

**REPORT OF GENDER AUDIT OF PROTECTION
SERVICES, SHELTERS AND SAFE HOMES FOR
SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND
FORCED MIGRATION IN LAGOS STATE**

THIS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY UN WOMEN, THE GOVERNMENT
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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 other 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 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 options, the criminal practice is further sustained by other secondary but equally important causal factors, including cultural orientation, poor government policies that do not address the socioeconomic conditions of youths; the lucrative sex industry in Europe that thrives on deception and commercialisation of the bodies of women and girls just to mention a few. In 2015, resulting from the new trends in the crime of trafficking in persons and the need to further strengthen the institutional framework of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act, was re-enacted to invigorate institutional efforts to end human trafficking. The Agency was established by the Federal Government of Nigeria as part of national commitment and drive to address the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria and its attendant human rights abuses. 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 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 an assessment through a gender lens of protection

services offered to victims of trafficking in Lagos State thus serves to present critical stakeholders and frontline responders with evidence-based findings on gender related issues and gaps in the services provided by shelters and protection services for survivors of human trafficking/returnees.

The Gender Audit was conceived under the project implemented by the 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 which are Edo and Lagos States 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, Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Immigration Service 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 Lagos State. The publication is sectioned into two major parts. Section One focuses on the thematic findings from CSOs, CBOS and Trafficking shelters providing protection services, while Section Two is devoted to findings from law enforcement agencies providing same services.

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 Lagos State. Our recommendations in the Gender Audit report also aim to provide suggestions for policy actions and interventions by frontline service providers towards creating a more gender sensitive environment within the context of protection for victims of trafficking and forced migration.

Dr. Benson Chinedu Olugbuo
Executive Director
CLEEN Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This Gender Audit Report on Protection Services and shelters in Lagos State for Preventing Forced Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls’ in Nigeria, was developed to serve as a timely resource to support improved gender mainstreaming and equality in services rendered by frontline service providers working around trafficking; in safe homes or trafficking shelters. It details recommendations to enable critical actors establish an enabling gender sensitive policy environment. The report also serves to strengthen gender-responsive interventions by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and other critical stakeholders towards facilitating prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships in relation to forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Lagos State. The report was subjected to critical review and validation by experts during a validation meeting held in Lagos on November 9 2020, we acknowledge the valuable suggestions and contributions made during the validation workshops.

CLEEN Foundation wishes to first express its profound gratitude to the funding institutions behind this intervention. The Italian Government through the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (UN WOMEN) are deeply appreciated for the timely and immense support provided on the project without which the gender audit exercise would not have been possible.

Our sincere appreciation goes to Barr Emmanuela Azu, who worked as the Consultant and researcher for Lagos State and led the step-by-step processes that constituted the structure for the Gender Audit, including assessing organizational readiness, surveying staff to understand perceptions of gender integration, typologies of services provided, perception and adequacy of policies and laws on forced migration and trafficking in persons through key informant interviews and other means of conversation to explore what service provisions are available for women and girls who are victims of forced migration and trafficking in the state.

In a special way, our appreciation goes to the team at the Zonal Command of NAPTIP: the immediate past Lagos Zonal Commander Daniel Atokolo, the current Lagos zonal commander, Mr. Alao Ganiu Agaran, Comfort Sanni, the Head of Research and Program Development Unit, Lagos Zonal Command, NAPTIP’s Chief Intelligence Office (NCIO), and the rest of the staff for their immeasurable support during the field work, and their assistance throughout the development of the tools for the field work and final report.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the Lagos state Human Anti-trafficking Taskforce team, the Gender and Anti-Trafficking Units of the Nigeria Police, Lagos command, Lagos State Ministries of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Education, Sports and Youth Development, the CBOs and CSOs who participated actively as respondents during the field work for this research, in particular: Project Alert, CeCe Yara Foundation, WARIF, BAKHITA ST. Louis Empowerment

network, Salvationa Army, Child Protection Network, Real Women Foundation, WOCON, African Women Lawyers, Web of Hearts Foundation, Sought after Women and Children Foundation to mention a few.

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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

AWLA	African Women Lawyers' Association
BAKHITA	Bakhita: St. Louis Empowerment Network
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease
CPN	Child Protection Network
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DPO	Divisional Police Officer
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IOM	The International Organization for Migration
ILO	The International Labour Organization
MDA	Ministries Department and Agencies
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NCFRMI	National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally displaced person
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIS	Nigerian Immigration Service
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NHRC	National Human Right Commission
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
PCI	Patriotic Citizens Initiatives
SOM	Smuggling of Migrants
SOP	Standard of Operation
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity on Gender Equality& the Empowerment of Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act
VAW	Violence Against Women
WARDC	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center
WARIF	Women At Risk International Foundation
WOCON	Women Consortium of Nigeria
WRAHP	Women's Right And Health Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a Gender Audit on Protection Services and Shelters offered by frontline service providers for survivors of human trafficking and forced migration in Lagos state. It is part of the Project, titled “**Preventing Forced Migration and Trafficking of Women and Girls in Nigeria: *Build Resilience, Promote Sustainable Development***” implemented by CLEEN Foundation with support from the UN Women and the Government of Italy. The Gender Audit exercise was conducted from 2nd July, 2020 to 15th August, 2020.

The project deployed an in-depth interview guide (questionnaire) developed by critical stakeholders at methodology meetings to x-ray the gender-responsiveness of interventions by National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), other relevant government agencies and CSO service providers. The questionnaire was divided into six (6) sections namely: Demographics (this section analysed the characteristics of respondents), Social Inclusion, Safe Homes / Shelter, Funding, Laws and/or Policies and Referral Mechanisms. For this audit, a total of 20 respondents who cut across the relevant front-line service providers, both law enforcement agencies and CSOs spread across different parts of the state were reached and engaged.

Findings from the report indicate that sexual exploitation and forced labour are the most prevalent forms of trafficking in person and forced migration. All the frontline services providers including CSOs, safe homes/shelters managers and security agencies have a fair theoretical knowledge of gender equality and the concept of trafficking and forced migration of women and girls in their programming and operations. It was also found that most government and security agencies have dedicated gender units that deals with issues of GBV and trafficking in persons

From the findings, it was discovered that most organisations and agencies collate data but do not feed into the national monitoring centre of the state. Responses from the in-depth interviews also showed the need for specific gender focused training on trafficking and forced migration for all frontline service providers, the need for a better coordinated action (improved referral mechanisms and pathways), improved funding and a more effective implementation of the existing laws and or policies.

