gap areas that can be addressed by government policy.

One section of the report focuses on services and shelters provided by frontline government agencies and Civil Society- inclusive of Faith-based Organisations while the other section of the report focuses specifically on Security Sector Institutions - Nigeria Police, Nigeria Immigration Service, etc, with mandates around trafficking and migration. There is also a consideration for coordination/linkages between the two groups (Group 1- frontline government agencies and CSOs and Group 2- Security Institutions) in the reports.

METHODOLOGY FRAMEWORK OF THE GENDER AUDIT PROCESS

1. Methodology

The Gender Audit involved two parts: Generally, the research focused on services provided by frontline service providers which included government agencies, Civil Society Organisations and Security Sectors. We looked at coordination/linkages of all frontline providers (Government Agencies, CSOs and Security Institutions) in the reports. The methodology for the research comprised of a desk research, two (2) consultation workshops to validate the Gender Audit tool and key informant interviews. The consultation workshops were for key stakeholders to agree on the audit tool for the assessment. This was done virtually with about 40 organisations (comprised of Government Agencies, CSOs and Security Actors) working in the protection spaces in Edo and Lagos States. Also, 15 key informant interviews were carried out with heads of frontline service providers in Edo State. Activities were carried out between Mid-August to early September 2020.

2. Scope of the Assessment and Limitation

The scope of the Gender Audit was primarily to focus on key frontline Government Agencies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Security Agencies in Edo State who are frontline service providers for victims of trafficked women and girls and forced migration in Nigeria. Only seven (7) key Government Agencies and eight (8) key CSOs and shelters within Benin City, Edo State were able to complete the Gender Audit tool due to covid-19 restrictions on movement.

Limitations

The greatest challenge was the difficulty in accessing most Government Agencies. As at the time of the research, Levels 1-9 of Government Agencies was asked to stay at home due to COVID 19 Pandemic and it was quite difficult to access the senior officers and directors. Also, due to the upcoming 2020 governorship election in the State, there were some security challenges which limited movement of the assessment team during the audit exercise. Nevertheless, the assessment team believes the report of the Gender Audit represents the key findings from major service providers with regard to issues of trafficking in women and girls and forced migration in Edo State.

Generally, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and government restrictions on movement particularly with Government Agencies, the planned focus group discussions and most site visits could not hold as most service providers opted for online assessment. This also restricted the assessment team from verifying some of the claims made by respondents and site policies and guidelines as discussed.

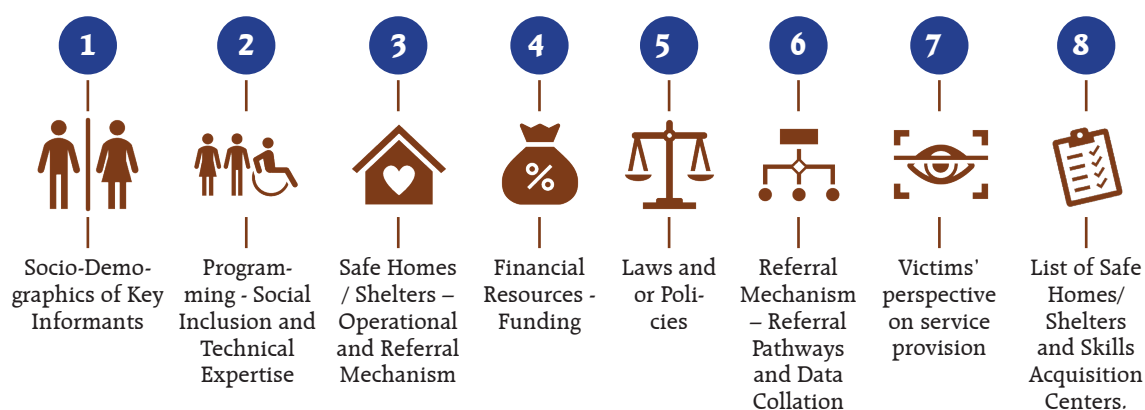
3. The Gender Audit Tool (Questionnaire)

In a bid to properly assess the services provided by frontline service providers through the Gender Audit in Edo State, the need for a Gender Audit tool (Questionnaire) arose. The tool was designed to assess the level of intervention from programme planning and design,

operational processes, technical expertise, monitoring and evaluation, financial resources, data statistics, coordination, referral mechanisms and knowledge, gaps of existing laws and policies in the State.

It was the consensus among stakeholders that the tool should be qualitative and quantitative and should focus on the following areas:

Figure 1: Gender Audit focus areas



1. Socio-Demographics of Key Informants
2. Programming - Social Inclusion and Technical Expertise
3. Safe Homes / Shelters – Operational and Referral Mechanism
4. Financial Resources - Funding
5. Laws and or Policies
6. Referral Mechanism – Referral Pathways and Data Collation
7. Victims' perspective on service provision
8. List of Safe Homes/Shelters and Skills Acquisition Centres⁶.

Interpretation Of Findings

The following interpretation of findings is based on the qualitative and quantitative data collected during the Gender Audit assessment. The data collected from participating organizations (CSOs) was analysed in line with the objective of the project and the report was formatted in line with the thematic areas of the project.

Part A: Findings From MDAs And CSOs Service Providers

1. Socio-Demographics of Key Informants

The Gender Audit tool was completed by key frontline service providers who are heads of different units and departments in key Government Ministries and Civil Society Organisations. Seven (7) key Ministries and eight (8) CSOs⁷ and shelters were accessed. They comprised of four (4) males and eleven (11) females who were the first point of call

⁶ See Annex 2

⁷ See Annex 3

in providing services to victims of forced migration and trafficking particularly women and girls in Edo State.

Figure 2: Demographics of Key Informants



2. Programming - Social Inclusion and Technical Expertise

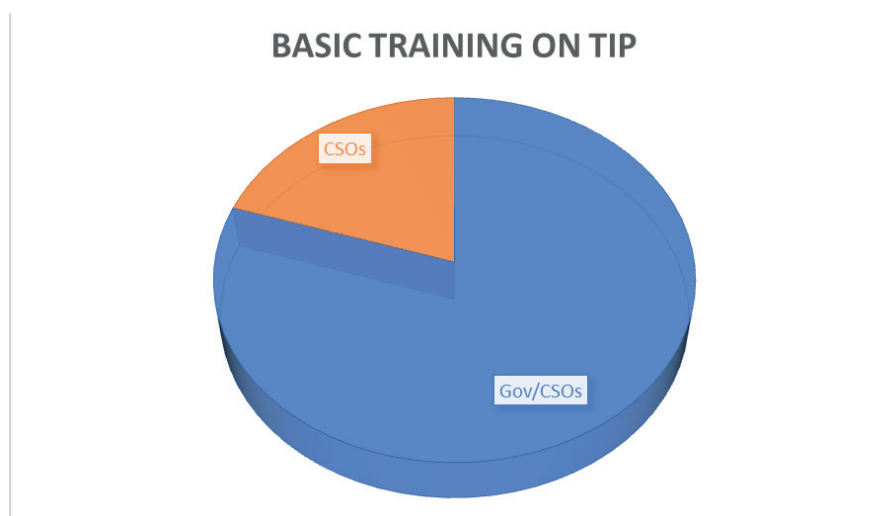
The concept of social inclusion refers to actions or activities aimed at promoting equal opportunity and resources between excluded groups or people. To understand the concept of social inclusion as it relates to forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Edo State, it was necessary to investigate the processes that promote equal opportunity and resources for all victims who seek protection services including victims from marginalized communities. Also, to identify knowledge gap with regards to gender terminologies and review the inclusion of gender in programme planning and design.

