



Caritas

NIGERIA & JDPC *...fullness of life for all*

CARITAS NIGERIA/JDPC

2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

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We are Caritas". Some members of Caritas Nigeria Senior Management Team with the outgoing Executive Secretary, Fr. Evaristus Bassey

CARITAS NIGERIA

Caritas Nigeria was established in 2010 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) as an agency of the Catholic Church for coordinating development and Humanitarian interventions in Nigeria. Driven by the vision of “a harmonious society where everyone enjoys fullness of life” and the mission to “advance the wellbeing of all through participatory measures, in line with Catholic Social Teachings”, she continues to forge on into the future.

Caritas Nigeria belongs to Caritas Internationalis confederation along with 168 other Caritas member nations sharing thus in the common mission of the universal Church of being “an outreach of the Church to those in need”.

Attending to the development needs of the church in Nigeria is a huge responsibility. There is a total of 57 dioceses grouped into 9 provinces. To this is added about 1,384 health facilities and 375 schools mostly spread across hard-to-reach communities in the 36 states of the country. This gives a picture of the task ahead of her.

Caritas Nigeria operates as the umbrella organization supporting the regional institutions of the Church to implement development-oriented programs. At the Diocesan and Provincial levels, she works with the Church and Society; Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas (JDPC); Health, Family and Human Life units, to execute her programs. She also works with other relevant agencies to deliver services to these communities including CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, NGOs and Government agencies.

Her interventions are delivered on six core thematic areas namely: Emergency Response and Humanitarian Services; Health and HIV/AIDS; Good Governance; Agriculture & Livelihoods; Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Migration; and, Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening. To these are added cross-cutting areas of Education and Gender which are streamlined into them.

Caritas Nigeria is a ship on a voyage with a mandate from the CBCN. The pilot of that ship today is her new Executive Secretary, Revd. Fr. Dr. Uchechukwu Obodochina. The 2019 project year marked the first year of his stewardship as the CEO of the organization. He has truly kept faith to the mandate. The organization has marched on doggedly in the business of touching and transforming lives and communities through numerous and multi-sectoral intervention programs across all her thematic areas of focus.

VISION

“A harmonious society where everyone enjoys fullness of life”.

MISSION

“Advance the wellbeing of all through participatory measures, in line with Catholic Social Teachings”.

CORE VALUES

Sacredness and Dignity of the Human Person

Rights and Responsibilities

Preferred Option for the Poor

Solidarity

Social Nature of Humanity

The Common Good

Subsidiarity

Stewardship

Gender Consciousness

THEMATIC AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS



Emergency Response and Humanitarian Services



Health and HIV/AIDS



Agriculture & Livelihoods



Good Governance

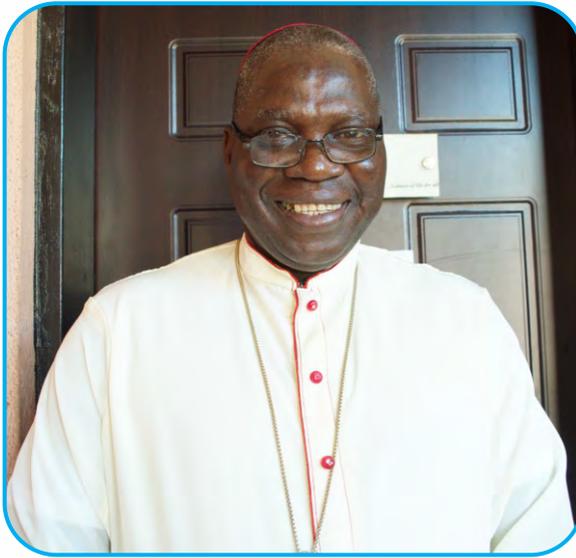


Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Migration



Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening

Foreword



As always, Caritas Nigeria/JDPC, our local church's arm that makes the Gospel truly good news and a reality in the lives of individuals and communities in our country and beyond, lived up to its core mandate of responding to emergencies during the year under review, through its well tested and proven structures in its engagement with the society at large in spite of the numerous challenges and constraints it faced including, especially, the scarcity of locally generated funds. Evident from the report is the fact that one of the major activities carried out by Caritas Nigeria/JDPC during the year under review is the observation and monitoring of the 2019 General Elections. Worthy of note about the observation and monitoring of the 2019 General Elections by Caritas Nigeria/JDPC, is the regaining, if you

wish, of the voice of our local church in election monitoring after a few years of experimenting with partnership with some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in this regard. With this new status, our local church was once again, able to produce its independent view on the conduct of the elections uninfluenced by any external considerations. Furthermore, ahead of the said elections, Caritas Nigeria/ JDPC, in a bid to facilitate the coordination of its observation by the field workers, introduced an Election Monitoring App (EMA) locally created by its technicians. This innovation helped to facilitate the collation and compiling of both the interim and final reports which were presented accordingly to both the electoral body – INEC – and the public.

As will also be seen, the report shows the continued steps being taken by Caritas Nigeria/JDPC in the areas of Food Security and Livelihoods, Poverty Eradication and Action against Climate Change. More so, the report shows Caritas Nigeria/JDPC's continued engagement in the areas of Conflict Resolution and Peace Building as well as interventions in the areas of Health, Humanitarian Relief and Legal Aid Services.

It goes without saying that most, if not all the projects and activities of Caritas Nigeria/JDPC, would not have been possible without the help and cooperation of our esteemed partners and funders. We are indeed very grateful and assure them of our continued cooperation in the common service of humanity, especially, the marginalized of society.

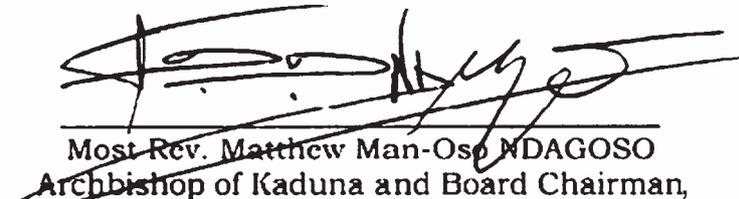
In her service of the common good, the church has always partnered with governments at all levels, NGOs and indeed all people of goodwill. Our arms are always opened for partnership in the common service of the needy of our society.

On behalf of the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) and indeed all the members of the Conference, I wish to thank our very committed and dedicated management and staff of Caritas Nigeria/JDPC under the able leadership of the Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Dr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina, for their continued dedication and commitment to the service of the marginalized in our country. Many of the staff perform their duties in very difficult and dangerous situations, sometimes putting their lives on the line to deliver the much needed services to many communities across the nation. In the same vein, I wish to express our sincere thanks and

appreciation to the Board members of Caritas Nigeria for their commitment and dedication to the service of the marginalized through the services of Caritas Nigeria/JDPC. God bless them abundantly.

I renew my appeal to my brother bishops and all the faithful of our local church, namely, the priests, the religious and the laity to help empower our practical arm to live up to its mandate by supporting all its initiatives of fund raising, to be able to respond promptly to emergencies whenever the need arises, mindful of the fact that it is the responsibility of all of us to enhance our local church's ministry of charity. Let me, once again, remind my brother bishops that the obligation of reminding and encouraging our faithful to be alive to their responsibilities in supporting our local church's ministry of charity in responding to the needs of our people in emergency situations, is ours.

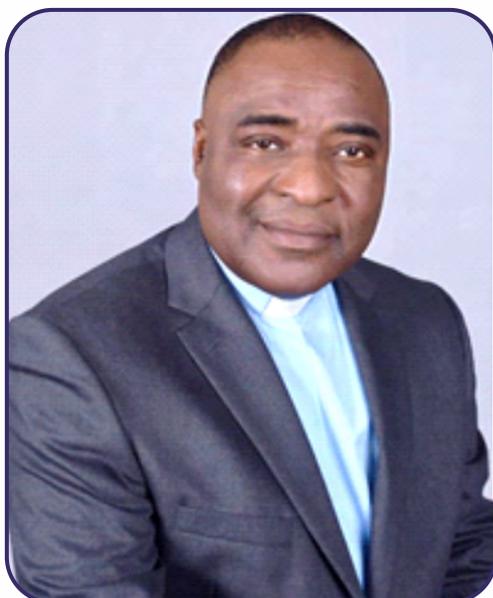
I am happy to put into your hands, our esteemed partners, supporters and readers, the 2019 Annual Report of Caritas Nigeria/JDPC, with the hope and prayer that it will prompt some positive response in support of the agency. Thank you and read on.



Most Rev. Matthew Man-Osp NDAGOSO
Archbishop of Kaduna and Board Chairman,
Caritas Nigeria

2019: A Year in Review

PREAMBLE



Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria is grateful to God and to her proprietors, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, and its numerous Funders, Staff, Partners and Beneficiaries for the opportunity of yet another year of intervention and services in her diverse thematic areas of engagement. We salute all of you!

2019 fiscal year witnessed a whole lot of changes and developments in different aspects of the life of the Organization. It would be remembered that the Pioneer Executive Secretary of Caritas Nigeria, Revd. Fr. Evaristus Bassey, after years of meritorious services, handed over the mantle of leadership to Fr. Uchechukwu Obodochina in January 2019. Fr. Evaristus, was able to lay solid foundations for future development of the Organization.

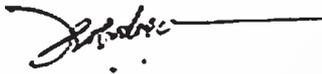
With the changes in leadership, 2019 fiscal year began with familiarizations and consolidation of the already achieved milestones. As a result, Caritas Nigeria management embarked on the harmonization processes of the 5 different Units of the Department of Church and Society of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria. This harmonization exercise took the form of Workshops, and General Annual Meetings of all the Diocesan Coordinators of the Units of Education, Health, Justice Development and Peace, Family and Human Life, and Migrants and Refugees. We are happy to report that these Units have set out the frameworks and functional modalities for collaborations and mutual support both at the diocesan and national levels.

Even with the resolutions of the various Units of the Department of Church and Society to work together in fraternal solidarity and collaboration, to impact on the Nigerian public space, the Nigerian socio-political situation did not help matters. Nigerians continued to experience worsening economic recession and poverty, hostilities among communities, banditry and kidnapping of gargantuan dimensions, insurgency and ethnic cleansing. It is without exaggeration to note that a good number of Nigerians during the year in review lived under terrible socio-economic conditions of abject poverty and disorientations. Yet, the political class and men and women at the corridors of power continued to live and wallow in stupendous wealth and extravagance. It was evident that the government in power had lost its focus. At all levels of its operations, systemic corruption and executive impunity were evident. The government has failed the people in the provision of essential life services like water, food and energy and other basic infrastructures. In fact, Nigeria's mono-economy crashed dangerously and all other superstructures fell like packs of cards.

Despite the situation of economic hopelessness in Nigeria, occasioned by greed and avarice among the political class and their cronies, Caritas Nigeria continued to bear witness to hope and optimism through its services among its Beneficiaries. Caritas Nigeria, with the support of its Board of Directors and the Funders, was able to put into action, project implementation plans in the areas of Health, Humanitarian Services, Anti-Human Trafficking, Good Governance, Resource Mobilization, Protection and Education for Refugees. We would like to

walk you through the thick and thin of these project areas. One would be amazed at the volume of work being done in the 26 States of the Federation including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja. In that way, Caritas Nigeria has contributed immensely to the quality of life of millions of its Beneficiaries across the length and breadth of the country. We are confident that her services and interventions in the Nigerian public space would not be in vain. And the struggle for social justice and peace, equity and fairness, social cohesion and inclusion, and fullness of life for all, would bear fruits in due course.

Besides what Caritas Nigeria was able to do under the year in review, the Justice Development and Peace Commissions of the 57 Dioceses across the 36 states of the Federation including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, have made wonderful contributions in the various areas of their engagements. We are happy to present to our numerous readers, the reports of activities and operations of the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of the dioceses under the year in review in our 2019 Annual Report. We are grateful to their foreign and local funders, their Staff and all people of good will, who have continued to support them in their initiatives for the common good of society. We wish you all a pleasant reading!

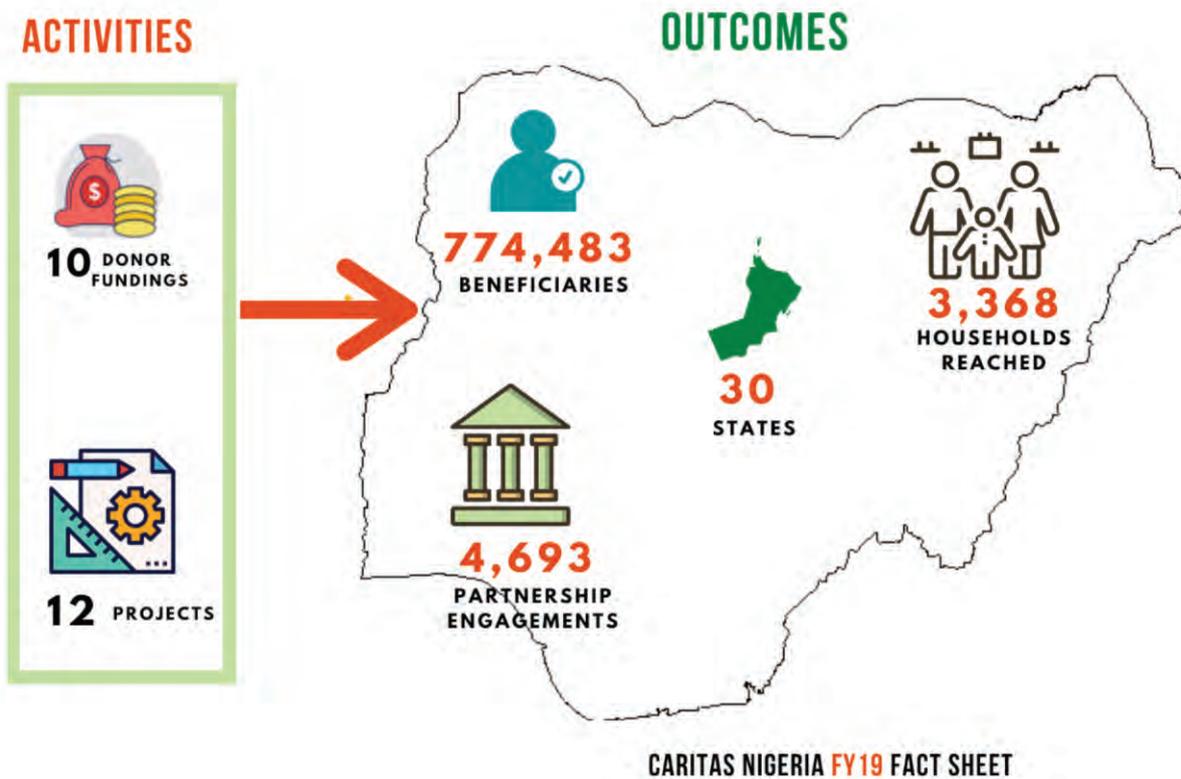


Revd. Fr. Dr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina,
National Director/CEO,
Caritas Nigeria & JDPC.

