

CARITAS NIGERIA/JDPC

2018 | ANNUAL REPORT



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CARITAS NIGERIA

Caritas Nigeria was established in September 2010 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), as the specialized national development agency with a mandate for overall coordination of development programs for the Catholic Church in Nigeria. Although independently registered, Caritas Nigeria is an arm of the Church and Society Department of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN). **The legal name of the organization is Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), however it is generally known as Caritas Nigeria.**

The Catholic Church in Nigeria has a total of 56 dioceses grouped into 9 provinces which cover the entire geographical spread of Nigeria. Caritas Nigeria serves as the umbrella organization supporting these regional institutions to implement development-oriented programs based on local needs. At the Diocesan and Provincial levels, Caritas Nigeria works with the existing structures of Church and Society; Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas (JDPC), Health, Family and Human Life etc., to execute programs impacting on human life and dignity. Caritas Nigeria also partners with relevant CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, NGOs and Government agencies to implement programs in various states.

As part of the universal mission of the Church, Caritas Nigeria targets beneficiaries on the basis of rights and need, and not based on creed, race or nationality.

The Catholic Church is known to be one of the oldest and greatest institutions in the world providing in addition to spiritual growth, access to good education, healthcare delivery services and humanitarian assistance to the poor, vulnerable and excluded persons regardless of race or religion. In Nigeria, the Catholic Church has 1,384 Health facilities and 375 schools mostly spread across hard-to-reach communities in the 36 states of Nigeria and CCFN works with other Church Structures and relevant agencies to provide underserved groups/communities access to these services.

The pioneer Executive Secretary/National Director of Caritas Nigeria & JDPC, Rev. Fr. Evaristus Bassey (Ph.D), bowed out of office in December 2018, having served for eight years through the laudable interventions and development programmes which he nurtured right from the establishment of the organization in 2010. In appreciation of the phenomenal milestones and successes recorded by Caritas Nigeria under his iconic leadership, the Board, Staff, partners and friends of Caritas Nigeria converged on December 19, 2018, to honour Rev. Fr. Evaristus Bassey with a graceful send-off ceremony.

To keep aglow the dream of leading Caritas Nigeria to greater heights, Rev. Fr. Evaristus Bassey passed on the mantle of leadership to his deputy, Revd. Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina. Within months of assuming office as the Executive Secretary/CEO of Caritas Nigeria and National Director of the JDPC, the Catholic Church in Nigeria through her specialized agency for reaching out to people most in need – Caritas Nigeria – has impacted many lives through her Health/HIV, Humanitarian Services/Emergency Response, Anti-Human Trafficking, and Good Governance, Institutional Capacity Strengthening interventions.

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



"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (Jn. 10: 10).

During his earthly ministry, Jesus proclaimed the Word of God, fed the hungry, cured the sick, gave sight to blind, cast out demons etc. Through these activities, he brought relief to the distressed and thus gave them fullness of life. At the end of his earthly ministry, he founded the church to continue his mission of giving life in its fullness to all who need it. The fullness of life that Jesus brought is without discrimination of any sort. It however had a bias towards the poor – what is what is called in theological jargon "preferential option for the poor".

The loving care of God for the less privileged is the characteristic of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Thus the church is under moral obligation to practice charity. And for this service of charity to be effective, it needs to be ordered, hence, Caritas Nigeria which is the church's relief and development agency, the arm which makes the gospel a reality in the lives of people especially those on the periphery of life.

It is worthy of note that this ministry of charity is as essential to the life of the church as it is the ministry of Sacrament and preaching of the Word. The church cannot, therefore, neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 22). In other words, works of charity are part and parcel of the life and ministry of the church. Be that as it may, Caritas Nigeria needs to be empowered by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) to fulfil its mandate. For as Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI said, "The entire activity of the church is an expression of love that seeks the integral good of man ... Love is, therefore, the service that the church carries out in order to attend constantly to man's suffering and his needs, including material needs" (ibid. 19).

In keeping with the Master's mandate, the church has always responded to the needs of the poor and marginalized (cf. Acts 6:1-6) and she does it at three levels, namely, the personal, the organized and the structural. These three levels of the church's response to situations of human needs and suffering exist in varying degrees in Caritas Nigeria. This said, the structural response which deals with the root causes of situations that lead to or create human suffering should, in our considered view, constitute the main thrust of Caritas Nigeria without, of course, neglecting the other two forms of response. This is because, as the old adage has it, prevention is better than cure.

Yes, responding to emergencies is the core mandate of Caritas Nigeria and like the previous years, emergency situations in the country during the year under review were many as will be seen in the report: continued insurgency in the north-east; cattle rustling, banditry and kidnappings in the north-west; farmers/herders clashes in the north-central; and ethnic and political clashes in some parts of the country. In keeping with its core mandate, these emergencies were responded to within available resources. We note with joy, the hundreds of

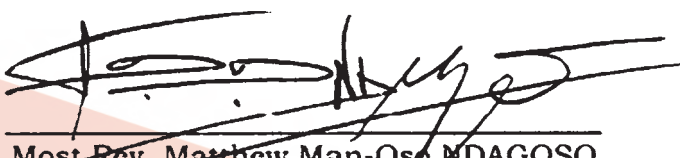
thousands of lives that have been positively touched throughout the length and breadth of our country through Caritas Nigeria. We are deeply indebted to our foreign partners and local friends of Caritas Nigeria for the confidence reposed in it, thus enabling it to do the things it does.

The church has always worked in partnership with governments at all levels and all people of goodwill for the common good especially in the areas of education, healthcare, provision of social amenities such as potable water through drilling of boreholes and well-digging. The 2018 report of Caritas Nigeria that you have in your hands testifies to this partnerships. I call on governments at all levels in our country to partner with Caritas Nigeria especially in the provision of relief materials in emergency situations given its pedigree in this area. If foreign governments and NGOs are partnering with the church for the good of our people, why not our own governments whose duty it is to provide the basic necessities of life for its citizens?

On behalf of the CBCN, I thank the Management and Staff of Caritas Nigeria for their commitment and dedication to the service of the needy in our country. We are not oblivious of the fact that some of them put their lives on the line to provide for the needy especially in conflict zones. I appeal to my brother bishops, priests and religious, and indeed all the faithful of our local church to do more to help Caritas Nigeria effectively fulfil its mandate, especially in the area of quick response in emergency situations. It is my sincere hope and prayer that this annual report will give the reader a good insight into the work of Caritas Nigeria and a resolve to support it.

It is the responsibility of all the faithful of our local church – the clergy, the religious and the lay faithful – to make our local church's ministry of charity effective. In this vein, I wish to gently remind my brother bishops that it is our responsibility and particular mission to encourage and confirm the priests, the religious and the lay faithful in their responsibility in this regard.

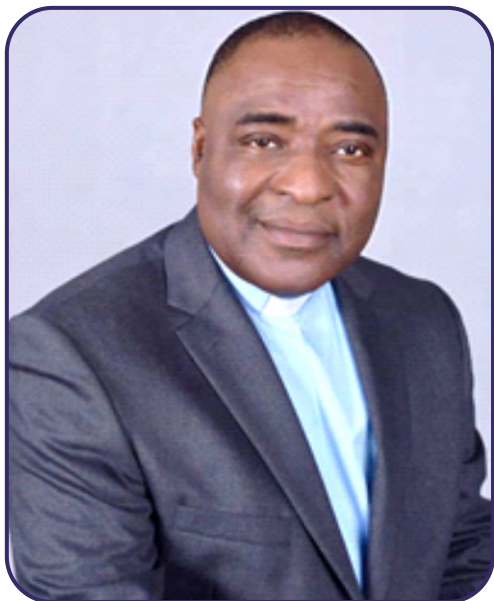
I am pleased to present this annual report to you, our esteemed readers, for your kind perusal, reflection and action where necessary. Read on.



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

2018: A Year in Review

PREAMBLE



For Nigeria, 2018 was a year of special focus, fraught with a plethora of challenges. The Herdsmen crisis in Kaduna and Benue spiked in its toll with numerous casualties; Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast continued its 9th year unholy campaign with over 500 deaths arising from several attacks; a diminishing economy has become the fertile catalyst for a typhoon of unemployed youths, further breeding vulnerability in the affected populace; a deathless gap in infrastructure scared off even more investors and further undervalued domestic production, earning Nigeria an arguably ghastly position as the poverty capital of the world; natural disasters such as flash floods rendered many households in the Niger River Basin (Kogi, Anambra, and Benue) homeless; barefaced corruption further widened the remorseless gorge between the rich and the poor.

In the mire of all the challenges named above, Caritas Nigeria demonstrated her commitment to love and charity, especially in her option for the poor. Benedict XVI wrote in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*: “Charity is the main path of the Church's social doctrine. Every responsibility and commitment outlined by this doctrine is attuned to charity which, according to Jesus' teaching, is the synthesis of all the Law”. On the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Pope Francis said that charity is central to the Church's mission, and we are called to share it with the world, especially those in need. Optimal human development remained the framework by which Caritas Nigeria's interventions in 2018 worked, thus, inching even closer to achieving fullness of life for everyone.

A Walk through our Projects...

Emergency & Humanitarian Response

In the wake of the protracted crisis in the North-east caused by the Boko Haram insurgency, Caritas Nigeria, with the support of her funders, came through with a number of Humanitarian and Emergency projects to more than 294,210 most vulnerable persons, regardless of the aforesaid challenges that plagued the country in the past one year. The overarching strategy to offer emergency support to disaster-affected population as well as Early Recovery and Transitional Aid to vulnerable population, so as to improve their resilience. The Emergency Relief responses by Caritas Member Organizations targeted the most vulnerable persons affected by Boko Haram insurgency in Borno State; Caritas Germany's Livelihoods project sought to address the livelihood needs of households affected by the Boko Haram insurgency; the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs Food Security and Livelihoods project which addressed the food needs of vulnerable persons in select LGAs in Adamawa and Borno States.

The Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Dry Season and Rainy Season Seeds Distribution projects reached households with agricultural inputs and water pumps and saw the distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers respectively; the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Emergency/Early Recovery Assistance project responded to the food needs of those

affected by the crisis; UNICEF's Nutrition project seethed the nutritional needs of children and women; the Malteser WASH project greatly improved IDPs access to basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and safe practices in Michika and Madagali LGAs; Caritas Member Organizations Rapid Response and UNHCR's Protection projects targeted at addressing the basic needs of Cameroonian Refugees taking shelter in South-south Nigeria.

Health

The year 2018 saw the continuation of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) HIV program. With the completion of the five-year SUSTAIN (Sustainable HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Action in Nigeria) program in September 2017 in 12 States, Caritas Nigeria proceeded with the implementation of another 5-year HIV program, 4GATES (Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria) which is implemented in 4 States: Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo. Under the 4GATES project, many persons have been reached with testing services, who were identified as positives were commenced on Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART), pregnant women have benefitted from the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV component.

Similarly, in a bid to strengthen the engagement of Faith Based Organizations in HIV, Caritas Nigeria partnered with Caritas Internationalis and the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) to train selected Catholic Priests and Religious leaders from across the Northern, Southern and Western regions to use their capacity to change the narrative about HIV transmission; the Galvanizing Religious leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to Pediatric anti-retroviral therapy (GRAIL) project funded by PEPFAR through Caritas Internationalis, was introduced to steer this course. This strategy was intended to achieve HIV prevention as well as effective treatment for infected children, help reduce stigma, and promote better adherence treatment to ART drugs among persons diagnosed with HIV.