From the findings, it was observed that most of the organisations particularly the CSOs and shelter service providers have a fair theoretical knowledge of social inclusion and what it meant to mainstream gender in their programme planning, design, and operations. Gender mainstreaming is the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination.⁸ In the day to day operations of the organisations, the finding shows that gender mainstreaming forms an integral part of the operations as service providers. Most Government Agencies particularly the Ministry of Social Development and Gender have dedicated gender units while some have focal persons that deals with issues and reports of GBV and trafficking in persons. There is also a Special Adviser on Gender within the government cabinet. It was also observed that there is a basic understanding of the concepts of trafficking and forced migration and their root causes and effects. However, ten (10) out of fifteen (15) responses are of the opinion that trafficked victims are mostly females between the ages of thirteen – twenty-five (13-25) while male victims are often initially returned as a result of forced migration who end up becoming victims of trafficking.

On technical expertise with regards to gender statistics on training and capacity enhancement of staff, 80% reported they have had one form of training on forced migration and trafficking in person with equal gender representation by different international agencies like the IOM and ILO, while others who are mostly CSOs have had some specific training but there is need for

⁸ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>

specific, tailor-made training with regards to their different mandates on trafficking and forced migration.



On the issue of the most prevalent form of trafficking and forced migration of women and girls, sexual exploitation and child labour was observed to be the most prevalent amongst trafficking and forced migration of victims, just as Gender-based Violence is more prevalent in the Domestic spheres.

Gender specific services cuts across medicals (such as forensic medical examination, laboratory examination for sexually transmitted diseases, etc). Shelter is mostly provided for victims at risk or threat from traffickers while trauma counselling, vocational skills and business start-up, capacity building, financial support, rehabilitation/reintegration, and referrals to relevant agencies are also provided to victims when applicable. Some organisations like Idia Renaissance and COSUDOW provides support services mostly to the girl child because of their vulnerability.

Protection of identity of victims from threats of drivers of trafficking. It was discovered that Government Agencies like the Edo State Task Force, NHRC and NAPTIP keep victims, male and particularly females and children in shelters until they are stable and out of threat. Some report threats of victims from traffickers to Security Agencies like the Police and the State Security Agency (SSA) while others have monitoring teams who carry out family assessment and environmental checks to ascertain the enabling predisposal factors of trafficking before providing alternative safe spaces. NHRC specifically emphasized on protecting the identity of the victims by not using their real names and when accessing justice for survivors, they do not use the open court in all cases to avoid stigmatization and discrimination. It was discovered that CSOs endeavour to protect the identity of the victims by not sharing their information. The information may only be shared with the consent of the victims or by an order of court. This therefore shows that confidentiality of victim's information is paramount and sacred in the course of their work. Most referrals are made to the relevant Government Agencies like NAPTIP, Edo Task Force and Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues with due consideration in ensuring non-disclosure of victim's location when necessary. This helps to curb stigmatization and threats from traffickers.

- On issues of challenges with gender intervention on forced migration and trafficking of women and girls particularly returnees, the findings from the Audit exercise indicated that girls and women suffer most of the negative impact of rigid gender norms and roles. They are more likely to experience inadequate human, technical and financial investments, weak coordination and monitoring mechanisms, insufficient data, and research. Conventional skills acquisition is becoming saturated and there is need for diversification that encourages digital skills.

On monitoring and evaluation (M&E), the report could not ascertain established records and data statistics which could aid monitoring and evaluation as well as standard referral mechanism within the State. Each organisation or facility alluded to the fact that they have internal records and referral processes such as documentation and disaggregated data statistic for victims of trafficking who access their support, contacts of CSOs, Safe homes and Government Agencies which they refer cases or seek support on services they do not provide. The most referred organisations from the findings includes NAPTIP, Edo Task Force and Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, NACTAL, COSUDOW, and IDRC. However, most of the organisations are not conversant with the Guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria.

3. Safe Homes / Shelters – Operational and Referral Mechanism

The most important steps taken by victims of forced migration and trafficking of women and girls attempting to escape from traffickers is to seek refuge in a safe home or shelter. However, due to stigmatization, discrimination, and continuous threat from the traffickers even while in safe homes, most victims prefer to stay behind or return to their abusers after an initial escape. This part of the Gender Audit endeavoured to analyse respondents' insight with regards to service provision for victims particularly females at safe homes and shelters. It also focused on the level of gender sensitivity in the processes of which service providers treat male or female clients in service delivery facilities. The section also made attempt to find out the number of safe homes/shelters available for victims of forced migration and trafficking in Edo State.

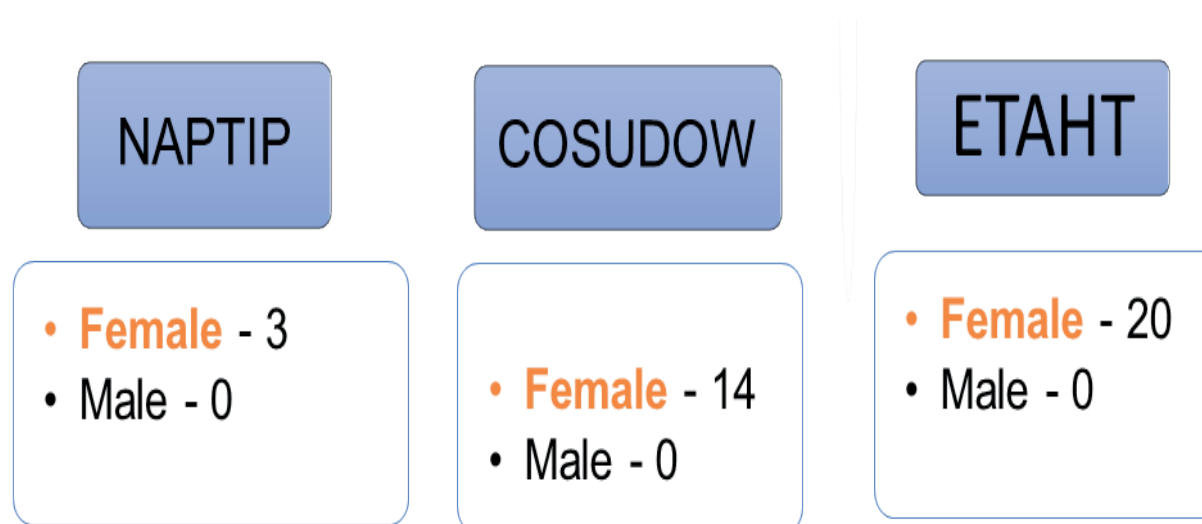
Currently, there are two (2) key government safe homes or shelters which are operated by the Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking and NAPTIP, and four (4) CSOs shelters managed by the Committed Support for the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW), Society for Empowerment of Young People (SEYP) and Pathfinder Justice Initiative (PJI) as at the time of the assessment. While there are established organisation that provides different forms of skills acquisitions and do referrals for victims of forced migration and trafficking of women and girls, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues also have two (2) key skills acquisition centres.