INTRODUCTION



Nigeria is one of the countries in Africa with a rise in cases of human trafficking of both women and girls and the rate at which the trafficking is done is indeed very alarming. Nigerian women and girls in search of greener pasture are mostly trafficked to Europe especially Italy and this calls for great concern. In fact, this menace is part of both the gamut of labour exploitation and Violence Against Women (VAW). Those who migrate or are trafficked are exploited and these exploitations come in different forms and packages as sex exploitation and often times, victims are sometimes subjected to serve as domestic or plantation workers.

It is said that yearly, thousands of innocent men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers who use them as an avenue to make money, hence trafficking is believed to be a form of modern-day slavery. Consequently, trafficking of persons is said to be a serious crime against humanity and a grave violation of human rights¹. Women have been the biggest victims of this crime and for several reasons as societal perception of rights over a woman's body for sexual gratification, economic deprivations of women and cultural belief of the place of women amongst others. As such, women are being perceived as the “weaker sex” and can be easily subdued with violence hence the target for traffickers.

Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for traffickers or others. This may also include providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage, or the extraction of organs or tissues of victims, including for surrogacy and ovary removal. This crime is commonly committed through an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person through the use of deception, coercion, abduction, or violence. Research has shown that Trafficking in Person and smuggling of migrants (TIP/SOM) are global phenomenon², thus Nigeria is not the only country perpetrating human trafficking or illegal migration; nor the only country suffering from its effects. It is estimated that one to two million people are trafficked around the world every year mostly women and children, but increasingly men and boys as well generally for forced prostitution, agricultural bondage, or other forms of indentured servitude (IOM 2000).



The manifestation of human trafficking became visible to policy makers in the 1990s and this

1 <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

2 Legal and Resource Referral Hub Assistance under the IOM/NAPTIP Counter Trafficking Initiative (CTI) hereinafter referred to as CTI Project

led to the adoption of the UN Convention in December 2000 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons. This protocol provides an expanded and clear definition of trafficking in persons as 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.

Other international convention also addressed the scourge of trafficking, among these are the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 (UN CRC), the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention of 1999 (No. 182),³ the ILO Forced Labour Convention of 1930 (No. 29) and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) of 1979. Additional international frameworks that can be used to supplement the Trafficking Protocol include the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (also called the UN Migrant Rights Convention). Using ILO Convention 182 as a reference point, Article 3 of the convention clearly indicates the inclusion of trafficking of children in the areas of concern.

With a more precarious situation in Lagos, the commercial nerve center of Nigeria, has become a source for internal and international migration both legal and illegal. With the huge population in Lagos, coupled with the fact that the city serves as the international port for most destinations, its advantaged proximity to most African countries makes the city vulnerable to trafficking in persons and forced migration.

It appears that service providers such as security agencies, health workers and social workers may not be well-equipped with the necessarily knowledge and most often not well coordinated to meet the needs of victims/survivors even though there are various institutional frameworks to tackle the menace of human trafficking in the country. Some of such frameworks in place include the National Policy on Labour Migration 2014, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) 2015 amongst others, even though it is yet to be ascertained whether protection services on trafficking and migration are devoid of gender sensitivity issues that are required to achieve the prevention of women's irregular migration and trafficking and responsiveness to their needs.

Against this background, the need to undertake a gender audit of protection services and shelters offered by front-line service providers in Lagos, Nigeria became imperative.

Need for a Gender Audit

The purpose of the gender audit is to catalyse changes in public perception and policy that will

3 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/OnePagers/IntInstrumentsconcerningTraffickingpersons_Aug2014.pdf

ultimately support the institutionalisation of gender sensitive policies and programs geared towards increased gender equality which will invariably facilitate the implementation of the conclusions of the audits. This audit was particularly aimed at strengthening the existing laws, policies and protection services by frontline service providers on forced migration and trafficking of women and girls that are devoid of gender sensitivity required to achieve the prevention of women's irregular migration and trafficking and responsiveness to their needs. Hence, the need to audit the protection services within existing shelters, safe homes and other front-line services providers.

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to support and strengthen the gender-responsiveness of interventions by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to facilitate policy, prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships in relation to trafficking & migration matters.

Intervention Objective

- To support improved gender equity and equality in services rendered in protection homes for survivors of trafficking in persons.

Project Outcomes linked to Intervention

- Outcome 1: 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.

Methodology

This Audit employed purposive sampling method in choosing its respondents that is (the organisations who participated in the study). Organizations working in the protection space in Lagos State relating to human trafficking and are service providers were selected for this study.

The methodology employed for this research were:

- i. A desk review of relevant literature on human trafficking and forced migration.
- ii. Instrument development and validation through two (2) methodology workshops
- iii. Field Research
- iv. Interview guide (questionnaire): Questionnaires were administered to obtain data for the study. For report one, 13 CSOs participated in the survey and for the second report, 6 security agencies participated. The questionnaires for both groups were similar with additional specific questions for law enforcement agencies.
- v. Reporting development

- vi. Validation of Report
- vii. Public Dissemination

Limitation and Scope of the Assessment



This Gender Audit was planned to primarily focus on the key CSOs, Security agencies and government agencies in Lagos State who are service providers for victims of forced migration and trafficking. Consequently, only 7 relevant security and government agencies with 13 CSOs and shelters across Lagos State were able to complete the Gender Audit questionnaire due to restrictions of movement by government agencies, some CSOs and most key partners that were yet to fully resume work due to COVID 19 and lockdown restrictions . Nevertheless, the assessment team believe that the report of the Gender Audit represents the key findings from major services providers who are the front-line responders with respect to combating trafficking and forced migration in Lagos 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 discussed.

INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

The following interpretation of findings is based on the qualitative data collated on the field during the Gender Audit assessment.

REPORT 1: DATA ANALYSIS FROM CSO SERVICE PROVIDERS

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. These areas include demographics, social inclusion, safe homes / shelter, funding, laws and/or policies, referral mechanism.