In a similar vein, Caritas Nigeria undertook a medical outreach exercise for Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State, in commemoration of the Global Week of Action for Share the Journey Migration Campaign. Our team of Clinicians were deployed to the State to conduct medical tests on over 800 Refugees. Drugs and infusions were distributed to the affected Refugees. To further demonstrate love of neighbor and the essence of communal living, Caritas Nigeria organized the Shared Meal activity where she feasted with the Refugees, following the example of Christ who feasts with men and fasts alone. This activity was in line with Caritas Internationalis week-long activities of welcoming and integrating migrants in our midst.

Good Governance and Social Responsibility

The Church's soothing voice has truly become expedient in these times when our dear country is faced with threats of conflicts and violence. The Good Governance unit of Caritas Nigeria and the diocesan Caritas have continued to ensure a peaceful co-existence among the citizens. More so, through the various projects implemented in the year under review such as the European Union's Action for Cultural and Religious Pluralism and the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development's (CAFOD) Legislative Advocacy, there has been an improvement in citizens' interaction with their elected representatives and participation in the decision-making processes of the Houses of Assembly, as well as an improved religious and cultural tolerance among the citizens. While Legislative Advocacy was implemented in Awka (Anambra State), Kogi and Plateau States, Action for Cultural and Religious Pluralism was implemented in Kaduna and Plateau States.

Anti-Human Trafficking

With the disturbing rate of forced migration and human trafficking cases across the country, Caritas Nigeria's Anti-Human Trafficking unit, which exists to address the menace of trafficking in persons within and outside the country, oversaw the implementation of the CAT-SaM (Campaign on Anti-human Trafficking and Safe Migration) project in selected LGAs of Edo State. The national office partnered with the justice, Development and Peace Commission, Benin Province, place to sensitize communities on the dangers of human trafficking and migrant smuggling amongst the most vulnerable who do not have adequate knowledge of the ills of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. Consequently, campaigns were held in churches, motor parks, market places and schools in Benin Archdiocese, Auchi and Uromi Dioceses.

Institutional/Human Capacity Development

Capacity development remains key for effective implementation of development and humanitarian activities. Hence, the Institutional Capacity Strengthening unit with the support of Catholic Relief Services, strengthened the capacity of the JDPCs of Abeokuta, Ekiti, Ilorin, Lagos and Ondo Dioceses. Baseline assessments were conducted to ascertain the weaknesses of each organization's capacity. Following the assessment, a corrective action plan was developed together with each diocese to plan interventions that will correct the uncovered gaps. Sequel to the assessment, capacity building workshops were organized to impart the JDPC staff with project management skills. Worth mentioning is the Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) training which is organized periodically by Caritas Nigeria in alignment with existing internationally recognized project management standards and includes components specific to the NGO sector.

For Caritas Nigeria, charity is held to be the ultimate perfection of the human spirit, because it is said to both glorify and reflect the nature of God. Through the efforts of Caritas Nigeria in improving the wellbeing of the poor and marginalized in Nigeria, she seeks to be the “Mother” nurturing everyone under the warmth of her brood.



**Revd. Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina, Ph.D.,
National Director/CEO,
Caritas Nigeria & JDPC**

Thematic Area Reports

Emergency Response And Humanitarian Services

Responding to emergencies, is a core mandate of Caritas Nigeria. Emergency Response and Humanitarian Service interventions are usually designed and implemented together with the local Caritas in the affected areas. Caritas Nigeria works through the 56 local (Diocesan) Caritas offices spread across the country to respond to humanitarian issues. Since 2002, with the advent of the insurgency in the North-East, the humanitarian needs in Nigeria and environs has been enormous, leading to displacement of over 2.2million persons (IDPs & Refugees) and about 7 million persons in need (OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, Dec. 2015).

The year fiscal 2018, came with new challenges of responding to the numerous needs of displaced persons, returnees, refugees and host communities. According to its mandate as the Church's relief and development agency, in 2018, Caritas Nigeria responded to the needs of direct & indirect beneficiaries with relief materials, building of water and sanitation facilities, provision of agricultural inputs, Savings and Internal Lending Committees (SILC), skills acquisition and psychosocial support to affected persons across communities and settlements in Adamawa, Borno, Cross River, Kogi and Yobe States.

Humanitarian Interventions implemented in 2017-2018 FY

Ea31 2016: Notwithstanding an initial target of 9,000 persons, the Emergency Appeal number 31 2016 intervention has closed activities after its final quarter and a two-month extended period and has reached a total of 25,259 households. The duration of the project was from February 2017 - April 2018 (The extended period inclusive). The locations were in Askira Uba and Hawul LGAs, Borno State. The EA31 2016 is an Emergency Appeal funded by various Caritas Member Organizations such as Caritas Germany, Caritas Belgium, Secours Catholique (France), Caritas Canada, CAFOD, CRS, Caritas Japan and Caritas Italy. The project is an integrated humanitarian response to most vulnerable persons affected by Boko Haram insurgency which covers sectors such as Health, Nutrition, WaSH, Food Security and Livelihoods.



CARITAS GERMANY PROJECT: Just as the EA31 2016, the Caritas Germany MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Livelihoods project has also just come to a successful close of activities having met 100% of its indicated targets. Funded by Caritas Germany, the project P131-004/2017: North-east Nigeria Food Security Programme in Borno State, Hawul and Shani LGAs sought to address the livelihoods needs of 1000 beneficiary Households affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in Shani and Hawul LGAs through the disbursement of N50,000 per Household, as well as forming functional SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) groups across the target LGAs. So far, 1,000 Households have benefitted from the Cash disbursement so as to improve access to Income Generating Activities, while 50 SILC groups have been formed. Project duration was from 1st October, 2017 – 31st May, 2018.



Cash disbursement to a beneficiary

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Distribution of relief materials to internally displaced persons

UNICEF NUTRITION PROJECT:

In order to address the seething nutritional needs of the most vulnerable people affected by all forms of malnutrition as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency, UNICEF signed a 6-month Project Cooperative Agreement (PCA) with Caritas Nigeria. The project seeks the 'Promotion of Increased Awareness of Optimal Nutrition and Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition among the Infant and Young Children in North-east Nigeria.' This goal is to be achieved through IYC Feeding trainings, setting up of breast-feeding corners, screening and treatment of children under 5 with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition) and Food Demonstrations. The project covered the period of November 2017 – April 2018 with locations in Askira Uba LGA, Hawul LGA (Borno State), and Michika LGA (Adamawa State). In order to reach its targets, a no-cost extension period was approved by UNICEF.



Screening for malnutrition



Food demonstration

MALTESER WASH PROJECT:

This project aims at improving the access of IDPs, Returnees and Host Community Members to basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities and safe practices. This has been achieved through the construction of a Solar-Motorized borehole, rehabilitation of 5 hand-pumps (though 2 were planned), distribution of reusable sanitary wares to 240 school girls of reproductive age, as well as hygiene promotion sessions. The Project titled 'WASH emergency/Early Recovery response for vulnerable persons affected by conflict in the North-East Nigeria' is funded by Malteser International, Germany. The project targets vulnerable people at Michika and Madagali LGAs, Northern Adamawa State. The duration of the project is from the 1st February – 29th June, 2018.



*Hygiene promotion activity in Government
Secondary School, Michika, Adamawa State*

FAO DRY SEASON PROJECT: This project, after its closure has seen to the completion of its activities and meeting its set targets of reaching 4,500 households with agricultural inputs and water pumps. UN-FAO partnered with Caritas Nigeria in November 2017 to ensure 'Dry Season distribution of agricultural inputs in the Northeast Nigeria'. With a target of 4,500 Households in Shani, Hawul and Askira Uba LGAs, Caritas Nigeria has, so far, provided water pumps to farmer groups, distribution of Agricultural inputs and fertilizers to selected and validated vulnerable Households. The project is a 4-month project which covered from November 2017 – February 2018, but with an extension to March so as to accommodate the additional activity: distribution of fertilizers.



Distribution of agricultural inputs to beneficiaries

NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: 'Emergency/Early Recovery Assistance to Conflict affected Communities in Adamawa and Borno States' is the project funded by the Norwegian MFA, through Caritas Norway and with Caritas Nigeria as the implementing partner. The project currently addresses the urgent food needs of 2,088 beneficiaries through four tranches of in-kind distribution. In addition to the aforementioned, it has seen to the improvement of access to Income Generating Activities through disbursement of cash to 1,300 households, distribution of solar lanterns to 2,000 vulnerable women, and the distribution of environmentally-friendly stoves to 2,000 households. The duration of the project is from September 2017 – August 2018.



A beneficiary poses with her food items

FAO RAINY SEASON SEEDS DISTRIBUTION, 2017 & 2018: In May 2017, Caritas Nigeria signed its first LoA with FAO, which officially communicated the start of a 2-month project. The project was to address the emergency food needs of conflict-affected populations through the distribution of agricultural inputs (maize, amaranthine, sorghum, and fertilizer) to 13,500 beneficiaries. Following the above, Caritas Nigeria in 2018, commenced activities on the distribution of agricultural inputs to 2,500 beneficiaries in Askira Uba ward, Borno State.



Verification exercise for selected beneficiaries

EA 04 RAPID RESPONSE: With support from Caritas member organisations, Caritas Nigeria launched a Rapid Response to the Humanitarian crisis in the south-south part of Nigeria, which hosted the refugee crisis from neighbouring Cameroon. In effect, Caritas Nigeria, through Caritas Internationalis launched Rapid Response Emergency Appeal for an integrated multi-sectoral approach through the distribution of 300 reusable baby napkins; 800 reusable menstrual sanitary wares; 200 quality mattresses; 200 quality mats; 300 blankets; 200 solar lanterns; 600 Long lasting insecticide treated nets; as well as food vouchers to 1,000 vulnerable refugees for the refugees in Etung, Obanliku, Boki and Akamkpa LGAs of Cross River State. Caritas Nigeria has successfully completed these activities and has commenced reporting.



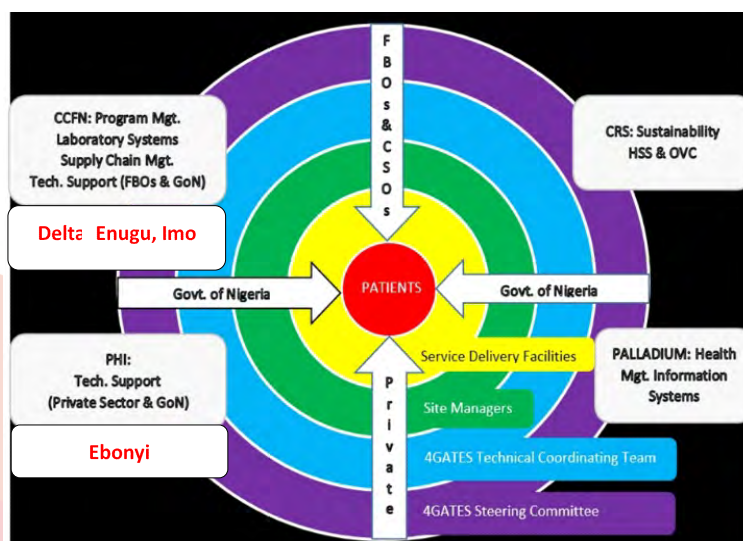
Caritas Nigeria Humanitarian Director interacts with the refugees

HEALTH & HIV/AIDS PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

By January, 2018, Caritas Nigeria had navigated simultaneously, the tasks of handing over the supported FBO health facilities under the **Sustainable HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Action in Nigeria** (SUSTAIN) grant while taking over support of 196 HIV treatment centers in the new program called the **Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria** or the 4GATES project. 4GATES is to be implemented for another 5 years (from October 2017 to September 2022) and Caritas Nigeria is the sole Implementing Partner for PEPFAR in Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States with responsibilities for driving HIV prevention and treatment activities in the predominantly Christian part of the region with an estimated population of 15,065,958 persons and HIV prevalence ranging from 3.6% (Delta), 2.6% (Ebonyi), 4.9% (Enugu) to 7.5% (Imo). Current responsibilities for persons living with HIV in the 4 states is about 44,000 with a target to identify another 21,000 clients in the first year (about 70% more than the 2016/17 target in the SUSTAIN project).