The caregivers and personnel at the various organisations are between 10 and 25 which include the shelter managers, counsellors, cleaners, drivers, security personnel and account officers. The findings show that the personnel have had one form of basic training on trafficking and forced migration such as effect of trafficking in persons. None, however, could ascertain if they have had any specific training with regards to their mandates as the

Government Agencies	CSO	Skill Acquisition Centres
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ETAHT • NAPTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COSUDOW • SEYP • Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues • Idia Renaissance • Geniue Hub • Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI) • GPI

few trainings are basically on trafficking and migration in Nigeria and the processes.

As at the time of the research, NAPTIP had three (3) female survivors and no (0) male, COSUDOW had fourteen (14) women and girls and no (0) male while the Task Force had twenty (20) young females who just returned from Libya and no (0) male. They have been trafficked for a period of two weeks – ten years (2 weeks to 10 years) depending on the nature of the case. Access to these victims were restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The findings also observed that safe homes and shelters are well-structured with adequate bed spaces and the length of stay is between two weeks – six months (2 weeks to 6 months). Each safe home has different procedures and processes in handling cases of force migration and trafficking. Services such as identification of victims, registration, provision of basic needs and health care, counselling, empowerment, follow up/monitoring and evaluation

and referrals are provided in an ad-hoc manner as there are no uniform procedure that cuts across all organisation and agencies. There is a general mandate with regards to obtaining informed consent from victims and assuring confidentiality of information of the victim. However, it was not possible to establish the effectiveness of these procedures.

Depending on the **needs of a victim**, services like counselling, skills acquisition, medical

examination, empowerment, legal and referrals are provided to both male and female victims at the safe homes and shelters. With regards to **accessibility of all classes of victims**, it was discovered that government shelters are open to all victims (Male and Female) while the private or CSO-driven safe homes are limited to specific victims such as single women depending on their mandate and the vulnerability of the class of victims while some do not have adequate space for separate victims.

Women, underage girls, and boys are treated separately in the shelter procedure and services that are provided. Pregnant survivors are given priority and support for reintegration. For underage girls, where necessary, organisations ensure enrolment for formal education in regular schools or skills acquisition depending on the need. However, attention is always given based on victims' specific needs and the report established that most of the safe homes provides basic vocational skills such as hair dressing, soap making, fashion designing etc, as basic services provided to victims.

Persons with disability are referred to special schools while persons living with mental disability are cared for in specialised facilities equipped to deal with their specific needs. For victims that require some form of medical support, there are special arrangement between the safe homes/shelters with different public and private hospitals across the State.

Different **challenges** were also identified in the management and procedures of safe homes and shelters. Most shelters and homes do not have adequate skills and expertise in managing unstable behaviours of survivors of trafficking and unsafe migration, such as slow response to counselling requests from victims, devastating psychological effects, post-traumatic stress, depression, memory loss, anxiety, fear, guilt, shame, and other severe forms of mental trauma and family tracing. However, poor funding stands as a huge challenge in militating between the support to victims as well as their empowerment.

The following are the identified list of safe homes/shelters where cases are usually referred to in Edo State.

S/N	SAFE HOME/SHELTER	
1	The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)	A law enforcement agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria founded in 2003. The Benin Zonal Command was established in 2004 with the mandate of combating the menace of Trafficking in Persons, Child Labour, Abuse, Organ Harvesting, etc. in Edo and Delta States and they provide the following services such as investigation and prosecution, counselling and psychosocial support, and rehabilitation, economic empowerment, family mediation, family tracing, legal support, medical support, shelter, referrals, awareness raising and sensitization, development of policies.

2	Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Set up by the Edo State Government to stem the trend of human trafficking and irregular migration in the State and eliminate the associated stigma. Their mission is to eradicate the menace of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery and the Re-integration of Returnees into the Society. They provide the following services such as rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, livelihood support and skills acquisition, counselling and psychosocial support, medical support, returnee packs, referrals, community outreach and sensitisation, family tracing, prosecution of traffickers, returnee stipends and data capture.
3	Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Woman (COSUDOW)	A Non-governmental Organization in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria which strives to uplift the lives of young girls and women irrespective of tribe, race, and religious affiliation. The name COSUSOW officially came to limelight in 1999 and they provide the following services such as shelter, awareness creation and sensitisation, family tracing, reintegration, and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, counselling and livelihood support and skills acquisition.
4	Society for Empowerment of Young People (SEYP)	A Non-governmental Organization in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria that is committed to freeing women and young persons from ignorance and underdevelopment, providing hope to the hopeless and succour to the downtrodden. SEYP is a beacon of light to children and women, through positive consistent and focused programme and empowerment schemes with a view to extracting from them their contribution to societal growth and development to make the world a better place. They provide shelter, counselling and psychosocial support, referral, awareness, and sensitisation to victims of forced migration and trafficking.
5	Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI)	An international social justice initiative in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. They seek justice and provide rehabilitation for female survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence and liberate enslaved women and girls through the direct eradication of root causes and they provide the following service such as counselling and psychosocial support, referrals, awareness and sensitisation. Their core project prevents sex-trafficking, liberates trapped women and girls and provides a new path forward for at-risk women and girls. We provide alternative paths to livelihood, education, awareness of the dangers and risks of sex-trafficking as well as the core resources needed to reduce the exposure to risk.