THEMATIC AREA REPORTS

Global Summary

The 2018 – 2019 project year (FY19) was unique in so many ways. Caritas Nigeria implemented a total of 12 projects across all its thematic areas, some in different phases or project years. The projects covered 30 states of the federation (including the FCT). Funding came from 10 ten different donor partners including new entrants like GIZ and Global Fund; and UNHCR who funded projects across two Thematic Areas.



In terms of impact, Caritas Nigeria's intervention programs touched a total of 774,483 (seven hundred and seventy-four thousand, four hundred and eighty-three) beneficiaries or lives. A further 3,368 (three thousand, three hundred and sixty-eight) households were reached while about 4,693 (four thousand, six hundred and ninety-three) partners or institutions were involved.

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The mandate of the Emergency Services and Humanitarian Response unit is core to the Caritas brand globally. Through this portfolio, Caritas Nigeria brings relief and succor to those most in need arising from conflicts, food insecurity and man-made disasters.

For the year in review, the unit implemented four major projects touching different Program Area components including agriculture, food security, nutrition and livelihoods. Below are summaries of these interventions.

FAO Project

In accordance with the seasonal variations in the country, Caritas Nigeria, with funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), carried out biannual interventions in Borno State namely the 2018 Dry Season Agricultural Input Distribution to Vulnerable households (HHs) in Borno State (October, 2018 – April, 2019) and the 2019 Rainy Season Agricultural Input Distribution to Vulnerable HHs (May, 2019 – September, 2019).



Caritas Nigeria Staff during distribution of agricultural inputs to vulnerable farmer households for FAO dry season 2019/20 farming project in Gwoza LGA.

Communities that benefited from these interventions were Lassa, Rumirgo, Askira East and Husara (Askira Uba LGA) and Mbalala; Kuburbula and Kautikari (Chibok LGA) for the Dry Season project, and Lassa, Uba, Husara (Askira Uba LGA); Wuntaku, Garu, Kuburbuka, Mbalala, Gatamarwa (Chibok LGA).



Caritas Nigeria staff during FAO Dry Season 2019/20 project community sensitization in Mboa, Chibok LGA, Borno

A total of 12, 550 persons benefited from agricultural inputs distribution and training on good agronomic practices. Two farmer field schools were established and 30 farmer groups were formed in these communities with 105 persons benefiting from them.

Agricultural input distributed include: Maize (10kg), Cowpea (10kg), Sorghum (8kg), Groundnut (10kg), Vegetables kits – Okra (0.3kg), Amaranthus (0.2kg), and NPK 15:15 Fertilizer (25kg). The project closed at the end of the project year in September 2019.

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Project

The German MFA Project is a three-year (January 2018 – December 2020) food security project funded by the German Foreign Ministry through Caritas Germany. The project was targeted at communities in selected Local Government Areas across Borno and Adamawa States and aims to address the emergency food needs of 2,950 beneficiaries in Askira Uba, Hawul, MMC, Jere LGAs of Borno State; as well as Mubi North, Mubi South, Michika, and Madagali LGAs of Adamawa State.



Sensitization of beneficiaries on activation and use of prepaid cards in Midlu community

Components of the project right from the onset included dry season farming, provision of small grants for Income Generating Activities (IGA), training and formation of SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) groups and funds disbursement to households.

The reported bombings in Mubi North LGA and the apprehension of suicide bombers in a market square in Askira Uba LGA in March 2018, had heightened security apprehension in the project locations and led to a modification of the project strategy to suit the situation. Larger crowds were substituted for smaller numbers of persons and a low profile was maintained so as not to pose a soft target to the insurgents. This worked well for the project as no eventualities were recorded. Also, in the upscale activities, 4 LGAs (with 8 communities) namely Michika and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa State, and Hawul and Kwayakusar LGAs in Borno State, were added to the project.



Group photograph with participants at Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training in Duhu community

For the period in review, the following achievements were made:

- o **Cash for Food:** 3,370 HHs were met.
- o **Dry Season Farming:** 1,000 HHs met with farming tools, improved seeds, and capacity building.
- o **Income Generating Activities:** 500 HHs were trained and received small funds for small scale businesses.
- o **Feedback Mechanism:** Toll free lines, suggestion boxes and emails for feedback were established and operationalized.

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Project

The Norwegian MFA Food security/Livelihoods project was a one-year (September 2018 – September 2019) project designed to improve the Food security and livelihoods of vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host community members in North East Nigeria, affected by insurgency. Communities that benefited from the intervention included Bayo, Kwayakusar and Biu LGAs of Southern Borno State; Michika and Madagali LGAs in Northern Adamawa State.



Cross section of IGA participants in Madagali LGA of Adamawa state with their debit cards funded by Norwegian MFA, supported by Caritas Norway and implemented by Caritas Nigeria.



Participants who received seeds during input fair activities in Watsila community, Michika LGA, Adamawa state

Key achievements of the project were as follows:

- 2,000 households benefited from farm inputs including fertilizer, improved seeds, insecticide and herbicide. The households were also trained on best agronomic practices and organic fertilizer.
- 20 farmers group were formed in each community of project intervention.
- 1,635 households benefited from e-wallet cash transfer (Africard) of an amount of N60,000 paid in three tranches to improve their livelihoods. This also made the beneficiaries whom, before then, had no access to functional bank account, bank accounts and debit card owners.
- 1,000 households were supported with N35, 000 each through electronic cash transfer for income generating activities.
- 52 SILC groups were formed across the various communities of project intervention, which further strengthened the social cohesion within the communities.
- In Wuyo community in Bayo LGA of Borno state, the ban on outdoor Christian crusades was lifted as a result of the positive impact of Caritas Nigeria's humanitarian activities in the community.

UNHCR Livelihoods Project

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Livelihoods project was a one year (February – December 2019) project aimed at improving livelihoods through several measures such as improved agriculture production and livestock rearing; skills acquisition training; income generating activities; and SILC trainings on life saving skills for communities in Adamawa (Yola North/South, Mubi North/South, Michika, and Madagali LGAs) and Borno (Gwoza, Pulka LGA) States.



Caritas Nigeria staff with two beneficiaries during agricultural kits distribution exercise

The project addressed varying needs of the beneficiaries. Among them were improved agricultural production and productivity, increased livelihood assets, greater resilience and income generation capability and overall improved living standards.

More specifically, the project achieved the following:

- 1,000 Persons of Concern (PoCs) received agricultural input for raining season while 500 PoCs received livestock to replace their livelihood assets lost during insurgency.
- 1,000 PoCs were trained on Best Agronomic Practices and another 500 PoCs were trained on livestock management.
- 4 vocational training centres were established and furnished in Yola, Mubi, Michika and Pulka LGAs.
- 3,088 PoCs were trained and given startup kits on tailoring, beads and bags, shoe making, carpentry and soap making.
- 1,000 PoCs received training on financial literacy and management and another 1,000 were given up start-up grants for small scale business.
- A total of 40 SILC groups were formed.

HEALTH & HIV/AIDS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Overview

Historically, health has been a key component of the Church's mandate and formed a core in Caritas interventions from inception. Caritas Nigeria has successfully implemented several major national projects in the country, but mostly in HIV care and treatment.

For the year in review, three major projects are reported. The PEPFAR-funded 4GATES project entered its second project year, while the GRAIL (Galvanizing Religious Leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to pediatric Anti-Retroviral Therapy) project closed off. The third project was a new funding by the Global Fund on Tuberculosis. Summaries of project activities are given below.

4GATES Project

The 4GATES Project is a five-year HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment project implemented in sub national units (SNU) of Delta State in the Niger Delta as well South Eastern states of Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. The project is implemented by a consortium of five implementing partners (IP) namely, Caritas Nigeria (lead IP), Catholic Relief Services, Pro Health International and Palladium. Of the four states, Pro Health was responsible for Ebonyi State alone, while the remaining three were allocated to Caritas Nigeria.



Caritas Nigeria and other participants at a 5-day workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis and Report Writing for IPs



Courtesy visit to Delta State Commissioner of Health during the Flagship Launch Research for CDC

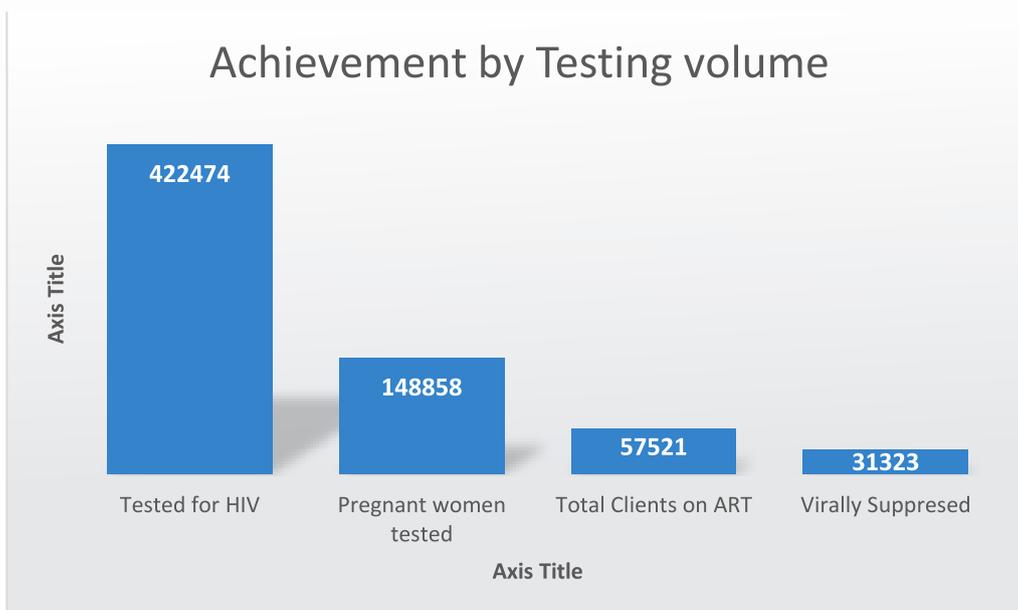
For the year in review, the 4GATES entered its second project year as the lead implementing partner in Enugu, Delta and Imo states. The year was characterized by very dramatic changes in the programming. The release of the Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator Impact Survey (NAIIS) in January 2019 totally recalibrated HIV prevalence in the country, identifying clearly where the gaps existed and where attention or priority had to be placed, including the grouping of states into different categories. Fortunately for Caritas Nigeria, all three of its project states fell under 'priority states'.

NAIIS necessitated the launching of ART Surge by the funder (CDC) in April 2019. Surge is an accelerated drive towards case identification, retention and viral suppression. It radically changed the dynamics of HIV programming by introducing the Tier management and the Incident Command System. It was scheduled to run from April 2019 to September 2020. The 4GATES Project therefore witnessed five months of the Surge Program during this report period.

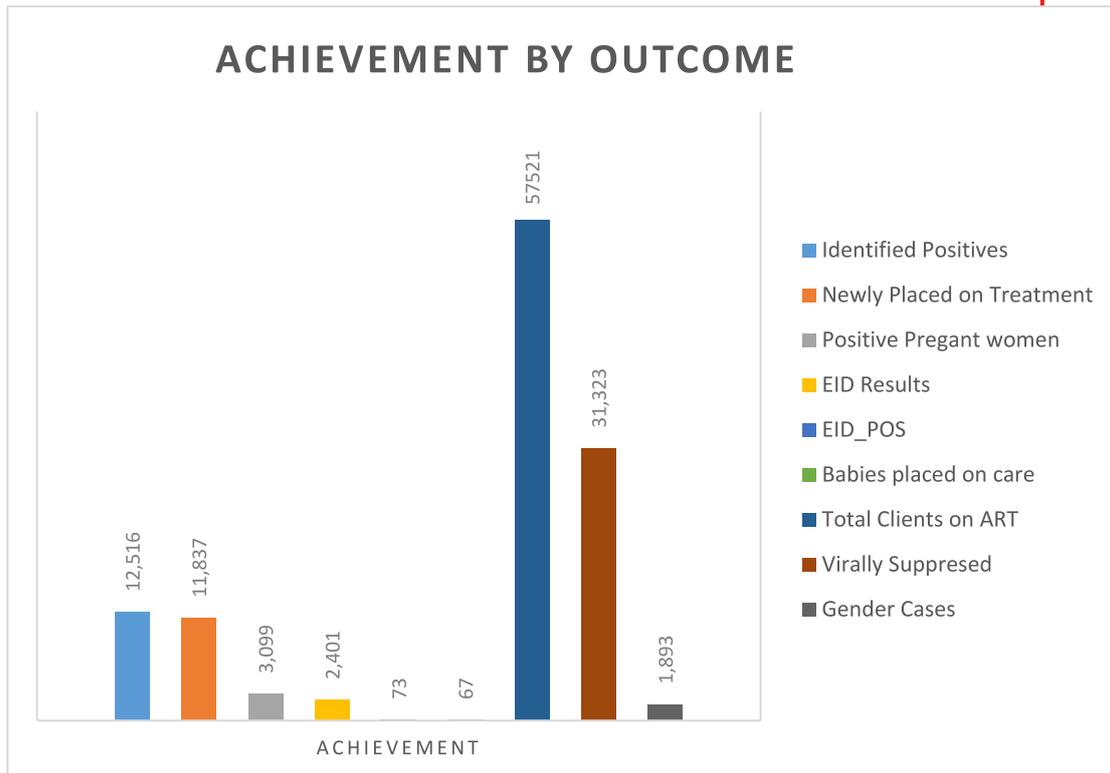


Launching of ART FLAGSHIP post in Agbor, Delta State

In terms of achievements, a total of 422,474 persons were tested for HIV. Out of this number, 12,516 positives were identified and 11,837 placed on care. Also, the total number of people on antiretroviral treatment (ART) care was pushed up to 57,521.