The first year performance of the 4GATES project, which is being implemented in Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States, is summarized below:

INDICATOR	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENTS (%)
Number of persons tested for HIV	737,634	510,818 (69%)
Number of persons started on Treatment		9,857
Number of pregnant women tested	308,978	146,640 (47%)
Number of positive pregnant women started on treatment		3,067
Number of persons currently on treatment		54,760



4GATES Consortium Partners

Trainings Conducted so far on the 4GATES Program

The following trainings have been conducted to strengthen the capacities of 240 healthcare workers to be able to deliver on – HIV /Index Case Testing, ART/Clinical Services, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT), Gender Mainstreaming, Laboratory Services, Pharmacy and Supply Chain, Grants Management and Monitoring & Evaluation while 35 Hospital Administrators & Managers were trained on Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro).

Key updates from 4GATES include a downward revision of targets in the new year (2018/19) to align with implementation experience and introduction of a new Granular Site Management (GSM) policy from the donor to ensure improved performance in 22 of 196 service delivery facilities in the program.

GALVANIZING RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR ACCELERATED IDENTIFICATION AND LINKAGE TO PEDIATRIC (CHILDREN) ANTI-RETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART) PROJECT

Another outcome of the Abuja Pediatric Consultation is the UNAIDS funded project to train Catholic Priests and Religious to use their social capital in parishes to better inform congregations about HIV transmission, prevention and availability of effective treatment for children. This component of the UNAIDS “AIDS Free” global campaign is called **Galvanizing Religious leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to Pediatric (children) Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART)** or the GRAIL project and is funded by PEPFAR through Caritas Internationalis who are budget holders. Using training modules developed by the World Council of Churches and adapted by Caritas Internationalis, this strategy will help reduce stigma and promote better adherence to ART drugs among persons diagnosed with HIV. In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria trained religious leaders from South-south, North-central, and North-east regions. The essence of the training was to get religious leaders to use pastoral messaging to change the narrative about HIV in Nigeria, and to ensure enhanced identification of HIV positive children in their communities, so that they could be commenced early on treatment.





The GRAIL trainings at Enugu, Ibadan and Akwanga with free medical outreach

PUBLIC PRIVATE MIX – TUBERCULOSIS (PPM-TB) PROGRAM

Starting January 2019, Caritas Nigeria became a sub-recipient (SR) to the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) and has begun implementation with other SRs, a two-year grant to boost TB case finding, diagnosis and treatment from the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria (GF-ATM). Caritas Nigeria focuses on strengthening TB systems in faith-based hospitals in 20 states out of the 36 states of the federation.



Orientation exercise for new recruits of the PPM-TB program

CROSS-CUTTING HEALTH INITIATIVES

Other critical updates include the transitioning of all centrally funded activities under the SUSTAIN program including support for the PMTCT statistical support to the Ministry of Health, support for the National Data Repository (NDR) project, and the real time PMTCT electronic medical records project. However, Caritas Nigeria will continue to partner with the University of Nevada Las Vega, University of Nigeria Nsukka and the Healthy Sunrise Foundation to implement the National Institute of Health funded congregational approach to improving Ante Natal Outcomes also called the Baby Shower Initiative in Benue State.

Caritas Nigeria continued to support NACA with the re-activation of the inter-faith platform for coordinating the Faith-based Organizations (FBO) response for HIV/AIDS in Nigeria and will serve (for 12 months) as the inaugural secretariat for the new body inaugurated on the 16th of November, 2017. This inter-faith plan resulted in the first National Consultation for FBOs in Nigeria's HIV response that took place from 13th – 16th March, 2018 and was presented to the nation's Federal Executive Council (FEC) in a gazette memo. It is noteworthy that this milestone was a direct result of the Regional Pediatric HIV Consultation that took place in Abuja from 14th – 16th June, 2017 which was driven by Caritas Internationalis and hosted by Caritas Nigeria.



Inauguration of the Working Committee of FBO response to HIV in Nigeria

GOOD GOVERNANCE UNIT

The Good Governance unit is presently being supported by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the European Union (EU). The CAFOD-supported projects are being implemented by the Justice Development and Peace Commissions in Kogi State (Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah), Archdiocese of Jos, the Diocese of Awka and at the National Office (National Assembly monitoring and other Executive Arm engagements). The CAFOD project is on Legislative Advocacy with the aim of opening up spaces for improved citizens' interaction with their elected representatives and participation in the decision making processes of the Houses of Assembly.

The EU supported project is a four-year project for the effective implementation of the Religious and Cultural Tolerance Program in Nigeria and Niger. The name of the project is “**Action for Cultural and Religious Pluralism**”. It is being implemented jointly in Nigeria and Niger Republic with an overall objective/impact of making Communities in Niger and Nigeria live in a religious and culturally inclusive environment. In Nigeria, the project will focus on Jos metropolis in Plateau State and Kaduna metropolis in Kaduna State. It will engage the services and collaboration of Academic and Research Institutes, Religious and Community

Leaders, Students and Youth groups, Civil Society Organizations, Government Actors, Artists and Media actors as well as representatives of Women groups.

The project will cover selected communities in Jos North and Jos South Local Government Areas in Plateau State and Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Chikun and Igabi Local Government Areas in Kaduna State. Activities in both the CAFOD supported project and the EU projects started in just about two months ago and therefore not much has been done in the course of the project.

Notable Activities Implemented

Organized Stakeholders advocacy buy-in visits to organizations in Plateau and Kaduna States. The organizations visited in Plateau were as follows:

- Ministry of Arts and Culture,
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Youths and Sports
- Nigerian Film Cooperation
- Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies, University of Jos
- Department of Sociology, University of Jos
- Department of Theater and Film Arts, University of Jos
- Plateau Peacebuilding Agency
- Chief Imam, Jos Central Mosque
- National Human Rights Commission, Jos Regional Office

The organizations visited in Kaduna were as follows:

- Ministry of Arts and Culture,
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Youths and Sports
- Department of Sociology, Kaduna State University
- Department of Theater and Film Arts, Kaduna State University
- Department of Religious Studies, Kaduna State University
- Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna
- Nigerian Union of Journalist, Kaduna Chapter
- National Human Rights Commission, Kaduna Regional Office
- Head of Jama'atu Nasir Islam (JNI)

All the Organizations visited expressed their willingness to collaborate with Caritas Nigeria in implementing the project

1. Organized visits to Honourable members of both Kaduna and Plateau States Houses of Assembly.
2. Carried out Training of Trainers (TOT) on Charter of demand for community Stakeholders in Lokoja Diocese
3. Obtained accreditation to observe the Ekiti and Osun Gubernatorial Elections
4. Organized Workshop on Programme Design and Proposal Development skills for Diocesan Staff of Justice Development and Peace Commission in Owerri Province
5. Attended other engagements with duty bearers and Civil Society Organizations.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED MIGRATION PROGRAMS

In 2018, Caritas Nigeria's Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Migration program area increased its intervention from prevention activities like awareness raising, to include other

areas such as victims support, shelter and reintegration. The unit implemented three major projects in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. These projects are as follows; the Inter-Faith Conference against Human Trafficking, the Campaign on Anti-Human Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM), and the Sustainable Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT-P) Program.

INTER-FAITH CONFERENCE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

After the international conference (One Human Family, One Voice, No Human Trafficking), Caritas Nigeria decided to implement one of the commitments made during the conference, which was to replicate what was done at the conference and engage more stakeholders at the regional, state and local levels to deliberate on the issues of human trafficking. The Inter-Faith Conference on Human Trafficking was then organized in Benin City from the 4th – 5th October, 2017 with participants from Inter-faith groups, traditional leaders, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations deliberating on issues of human trafficking from Edo, Delta, Lagos and Bayelsa States and suggesting ways of reducing the incidents of human trafficking, particularly in the endemic zones. The Provincial Coordinators of Justice Development & Peace Commissions/Caritas (JDPCs) of Owerri, Onitsha, Benin, Jos and Lagos were also present at the Conference.

The conference goals were, amongst others, to raise awareness about human trafficking among faith leaders in Nigeria, with a special focus on the trafficking of children, trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, connect various stakeholders and strengthen cooperation between organizations that combat human trafficking in Nigeria, Religious leaders, Community Leaders and Government Agencies responsible for combating and implementing laws that would help curb human trafficking menace in Nigeria as a country of origin, transit and destination, promote common actions by religious leaders together with other faith-based organizations that stand by victims to combat trafficking and slavery, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, through actions aimed at combating trafficking and slavery. Amongst government parastatals present were the Benin Zonal NAPTIP command boss, Immigration Service, Edo State Task Force against Human Trafficking, Police, Religious bodies and Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).



Participants from different faith groups and communities during the launch in Benin

The Conference had in attendance 137 participants from different churches, Islamic groups, traditional monarchs, JDPC from the Provinces, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations. The Conference specifically spoke on the role of religious leaders in the fight against human trafficking. At the end of the meeting a communiqué was signed by participants on key actions to ending trafficking in persons.

CAMPAIGN ON ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SAFE MIGRATION (CAT-SAM) PROJECT

This was Caritas Nigeria's pet project for the Anti-Human Trafficking & Forced Migration thematic areas, aimed at combatting human trafficking and forced migration in Edo State, through awareness raising on safe migration and the ills of irregular migration in schools, churches, mosques and film halls across communities in Ikpo-Okha, Benin City and Esa North-East Local Government Areas of Edo State. The project which began in June, 2018 ended in November 2018.

Achievements of the CAT-SaM Project are as follows;

In summary, 18,180 persons reached with campaign messages in 15 communities across 3 LGA in Edo state distributed into Male: 7,354 & Female: 10,826.

Other achievements are;

- Awareness raising in 15 communities, 5 each in Etsako West, Ikpoba Okha, Esan North East Local Government Areas of Edo state were sensitized on the dangers of human trafficking and irregular migration. This result was achieved with the following strategies: - Rallies held in major parks and markets on human trafficking and irregular migration in the 3 Local Government Areas.
 - Video/Film screenings on human trafficking and irregular migration in 15 Communities.
 - Sensitization/awareness creation to motor parks on the effects of human trafficking and irregular migration.
 - Police training in the select Local Government Areas.
 - Selection/formation/inauguration of Community Watch Group (CWG) members to further sensitize various communities on the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration and to also report traffickers when they find them.
 - School campaigns and sensitization on the ills of human trafficking in secondary and primary schools in 3 LGAs of Edo State.
 - Church and Mosque campaigns in select Local Government Areas.
- **Advocacy visit:** Visits made to the traditional rulers for community buy in/entrance and sustainability when project ends. 15 community heads visited with chiefs in the 15 communities selected for the project. The aim of the visit was to intimate the traditional rulers of the project, get their support for easy implementation and to continue raising awareness upon termination of project
- **Formation of Community Watch Group:** 75 Community Watch Group members were slated for selection from 15 endemic communities of the 3 selected Local Government Areas. The leaders of each community pre-selected five persons from their various communities to become members of the group. After the selection, the watch group were officially formed, trained and inaugurated to be fully involved as ambassadors in the fight against human trafficking. They were encouraged to be serious with their work which is community service to humanity. The trainings were conducted by the Anti-human

trafficking Program Manager of Caritas Nigeria. The meaning, causes, effect/consequences of human trafficking were dealt with. The tips to safe migration were clearly explained to the watch group in order to be equipped to function. Number of persons formed as CWG M:18, F:7 (Etsako West), M:13/F:12 (Esan North East), M:11, F:4 (Ikpoba-Okha)

- **Awareness Creation on Safe Migration and Human Trafficking at Motor Parks:** Within the reporting period, 2 selected motor parks in Etsako West Local Government namely: Aviele Motor Park and Jattu Junction Motor Park (26 persons (all male) sensitized). In Ikpoba Okha, 2 motor parks visited and sensitized namely Big Joe and Ismism (92 persons). In Esan North East the only motor park was visited (319 persons). These parks were selected because these are the parks where traffickers take vehicles alongside trafficked persons to the Northern part of the country before making final departure through land.
- **Rally:** As part of the effort of Caritas Nigeria and JDPC to curb the issue of Human Trafficking in endemic local government area, 3 rallies were carried out in JATTU Market, Uromi Main Motor park and Central Motor Park at Akenzua cultural centre in Benin. The rally was a huge success as an estimated number of seven thousand (7,193) persons were reached during the rally in Etsako West, Esan North East 1325 and Ikpoba Okha over 2000 persons. Highlights of the rally were the distribution of IEC materials, sensitization on the effect of human trafficking, interpersonal communication (IPC) with the traders by the CWG and Project Teams.
- **Training of community watch group and JDPC Staff:** In order to improve the work/services of community watch group members and JDPC Staff in the fight against Human Trafficking and irregular Migration, one-day training was organized by Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) and was facilitated by the Anti-Human Trafficking Program Manager, Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria Barr. Onomen Oriakhi across the LGAs. Etsako West-29 M:18, F:11, Esan North East- M:13 F:12, Ikpoba Okha-18 M:12 F:6.
- **Meeting and sensitization of Divisional Police Officers:** The Divisional Police Officers (DPO) in the 3 LGA were met and sensitized on the role of Police in victim protection.

