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IOM International Organization for Migration
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**DONOR REPORT FOR USAID
IOM PROGRAMME AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIAN
WOMEN AND MINORS: ASSISTANCE, SHELTER, DATA
BASE AND AWARENESS RAISING**

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Project Name and Title: Programme Against Trafficking in Nigerian Women and Minors: Assistance, Shelter, Data Base and Awareness Raising

Recipient: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

Name of USAID CTO: Mrs. Bose Eltokpah

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IOM Head Office:
Plot 3255 IBB Way, Abuja, Nigeria
Tel: +234.9.413.30.43 • Fax: +234.9.413.30.42 •



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IOM PROGRAMME AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIAN WOMEN & MINORS: ASSISTANCE, SHELTER, DATA BASE AND AWARENESS RAISING

Executing agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Project partner agencies (or national counterparts):	The Presidential Committee on Human Trafficking, The Office of the Special Advisor, Federal Ministries of Police Affairs, Internal Affairs, Justice, Headquarters and Lagos State units of Interpol and Immigration, Women's Affairs & Youth Development.
UN Counterparts:	UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO-IPEC, UNODC
NGO Counterparts:	Selected NGO's, CBOs and social service providers in target areas; National and local chapters of National Convention of Women Religious, the Catholic Secretariat, Lagos; Medical Sisters of Mary, Girl Power Initiative, IRRAG
Geographical coverage:	The following Nigerian States: Lagos, Edo, Benue, Imo, Rivers, Enugu, and Kaduna
Project management site:	IOM Regional Office for West Africa, Dakar – Senegal
Project Offices	IOM Lagos, Nigeria, IOM Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria
Liaison Office	IOM Abuja, Nigeria
Target group(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigerian women and minors who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking; • Local agencies concerned with assistance to victims of trafficking and with prevention of human trafficking in Nigeria, as well as income-generating activities.
Project period:	12 months, September 9, 2003 to September 8, 2004
Reporting period	3 months, December 9, 2003 – March 8, 2004
Total budget:	USD 500,000

Headquarters:

17 route des Morillons • C.P. 71 • CH-1211 Geneva 19 • Switzerland
 Tel: +41.22.717 91 11 • Fax: +41.22.798 61 50 • E-mail: hq@iom.int • Internet:
<http://www.iom.int>

- Renovation works on the Lagos shelter building which began in Nov. 2003 continues. The shelter is still under renovation and a major part of the renovation works has been carried out.
- Preparations for the awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking in seven Nigerian States, as well as for the installation of a data base on trafficking, are ongoing.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The present project is designed on the basis of the findings and recommendations of the IOM needs assessment on trafficking in Nigerian women and minors, reports and articles by Nigerian and international NGOs, agencies and government institutions, and consultations with concerned government organisations, international agencies and NGOs in Nigeria and in countries of destination.

The purpose of this project is to address the identified problems and needs in relation to trafficking, through selected counter-trafficking interventions, in cooperation with the Nigerian Federal and State governments, concerned NGOs and international agencies.

The project cooperates with counter-trafficking activities in countries of destination for Nigerian victims of trafficking by IOM, concerned government agencies and NGOs.

These activities are complemented by other donor funds that precede or complement this funding. Notably, the G/TIP (ESF) funds and part of the Italian donor funds will fund the renovation of the Lagos shelter.

The project aims to build capacity with the government of Nigeria, as well as agencies and NGOs concerned with trafficking to more effectively counteract trafficking, as well as assist the actual and potential victims of trafficking through the following targeted interventions:

1. Assistance to victims of trafficking

1.1 Temporary assistance while the deported victims of trafficking are in Immigration and Police Detention.

1.2 A reception and transit centre in Lagos for deported victims of trafficking.

1.3 Data Base

2. Public Awareness campaign in seven Nigerian states

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

1. Assistance to victims of trafficking

Through referral mechanisms involving concerned government agencies and NGOs in countries of destination and Nigeria, 1400 victims of trafficking will be offered all or some of the following assistance, according to individual needs: voluntary assistance, consisting of humane and safe reception, rehabilitation and reintegration assistance, upon return to Nigeria. The assistance involves transport with escort, reception, sheltering, counselling of the victim, and her family, where required, counselling, medical and psychological screening and assistance, legal counselling, vocational training, income-generating activities and micro-credit, follow-up and monitoring.

The project will build on existing structures and programmes in Lagos and Edo State, as well as in other states of origin. For a more detailed description of the existing structure, pls. refer above to section on already undertaken activities.