Bar chart of Caritas Nigeria



Bar chart showing Caritas Nigeria performance on key indicators

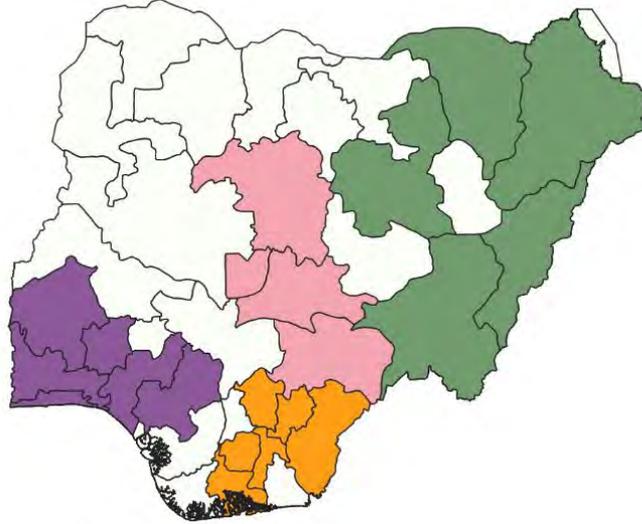
The 4GATES project exceeded its targets across many of its indicators, pulling an average target achievement of 95.6%.



In response to the strict technical demands of the SURGE strategy as set by the donor, Caritas Nigeria carried out 36 different categories of trainings across different program areas of its interventions across the country. A total of 1,171 participants drawn majorly from the project partners at the states and healthcare facilities benefited from the trainings.

GRAIL PROJECT

GRAIL - acronym for *Galvanizing Religious Leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to Pediatric ART* - was a 12-month project implemented by Caritas Internationalis (CI) through its Member Organization (Caritas Nigeria) with funding/technical support from PEPFAR and UNAIDS.



Map of Nigeria showing the states (grouped by zones) where the GRAIL project covered

The Project covered 21 states of Nigeria namely Enugu, Ebonyi, Imo, Abia, Rivers, Cross River (South east zone); Edo, Ondo, Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Lagos (South west zone); FCT, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Benue (North Central); and Adamawa, Taraba, Bauchi, Borno, Yobe (North East Zone). GRAIL leveraged the influence of religious leaders to destigmatize HIV and improve case identification and treatment access.

A key component of the project, therefore, was training.



Caritas Internationalis Stefano Nobile handling a session at one of the trainings

The GRAIL Project closed out during the period in review.



Participants at the training

At the close of the project the key achievements recorded were as follows:

- Grail successfully leveraged the influence of religious leaders to de-stigmatize HIV and improve case identification and treatment access. It further demonstrated the fact that FBO communities have a major role to play in HIV epidemic control. This idea had long been contemplated by stakeholders and experts for many years.
- 179 religious leaders (including 89 priests) were trained across 21 states in Nigeria
- The project reached out to over 21,712 adults > 15 years with age-appropriate HIV messaging as well as the promotion, diagnosis and treatment of children living with HIV.
- A total of 21,142 children were screened for HIV of which 20,130 children referred were successfully tested.
- A total of 49 children were confirmed HIV positive and all of them were placed on ART

PUBLIC PRIVATE MIX – TUBERCULOSIS (PPM-TB) PROGRAM

The PPM TB project is a two – year grant from the Global Fund to support Faith - based Health facilities in 20 States of Nigeria, with the goal of increasing TB case-finding. Caritas Nigeria is a Sub – recipient to Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) who is the Principal Recipient for the grant.

The goals of the grant include:

1. To increase the TB PPM coverage from 2.5% in 2017 to 31% in 2020 and the PPM contribution to the National TB case notification from 11% in 2017 to 35% in 2020
2. To increase the DST coverage from 34% in 2017 to 70% by 2020

Coverage:

The project covers the following 20 States in Nigeria - Edo, Delta, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Oyo, Ondo, Osun, Ogun, Kogi, Niger, Sokoto, Plateau, Nasarawa, Kaduna, Anambra, Enugu, Rivers, Imo, Abia



Map of Nigeria showing all the states covered by the PPM-TB project

The project was implemented under the *Hub-and-Spoke* model where the FBO health facilities in the 20 states are the Hubs that support the Spoke community formal and informal health services providers including – 1) Community Pharmacies, 2) Patent Medicine Vendors, 3) Traditional Birth Attendants, 4) Prayer Houses and 5) Traditional Medicine healers.

PPM TB project targets the general public for TB screening, identification of TB suspects, Sputum samples collection from TB suspects for laboratory analysis using Gene Xpert technology, treatment and follow – up of TB infected cases.

The FBO health facilities are supported to engage in community outreaches to identify TB suspects for diagnosis, treatment and follow – up.



Church council in Qua'an pan



Recognizing the Leadership of the PMVs was instrumental in the success of Spokes Assessments, Training and engagement across all supported States.

Achievements:

1. The project navigated through the first three quarters in the first year during which it was successfully set up in about 20 partner states. Before this, the following activities were successfully concluded namely: conduct and conclusion of facilities mapping/assessment; service providers' trainings; and, engagement of field staff.
2. About 431 faith-based health facilities in 20 States were supported to increase the private health sector participation in Tb case identification and treatment.
3. A total of 4,127 formal and informal community health providers (patent medicine vendors, community pharmacies, traditional birth attendants etc. were trained– to identify and refer Tb suspects for lab (Gene Xpert) diagnosis and treatment for the positives.
4. A total of 6,247 Tb cases were notified in the 20 States and Actual services provision commenced

Challenges:

The major challenges encountered were as follows:

- a. Inadequate funding
- b. High staff attrition in the faith – based health facilities as a result poor remunerations.
- c. Insecurity especially in the northern states
- d. Low Tb case findings

GOOD GOVERNANCE UNIT

Activities in the Good Governance project revolve around integral human development using the existing structures of the church in Nigeria, majorly the Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC). The strategies deployed include advocacy, capacity development and engagement with government and the operators of its democratic processes.

The major funders for Good Governance interventions remained CAFOD and the European union (EU).

The CAFOD-funded project was the *Legislative Advocacy* initiative, implemented by the JDPC in the dioceses of Awka, Idah Lokoja and Jos. The EU funded project was *Action for Cultural and Religious Pluralism*, a 4-year initiative implemented in Kaduna and Jos archdioceses.

Legislative Advocacy Project.

For the period in review the Legislative Advocacy Project achieved the following:

- In Jos Archdiocese, various town hall meetings were held, providing opportunities for the representatives to give score cards of their tenures, while the constituents had the platform to engage them constructively. The outcome was a motion in the House of Assembly for non-renewal of the tenure of Management Committees at the Local Government Councils. This led to the conduct of elections in 13 LGAs on 10/10/2018
- A bill was presented for the removal of illegal road blocks in Plateau State. The bill passed the third reading and is awaiting executive assent
- In Awka Diocese, 102 members of the Community vanguards were selected and empowered to engage constructively with their elected representative.
- In Lokoja Diocese, community members were trained on the Charter of demand and with which they went ahead to present various communities charter of demands sessions during the town hall meeting held at the end of November 2018.
- In Lokoja Diocese advocacy visits to the Ministries of Water Resources and Environment were carried out respectively. This led to greater water reticulation in Felele, Sarki Noma and Ege Communities as well as the award of Greater Okene Water project contract.
- Good Governance Unit carefully documented the issues that played out in the matter of the Senate Presidency led by Bukola Saraki and intervened from time to time through advocacy visits, which provided the opportunity to advise relevant actors on toeing the line of the rule of law and constitutionalism. These documentations have been put together to enhance research in our democratic journey.



(EU Zaman Tari Project)

For the EU-funded Peace-building Project:

- The period corresponded with the first year of the project and was dedicated to research towards its implementation in the subsequent year.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed and funds were disbursed to University of Jos and Kaduna State University for the purpose of the research



Community Women Dialogue Forum in Jos

Other cross-cutting Activities were:

- A capacity building training for Diocesan JDPC staff was carried out in Owerri Province. The focus was on Program Design and Proposal Development. 18 participants from 6 Dioceses (Owerri, Okigwe, Umuahia, Ahiara, Aba and Orlu) including the Provincial Chairman and Secretary were trained.
- For the 2018 Ekiti and Osun State Governorship elections, the Unit facilitated accreditation and coordination of trainings for Election observers. Worthy of note is the training deployment of a mobile App by JDPI Ado Ekiti during the election.
- The Good Governance Unit supervised the gender component of the Centre for Women Studies and Interventions (CWSI) in Kogi State.
- The Unit developed and deployed an Election Monitoring App which was successfully test-run in some parts of the country for the 2019 General Elections with amazing results.



Caritas Nigeria Good Governance Program Manager in radio advocacy program during the 2019 presidential elections

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED MIGRATION PROGRAMS

Two major programs came into the picture under this Thematic Area. The first was the SMAT-P project which took the whole of the financial year while the second was the STEM Project which came into being towards the end of the year.

SMAT-P Project

The SMAT-P Project is a two-year intervention funded by the Italian Bishops Conference. It aims to ensure that persons vulnerable to trafficking are supported to live a more meaningful and productive lives. SMAT-P is co-implemented by Caritas Nigeria and the 5 JDPC offices in Benin Province (Benin, Uromi, Auchi and Issele-Uku Arch/Dioceses) and Calabar Province (Ogoja), with funding from the Episcopal Bishops conference of Italy.



Archbishop Augustine Akubeze opening a Sheltar facility in Benin

The two year project took off with a target to: sensitize 10,000 persons; strengthen the livelihood of 500 households; and support improved access to Formal Education and vocational training for 330/150 students/youth; and providing accommodation for 100 victims of across vulnerable communities in the three states.



Distribution of Books to educational support beneficiaries

For the period under review, the project **touched a total of 42,756 beneficiaries** across all components of the program in the three states. Details of these achievements are as follows:

- A total of 27 relevant stakeholders (Community heads, Education authorities) within target LGAs were engaged;
- A questionnaire was designed and distributed to about 1000 community members to ascertain their knowledge on trafficking in persons. This provided valuable information that guided program planning and interventions in the state.
- A total of 157 communities were sensitized with anti-trafficking messages.
- About 197 primary/secondary schools were sensitized on the dangers inherent in irregular migration and human trafficking.
- Up to 24 Anti-trafficking Clubs were formed in Secondary schools in project locations. Members of these clubs, 232 students in all are now ambassadors against trafficking in persons in their schools.

- A total of 13 Victims Support Groups were formed in 4 LGAs in Edo State
- Up to 50 Community volunteers were engaged and trained to become frontline advocates within their communities.
- 500 household heads were trained on SILC Methodology. Another 10 SILC field Agents were engaged and further trained to form SILC Groups within their communities who would assist the women in practicing savings and lending among themselves. A total of 32 SILC groups - with a total Membership of 532 48 Male/484 Female, were formed. This mechanism is aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the grants that was given to the households at a later time.

Stable, Trained and Empowered Me (STEM) project

This is a one-year project that Caritas Nigeria won at the close of 2019. STEM is funded by the German Ministry (GIZ) and is aimed at combating human trafficking through awareness creation and provision of alternative sources of livelihoods. For the period in review, the project having successfully scaled through the grant-making phase had the project agreements finalized and signed so as to fully take off in the next financial year.

UNHCR PROTECTION

The goal of the UNHCR Protection project in Cross River State is to provide protection and education assistance to Cameroonian refugees (PEACR).

As the UNHCR's protection partner in the state, CARITAS Nigeria's work covers a number of local governments, viz; Etung, Boki, Obanliku, Akamkpa, Calabar South, Calabar Municipal, Ogoja and Bakassi.

For the year under review, CARITAS Nigeria engaged majorly in the following initiatives: ·

Child Protection

- **Response to and activities against prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**
- **Border monitoring** (to monitor the entrance of new, undocumented refugees) ·
- **Enrolment drive** (for education)
- **Access to justice** (for detained refugees)
- **Provision of assistance to persons with specific needs (PWSNs)**

Achievements recorded in these areas were as follows:

Prevention against SGBV

- 380 SGBV cases were handled with 10 survivors/victims receiving legal assistance, 52 receiving material assistance and 335 receiving psychosocial support/counseling.
- The project reached 1894 refugees through sensitization exercises to create awareness for and the need to report SGBV cases.
- The team facilitated 127 support group meetings through which about 11 support groups were created.



Training for SGBV Committee members in Ogoja

Child Protection

- A total of 868 Child Protection-related cases were handled. This followed about 30 meetings (18 in Adagom and 12 in Okende) by the settlement-based Child Protection Committee.
- The project successfully carried out the formation of the Child-friendly Space (CFS) within the settlements.
- A total of 645 CFS sessions were conducted (usually morning and evenings in Adagom and evenings only in Okende) and Child Protection Committees were formed in two communities namely Adagom and Okende. Related to this was the formation of
- Adolescents' groups in Adagom Settlement.
- The team rescued and returned 10 trafficked children to an orphanage in Ikom.



