



INSIGHT
Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden

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GAP ANALYSIS SUMMARY

June 10-11, 2019

Protea Hotel - Benin City, Edo State

Agenda

Day 1

1. Welcome and Introduction of INSIGHT Project
2. Group Introductions by each participant
3. Break Out/Group Session I: Project Mapping - *Organized by thematic Areas (Research, Law Enforcement, Awareness Raising, Rehabilitation) - What has been done over the last 5 years?*
4. Lunch and Networking
5. Returnees' Perspectives – Interviews with returnees (one man and one woman)
6. Break Out/Group Session II: Gap and Problem Analysis – *Discussions along thematic areas with “rapid rotations” of areas to refine analysis.*
7. Group Presentation by thematic area

Day 2

1. Welcome – Goals and vision for the day, ground rules
2. Recap of Identified Gaps from Day 1
3. Break Out/Group Session III: Now What? The Path Forward
 - *Break out groups by expertise or interest in four thematic areas (self-selecting)*
 - *What are the learnings from your experience/projects that could inform the identified gaps in the four thematic areas?*
 - *Recommendations to inform the way forward and our Action?*
4. Presentation of Solutions by Thematic Areas
5. Collective Group Discussion
 - *What else do we need in this fight to end Trafficking in Persons (TIP)/Irregular Migration (IM)?*
 - *Additional gaps and opportunities for collaboration?*
 - *What do you need to more be impactful/cohesive in your work?*
6. Closing Remarks followed by Lunch and Networking



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List of Attendees

International Funders/Donors

- International Organization for Migration (IOM-UN)- Wintana Tarekegn, Reintegration Officer, Eze Uhimwen, Senior Project Assistant
- Department for International Development (DFID)- Shola Omotosho, Social Develop. Advisor
- TIPSOM Project (UNODC) - Chervine Oftadeh, Associate Expert
- Expertise France - Alessandro Rabbiosi, Project Director
- DAI-MADE - Rufus Idris, Investment Portfolio Manager
- EU Delegation to Nigeria Representative - Eleni Zerzelidou

Government

- NAPTIP (Benin) – Barrister Nduka Nwanwenne, Zonal Coordinator
- NAPTIP (Abuja HQ) - Adewunmi Muiat Odetola, Assistant Director for Intelligence (Dept. of Research and Program Development)
- Nigerian Immigration Service (Benin) – Donald Iserameiya, Immigration Officer, on behalf of Josephine Etaluku, Irregular Migration Coordinator*
- National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) – Alex Oturu, Head- Migration Unit (SW)
- Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT) - Prof. Yinka Omorogbe, Task Force Chair and State Attorney General; Lilian Garuba, Assistant Secretary
- Edo State Judiciary (Trafficking Court) – Justice Geraldine Imadegbelo

Civil Society

- Oba Ewuare II Foundation (Oba of Benin) - Ifueko Aideyan, Executive Secretary; Leon Abbo
- Network of Civil Society Organisations Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (South South) (NACTAL) - Esohe Oyemwunse, Vice President of Idia Renaissance, on behalf of Roland Nwoha (Zonal Coordinator)*
- Girls' Power Initiative (GPI), Nigeria - Laura Uwangwe, Facilitator
- Red Cross (ICRC) - Insa Moussa Ba Sane, Regional Delegate for West Africa
- Salvation Army (CAR Program) - Lawal Abdul-Sabur, CAR Field Officer (Edo)
- Save the Children International - Lola Adeola-Oni, Child Protection and Safeguarding Advisor

Research Institutes/Academia

- Institut Français de Recherche en Africa (French Institute for Research in Africa) - Precious Oghale Diagboya, PhD Candidate, University of Ibadan and Researcher
- University of Benin - Prof. Christiana Okojie (Ret.), Prof. Kokunre Eghafona
- Abe Oluwafemi Moses, Researcher

INSIGHT Action Partners

- University IUAV (Venezia)
 - Michela Sempredon, Unesco Chair SSIIM, University IUAV of Venice, Researcher and Research Coordinator for the Project INSIGHT
 - Serena Caroselli, University of Genova, PhD Candidate
- Pathfinders Justice Initiative, Inc.
 - R. Evon Benson-Idahosa, Founder and Executive Director

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- Suzi Chun-Turley, Head of Strategy and Development
- Dan Uhimwen, Director of Operations (Nigeria)
- Nigeria Women's Association
 - Blessing Uwadineke, Social Worker
 - Bridget Nwankwo, Social Worker
 - Oluwakemi Victoria Ajibola, Coordinator (Italy)
- Equality Cooperativa Sociale
 - Gaia Borgato, Equality Cooperativa Sociale, Antitrafficking Operator and NAVE (Network Antitratta per il Veneto) Coordinator for Project INSIGHT
- Network Antitratta per il Veneto (NAVE)
 - Annunziata Veronese, Municipality of Venice, Social Worker and Educator of the NAVE Project
 - Barbara Penzo, Municipality of Venice, Social Worker and Educator of the NAVE Project

ICMPD - Nigeria

Matthias Esene, National Project Officer

*Invited but unable to attend. Additional stakeholders that were invited but unable to attend include ECOWAS Representative, French, Swiss, Italian and German Embassies to Nigeria, NDLEA.