1. Socio-Demographics of Respondents



Characteristics of the respondents was analysed in the section. 13 organizations participated in the study. All the shelter/organizations are located in Lagos and scattered all over different local government areas and communities in the urban areas while one of the facilities, Web of Hearts Foundation is located in a rural area of the state. Regarding the gender composition of the participating organisations who provide support to survivors, only two organisations National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Patriotic Citizens Initiative (PCI) out of 13 organizations have their activities coordinated by men. In terms of ownership of shelter/organization, 7 organisations indicated ownership as NGO, 1 as private and another 1 as both NGO and FBO. Out of the 7 shelters, 6 of them are located here in Lagos while one is located in Abeokuta although their operational/administrative office is here in Lagos. The other 6 organizations did not indicate ownership which therefore means they do not run or own a shelter/safe home.

2. Programming - Social Inclusion and Technical Expertise



Social Inclusion is the process of improving the terms of participation in society, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. It is one thematic area that is paramount to assessing gender audit in organisations that provides protection services to survivors. This construct was assessed by asking the participating organisations some few questions. The questions revolved around the concept of gender equality, trafficking, and forced migration. Eleven (11) questions were asked to collect data in this regard. The

concept of social inclusion as it relates to this audit is aimed at improving the ability, equal opportunities, resources and dignity of people disadvantaged especially women and girls on the basis of their identity to take part in the society. This section of the questionnaire helped to access the capacity and capability of the service providers in relation to the protection service rendered under the concept of social inclusion which includes knowledge of gender equality, gender mainstreaming process in programmes, organisational mandate on gender amongst others as it relates to forced migration and trafficking of women and girls in Lagos State.

The findings showed that most of the organisations particularly the CSOs and shelter protection service providers have good working knowledge of the concept of forced migration and trafficking of women and girls as their various definition comprised of relevant trafficking terminologies such as: *coerced, transported, movement, exploited, commercial gain, luring, illegal trading, financial gains, recruitment, transfer, deception, force, or threat*, while Forced migration was further defined as *displacement or movement of people from their homes or country of residence or country of origin and may be due to conflict or crisis*. This shows that they understand their protective role and see those rescued are victims and not criminals. In a nutshell, Table 2 summaries the definitions provided by the respondents.

Majority of the respondents showed very good working knowledge in their definition of gender equality as the emphasis on the term *resources and opportunities* resonated in all the various definitions given which showed they understood the underlining issue in equality with the



repeated use of the term equal access in all spheres regardless of how the dynamics affect women and girls in particular.

In the area of training on forced migration and trafficking, majority of the respondents have acquired trainings on trafficking and force migration from IOM, UNODC, NAPTIP. However, we can infer that out of the 13 organizations that participated in this study, only 4 organizations (*BAKHITA, WOCON, Web of Hearts & NHRC*) reported to have received specific gender trainings on trafficking and forced migration. The implication of this is that though there are several trainings on trafficking and forced migration, majority of these trainings are not focused on gender. Although other organizations may be involved one way or the other in providing support for victims / survivors of trafficking, their organizational core mandate may not focus on human trafficking and forced migration per se. On the issue of the most prevalent form of trafficking and forced migration, it was unanimously agreed that *sexual exploitation* is the most prevalent form while other forms such as forced labour, domestic servitude and child labour is also prevalent. The respondents narrated several cases of trafficking and forced migration they have handled in the past, which showed that there are different forms of trafficking ongoing both internally and externally across all age range particularly targeting women and girls, most recent of which is the case of internal trafficking being handled by *Cece Yara Foundation*.

An 18-year old -girl alleged that her guardian in the process of helping her get a job and a shelter while she was pregnant last year September 2019 (she was 17 years- old at that time) took her to Imo state for the job. The girl stated that while she was in Imo state, she delivered her child. Immediately she delivered the baby she was injected and lost consciousness, when she woke up, she didn't see her child she asked her guardian who told her the baby died and threatened her that if she told anyone they would kill her. While in the house she was severally defiled by a man who after a week gave her twenty thousand and asked her to return to Lagos. When she returned to Lagos, she noticed her guardian spending money lavishly, but she couldn't ask her how she came about the money. In order to chase her away, they accused her of stealing thirty thousand naira and threw her out of the house, but she insisted that she won't leave without her child. Her guardian and brother beat her mercilessly. Case was documented immediately at the police station on the 22nd of July 2020. The woman was arrested, investigation revealed that the 10 months old child was sold to a family in Imo state for two million naira. With the Foundation providing logistic support the child was retrieved and subsequently brought back to Lagos. The Police are currently in the process of ensuring the matter is charged to court. The girl is presently in our shelter, a risk assessment is being conducted to ensure that the girl is adequately equipped to take care of her son (Cece Yara).

Almost all the participating organizations except Project Alert, Web of Hearts Foundation and WARDC reported that they do not have disaggregated data in the form of age range, sex, ethnicity and economic status. Most of the respondent organisations could not interpret how gender is perceived by their organisations only 4 respondent organisations WOCON, WARDC, WRAHP and Web of Hearts Foundation could situate how gender equality is perceived in their organisation.

“Economic empowerment, enrolment of out of school girls (and children) to school, linking women and girls to income-generation ventures and trade (such as hairdressing, bead-making, make-over, etc.) that will help them become more financially independent, furnishing them with Life skills application to help them face life again, equipping women and girls with skills for decision-making skills that will help them participate in politics now and in the future”.

From the data collected, all the respondent organisations demonstrated that they are gender focused organisations that promote and protect the rights of women and girls and their programmes and objectives aim to end all forms of violence against women, including trafficking and forced migration. WOCON has a child protection policy, while Cece Yara, WARDC, WRAHP have both the gender and child protection policies that make it mandatory to mainstream gender

in their projects, services and interventions for victims. The other organisations did not indicate same. However, one of the respondent organisations, PCI focuses on male victims of trafficking and forced migration. Of all the respondent organisations, only WOCON mentioned specific gender support, others mentioned general supports such as counselling, rehabilitation, reintegration, medical, legal, shelter and skill acquisition while WOCON offers *“Economic empowerment, enrolment of out of school girls (and children) to school, linking women and girls to income-generation ventures and trade (such as hairdressing, bead-making, make-over, etc.) that will help them become more financially independent, furnishing them with Life skills application to help them face life again, equipping women and girls with skills for decision-making skills that will help them participate in politics now and in the future”*.



On the question of protection of identity, the respondent organisations reported that they use various methods such as code, non-disclosure, confidentiality to protect the identity of the victims from their traffickers.

Consequently, gender challenges persist because only two organisations provided their perspectives to addressing gender challenges in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives. This may be due to lack of an institutionalised gender assessment and evaluation plan.