Week of the Child activities, May 27, 2019 in Ogoja

Community mobilization

- In the aspect of Community mobilization, 61 focus group discussions (FGDs) on prevailing social/protection issues within the settlements were carried out. There were also 12 capacity-building sessions (for SGBV & CP committee members)
- 2 mental health assessments conducted for various groups of people (traumatized, children at variance with the law, survivors of traumatic SGBV/life experiences, people with attitudinal problems etc.)
- One training session involving 70+ protection monitors was carried out.

PWSNs

- 1045 refugees were mapped with specific needs across Cross River.
- 135 PWSNs got assistance (PSS, domestic assistance, material assistance, connection to health facilities etc.) through 3681 home visits.

Border monitoring

- 368 border monitoring were conducted with 38 visits to out-of-settlement communities carried out. The project team worked with Immigration to record the arrival of 2301 (1237 females, 1064 males) refugees.
- The team also embarked on 144 visits to detention centres (of Immigration outposts and Police stations).

Education

- Two settlements (Adagom and Okende) benefited from the creation and facilitation of meetings of Education committees
- 182 sensitization exercises on the importance of basic education were carried out which reached 2407 parents/guardians (1011 females, 1396 males) across the state
- 186 school assessment/visits were conducted with the enrollment of 524 pupils/students in the new School Year
- Four 4 advocacy visits were carried out to the Local Education Authority (Ogoja LEA)
- The project profiled 1168 children for enrolment in the new School Year in addition to facilitating 2 PTA meetings
- 1786 bags were distributed to pupils and secondary school students in schools around the settlements, Akamkpa and Ikang (Bakassi)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (ICS) UNIT

The goal of the ICS unit is to ensure that the network of church partners have the capacity to deliver high quality development interventions.

Within the year in review two projects were active namely the PEOPLE's Project and PMD Pro.

PEOPLE Project

The PEOPLE (Preparing for Emergencies by strengthening Organizational Procedures, Learning and Exchange) project, is a two-year EU project sub-granted to Caritas Nigeria by CAFOD Nigeria.

The project seeks to strengthen the organizational capacity of Caritas Nigeria to respond to emergencies and humanitarian activities through the use of volunteers.



Group photograph with participants and facilitator at the end of the CHS training at Ogoja in February 2020

Achievements recorded included:

- Development of Volunteer recruitment policy and volunteer handbook.
- Training of trainers workshops – carried out on the following areas: Volunteer management, Emergency preparedness planning; Caritas Internationalis toolkit; Introduction to the Core humanitarian standards and complaints response management.
- Training of Caritas Nigeria staff across the states and HQ on Safety, Security and Gender security.
- Procurement of Desk phone for Complaints/feedback from beneficiaries
- Procurement of smartphones for mobile data collection for Humanitarian projects monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Staff training on Introduction to the Core Humanitarian Standards.
- Staff training on Finance Management and HR processes

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS (PMD PRO)

The PMD Pro training is a project management course specifically tailored to meet the needs and realities of the development sector. The programme covers the basic project management concepts, techniques, tools, and terms specific to NGOs and the development sector.

For the 2019 Financial Year, Caritas Nigeria facilitated a PMD Pro Level 1 training for 27 staff of PACT Nigeria in Gombe in January, 2019



Participants demonstrating the tripple constraint trianglr exercise during a training

PROVINCIAL REPORTS AT A GLANCE

ABUJA PROVINCE

Abuja Ecclesiastical Province is made up of eight Dioceses: Abuja, Gboko, Idah, Katsina-Ala, Lafia, Lokoja, Makurdi, and Otukpo. The year under review was marked by numerous humanitarian activities implemented to give succour of the needy across the Province.

These activities are reported as follows:

JDPC GBOKO DIOCESE

In the year 2019, the Commission impacted lives positively in sundry sphere of human existence. In addition to monitoring and observing the 2019 General Elections, the Commission had productive partnerships with a number of development organizations in the areas of food security, health, household economic strengthening, and poverty alleviation; these activities are elaborated below.

- **Election Observation and Monitoring:** Prior to the General Elections of 2019, two officers of the Commission were trained on election monitoring by the Yar'adua Foundation. There were also follow up trainings for election observers selected from across the Diocese. With His Lordship, Most Rev. William Avenya, leading observation in his jurisdiction, all observers were committed to ensuring that elections were free and fair.
- **BASIC Project:** With a strengthened partnership between the donor – Catholic Relief Service (CRS) – and the Commission, the project, which focused on cassava stem preservation for a more productive harvest, recorded major successes. At the inception of the project, a total of 33 Village Seed Entrepreneurs (VSE) were engaged and empowered, The VSE through its association – Certified Seed Entrepreneurs' Cooperative Society Limited – advocated for the protection and promotion of cassava stems.
- **OVC Interventions:** In the year under review, the health project of the Commission focused on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). In collaboration with APIN Public Health Initiatives, the Commission through APIN/iCARES project, provided the health and education needs of over seven thousand nine hundred and ninety-four (7,994) OVC in Tarka and Buruku LGAs. Furthermore, the Commission partnered with relevant stakeholders in Gboko to register the births of 1,404 vulnerable children and to enrol out-of-school vulnerable children. The Commission also undertook the delivery of health care services (through the provision of basic health education and case referrals for treatment of minor illnesses, HIV testing services, and TB screening). Likewise, good hygiene practices were promoted through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions. Other activities conducted for OVC included the establishment of a kids' club, provision of psychosocial support to vulnerable households, and provision of a conducive atmosphere for OVC education. Worth mentioning is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Block grant, which rendered support to 355 OVC such as shelter, clothing, household economic strengthening, and unconditional cash transfer to twenty (20) community caregivers/parents. To further strengthen the livelihoods for OVC and their caregivers, the Commission distributed economic tress to 400 caregivers
- **Prison Apostolate:** The Commission joined His Lordship, Most Rev. William Avenya, to organize recreational activities such as football match for inmates at a correctional centre in the state. In addition, on Boxing Day, the Commission, led by its Executive Director, marked the year's Boxing Day with inmates. The event was

preceded by the celebration of the Holy Mass and followed by the distribution of food and non-food items.

- **Social Welfare:** The Commission engaged in promoting the welfare of the sick, especially the indigent, in various communities within the Diocese. In the year under review, a six-year-old child was one of the beneficiaries who had their medical bills offset by the Commission.
- **Financial Literacy Campaign:** In line with its commitment to improve the livelihoods of indigenes, the Commission organized sensitization symposia on achieving financial independence through efficient management of finances. Hopefully, the coming year would see the Commission make provisions for start-up business loans to indigent persons.
- **Climate Action:** A staff of the Commission, as well as selected members of deaneries within the Diocese, participated in the alternative energy – Cook-stove initiative – organized by the national office, Caritas Nigeria. The training, which was further trickled down to women in rural areas irrespective of their faith, unveiled and advocated for the effective use of rocks as cook-stoves, rather than the traditional wood and charcoal. The aim was to reduce the hazards – air pollution, deforestation and climate change – caused by the traditional methods of cooking.
- **Sustainability Project:** In the year under review, the Commission launched her multimedia studio, which was designed as an effective approach to handling financial emergency issues and ensure an effective way of running the Commission. Interestingly, the facility has provided employment opportunities for indigenes.

Challenges

- Insufficient funding.
- Limited partnership opportunities with international donors.
- Increasing mobility challenges.

JDPC LAFIA DIOCESE

The year began with monitoring and observation of the 2019 General Elections. Prior to the elections, the Commission had worked with INEC and the National office to train and deploy volunteers to polling units in the Diocese to observe the elections. Other activities that took place in the year under review are reported as follows:

- **Humanitarian Relief:** In light of the flooding situation in some LGAs of Kogi State, the Commission, with the help of CAFOD, offered cash support to households and individuals whose houses and farmlands were taken over by flood in Lokoja and Kogi LGAs. The intervention was beneficial to 300 households in each of the aforementioned LGAs.
- **Civic Education:** In addition to radio sensitization of electorates, the Commission carried out civic education in parishes and communities ahead of the 2019 General Elections.
- **Security Action:** Following several security concerns such as kidnapping, thuggery, robbery etc. in Kogi State, the Commission organized a summit on insecurity, which had in attendance representatives of church, governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- **Good Governance Interventions:** Using radio for advocacy on inclusive governance, the Commission was able to create an avenue for duty bearers and indigenes to interface on improving the living conditions of constituents, especially as it relates to access to potable water in the state. The communities of Idoji, Okene, Ankpa, Ege, and Obangede have benefitted from this intervention. Likewise, as part

of the church's contributions to the delivery of good governance in the state, the Commission, through the support of CAFOD and the national office, organized a capacity building program for the legislators of the state assembly. On the other hand, various town hall meetings were held to address developmental challenges in various communities.

- **Economic Empowerment:** The PROMIC (Promotion of Micro-credit enterprising) scheme of the Commission has improved the livelihoods and living conditions of beneficiaries.
- **Peace Advocacy:** Delivering on its mandate to promote peace in the society, the Commission took to the media to advocate for peaceful coexistence among indigenes.

The celebration of the World Day of Peace also provided a platform to call for peace.



Advocacy for improved water



Reticulated water in Kogi central LGA

- **ACHIEVE Project:** The project comprised activities which focused on improving the lives of vulnerable children and caregivers. Services offered included psychosocial support, educational, household economic strengthening, and health and nutrition services. The project promoted child rights, advocated education of the girl child, ensured improved nutrition and health of mothers, infants and young children, strengthened the livelihoods of caregivers etc.



Some of the achievements of the project are as follows:

- Construction of twin toilet for vulnerable children.
- Completion of a two block of classroom for the students.
- Cash transfer disbursement to 177 beneficiaries.
- Transitioning of 57 adolescent girls from primary to secondary school.
- Distribution of business start-up kits to 59 beneficiaries of vocational skills training.
- Establishment of savings and loans association.
- Gender norms sessions in project implementing communities.
- Birth registration of 376 vulnerable children.
- Provision of free HIV testing services.

Challenges

- Insecurity.
- Lack of program sustainability plans.

Lessons Learnt

- Partnership is key to project implementation.

JDPC KATSINA-ALA DIOCESE

The Commission carried out activities targeted at improving the health of indigenes through the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded Integrated Health program. The following activities and successes among others were recorded in the year under review:

- Increased enrolment on antiretroviral therapy.
- Improved HIV counselling, testing and treatment services.
- Improved access to antenatal and post-natal care.
- Delivery of quality laboratory services.

Challenges

- Insecurity.
- Staff attrition.
- Community interference.
- Lack of a project vehicle.
- Erratic electricity supply.

Best Practices

- Effective collaboration and teamwork.
- Accountability and accurate documentation.

BENIN PROVINCE

JDPC Benin Province has the task of promoting justice, building capacity through trainings and skills development, institutional development and capacity strengthening interventions, antihuman trafficking/irregular migration, HIV and AIDs and malaria programming scheme and relief through prison apostolate, legal representations, micro-credit schemes, creating awareness to prevent social ills, and empowering and liberating people from oppression and poverty aimed at developing a just and fair society.

In the year under review, the Province engaged in the following activities:

- Statutory meetings of Diocesan Directors
- National Annual General Meeting of the Church and Society Department
- Capacity building avenues such as Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) training, Cook-stove training, Conference on Irregular Migration, Sensitization workshop on Open Government Partnership, and Personal Development training for staff. In addition, through the SMAT-P (Sustainable Measures against Trafficking in Persons) project of the Italian Bishops' Conference, the Province engaged in AntiHuman Trafficking activities, which aimed at protecting vulnerable persons from the ploys of human traffickers.

Other activities implemented by the Dioceses are reported as follows:

JDPC AUCHI DIOCESE

The Commission carried out the following projects and activities in the year under review.

- **Anti-Human Trafficking Intervention:** The SMAT-P (Sustainable Measures against Trafficking in Persons) project provided avenues for interventions such as: sensitization of communities and schools on the ills of human trafficking, establishment of support groups and Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) survivors of human trafficking, educational support to indigent persons, and training of vulnerable adults on various income generating activities (IGA).



Anti-human trafficking sensitization

- **Health Intervention:** Through the Life above Poverty Organization (LAPO) project, sensitization campaigns and advocacy visits were organized to mitigate the spread of diseases such as Ebola virus and Lassa fever.
- **Economic Empowerment:** As part of its contributions to boosting economic growth and eradicating poverty, the PROMIC (Promoting Micro-enterprise) project was undertaken to empower poor, active people with loans to improve their livelihoods.
- **Gender-based Violence Intervention:** With the support of the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta, the Commission carried out activities aimed at curbing gender-based violence. Some of the activities included; advocacy visits to, and debriefing of, traditional rulers on the ills of gender-based violence against women, community/market place/school sensitization, and formation of gender-based violence committees in target communities to monitor and report cases of gender-based violence to the Commission.



Advocacy visit to a traditional ruler



Sensitization activity in Ewan Community



JDPC BENIN ARCHDIOCESE

In the period under review, the JDPC of Benin Archdiocese carried out various activities as stated below for the well-being of the needy.

- **Anti-Human Trafficking Intervention:** A major project implemented by the Commission in the year under review was the SMAT-P project, which saw activities such as community sensitization on the dangers of trafficking in persons, formation of anti-human trafficking clubs in four schools across two LGAs, livelihood support for vulnerable persons in targeted communities, educational support to indigent students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and disbursement of cash grants to returnees and vulnerable households. Similarly, the Commission organized an awareness campaign and a radio sensitization program to mark the feast day of St. Bakhita.



Anti-Human trafficking club



Beneficiaries of business grant



Community sensitization

- **Women's Rights Campaign:** The Women's Rights Campaign project implemented by the Commission in the year under review, aimed at protecting the rights of women and girls in society. In order to achieve the project's goal, the Commission organized advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders and awareness rallies in schools and markets. Likewise, the International Human Rights Day celebration afforded the Commission an opportunity to educate the masses on their fundamental human rights.



Human Rights Day celebration.