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Executive Summary

Goals: To introduce **INSigHT - Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden** (the Action) in Nigeria to anti-trafficking stakeholders, to identify gaps in current anti-trafficking/irregular migration efforts within the country, to ensure that stakeholders are collaboratively working to ensure that ongoing projects complement each other (rather than duplicate efforts) and to ensure optimal collaboration, particularly on a transnational level.

Format of event: The agenda and discussion format were designed to identify gaps and opportunities and to enable collaboration among participants. “Rapid rotations” for brainstorming and in-depth analyses in smaller groups were organized by the Action’s four thematic areas (**Research, Awareness Raising, Capacity Building for Law Enforcement** and Capacity Building for **Rehabilitation** Service Providers) and then refined through larger group discussions. Participants were selected randomly into smaller groups for the first day to encourage connections across specialties. Participants self-selected based on expertise and potential collaborations on the second day to collectively address the gaps. Participants showcased their ideas on post-it notes on the wall to better view and assimilate responses, organize and elaborate on others’ ideas. One male returnee and a woman sex trafficking survivor were also interviewed to share their experiences, help illustrate gaps and highlight opportunities for improvement in the national human trafficking (HT)/irregular migration (IM) response.

Themes/Gaps that Emerged:

- **Need for Additional, Intentional Coordination, Collaboration and Communication:**
Stakeholders agreed that with more coordination, collaboration and communication, collective efforts would prove more productive. This meeting was apparently a first for many attending to gather with other stakeholders across sectors to collaborate and to learn of existing projects, tools and resources. Many of the CSO stakeholders, in particular, were unaware of existing projects and tools/systems (particularly on a federal level) that were or could be readily available to them. Specifically, communication bottlenecks within government entities (from federal to local and from state to local) and between government to CSOs -- to more efficiently handle referrals, intelligence sharing, case management, etc.-- are challenging even when coordination mechanisms are in place. Likewise, as irregular migration shifts from Europe to other parts of Africa and the Middle East, intelligence relating to these evolving dynamics/trends and coordination across regions surfaced as increasingly important. In addition, coordination for awareness campaigns and shared learnings regarding messaging and target populations could make such initiatives considerably more impactful. There is an overall need to create a cohesive and measurable political, economic, legal and educational strategy. It was noted that weak and extractive institutions in Nigeria (as opposed to inclusive institutions/economy) are contributing to the corruption that allows for the proliferation of trafficking.
- **Need for Additional Input and On-going Feedback from End-Users:**
The need for returnees, communities, media, grant recipients, etc. to consistently inform the design of projects to ensure impact and sustainability emerged as imperative. By failing to incorporate such input and gather feedback as projects are designed and implemented, the risk of wasted funding and human capital on projects that lack the necessary buy-in increase astronomically. This ultimately affects post project sustainability, as intended deliverables dwindle.



Both returnee/survivor speakers at the event specifically requested that their input be incorporated to help design more effective skill-building programs. Similarly, examples were noted of communities, media and even government agencies who were not “bought in” to awareness raising projects, thus rendering projects irrelevant and/or unsustainable. This sentiment also extended to grant-recipients who felt that projects could have been more impactful and more strategic had their input been included during the design phase. There were multiple examples of international funders who led awareness raising campaigns, provided rehabilitation support, and law enforcement support with admirable goals but implemented them in ways that failed to generate maximum impact, according to local stakeholders.

- **The Need to Upgrade Skills and Systems:**

Trafficking has grown more sophisticated and capability gaps are hindering the ability of stakeholders to be more effective. For example, support services require more qualified social workers and those with mental health expertise; law enforcement agencies desire trainings on how to deliver better victim protection, upgrade their investigations and community engagement; and those who work with children need to be better trained in addressing needs that are specific to that demographic. Across all thematic areas, there was a desire to generate accurate data as well as the necessary skill set/ systems to manage, analyze, and report adequately. Additionally, there was also a need to better understand how to evaluate impact, to track use of donor funding and to ensure sustainability once funding for a project is exhausted.