A total of over 200 Police Officers were sensitized in 3 select LGA of Project.

Three (3) Motor Park Campaigns

Auchi	Benin	Uromi
36 persons reached (Males)	92 persons reached (M=62/ F=30)	319 persons reached (M=111/ F=208)

Fifteen (15) Community Campaigns through film screenings in select LGA

565 (M=252/F=313)	690 (M=290/F=400)	482=148/F=334)
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(39) Schools sensitization in select LGAs

10 schools visited with 3 ,042 (M=1343/F=1699)	13 schools visited with 3302	16 schools visited with 1951(M=852, F=1099)
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13 Churches / 1 Mosque Campaign

8 churches visited with 1,499 persons reached (M=537/F=917)	5 Churches visited with 2,916 persons reached (M=858/F=1259/Children=)	1 Mosque visited and sensitized
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Mosque campaign during Anti-human trafficking campaign



SUSTAINABLE MEASURES AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (SMAT-P) PROGRAM

Due to the success of this project, Caritas Nigeria won a 3-year grant by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Italy to further expand this project called the Sustainable Measures Against Human trafficking (SMAT-P).

The **SMAT-P** program is implemented through four major strategies;

- i. Sensitization and awareness raising in 10 Local Government Areas in Edo, Delta and Cross River States
- ii. Strengthen the livelihoods of 250 most vulnerable Households (HHs) in 6 LGAs of Edo State
- iii. Improve access to education/vocational training for 500 vulnerable children/youths through provision of block grants and scholarships
- iv. Provide safe accommodation for 100 victims of human trafficking and vulnerable children

The project commenced in October 2018 and have started recording success in awareness raising in communities, markets, schools and other public space.

In addition, Caritas Nigeria hosted the Santa Marta conference titled: Church & State Working Together to Restore Human Dignity which had in attendance over 80 participants from across 12 countries in Africa, Europe and America.

SHARE THE JOURNEY MIGRATION CAMPAIGN (GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION)

To commemorate the Global Week of Action for the Caritas confederation migration campaign, as encouraged by Pope Francis, Caritas Nigeria had a worthwhile moment of encounter to Share the Journey with the English-Speaking Cameroonian refugees taking shelter in Nigeria. Through its core funds, Caritas Nigeria deployed its Health team to organize a medical outreach in Etung, Ikom and Obanliku local government areas of Cross River State, which have a cluster of refugees. A total of 817 beneficiaries received medical care and treatment for malaria, diabetes, hypertension, chronic waist pain, peptic ulcer disease and dermatitis, during the exercise which took place on 20th and 21st June, 2018, in host communities (Up Ranch, Amana 1 & 2, Ajassor and Agbokim) of Cross River State.



Outreach to Cameroonian Refugees in Amana, Ajassor, Agbokim and Obudu communities

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (ICS) UNIT

The 5-year ICS program funded by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), which aimed at improving the capacities of Church partners & structures, ended in September 2018, and a post-project evaluation was conducted to compare achievements with set objectives. Out of the nine (9) Ecclesiastical Provinces, the project was implemented in 8 Provinces, namely; Abuja, Benin, Calabar, Ibadan, Kaduna, Lagos, Jos and Owerri. The program recorded some significant achievements which can be seen across the systems, structure and growth of most Dioceses. Some of the key achievements recorded are captured below;

Achievements and Impacts of the ICS Project:

- As part of its strategy, the project focused on the Justice, Development and Peace Commissions (JDPC) as well as some of the Health departments of the Dioceses reached, the respective Dioceses had their organizational systems and capacities strengthened through the organizational capacity self-assessments using the Holistic Organizational Capacity Strengthening Instrument (HOCAI). Following which they were led to develop capacity strengthening plan that will address the gaps uncovered during the assessments.
- Prior to the implementation of this project, almost all the JDPCs existed without formal registration with the relevant government agencies. However, the story has now changed today, as 95% of the JDPCs have completed their corporate registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). The JDPCs have also been able to put in place standard, functional administrative, human resources, financial and program quality structures and are able to retain qualified staff. The Dioceses reached, were also supported to develop organizational constitutions, operating manuals and organizational charts.
- The project has so far trained around 479 people (staff) and volunteers from 8 Provinces on

various technical areas including: Assessment to Action Planning, Proposal Development and Resource Mobilization, Integrated training on Project Management, Finance, Admin/HR and Proposal development, as well as Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro).

- Through the Business Development Unit within Caritas Nigeria, the project has been responding to requests from the Provinces and Dioceses. In this regard, the project ascertains from the JDPCs their thematic areas of focus and, from time to time, disseminate calls for proposals to JDPCs that are well-placed (for instance, on account of thematic area or location) to respond to the particular calls.
- Caritas Nigeria has helped some JDPCs to develop or improve their project proposals before the proposals are submitted to donors. Probably the earliest example of this, under the ICS project, is the technical assistance given to JDPC Auchi, JDPC Lafia and JDPC Abuja to develop its successful proposal to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as sub-recipients of the USAID funded SMILE program in 2014. Staff of these JDPCs were invited to Abuja where they sat down with the Caritas Nigeria staff to revise and improve on their proposals before submission. The proposal to the CRS led USAID-SMILE was for the continuation of the project that was developed in the “Write-Shop” and which won a small grant under ICS.
- In several cases, Caritas Nigeria has gone ahead to partner with those JDPCs to develop joint project proposals. Thus, in respect of the good governance program funded by CAFOD, diocesan JDPCs of Lokoja, Awka, Jos and Calabar have benefited from this kind of business development partnership. Also, Yola and Maiduguri JDPCs have partnered with Caritas Nigeria on the humanitarian livelihood projects. Currently, Caritas Nigeria is partnering with Ogoja and Calabar JDPCs on a refugee project funded by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and with Benin Province on a human trafficking project.
- The ICS Project also instituted a small grants scheme, which the sum of one million Naira each has been disbursed to JDPCs Calabar and Bauchi to implement a small project within the communities of the Dioceses. JDPC Bauchi through this project has been able to reach close to 100 widows and women, by given them a micro-credit to carryout small businesses or solve pressing family issues.

Presently, the next phase of the ICS project is being designed, it aims to address the challenges encountered in Phase 1, improve on achievements and lessons learnt. The new ICS project will commence in March, 2019.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS (PMD PRO)

Still on the ICS program area, Caritas Nigeria PMD Pro which stands for Project Management for Development Professionals a training which is aligned with existing internationally recognized project management standards and includes components specific to the NGO sector. As at December 2018, Caritas Nigeria has successfully trained up to 500 professionals in the development and humanitarian sector, with over 90% success examination pass rate of candidates, leading unto the PMD Pro certification from APMG International.

Caritas Nigeria continues to provide capacity building and institutional strengthening support for Church institutions and other organizations through meetings, workshops, assessments, trainings, on the job mentoring and technical assistance. Caritas Nigeria realizes that capacity building is key to sustainable development, hence its commitment to building and improving project management capacity of Church institutions and development workers across Nigeria to effectively respond to humanitarian and development needs of the Church.



Group exercise during the PMD Pro training

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES BY STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES, LEARNING & EXCHANGE (PEOPLE) PROJECT

This is a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of ten participating organizations in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria and Zimbabwe to prepare for, and respond to, humanitarian crises and strengthen their network and volunteer management systems.

The objectives are to:

1. Strengthen humanitarian preparedness & response capacity of 10 local and national organizations to design and deliver needs based humanitarian aid.
2. Strengthen volunteer management capacity of 10 prospective hosting organizations to facilitate integration & active participation of volunteers in humanitarian action.
3. Strengthen collective dialogue, knowledge sharing, learning and peer-to-peer support between partners on volunteers.

The PEOPLE project will build the capacity of participating organizations including Caritas Nigeria's capacity to develop and manage an effective volunteer management systems and emergency preparedness by engaging community, office and international volunteers. The project has kicked off in earnest with preliminary activities ongoing. However, in 2019, full implementation of strategies and deliverables would be recorded. The project is funded by the European Union.

COMMUNICATIONS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Caritas Nigeria Communications unit has implemented activities aimed at enhancing the visibility of the organization using social media platforms such as; Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, as well as the Caritas Nigeria website. Presently, there is a review of the website to improve on its functionalities and aesthetic value. Similarly, Caritas Nigeria engages in the use of conventional media (radio, television and print) through press releases, briefings and media coverage of Caritas Nigeria program activities/interventions.

In addition, internal publications such as the Annual Report, Lenten Guide and others are also some of the efforts made towards improving visibility of Caritas Nigeria.

Since the Business Development Unit of Caritas Nigeria was set-up in September 2018, there have been a lot of efforts made towards sourcing for new funding opportunities for the different thematic areas of Caritas Nigeria. There has also been a lot of collaborative work with Catholic

Relief Services (CRS), as they offer support to the Unit through close working relationships in the search for new funding opportunities.

So far, over 12 proposals/expressions of interests have been submitted to prospective donors in the following thematic areas; Health & HIV/AIDS, Migration, Protection, Education, Agriculture & Livelihoods and Gender Based Violence. Four grants have been won in Health (PPM-TB grant), Protection & Education, Agriculture & Livelihoods, and Migration. There are other areas Caritas Nigeria is prospecting and hoping to win more grants to enable her continue her work in reaching those most in need.

Provincial Reports at a Glance

BENIN PROVINCE

The JDPC Benin provincial Secretariat acts as a link between the national office and the Arch/dioceses within the province, as well as has the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating the workings of the JDPCs in the dioceses that make up the province, namely; Benin Archdiocese, Auchi, Bomadi, Issele-uku, Uromi, and Warri Dioceses. The Commissions within the Benin Province have the task of promoting justice, building capacity through trainings and skills development, providing interventions and relief through prison apostolate, legal representations, micro-credit schemes, awareness creations and community simulation to prevent and reduce social ills, and liberating people from oppression, solicit avenue for economic empowerment to eliminate backwardness, poverty and human trafficking, and develop a just, meaningful and fair society.