SKILLS ACQUISITION CENTRES		
1	Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues	<p>Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues is a government agency and part of its mandate is to promote the development of women and children in Edo State. Its functions include advocacy and sensitisation on trafficking and irregular migration and their mandates cuts across reception of trafficked victims and victims of irregular migration, rehabilitation, reintegration and provision of psycho-social support to victims of trafficking and irregular migration and other Gender Based Violence victims. The Ministry also has the mandate to provide livelihood and skills acquisition for vulnerable people, individuals, families, and communities. They also do active follow-up.</p> <p>One of the key mandates of the Ministry is to grant approvals for the establishment of shelters and safe homes, monitoring and supervision of such shelters and safe homes in the Edo State.</p>
2	Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI)	An international social justice initiative in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. They seek justice and provides rehabilitation for female survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence and liberate enslaved women and girls through the direct eradication of root causes and they provide the following services such as counselling and psychosocial support, referrals, awareness and sensitisation.
3	IDIA RENAISSANCE	A Non-governmental, non-political, non-religious and nonprofit Organization working through Research, Education and Enlightenment towards the restoration of the dignity of women, youths, and children in Nigeria. They provide the following services such as livelihood support and economic empowerment, family tracing, referrals, and community outreach.
4	Genius Hub Global Initiative	A Non-Governmental Organization based in Edo State, Nigeria with a fast-growing community that houses achievers through a success-driven program organised to continually improve lives. Their approach to reducing social vices, such as human trafficking and irregular migration, awareness on livelihood opportunities, skills acquisition, entrepreneurship development and access to market, women and girls empowerment, re-integration of returned irregular migrants, providing psychosocial support to victims of human trafficking and irregular migration, and business support through facilitating loans and grants.
5	Society for Empowerment of Young People (SEYP)	A Non-governmental organization in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria that is committed to freeing women and young persons from ignorance and underdevelopment, providing hope to the hopeless and succour to the downtrodden. SEYP is a beacon of light to children and women, through positive, consistent and focused programmes and empowerment schemes with a view to extracting from them their contribution to societal growth and development to make the world a better place. They provide shelter, counselling and psychosocial support, referral, awareness, and sensitisation to victims of forced migration and trafficking.
6	Fullness of Life Counselling and Development Initiative (FULIFE).	A Non-Governmental Organization based in Edo State, Nigeria that work with victims of human trafficking providing them with counselling and psychosocial support, rehabilitation, family tracing, reintegration and monitoring and evaluation of those who have been empowered. They collaborate with agencies and organizations for sheltering of victims.

Services provided by Safe Homes/ Shelters

	Services provided by the shelter	For male	For Female	For Both Male and Female	Not provided at all
The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Clothing				
	Counselling				
	Psycho-social support				
	Skill acquisition				
	Empowerment support				
	Shared bathroom/toilet for all				
	Separate bathroom/toilet for male and female				
	Provision of sanitary pads				
	Provision of stipends/allowance to victims				
	Services provided by the shelter	For male	For Female	For Both Male and Female	Not provided at all
Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Clothing				
	Counselling				
	Psycho-social support				
	Skill acquisition				
	Empowerment support				
	Shared bathroom/toilet for all				
	Separate bathroom/toilet for male and female				
	Provision of sanitary pads				
	Provision of stipends/allowance to victims				

	Services provided by the shelter	For male	For Female	For Both Male and Female	Not provided at all
Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Woman (CO-SUDOW)	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Clothing				
	Counselling				
	Psycho-social support				
	Skill acquisition				
	Empowerment support				
	Shared bathroom/toilet for all				
	Separate bathroom/toilet for male and female				
	Provision of sanitary pads				
	Provision of stipends/ allowance to victims				

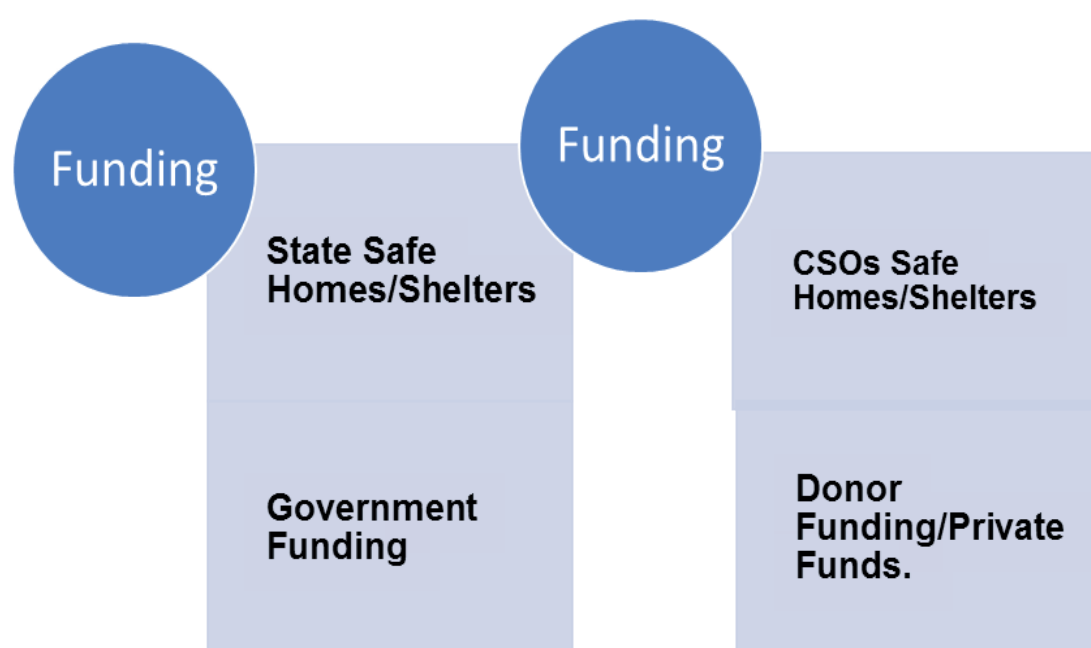
	Services provided by the shelter	For male	For Female	For Both Male and Female	Not provided at all
Society for Empowerment of Young People (SEYP)	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Clothing				
	Counselling				
	Psycho-social support				
	Skill acquisition				
	Empowerment support				
	Shared bathroom/toilet for all				
	Separate bathroom/toilet for male and female				
	Provision of sanitary pads				
	Provision of stipends/ allowance to victims				

4. Financial Resources - Funding

Funding is an important resource when it comes to an effective intervention on providing support services to victims/survivors of forced migration and trafficking. It was therefore crucial to understand the processes and amount of resources budgeted for gender specific services and the existence of dedicated budget for victim support.

	Services provided by the shelter	For male	For Female	For Both Male and Female	Not provided at all
Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI)	Accommodation				
	Food				
	Clothing				
	Counselling				
	Psycho-social support				
	Skill acquisition				
	Empowerment support				
	Shared bathroom/toilet for all				
	Separate bathroom/toilet for male and female				
	Provision of sanitary pads				
	Provision of stipends/allowance to victims				

From the findings, state/government owned safe homes/shelters are funded by the government while CSOs managed shelters are solely funded by private funds which are mostly from donor agencies such as the UN and EU. The government agencies such as Edo State Taskforce and NAPTIP are aware of the Victims' Support Funds as provided by the revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act. However, they do not have access to the funds. For the private safe homes/shelters, partners who refer victims/survivors are occasionally requested to make some form of payment for service provision.