The programme specifically supports the following assistance components:

1.1 Temporary assistance while the deported victims of trafficking are in Immigration and Police Detention.

The deported victims of trafficking are presently detained and interrogated both in Immigration and in Interpol, Alagbon Close, and Lagos. They may be kept up to three days in Immigration, and up till 1 week in Interpol. Presently there are no appropriate reception facilities for the victims of trafficking, and the two departments do not have a budget for accommodating and feeding the victims of trafficking. Accordingly they subsist in the cramped detention conditions on N90 a day per person.

The project will provide a time-limited budget for their food, toiletries, and clothes when required. IOM staff will administer the funds for food, clothes, toiletries and goods directly to the victims upon arrival in Alagbon. An MOU between Immigration and IOM already exists to this effect, and this assistance component began in 2002 with other funds. IOM staff counsel the victims of trafficking and inform them about the voluntary assistance programme during their detention in Alagbon.

1.2 A reception and transit centre in Lagos for deported victims of trafficking.

The Lagos reception and transit centre is being renovated with separate donor funds and will provide humane and adequate accommodation for deported victims of trafficking arriving in Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos. This project will support the furnishing and running of the shelter.

The building is Federal property, which has been signed over for IOM's use for 10 years. It is located at 15, Awolowo Rd. Ikoyi, Lagos. Its capacity is four stories with about 63 rooms. Total capacity is about 200 beds, which will also accommodate the victims of trafficking on larger deportation flights. It furthermore holds space for kitchen, dining and recreational facilities, counselling and medical screening rooms, interviewing rooms for police and immigration procedures, as well as office space for the shelter administration. The security for the larger SSS compound is provided by the Federal Government, and the project will provide staff and security for the building, as well as food, toiletries, clothes, counselling, medical and psychological screening and assistance, legal counselling, referral to income-generating or educational activities.

The project will fund the staff and activities in the shelter, as well as the direct assistance to the deported victims of trafficking. The project will involve government agencies with a mandate in human trafficking protection in the running of the shelter, as well as mobilize concerned Federal Government Ministers to ensure that the Government acquire capacity and skills in supporting and eventually running the shelter. Furthermore, the project will aim to identify sources of income that can sustain the centre in the longer term.

The project and state liaison offices will provide transport and security for transports when larger numbers from one state are returning. Depending on numbers, larger busses will be rented, or the shelter vans will be utilized.

1.3. Data Base: Baseline Data Collection and Trafficking Tracking System

The MIMOSA Data Base, an IOM data collection and storage tool, facilitates the monitoring of project inputs and progress, as well as the compilation of case stories and information on the victims of trafficking it assists, thereby lending itself to trafficking research.

The information in the database is kept confidential. However, statistical analysis will be shared with NGO and government counterparts, donors, and other resource persons. The data will be anonymous and the data analysis generated will be utilized for project monitoring and development purposes, as well as disseminated and fed into policy and program developments at the Federal and State levels. The concerned staff at all IOM offices, shelters and vocational training centers will be trained in the application and utilization of the software.

2 Public Awareness Campaigns in Seven Nigerian States

Media-based sensitization campaigns on trafficking will be undertaken in seven Nigerian States affected by human trafficking, Lagos, Edo, Benue, Imo, Rivers, Enugu, and Kaduna. The campaigns will target the potential victims and their families, the general public, media personnel, schools, NGOs, government officials and decision-makers. The campaigns will aim to raise awareness about the realities and exploitation inherent in trafficking, as well as the inequalities that fuel trafficking. The campaign will likewise aim to change the public perception of victims of trafficking to one of understanding and empathy, and will aim to mobilize to act against trafficking.

The campaigns will be created in cooperation with concerned government agencies, dignitaries, NGOs and international agencies, and will build on previous campaigns nationally and in Edo State, funded respectively by the Belgian and the Italian Governments, and networks created during these campaigns. The project campaigns will take place in national, regional and state-based electronic and print media. The project will likewise sensitize selected national media staff concerning issues of human rights violations in trafficking, including prudent reporting on trafficking.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be based on output and process indicators for the project activities. Monitoring and reporting will take place quarterly, and at the end of the project period an evaluation will be undertaken. At all occasions counterparts will join in the observation, and progress reports will be disseminated to counterparts and donors.

Supplementary Project Funding

USD 500,000 from GTIP supplements the USAID project funding for 2003/04, supporting the Lagos shelter module, renovation, furnishing and some of the assistance activities.

2. RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

The project has received the contribution from USAID for USD 500,000 for funding of its budgeted activities for the project year. As a result, implementation of activities has been planned and being carried out as indicated below.