- **The Need to Better Understand the Mindset of Victims/Returnees and How to “Change the Narrative”:**

There was growing consensus that collectively, we were underestimating the power of desperation, hopelessness and the innate drive of potential victims. The underlying narrative and mindset, which has caved in to hopelessness, desperately believes there is no other way, prioritizes financial success over everything else and which has concluded that going abroad is a career/end in of itself- must be appreciated and addressed. So must an appreciation be shown for a society in Edo that embraces prostitution/traveling overseas as a viable alternative to poverty (cultural acceptance). Without this understanding, awareness campaigns and rehabilitation projects will overlook the root causes and fail to curb trafficking and in particular, re-trafficking. Cognitive restructuring¹ (not just behavioral modification) must be considered and incorporated into awareness campaigns. What are the underlying motivations (personal, social and structural) and vital behaviours (behaviors that need to be changed to achieve desirable results) that need to be identified and interrupted? Additionally, campaigns/ projects should be cautious about painting migration too negatively (regular migration is not a bad thing) but instead address these underlying narratives, promote regular migration (and how that can be achieved) as well as viable, sustainable economic alternatives within Nigeria.

¹Cognitive restructuring, also known as cognitive reframing, is a technique drawn from cognitive therapy that can help people identify, challenge and alter stress-inducing thought patterns and beliefs. Once thoughts are identified, behavior can then be altered. See <https://www.mentalhelp.net/stress/cognitive-restructuring/>



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Key Takeaways/Highlights Along Each Thematic Area:

Research

- When designing and implementing research:
 - Research projects should be policy-oriented.
 - The importance of qualitative, as much as quantitative data, should be stressed (funders tend to ask for quantitative data that is rarely available, or that is scarcely reliable and that does not amount to a qualitative understanding of phenomena).
 - International researchers should familiarise themselves with the local context before undertaking research.
 - Both Nigerian and international researchers should (often) undertake varying forms of volunteering to ensure access to the fieldwork (particularly in Edo State).
 - Researchers must grow increasingly aware of and appreciate asymmetrical relationships, particularly between white and Western researchers and Nigerian returnees/ survivors.
 - Researchers should always incorporate survivor/returnee input in design and involve them throughout the research, including involving them in stakeholders' meetings; they should "give something back" (preferably non-monetary refunds, but food/travel expenses refunds) and not just take from them (doing so amounts to further exploitation).
 - Ethical issues should be always at the forefront.
 - Research should offer practical tools, besides the research findings, to local stakeholders (e.g., stakeholder mapping, sharing contacts and favouring network building, full dissemination to report back on findings, validation meetings to confirm findings and provide feedback).
 - Encourage/promote the creation of (reliable) data collection mechanisms.
- Additional research is needed to better understand/appreciate:
 - The drivers of human trafficking, ranging from structural socio-economic factors (e.g. poverty and lack of access to educational/employment opportunities), cultural factors, gender inequality factors, etc. and the fact that trafficking results from an abuse of vulnerabilities (economic, political, social and cultural).
 - HT dynamics as it relates to geographical/territorial specificities, connections , with other industries, terrorism, traffickers' networks, etc.) and returnees' individual (and collective) needs (what amounts to enough reintegration; targeted focus on mindsets and family pressures/financial limitations; barriers for psychological support, etc.).
 - The impact of various approaches to tackling HT (i.e., via primary education, policies, programs on the ground, awareness in rural areas, town hall meetings which gather local stakeholders, involvement of survivor leaders, etc.), particularly with reference to children.
 - The costs of prevention vs. rehabilitation (where feasible with estimates).
 - The reasons/dynamics behind the decreasing number of Nigerian migrant arrivals into Europe.
 - Dynamics of internal trafficking, particularly as far as children are involved.
 - The impact (if any) of the 2018 declaration of the Oba of Benin.
 - The extent to which the recent anti-trafficking mainstreaming in primary schools in Nigeria is being implemented.

