



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**

Author's Name: International Organization for Migration

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Recipient: International Organization for Migration(IOM)

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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- September 8, 2004
Reporting period	3 months, March 9 2004 - June 8, 2004
Total budget:	USD 500,000

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SUMMARY

There is growing concern both in Nigeria and abroad about the trafficking of Nigerian women and minors for the purpose of sexual exploitation. A senior Nigerian police official has stated that Nigeria tops the list of African countries in trafficking in women for prostitution in Europe. Although Italy, Holland and Belgium appear to be the main destination countries, trafficking in Nigerian women to Germany, the U.K., the United States and the Middle East has also been reported.

Based on IOM's fact-finding missions to Nigeria, IOM's trafficking assessment study, reports of other organisations, as well as IOM project experience in the target areas, the purposes of the project is to assist the Nigerian Federal government and the Edo State government in acquiring the capacity to combat trafficking in women and minors.

The project will therefore 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 interventions will address these identified problems and needs through assistance to victims of trafficking, establishment of a reception shelter in Lagos, a database for the compilation of data on trafficking processes, assistance to beneficiaries, and impact reviews. Finally the project will also support public information campaigns on the hazard of trafficking in seven Nigerian states affected by trafficking, Lagos, Edo, Benue, Imo, Rivers, Enugu, and Kaduna, and capacity building with concerned governmental and non-governmental counterparts relating to the project components.

During this reporting period, the accomplishment include:

- 2 Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVRs) were received and will be supported with rehabilitation and reintegration:
- 128 deported victims of trafficking who arrived during this reporting period were given assistance in form of feeding, accommodation and transportation. 17 of them are being further reintegrated.
- The cooperation that exists between IOM, Nigeria Immigration Services and the Nigerian Police continues.
- Renovation works on the Lagos shelter building, which began in Nov. 2003, has been completed and the shelter is being furnished.
- Preparations for the awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking in seven Nigerian States, as well as for the installation of a database on trafficking, are ongoing.

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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 will build on existing structures and programmes in Lagos and Edo State, as well as in other states of origin.

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

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

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

The project will provide a time-limited budget for their food, toiletries, and clothes for detained and interrogated deportees in Alagbon when required. IOM staff will administer the funds for food, clothes, toiletries and goods directly to the victims upon arrival in Alagbon

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

The Lagos reception and transit centre has been 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. Its capacity is about 120 beds, which will also accommodate the victims of trafficking on larger deportation flights

3. Shelter assistance and running

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 and protection in the running of the shelter, as well as mobilize

concerned Federal Government Ministries 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 longer-term.

4. Data Base

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.

5. Public Awareness campaign in seven Nigerian states

Awareness raising and sensitisation on trafficking issues 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.

6. 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

During the reporting period March 9 – June 8, 2004, the project has carried out the following activities:

2.1 Assistance to victims of trafficking

During the reporting period (March 9 – June 8, 2004) IOM received and assisted 2 Assisted Voluntary Returnees from Denmark (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 undergoing reintegration and income-generating activities. 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 staffs have special airport passes that enable them to do so. Returnees generally arrive in Lagos during the day. The result achieved from this procedure being 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 (March 9 – June 8, 2004) the project assisted 128 deported victims of trafficking from Italy, Spain and republic of Benin.

An MOU between the Nigeria Immigration Service and IOM already exists for the temporary assistance. This assistance component started in 2002, and is 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 has assisted 17 victims of trafficking with 1st & 2nd reintegration assistance. Two of the girls are being offered educational assistance while three of the girls are at-risk of being trafficked.

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.

The contract for the renovation of the building 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, 100% of the value of the total works has been carried out.

The furnishing of the shelter is gradually taking place as contractors supply furniture to the building. The shelter is thus scheduled for commissioning in July 2004.

The shelter, will provide humane and adequate accommodation for deported victims of trafficking arriving in Lagos as well as to minors victims of trafficking. The building is Federal property, which has been signed over for IOM's use for 10 years. Its capacity is four stories with about 63 rooms. Its capacity is about 120 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, 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.

