



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017



*Pathfinders seeks to eradicate modern day sex slavery (sex trafficking) and the exploitation of women and girls in the developing world through empowerment, advocacy, judicial reform and community transformation. We are currently working in Nigeria.*



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## LETTER FROM R. EVON IDAHOSA FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2017 was an exciting year! I am humbled as I look back at how far we've come and where I believe we are called to go.

Growing up as a young child in Nigeria, my mother would often trace our feet on pieces of papers just before she was traveling to the United States or to England. Once she arrived, she would awkwardly take those drawings of our feet to a shoe store as an estimate for our sizes. When she returned, we would be jubilant, regardless of whether or not the shoes were the right fit. Most of the time, they weren't and because my feet were bigger than my sister's, I would often wear hers for a day or two, stretching them out and creating more space for her to walk more comfortably. As I grew older, stretching tight shoes became a consistent theme in my life, i.e., creating more space for others, particularly marginalized women and girls. This calling was what compelled me to resign from a lucrative law practice in New York four years ago to venture into that I knew would be a formidable resistance to our efforts to unapologetically forge that space. It is what compelled me to found Pathfinders.

Notwithstanding the obstacles, we persevered and continue to do so.

As such, my heartfelt thanks are extended to all of you who believed enough to accompany me on what has been a transformative journey to stretch tight shoes. I am humbled and encouraged by: the impact that our contribution to the fight against sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls has generated in our own small way; by the audience and access to global leaders that we have had; by the future generations impacted by our programs; and the thread of unity that has been weaved by our 100+ member team, collaborators and partners.

You have stood with me through so much and I am excited to share our 2017 Annual Report, documenting all that we have accomplished and outlining what we will continue to do together. 2017 was a challenging year, but one that was evidenced by an **expansion of our influence**:

**Increased demand for our support** — Following the revelation of the ongoing slave auctions in Libya, we received increased requests for support from repatriating Nigerian returnees, many of whom we were unable to adequately support due to funding restrictions. The reality is





## ***Let's Right and Rewrite Her-story Together.***

that the number of those seeking our support is steadily on the rise.

**Increased access to global leaders, decision makers and authorities** — In 2017, we served as consultants to the Edo State Government, United Kingdom's Home Office via its Modern Slavery Project and Nigeria's Legislature (House of Representatives) on the subject of human trafficking; trained parliamentarians, lawmakers and legislative drafters from nine different countries on human trafficking and conducted interviews across various continents.

**Increased programming** — Established an economic empowerment program and social enterprise (The Pathfinder Project) to prevent sex trafficking and to address the root causes of why so many young African women are victimized by trafficking.

**Increased partnerships** — Partnered with multinational technology company Google to provide online advertising technology, digital marketing and web design training for our beneficiaries; partnered with 5 other national and international NGOs and CSOs.

**Increased recognitions** — Awarded Vital Voices Fellowship (recognizing emerging world leaders on the front lines of global efforts to prevent and respond to trafficking); named M. Night Shyamalan Foundation Leader (recognizing global self starters who have demonstrated a deep commitment to addressing poverty and inequality in their communities).

All of the foregoing was possible through the 100+ volunteers and partners who stepped up and committed to serve. Together, we have built a lean, efficient operation that generally only costs us \$1,500 annually per survivor to provide for all of her needs. All our accomplishments outlined herein were possible through the hard work of skilled and compassionate staff, volunteers and partners who allowed us to provide as much as possible to survivors and beneficiaries.

The road ahead is exciting and challenging. We are now on the brink of establishing Pathfinders as the leading anti-trafficking organization in Nigeria. Now, more than ever, the work of Pathfinders is critical in the fight against sex trafficking and modern slavery.

Let's Right and Rewrite Her-story together.

Sincerely,



## WHY PATHFINDERS EXISTS

*Because the dehumanization and subjugation of women and girls in the developing world is an atrocity of epic proportions.*

*Focusing on Nigeria is strategic.*

### The truth in numbers

Nigeria is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking.<sup>1</sup>

Authorities have identified Nigerian trafficking victims — often exploited by Nigerian traffickers — in more than **29 countries**.<sup>2</sup>

Nigeria ranks 23rd out of 167 countries with the highest number of slaves — **875,500** — within Nigeria.<sup>3</sup> The total number of Nigerians enslaved outside Nigeria is largely unknown.