The following activities were carried out across the Province:

- **Statutory Meetings:** The Statutory meetings of Provincial Directors were held on 6th February, 26th April, 24th July and 16th October, 2018 at the provincial office in Benin. The meetings availed participants the platform to share progress reports of their dioceses.

Among the issues resolved were:

- Planning for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for victims of human trafficking on the feast of St. Bakhita and the International Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- Plans for training directors and staff on project development and proposal writing.
- The report from the national JDPC office to include the SDGs in JDPC programming, proposed SILC trainings for members of staff, and constitution of JDPC election observers.
- Progress reports on interventions from the Arch/dioceses on specific projects.
- Anti-human trafficking projects implemented at provincial level.
- Communiqué on Fulani Herders' havoc in Edo state.

In a similar vein, on 6th – 8th March, and 25th – 27th June, 2018, JDPC Provincial Coordinators and Secretaries were in Abuja for a statutory meeting organized by the national office. Discussions revolved around capacity building programs for JDPC officials. The need to mainstream the Catholic Social Teachings in JDPC interventions was also highlighted.



JDPC Provincial Coordinators/Secretaries meeting at the national office

- **Network of CSOs Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) Meeting:** The Provincial Coordinator and the Secretary attended a meeting of NACTAL Benin City on 12th February, 2018, and as a team, paid a courtesy visit to Edo State Anti-trafficking Task Force.
- **Advocacy Meeting:** The Provincial Secretary together with the Joint National Association of People with Disability (JONAPWD) Publicity Committee, paid a courtesy visit to KU FM radio station, to seek their support in designing radio jingles that would facilitate the passage of a bill addressing the welfare of people living with disability at Edo State House of Assembly.
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Activities:** The province engaged in activities geared towards mitigating the ugly trend of human trafficking in Edo State. One of such activities was the Senate Round Table on Migration and Human Trafficking, which brought together stakeholders for discussions about issues of human trafficking and migration. The deliberation aimed at understanding the history of migration, human trafficking and exploitation in Nigeria, its impact, the general outlook of migration and trafficking, as well as to identify ways of curbing the menace. Major decisions taken included among others: designing of social welfare programs for the poor, tightening of the borders, job creation and empowerment programs for skilled youths, strengthening of traditional institutes.
 - **Caritas/JDPC Campaign Against Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM) Project:** The province in partnership with Caritas Nigeria implemented a six-month awareness project aimed at reducing human trafficking and irregular migration. The project, Campaign on Anti-human Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM), was implemented by Benin Archdiocese, Auchi and Uromi Diocese in fifteen communities across three LGAs – Esan Northeast, Etsako West and Ikpoba-Okha in Edo State. The project involved collaboration with relevant agencies and ministries such as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Police, Ministry of Women Affairs, and Ministry of Education among others in combating the menace of human trafficking and irregular migration. Some of the stakeholders visited in the course of the project were NAPTIP, Edo State Task Force on Human Trafficking, and the Ministry of Education. There were also project coordination and review meetings.



- **Planning and Implementation Committee Meeting on SMAT-P Project:** The Province also hosted the inaugural meeting of the project coordination team for the implementation SMAT-P project. The three year project is sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Italy through Caritas Nigeria. The meeting, which had in attendance staff of the JDPC and Caritas Nigeria, specified the terms of engagement, details of the project, duration and remuneration involved. Following the project entry meeting, the Provincial office organized a training for directors, diocesan project coordinators and accountants of the five implementing dioceses.
- **Conference on Examining the Root Causes of Human Trafficking in Edo State:** The conference which was attended by the Provincial Coordinator and Secretary, was organized by the Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The conference revealed that economic pressure, family pressure, unemployment, and ignorance among other reasons, remain the root causes behind the rise in irregular migration and human trafficking.



- **Capacity Building Workshops**

- **Misereor DPS Nigeria Prison Decongestion Workshop:** The workshop on Prison Decongestion and Reform of Criminal Justice which took place from 5th – 9th March, 2018, aimed at discovering ways of decongesting the Nigerian Prisons through proper Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA). Discussions revolved around the purpose of the Act, key provision of the Act, and the situation in the prisons. Major advocacy strategies for the welfare of prisoners were also discussed.
- **Migrant Children in Emergencies for Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) Training:** The workshop which was organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICPMD) on July 3 and 4, 2018, revealed that children constitute a vulnerable group among migrants. The need for awareness creation and integration of crisis-specific considerations into the national child protection systems was highlighted.
- **Training on Project Accounting Procedures:** The provincial Secretary was at Uromi JDPCI on May 30 and June 1, 2018, for the training on accounting procedures, in preparation for handling the accounts of the CAT-SaM project.
- **Project Development, Proposal and Report Writing Training:** The JDPC Benin organized a training for new Directors of the province on project development, proposal writing, report writing, funding partnership, and ethics & practices in donor partnerships.
- **First African Regional Conference of the Santa Marta Group:** A contingent from the province attended the 1st African Regional conference, Church and State working together to restore the dignity of trafficked persons, of the Santa Marta Group organized by the Santa Marta group and Caritas Nigeria. The two-day event which held at the national office on November 14 and 15, 2018, drew across anti-human trafficking actors from across Africa, to discuss ways of curbing the menace of human trafficking within and outside Africa.



JDPC AUCHI

- Good Governance Project:** The Good Governance desk of the JDPC Auchi organized several town hall meetings across six LGAs of Edo North. The aim of the meetings was to facilitate interactions between the Commission and the communities on the dividends of democracy. The team also paid courtesy visits to the LGA officials in Edo North Senatorial district to submit needs assessment reports gathered from the town hall meetings. In addition, the Good Governance unit organized a training on electoral franchise for Etsako East, Owan East, Owan West and Akoko-Edo LGAs ahead of the 2019 General Elections



Good Governance team with different wards during the training in Owan East LGA



Good Governance team with different wards during the training in Akoko-Edo LGA

- Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and Household Empowerment (SMILE) Project:** Through the sponsorship of CRS, USAID and WESTAT, JDPC Auchi implemented the SMILE project in Igarra, Enwan and Dagbala communities. The project is geared towards eradicating as much as possible, economic hardship by empowering and creating a means of livelihood for some individuals who in turn, can help influence the society positively. The following activities took place under the project:
 - Child Protection System Strengthening Meeting (CPSS):** The Household Economic Strengthening team of the SMILE project in conjunction with the State Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development, organized a Child Protection System Strengthening meeting in Enwan community to sensitize the people about the issue of child protection. Sustainability plan was discussed to ensure the continuity of catering services for vulnerable children and households after the transition of SMILE project.



Child Protection Awareness meeting

- **Cooking Demonstration:** Cooking demonstration is aimed at bringing understanding to the caregivers and older VC oh how to use resources within their community to prepare nutritious and healthy food without spending much money. To this JDPC Auchi conducted a cooking demonstration exercise at Igarra on the 26th of June, 2018 to help them meet up with the normal nutritional requirements.
- **Cash Transfer Flag-Off and Presentation of Start-Up Kits to Beneficiaries:** JDPC Auchi team conducted cash transfer for ninety beneficiaries who had been shortlisted for the scheme. Similarly, the team presented twenty-five business start-up kits to beneficiaries who had completed one year training in various skills.



Start-up kits presented to beneficiaries

- **World Breastfeeding Week (WBW):** JDPC Auchi marked the WBW at Enwan and Dagbala communities on 6th and 7th August, 2018. There was a rally/sensitization around the two communities on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding.



- **Other Meetings on the SMILE Project:** On 31st July, 2018, CRS organized a one-day project management meeting with CSO partners across Benue, Edo, FCT, Kogi, and Nasarawa states. Similarly, there was an orientation meeting on the close-out of the SMILE project. The meeting which took place on 17th July, 2018, featured an overview of the project since inception, key activities to be carried out, modalities for final close-out etc. Additionally, as part of the project's close-out ceremony, the Commission organized a disengagement meeting with her community stakeholders on 23rd August, 2018. It is important to note that, as part of the Commission's efforts to empower parish JDPC groups, under the SMILE project, a cassava milling machine was procured and presented to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Enwan, for use by the community members.



Cassava milling machine

- **Prison Visit:** In keeping with her mission and in fulfillment of one of the corporal works of mercy, the Commission paid a visit to the new prison and presented relief items to the inmates.
- **Institutional Capacity Assessment:** Caritas Nigeria carried out capacity assessment on staff of JDPC Auchu as a way of assisting in strengthening staff capacity. It was also an opportunity to discuss about some of the challenges faced by the Commission.
- **Promotion of Micro Credit Enterprise (PROMIC) Project:** The aim of the project is to empower the poor, active and energetic people with business start-up funds. In the year under review, the project empowered 180 beneficiaries with a total sum of N140,000.
- **Campaign Against Human Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM) Project:** The following activities took place under the CAT-SaM project:
 - **Advocacy Visits to Community and School Heads:** The Commission paid an advocacy visit to community leaders and school heads in selected vulnerable communities in Etsako West LGA. The stakeholders visited pledged their support for the project.
 - **Awareness Creation Activities:** As part of the efforts to tackle the issue of human trafficking from the grassroots, the Commission sensitized the communities of Ugiekhai, Ibienafe, Jattu, Afashio, and Afowa about the harmful effects of human trafficking. There were also film shows in some primary and secondary schools in the aforementioned communities.



Community sensitization



School sensitization

- **Rally/Sensitization Activities:** The Commission organized a rally/sensitization in Jattu, Etsako West LGA to sensitize the people on the negative effects of illegal migration and human trafficking



- **Training of Community Watch Group and JDPC Staff:** In order to improve the services of community watch group and JDPC staff on the fight against human trafficking and illegal migration, a one-day training was organized by Caritas Nigeria on 1st of October, 2018, for Afashio, Afowa, Ibienafe, Jattu, and Ugiekhai communities.



- **Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Lassa fever Management:** JDPC Auchu attended a one-day workshop on Lassa fever causes and prevention. The training which was organized by Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) served as a platform for updating civil society organizations with the necessary information about Lassa fever management as recommended by the WHO.

JDPC BENIN ARCHDIOCESE

In the period under review, JDPC Benin carried out various programs and activities to help meet the needs of the poor in the Archdiocese.

- **Campaign on Anti-Human Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM) Project:** JDPC Benin carried out an anti-human trafficking awareness project for the above project in Oregbeni, Ogbeson, Oka, Ekea, and Aduwawa communities of Ikpoba-Okha LGA. The activities conducted during the project included advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders and sensitization activities.
- **Promotion of Micro Credit Enterprise (PROMIC):** JDPC Benin in her strive to empower poor women and widows in Edo State senatorial district, extensively operated its micro credit scheme to lift poor women and widows in the rural communities above poverty level. A total of 671 beneficiaries from various parishes and communities were reached.
- **Pediatric HIV Prevention & Care Training:** Following the completion of the GRAIL (Galvanizing Religious Leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to Pediatric ART) project which held at Ibadan, the Commission organized a one-day step down training on 15th October, 2018, for staff of the Commission at diocesan and parish levels. The training was aimed at sensitizing parishes on the need to collaborate with HIV actors in early identification and treatment of children living with HIV in the communities



GRAIL Project training in Ibadan



Step-down training

- **HIV/AIDS and Malaria Awareness Campaign:** In the period under review, JDPC Benin with the sponsorship of Society for Family Health (SFH), carried out mobile testing/counselling and awareness in the Archdiocese of Benin. The campaign, however, met with some hitches like insufficiency of HIV test kits, malaria test kits and mosquito nets in Edo state. The campaign reached a total of 140 persons and drugs were administered to those who tested positive to malaria.
- **Conflict Resolution/Family Reconciliation:** The Conflict Resolution unit of the Commission works towards reuniting families and settling conflicts among people. In the year under review, two females were reunited with their families and a number of marriage disputes settled between couples.
- **Prison Apostolate:** The Commission periodically visits the Oko and Benin prisons to assess the welfare of inmates. Some inmates' cases were taken up and represented by the Commission.
- **Establishment of Parish JDPC:** In the year 2018, the commission established the JDPC in 9 parishes under the Archdiocese. The parish JDPCs have begun operations as well.
- **International Human Rights Day Celebration:** The JDPC Benin organized a rally to sensitize and remind people about their fundamental human rights under the universal theme, “Stand Up for Human Rights”.