Raising Awareness

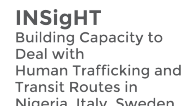
The overall strategy for awareness raising needs to be targeted along who, what, where, when and how. Messaging and mechanisms must align with the target audience and the methodology, generally, must be improved. Input from communities, delivery partners and target audiences matter as well as coordination



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to avoid duplicative and unsuccessful approaches. It is also important to be strategic in who conducts awareness raising since some local ladies' clubs, women's associations and churches (particularly in Edo) may be complicit in HT. Examples for gaps and opportunities include:

- Who (awareness is not just about the potential victim but should also be deemed a way to engage influencers)
 - Women leaders– particularly in rural areas –in the markets, community leaders to help adapt messaging to local cultures and dialect. In urban areas, consider use of religious leaders and large conventions/conferences, town halls, social clubs (though some are trafficking fronts), tribal groups, etc.
 - Youth – use of religious programs, tribal leaders and male leaders, survivor leaders, sports figures, celebrities, etc.
- What (messaging) – relevant for youth, in local language, demystify traveling abroad and informing about safe, legal channels for migration, offer relevant and practical alternatives (micro-loans, business clubs, outline steps for safe, legal migration); campaigns should be clear as to their target population, particularly the potential victim (Pathfinders has developed a 12 point vulnerability criteria for potential women victims of trafficking in Edo State which can be disseminated upon request) and detail what action a potential victim should immediately take if recruited or if support is needed; there is an urgent need to broaden our messaging (incorporate cognitive restructuring, highlight self-worth and cultural heritage, focus on identity and favour/support agency, address gender inequality, appreciate the desire for skills) since “don’t travel” messaging is ineffective. It is also important that stakeholders are intentional about using the correct language and definitions for “human trafficking” and “smuggling,” as they connote varying implications and are not interchangeable.
- Where – definitely in Edo and Delta States and environs but not just in urban locations but rural areas (with tailored messaging in the local dialect and/or in pidgin); target other hot spots, particularly in the Eastern part of Nigeria, such as Enugu. Lagos and Cross Rivers States were also mentioned. Efforts should target other hot spots where youth gather, including markets and storefronts, where many young women go to braid or style their hair.
- When – timing is also relevant- awareness should start in primary school and when children are still young and impressionable (as the age of potential victims is decreasing and to counter other negative narratives that are prevalent in the culture, particularly in Edo). It is important that messaging is relevant to target audiences and up to date, i.e., that it speaks a language that will be heard.
- How (distribution mechanism) for youth – sports, music, vloggers (engaging those in the diaspora), in schools; for women- social clubs, use of videos, dramas in town halls, endemic arenas (i.e., airports/ airlines, hotels/ motels, motor parks, parks), experiment with unconventional approaches (i.e., flyers on transporters, stickers on cars in local communities, sport events, entertainment outlets); shift from directing people online and to apps since most potential victims do not have smartphones or the requisite data to browse online- text messaging to a helpline that is linked to service providers who can offer immediate support (such as economic empowerment and/or education scholarships) should be incorporated, as well as continued use of radio which has been found to be most effective. Always bear in mind that your messaging should speak louder than the voice of desperation, which is generally underestimated.
- Proper funding must be provided for awareness raising, including funding covering impact assessment (that is normally not granted by funders).



Capacity Building for Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation is a tool against re-trafficking – When rehabilitation is effective, victims can become less vulnerable and less at risk for re-trafficking. Protection should also be strengthened in destination countries.
- To avoid re-trafficking and strengthen rehabilitation, we need more:
 - Skilled social workers/ psychologists and mental health providers and services;
 - Survivor-centered, trauma informed approach; intersectionality (how different forms of discrimination interact and overlap/the way multiple oppressions are manifested in lived experience) for each survivor must be taken into consideration to truly utilize a survivor centered approach (socio-political, economic, cultural and religious oppression);
 - Approaches to cognitive restructuring and behavior modification that identify vital behaviours that must be interrupted;
 - Peer-to-peer support/creating communities of support and cooperatives;
 - Additional services for men, LGBTQ, those with disabilities, etc.;
 - Paid learning on the job programs;
 - Survivor feedback in design; and
 - Must move from the mindset of throwing money at the problem and instead incorporate a holistic approach that includes counseling, medical care and shelters (particularly for men).
- Skills training – There is a saturation in certain areas (hair dressing, catering, fashion design), which ultimately limits the earning potential of survivors. There is a clear and desperate need to diversify what service providers offer and to create a culture that promotes entrepreneurship and drives innovation. Returnees and survivors, however, are not necessarily exposed to alternative business opportunities so exposure to alternatives is important. Trainings should be longer (i.e. more than 4 days) to credibly build skills, relevant for all populations (particularly men), and include returnee/survivor preferences for placement (ex: Pathfinders' PATH- Personalised Action to Healing- Plans). Transportation should be provided for all trainings, in addition to adequate M&E.
- Additional services for male survivors/returnees- this is clearly an area that needs immediate attention. Although most returnees are male, services and shelters available to them are grossly lacking and gender specific funding is practically unavailable.
- Impact evaluation – there is a need to credibly gather data and to better measure the impact of programs, i.e., what worked/did not; need for better tracking of donor/government funding. Most CSOs need technical support and capacity building in these areas.
- Coordination/ collaboration
 - With other sectors (e.g., faith-based organizations, private sector, social enterprises, businesses, etc.).
 - Re cases – access to a shared case management system across organizations to get a full picture of services provided and risks to be aware of; need for coordinated resource so that CSOs know what returnees/survivors are within the local system and what services they have received (to avoid duplicative support and services to the same person which limit funding for others).
 - Re SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) and good practices should be defined at the national level and then disseminated downstream.
- Successful examples to explore which serve to strengthen local communities – learning centers, drop in centers and community centers which connect survivors/returnees and potential victims to direct service providers; Salvation Army's model of housing returnees locally with a vetted and



