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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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**Author's Name:** International Organization for Migration

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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 Eitokpah

**Reporting Period:** 9 June 2004 - 8 September 2004

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

<b>Executing agency:</b>	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
<b>Project partner agencies (or national counterparts):</b>	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.
<b>UN Counterparts:</b>	UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO-IPEC, UNODC
<b>NGO Counterparts:</b>	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
<b>Geographical coverage:</b>	The following Nigerian States: Lagos, Edo, Benue, Imo, Rivers, Enugu, and Kaduna
<b>Project management site:</b>	IOM Regional Office for West Africa, Dakar – Senegal
<b>Project Offices</b>	IOM Lagos, Nigeria, IOM Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria
<b>Liaison Office</b>	IOM Abuja, Nigeria
<b>Target group(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nigerian women and minors who are victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking;</li> <li>• Local agencies concerned with assistance to victims of trafficking and with prevention of human trafficking in Nigeria, as well as income-generating activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Project period:</b>	12 months, September 9, 2003 to September 8, 2004
<b>Reporting period</b>	3 months, June 9, 2004 – September 8, 2004
<b>Total budget:</b>	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 accomplishments include:

- 33 deported victims of trafficking who arrived during this reporting period were given assistance in form of feeding and water. One deportee was assisted to her final destination with escort. 17 previously deported victims of trafficking have been fully reintegrated.
- The cooperation that exists between IOM, Nigeria Immigration Services and the Nigerian Police continues and has been expanded to accommodate

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the new agency established by the law to coordinate all activities relating to Trafficking in Persons, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

- Renovation works on the Lagos shelter building, which began in Nov. 2003, have been completed. The shelter has been furnished and commissioned on July 22, 2004.
- Awareness-raising campaigns in the focus states have been completed.
- Negotiation for the installation of the database is still 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.***

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

***3. Data Base***

**5. Public Awareness campaign in seven Nigerian states**

**6. Monitoring and Evaluation**

**2. RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**1. Assistance to victims of trafficking**

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

The Nigeria Police, the Nigeria Immigration and more recently NAPTIP notifies IOM about intended deportations from sending countries. It is now an accepted practice that victims of trafficking shall not be kept in detention centres and efforts are underway to consolidate this approach.

To further strengthen the present referral mechanism, all other agencies and organizations now refer victims to NAPTIP who in turn brings such cases of trafficking to IOM's attention.

IOM assists deportees with food, water and toiletries at the Police or Immigration screening centre and also provides them with counselling services. When required, IOM also assists deportees with overnight accommodation after their release from the Immigration detention centre at a late hour and with subsequent transportation to final destination/state of origin. The project provided a time-limited budget for their food, toiletries, clothes, transportation and temporary accommodation.

During the reporting period, 50 victims of trafficking have been 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 (where necessary), reception, sheltering, counselling of the victim, and her family, where required, counselling, medical and psychological counselling and assistance, legal counselling, vocational training, income-generating activities and micro-credit, follow-up and monitoring.

**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 supported 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. It is four stories high with about 39 bedrooms. 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 provided 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 for victims of trafficking.

The project gradually involved government agencies with a mandate in human trafficking and protection in the running of the shelter, as well as mobilized concerned Federal Government Ministries to ensure that the Government acquire capacity and skills in supporting and eventually running the shelter. Furthermore, the project also aimed at identifying sources of income that could sustain the centre longer-term.

Shortly before the take off of the project, NAP TIP was set up and during the project IOM partnered with the agency to set up a standard referral procedure to IOM's assistance through the Lagos shelter for victims of trafficking and is presently supporting the agency to identify existing reintegration programmes run by government and non-government counterparts that could be accessed by victims and other sources of income to sustain the shelter the longer term.

To this end both organizations are developing an MoU to further strengthen the cooperation

### **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.

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. An assessment of technical requirements and international and local prices for procurement of hardware required is ongoing.

The positions, terms of references and qualifications required by IT personnel is presently being reviewed by Dakar IT section. Once the staff has been hired, training in the utilization of the database software will take place.

Once operational, the information in the database will be 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.

#### **4. Public Awareness Campaign in seven States**

##### **4.1. Pre-assessment on trafficking**

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 on trafficking was undertaken 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. The mapping was also done 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 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 a guide for the implementation of this project as well as provides some ideas and lessons that would feed into the design of subsequent projects.

##### **4.2. Information Education and Communication (IEC) Development and Production**

The project supported the production and distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials focusing on trafficking and migration issues. This was preceded with IEC development workshop for media personnel and selected NGOS from Lagos, Benue, Rivers and Enugu States as the other states, Kaduna and Imo did not respond to the invitation. The results of the pre-assessment were presented at the IEC validation workshop, during which state-specific IEC materials and strategies were developed in cooperation with the NGOs and media organizations.

A total number of 19,000 IEC materials of five different types of IEC, comprising 5000 posters, 4000 stickers and 10000 brochures, were produced and distributed in the different communities in the focused States and helped to raise their awareness on the problems of trafficking in persons.

### **4.3 School project**

The project supported the incorporation of trafficking and migration issues into secondary school curriculum in five school subjects (English language, social studies, integrated science, Biology and Geography), into teachers' manuals and students' handbooks in collaboration with the Edo State Ministry of Education. The adapted curriculum was pre-tested in one of the secondary schools in Edo State.

#### **4.3.1. Sensitization for School Principals and Chief Inspectors of Education**

A one-day sensitization workshop in collaboration with the Edo State Ministry of Education was held for 40 Secondary School Principals and Chief Inspectors of Education from six Local Government Areas, as well as Directors of Edo State Ministry of Education. The objective of the sensitization was to introduce the school project to them as gate-keepers and to seek their support for project activities.