- **Health Intervention:** Through the sponsorship of MISSIO, the Commission organized HIV/AIDS and malaria testing and treatment/referral services, distribution of mosquito nets, and community sensitization. In addition, sanitary kits were distributed to over 60 females.



Ongoing testing service for HIV/AIDS and malaria

- **Economic Empowerment:** A total of 823 indigent women benefitted from the economic empowerment scheme of the Commission otherwise known as PROMIC (Promotion of Micro Credit Enterprise).
- **Prison Apostolate:** The Commission extended its social welfare services to Oko and Benin correctional centres, where relief materials were presented to inmates.
- **Legal Aid:** The legal department of the Commission handled about 36 legal and nonlegal cases such as marital conflicts, court registry cases, land disputes etc.

JDPC BOMADI DIOCESE

Bomadi Justice Development and Peace Caritas Initiative (BJDPCI) carried out the following activities during the course of the year:

- **Election Observation/Campaign Monitoring:** The Commission deployed observers to polling units across Bayelsa and Delta States to monitor the 2019 General Elections. Additionally, the Commission collaborated with the Justice Development and Peace Makers Center (JDPMC) Osogbo to monitor and evaluate the monetary aspect of preelections campaign in the aforementioned states.
- **Livelihoods Support:** The Commission empowered a total of 7 women with business start-up grants to boost their livelihoods.
- **Health:** In the year under review, a total of 19 persons had their medical bills offset by the Commission.

- **Youth Empowerment and Vocational Training:** The Commission carried out skill acquisition empowerment program for the youth within the Diocese.
- **Educational Support:** The Commission organized preparatory classes for candidates of tertiary institutions entry exams, while a few others were supported with their schools fees.
- **Social Justice:** In a bid to achieve a transformed society through inclusive sustainable development for all, the Commission organized a seminar for persons living with disabilities, with a view to improving their living conditions. Mobility and livelihoods support were the major outcomes of the seminar.
- **Good Governance:** In line with its mandate of promoting peace and good governance, the Commission organized town hall meetings with selected community leaders, aimed at ensuring harmonious living in the communities.

JDPC ISSELE-UKU DIOCESE

The following activities were geared towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Commission:

- **Human Rights and Legal Aid:** In the year under review, the Commission intervened in human rights issues, resolved conflicts, and offered legal assistance to incarcerated persons.
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Activities:** Through the SMAT-P project, the Commission organized sensitization rallies, selected and validated households for grants, empowered youth with various skills, and supported students with education grants and scholarship. Likewise, the Commission seized the opportunity of the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita to sensitize the public about the dangers of human trafficking and illegal migration.



Anti-Human trafficking sensitization activities

- **Prison Apostolate:** In the year under review, the Commission was significantly involved in promoting the welfare of inmates at the correctional centres in the state through the provision of pastoral, counselling and legal aid services, as well as relief items.
- **Good Governance:** Sequel to the observation of the 2019 General 2019, the Commission escalated its good governance efforts to networking and partnering with stakeholders to ensure accountability from lawmakers after the elections.
- **Humanitarian Activities and Development:** In a bid to ensure the well-being of the people, the Commission reached out to vulnerable individuals and groups with food and

non-food items, which helped to ameliorate their plights.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Through the micro credit scheme of the Commission, a number of indigent women were supported with loans to boost their economic activities. In the same vein, the micro credit of the Swissland Foundation empowered low income women with loans for their business. A total of 491 women benefitted from both schemes.
- **Cook-stove Project:** The Commission embraced the opportunity created by the National office to train women in the rural areas on the use of energy-saving cookstove.



Demonstration of the cook-stove initiative

JDPC WARRI DIOCESE

The following activities among others were implemented by the Commission:

- **Biannual Statutory Meetings:** As is customary, the Commission held its semi-annual meetings, which saw the resolution of key issues bothering on implemented and planned projects within the Diocese.
- **Children:** As part of its contribution to create a safe and suitable environment for the growth and development of young people, the Commission organized programs designed to educate and direct them on the part of morality.
- **Poverty Eradication Activities:** In response to the rising poverty level which has continued to affect citizens' livelihoods and standard of living, the Commission organized a workshop on eradicating poverty through entrepreneurship development. A major outcome of the workshop, which was part of the activities to mark the International Day of Poverty Eradication, was the training of participants on various skills, to enable them to live above poverty line.
- **Development and Good Governance Program:** As part of its contributions to nation building, the Commission held a symposium on restructuring for a better a new Nigeria, which was organized within the JDPC Week. Other activities included a campaign against ritualism and fraud, a workshop on education, and distribution of food and clothing to indigent persons.



Rally against societal vices

- **Economic Empowerment:** The micro credit scheme of the Commission – PROMIC (Promotion of Micro enterprise) – was a conduit for the empowerment of active, poor women within the Diocese. Prior to the disbursement of loans for various economic activities, participants were trained and enlightened on business management and efficient utilization of the loans, with the aim of ensuring they met the loan repayment period and gainful investment of same.

JDPCI UROMI DIOCESE

The Justice, Development, Peace and Caritas Initiatives (JDPCI) of Uromi Diocese undertook the following activities in the year under review:

- **Good Governance and Human Rights Activities:** In a bid to achieve the goals of the good governance activities, the Commission organized among other activities; quarterly meetings with civic groups, voters' education and sensitization, several advocacy visits to stakeholders on the Human Rights and Paralegal scheme of the Commission, and commemorated the International Day for the Protection of Children as well as the International Human Rights Day. Additionally, in line with its mission of enhancing justice and promoting integral development, the Commission mobilized, trained and deployed 38 observers accredited by INEC to polling units across Edo Central Senatorial District, to observe the 2019 General Elections.
- **Anti- Human Trafficking Project:** In furtherance of awareness-raising on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration, the Commission, through the SMAT-P project, sensitized communities (markets, schools and churches) and held meetings with traditional rulers of communities. Part of the school sensitization activities included formation of anti-human trafficking clubs. Correspondingly, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita was commemorated with market place sensitization and prayers sessions for victims of human trafficking and slavery. Key highlights of the SMAT-P project included; promotion of livelihood sustenance of vulnerable families, establishment of victim support groups, educational support and vocational empowerment, and selection of beneficiaries for *Don't Pay with your Life* project aimed at mitigating sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and girls.



Victim support group meeting



Market place sensitization



Household assessment

- Economic Empowerment:** Through the PROMIC project, the commission contributed remarkably to the amelioration of the plights of the less privileged, through the provision of loans to each group comprising the poor, active women and active farmers in the society. The scheme, which is in four platforms – group micro-credit, PROMIC 1, PROMIC II, and AGRIC PROMIC – supported a total of 1,092 persons in five LGAs covered by the Diocese. The year under review saw a progressive enhancement of agricultural produce and the livelihoods of other small business owners who benefitted from the micro-credit scheme.



Micro-credit officers and beneficiaries



A beneficiary's yam barn

- Prison Apostolate:** The Commission extended its pastoral and social welfare services to inmates in Ubiaja correctional centre by distributing food and non-food items, ensuring the spiritual growth of inmates, and supporting the existing skills acquisition centre.



Presentation of relief materials



Baptism of an inmate



Presentation of hair clippers

- **Climate Action:** As part of global efforts towards combating the effect of climate change and promoting environmental protection, the Commission participated in a training on Cook-stove initiative geared at sensitizing rural communities on the dangers of smoke emitted by firewood in the process of cooking. The cook-stove method, therefore, advocates the use of stones to reduce firewood consumption by each household. Consequently, the training was trickled down to a total of 74 women in different communities.



Demonstration of the cook-stove set-up

- **Charity:** In line with its mission of ensuring improved living and livelihoods of indigent persons, the Commission engaged in economic and educational empowerment of the needy.
- **Trainings and Workshops:** The year under review recorded the Commission's attendance at several capacity development workshops and trainings, among which included proposal development trainings, mental health and psychosocial support training, workshop on human rights promotion, African Regional conference of the Santa Marta group etc.

Challenge

- Insufficient funds.

JOS PROVINCE

The province of Jos is made up Jos Archdiocese, Bauchi, Jalingo, Maiduguri, Pankshin, Shendam, and Yola Dioceses. In the year under review, the dioceses implemented various projects across the province.

JDPC PANKSHIN DIOCESE

The programs implemented in the Diocese included:

- **Capacity Strengthening Avenues:** Staff and volunteers of the Commission had their skills honed through trainings on Development, Education, Leadership and Peace Awareness (DELPA), Trauma Healing and Resilience and Peace Education Strategies. In a similar vein, 76 parishioners from all parishes, pastoral areas and chaplaincies within the Province, were trained on Animation Approaches for Community Development, in order to strengthen the existing animation committees in parishes.
- **Lenten Campaign:** The Commission successfully conducted the 2019 Lenten Campaign flag-off exercise in parishes.
- **Women Empowerment Initiative:** Through the Promoting Micro-enterprise (PROMIC) scheme, over 640 women in 9 parish communities had their businesses boosted. Most beneficiaries who are widows, were able to generate funds for their children's education.
- **Humanitarian Relief Intervention:** Relief materials were distributed to over 156 displaced households in Kanke and Bokkos LGAs, to ameliorate their plights.
- **Conflict Resolution and Peace-building Activities:** In line with its peace-building efforts, the Commission trained a total of 443 students (comprising 267 females and 176 males) on peace education strategies. The training was followed up by the establishment of 10 peace clubs in secondary schools across 5 Local Government Areas (LGA). Likewise, 45 community members from Bokkos LGA were trained on Reflective Peace Practice and, expectedly, successfully conducted Conflict System Analysis in their communities, to enable them to understand the root and immediate causes of continuous conflicts thereof. In addition, a total of 158 persons (comprising 101 males and 57 females) drawn from 5 conflict-prone communities, were trained on community basic Alternative to Violence Program (AVP).
- **Promotion of Good Governance:** The Commission engaged in series of activities that promoted good governance in communities within the Diocese. This was achieved through civic, voter and political education of 80 community members, observation of the 2019 General Elections, and facilitation of 2 town hall meetings with elected representatives from Pankshin and Kanke constituencies.
- **Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) Activities:** In order to promote good hygiene practices in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and host communities, a two-day training on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was conducted, thereby leading to the drilling of 2 potable water wells and the construction of 2 boreholes in Amper, Kanke LGA.

- **Environmental Protection Activity:** The Commission keyed into the Cook-stove initiative of the National office. A total of 314 females and 4 males benefitted from the training.

Challenges

- Insecurity.
- Inadequate funding.
- Low volunteerism spirit.

Lessons learnt

- Volunteerism is key to creating structures and sustainability plans.
- The PROMIC scheme is a source economic empowerment and psycho-social support.
- Availability of potable water aids good hygiene practices in communities.
- The existence of peace clubs in schools demonstrates that peace-building is a joint effort involving both children and adults.

Best Practices

- Hard work, honesty, accountability, and transparency ease project implementation. Teamwork is key to the development sector.
- Networking and collaboration with relevant key stakeholders is beneficial to project goals.
- Community-based and grass roots approach to programs ensures overall participation and cooperation.

Recommendations

- Intensified funding support and other collaborative avenues, such as rural development projects, between Dioceses and the National office.
- Funding support from the Provincial Office on Lenten Campaigns.
- The need for continuous peace building in communities to promote peaceful coexistence.

Next Steps

- Mobilization for the 2020 Lenten Campaign flag-off.
- Continuous resource mobilization and search for funding opportunities with donors.
- Continuous synergy with other Commissions in project planning and implementation.
- Advocacy visits to relevant ministries, departments and agencies, traditional and community leaders, NGOs, and CSOs, in order to foster collaboration in areas of interest.
- Expansion of the micro-credit/PROMIC scheme to more parishes.
- Strengthening of Parish/Deanery JDPC committees.
- Continuous mobilization of volunteers.

CALABAR PROVINCE

The Province comprises Calabar, Ikot Ekpene, Ogoja, Port-Harcourt, and Uyo and Arch/Dioceses.

JDPC PORT HARCOURT DIOCESE

For the Commission, the year started off with observation of the 2019 General Elections and Lenten Campaign. Other activities carried out are as follows:

- **Health Intervention:** The Commission organized nutrition education for infants and young children, general health awareness sensitization in communities and correctional centres, HIV testing and counselling services, vital checks, provided dental care and sight-related services, and distributed anti-malaria medications to indigenes.
- **Prison Apostolate:** In the year under review, the Commission rendered free legal services to indigent persons and those unjustly detained in the correctional centre in the Diocese. Several inmates regained their freedom, while some others received medical services. Prior, there was a re-rehabilitation assessment exercise for those already treated for onward integration to the society. In addition, inmates were availed Liturgical celebrations and relief items.
- **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution:** With the support of governmental and nongovernmental bodies, the Commission mediated in a number of cases between groups, individuals and communities. Worth mentioning also is the Commission's internal crisis management of disagreements among groups in parishes.

Challenge

- Lack of funds.

Lessons Learnt

- The heightened level of injustice in the country has consistently resulted in the congestion of correctional centres. Consequently, the Commission proposes to undertake a project on access to justice and related activities to mitigate human rights abuse in the coming year.

Recommendations

- The Church, through the JDPC, should consistently speak out against injustice and insecurity.