Average age of trafficked children in Nigeria: **15**.<sup>4</sup>

Human trafficking is the **third** most common crime in Nigeria after drug trafficking and economic fraud.<sup>5</sup>

**Benin City (Edo State, Nigeria)** is an internationally recognized sex trafficking hub, with built-in infrastructures and networks which support the sale of human bodies. An astounding **94% of all Nigerian women trafficked to Europe** for prostitution hail from Edo State,<sup>6</sup> with Italy being the number one destination country (11,009 women trafficked by sea in 2016).

<sup>1</sup>As reported in the last 5 years by the U.S. State Department Trafficking In Persons (TIP) Report; <sup>2</sup>U.S. State Department, 2017 TIP Report; <sup>3</sup>Global Slavery Index 2016; <sup>4</sup>NAPTIP, 2017; <sup>5</sup>UNESCO, 2006; <sup>6</sup>UNDOC, 2016.

Nigerian traffickers transport women and children to other West and Central African countries — including Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, and Cape Verde — as well as to South Africa, where they are exploited in forced labor and sex trafficking. Nigerian women and children are also recruited and transported to destinations in North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia, where they are held captive in the commercial sex industry or forced into labor.

The souls and bodies of survivors are turned into commodities for financial gain while the survivors themselves are held in debt bondage, severely abused (often gang raped and physically assaulted), starved, tortured or infected with various sexually transmitted diseases before being deported back to Nigeria. Others who are victims of organ trafficking are murdered and never return.

Pathfinders strives to turn the developing world right side up by providing sustenance in the shadows and demanding accountability and justice on behalf of survivors.



# PATHFINDERS' SOLUTION

*Pathfinders Justice Initiative seeks to eradicate modern day sex slavery (sex trafficking) and the exploitation of women and girls in the developing world through empowerment, advocacy, judicial reform and community transformation.*

## The Justice Initiative

*Influencing the Influencers*

Works to prevent sex trafficking and to liberate women and girls trapped in modern day slavery by advising, training, educating, lobbying and holding policy and decision makers accountable. TJI focuses on:

- lobbying for new legislation
- ensuring that survivors receive access to justice and legal services
- advocating for various causes and championing the abolishment and/or amendment of archaic laws through judicial reform and the mass mobilization of educated civilians.

2017 saw both unprecedented demand for our work and access to educate and influence key policy and decision makers in Africa and Europe.

- **Training for Parliamentarians** in Uganda (July 2017) and London (December 2017) – in partnership with the UK Home Office's Modern Slavery Project, we educated 40+ Parliamentarians/Lawmakers from Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Pakistan, Uganda, Kenya and the UK on modern day slavery and human trafficking and provided legislative drafting support to assist them in developing and/or amending their laws on the subjects.
- **Edo State Government's Workshop on Human Trafficking** (May 2017) – as consultant for the workshop, we designed and structured the conference so as to generate a road map to combat human trafficking in Nigeria's human trafficking hub. To date, **several of the**

Key  
Stats  
for  
2017

9

total # countries from which parliamentarians/lawmakers were educated on modern day slavery

100 +

# of NGOs, CSOs, agencies and stakeholders trained

**specific recommendations we made have been implemented by the State**, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary Task Force.

- Over the year, we shared our learnings and gleaned experience with the **Office of the Senate President of Nigeria**, Nigeria's Anti-Trafficking Agency (**NAPTIP**), the **UK Modern Slavery Commissioner**, members of the **UK High Commission to Nigeria**, **International Organization for Migration**, **UNHCR** and many others.
- PJI is listed on Polaris' Global Modern Slavery Directory and maintains special consultative status to the United Nations' Economic and Social Council.





I remember sitting in my living room at the beginning of the year and wondering to myself, **'Is what we are doing enough?'** Is what we are doing generating the level of impact that is necessary for long term, sustainable change in Nigeria? We were already combining a human rights methodology with an economic development approach in our interventions, but I knew that that, in and of itself, was insufficient to generate the seismic change that our young women were telling us was necessary to avert the mass exodus from Nigeria that was ultimately propelling them into the hands of traffickers. **I decided to write to the Governor of Edo State**, His Excellency Godwin Obaseki, who had only been governor for a few months, but who I knew was eager to tackle the issue of human trafficking head on. I implored him to do more and offered my support. Shortly after, I received a call from his office, asking us to serve as consultants for the State's workshop on human trafficking which his office envisioned would congregate all the relevant stakeholders in order to propagate solutions to what we all recognized was nothing short of a crisis. That workshop was held in May 2017 and some of **our direct recommendations, including the creation of an Edo State inter-disciplinary task force, have already been introduced.** We have since gone on to serve Nigeria on a federal level by lobbying for and **advising her National Assembly** (Legislative Branch of Government) on legislative change. We also currently serve as consultants on modern slavery to the **UK Home Office's Modern Slavery Project**, but it all started that January morning with me asking, 'Is what we are doing enough?' That question continues to challenge and inspire our work.