5. Laws and or Policies

With regards to laws and policies on forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Edo State, and efficacy of the expertise and competence of the various organisations in the delivery of their services, the findings observed that service providers make recourse to some of the laws where necessary particularly on the rights of victims and access to justice. Most safe homes claimed they have some gender policies e.g. child protection policy, domestic violence policy, victim's protection policy and media protection policy.

Service providers indicated that they are aware of some of the laws and policies such as the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, The National Labour Migration Policy 2014 and 2015 and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015, while few such as NAPTIP, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues have heard about National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2014. It was observed that most organisations lack adequate knowledge of the applicability of these laws and policies with regards to their specific mandate as service providers for victims/survivals of forced migration and trafficking in women and girls.

On the issue of effectiveness and implementation of the available laws and policies for victims/survivals of forced migration and trafficking, all service providers agree the laws are adequate but there is need for effective implementation of the laws on trafficking and forced migration.

Some of the challenges of the laws and policies identified by service providers includes the section on seizure of assets from traffickers under the Trafficking in Persons Act. They indicated that this should be amended to read all assets of the trafficker; the jail term should be life imprisonment and not 14 years; permits from victims before prosecution of traffickers should be amended and trafficking should be taken as an offence against the State and one should not require consent from victims; lack of public awareness of the laws; lack of access to justice and implementation of the laws and policies.

6. Referral Mechanism – Referral Pathways and Data Collation

Effective referral systems are essential for collaboration and coordination if victims of trafficking and forced migration are going to access the services they need. Referral and linkage systems are key components of improved service demand and accessibility. Such a system which includes structure, monitoring systems and referral tools requires collaboration between all partners and key service delivery partners. They must agree on the management structure and procedures, timeline, key responsibilities, monitoring system and referral tools for the protection of the rights of victims. It was also essential to confirm if there was in existence a framework for the coordination of safe homes/shelters referrals, particularly between public and private service providers in providing the needed care and support for victims.

In analysing the different referral mechanism between agencies who refer survivors of trafficking and forced migration particularly on services not provided for, it was observed that the procedure for reception of victims (both male and female) into safe homes/shelter varies from one agency to the other. Some require the signing of MoUs or ToRs to properly analyze the support that is needed before admission into the safe home/shelter. Like COSUDO, the period to finalise an MoU ranges from two – four months (2-4 Months) particularly with IOM while others have some basic Terms of Reference which runs within days to finalise.

It was also observed from the findings that safe homes and shelters mostly refer victims to the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Edo State Task Force and NAPTIP which are government agencies while COSUDOW, PATHFINDERS Justice Initiatives, NACTAL, IDRC, GPI, RARDUJA, Genius Hub are CSOs where survivors are also referred. For survivors that need medical care, such referrals go to government hospitals and most times, ST. Philomena Hospital which is a private hospital. Survivors living with mental health issues are referred to the Benin psychiatric hospital while persons living with disability are referred to the schools for special needs. All agencies are effective in their response to support services for survivors, but their support is limited to the availability of funds.



However, most safe homes and shelters work closely with the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues and NAPTIP who are the primary agencies in charge of trafficking and forced migration in the State. They all have cordial working relationship by referring of services they do not provide and ensuring follow up of such referrals. One glaring challenge however is the duplication of roles and conflicting internal processes amongst agencies and organisations such as provision of psychosocial support, counselling, access to justice and skills acquisition. There is no structured procedure or referral mechanism/SOP and the need to strengthen the framework for coordination of safe homes and shelters with the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues and the Taskforce.

With regards to a central disaggregated data collation system of survivors in Edo State, the report findings shows that the State does not have a central collation system. However, each agency like NAPTIP, ETAHT, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues has

internal data collating system, and this has led to duplication of data statistics in the State particularly when survivors are referred to other agencies and safe homes/shelter. The findings also ascertained that CSOs, are not aware of any central disaggregated data collating system as they do not feed into any data owned by the State. They however have within their organisations and shelters, internal information, and data for survivors of trafficking and forced migration. Some of the responses alluded to the fact that there is a coordinating system within the Edo State Taskforce of which other CSOs are members. This coordination system was set up by IOM known as the State Management Expertise Team (SMET) which serves as a platform for capacity building and technical expertise for stakeholders in the State. According to one of the responses, "IOM, NAPTIP, ETAHT and some CSOs record the same data from the same source. The data entry in the state is from one source from recorded by different Agencies and organizations". However, there is need to further strengthen the mandate of each government agencies who are members of the task force within the State with an oversight Ministry like the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues whose mandate cuts across safe homes / shelters and trafficking and forced migration.

7. Survivors in Shelters

A victim of human trafficking is a person that is subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex, debt bondage, or involuntary labour. Victims of human trafficking can be young children, teenagers, men, and women that moves from one location to another under the influence of another person and ends up being exploited. Such victims when rescued usually need necessary support to help rehabilitate and reintegrate back into the society and it is the role of safe homes and shelters to ensure effective and efficient processes of rehabilitation and reintegration of victims.

A survivor that was willing to share her story was interviewed at the COSUDOW's shelter. She was a 16-year-old who ran away from home in Ebonyi State where her parents were residing. She stated that her parents were maltreating her, although she was learning some vocational skills like hair dressing. She later ran away from home and started staying with a friend. While at her friend's place, a lady approached her and convinced her to travel to Europe. The trip led her to Mali instead were the UN found her and other trafficked persons. The UN eventually referred them to IOM who brought her to the shelter. IOM and the shelter are making plans to reunite her with her family, but she is unwilling to reunite with her parents because of fear of continuous maltreatment. Instead, she only wants to go home and take her junior sister away from her parents.

When she was asked further about the services provided at the shelter, she confirmed that the services were good and that they take good care of the residents.

PART B: REPORT OF THE GENDER AUDIT EXERCISE FROM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS WITH MANDATES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED MIGRATION

1. Socio-Demographics of Key Informants

The Gender Audit tool designed for security institutions was intended to be completed by the relevant security agencies such as the Nigerian Police Force and the Immigration Service of Edo State. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the assessment team could only reach out to the Gender unit of the Nigerian Police Force and the Focal Person for forced migration and trafficking in persons of Immigration Service in Edo State.