- **Publications:** The Communication department of the JDPC Benin published a lot of articles in Veritas and Evangelist newspapers under the JDPC desk column. Likewise, the Commission used the platform of Edo Broadcasting Service to campaign against violence in the 2019 General Elections, human trafficking, and the need to build peace through justice.
- **Proposal Development and Report Writing Training:** Staff of the Commission attended a three-day Proposal Development and Report Writing training organized by the Provincial body.
- **PROMIC South-South Region Annual Meeting:** The meeting which took place on 8th – 10th November, 2018, focused on risk management and strategies to deploy in handling defaulters of the PROMIC project.
- **Legal Department:** The Legal Department handled legal and non-legal cases which include court proceedings, Mediation (out-of-court settlement), matrimonial cases, prison

visits, and Court Registry. In the period under review, the department attend to a total of 10 cases. A major achievement recorded was the legal representation of two suspects which further led to their release.

- **Computer Training Institute:** The computer training centre situated at the JDPC Secretariat was established to train persons on ICT at a subsidized rate. Some of the courses offered include among others: Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Corel Draw.

Challenges

- Limited funding for the Malaria/HIV and Human Rights project.
- Organizational capacity building/strengthening.

JDPC BOMADI

The Commission has been officially registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), with the name, Bomadi Justice Development Peace and Caritas Initiative. The following activities were undertaken during the course of the year.

- **Capacity Building for Youths:** JDPC Bomadi in collaboration with Kolping society embarked upon training of youths in various skills for self-reliance/sustenance. Four youths from Bomadi were sponsored in four different capacities.
- **Empowerment:** The Commission with support from the Bishop, Most Rev. Hyacinth O. Egbebo (MSP), registered thirty men and women in the diocese with Potato Farmers Association of Nigeria (POFAN), Delta State Chapter. The aim was for cultivation, production and marketing of sweet potatoes and orange flesh potatoes.



Cross-section of registrants show off potato bread



Presentation of certificate of registration

- **Campaign for Parish JDPC:** The campaign for the establishment of parish JDPC is still ongoing in the diocese. In the year under review, the JDPC was established and inaugurated for the Cathedral parish.
- **Good Governance:** The Commission collaborated with the diocesan Bishop to strengthen the Ijaw Community Forum in actualizing the purposeful target of the body through advocacy and sensitization of the community on peaceful coexistence, forestalling kidnappings, violence free national and state elections, sustainable development among other topics.
- **Women Empowerment:** Some women from various towns were given corn seed, cassava stems, plantain suckers and potato stems to help improve their livelihood and nutrition.
- **Visitation of Flood Victims/Prison Apostolate:** The Commission paid a visit to flood victims in the various IDP camps. Food and non-food items were presented to the camps. Similarly, there was a visit to the prison where food items were shared with the inmates.



Some relief materials

- **Alternative Dispute/Conflict Resolution:** In the year under review, the Commission mediated in a dispute between a mother and her child.
- **Staff Strength:** The Commission has four full time staff: a Secretary, Program Manager, an Accountant and a Monitoring & Evaluation Officer.
- **Health Seminar for People with Disability:** Health experts were invited to educate those with disabilities on how to care for themselves. Some of the attendees also shared their experiences. In addition, the sick were availed treatment.
- **Anti-Human Trafficking Activity:** The Commission organized a rally in Bomadi town to mark the World Anti-Human Trafficking day on 30th July, 2018, in order to create awareness against trafficking in persons.



Participants during the rally

JDPC ISSELE-UKU

The following activities were carried out by the diocesan Commission:

- **Prison Apostolate:** The Commission along with the Prison Chaplain, arranged for the Holy Mass to be celebrated on Ash Wednesday for prison inmates, in order to prepare them for the Lenten period. Likewise, the Commission collaborated with Nigerian Red Cross to organize a three-day health sensitization and malaria/typhoid treatment for the inmates. Afterwards, the Holy Mass was celebrated with the inmates of Ogwashi-Uku prison.
- **Awareness Creation on Child Sexual Abuse & Child Rights:** On 25th May, 2018, the Commission sensitized the students St. Brigid's Girls' Grammar School, Asaba, on child rights and child sexual abuse. The purpose of the training was to make the children aware of their rights, in order to easily identify child sexual abuse attempts. The child's right booklet was introduced to the children.



- **JDPC Week:** Staff of the Commission visited three Catholic schools in Issele-Uku, Ute-Ogbeje and Isheagu to mark the JDPC with the students. During the visits, the school children were sensitized about the mission and undertakings of the JDPC. Stationeries were presented to them afterwards.



- **Anti-Human Trafficking:** JDPC Issele-Uku organized a one-day rally on February 28, 2018, to mark the Day for Prayer against Human Trafficking/St. Bakhita day. The rally was done in collaboration with the CWO diocesan body. During the rally, the masses were enlightened on the dangers of human trafficking, as well as means devised by perpetrators to lure victims.
- **Micro-Credit Unit:** JDPC Issele-Uku Micro Credit Scheme engaged in Series of registrations and sensitization within the period of 2016 – 2018. Fourteen groups which had a total of one hundred and fifty persons were registered in the scheme.



Rally at Ogwashi-Uku

- **Change of Administration:** Following the transfer of the former Director, Sr. Barr. Lucy Ebuzoeme, OSF, a new Director – Rev. Fr. John Bosco Ezeonwumelu – was appointed the new Director of JDPC Issele-Uku. Prior, the JDPC Issele-Uku entered into a partnership with the SwissHand foundation to offer financial assistance of poor women.
- **Capacity Building Training:** Some staff of the Commission led by the new Director, attended a training on proposal writing and project development organized by the Provincial body. The training took place from 11th – 15th December, 2018. In a similar vein, some members of staff were in Lokoja from 20th – 21st December, 2018, for a training on Campaign Finance Monitoring funded by the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES).

JDPCI UROMI

The Uromi JDPCI undertook the following activities from January – December, 2018. These activities were conducted to address identified needs in the various thematic areas.

- **Good Governance:** As a way of strengthening the capacity of civic groups in their engagement with elected officials at the local government level, Uromi JDPCI convened twenty quarterly civic group meetings across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the performance of the various groups, express challenges and learn from the experiences and best practices of other groups. The meetings availed Uromi JDPCI a platform to provide technical support to the groups to effectively conduct their activities. The meetings were also an opportunity for the various civic groups to share with each other the plans and inputs reached with the communities to present to their various local government Chairmen ahead of the town hall meeting tagged Round Table Discussion.



*Group photograph after quarterly meeting
in Esan North East LGA*



*The supervisor of Esan
Central giving a report at the meeting*

- **Round Table Discussion/Town Hall Meeting:** As a way of strengthening participatory democracy and collaboration between the local government representatives and the people, civic groups in collaboration with Uromi JDPCI, organized a round table discussion with the newly elected local government Chairmen across the five LGAs in Edo Central Senatorial District. The aim was to provide a sustainable platform for interaction between the people and their representatives, as well as institutionalize participatory democracy, in which the people could engage their elected officials and present their demands for consideration in the budget. The chairmen made firm commitment to implement most of the issues presented.



- **Edo Central Senatorial Eminent Stakeholders' Forum:** As part of the efforts to consolidate on the plans of promoting a peaceful and more developed Esan land, Uromi JDPCI conveyed a senatorial eminent stakeholders' forum to discuss some fundamental issues affecting the people and communities within the senatorial district. The event which took place on 7th November, 2018, had in attendance traditional rulers and local government executives. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were: peaceful and violence free elections, money politics/vote buying, security challenges/kidnapping, human trafficking/irregular migration, and the role of government in community development.



Cross section of participants

- **Health and Nutrition Program:** The Uromi JDPCI recorded significant impact in the lives of beneficiaries with regards to care and support. The following activities were carried out by the Commission:
 - **Health Education and Sensitization:** There were quarterly outreaches for health education in the project communities. The masses were sensitized on preventive measures against Lassa fever and cholera, personal hygiene practices, and environmental sanitation. The activity was conducted across eight communities on Esan North East LGA.
 - **HIV Prevention, Testing, Care and Support Services:** The Commission conducted twenty-four community dialogue meetings which had a total number of 3711 participants. The dialogue meetings were earmarked to sensitize and counsel community stakeholders on HIV/AIDS, as well as commit them to sensitizing their

subjects on the need to stop stigmatization/discrimination against People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in their communities/households. Furthermore, the Commission reached out to beneficiaries of the SMILE project with HIV testing services. The target groups were those with no prior knowledge of their HIV status and children at the risk of contracting the virus. A total of 830 persons were assisted to access HIV testing and counselling services. In addition, treatment, care and support services were provided to eighteen economically vulnerable PLHIV (6 OVCs and 12 caregivers) through escort services. The essence of the escort services was to ensure that all PLHIV adhered to treatment and attained viral load suppression. Equally, Uromi JDPCI carried out community-based adherence counselling for the eighteen PLHIV in their homes.

- **Nutrition Services:** The SMILE project intervention provided need-based nutrition services in the following areas:
 - **Nutrition Education and Counselling:** This was aimed at educating caregivers and older vulnerable children on the essentials of good nutrition, to enable them take necessary steps towards improving their diets and well-being. The nutrition key message booklet was used for growth monitoring.
 - **Infants and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Group:** Uromi JDPCI supported the running of seventeen C-IYCF support groups established in eight project communities, with the aim of developing and strengthening activities that would protect, promote and support adequate infant and young child feeding practices. IYCF counselling card and key message booklets were used to facilitate the session in the communities.
 - **Cooking Demonstration:** This intervention was conducted to promote the consumption of locally available food and demonstrate the right ways to prepare the food, so as to retain the relevant nutrients in food. Through the demonstrations, awareness was created on the importance of local food consumption. In total, two hundred and six caregivers were reached with eight cooking demonstrations.
- **Breastfeeding Week:** This was commemorated to sensitize caregivers, particularly young women of child bearing age, on the importance of exclusive breast feeding for children under six months. The activity which was carried out with caregivers in Obeidu and Egbele communities, reached a total of 103 persons.
- **Livelihood Support and Household Empowerment:** In a bid to address the difficulty experienced by vulnerable children and their households in Obeidu, Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, Ebhoiyi, Obiyon and Onewa communities, the Uromi JDPCI adopted some strategies to strengthen systems and procedures for effective service delivery and to encourage community ownership and sustainability. This was done by getting the community, policy makers and relevant stakeholders involved in all processes of the Commission's interventions. To this end, the sum of N20,000 was transferred to vulnerable households, twenty-seven vocational skill trainings were conducted, and business start-up kits were presented to twenty-one beneficiaries who were trained in various skills which included among others, tailoring, hair dressing, welding, catering and decoration, barbing, mechanic etc.



Flag-off ceremony






Presentation of hair dryer to a beneficiary

- **Agricultural Inputs Distribution:** In order to enhance household food security during the farming seasons, three hundred and seven caregivers received improved high quality maize seeds for planting, while another group of two hundred and sixty benefited from tree crops such as coconut, oil palm, and mango seeds. These were distributed across the eight communities to enhance household food nutrition security and serve as a source of income to the household from sales of their produce. The following were set up under the SMILE project: Food bank, clothing support, adolescent programming, kids' club, and caregivers' forum were also set up under the SMILE project.