In the second project period, consisting of three months, (December 9, 2003 – March 8, 2004), the project has carried out the following activities:

2.1 Assistance to victims of trafficking

During the reporting period (December 9, 2003 – March 8, 2004) IOM received and assisted 4 Assisted Voluntary Returnees (AVRs, as opposed to deported victims of trafficking). The victims of trafficking, with the assistance by IOM were received in Lagos, provided overnight accommodation, feeding and counseling, and assisted with onwards transportation to their states of origin, where they are settling down and preparing a follow-up reintegration plan. Personal interviews have taken place with the returnees in order to provide appropriate orientation/counseling on the opportunities offered through the project, and identify with the returnee the most suitable reintegration process.

The assistance available involves transport (with escort where necessary), reception, sheltering, counselling of the victim, and her family, where required, medical and psychological screening and assistance, legal counselling, vocational training or micro-business grants, and follow-up and monitoring.

The procedure for Assisted Voluntary Returns involves request for assistance from sending country to IOM in Lagos, which will include flight details, returnees' personal data and final destination. IOM confirms receipt of the early warning and its readiness to receive the returnee. The Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) is notified of all intended returns due to the cooperation that exists between NIS and IOM. This facilitates clearance with Immigration for the returnee. Assisted returnees are received by IOM staff inside the arrival hall of the International airport since IOM employees have special airport passes that enable them to do so. Returnees generally arrive in Lagos during the day. The result achieved from this procedure is a dignified and humane return for the victims of trafficking.

2.2 Temporary Assistance to deported victims of trafficking in the Immigration and Police screening centres.

During the reporting period (December 9, 2003 – March 8, 2004) the project assisted 76 deported victims from Italy.

An MOU between the Nigeria Immigration Service and IOM already exists for the temporary assistance. This assistance component started in 2002 and has been consolidated by this project since the beginning of the project period.

The Nigeria Police and the Nigeria Immigration notifies IOM about intended deportations from sending countries. IOM assists deportees with food, water and toiletries at the Police or Immigration screening centre. The deported victims of trafficking are taken to the bus parks after they have been screened and assisted with transportation to destination States by IOM. Because of the cooperation that exists between IOM and Nigeria Police / Nigeria Immigration, and IOM's willingness to assist, IOM is often contacted with information on arrival of deportees.

Interviewers, trained by IOM and working on a call-up basis, as well as IOM personnel assist deported victims of trafficking immediately after they return by deportation flights to Lagos. The victims receive food, toiletries and clothes from IOM in the detention center while undergoing registration and interrogation by Immigration. Meanwhile the victims are informed about the assistance programme and its components, and the implications of its

voluntary nature are explained. IOM has also assisted deportees with overnight accommodation after their release from the Immigration detention centre at a late hour and with subsequent transportation to final destination the following day.

IOM also assisted 8 children who were rescued by the Nigeria Police from their traffickers. The children were being trafficked for labour to various parts of Nigeria. For the period of time they stayed at the screening centre, IOM assisted them with feeding and offered medical assistance.

2.3 IOM Lagos Shelter Facility

Whereas the project does not support the renovation works, it supports a substantial part of the subsequent running of the shelter and assistance taking place in the shelter. Therefore the progress report will also involve developments in other parts of IOM's activities, which are instrumental to the implementation of the USAID project.

After a long period of negotiations, the Federal Government accepted to lease the building to IOM for a period of ten years, and an MOU was signed to this effect. Subsequently, SSS, the government agency releasing the building to IOM, was not content with the project MOU, but unexpectedly required an additional MOU for the utilization of the building. The negotiations concerning the latter MOU lasted until the end of Oct. 2003, upon which time the MOU with SSS could finally be signed.

An open tender process had been carried out for reconstruction companies to submit bids for the renovation of the building. Eleven companies collected tender packages, while only nine companies submitted tenders for the renovation project. The seven companies were: Poloni & Company, Pro-Concept (Skindles) Ltd, Arkisotium Associates, Bendith Nigeria Ltd, Sageto Ltd, Arbico PLC, Mecks and Donwell Ltd, Galcon Engineering Ltd, and Henbok Konsults Nigeria Ltd. The public opening of the tenders submitted was carried out on August 25, 2003 in the presence of representatives of the different companies.

Subsequently the companies with relevant and complete tenders underwent a background check of their facilities, capacity and previous works. Of the companies that remained short listed, an item-by-item negotiation was undertaken in order to arrive at a price for the works which corresponded to market prices, and which was within the project budget. After these negotiations, which induced a 25% reduction of all bid prices, ARBICO emerged as the company with the cheaper tender bid.

The contract for renovation was signed with ARBICO on 18th November 2003 and renovation works began on the 27th of November 2003.

Presently, at the end of the reporting period, 70% of the value of the total works has been carried out.