SECURITY AGENCIES



Nigerian Police Force - Gender Unit

**Nigerian Immigration Service- Focal
Person on TIP**

2. Programming - Social Inclusion and Technical Expertise

The understanding of the concept of social inclusion within the Nigerian Police and Immigration Service in Edo State as it refers to forced migration and trafficking of women and girls, the findings observed that there is a general understanding of key concepts of gender equality, the processes that promote equal opportunities and resources for survivors who seek protection services particularly disadvantaged victims from security agencies. This section also made attempts to identify the knowledge gap in relation to the understanding of gender terminologies and gender inclusivity in the operations of the security institutions.

The findings demonstrated that there is a theoretical knowledge of social inclusion and Gender mainstreaming just like Government Agencies and CSOs. They understand the concept of trafficking and forced migration and its root causes. According to the gender unit of the Police Force, "gender equality refers to inferiority between the genders and that women are always victims because they are not equal to men. This showed the deep patriarchal beliefs that contribute as root causes for trafficking and forced migration in Edo State but also the gender bias female survivors of trafficking endure in their engagement with security agents". Both units are headed by female officers. The assessment findings

show the gender unit and focal person have had some form of training from international organisations such as IOM and UNDP but not necessarily on specific trainings in line with their mandate on Trafficking in Persons.

On service delivery for support of victims/survivors, victims are first referred for medical examination after which interrogation and investigation processes are conducted. Most times, psychosocial support is given to the victims/survivors especially those who are suicidal. Reintegration with family members and tracing with periodic follow up are also part of their procedures whenever the need arises.

The gender unit of the Nigerian Police in Edo State handling the cases of human trafficking and forced migration have disaggregated data and statistics as well as Immigration Service. They are also gender sensitive by giving priority to survivors who are more vulnerable particularly women and girls. With regards to the protection of the identity of the victims, they first contact caregivers and carryout investigation to ensure the environment is free from threats. In some cases, where the environment is unsafe, they refer victims to a safer home/shelter.

3. Financial Resources - Funding

Funding remains an important resource in the effective provision of support services to victims of trafficking and forced migration. Under this section, the Audit was able to observe the level of resources budgeted for gender equity and existence of dedicated budget for support to victim.

The response from the unit and focal person revealed that all funds are from the government and most times they refer victims to government safe homes/shelters which are also funded by the government. However, there are challenges in accessing the said funds as personal funds are mostly used during investigation and reintegration of victims.

4. Laws and or Policies

On laws and policies on forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Edo State, the findings from the Audit made attempts to ascertain the knowledge gaps amongst service providers. The Police gender unit stated that they have the relevant laws which is mostly referred to during the prosecution of child labour and other cases of forced migration and trafficking in persons while the Immigration Service is conversant with both Federal and State policies and law but there is need to review some of the laws that do not provide for trafficking outside the country and Labour protection of victims within and outside the country. Some of the laws which both agencies are familiar with includes Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, The National Labour Migration Policy 2014 and 2015 and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015. Both respondents agreed they have heard about National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, 2014 but lack in-depth understanding of the applicability of most of the laws. However, the laws are sufficient but lacks implementation.

5. Referral Mechanism – Referral Pathways and Data Collation

Effective referral systems are essential for high-quality and effective linkages between all agencies providing support services to victims of forced migration and trafficking of women and girls. Referral and linkage systems are key components of improved service demand and accessibility. Such system which includes structure, monitoring systems and referral tools requires collaboration between all partners and key service delivery partner. Security agencies must agree on the management structure and procedures, timelines, key responsibilities, monitoring system and referral tools for the protection of the rights of victims. Security agencies make referrals to safe homes/shelters, however, it was not clear how they coordinated the various referrals pathways at every stage to secure needed care and support for accessing justice for victims.

In analysing the findings from the agencies, victims of forced migration and trafficking are referred to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Gender Issues, Edo State Task Force and NAPTIP which are Government Agencies and such referral are based on the needs of the victims. They also have good collaboration and coordination working relationship with all relevant agencies, however, challenges with NAPTIP on feedback with regards to victims referred was identified. On the issue of data collation, they are not aware of any central data system and currently do not feed information into any system apart from their own internal data processes.

COORDINATION/LINKAGES OF ALL FRONTLINE PROVIDERS

The coordination/linkages of all frontline providers in Edo State shows there is a cordial working relationship between Government Agencies, CSOs and security agencies which needs further strengthening as SOPs and framework between agencies and CSOs could not be ascertained. Referrals are made where the needed services within the organisation or agencies are not available. Each agency and organisation have some level of understanding of their role and how to seek the necessary referrals within the limited support provided in the State. They all understand the root causes of forced migration and trafficking in women and girls and the necessary support needed by survivors. However, there is need for holistic coordination and mechanism to further enhance the quality of services provided at state level particularly between the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Ministry of Youth and ETAHT who are the major agencies when it comes to trafficking and forced migration.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE GENDER AUDIT

- Frontline services providers particularly Government Agencies have a theoretical knowledge of gender and social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in their programming and operations and fair knowledge of the processes of trafficking and forced migration.
- The State has a Gender Adviser while some of the agencies like Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Ministry of Youth and ETATH have dedicated Focal Persons/Units who are first point of contact on issues of GBV and trafficking

in persons. However, there is need to enhance the gender technical expertise with regards to knowledge and skills on their different mandates and to enhance synergy within the various agencies.

- From the findings, there is duplication of data statistics in the State particularly when survivors are referred to other agencies and safe homes/shelter. All organisations and agencies have data statistics of survivors of trafficking and unsafe migration but do not feed into a central disaggregated data system in the State. However, there is a data system process within ETAHT with support from IOM which needs to be strengthened to further feed into a central data system in the State. The State data can be domiciled within the relevant Ministries like Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues that covers wider issues including GBV and Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Youth or the Ministry of Budget and Planning.
- There is limited service provision for men and boys particularly safe homes/shelter which put them at a disadvantage.
- Gender impact of service providers could not be ascertained. The organisations and agencies do not have adequate mechanisms in place for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) on specific cases, support services and referral mechanism.
- There are no uniform referral mechanisms, SOPs, or guidelines within the State and responses from service providers shows most organisations are not conversant with the Guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria. However, there is uniform SOS developed by NAPTIP that needs to be enhanced.
- There are no known uniform procedure or State Operational Guidelines/SOP for handling cases of trafficking in persons in the State as there is poor synergy amongst the various target agencies particularly Ministries of Social Development and Gender Issues, Youth and Sports Development and Ministry of Justice.
- Sexual exploitation and child labour are the most prevalent forms of trafficking than GBV in the homes. Limited knowledge and implementation of the revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act.
- Lack of public awareness of the laws, access to justice and implementation of the laws and policies particularly National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, The National Labour Migration Policy 2014 and 2015 and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015
- All agencies have cordial working relationship, but some do experience duplication of roles and conflicting internal processes such as counselling and medical support as well as skills acquisition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM

1. Facilitate specialized training on the general concept of gender, social inclusion, and gender mainstreaming for frontline services providers in Edo State particularly Ministries of Social Development, Youth and Sport, Justice, and the Task force (ETATH).
2. Conduct specific, tailor-made training with regards to the different mandates of all service providers (CSOs, Government Ministries and Security Agencies) on trafficking and forced migration. This will ensure that each service provider clearly understands their role to meet the needs of survivors.
3. Public sensitization and more awareness raising particularly at the grassroots and amongst religious leaders on laws, policies and different mandates on trafficking and forced migration in Edo State.