2.4 Data Base: Baseline Data Collection and Trafficking Tracking System

IOM Nigeria coordinated and is planning the installation of the Global Assistance Counter Trafficking Data Base. A team composed by the Counter-Trafficking Service Area and the IOM IT Department is coordinating the plan to install the software application in Nigeria. The team is expected to come to Nigeria during the month of July. IOM plans to install the Global Data Base in the region, in an effort to provide a systematic approach to the collection and management of information related to the rescue, protection and assistance extended to victims of trafficking by IOM. The installation of the Global Data Base in the Region is not supported by funds under this USAID project. The Global Data base generates standard reports and can run specific queries.

Prior and during the project period the Data Base was tested in the Balkans and central Eastern Europe, including the adaptation of the questionnaire associated to the DB. A sample of the questionnaire is attached.

2.5 Public Awareness Campaign in seven States

With regards to the information campaign 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 by the general public and at-risk groups and their families and communities, and their means of obtaining information. A local consultant carried out IEC preparations in the North of Nigeria. IOM staff in Lagos and Edo State are carrying out the preparations for other states.

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 key findings of the assessment is as follows;

TRAFFICKING:

- While many of the respondents do not understand the term 'trafficking' they are aware that people, mostly children and young girls are recruited to work in the cities and abroad for economic benefit. They have a very little knowledge of the danger of trafficking.
- The type of trafficking in the southeastern and south southern part of Nigeria is largely child trafficking. The trafficking in children is both internal and external. This contrasts the type of trafficking in Edo State, where IOM is intervening, which is externally for women prostitution abroad.
- The potential migrants seem to be young women and boys who are of school age. Those who had completed high school and could not find employment or those who had no means to finish school for financial and family reasons tend to search for any easy way to get a job to help themselves and their families.
- The demand for girls is higher than for boys. In urban areas girls are sought by adult women, to work for them in the house, or to assist those selling food and other products in the streets and markets. Boys are however recruited to work in farms in West Africa coast and other areas, doing work that accords priority to physical strength.

HIV/AIDS

- The level of awareness at the community level is still very low. It is obvious that many of them heard about HIV/AIDS but this does not translate into a behavior change. The perception of HIV/AIDS among the community members is still based on misconception and denial of the disease still persists. People are still skeptical about it.
- The study also revealed that the level of stigmatization of PLWHAs is very high in the focused States. The people living with, at risk of or affected by the virus are discriminated against, stigmatized and abandoned in the communities.

- The respondents advocate that the PLWHAs need empowerment, information and skills to assert their right in the communities. Their need go beyond provision of clinical care and treatment but include psychosocial support to cope with the hostile environment. They need supportive environment for them to leave positively with the virus.
- The mapping exercise shows that most significantly NGOs provided services on HIV/AIDS in the areas where the governments are slow to respond to real needs and gaps.

Media Habit:

- The data show that the radio and television are the most effective media in sharing information on trafficking and HIV/AIDS. The majority of people interviewed claimed that they have access to radio and TV than the other media. A lot of them have access to radio in both the rural and urban communities.
- The radio is more popular because among adults it can break through the barrier of illiteracy, which is high. Besides, listening can be done using transistor receiver when there is no public power supply
- The data also show that potential targets occasionally have access to newspapers and magazines. The cost of access to the print media for average person in Nigeria may simply be prohibitive. Brochures and posters are rated very low in terms of coverage in the scale but popular with NGO counterparts.
- Some indigenous films/drama ("I need to know", "Super story", "Tales by moonlight"), news and current affairs, musical shows, sports, debate and interviews, enter-educate and documentary are mentioned in the assessment as Programme/activities on media that catches the attention of the people in most of these communities.

The results of the pre-assessment will be presented at Information, Education and Communication (IEC) validation workshops, during which IEC materials and strategies will be developed. Three consultants have been identified to facilitate the training and are in the process of producing training module. Arrangements are being made to reach participants from the focused States. 1 NGO and 1 media expert will represent each of the States.

2.6 School project

- Final Development of curriculum and handbook for the teachers training
- Pretesting of developed curriculum in one secondary school in Edo State
- One day sensitization for 16 school principals, Chief Inspectors of Education and Directors of the Ministry of Education
- Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for 20 Edo State Ministry of Education Trainers

Pre-testing of adapted curriculum

The draft copy of the adapted curriculum on issues of trafficking and HIV/AIDS in five secondary school subjects (English language, social studies, Integrated science, Biology and Geography), teachers' manual and students' handbook has been concluded in collaboration with the Edo State Ministry of Education. A consultant and five subject experts participated in this exercise. The adapted curriculum has also been pre-tested in one of the secondary schools in Edo State.