3. Safe Homes / Shelters – Operational and Referral Mechanism

This is another thematic area that is imperative in this study. Safe homes and shelters as its name imply is a secret place for sanctuary or suitable to hide a person from hostile actors or actions or from retribution, threat or perceived danger. This section assessed the nature, extent of care and services provided by safe homes /shelters in protecting women and girls who are victims of trafficking and forced migration by asking the participating organisations a few questions. Sixteen (16) questions were asked in all to collect data in relation to this thematic area. The findings from the respondent’s responses showed that there is no structured coordinated operational guide as every safe home /shelter developed its own standards.



This gender Audit accessed six (6) CSOs (Bakitha, Real Women Foundation, Sought After Women and Children Foundation, Project Alert, Web of hearts and Cece Yara) safe homes/shelters in Lagos state for women and girls who are victims of trafficking, amongst them, WARDC has its own shelter located in Abeokuta and 1 CSO (PCI) also has a shelter for men and boys who are victims. Others provide different forms of protection services such as legal service, counselling and do referrals.

The participating respondent organisations handling cases of GBV, trafficking and forced migration have sufficient experience in the subject matter. For instance, the organization with the least duration in handling the subject matter is Cece Yara (4 years) and BAKHITA is the respondent organisation with highest duration spanning over 23 years.

The *caregivers* in the various organisations range between 2 and 13 personnel which includes shelter managers, counsellors, nurses, master trainers and had received one form of training on trafficking and forced migration. None could ascertain if they have had any specific training with regards to their mandates.

As at the time of responding, BAKHITA had nine (9): {6 young women, 2 underaged girls and 1 infant (boy)}, Real Women Foundation had five (5): {2 women and 3 underaged girls}, WARDC had five (5): {2 women, 2 underage and 1 disabled} while Project Alert was accommodating a family of four who are victims of GBV, Web of Hearts Foundation had 30 women. Access to these victims were restricted due to COVID 19 pandemic.



The findings from the respondents showed that the safe homes and shelters are adequate and well equipped. Cece Yara can accommodate up to 20 children at a time, BAKHITA can comfortably accommodate up to 30 victims at once while Web of Hearts can accommodate between 60 – 90 victims. The accommodation arrangements are double bunk bed space, family room, sitting rooms, dining room, and kitchen and Web of Hearts Foundation has 6/6ft wooden bed as well. The length of stay varies from one month to maximum of 2 years continuous stay. The respondent organisations showed that the victims were trafficked for a minimum of 1 month to 5 years; the step-by-step procedure differs by organization in handling cases of trafficking and forced migration. The procedures cut across airport reception, shelter reception identification of victims, registration, provision of basic needs, routine health check, counselling, rehabilitation and reintegration, follow up/monitoring and evaluation and referrals. However, there are no known uniform referral guideline and step by step procedures or operational guidelines for handling cases of trafficking and forced migration in the state.

The audit showed that the respondent organisations' protective service is based on the consent obtained from the victims. Victims are made to sign consent and confidentiality form. Based on the needs of the victim, services like counselling, skills acquisition, school placement, medical and legal are provided for victims at the safe home and shelter. In addition to their support, organisations like BAKHITA supplies victims with basic

Web of hearts foundation has four flats arrangement, two flats for accommodation while the other two flats is used for skill training, clinic, reception, and psychosocial assistance

needs such as toiletries, and sanitary pads. Web of Hearts Foundation has an equipped medical unit for minor diagnoses and treatment for basic conditions and refer to more qualified medical personnel for critical cases. Some are invited to assess the victim in the shelter and treatment proffered. The shelter also has a qualified psychologist who is in charge of the psychosocial unit.

The respondent organisation response showed similarity in the categories of victims that usually have access to their safe homes/shelters which are mostly women and girl unlike Cece Yara who limits access to 18 year and below. Web of Hearts offer service to females under the age of 35 and their infant children while PCI shelter is accessible to men and boys only. The findings showed that women and underaged girls are treated equally in the same way, except for pregnant women who are given more attention and treated separately from other victims because of their peculiar need. The differences may be in the skill acquired as most underaged girls go to school.

The safe homes and shelters have special arrangements with private hospitals around their vicinity where victims access care and pregnant women access ante natal service. Cece Yara access Mirabel center and WARIF for medical support, while the mentally challenged are taken to hospital for psychiatric and trauma care. The respondent organisations equally have arrangements with some government hospitals.

The findings showed that the respondent organisations provide specific life/vocational skills such as bead making, sewing, soap making, and so on for victims while some work with partner organisations to provide such services.

The safe homes/shelters are faced with many challenges such as anger managements, use of strong and offensive and abusive language which is perceived to be born out of their experience as trafficked victims, some of the victims also have huge trust and disclosure issues as most of them were trafficked by their close relatives. Web of Hearts identified family tracing as their main challenge and funding resonated as a challenge from all the respondents.

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

1. NAPTIP
2. Real Women Foundation
3. Sought After Women and Children Home
4. Web of Heart Foundation
5. Patriotic Citizens Initiative (for men only)
6. Project Alert
7. Cece Yara

8. PBO, Genesis Home and Grace Home
9. Mirabel Center, Project ALERT
10. Echoes of Mercy and Hope Foundation
11. Women helping hands Initiative Shelter
12. Genesis House
13. Ministry of Youth and Social Development

3. Skills Acquisition Centres

1. Real Women Foundation
2. Bakitha
3. Rehoboth Homes and Skill Acquisition Centre
4. Web of Heart Foundation

4. Financial Resources - Funding

Funding is another thematic area that is imperative in this gender audit. Finance is an important resource when it comes to providing support services to forced migrants and trafficked women and girls. This section of the audit interrogated how frontline service providers generate funds for the protection services they provide. The report from the findings showed that safe homes/shelters managed by CSOs are funded through various means such as private individuals, donor funds and churches. There was no mention of the adequacy and sustainability of these funds. The funding is stated to cover the protective services provided to women and girls victims of trafficking e.g. provision of health services, shelter, skill acquisition.

Of all the respondents (CSOs and safe homes/shelters) only 3 organizations are aware of the Victim of Trafficking Trust Funds provided by the Revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act. These organizations are: Cece Yara, PCI and WOCON. However, none of the three (3) organizations has ever accessed the fund nor know how to access the fund. Their complete lack of available information was the sole reason given as to why they were yet to subscribe to the funds provided in the Revised 2015 Act. This showed that most of the respondent organisations providing protective services are not familiar with the provision of the Revised 2015 Act guiding their operations.