MEDIUM TERM

1. Strengthen the framework for coordination and collaboration of safe homes and shelters and further build the capacity of members of staff within the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues.
2. Develop a State SOPs and or guidelines on procedures and protocols established to facilitate exchange of information, confidentiality throughout the process and security of data by frontline service providers in the State.
3. Agencies who are members of the Tasks Force (ETATH) should be mandated and encouraged to carry out their functions while monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process within the taskforce should be enhanced. This will further strengthen the core mandate of the task force (ETATH) towards effective service delivery.
4. Enhance the data statistics collation within the task force (ETATH) (which is currently supported by IOM) to further feed into a central disaggregated data system in the State. The State data can be domiciled within the relevant Ministries like Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues that covers wider issues including GBV and Trafficking in Persons, or Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Budget and Planning or Ministry of Justice.
5. Facilitate capacity building for frontline service providers on the applicability of the various laws particularly the National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, The National Labour Migration Policy 2014 and 2015 and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015. This will further aid effective implementation of the laws and policies.

LONG TERM

1. Strengthen regular meetings between Ministries of Justice, Social Development and Gender Issues, as well as Youth and Sports Development, CSOs and Security Agencies in trafficking issues as these meetings will further encourage synergy, coordination and collaboration with different partners and stakeholders in combatting trafficking in the State.

2. Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Gender Development and Social Issues should facilitate the accessibility of the Victims' Support Funds as provided by the revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act.

CONCLUSION

The Gender Audit has brought several issues to light. First, it has shown that all service providers provide some form of support services to survivors of trafficking and forced migration in Edo State. However, the effectiveness of such services lack some level of professionalism that needs to be enhanced and improved upon. Those who do not have the required skills and technical know-how should not be allowed to provide such service but can complement others who have the mandate and technical skills.

Secondly, it revealed that there is a strong disconnect in the understanding of roles and responsibilities as well as mandates of various agencies and organisations. Trafficking victims need to be properly rehabilitated and this function from our findings is one of the core mandates of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, also a member of the Edo Task Force (ETATH). The Ministry has relevant professionals such as sociologists and psychologists who should be properly utilised for the optimal benefit of victims and the society at large. The mandate of Ministry of Youth and Sport and Ministry of Orientation should be strengthened while CSOs helping to bridge the gap, should have clear mandate and SOPs with Government Agencies.

Finally, the findings have shown that the mandate of the Task Force is very crucial in issues of trafficking and forced migration and therefore needs to be strengthened and capacities of its professional staff be built to further aid efficiency in service delivery.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 : Gender Audit Questionnaire -Security Institutions

Annex 2 : Gender Audit Questionnaire – CSOs and MDAs

GENDER AUDIT TOOL FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PROTECTION SERVICES AND SHELTERS FOR TRAFFICKED VICTIMS AND RETURNEES IN EDO AND LAGOS STATES

Generally, the research will focus on services and shelters provided by frontline service providers which include Government Agencies, Civil Society organization and the Security Sector.

We will be looking at coordination/linkages of all frontline providers (Government Agencies, CSOs and Security Institutions) in the reports.

Introduction

Thank you for your interest to participate in this survey to assess Gender Audit of protection services and shelters offered by frontline service providers. The survey is being conducted by CLEEN Foundation with the support of the UNWOMEN to support improved gender equity and equality in the services rendered and in protection homes. The result of the Audit will form the basis for the development of tools and training to enhance gender responsive service delivery by frontline service providers including the security, health, and justice sector agencies. The series of activities will culminate into a strategic outcome that looks at 'an enabling gender sensitive policy environment that addresses forced migration and trafficking is in place, whose design and implementation is influenced by women and girl's rights organizations in source migration trafficking sites'.

This component will support capacity-building interventions, including training and technical support services to government, UN and NGO partners, to implement gender responsive, survivor-centred policies and services for women migrants and survivors of trafficking.

Section A: Demographics

Name of Shelter/Organisation:

Location of the Shelter/Organisation:

State..... LGA: Community:

Type of Community: Urban/ Rural

Name of Person in charge of the Shelter/Organisation:

Gender: M/F

Shelter/organisation Contact Number:

Shelter/Organisation Ownership: Government (NAPTIP)/NGO/CBO/FBO

Section B: SOCIAL INCLUSION

1. What is your understanding of the concept of trafficking and forced migration as it relates to women and girls in Nigeria?
2. In your opinion what do you understand as gender equality, with regards to women and girls?
3. Have you had any training on trafficking and forced migration in your official

capacity? If yes, mention them please.

- a. Was the training gender specific, and how regularly do you participate in such trainings?
4. Mention the most prevalent form of trafficking and forced migration reported to your office?
5. Please briefly describe some cases you have handled in the past
6. In the cause of your intervention (prevention and response) for victims of trafficking in persons and migration particularly for women and girls, do you have disaggregated data? (age range, sex, form, ethnicity, economic status etc)
7. How is gender equality perceived in the organisation?
8. To what extent is gender included in the organisations' programmes, objectives, projects or services provided to victims of trafficking and forced migration?
9. What form of gender specific support or service provision do you offer to victims of TIP particularly women and girls?
10. How do you protect the identity of victims particularly women and underaged girls from drivers of trafficking and unsafe migration?
11. To what extent are gender challenges addressed in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives?

Section C: SAFE HOMES/SHELTERS

1. How long has your organization been handling GBV, trafficking and forced migration cases?
2. How many care givers do you have in your facility?
3. How many victims do you have? How many are men, women, underaged, disabled?
4. For how long each where they trafficked?
5. What kind of accommodation arrangements do you have in your shelters? (structure) and for how long can a victim stay in the safe home/ shelter (duration)
6. Could you describe regular step-by-step procedure for handling a case of trafficking and forced migration?
7. What is your operational mandate for victims of TIP especially women and girls?
E.g. Consent and Confidentiality.
8. What form of services like medical examination and treatment, Counselling and legal services, sanitary provisions do you offer to victims?
9. Is your shelter accessible to all including women, girls and boys, people with disability and older people?
10. Are women and underage girls who are victims treated separately? Please explain.
11. How do you protect the identity of victims particularly women and underage girls from drivers of trafficking and unsafe migration?
12. Can you mention other shelters or safe homes providing protection services for victims?
13. Do you have any special support for pregnant women and underage girls, mentally unstable, physical challenged victims (such as health and counselling service)?
14. Do you have any form of arrangement/relationship with health service providers?