- **Food Bank:** A total of seventeen caregiver/households benefited from the distribution of yams from food bank in Obeidu community. The yams were contributed by members of the community improvement team for the benefit of the most vulnerable ones in their midst.
- **Clothing Support:** Uromi JDPCI distributed clothes and shoes to vulnerable households' heads in Eror, Efandion, Ivue and Obiyon communities.
- **Adolescent Programming:** The Commission implemented the adolescent girls programme in three phases namely, pilot intervention in Obiyon community in 2017 (during which 60 adolescent girls were reached with HIV prevention and reproductive health messages), the implementation of adolescent girls in Obiyon community (which reached reaching another set of 60 adolescent girls), and the implementation of the intervention in Egbele community (where the adolescents were taken through HIV prevention and reproductive health messages). The program reached a total of 180 adolescent girls.



Adolescent girls (14-17 years) at their club discussion in Egbele community

- **Kids' Club:** The kids/youth clubs activities for the reporting year were centered on the provision of psychosocial support to the children. The kids were engaged in life-building skills and recreational activities to build their brain towards the development of self-esteem, as well as to help them develop some essential life skills such as; the ability to trust, develop self-confidence, understand their environment, and to guide them towards the achievement of their dreams and aspirations.
 
- **Caregivers' Forum:** Uromi JDPCI organized caregivers' forum across eight communities in Esan North East LGA to enlighten caregivers/guardians on core parenting skills, as well as to create gender norms awareness. A total of 248 caregiver fora were conducted with 4,278 persons in attendance.
 
- **Micro Credit/PROMIC Scheme:** Through the PROMIC project, the Commission contributed to the amelioration of the plights of the less privileged through the provision of loans to active poor women and farmers in the society. The amount of soft loan given in each group ranged from N20,000 – 50,000, while Agric loan ranged from N50,000 – 125,000. A total of 817 persons benefited from these schemes in 19 groups.
- **Anti –Human Trafficking Activities/Projects:** The following activities were conducted across the diocese and beyond.
 - **Commemoration of the Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita:** Uromi JDPCI marked the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita with rallies in Uromi, Irrua and Ekpoma to sensitize the general public on the dangers and ills of human trafficking. The Commission also seized the opportunity to advise parents against sending their children abroad without proper documentation. The importance of education and vocal skills acquisition was also highlighted. During the procession on the streets, prayers and songs were rendered for victims of trafficking.
 
 - **Protection of Migrants and Asylum Seekers Especially Children and Women Coming from Nigeria and Victims of Trafficking (PACKING) Project:** The Commission in collaboration with GPI embarked on the PACKING project with a focus on mechanisms to prevent human trafficking through the retention of the girl child in school. The intervention also considered the empowerment of the caregivers of the selected beneficiaries, so as to ensure the economic engagement of households. To this end, the Commission consolidated on the step down of trainings conducted by GPI in 71 Government Secondary Schools in Edo Central Senatorial District, by administering the child status index on all the students who participated in the step

down training on anti-human trafficking. During the assessment, 134 were identified as most vulnerable. Afterwards, there was a further assessment for household vulnerability to determine the final beneficiaries of the project. Consequently, educational support to seventy-five students each; sixteen students were enrolled into WASSCE, and seventy-five caregivers were empowered financially.



- **Campaign on Anti-Human Trafficking and Safe Migration (CAT-SaM) Project:**

The Commission in collaboration with Caritas Nigeria, implemented this project in Obeidu/Ivue, Eror, Egbele, Efandion, and Obiyon communities in Esan North east LGA, Edo State. The six month project focused on awareness creation on the dangers of irregular migration/human trafficking in the aforesaid communities. Following the identification and selection of volunteers to act as Community Watch Group, there were rallies and sensitization talks in market places, motor parks, schools, and worship centres. A total of twelve advocacy visits to traditional heads and law enforcements agencies, and thirty-four community/school sensitizations were recorded under the project.



- **Sustainable Measure Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT-P) Persons:** In October 2018, the Commission is partnering with Caritas Nigeria to implement the above project funded by the Italian Bishops Conference. The ongoing intervention which is geared towards awareness creation about the dangers of human trafficking, has recorded a number of advocacy visits to key stakeholders, and community sensitization. The project also seeks to address economic vulnerability which makes households susceptible to human trafficking, by offering livelihood support and providing grant/scholarship to school dropout. The SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Communities) component of the project also assists beneficiaries in developing the culture of savings. The intervention which commenced in November 2018 is implemented in Esan Central and Esan South east LGAs. Since its commencement, the project has recorded series of advocacy visits to the LGA Chairmen and traditional rulers of the project communities, and trained ten frontline advocates from the selected communities. The stakeholders pledged their commitment and undiluted support towards ensuring a successful implementation of the project.



The Diocesan Director with Esan central LGA Chairman



Visit to the king of Ewohimi, Lord Peter Ojenoifo



Rev. Fr. Fidelis Arhedo with the King of Irrua, Alhaji W.O. Momodu II

- **Reintegration of Victims of Human Trafficking:** As part of efforts to integrate victims of human trafficking/irregular migration who have returned to Nigeria into the society, the Commission assisted three Libya returnees in a reintegration process. While two of the returnees were enrolled in vocational skill acquisition of their choice, the other was enrolled in a school to continue her secondary education. Recent monitoring visits revealed that they already settled in their vocations.

- **Prison Apostolate:** In the year under review, the Commission engaged in the following activities:

- **Easter/Christmas Festivities with Prisoners:** Uromi JDPCI visited Ubiaja prison to celebrate the Easter season with the inmates. The diocesan Director took the inmates through a spiritual reflection, after which food items were presented to them. In addition, the Commission presented a release warrant for the release of two inmates, for whom the sums of N50,000 and N20,000 respectively were also paid as fine option. Likewise, the Commission marked the Christmas season with inmates. Items presented included testing meter, screw driver, soldering iron, and a set of screw drivers to improve learning at the skill acquisition center.



Presentation of food items to Ubiaja prison

- **Prison Skill Acquisition Center:** As part of her efforts to provide livelihood support to indigent inmates and to engage them in activities that could help them through sustainable survival skills after their release from prison, the Commission trained inmates of HTC prison on basic computer skills. This was part of the efforts to support the utilization of the skill acquisition center donated to the prison by the Diocese of Uromi. Reports garnered from the Officer-in-charge of the skill acquisition revealed a remarkable progress in the training of the prisoners.

- **Spiritual Counselling:** In the year under review, the Commission organized three spiritual counselling for inmates. The aim was to keep the souls of the prisoners spiritually edified and their hopes alive.

- **Health Education and HIV Screening for Inmates:** Health education and HIV Testing Services (HTS) were conducted for prison officials and inmates. Prior to the HTS services, a health officer engaged the target group in a sensitization session on HIV transmission and preventive measures. The exercise recorded a total of 110 persons (108 males and 2 females) who were screened for HIV.



HTS services for prisoners

- **Collaboration for Prison Welfare:** The Commission collaborated with the family of Sir Esene and Mount Carmel group of schools to visit Ubiaja prison inmates. Food and non-food items were presented to the inmates during the visit.

- **Charity:** Uromi JDPCI engaged in some charity activities to reach vulnerable children. Three students received support for their secondary and tertiary education. Three others were assisted with funds for health care.



JDPC WARRI

- **Statutory Quarterly General Meetings:** The Commission held her statutory general meetings twice in the year. Parish reports and proposed activities of the year 2018 were presented, and planning committee was set up to drive the proposed programs.
- **Youth Conference:** In a bid to ensure the visibility of the Commission among youths in the diocese, the Commission organized a youth conference on 2nd April, 2018 with the theme, Lay Solid Foundation for a Prosperous Future and Relationship Intrigues. The forum was an opportunity to sensitize the youth about the structure of the Commission. In attendance were two hundred and ninety-five attendants.
- **Good Governance:** In view of the 2019 elections, the Commission organized a conference on Good governance and the Nigerian State. The need for accountability in governance and effective security during elections was highlighted.
- **Prison Apostolate:** The Commission paid a visit to Kwale Federal Prison in Ndokwa West LGA, Delta State. Food and non-food items were presented to the prisoners. During the course of the visit, it was discovered that a lot of inmates were detained without trial.



Director of JDPC Warri Diocese presenting some item to inmates through Prison Officials



Group photograph of participants at the event

- **Capacity Building:** A good number of staff of the Commission participated in project development and proposal-writing training organized by the Provincial body. Similarly, some staff participated in the SMAT-P project capacity building training.
- **Commemoration of International Human Rights Day:** The Commission organized a lecture to mark the International Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2018. The theme of the lecture, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Electorate, highlighted the rights and duties of citizens ahead of the 2019 General Elections.
- **Appointment of Election Observers:** A total of fifty persons were trained and accredited for the observation of the 2019 General Elections.
- **Charity:** The JDPC of St. Peter's parish, Warri, celebrated the Christmas season with the less privileged. The outing was an opportunity to distribute gift items and clothes to the indigent.

Challenges

Insufficient funding.

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 YOLA

The following activities were carried out:

- **Provision of Safe Drinking Water for the Rural Communities:** Over 16 communities were given access to potable water.
- **Promotion of Good Sanitary Condition under Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Activities (WASH):** In over 21 communities in the diocese, well-ventilated, clean pit toilet structures were erected. Additionally, WASH promotion activities were cascaded to IDP camps in Numan, 11 primary schools; the Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT) also implemented the construction of a ventilated improved pit toilet in Numan LGA Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture in Local Communities of the Diocese:** Farmers in 17 communities experienced an improvement in the production of their major staple crops, sustained the soil fertility of their lands, and began cultivation under irrigation.
- **Humanitarian Interventions in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp:** A total of 542 displaced persons were adopted and are currently sheltered in St. Theresa's IDP camp in Yola.
- **Promotion of Peace Building Activities:** A total of 342 persons 21 LGAs of Adamawa State were recruited into the Emergency Preparedness and Response Team (EPRT). They were further trained on early warning/early response, humanitarian/emergency response, peace building strategies, and pre and post-election violence prevention and monitoring. Similarly, a total of 16 politicians, 2 religious leaders, 10 youth leaders, and 4 women leaders were trained by the EPRT on pre and post-election violence prevention and monitoring in 3 LGAs (Numan, Demsa and Lamurde). Furthermore, the EPRT structure was adopted by the Adamawa State Police Force, to form a network known as Justice and Social Dialogue (JSD) – a framework designed to address farmer-herder conflicts. Also, in a bid to strengthen EPRT's activities across Adamawa State, the British Council supported the existing EPRT structure in 4 LGAs – Numan, Demsa, Lamurde and Girei.
- **Psycho-Social Support:** About 30 secondary school teachers from 3 secondary schools in Girei LGA were selected and trained on dangers of drug abuse, to ensure an effective trickling down of same to teenagers in their respective schools. Consequently, a network known as Teenagers against Drugs Abuse (TADA), was established in 3 schools namely: Government Day Secondary School, Girei, Government Day Secondary School, Vunoklang, and Government Day Secondary School, Sangere.

Challenges

- Project activities are sometimes delayed by the process of mobilizing beneficiaries to give in their local contributions.
- The state government no longer supports the running of the IDP camps in the state.

- Polarization of INGOs in the state with huge money for participants in activities poses a threat to our planned sustainability measures.
- It is always a challenge traversing project locations due to poor road network.

Lessons Learnt

- JDPC Yola has earned the confidence of project communities as a result of the remarkable achievements.
- With adequate skills and knowledge acquired, the masses can drive the economy of a nation to the apex.

Best Practices

- Intervention must be the critical need of the communities.
- Community ownership of projects and programs is the bedrock of sustainability.