5. Laws and or Policies

The section of the questionnaire relating to Laws and policies on trafficking and forced migration in Lagos State made attempts to find out the expertise and competence of the respondent organisation with the tools needed in the delivery of their protective service. All the CSOs, safe home/shelters indicated that they have policies guiding the handling of reported cases in place but WARDC, WOCON, Cece Yara and CPN specifically indicated they have the essential

gender policies such as Child Protection Policy, Gender Inclusion Policy, and Safeguarding and Child protection policy.

The finding from the questionnaire showed that all the respondents are aware of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act and the VAPP Act. Web of Hearts Foundation has been trained on The National Policy on Labour Migration 2014, WOCON is also aware of the existence of the National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria 2014 and the National Policy on Labour Migration 2014. The other respondents were not aware of the National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria 2014. The finding further showed that they were merely aware of the existence of the trafficking Act, but not conversant with its provisions.

PCI stated that they were part of those who developed the National Policy on Labour Migration and National Referral Mechanism

On the issue of how sufficient and effective the laws and policies

are, although the respondents are not familiar with the provisions of all the Laws on trafficking and forced migration, they responded that the laws are sufficient for victims of TIP especially for women and girls except for BAKHITA and CPN that provided a contrary notion although there was a general consensus that there is need for effective implementation.

The findings showed a number of challenges with the effectiveness of the law, such as the law not being the problem but its enforcement by the relevant authorities, the need to adequately fund (shelter, medical, rehabilitation etc) centres, stress on important issues of anti-trafficking,



court unwillingness to confiscate assets of traffickers were some of such challenges stated that affects the effectiveness of the law. The report mentioned the slow investigation and prosecution of cases and bottlenecks that occur with court proceedings which cause delay to conclusion of cases, lack of gender sensitivity of security agencies, lack of awareness of the existence and provisions of the Trafficking Acts and weak sentencing for

traffickers.

6. Referral Mechanism – Referral Pathways and Data Collation

To ensure an efficient protection service for victims of TIP especially women and girls, a well-coordinated, uniformed and effective referral mechanism should be put in place to enhance the services provided as they are essential for effective service delivery. Referrals are done to augment for services the service provider is not able to offer such as shelter, medical, counselling, rehabilitation, empowerment and legal aid.

The findings showed that trafficking and forced migration frontline protection service providers have their individual institutional referral pathways with built in follow-up and monitoring systems. The most common form of referral method observed to be practiced is the two-way

method where services are exchanged between the protection service providers; in the sense that NAPTIP will refer victims to Real Woman Foundation for skill acquisition and Real Woman Foundation will refer to NAPTIP for investigation and reintegration.

Among the existing front-line protection service providers, there is a unanimous consensus that NAPTIP is the most effective in responding to protective service rendered. Web of Hearts Foundation mentioned National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced



Persons (NCFRMI) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) as also very effective and no organisation was identified as least ineffective which shows that there is improved service delivery from all relevant stakeholders. NAPTIP and Ministry of Youth and Social Development are said to be the government agencies where service providers refer victims to mostly. Regarding the existence of a state central data system, only CPN stated that they use the interagency referral pathway development by UNICEF and MYSD and also submit report of activity to the

state monthly. The other respondent organisations are not aware if a central data system for victims existed as individual CSO and safe homes/shelters generates its own data internally and the data generated are not shared with other frontline protection service providers.

REPORT 2: REPORT ANALYSIS FOR SECURITY AGENCIES

The data collected from participating security agencies was analysed in line with the objective of the project and the report was formatted in line with the thematic areas of the project. These areas include demographics, social inclusion, safe homes / shelter for NAPTIP and NIS, funding, laws and/or policies, referral mechanism.

1. Socio-Demographics of Key Informants

The demographic information of participating organisations is presented in Table 3. It shows that 6 agencies participated in the survey. Table 3 shows that all the agencies are located in Lagos and cuts across different local government areas and communities in the urban areas of the state. Regarding the gender composition of the officer in charge who provides protective support to survivors, they are equal numbers as the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) both the Seme border and Ikoyi anti human trafficking unit are coordinated by men, the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the National Human Right Commission (NHRC) as well are coordinated by men. While the Gender unit and the Anti- Trafficking Unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the counselling and rehabilitation unit and the programme unit of NAPTIP are coordinated by women, the Investigation unit respondent of NAPTIP is again



coordinated by a man. All the agencies are federal Institutions. The demographic information on location of shelter showed that NAPTIP owns a safe home/shelter while the NIS interrogation room at Seme border serves as a temporary shelter.

2. Programming - Social Inclusion and Technical Expertise

This section examined a fundamental component of the gender audit which is social inclusion. It attempted to identify the knowledge, capacity and capability of the agencies on gender mainstreaming in the protection service they render to women and girls who are victims of trafficking and forced migration. The questions are 11 in all and the same as the ones the CSOs and safe homes/shelters responded to.

The concept of social inclusion as it relates to this audit is aimed at improving the ability, opportunities, resources and dignity of people disadvantaged on the basis of their identity to take part in the society.

The findings show that most of the agencies particularly NAPTIP have working knowledge of the concept of trafficking and forced migration of women and girls, they explained the concept as *'the commodification of the human persons. It involves the exploitation of the human persons by another through deception, force, coercion While migration is the movement of human persons as one of the Fundamental Rights becomes a problem when a person(s) does this through irregular means that results to issues of violation of laws of a country and exposing them to conditions that are dehumanising while seeking for greener pasture'* (NAPTIP). The other definitions related trafficking and forced migration of women and girls as a criminal act in which they are mostly sourced as the victims. These definitions had a more robust dimension to the definition generated from the CSOs and safe homes /shelters. It reflected the field expertise of these agencies and most importantly the women and girls are not seen as criminals but as victims.

Although the responses from NAPTIP and NIS showed they have fair knowledge of the concept of gender equality as it was generally defined as equal opportunities between men and women to access resources, rights and privileges without discrimination.

However, from the other definitions provided, it showed that other security agencies in Nigeria are not fully knowledgeable of the concept of trafficking and force migration as it relates to women and girls. In fact, National Orientation Agency could not provide an answer to the question as they claimed they do not render direct service to victims of TIP but rather only raise awareness through campaigns. This calls for concern because these agencies are meant to provide frontline services to the victims of trafficking.