#### **4.3.2. Training of Trainers workshop (TOT)**

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 step down training of secondary school teachers.

#### **4.3.3. Training of secondary school teachers**

In collaboration with the Edo State Ministry of Education, the TOT workshop was followed with 10-day training for 94 subject teachers and counsellors from 17 pilot project schools across the 3 senatorial districts of Edo State. The training was conducted in 3 batches. The purpose of the training was to sensitise the trainees on the issues of trafficking and HIV/AIDS, empower them with information that would enable them to introduce trafficking and migration issues into the subject areas. The teachers have since incorporated trafficking and migration messages in their subject areas.

#### **4.3.4. Printing of manuals and curriculum**

IOM produced 840 copies of training manuals, 120 copies in each of the five subject areas. 120 copies of teachers' manuals and 120 copies of adapted curriculum, and 20,000 copies of students' handbooks were also produced. These documents were utilized for the teachers and counselors training as well as informational material on HIV/AIDS for students. The pilot schools were later visited. 2 copies of each of the teacher's manual as well as 1000 copies of the student's handbooks were distributed based on 17 pilot schools where teachers had been trained. This served as benefits for both the teachers and the students and records for the schools.

### **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. An additional MOU for the utilization of the building was required by the government agency (State Security Service) directly leasing the building to IOM, the negotiations concerning the latter MOU lasted until the end of Oct. 2003, upon which time the MOU with SSS could finally be signed.

Further delays were occasioned by the recruitment process for the contracting firm that renovated the building and variation orders. The contract for the renovation of the building was signed with ARBICO on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2003 and renovation works began on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2003.

The initial scheduled renovation time was three months and subsequently furnishing of the shelter and preparations for opening were scheduled for March 2004. The shelter was thus scheduled for opening in April, but the renovation work ended in April and the furnishing lasted till July. The shelter was officially commissioned on July 22, 2004.

Considering the end date of the project, these delays gave little time for victims to effectively utilise the shelter facility under the project, to continue assisting victims within the Lagos shelter, there is need for more funds to be provided to sustain the running of the shelter.

### **3.2 Short notice for arrival of deportees**

One of the major constraints faced during the implementation of this assistance continues to be 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 IOM continues to face is the late hour the chartered flights conveying 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.

## **SUCCESS STORIES**

### **Assistance**

The project identified that vulnerable girls without economic empowerment have little chance to contribute to their community. Because the project promotes self-reliance and independence of these trafficked victims through the re-integration assistance, they have developed the ability to solve their economic development without falling pray of traffickers. With this support, all the assisted girls are still living within their communities and are not willing to be re-trafficked. This was simply put by one of the assisted returnees who is also a mother of one daughter, *"I went because there was no help but now that I have a store, I cannot be trafficked again."* She felt fulfilled with her little business as she is now able to take responsibility for the upkeep and education of both her daughter and her other siblings.

### **Enhanced Self Esteem of Returnees**

With the economic empowerment and information given to the returnees, their self-confidence has increased considerably as the girls are now well prepared to resist or reject offer to travel again for prostitution. For example, Miss "A" who has been settled in her community and provided with a business, feels that she is now in a better position to reject any offer to travel or be trafficked abroad. She reported to us that her paternal aunt and husband are still not happy with her return and still pressure her to be re-trafficked, but she has consistently turned down the offer to travel.

**Involvement of family members in re-integration:**

The involvement of family members in the re-integration assistance and business plan has facilitated a supportive environment for the returnees to be re-integrated back into the society. The approach of the project enabled the parents and families to show concern in the plight of these girls, to co-manage their business, and the parents and family are adequately informed of the negative consequences that endanger the lives of the victims.

**Awareness Raising****Community participation and ownership**

The program's success hinges upon the involvement of community members, Government and Non Governmental Organizations in programme activities. While IOM played a critical role in training local-level institutions, these local partners were responsible for the dissemination of trafficking and migration information in the target communities.

The NGOs and Government Counterparts have also been able to mainstream issues of trafficking and migration in their regular activities and programmes. This is evident in the use of innovative curriculum design and delivery system to bring trafficking information to young boys and girls in seventeen secondary schools in Edo State. This focuses on providing trafficking and migration information in the course of teaching in the class in five identified core subjects.

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

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

- 33 deported victims of trafficking have been assisted by IOM. 17 victims have been fully re-integrated within this reporting period.
- 40 Edo State Secondary school principals, Chief Inspectors of Education and Directors of Edo State Ministry of Education has been sensitized.
- 20 Edo State Ministry of Education Master Trainers were trained on trafficking, migration and HIV/AIDS.
- 94 Secondary school teachers in five subject areas and school counselors have been trained on trafficking, migration and HIV/AIDS.
- 840 copies of training materials and 20000 copies of students' handbooks were produced and disseminated.

- Trafficking/HIV/AIDs training manuals for teachers and 17000 copies of students' handbook have been distributed to 17 pilot schools in Edo State.
- The Lagos shelter has been commissioned on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2004 and is open to victims of trafficking.
- The government agency, NAP TIP, with a mandate in human trafficking and protection has been gradually involved in the running of the shelter and the identification of sources of income that could sustain the shelter longer-term. This process is still ongoing and needs to be supported to ensure that the Government acquire capacity and skills required in supporting and eventually running the shelter.
- IEC/Media training was held for 8 NGO/Media practitioners from 4 Nigerian States (Rivers, Enugu, Benue and Lagos)
- Information materials (posters, leaflets) were produced and disseminated in 4 Nigerian States. Jingles on trafficking were aired in both English and local languages in 4 Nigerian States.
- Information campaigns were held in 4 Nigerian States.
- The installation process of the database has been initiated.