— R. Evon Idahosa



*After I returned from Europe, Pathfinders gave me hope when I had no hope.*

## The Anchor

*Care for survivors and those most vulnerable to (re)trafficking.*

At Pathfinders, we utilize an interdisciplinary approach which incorporates both a human rights and an economic development methodology. We partner with each survivor to develop her own customized PATH (Personalized Action to Healing) PLAN and coordinate and ensure access to:

- Free shelter
- Vocational skills training, job placement, start up business training and capital
- Education scholarships to young women who are susceptible to sex trafficking in Nigeria
- Free medical and counseling services
- Free pro bono legal assistance

### Key Stats for 2017

51

# survivors for which PATH Plans were generated

12

# of months survivors receive care (6 months active engagement and 6 months of follow-up support)

6

# Countries from which repatriated survivors received support: Russia, Italy, Spain, Libya, Niger, and Ghana

200 +

# vulnerable women served through Economic Empowerment

“

*If not for Pathfinders, I would be eating grass today. After I was sex trafficked to Europe, I was abandoned by my madam and then sexually abused and raped. When I returned from Europe to Nigeria in 2015, I was six months pregnant and helpless. Even my mother was unable to provide all the help that I needed, even though she took me back in. Pathfinders provided free pre-natal care for me and my baby and after my little girl was born, they provided us with some financial support. Once my daughter got a little older, Pathfinders provided me with start-up training and funding to help me start a small used clothing business. When I needed surgery, they were also there for me. Today, I am able to support myself financially, as well as my daughter who is now almost two. I am also training to become a nurse. After God in heaven, the people at Pathfinders are next. They have been God's help to me.*

*— Loveth O.  
survivor turned business-owner and nursing student*



“

*After I returned from Europe, Pathfinders gave me hope when I had no hope. They were like a mother, a father, a big sister to me during what was a very difficult time. They believed in me and helped me start a small business selling soft drinks and water at a market in Benin City. They have given me joy and hope again and I am able to support myself financially. What they are doing for women like me is just incredible. When I think of them, it brings my heart joy because I remember where I came from. I thank God for them. I hope that one day I can do the same for someone else in this situation. Thank you, Pathfinders, I'm grateful!*

*— Esther O.O.  
survivor turned business owner*



***Prosecuting trafficking and rape cases in Nigeria typically takes 2–3 years and so most survivors lose the stamina to continue. Due to our lawyers' support, however, our survivors stay on.***

## The Voice

Court systems in Nigeria are backlogged and sometimes inefficient. Our attorneys fill in the gaps of an overwhelmed legal system and are critical to ensuring access to justice and ensuring that survivors' voices are heard:

- Advise survivors of their legal rights
- Represent them in Court by watching brief
- Provide access to information and legal services
- Assist sex trafficking survivors in creating legal identities post repatriation
- Conduct research on advocacy issues being championed by Pathfinders
- Assist survivors in applying for support from Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund

Key  
Stats  
for  
2017

**19** # of pro bono lawyers trained and available to serve

**75** # of beneficiaries who had access to legal support



*I have chosen to work with PJI because the vision and mission of PJI to eradicate sex trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls in the developing world, particularly Nigeria, is something that resonates with my personal mission statement. I consider the entire vision something that I can offer my expertise to help build by sharing my ideas, skills and advice.*

*— Barrister Dan Uhimwen  
Chief Legal Coordinator*



## TruthTellers

*Transforming the public with truth*

TruthTellers is the community transformation arm of Pathfinders that focuses on the awakening and education of local communities to the injustices laden in gender-based violence and sex trafficking. TruthTellers also promotes the empowerment of women and girls through campaigns, trainings, seminars, daily public service announcements on radio and television, weekly outreaches and workshops, and engages men as allies in the push for gender justice.