It was clear from the findings that the front-line protection service officers from the different agencies except NOA being a campaign agency, have at various times been trained on trafficking and forced migration within and outside Nigeria through agencies such as IOM, Terres de Hommes, UN Refugees council, Salvation Army, ECOWAS, Interpol, etc even though most of the trainings were not gender specific. NIS stated that training on Anti human trafficking and forced migration is incorporated in their training school curriculum but also not gender specific.

It was identified from the questionnaire that sex exploitation, forced labour and internal trafficking for domestic labour are the most prevalent forms of trafficking and forced migration of women and girls.

The findings described some of the cases of trafficking they have handled:

- *A woman who trafficked victims from Nigeria to Libya in a pair of two-a man and woman, she usually demands that the victims be recruited in a pair of a man and a woman, she is currently in police custody (NPF, State CID Panti). A case of a man who gathered 29 children from Ikorodu under the guise of going to play football in Cotonou and none of the children had international passport nor jersey uniform, they did not even know the club they were going to play with they were all males, Yoruba ranging from 6 to 23 years, were intercepted and reunited them with their parents.*
- *A case of trafficking where the agent was arrested and we got the contact of the manager at Burkina Faso, the victims were drugged while being transported across the border (NPF, Gender unit State Command).*
- *Cases involving labour exploitation of children both Nigerians and Foreigners, Baby factory, sexual exploitation (NAPTIP).*
- *Most of the cases involved the interception of vehicles conveying such victims of trafficking to the border area for onward trafficking into Benin Republic. The syndicate either moves them in large numbers in a single vehicle or have them scattered in different vehicles. At the office during interview, most of the rescued victims confessed to the fact that they were recruited and cajoled to go and work in a foreign country, with the intention of paying back to the person sponsoring their journey. Sadly, some women and girls also confessed to having an idea of what they were being trafficked for but without knowledge of the reality as they are promised a greener pasture within a short period of work (NIS, Seme).*



The respondent of the security agencies stated that they generate and store disaggregated data according to age, sex, form, ethnicity, economic status, religion and education. They responded that although there are still gaps, they perceive that gender equality within the institution is improving as

all the agencies have created gender units and women are now DPOs of many stations within Lagos and a historic system is broken as a female officer currently leads/heads the State CID Panti. There was a general affirmation by the respondents that compared to years back; there is a deliberate effort by the agencies to factor in gender in the programmes and projects executed.

The specific support or service recorded from the finding being offered to victims particularly women and girls are investigation, prosecution, rehabilitation, reintegration, skills acquisition, medical and psychosocial support as most victims come back depressed and traumatised. NAPTIP further provides accommodation for victims and the NIS also use the interrogation room to provide temporary accommodation for victims rescued at the Seme border.

From the findings, the respondents further stated that the identity of the victims particularly women and girls are protected as confidential information, adding that even the interview sheets are ably secured within the screening centres and in most instances the information is coded.

The respondents stated that although there are improvements in mainstreaming gender in programmes there are still challenges in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives as most of the agencies do not have appropriate safe homes/ shelter especially the NPF for the protective service they render, there are no guidelines or SOP for handling mentally challenged and other vulnerable groups, no adequate financial resource to aid logistics and provide specific care such as feeding, sanitary pads and so on for victims.

3. Financial Resources – Funding

This section is critical to the services rendered by front line protection service providers as all programmes and activity hinge on financial resources. In this regards the findings showed that the security agencies are still struggling with funds to carry out their duties due to low budgetary allocation specially for Trafficking in Person related activities.

This in-adequate funds affect logistics such as transport for investigation and movement of victims, provision of specific gender needs for women and girls, feeding, medical care, accommodation and rehabilitation/empowerment of VoT. Although an agency (NAPTIP) indicated that they are aware of the victims of trafficking trust fund provided in the Trafficking Act 2015 but they could not indicate if the agency has accessed the trust fund as the respondent stated that the question will be best answered by the headquarters as funds generally for the zonal offices operations are accessed/received and disbursed by the headquarters.

To cure the above, Victim of Trafficking Trust Fund (VVTF) to provide humanitarian and financial aid for victims of trafficking was set up, funding for the VVTF is obtained through direct grant from the Nigerian Government, voluntary contribution of NAPTIP partners and confiscated assets of traffickers yet funding gaps still exist.

4. Laws and or Policies

The finding showed that all the frontline protection service providers are aware of the existence

of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act 2015, The National Policy on labour Migration 2014, the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, (VAPP) 2015 and the National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked



Persons in Nigeria, 2014 but have limited knowledge of the provisions of the laws except for NAPTIP. According to the respondent, all operations of NAPTIP are based on the provisions of these and other policy text which they are conversant with. The NPF for instance indicated that they are not bound by the provisions of any of the laws in the discharge of its protective service to women and girls who are victims of trafficking and forced migration. This showed

limited knowledge of the provision of the Trafficking Act in particular as the respondent went further to say that the legal unit who prosecute cases are the only ones bound by the Act during prosecution. Although the respondents stated that their various agency have in place policy/ SOP guiding their activities, these policies/SOPs are not gender specific. However, NOA does not have a policy/SOP on trafficking and forced migration because they do not offer direct service to victims.

5. Referral Mechanism – Referral Pathways and Data Collation

This is an important component of the audit as service providers at some point rely on the other to provide service for the victims. The National Referral Mechanism was first and foremost created to ensure uniformity of services provided as specified by the National Policy on Protection and Assistance and other policy text to avoid duplication of service and to collaborate



in the best interest of the victims most especially based on the strength of each partner. From the responses by the frontline protection service providers, the findings showed that the security agencies NAPTIP, Police and NIS, seems to have a well-structured and systemic internal and external referral mechanism documented and functional across all the sister agencies and they also seem to be upholding the provisions

of the National policy on protection and assistance to victims of Human Trafficking.

It is pertinent to state here that there is the National Monitoring Centre domiciled within the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) aimed at creating a centralized database on investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases. Officers of NAPTIP were trained on how to use the SIDDA Software database in gathering, storing and analyzing both victims and trafficker's data. Nine other agencies can as well access the database. However, there is limited knowledge of this information to frontline protection service providers.