IBADAN PROVINCE

The Province consists of Ibadan Archdiocese, Ekiti, Ilorin, Ondo, Osogbo, and Oyo Dioceses. The year under review saw various activities in all the Dioceses, some of which are reported as follows:

JDPM ILORIN DIOCESE

The Justice, Development and Peace Mission (JDPM) of Ilorin Diocese kicked off the year with observation and monitoring of the 2019 General Elections. The Commission mobilized and deployed over 65 observers to polling units across Kwara State; following the conclusion of the exercise, reports were sent to the database of the National office. In the Commission, the year under review witnessed remarkable interventions earmarked for the social welfare of rural dwellers. Delivering on its commitment to complement the efforts of the Kwara State government in the area of sustainable agriculture, the Commission partnered with Misereor to implement the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development project designed to promote food security in rural communities within the Diocese. It is important to note that the project commenced since the year 2011. Activities carried out by the Commission included among others:

- Empowerment workshop for youth and women on various vocational skills.
- Sponsorship of two youth through a year agricultural training at the Agricultural Development Training Institute, in Oyo diocese.
- Health sensitization, free HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis testing services in over 24 project communities.
- Quiz competition for secondary school students to strengthen their commitment to the Young Farmers' Club in their schools.
- Partnership reflection meeting with the donor and advocacy visit to the Bishop, Most. Rev. Paul Adegboyega Olawoore.
- Annual farmers' forum which availed members of the Sustainable Farmers Association of Nigeria a platform to exhibit their farm produce and to interact with the state government on favourable programs for agriculture business in the state.
- Tree-planting campaigns in 30 project communities and planting of 2,000 Gmelina tree seedlings in 12 communities. This activity was in alignment with Pope Francis' message on sustainable environment and sensitization on effects of Climate Change.

JDPMC OSOGBO DIOCESE

The entire programs of the Justice, Development and Peace Makers' Centre (JDPMC), which seek for social and environmental change, span beyond just the year 2019, because they are strongly shaped by emerging issues. For the purpose of the reporting year, the activities implemented under Justice and Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance, Women Empowerment and Child Welfare, Community Health, and Rural Development programs are elucidated below.

- Strengthening of Child's Rights: The project, which was implemented in 24 LGAs in Osun State, sought to eliminate factors that predispose children to vulnerabilities, using child's right protection. Part of the activities carried out included; advocacy visits to, and training of, traditional, religious and opinion leaders, sensitization of 753 Sunday school and Qur'anic school children on their rights and available protective structures, mass media

engagement on child-related issues, child protection campaign rallies, and support (educational, psychosocial, medical, legal, and nutritional) to children.



Campaign on Child Rights protection

- **Community Accountability and Advocacy:** The sole aim of the project was to pursue an increase in the quality of services, generate real time objective information and assess the quality of service delivery. The activities implemented included among others: exit interviews with 120 patients on malaria prevention, facilitation of 6 focus group discussions comprising patients of 6 PHCs, and 7 key informant interviews.
- **Empowerment Program:** As part of its interventions geared at supporting the livelihoods of poor households and individuals, the Commission reached out to 100 persons, including widows, with loans for various economic undertakings.
- **HIV Testing Services:** Delivering on its preventive health awareness mandate aimed at reducing new HIV infections in the state, the Commission organized HIV testing and counselling services, awareness campaigns, school outreaches, advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders, youth education, HIV prevention campaign rallies, referrals, and commemoration of World AIDS Day.



HIV testing services.

- **Democracy and Good Governance Activities:** Through the promotion of Civil Society Participation and Respect for Human and Civil Rights program, citizens were made more aware of their civil and human rights, which further strengthened their resolve to demand accountability from their representatives. Some of the activities implemented included campaign finance monitoring of political parties and candidates towards the 2019 General

Elections, training and deployment of election observers to polling units ahead of the elections, voter education, stakeholder engagement etc.

- **Justice and Human Rights Interventions:** In line with its peace-building and conflict management efforts, the Commission engaged in the rehabilitation of released prisoners, dispute resolution, tracking of court cases, commemoration of annual Human Rights Day etc.
- **Rural Development Program:** Small scale farmers in rural communities had their livelihoods boosted in the year under review. Activities such as skill acquisition trainings, best agricultural practices trainings, agro-enterprises trainings, monitoring and evaluation meetings, and workshop sessions on agricultural livelihood opportunities, were conducted for several indigenous beneficiaries.



Institutional learning visit to Leventis Agricultural Foundation

KADUNA PROVINCE

Kaduna Ecclesiastical Province consists of seven (7) Dioceses namely: Kaduna, Kafanchan, Kano, Kontagora, Minna, Sokoto, and Zaria. In the year under review, the Province held her quarterly meetings rotationally across the Dioceses. Six out of the seven Dioceses participated in the innovative Cook-stove training organized by Caritas Nigeria and hosted by the Provincial office in Kaduna, with about 26 participants in attendance. In addition, the Province hosted the quarterly meeting of the National office and Provincial Coordinators and Secretaries. For the coming year, the Province, in collaboration with the National Office, plans to organize two major trainings – Strategic Plan development for Kaduna Province and Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) for the Dioceses. Projects/programs implemented by the Dioceses are stated below.

JDPC KADUNA ARCHDIOCESE

The Commission kick started the year with observation of the 2019 General elections. Following accreditation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), 25 observers were deployed to 7 LGAs of the Diocese of Kafachan. Other activities implemented were:

- **Lenten Campaign:** All the parishes in the Diocese participated in the year's Lenten campaign, which took place between March and April.

- **Emergency Response:** The Commission carried out two emergency response projects through the support of Christian Solidarity International (CSI). There were 1,213 beneficiaries, which included displaced victims of Fulani Herdsmen attacks. The assistance received were food, medication, shelter, education and clothes.
- **Women Empowerment:** The Commission supported 214 women with loans to boost their small scale businesses. The loan, which repayment period was 6 months with 3% interest rate, was made possible with the funds realized during the 2019 Lenten campaign.
- **Support for People with Disability:** With the empowerment support program of the Commission, 4 persons with disabilities were empowered to be self-reliant. While three were supported with a sewing machine, scholarship opportunity and food items hop respectively, one person received a wheel chair to aid movements around town.
- **Cook-stove Training:** The Commission participated in the Cook-stove training, which had in attendance, 2,340 women from across the diocese.

Challenges

- Prolonged delay of formation of diocesan and parish JDPC committees. · Lack of project personnel.
- Inadequate funds for project implementation.

Lesson learnt

- Communities living in poverty and fear owing to increasing insecurities, have place their hopes on the church.

Recommendation

- There is need for increased collaboration between the church and the state for a better society.

JDPCA KANO DIOCESE

The Justice, Development and Peace Caritas Advocate (JDPCA) started off the year with a preelection campaign and peace rally ahead of the 2019 General Elections: part of these campaigns was the door-to-door campaign funded by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which aimed at sensitizing and mobilizing registered voters to exercise their franchise. This was followed by the training and accreditation of 120 election observers, who were consequently deployed to LGAs in Kano State. Correspondingly, as part of its good governance activities, the Commission, in collaboration with JDPM Osogbo, monitored and reported their findings about the finances spent by the All Progressive Congress (APC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on campaigns, town hall meetings, rallies, campaign materials, prior to the elections. Other interventions carried out in the year under review are as follows:

- **Food Security Project:** With the support of the Christian Solidarity International (CSI), the Commission distributed grains to the marginalized local Christian communities namely: Kuru (Kuru LGA), Magami (Takai LGA), Jitan Dutse (Tudun Wada) in Kano State.

- **Conferences and Workshops:** In the year under review, the Commission had representations at several conferences and workshops among which included: Violent Conflict and Private Economic (COPE) activity in sub-Saharan Africa; International Conference on Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking; international conference on shaping policies across sub-Saharan Africa for resilience, conflict mitigation & economic development; workshop on advocacy and lobbying to press for the implementation of Disability Bill; evaluation and interview of indigent beneficiaries in Bebeji and Makoda LGAs on unconditional cash transfer of returned Sani Abacha loot of Kano State etc.

Challenge:

- Lack of funds to implement strategic activities.

JDPC KONTAGORA VICARIATE

In the year under review, the Commission carried out activities which strengthened the hope and faith of communities in the Vicariate, amid the outcome of the 2019 General Elections, a deteriorating economy, and insecurity and fears. The enumerated activities give an insight into the Commission's undertakings in the year.

- **Agricultural intervention:** The Commission had procured a farm land which would be leased to interested farmers in Kontagora to support their livelihoods.
- **Legal Aid:** Through the legal aid of the Commission, over 129 cases related to legal were resolved.
- **Sensitization on Child Trafficking:** The Commission organized awareness rallies in Karen Banna community which has the most cases of child trafficking. Maximum outreach was achieved as parents of trafficked children were in attendance and made commitments to take more proactive towards the welfare of their children.
- **Lenten Campaign:** The Commission initiated the annual Lenten campaign took place in all parishes in the Vicariate.
- **Election Observation:** Prior to the mobilization and deployment of election observers to various polling units within the Vicariate, the Commission had translated the election checklist designed by the National Office to Hausa language, for use by the observers. The findings stated in the checklist revealed that the elections, though peaceful, were replete with anomalies.
- **Cereal Banking Workshop:** A cereal banking workshop was conducted as the initiative of the Vicariate to train people on how to manage their farm produce. Hopefully, the process of establishing banking groups across the Vicariate would be finalized in the coming year.
- **Cook-stove Training:** The Commission participated in the Cook-stove training and stepped down same to communities, with financial assistance received from the National Office.

Challenges

- Limited program coverage due to the vastness of the Vicariate.
- Inadequate funding.

Lesson learnt

- Partnership with women groups and the church structure is key to program interventions.

Recommendations

- More synergy between the National office and the Provincial and Diocesan structure · Increased capacity strengthening support to the Commission.

JDPC MINNA DIOCESE

The year 2019 started off with the mobilization, training, and consequent deployment of 20 volunteers to observe the 2019 General Elections in polling units across Minna. The exercise was followed by other activities listed below:

- Renovation of a classroom block at St. Augustine's School, Fuka, in order to keep more children in school.
- Material support to internally displaced persons sheltered at the IDP camp in Minna.
- Collaboration with the Diocese to establish the Catholic Social Forum. This initiative has positively impacted on the political attitude of young people.

Challenge

- Lack of funding.

Lesson learnt

- The need for collaboration and encouragement to achieve set goals.

Recommendation

- There is need for continuous capacity building support by the National office.

JDPC SOKOTO DIOCESE

The year under review saw the successful execution of activities geared towards improving the economic and social welfare of communities within the Diocese. Some of the activities included humanitarian, peace-building, good governance, workshops etc.

- **Good Governance:** Delivering on its mandate of promoting good governance at all levels, the Commission carried out pre-election, election, post-elections activities, which included awareness creation on the peaceful elections, training and deployment of election observers among others, to ensure a peaceful 2019 General Elections. Worth noting is the contribution of the DFID-funded DEEP project to the observation of the elections. Similarly, the Commission partnered with Vision FM, local radio station, on the Office of the Citizen (OOTC) program. The program provided a platform to measure democracy deliverables and update the masses on government activities and policies.
- **Peace-building Project:** The Commission implemented the SACRED project, which aimed at building bridges between Catholic and Muslim women in Sokoto, Katsina, Kebbi and Zamfara States. The project focused on religious background to promote human dignity and protect holy places.

- **Anti-Human Trafficking Activities:** The Commission participated in the conference on Irregular Migration organized by the Archdiocese of Abuja. Afterwards, the training was stepped down to youths during the Diocesan Youth Celebration. In a similar vein, the Commission commemorated the Day of the African Child by organizing an awareness campaign in parishes. On the other hand, the Commission is reckoned as a key stakeholder in the fight against irregular migration and child trafficking, as demonstrated in her strengthened partnership with the Sokoto State National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).
- **Workshop:** The Commission had adequate representation at a 3-day Strategic Plan workshop, which was intended to achieve synergy and improved collaboration among all the units of the Church & Society department in Sokoto Diocese. The activity was sponsored by CRS Nigeria.

Challenges

- Resource mobilization is key to meeting the objectives of projects.
- Increased inflation, which has a direct impact on remuneration, has continued to lead to staff attrition.
- Certain religious practices often restrict women from benefitting from program.
- Red-tapism usually decelerates program implementation.

Best Practice

- Partnership with government and other key development partners in the state is instrumental to the success of project activities.

Recommendation

- More synergy and collaboration with the National office.

JDPC ZARIA DIOCESE

The project activities of the Commission were heralded by the observation of the 2019 General Elections by accredited volunteers, who were deployed to 10 LGAs under the jurisdictions of Zaria Diocese. Prior, the Bishop, Most Rev. George Dodo, had delivered a press conference urging eligible citizens to participate actively in the electoral process. Other activities carried out are as follows:

- Legal aid to victims of domestic violence.
- Material assistance to internally displaced persons residing within Zaria.
- Financial and medical assistance to selected indigent households.
- Co-rehabilitation and reintegration of some freed prisoners.
- Provision of agro-chemicals for rural farmers to improve their productivity.
- Reinforced partnership with key Christian and government stakeholders.
- Sensitization on security consciousness.
- Human rights awareness campaign on freedom of religion preference.
- Provision of shelter for a persecuted mother of three, through the support of JDPC Kafanchan Diocese.
- Provision of legal and material assistance for victims of religion-based persecution.

Challenges

- Paucity of funds.
- Deficiency in accessing funding opportunities.
- Poor response of community leaders to cases of religion-based persecution.

Lessons learnt

- A politically enlightened people are few steps away from the desired change.
- The economic liberation of the people should be a collective commitment.
- Increased involvement of the Church in governance will ensure accountability on the part of public office holders.
- Forceful conversion to Islam has been linked to poverty and defective parenting.

Recommendations

- There is need to create platforms for knowledge-sharing and partnership among Dioceses.
- There is need for investment in the agricultural project of the Commission, in order to ensure continuity in income generation for program implementation.

Next Step

- Collaboration with the Health unit of the Church and Society department to embark on earmarked health activities.

LAGOS PROVINCE

JDPM ABEOKUTA DIOCESE

The Justice, Development and Peace Movement (JDPM) of the Catholic Diocese of Abeokuta covers 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ogun Central (Abeokuta South, Abeokuta North, Odeda, Obafemi-owode, Ifo, Ewekoro) and Ogun West (Ipokia, Ado-odo/ota, ImekoAfon, Yewa South, Yewa North). Activities that took place in the year 2019 included observation of the 2019 General Elections, prison apostolate, and parish-level events.