During the pre-testing exercise carried out by the five subject experts,

- Trafficking and HIV/ AIDS issues were well incorporated and adapted
- The topics in the adapted curriculum can be taught in already existing school subjects
- That other teaching aids like role-play and drama can also be used for effective communication.
- The topics relating to trafficking and HIV/AIDS could be taught in a very participatory manner within the existing school subjects.
- The pre-testing allowed a few corrections to be made to the final adaptation

Training of Trainers workshop

A ten-day training workshop, in collaboration with the Edo State Ministry of Education, was held for twenty (20) Edo State Master trainers on HIV/Trafficking. The purpose of the training was to sensitise the trainers on the issues of trafficking and HIV/AIDS, introduce the adapted curriculum to them, build capacity of the State Ministry of Education, and identify trainers for the regular training of 120 secondary school teachers and school counsellors.

Printing of pre-tested manuals and curriculum

IOM is processing the printing of 120 copies of each of the five subject manuals for the teachers and 20,000 copies of student's handbook. These documents will be used for the regular training for teachers and informational material on trafficking and HIV/AIDS for secondary school students.

The materials for printing are the pre-tested materials (curriculum, handbooks and manual) above. The material includes issues relating to both HIV and trafficking.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN

3.1 Lagos Shelter: Delay in Government's own-contribution

Following the initially scheduled work plan and implementation schedule for the Lagos shelter was not feasible since the Federal Government had initially only wanted to release the building to IOM for a period of two years. After a long period of negotiations, the Federal Government accepted to lease the building to IOM for a period of ten years. Subsequently, the government agency concretely releasing the building to IOM was not content with the project MOU, but 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.

3.2 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.

3.3 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 11p.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.

3.3 Potential for re-trafficking

Short notice for arrival and late arrival, are potentially conducive to re-victimisation of some of the returning victims of trafficking, as they fall out of the assistance system. IOM is not able to meet with some of these victims who require assistance and therefore remains concerned about this situation.

3.4 Weak referral system

IOM recalls the attention to the need of establishing/strengthening an initial network of rehabilitation centres in the geopolitical zones to provide further assistance to victims of trafficking who would need further referral.

The need to establish shelters in other states (such in the south, expected areas of origin in the north and possibly in some border areas) is pressing also in view of the necessity to specifically address the re-integration needs of minors, including minors victims of inter state trafficking as well as minors victims of international trafficking, originating from other states in the region.

3.5 Mitigating Factors and planned course of action

The Lagos State Rehabilitation Centre is certainly a strengthening factor, being Lagos a major entry point for returning migrants and victims of trafficking. The Shelter will open July first. IOM will also address problems related to the potential re-victimization of returning victims of trafficking due to short notice and/or late arrival by exploring with immigration and airport authorities the establishment of an IOM first assistance point in the airport, to strengthen outreach capacity to short notice and late arrivals space in the Lagos airport.

On the other hand, in order to strengthen the assistance to minors victims of trafficking in persons - regardless their nationality - IOM dedicated one floor of the Lagos State Rehabilitation Centre to Minors victims of trafficking, supporting their re-integration process and safe accommodation over a period up to six months, providing that continuous donor support is made available and sufficient to the specific needs of this category of victims. IOM will provide the same possibility to minors in the Edo State IOM shelter, located in Benin City. IOM will explore cooperation with public social services, public health institutions as well as other UN and IO agencies and NGOs, both local and International.

IOM is also planning an assessment mission to the south and North to identify programmatic needs.

Conclusions

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

- 128 Deported victims of trafficking , and 2 AVR's from Denmark, have been assisted by IOM. Out of the deported victims of trafficking, 17 victims are currently undergoing reintegration assistance.
- The renovation works in the Lagos shelter has been completed by the end of the reporting period. The shelter is scheduled for commissioning by July 2004.
- The preparations for both the awareness-raising campaign in seven states and the database are underway.
- The preparations for the training of 120 teachers and counselors in five subject areas are underway.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR REPORTING PERIOD ATTACHED