15. Are there any specific life/vocational skills offered here? Explain.
16. What areas do you find challenging in your experiences with each of them?

Section D: FUNDING

1. How is your organisation funded? (private or govt).
2. How is your organisation funding the services provided for VoTs and forced migration?
3. How do you offset the medical bill of victims when the need arises?
4. Are you aware of the Victim Support Funds as provided by the Revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act?
5. Has your agency ever accessed the fund?
6. If yes how was it disbursed?
7. If no, why has it not been accessed?

Section E: LAWS AND OR POLICIES

1. Do you have any gender specific policy framework or mechanism guiding the handling of reported cases of trafficking and forced migration? E.g. Child protection policy, gender and inclusion policy, domestic violence policy, etc. If yes, could you describe them please? If no, are there any specific reasons for its absence?
2. Is your organisation conversant with Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, the National Labour Migration Policy, 2014 and the National Policy on Migration, 2015, the Violence against persons (prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015?
3. If yes, do you think the provisions of the Laws/Policies are sufficient for the protection of victims of TIP particularly women and girls? (ask about the effective implementation)
4. Name three challenges with the laws and possible recommendation.

Section F: REFERRAL MECHANISM

1. Where do you refer victims for services you are not able to offer?
2. What is your referral pathway and how do you follow up with victims that are referred?
3. Which agency is most effective? Which is most ineffective?
4. Do you work with other frontline service providers, etc. in handling cases of trafficking? If yes, could you describe your experience in working with each of them identified, please? (attitude, technical capacity in handling the cases, adequacy of documentation, gender sensitivity involved)
5. Do you work/collaborate with other Government Agencies on handling reported cases of trafficking and forced migration? If yes, could you describe your experience in working with them, please?
6. Does the state have a central data system and is it accessible? How does your organisation feed into the system?

Annex 3: LIST OF SAFE HOMES AND SKILL ACQUISITION CENTERS

S/N	SAFE HOME/SHELTER	
6	The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)	A law enforcement agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria founded in 2003. The Benin Zonal Command was established in 2004 with the mandate of combating the menace of Trafficking in Persons, Child Labour, Abuse, organ harvesting, etc. in Edo and Delta States and they provide the following services such as Investigation and prosecution, counselling and psychosocial support, and rehabilitation, economic empowerment, Family mediation, family tracing, legal support, medical support, shelter, referrals, awareness raising and sensitization, development of policies
7	Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Set up by the Edo State Government to stem the trend of human trafficking and irregular migration in the state and eliminate the associated stigma. Their mission is to eradicate the menace of Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery and the Re-integration of returnees into society. They provide the following services such as rehabilitation and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, livelihood support and skills acquisition, counselling and psychosocial support, medical support, returnee packs, referrals, community outreach and sensitisation, family tracing, prosecution of traffickers, returnee stipends and data capture
8	Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Woman (COSUDOW)	A Non-governmental organization in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria which strives to uplift the lives of young girls and women irrespective of tribe, race, and religious affiliation. The name COSUSOW officially came to limelight in 1999 and they provide the following services such as shelter, awareness creation and sensitisation, family tracing, reintegration, and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, counselling and livelihood support and skills acquisition.
9	Society for Empowerment of Young People (SEYP)	A Non-governmental organization in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria that is committed to freeing women and young persons from ignorance and underdevelopment, providing hope to the hopeless and succour to the downtrodden. SEYP is a beacon of light to children and women, through positive consistent and focused programme and empowerment schemes with a view to extracting from them their contribution to societal growth and development to make the world a better place. They provide Shelter, counselling and psychosocial support, referral, awareness, and sensitisation to victims of forced migration and trafficking.

10	Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI)	An international social justice initiative in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria. They seek justice and provides rehabilitation for female survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence and liberate enslaved women and girls through the direct eradication of root causes and they provide the following service such as counselling and psychosocial support, referrals, awareness and sensitisation. Our core project prevents sex-trafficking, liberates trapped women and girls and provides a new path forward for at-risk women and girls. We provide alternative paths to livelihood, education, awareness of the dangers and risks of sex-trafficking as well as the core resources needed to reduce the exposure to risk.
SKILLS ACQUISITION CENTRES		
	Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues	Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues is a government agency and part of its mandate is to promote the development of women and children in Nigeria and to provide psycho-social support and skills acquisition for individuals, families, and communities.
	Pathfinders and Justice Initiative (PJI)	An international social justice initiative in Benin City, Edo-State, Nigeria. They seek justice and provides rehabilitation for female survivors of sex trafficking and sexual violence and liberate enslaved women and girls through the direct eradication of root causes and they provide the following service such as counselling and psychosocial support, referrals, awareness and sensitisation
	IDIA RENAISSANCE	A Non-governmental, non-political, non-religious and non-profit organization working through Research, Education and Enlightenment towards the restoration of the dignity of women, youths, and children in Nigeria. They provide the following services such as livelihood support and economic empowerment, family tracing, referrals, and community outreach
	Genius Hub Global Initiative	A Non-Governmental Organization based in Edo state, Nigeria with a fast-growing community that houses achievers through a success-driven program organized to continually improve lives. Their approach to reducing social vices, such as human trafficking and irregular migration, awareness on livelihood opportunities, skills acquisition, entrepreneurship development and access to market, women and girls empowerment, re-integration of returned irregular migrants, providing psychosocial support to victims of human trafficking and irregular migration, and business support through facilitating loans and grants
	Fullness of Life Counselling and Development Initiative (FULIFE).	A Non-Governmental Organization based in Edo state, Nigeria that work with victims of human trafficking providing them with counselling and psychosocial support, rehabilitation, family tracing, reintegration and monitoring and evaluation of those who have been empowered. They collaborate with Agencies and organizations for sheltering of victims.

Annex 3: Key informant interview contacts

S/N	NAME	CONTACT	CATEGORY
	Prof. Yinka Omorogbe	Ministry of Justice Commissioner of justice yinka.omorogbe@gmail.com 08033042184 Edo	MDA
	Ijeoma Uduak	NAPTIP Zonal Commander infobenin@naptip.gov.ng 08033408057 Edo	MDA
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	Sister. Philomena Okwu	COSUDOW Staff, COSUDOW 0806082629	CSO
	Mrs. Lori	Girls Power Initiative Lorineworld@yahoo.com 07053315284 Edo	CSO
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	Sunny Duke Okosun	Staff, ITV Radio, Benin dukke4real@gmail.com 08035788736	Media
	Stephen Selowo	Officer, NAPTIP. infobenin@naptip.gov.ng 0805 656 572 0805656572	MDA

PHOTO GALLERY





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Published February 2021