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trained family within the local community; Pathfinders' social enterprise which uses a basic income guarantee model; Pathfinders' PATH Plans (outlined above); Market Development in the Niger Delta's alternative livelihood program which connects skilled workers and their products/services with the market; IOM's Migrant Resource Centres (Lagos, Abuja and Benin) and NCFRMI's Migrants Reintegration Centre in Lagos.

Capacity Building for Law Enforcement

- Victim rights and protection – Law enforcement, attorneys and judges need to be trained on the law (federal and Edo State), victims' rights and how to utilize a survivor centered/trauma informed approach (e.g., not to place them in the same holding cell as perpetrators; use of 'in camera' testimony in court; not to pursue lines of interrogation about 'choosing' prostitution or consent to trafficking). The Edo State Judiciary representative noted that the lack of safehouses has led to lower convictions (particularly for cases prosecuted by the Edo State Task Force), as victims must return to their homes, often the place that pressured them into trafficking.
- Widespread/endemic corruption- widespread/endemic corruption was noted in law enforcement, particularly as returnees left Edo State and on the border between Nigeria and Niger. Returnees noted that law enforcement officers are aware of the smuggling happening on the borders and either turn a blind eye or demand bribes for returnees to continue. Participants noted that additional accountability must be implemented to address the corruption in this area.
- Intelligence gathering/investigations and prosecutions- law enforcement indicated a need for training in the areas of intelligence gathering/investigations and prosecutions. There is also a need for intelligence gathering equipment, vehicles, software, secure databases, etc.
- Reporting traffickers is a challenge – Local law enforcement need to build better relations and trust with local communities to make it easier for reporting. There is a need for better protections for whistle blowing and communications' mechanism to relay tips as many traffickers can be within the same family and local community. Creating apps or directing people online is ineffective, as most do not have smartphones. Text messaging via a national toll free hotline should be created.
- Promoting successful prosecutions –there is a need for increased publication of arrests, indictments, prosecutions and convictions of traffickers, recruiters and aiders and abettors (including family members). This increases awareness about traffickers being brought to justice and could serve as a strong deterrent and source of prevention.
- Expanding opportunities for traditional tribal courts – The conventional justice system can be a challenge if a victim's close family/ friends were the traffickers. It prevents reporting, testifying, and other forms of cooperation needed to deliver justice. Access to justice must be broadened to include community-based interventions/influencers who are trained and who could help enforce the law.
- Coordination mechanisms across local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies: Potential for Information/Case Management Systems and collaboration on drafting "bottom up" legislation and policies.

Additional Inputs

Participants stressed the fact that additional prevention measures should be incorporated in Nigeria to avoid trafficking in the first place, such as aiming to improve educational opportunities (even through collaboration with potential destination countries) and employment opportunities to fight the root causes of trafficking.



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Actions

The Action partners agreed that contacts with stakeholders should be cultivated throughout the Action and beyond.

Comments/Feedback

Participants who provided comments and feedback on the organization of the event noted that it was very well organised, with many appreciating its interactive design and the opportunity to delve deeply into the Action's four thematic areas in a manner that they had never done before in Nigeria. The overwhelming majority of participants providing feedback noted that the Gap Analysis achieved all four of its goals (outlined above) and appreciated the opportunity to network and share ideas/best practices. Participants noted that the event may have been more effective if break-out sessions had been longer and if it included a wider array of stakeholders.

The Gap Analysis was organized by Pathfinders Justice Initiative, Inc. (www.pathfindersjio.org), a leading NGO and thought leader in the fight against sex slavery in Nigeria, in collaboration with our Insight Action Partners. For additional information and updates on the INSIGHT Action, please visit www.insightproject.net or email Pathfinders' Executive Director, R. Evon Benson-Idahosa, at reidahosa@pathfindersji.org.

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