OVERVIEW OF THE FINDINGS

RELATING TO REPORT 1 AND 2

1. Sexual exploitation and forced labour are the most prevalent forms of trafficking in person and forced migration.
2. All the frontline service providers both CSOs, safe homes/shelters and security agencies have a fair theoretical knowledge of gender equality and the concept of trafficking and forced migration of women and girls in their programming and operations.
3. Most government and security agencies have dedicated gender units that deals on issues of GBV and trafficking in persons
4. From the findings, all organisations and agencies reported that they collate data but do not feed into the national monitoring center of the state.
5. There is no known *uniform referral mechanisms or guidelines or uniformed data collation template within the State* as the responses showed that most organisations are not conversant with the Guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria, but the security agencies are better coordinated in this regard.
6. The National Monitoring Center domiciled with NAPTIP exist, awareness and access of its existence is limited especially to the CSOs safe homes and shelters.
7. The Interagency referral pathway development by UNICEF and MYSD domiciled with MYSD exist but awareness is also limited.
8. The responses show that some organisations (CSOs) in particular are not conversant with the guidelines on National Referral Mechanism for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria and the National Labour Migration Policy 2014, but the security agencies are better informed in this regard.
9. Some organisations have limited knowledge of the provisions and implementation of the revised 2015 Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act
10. All the frontline protection service providers all have cordial working relationship.
11. Most organisations provide support services to only female victims only while others to both men and women who are victims; PCI is the only organisation on record providing service to male victims only, and some to both male and female such as NAPTIP

From the definitions provided by the CSOs, we can deduce that the organizations are abreast with what gender equality is all about. However, relating the knowledge of gender equality to

the subject matter of trafficking in persons seemed problematic. In fact, most organizations reported to have acquired general trainings on gender equality but only four organizations (BAKHITA, NHRC, PCI and WOCON) reported to have acquired specific gender tailored training relating to human trafficking and forced migration.

In addition, every organisation and agency reported to mainstream gender in all their activities and programmes, although only few organisations could provide their perspectives as to how they address gender challenges in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives.

Of great concern is that majority of the organizations reported to handle cases of women and girls who are victims of human trafficking and force migration, do not have the requisite training, as these organisations render general service for victims of gender based violence and not specialised on human trafficking and forced migration alone.

Furthermore, on gender equality, security agencies are knowledgeable about gender equality but not within the concept of trafficking and forced migration as it relates to women and girls adequately. Only NPF (state CID) and NIS (Seme border) reported to have acquired specific gender trainings on the subject matter but not recently.

Virtually all the CSOs except those operating safe homes/ shelters reported that they do not have disaggregated data in the form of age / age range, sex, ethnicity, disability, and economic status.

In both reports none of the organizations or security agencies has received funds from the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund, only four CSOs (Cece Yara, PCI, WOCON and NHRC) are aware of the act and only NAPTIP from the Security Agencies reported that they are aware of the fund, however none of the participating respondent have accessed the Trust fund.

Very few of the organisations reported to be conversant with the National Policy on Labour Migration, 2014 and the National Referral Mechanism 2014, however all the organisation and agencies are aware of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Enforcement and Administration Act 2015 and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, (VAPP) 2015.

However, in the week after this study (the 2nd week of September) the State Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force was inaugurated. Prior to this, the state has the Anti-Human Trafficking Network in existence. Operations of this network and the newly inaugurated Taskforce are meant to ensure proper implementation of the National Referral Mechanisms amongst others in the fight against TIP.

There exists a huge instrument gap as most organisations seem not to have a specific gender policy/SOP on trafficking and forced migration; also, from the responses, it is evident that there is no coordinated uniformed working modality amongst all organisations.

According to the respondents, some of the **challenges** inherent in the Laws/Policies guiding the

protection of victims of TIP particularly women and girls are:

- The low awareness of the provisions and weak implementation of the legislation on human trafficking.
- Slow investigation and prosecution of cases.
- The law did not take into account the bottlenecks that occur with investigation and other logistic support before stipulating the 24 hours referral rule.
- Sanctions should be reviewed periodically as it is perceived not to be stiff enough.
- Victims of trafficking trust Fund does not appear accessible to all. It is embedded in the Laws and that is all. There is low awareness of how to access it and the criteria of potential beneficiaries.

The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 in Part X, section 67 (1) (a-e) & (2) provided for the “***Establishment of Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund***” and how it will be funded. Section 3 stipulated that the Minister shall make regulations and issue guidelines for the management of the funds. Section 4 stipulates that the Trust Fund shall be utilised to pay compensation, restitution and damages to trafficked victims and to fund victim support services for trafficked victims. While section 68 provided for the “***Establishment of the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund Committee***” but the Act failed to provide the criteria on how the funds can be accessed. Also, there is low level of awareness of the activities of the Trust Fund Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is imperative for **UN Women and CLEEN FOUNDATION** to strengthen the technical capacity of all frontline protection service providers and provide specific gender training on trafficking and forced migration.
- More emphasis should be placed on gender trainings and also there is need to consider training for safe homes and shelters for boys and men as well
- There is need for **NAPTIP** to monitor and ensure the safe homes and/ shelters are more accessible for people with disability
- **NAPTIP** should popularise the existing National Monitoring Center and expand its use to accommodate data entry by other frontline protection service providers such as CSOs.
- **NAPTIP** needs to create broad awareness on the Established criteria for accessing the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund so as to allow relevant stakeholders to access the funds for their intervention.
- It is fundamental to advocate for increased budgetary allocation / funding to Frontline protection service providers
- **NAPTIP and UN Women** should conduct training programs for all frontline protection service providers' especially safe homes / shelters on the use of the national referral mechanism and develop a victim referral guideline to avoid duplication.
- **NAPTIP** should develop a uniformed template/guideline for data collation with built in periodic submission method of data collated by all frontline protection service providers.
- Although the **National Orientation Agency** is an awareness and campaign organisation, there is a need for holistic training on Gender equality, and trafficking for her officers so as to sharpen their campaign messages using the gender lens.
- **NAPTIP** should provide training support to all field officers of National Orientation Agency in the 20 Local Government and 37 Local Council Development Areas of the state.
- The state Ministry of Education also plays preventive role in the fight against Trafficking and Forced Migration through their counsellors, therefore there is need for **NAPTIP, UN Women and CLEEN Foundation** to build their capacity in this regard.
- **NAPTIP** as the agency responsible for the administration of the Trafficking Act should carry out quarterly monitoring of all safe homes and/ shelter to ensure compliance with stipulated guidelines.
- **NAPTIP** should ensure that every frontline protection service provider has a gender

policy or SOP on trafficking and forced migration, hence there is need for capacity building in this regard to help develop the policy.