### Key Stats for 2017

# of people ...

**1 million +**

sensitized via  
quarterly radio  
appearances/  
interviews

**1.5 million +**

reached daily through  
radio programming on  
3 stations in 4 states

**25,000 +**

reached by social  
media followers across  
multiple platforms

**50,000 +**

attending/participated  
in conferences that  
sensitized on sex  
trafficking, sexual  
exploitation and rape

**125,000 +**

sensitized through  
quarterly PSAs  
in print and email

**5,000 +**

sensitized through  
monthly outreaches  
in markets, churches,  
schools, etc.



“

*Pathfinders saved my daughter's life! Although a part-time university student, she was approached by a man in our community and promised a job as a "sales clerk" in Dubai so that she could have a brighter future. Because of her limited financial opportunities in Nigeria, she decided to go. That Thursday, I just happened to have attended a women's program at my church and heard a lawyer from Pathfinders speaking about the dangers of trafficking and the tactics being used by traffickers to lure our young women and girls into sex slavery. In fact, the lawyer confirmed my greatest fears, as it was then I realized that my daughter was about to be trafficked. After the program, I approached the Pathfinders team and they assured me that they would contact my daughter. That same day, they called her. After explaining to her the dangers, they were able to dissuade her from becoming a victim and yet another unfortunate statistic.*

*Thank you, Pathfinders!*

*— Mrs. D.B.  
Benin City, Nigeria*



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## Hearts of Hope Project

Our Hearts of Hope Project provides support to female survivors of the Boko Haram insurgency throughout Nigeria by providing financial assistance, legal services, advocacy, skills training and UNFPA style dignity kits (basic hygiene supplies). Most of the survivors have endured the worst types of human rights abuses and been forced to watch many of their family members murdered, while having to abandon their homes. In 2015, we officially adopted the ICCF Missions IDP Camp, home to 3,000+ survivors in Edo State. To date, we have provided the

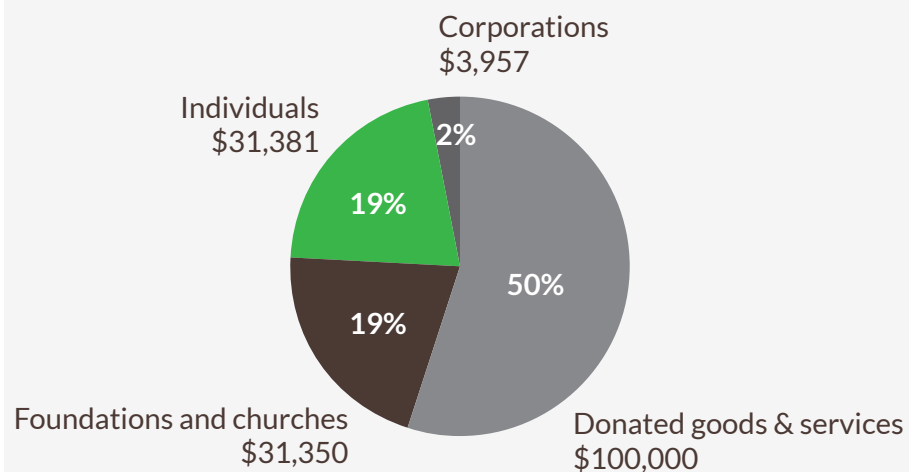
camp with over 500 dignity kits and trained over 350 women in talcum powder, soap and bleach making, perfume making, bag design, and catering. We have also provided financial assistance, advocacy, legal support and are creating a database of survivors for internal use. We have also initiated Project Hope, a project which strives to provide a fundamental human right, i.e., legal identity, to the 1,500+ children at the camp.



# CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS\*

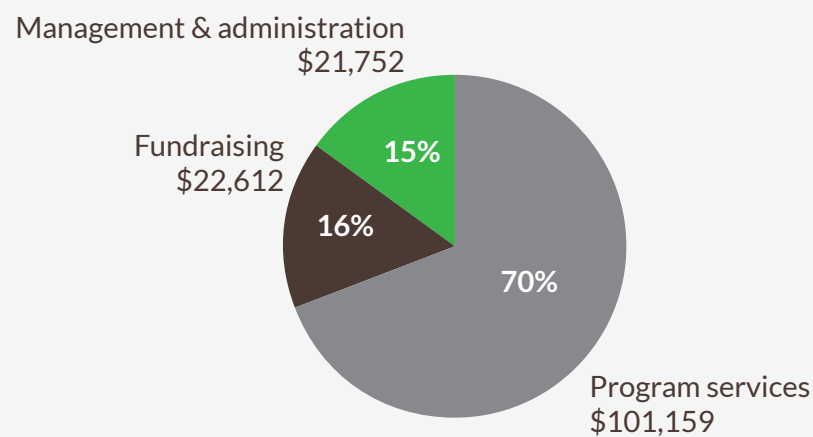
## Revenues

Total \$166,688



## Expenses

Total \$145,524



Net assets, Beginning of the year	\$9,079
Net assets, End of the year	\$12,085
Change in net assets	\$21,164

\* Consolidated figures for US and Nigeria operations



## OUR PATH FORWARD

*As we establish and grow the work of Pathfinders, we are poised to make history.*

**In Nigeria, Pathfinders is gaining strategic influence**, with our recommendations on the subject of human trafficking and irregular migration translating into law and policy, where our services are transforming women into leaders and our volunteers into powerful activists. We believe that as we establish and grow the work of Pathfinders, we are poised to make history.

Our strategic priorities are focused on paving paths to direct resources for more survivors and to awaken and engage decision makers, the private sector and the public at large so that trafficking is no more. In the coming years, our vision is to build:

### **Path to a Safer Nigeria ...**

We will be gathering qualitative and quantitative data to substantiate both our hypotheses of sex trafficking in Nigeria and our preliminary vulnerability criteria which identifies those who are most susceptible to trafficking. We are building the first data driven and research supported database so that we can, even more confidently, advise and train government and other national and international bodies on the subject. More specifically, we envision new and more effective policies/legislation as a result of our research

supported recommendations and trainings, as we partner with decision makers and others to strengthen our justice system so that all survivors are protected and traffickers are prosecuted. Moreover, we are seeking private sector engagement as part of their corporate social responsibility so that those who have been trafficked and/or who are most susceptible to being trafficked can secure the necessary ongoing support. Our social enterprise, The Pathfinder Project, which hires survivors and those who are most vulnerable to being trafficked to design and manufacture Nigeria inspired jewelry, accessories and bath and body products, is also a part of our proposed solution. Not only will these young women receive a steady stream of income, they can generate a secondary income stream by serving as distributors of these products.

### **Path to Freedom for More Survivors ...**

By 2023, we want to see at least 5,000 survivors on a path to freedom and a significant reduction in the overall number of women being re-trafficked from Nigeria. In order to effectively achieve this, it will be imperative that we open additional safehouses and build out additional programming for economic empowerment, including increasing corporate partnerships for job placement, developing greater community transitions, and increasing productions and sales related to The Pathfinder Project.

### **Path to an Awakening ...**

It is not enough to react to the injustices against survivors and crimes related to trafficking. It is absolutely critical that we transform the next generation's understanding and mindset so that they reorient their definition of success, reevaluate their value systems and are protected against the lures of traffickers.

We aim to generate Pathfinders' school clubs throughout Nigeria where student ambassadors commit to educating their peers on the dangers of human trafficking, rape and sexual exploitation and partner with leading culture shapers (in sports, film, music, art, etc.) to champion these causes.

We will also be tailoring toolkits for local groups in Edo State that will reach our target population of young women most vulnerable to trafficking in Nigeria in order to design a sustainable prevention system.

### **Path to Sustainability ...**

If we are to increase our level of influence and impact at national and international levels, we must continue to build up the quality of our team and operations to those levels. In particular, our focus will continue to be on differentiating Pathfinders; not only via our PATH Plans, but via a global standard of transparency, data-driven analyses and decision making. As such, in addition to expanding our programmatic efforts, fundraising and operations will become even more important priorities in the coming years. As a result, supporters will maintain an additional measure of confidence in our evidence based programming, efficient operations and transparent finances. These strategic priorities are only possible by growing and upgrading our team and expanding infrastructure access to more space to carry out this work. Given the successes and demand for our work, we can no longer operate as a start-up and eagerly step into the challenge of becoming the leader that Nigeria and survivors across the developing world desperately need.

***Will you join us?***

*Join the Movement!*

*Help us Right and Rewrite Her-Story in Nigeria and Beyond.*







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