- **Election Observation:** About 265 observers were selected and deployed across the eleven LGAs in both Central and Western senatorial districts of Ogun state. After completing a one-day training on election observation for selected staff, the Commission received INEC materials and other provisions for the welfare of the observers. Field observers reported anomalies such as vote-buying at the polls.
- **Prison Apostolate:** In line with the social and pastoral mission of the Church, the Commission, along with the Bishop, Most Rev. Peter Olukayode Odetoyinbo, undertook advocacy visits to the three correctional centres in Abeokuta Diocese. The visits saw the celebration of the Mass, catechesis sessions for inmates, distribution of relief materials to inmates, and advocacy visits to the controller of prisons. A remarkable outcome of the prison apostolate by the JDPM was the release of some inmates following the successful negotiations between the Commission and the state government.



Most Rev. Peter Olukayode Odetoyinbo with members of the JDPM after a visit to Ibara correctional facility

- **Parish JDPM Activities:** The Diocesan Commission has continued to ensure that parish JDPM membership is strengthened. This is being achieved through periodic trainings, workshops, and seminars organized for over 250 members across 35 parishes in the Diocese, to strengthen their capacity. In the year under review, interventions were carried out as follows: Peace and conflict resolution, Child rights protection, Women empowerment, HIV/AIDS treatment services, and Anti-Human Trafficking activities.
- **Food Security and Livelihoods Intervention:** As a way of mitigating food insecurity posed by poverty and a reduction in economic activities, the JDPM organized a oneday workshop for parishes on best agronomic practices. On the other hand, the Commission in collaboration with GIZ – a German cooperation, organized capacity building symposia for selected farmers in the Diocese.



A cross section of farmers after the workshop

- **Micro-credit Scheme:** The micro-credit unit of the Commission seeks to improve human well-being, reduce poverty level, and bring about holistic and sustainable empowerment of the communities, especially among low income men and women. In the year under review, loan disbursement, savings and repayments were prompt, as efforts were made to recover outstanding loans. Steps were also taken to fund the unit in order to better serve the interest of the less privileged in the society.

Challenges

- Lack of manpower and funding
- Inadequate staffing

JDPC IJEBU-ODE DIOCESE

For the Justice, Development and Peace Commission of Ijebu-Ode Diocese, the year 2019 started off with training of 360 election observers for the 2019 General Elections. The elections' observation report has since been submitted to the Electoral Commission. Prior to the elections, the Commission had organized town hall meetings between governorship/senatorial and their constituents, as well advocacy visits to stakeholders towards mobilizing for the elections. These were followed by other activities reported as follows:

- **Good Governance:** In a bid to ensure an increased participation of indigenes in governance, the Commission collaborated with civil societies and academia in Ogun State to organize symposia among which included 'Do not Leave Us Behind' and 'Localizing the SDGs at the Sub-national Level'. To further achieve inclusive governance in the state, the Commission made recommendations to the state government for Public Private Partnership (PPP/P3) as a means of attaining effective citizen consultation and engagement. Likewise, there were advocacy visits to the state government for the passage of the Disability Bill and to appeal the inclusion of qualified persons living with disability in employment within the state. In addition, the Commission, in collaboration with partners such as Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) and Balance Measure Initiative, organized several stakeholder meetings to discuss issues pertaining to the welfare of the indigenes.
- **Conflict Resolution:** The Commission mediated in brewing conflicts in various communities within the Diocese. One of such interventions was in the land dispute between farmers in Isomu/Ijebu North East and the state government, after the latter reported forceful displacement from their farm lands by the state government. Similarly, the

Commission partnered with Peace Coordinators in planning the International Human Rights Day amongst other activities for the 2019 academic calendar.

- **Educational Activities:** The Commission facilitated the International Youth Day celebration for students, Human Rights education, International Children's Day to mention a few. Additionally, sexual and domestic violence sensitization sessions were facilitated for school children.
- **Legal Aid:** In the year under review, the Commission settled over fifty cases that concerned juveniles, victims of human rights abuse, detainees on awaiting trial, farmers, refugees etc. Legal assistance was also offered to inmates of Ijebu-Ode correctional facility. On the other hand, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) method was adopted to handle marital, inheritance, land, and landlord-tenancy disputes. It is worth mentioning that most of the aforementioned disputes were resolved by the trained paralegal in communities.
- **Gender-Based Activities:** These included deepening and strengthening women's leadership capacity by providing them with relevant trainings to help them to speak up against issues regarding violence. There were also advocacy visits to key government officials for more women positions in government. The Commission, in collaboration with the Coalition of Women Associations in Ogun State (COWAOS), organized awareness campaigns against gender-based violence. Copies of the Violence against Persons' law was also simplified and produced.
- **Diocesan Agricultural Development Program (DADP):** The program sought to address food insecurity through the empowerment of farmers. A major outcome in the year was the Commission's collaboration with Cocoa Research Institute Ibadan, and Root & Tuber Expansion Programme, Ijebu-Ife. The collaboration resulted in increased capacity for management of cocoa plantation, establishment of improved variety seedlings of cocoa nursery, planting and proliferation of large quantity of cassava for farmers etc.
- **Environmental Education:** In furtherance to emphasis made over the years to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of community members to the hazardous effects of climate change, such as erosion, conflicts arising from resource control, low productivity in both livestock and crops, series of environment-friendly activities like green manuring, zero tolerance to chemical fertilizer and pesticides/herbicides, minimized bush burning etc. were embarked upon. Consequently, the Commission, with the support of Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme (OGADEP), undertook a vigorous tree-planting campaign in 10 communities to further build on previous successes.
- **Capacity Building Trainings for Farmers:** The Commission organized an intensive training in fish production and management for fish farmer groups. A similar training was equally organized for individuals who desired to have snail farms as a means for diversification. A number of other agricultural activities were recorded viz: formation and training of a snail farming group comprising persons living with disability, quarterly peaceful coexistence meetings of herdsmen and farmers in the 9 LGAs, establishment of young farmers' clubs etc.

JDPC LAGOS ARCHDIOCESE

In the year under review, the Justice, Development and Peace Centre (JDPC) of the Archdiocese of Lagos, which currently exists in 122 parishes grouped into fifteen 15 deaneries, carried out the following activities through its thematic areas of intervention namely: Human Rights, Anti-Human Trafficking, Prison Welfare, and Legal Aid, Democracy and Good Governance, Integral Human Development, and Gender Mainstreaming:

- **Human Rights, Anti-Human Trafficking, Prison Welfare, and Legal Aid Programs:** The Commission facilitated the release and empowerment of 58 prisoners, carried out human rights sensitization programs in communities, successfully resolved conflicts, donated relief materials to correctional centres, provided legal aid to indigent lay faithful, and reintegrated and empowered 700 returnee migrants.
- **Democracy and Good Governance Program:** Prior to the 2019 General Elections, the Commission engaged in election sensitization campaigns, organized town hall meetings with law makers, mobilized and trained election observers for the elections, held a seminar on right leadership in Nigeria, and participated in a workshop on participatory budgeting for community leaders.
- **Integral Health and Well-being Program:** As part of its contributions to ensure the well-being of the masses, the Commission organized key health-related workshops and seminars, organized medical outreaches, carried out free testing services for a number of health conditions such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, Blood Pressure, eye defects etc., and offset the medical bills of some less privileged persons.
- **Integrated Empowerment Development Program:** In the year under review, the empowerment initiative of the Commission enhanced the livelihoods and living conditions of the needy. Small scale farmers, unemployed men and women, indigent students, and female-headed households, persons with disabilities, benefitted from the empowerment activities of the Commission. In addition, 350 women and girls in Makoko, Yaba, were trained on the cook-stove model.
- **Gender Mainstreaming Program:** The Commission was greatly committed to the cause of eliminating gender-based violence in the Archdiocese. Some of the activities carried out under its Gender Mainstreaming program included; community sensitization campaign and symposium to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, school sensitization program to mark the International Day of the Girl child, and staff training on effective response to sexual and gender-based violence.

Challenge

- Insufficient resources for program implementation.

ONITSHA PROVINCE

The Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas Commission of Onitsha Ecclesiastical Province (JDPC/OEP) covers seven Dioceses namely: Abakaliki, Awgu, Awka, Enugu, Nnewi, and Nsukka Dioceses, and Onitsha Archdiocese. The commission is under the auspices of the Metropolitan Archbishop, Most Rev. Valerian Okeke. In the year under review, all the activities carried out for the social welfare of the needy were in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

PROVINCIAL REPORT

SDGs Targets	Activities
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p><u>Christmas with the sick</u> Delivering on its mandate of ensuring the well-being of all, especially the needy, the Provincial office marked Christmas festivities in a motherless home and offered financial support for the treatment of an abandoned child, who was battling bone infection.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p><u>Campaign against Domestic Violence</u> The Provincial Office in conjunction with the African Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) carried out an Advocacy for the freedom of women and children from domestic violence.</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p><u>Climate Change Mitigation</u> As part of its efforts geared at mitigating climate change, the Province participated in a workshop organized by the National office on the Cookstove initiative. Cook-stove advocates the use of stones as an energy-saving and climate friendly means of cooking, rather than the traditional methods.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p><u>Roofing of the Provincial Office Complex</u> The JDPC/OEP office complex which has been fully constructed last year was finally roofed in November this year.</p>
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p><u>Lenten Campaign Flag-off</u> Enugu Diocese hosted the year's Lenten Campaign flag-off under the auspices of the Bishop of Enugu Diocese, Most Rev. Callistus Onaga, who reiterated his fraternal and financial support to the Province at the event.</p>
	<p>Challenges Lack of funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor cooperation among the diocesan JDPCs. • Lack of adequate capacity building avenues. • Poor staff strength. • Lack of a means of transportation. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy and exchange of ideas among the diocesan Commissions. There is need to create a project at the provincial level which would be jointly owned by all the Dioceses.

JDPC ABAKALIKI DIOCESE

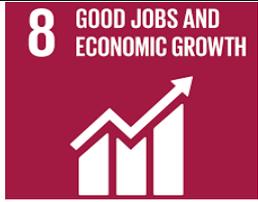
SDGs Targets	Activities
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p><u>Economic Empowerment</u> Through a micro credit loan scheme otherwise known as PROMIC (Promotion of Micro enterprise), the Commission successfully empowered 185 women in 3 rural parishes. The coming year would see more persons participate in the scheme through their parishes.</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p><u>Social Welfare</u> A number of the indigent persons had their hospital bills, food, clothing and various financial needs met through the Caritas desk of the Commission.</p> <p><u>Agricultural Activities</u> In order to boost agricultural activities within the Diocese, the Commission organized sensitization campaigns on the need to embrace agriculture. Small scale farmers were granted loans under the PROMIC (Promoting Micro enterprises) scheme. The initiative was in line with the <i>Feed the State and Nation for Year 2020</i> program.</p>
	<p><u>Campaign against Drug Abuse</u></p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p><u>Campaign against Drug Abuse</u> JDPC Abakaliki partnered with Ebonyi State National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to sensitize students about the effects of illicit use of hard drugs.</p> <p>Correspondingly, as part of its efforts of ensuring good health and wellbeing of the people within the Diocese, the Commission partnered with health facilities within and outside the state to treat chronic skin and organ conditions. All the cases were further rehabilitated and reconciled with their families. Similarly, a couple of them were offered educational support.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p><u>Gender Equality Sensitization</u> In line with goal 5 of the SDGs, the Commission organized gender equality sensitization campaigns and workshops around schools and communities, with the aim of addressing gender issues and inequalities.</p>
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p><u>Hygiene Intervention</u> To meet the water and sanitation needs of indigenes, JDPC Abakaliki, with the support of a donor, provided potable water in targeted rural communities.</p>

	<p><u>Peace Building/Conflict Resolution</u> The Commission brokered 65 conflicts in the year under review, and was at the head of the Izzi/Ikwo Peace Committee set up by the Bishop. In addition, the Diocese mobilized relief materials to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the Izzi-Ikwo conflict.</p> <p><u>Anti-Human Trafficking</u> Over 40 cases of human rights violation were handled in the year under review, with about 10 others still in court.</p>
	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate funding. • Low sensitization and capacity for tackling human trafficking and conflict management.

JDPC AWGU DIOCESE

SDGs Targets	Activities
	<p><u>Economic Empowerment</u> The Commission granted loans to indigent rural farmers to boost their agricultural activities for greater food production and sustainability. Thus, the initiative drastically reduced poverty, unemployment and hunger.</p>
	<p><u>International Women's Day Celebration</u> JDPC Awgu marked the International Women's Day and International Day against Female Genital Mutilation with activities geared towards creating adequate awareness about gender equality and obliteration of genital mutilation.</p>
	<p><u>Prison Apostolate</u> In line with the social teaching of the Church, the Commission, with the support of the Bishop, Most Rev. Michael Okoro, extended material and spiritual support to inmates of Oji River correctional centre.</p>
	<p>To achieve the SGDs, JDPC Awgu partnered with development agencies of the Church to realize the goals that resonate with its mission. In a similar vein, the Commission hosted the meeting of Diocesan Directors.</p>
	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor funding. • Poor patronage of the Diocese's health insurance scheme.

JDPC AWKA DIOCESE

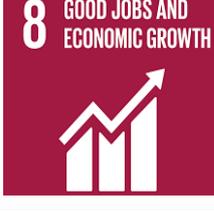
SDGs Targets	Activities
 <p>8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>The economic empowerment project of the Commission, CEDI (Community Empowerment and Development Initiative), strengthened the livelihoods of 40 women who successfully completed the project's skill acquisition training on tailoring. Each of the participants received business start-up packs such as sewing machine and other tailoring items.</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>The Commission participated in a training-of-trainers workshop on Cook-stove initiative organized by the National office in consultation with the Nigeria Climate Change Mitigation Initiative (CCMAI).</p>
 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>As part of its efforts in sustaining life on land, the Commission cultivated 5,000 yam seedlings at Ogbaru, 5,000 suckers of plantain, and owns a massive rice farm at Ugwuoba all located within the Diocese.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>Delivering on its mandate of promoting good governance and ensuring strong institutions, the Commission, in collaboration with INEC, trained and deployed over 300 election observers to polling units within the Diocese during the 2019 General Elections. Likewise, the Commission partnered with the National office and the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) to implement the Community and Legislative Interactive Platform (CLIP) project for improved citizens' engagement with their elected representatives.</p>
 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>JDPC Awka collaborated with other Dioceses, community-based organizations, and other donors such as World Mercy Fund, CAFOD, and HIFA Nigeria Foundation to implement activities related to specific SDGs.</p>
	<p>Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of agricultural projects and loss of products and investments owing to flood disaster.