- **NAPTIP** should monitor the existing safe homes/shelters services and ensure care givers and other service providers take a victim-centred approach to victim care.
- There is need to emphasis on **psycho-social support** for victims in safe homes/shelters
- That there is a need to re-activate the interagency coordination meeting by **NAPTIP**.
- That **UNWomen and CLEEN Foundation** should conduct interagency refresher training to ensure that all relevant ministries and security agencies understand their anti-trafficking role and how it compliments that of NAPTIP as the lead agency.
- That **NAPTIP** should facilitate periodic trainings with all frontline protection service providers with both the CSOs, and safe homes / shelters
- That **NAPTIP** should facilitate quarterly coordination meeting with all frontline protection service providers with both the CSOs, safe homes / shelters and security agencies in attendance.

CONCLUSION

There is an urgent need to strengthen the gender specific protection service rendered to women and girls who are victims of Trafficking and Forced Migration. The coordination and linkages of all frontline protection service providers in Lagos State showed that there is a cordial working relationship amongst them. They all understand the root causes of trafficking and forced migration. Each agency and organisations have some level of understanding of their role and how to seek the necessary referrals within the limited support provided in the state.

Unarguably there is limited financial resource available to service providers, therefore there is need for holistic coordination mechanism and guidelines for service providers at state level to further enhance the quality of services provided for victims of trafficking and forced migration. There is a clear understanding that, to meet the different needs of victims particularly women and girls for justice, safety, medicals, psychosocial support, safe home/shelter, skills acquisition etc, there should be specialized skills, therefore security agencies and CSOs providing frontline protection services should have some level of capability and expertise to provide the support as required.

Trafficking operates as a cabal, hence the need for continuous capacity development for all frontline protection service providers to strengthen their response mechanism and also develop a uniformed SOP/guideline to help combat the menace.

ANNEXURES

Table 1: Demographics of the participating organizations

Name of Shelter/org	Location of the Shelter/Org	State	LGA	Comm-Unity	Type of Community	Name of Person in charge of the Shelter	Gender	Shelter/Org Ownership
African Women Lawyers Association		Lagos				Mandy Asagba Peju Quadri	Female	Association
Bakhita: St. Louis Empowerment Network	11, Leye Omoniyi Close, C/O St. Ferdinand Catholic Church, Boys Town. Ipaja Lagos State	Lagos	Alimosho	Ipaja	Rural/Urban	Sr. Patricia Ebegebulem,	Female	NGO/FBO
Cece Yara Foundation's Shelter	Not disclosed	Lagos	Shomolu	Gbagada	Urban	Chioma Ileka	Female	NGO
Child Protection Network		Lagos	Surulere	Ijesha	Urban	Mrs. Ngozi Okoro	Female	NGO
National Human Rights Commission		Lagos	Ikeja	Ikeja	Urban	Lucas Koyejo	Male	Govt
Project Alert (SOPHIA'S PLACE)		Lagos	Ikeja	Ojodu Berger	Urban	Josephine Effah-Chukwuma	Female	NGO
Peace Villa (RealWomanFoundation)	7b Jubilee/cmd road magodo phase 2	Lagos	Kosofe	Magodo	Urban	Hephzibah Itimi0	Female	Private
MAGARET HOME/WARDC		Lagos	Ikeja	Adeniyi Jones	Urban	Dr Abiola Akiyode Afolabi	Female	NGO
Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)		Lagos	Eti Osa	Lagos Island	Urban	Morenike Omaiboje	Female	NGO

Women's Rights and Health Project, WRAHP	The Penthouse, 196, Egbe-Ikotun road, Ilepo bustop,	Lagos	Ishodi-Isolo	Ejibo	Urban	Bose Ironsi	Female	NGO
Patriotic Citizens Initiative		Lagos	Amuwo	Festac	Urban	Ositadimma Oseme	Male	NGO
Sought After Women and Children Foundation		Lagos	Eti Osa	Lamgbasa	Urban	Mrs Carol Silver-Oyaide	Female	NGO
Web of Heart Foundation		Lagos	Ibeju Lekki	Bogijie	Rural	Mrs Bose Aggrey	Female	NGO

Table 2: Summary of the definitions of trafficking and forced migration

	Need	Strategy	Reason	Purpose
Agency	Recruitment, move, transfer, transport	Coerced, lured	Exploitation through jobs such prostitution, domestic labour	Financial gains Commercial gains
Persons/victim	Greener pasture,	Trade	Exploration: Jobs	Better life Change of residence

Table 3: Demographics of the participating security agencies

Name of Security agency	Location of the Security agency	State	LGA	Community	Type of Community	Gender	Name of officer in charge of Trafficking and forced Migration	Security agency Ownership
Nigeria Immigration Service	Seme border	Lagos	Badagry	Seme	Urban	Male	Ibitoye Yemi	Federal
Nigeria Immigration Service	Passport Office Ikoyi	Lagos	Lagos Island	Obalende	Urban	Male	B S Yusuf	Federal
NAPTIP	Ikeja (Zonal command)	Lagos	Ikeja	GRA	Urban	Female	Comfort Sanni (programme unit) Elisabeth Ajeseni C&R unit Etuk Imoh Investigation Unit	Federal

National Orientation Agency	Ikeja	Lagos	Ikeja	PWD	Urban	Male	Waheed Ishola Lekan	Federal
Nigerian Police Force	Gender Unit, State Command	Lagos	Ikeja	PWD	Urban	Female	Toyin Omomobi	Federal
Nigerian Police Force	State CID Pantl	Lagos	Lagos Mainland	Sabo	Urban	Female	Margret Ighodalo	Federal
National Human Right Commission	Wemabod Estate	Lagos	Ikeja	Adeniyi Jones	Urban	Male	Lucas Koyejo	Federal

Annex 4: QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Demographics which include name of shelter/organisation, location of the shelter/organisation, state, LGA and community, type of community: urban/ rural, name of person in charge of the shelter/organisation, gender, shelter/organisation contact number, shelter/organisation ownership.

Description of the thematic areas

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.
3a 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 person 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 / Shelter

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 the victims 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 underaged girls who are victims treated separately? Please explain.
11. How do you protect the identity of victims particularly women and underaged 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 underaged 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 fund 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?
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 front-line service providers, etc. in handling cases of trafficking? If yes, could you describe your experience in working with each of them identified, please?
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?

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