The contractual renovation time is three months, and subsequently furnishing of the shelter is scheduled for March 2004. The shelter is thus scheduled for commissioning in April 2004.

The shelter, when renovated, will provide humane and adequate accommodation for deported victims of trafficking arriving in Lagos.

2.4 Data Base: Baseline Data Collection and Trafficking Tracking System

For the purpose of adapting the generic IOM Mimosa Data Base software, information has been collected as to the information storage requirements and variables needed for the registration of victims of trafficking, in order to adapt the generic software to the assistance provided in Nigeria. A pre-assessment of technical requirements and international and local prices for procurement of hardware required is presently ongoing.

The positions, terms of references, and qualifications required by IT personnel are presently being reviewed by Dakar IT section, and a vacancy notice was circulated in January 2004 in Nigeria. Once the staff has been hired, training in the utilization of the data base software will take place.

2.5 Public Awareness Campaign in seven States

Towards the creation of media-based information campaign in electronic and print media in seven Nigerian States selected from the four geo-political zones, (Lagos, Edo, Benue, Imo, Rivers, Enugu, and Kaduna), a pre-assessment plan and questionnaires has been made for the purpose of generating data on: KAP (knowledge, attitudes and practices) of the general public and at-risk groups and their families and communities in relation to trafficking, mapping of counterpart capacity, existing initiatives against trafficking and unmet needs in the fight against trafficking, media consumption/utilization of the general public and at-risk groups and their families and communities, and their means of obtaining information. A local consultant has been taken onboard for IEC preparations in the North of Nigeria, whereas local staff in Lagos and Edo State are carrying out the preparations in other states. A desk study, and initial mapping and contacts have already been made in order to prepare for the pre-assessment.

A pre-assessment analysis of trafficking situations in the focused States was undertaken in order to understand in greater detail the existing situation, perception and attitude to the problems in these States. This was both to guide the implementation of this project as well as provide some ideas and lessons that would feed into the design of projects being designed. The study therefore serves to generate appropriate information that would be fed into the design and implementation of the programme.

The results of the pre-assessment will be presented at IEC validation workshops, during which IEC strategies will be developed, and launching arrangements also discussed. Examples of media product concepts will also be presented for in-detail discussion, to concretise the discussion and maximize the feedback.

Meanwhile, capable media agencies have been identified, and once the validation workshops have taken place and the IEC strategy is clear, updated bids will be requested for electronic media products development. Photos and images have been researched in IOM and counterparts. Bids for the remaining photo and montage for print media have been received from the media agencies and concepts for print materials, (posters, calendars, brochures, stickers), are being tested. Informative brochures with updated assistance information are under development.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

3.1 Short notice for arrival of deportees

One of the major constraints faced during the implementation of this assistance is the short notice usually given by the Law Enforcement Agencies regarding arrival of deportees. The Law Enforcement agencies claim they are equally not given enough notice by sending countries. Sometimes, IOM is contacted a few hours before the arrival of the deportees. IOM has been able to respond in some cases but not in others.

It is expected that the opening of the shelter will mitigate this logistical problem.

3.2 Late arrival of deportees

Another constraint faced is the late hour the chartered flights conveying the deportees from Italy usually arrive. Flight times range from 1 p.m. – 1.30a.m. For security reasons, IOM staff usually go to the screening centres the following day to assist those who remain till the next day. This does not afford IOM the opportunity of meeting with all the deportees.

It is expected that the opening of the shelter will mitigate this security problem.

3.3 Mitigating Factors

Whereas the above constraints put complicates outreach for deported victims of trafficking that need to be assisted until the opening of the Lagos shelter, IOM will as part of its activities in other Nigerian states in 2004 addresses both child trafficking as well as internal trafficking in women for the purpose of prostitution. The agreements with counterparts will be signed in the next project period.

3.4 Spending pattern

The spending pattern reflects a period of preparations for the awareness-raising campaign and the data base carried out by IOM staff. Spending on assistance reflects the above restraints, and that the Lagos shelter will start operating in April 2004. Spending on procurement awaits the results of an international bids analysis in IOM HQ, and will take place in this project period.

A non-cost extension for the period has accordingly been requested.

4. CONCLUSIONS

At the end of the 3 -months reporting period (December 9, 2003 to March 8, 2004), the following progress has been made:

- 76 Deported victims of trafficking, and 4 AVR's, in total 79, have been assisted by IOM.
- The renovation works have begun on the Lagos shelter and 70% of the value of the works has been completed by the end of the reporting period. The shelter is scheduled for commissioning by April 2004, slightly behind schedule due to delays in the provision of the Federal Government's own contribution.
- The preparations for both the awareness-raising campaign in seven states and the database are underway.