JDPC ENUGU DIOCESE

SDGs Targets	Activities
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Through the PROMIC (Promotion of Micro enterprise) program, the Commission supported a number of women with loans to improve their food security and livelihoods.</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>Following the conclusion of the training-of-trainers workshop on Cookstove initiative, a step-down training was conducted for rural women on the use of stones as an effective method of cooking.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>To strengthen governance structures and boost citizen participation in governance, JDPC Enugu organized sensitization workshops on election and electioneering, trained and deployed election observers ahead of the 2019 General Elections, and organized town hall meetings for the political candidates ahead of the elections. Correspondingly, tax monitors in the state were trained on best practices that curb tax invasion and double taxation on the informal sector.</p>
	<p>Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding.

JDPC NNEWI DIOCESE

SDGs Targets	Activities
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p><u>Micro-credit loan/PROMIC Program</u></p> <p>The program, Promotion of Micro-credit enterprise (PROMIC), seeks to improve the livelihoods of poor, active market women. The scheme is divided into two phases; PROMIC microfinance I which covers parishes in Ekwusigo and Ihiala LGAs, and PROMIC Microfinance II which covers parishes in Nnewi South and Nnewi North LGAs in the community. Delivering on its goal of strengthening livelihoods, the program saw the improvement of the economic conditions of a total of 2,292 women.</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>With the support of His Lordship, Most Rev. Hilary Odili Okeke, the Commission reached out to the indigent and vulnerable with basic needs. This is achieved through programs designed to provide the feed the hungry; one of such programs is 'Christmas for the Poor and Needy', an annual event which gathers indigent persons from communities to experience the share in the joy of Christ's birth, expressed in the distribution of food items.</p>

 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>In a bid to support health care delivery in Anambra state, the Commission, along with COMEN, engaged the Anambra State Primary Health care Development Agency (ASPHDA), to access the pressing needs of the agency for improved health care delivery.</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>The Commission partnered with donors who are passionate about education, to grant scholarships to indigent students from foundational level to higher institution.</p>
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>The Commission has continued to advocate for gender equality through its programs. Using radio for mass coverage, the Commission spearheaded a radio program on International Women's Day, 8th March, which focused on the women's participation in government.</p>
 <p>8 GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>In line with its commitment to contribute to the growth of the nation's economy, the Commission has empowered ten youths of the Diocese with tricycles to support their livelihood activities.</p>
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p><u>Commemoration of World Environment Day</u> Diocesan and Parish JDPCs marked the World Environmental Day by organizing the sanitation of market places and other strategic places.</p>
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p><u>Conflict Resolution</u> Through the Conflict and Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (CADREP) of the commission, there has been peaceful coexistence in communities as issues such as marriage, land, and inter-community disputes, have been resolved.</p> <p><u>Prison Apostolate</u> The commission reached out to inmates of Nnewi correctional facility with food and non-food items as a way of promoting inclusiveness and social welfare in society.</p>

	<p><u>Collaboration and Networking</u> JDPC Nnewi collaborated with a network of partners at international, national, state and local levels to achieve the aforementioned goals. Some of the partners include among others: the Department for International Development (DFiD), Christian Aid (CA), Action Aid (AA), International Budget Partnership (IBP), OXFAM, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Centre for Law Enforcement Education in Nigeria (CLEEN) Foundation, International Budget Partnership, and Policy Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC).</p>
	<p>Challenge Insufficient funding.</p>

JDPC NSUKKA DIOCESE

	<p><u>Caritas Desk</u> Through the Caritas Desk of JDPC Nsukka, shelter was provided for an indigent widow in one of the communities. The desk equally took care of the food needs of over 200 persons.</p>
	<p><u>World Day of the Poor</u> The World Day of the Poor, which was declared by the Holy Father, Pope Francis in the year 2017, aligns with the UN's goal of eradicating hunger by 2030. In the year under review, the Commission carried out activities which correspond with this goal among which was the distribution of food items to 140 indigent households at the occasion of the celebration of the World Day of the Poor.</p>
	<p><u>Scholarship Scheme</u> In the year under review, JDPC Nsukka provided scholarships to indigent students across the Diocese irrespective of their faith. 10 students were awarded scholarship to cover their secondary education in various Catholic schools across the Diocese.</p>
	<p>To achieve the aforementioned goals, the Commission partnered with other diocesan Commission, CAFOD, Open-Hand Foundation (SwissHand), and Simeon Ozor Foundation.</p>
	<p>Challenge Paucity of funds.</p>

JDPC ONITSHA ARCHDIOCESE

	<p><u>Micro credit Scheme</u> This scheme has been sustained over time, reaching more than 6,000 people in Anambra state. JDPC Onitsha over the years partners with three human development promoters to improve the living conditions of people in 10 LGAs in Anambra state.</p>
	<p><u>JDPC Care for the Child Scheme</u> The school runs scheme of the Commission which started in 2005, has continued to see to the transportation of school children to and fro various schools in Onitsha. The scheme currently has two buses which conveys a total of 45 children to and fro school on a daily basis.</p> <p><u>World Day against Child Labour</u> Parish JDPCs in Aguleri and Igbariam communities marked the World Day against Child Labour. The diocesan Commission seized the opportunity to carry out sensitization activities in the aforementioned regions.</p> <p><u>International Youth Day (IYD)</u> JDPC Onitsha partnered with youth-led organizations, NGOs and CSOs in Anambra State to organize the first ever International Youth Day in Anambra State.</p> <p><u>World Humanitarian Day</u> To mark this day, JDPC Onitsha visited Rex Universorum Hospital, Mmiata-Anam to support about 7 in-patients with their medical bills.</p>
	<p><u>Cook-stove Initiative</u> Sequel to the Cook-stove train-the-trainers workshop at the provincial level, the Commission trickled down the output of the workshop to its staff and mapped out target communities, which would be sensitized and trained on the use of firewood and stones to reduce carbon emission into the atmosphere, in alignment with the thirteenth goal of the SDGs.</p>
	<p><u>Peace Building and Conflict Resolution</u> The Commission deploys Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism to resolve conflict and injustices, with the aim of restoring peace in conflict situations.</p> <p><u>Flag-off of Lenten Campaign</u> In the year under review, the Commission carried out massive Lenten Campaigns across the Archdiocese with a view to soliciting for alms for the needy. Similarly, the Commission offered education and medical support, as well as economic empowerment and feeding, to those most in need.</p>

<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>The above stated goals were realized through partnership with donor agencies such as the Centre for Orientation, Discovery and Empowerment (DeCODE), Christian Aid, Hope Givers Initiative (HOGI), and Civil Rights Concern (CRC), and stakeholders at state and local levels.</p>
	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paucity of funds for program activities at national and local levels. • Economic instability and unpredictable inflation. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is need for parish JDPCs to establish result-oriented projects and programs. <p>The principle of subsidiarity and solidarity should be applied as the basis of empowerment, poverty alleviation and social inclusion interventions.</p>
	<p>Next Step</p> <p>To expand the good governance program to all the communities in 10 LGAs under the Archdiocese.</p>

OWERRI PROVINCE

The Province consists of Owerri Archdiocese, Aba, Ahiara, Okigwe, Orlu, and Umuahia Dioceses. Activities within the Province are reported herewith.

- **Formation of Parish JDPCs:** The year recorded intensified campaigns for the establishment of parish JDPC, which integrates skills acquisition training and some levels of empowerment. A total of 111 parish JDPCs have been formed across the Dioceses.
- **Good Governance Programs:** The Province engaged in several good governance activities such as awareness creation, town hall meetings, outreaches, electoral education, mass media sensitization, etc. In a bid to achieve maximum publicity and effectiveness, the Commission partnered with a number of stakeholders including the National Orientation Agency (NOA), media, academia, and legal luminaries. In addition, volunteers were mobilized from across the Dioceses and trained to observe the 2019 General Elections.
- **Prison Apostolate:** In the year under review, the Commissions in Aba, Okigwe, Owerri, and Umuahia Dioceses distributed food items to inmates in correctional facilities located in their respective jurisdictions. Similarly, in line with its resolve to ensure justice and fairness for all, the Diocese of Umuahia, under the leadership of Most Rev. Lucius I. Ugorji, commissioned a Law office to provide legal aid to prisoners. Worth mentioning is JDPC Okigwe's partnership with Catholic Lawyers to effect the release of about 9 inmates, and its commitment to pastoral services evident in the construction of a Chaplaincy in Okigwe Federal correctional centre.
- **Partnership and Networking:** The year under review saw committed partnerships with development partners, government parastatals, donor agencies, and the National office.
- **Conflict Resolution:** All Diocesan Commissions in the Province were actively involved in resolving conflicts in various communities and restoring peace and harmony in same.
- **Social Welfare:** Through the European Union-funded Care project, Diocesan Commissions within the Province reached out internally displaced persons, including indigenes who fled from South Africa's xenophobic attacks.
- **Economic Empowerment:** The Commissions in Owerri and Ahiara Arch/dioceses engaged in a micro-credit scheme, which sought to boost livelihoods and reduce poverty level in communities, through the disbursement of loans to a number of small business owners and start-up loans to indigent persons.
- **Domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):** In the year under review, the Province aligned its activities with Goals 1 and 2 of the SDGs: No poverty and Zero Hunger, through its agricultural activities. Similarly, Okigwe Diocese set out to implement activities geared at combating climate change based on Goal 13, Climate Action. In line with the advice of His Lordship, Most Rev. Lucius I. Ugorji, the coming year would see a scale-up of agricultural activities across the Province.

- **Health Intervention:** In order to effectively respond to the health needs of the people, Ahiara Diocesan Commission trained auxiliary nurses in the Diocese and supported with the procurement of an ambulance.
- **Meetings:** The Province held its quarterly meetings with all Diocesan Coordinators in attendance. In addition, the Annual General Meeting of the JDPC and first Annual General Meeting of the Church and Society department organized by the National office, had all the Coordinators in attendance.
- **Budget Proposal for the Year 2020:** In a bid to achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, poverty reduction, and mitigate climate alteration through various empowerment avenues, the Commissions resolved to intensify capacity-building, participate actively in the National office's Cook-stove initiative aimed at curbing the impacts of climate, and establish Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) with the support of the National office.
- **Partnership Reinforcement:** The year under review saw a commendable synergy between the JDPC and other units of the Church and Society department namely: Education, Family & Human Life, and Health units. To further strengthen this partnership, the Province organized an Annual General Meeting of its Church and Society department, sequel to the conclusion of the national Annual General Meeting.
- **Renovation of the Provincial Office:** The need to maintain a conducive work environment necessitated the renovation of the partly decrepit temporary Provincial office.

Challenges

- Inadequate personnel.
- Dearth of funds.
- Mobility constraint.
- Lack of a permanent Provincial office.

Next Steps

- Training of parishes on the formation of JDPC.
- Training on cook-stove model.
- Capacity-building trainings for priests and staff of the Commissions.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As a national agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Caritas Nigeria coordinates fifty-seven (57) Diocesan Caritas organizations networked together across the 36 States and the FCT, established to support the humanitarian and development mission of the Catholic Church in Nigeria. For financial information on individual diocesan organizations, please refer to their own websites. The financial information provided here is based on Caritas Nigeria's financial year 2017 – 2018 (October 2017 – September 2018), as indicated in the most recent audit report of the organization.

The national office of Caritas Nigeria provides coordination and support to the diocesan structures. It is funded by contributions from member organizations, grants from donor agencies, philanthropists and through private donations. The following projects were funded by the donors to reach those most in need in the 2019 fiscal year. Caritas Nigeria's finances are reviewed annually by an external auditor and a full report can be accessed on www.caritasnigeria.org.

PROJECT CODE NAME	SUMMARY	INCOME (₦)	EXPENDITURES (₦)
CORE	Caritas Nigeria CORE funds are received through the diocesan Lenten collections, parish collections, donations from individuals and corporate bodies.	146,984,614.81	133,853,396.89
4GATES	The Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) project is funded by the United States Government through the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC). The project aims at implementing comprehensive HIV care, treatment and prevention services in target States of Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo.	2,070,502,063.43	2,070,502,063.43
CAFOD	This is an Institutional Capacity Strengthening project funded by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).	45,911,363.84	40,408,327.73
E.C. Zaman Tare	The European Commission - sponsored project through CAFOD is for peace building. The project is implemented in Kaduna and Plateau States.	24,447,039.04	27,957,486.19
PMD Pro	The Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) is a training facilitated by Caritas Nigeria in collaboration with APMG Group.	3,434,761.65	2,215,748.95
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) funded Caritas Nigeria for the implementation of some humanitarian interventions in the North-East Nigeria.	41,866,008.00	54,384,839.31
German MFA	The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Building Cash-Readiness of Local and National Humanitarian Responders project in Lake Chad Basin.	211,535,784.50	211,535,784.50

Norway MFA	The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency/Early Recovery Food Security and Livelihoods project for communities affected Borno and Adamawa States.	237,495,393.90	237,495,393.90
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance for the Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State.	160,243,352.00	160,243,352.00
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance in the North East of Nigeria.	163,720,332.64	163,720,332.64
SMAT-P	With the support of the Catholic Bishops of Italy, Caritas Nigeria successfully completed the first year of an Anti- human Trafficking project titled Sustainable Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT - P).		28,581,277.31
GLOBAL FUND		164,396,629.22	166,967,877.82
GIZ		193,443,830.00	-
PEOPLE project		7,523,749.15	6,822,928.22
TOTAL		3,471,504,922.18	3,304,688,808.89

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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