Next Steps

- Establishment of attention clinics in Maiha, Gombi and Hong LGAs of the state.
- Coordination meetings on community peace and safety partnership in Girei, Numan, Demsa and Lamurde LGAs.
- Training of Emergency Preparedness and Response Teams across 21 LGAs.
- Construction of wells in identified communities and establishment of water committees.
- Construction of VIP latrines and carrying out sessions of hygiene promotion.

KADUNA PROVINCE

The Ecclesiastical Province of Kaduna consists of Kaduna, Kafanchan, Kano, Kontagora, Minna, Sokoto, and Zaria dioceses. In the year under review, the province held her quarterly meetings rotationally across the dioceses. The province also benefited from the capacity strengthening program of the national office where twenty-nine staff from across the seven dioceses were trained on Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC). The following programs/projects were implemented across the province.

JDPC KADUNA

- **Skills Acquisition Program (SAP):** Economic empowerment for improved standard of living and self-reliance in alignment with goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals. (SDG).
- **Good Governance and Democracy:** Voters' education towards Local Government council elections and signing of Peace Agreement by political parties.
- **Human Rights and Equality:** This was geared towards addressing girl child education, early marriage and economic Empowerment - End of Collective Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative (CAAGI) Project and distribution of starter packs for skill development and economy and livelihoods. The activity was in alignment with goals 1 and 5 of the SDG.
- **Credit and Loan Scheme and Charity Desk:** For job creation and self-reliance. (SDG 8).
- **Commemoration of World Day of Peace and UN International Peace Day:** For a peaceful and developed Society (SDG 16).

- **Portable Water for Needy Communities:** contributing towards healthy living for all, especially the most disadvantaged (SDG 6)

Key Achievements

- Over forty youths, adult men and women use the skills acquired from skill acquisition trainings to cater for themselves and support their families/siblings economically.
- Over thirty political parties' representatives signed a commitment for peaceful LGC in Kaduna State. Consequently, no violence recorded although the election was keenly contested. Over five hundred beneficiaries of new electronic voting and other voting methods and processes exercised their franchise at the LGC election.
- World Day of Peace and UN International Peace Day was commemorated for the promotion of peace and harmony in the society. Over fifty students across twelve schools were badged as Young Ambassadors for Peace by the Archbishop of Kaduna, Most Rev. Matthew O. Ndagoso. As a follow up, the Education department of the Archdiocese is working towards ensuring that all Catholic school in the Archdiocese establish the Young Ambassador for Peace (YA4P) Clubs.
- Fifty female adolescents who were empowered with starter packs are making giant strides towards becoming economically stable in their businesses.
- A total of fifteen persons accessed small loan facility to boost their businesses.
- Three parish communities were provided with potable water.

Challenge

Inadequate funding to provide starter packs to beneficiaries of skill acquisition programs.

Lesson Learnt

Accountability, transparency and mainstreaming the culture of subsidiarity earned us the trust and confidence of the project community members.

Best Practices

- Partnership and collaboration (subsidiarity, solidarity) are key to greater success.
- Beneficiaries give back to the society knowledge/skills gained.
- Sustainability and strengthening of established structures in the communities.

Recommendation

The national office should provide more capacity, resource and funding support for the work of the JDPC based on intervention areas.

Next steps

- Skill acquisition programs for indigent persons.
- Formation and training of Young Ambassadors for Peace.
- Provision of credit facilities for economic development of the poorest of the poor.
- Provision of potable water in needy communities.
- Observation of 2019 General Elections and Continuous Voter Education activities.

JDPC KAFANCHAN

- **World Day of Peace:** The year kicked off with the celebration of the World Day of Peace on the 12th January, 2018, with good representation by various stakeholders, namely-traditional rulers, religious leaders, security agencies, youths, other Christian denominations and Muslims. This was part of the Commission's efforts in ensuring lasting peace among the people of Southern Kaduna and her environs, irrespective of ethnic and religious inclinations.
- **Emergency Relief Program:** Following the persistent attacks by Fulani Herders which have claimed over 1,000 lives across Zangon Kataf, Kauru, Jema'a, Kaura, and Sanga LGAs of Southern Kaduna, the diocese entered into a partnership with Christian Solidarity International (CSI). With the emergency relief support from the organization since 2014, basic needs such as food, shelter, medication, clothing etc. were provided for persons affected by the Herders' attacks.
- **Partnership with Liliane Foundation:** Since 2004, the diocese has been in partnership with Liliane Foundation – a Netherland organization supporting children and young persons with disabilities – to provide support to physically challenged persons and children in Nok, Kaku, Jagindi, Atats, Magamiya, Asso, Kiti, Chori, and Farman. While a good number of persons have been supported to continue with their education at various levels, about six others were enrolled in a vocational training school.

Challenges

- Lack of formidable committees for diocesan and parish JDPC.
- Insufficient man power and funding.
- Fulani Herders' incessant attacks.
- Inadequate staffing: The Commission has only one staff who doubles as the Project Manager and Secretary.

Lesson Learned

Inter-faith cohesion is instrumental to successful implementation of project activities.

Best Practice

Networking and partnership with other NGOs.

Recommendation

Dioceses should support JDPC programs.

Next Step

Water and sanitation project in needy communities.

JDPC KANO

The Commission partners with NSRP, Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and JNI. The year under review saw the construction of two solar panel boreholes and the distribution of solar lanterns to children in rural communities. Christian Solidarity International (CSI) also supported the Commission in achieving some of the set goals of the year. In addition, legal intervention was undertaken to reduce cases of forced marriage among under aged girls.

Challenges

- Insufficiency of funds and staff
- Insecurity

Recommendation

- Capacity building for JDPC staff
- More partnership opportunities with the national office.

JDPC KONTAGORA

The Legal Aid and Human Rights department consists five lawyers, two Youth Corp members and three permanent staff. The organized structure has a Bishop as the legal holder, Board of Directors and Animators from every parish. In the year under review, a deanery and parish group workshop was designed separately for men and women due to cultural differences; fifty hectares of land was acquired for agriculture project; an advocacy was carried out for the establishment of a customary court.

Challenges

- Indigenes have continued to experience kidnapping cases.
- Forced marriage and conversion of minor Christian girls to Islam.

Recommendations

- Improved collaboration with the national office.
- Capacity building programs for the staff.

JDPC MINNA

The Commission has a structural office with staff and volunteers. Programs include Civic Education, Legal Aid, Human Rights, and Youth & Women Empowerment.

Challenges

- Kidnapping threatens the security of indigenes.
- Lack of funds and staff capacity.

JDPC SOKOTO

The following programs were carried out in the year under review: Legal Aid, Human Rights, Empowerment program, and Good Governance programs. It is pertinent to mention that the Bishop, Most Rev. Matthew Kukah, has been very supportive of the activities of the Commission.

Currently, there is a project on girl child education. The commission also commemorated the feast of St. Bakhita on 8th February, 2018.

Challenges

- Inadequate funding.
- Lack of staff capacity.
- Staff attrition.

Recommendations

- Capacity building for staff.
- Improved synergy among the structures.

JDPC ZARIA

The Commission organized the 2018 Lenten Campaign flag-off in nineteen parishes. The proceeds garnered from the campaign were utilized for office operations and project interventions. The major achievements recorded in the year under review were the reuniting of three children with their families and assisting a widow to reclaim her late husband's entitlement with the Nigeria Police Force.

Challenges

- Inadequate local funding.
- Limited partnership with international donors.

Lessons learnt

- Consistency in project interventions is needed for a community's progress.
- There is need to design programs that the grassroots can easily identify with.

Best Practices

- Provision of legal support to individuals whose fundamental rights are abused.
- Provision of herbicides and other agro chemicals to farmers at a subsidized rate.

Recommendation

- There is need for improved collaboration among the diocesan, provincial and national levels of JDPC.
- Capacity strengthening programs for dioceses.
- The national and provincial office should design practicable election observation plans.

Next steps

- Observation of 2019 General Elections observation.
- Implementation of income generating activities for funding of diocesan programs.
- Strengthening of parish JDPC.

LAGOS PROVINCE

The Province of Lagos is made up of Lagos Archdiocese, Abeokuta, and Ijebu-Ode dioceses.

JDPC LAGOS

The activities of the Justice, Development and Peace Commission in Lagos Archdiocese commenced with an inaugural Mass of the Holy Spirit, inaugural lecture and a get-together on 27th January, 2018. The celebrant of the inaugural Mass and the Archdiocesan Director, Fr. Raymond Anoliefo, enjoined officers of the Commission to keep up with their good works of helping the poor in the society. The JDPC exists in about 115 parishes grouped into 15 deaneries – Agege, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Festac, Ikeja, Ikorodu, Ipaja, Isolo, Lagos Island, Lekki, Maryland, Satellite, Surulere and Yaba.

The Archdiocesan Commission achieves her goals and objectives through the following programs and specific activities:

- Democracy and Good Governance program
- Integral Health and Wellbeing
- Gender Mainstreaming Program
- Human Rights, Caritas, Prison Welfare/Legal Aid Program
- Integrated Empowerment Development Program
- Institutional Capacity Strengthening Training; Resource and Human Capacity Development program
- JDPC Fundraising Activities
- JDPC Farm Project

1) Democracy And Good Governance Program: The following activities were carried out under this head:

- i. **Solemn Peaceful Demonstration against the Killings in Nigeria:** A peaceful protest in solidarity with the church was organized on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Lagos on May 22nd, 2018. In attendance were over 50,000 persons.
- ii. **International Day of Peace:** To mark the International Day of Peace which held on 21st September, 2018, the Commission organized a Press Conference in collaboration with Ikeja, Ikorodu and Maryland deaneries.
- iii. **Conferences and Seminars:** The JDPC attended, and in some cases, made presentations at the following fora:
 - **Conference on Jurisdiction of International Criminal Court (ICC) and Cross Border Corruption/Illicit Asset Recovery:** This conference which was organized by Human & Environmental Development Agency on Tuesday, 13th November, 2018 in Lagos, was aimed at situating jurisdiction of International Criminal Court (ICC) over cross border corruption/illicit asset recovery.
 - **Stakeholders'/Town Hall Meeting:** The program was organized by the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission on Wednesday, 7th November, 2018 at the Lagos State Chambers of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The aim of the program was to sensitize prospective voters on electoral matters including their civic responsibilities.
 - **Public Education/Citizen Enlightenment Program:** The Archdiocesan Commission in collaboration with the Presidential Advisory Committee against Corruption and the

National Orientation Agency, held a citizen enlightenment program on 20th December, 2018, to re-orientate the public about the fight against corruption.

- **CASE 2019 Training:** A day's training on Content Aggregation System for Elections (CASE 2019) was organized by Musa Yar'Adua Foundation on 3rd December, 2018. CASE 2019 is a technology-enabled multi-stakeholder platform to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Nigerian election observation efforts through enhanced collaboration and information gathering.

- **Training on Campaign Finance Monitoring for State Coordinators & Monitors:** The International Foundation of Electoral Systems (IFES) funded a two-day training on campaign finance monitoring towards 2019 General Elections, in conjunction with JDPMC, Oshogbo. The aim of the training was to maintain campaign finance expenditures of some selected presidential candidates and their political parties at the forthcoming General Elections.

2) **Integral Health and Wellbeing:** Under this program, the following activities were carried out: monthly clinic and counselling for elderly persons, free medical eye screening/distribution of free eye glasses to 150 persons, screening for cervical cancer for about 500 persons, breast cancer screening, dental screening, prostate cancer screening and typhoid/malaria test.

3) **Gender Mainstreaming Program:** In the year under review, the following Gender Mainstreaming related activities were organized;

- i. **International Day of Prayer & Awareness against Human Trafficking:** In commemoration of the feast of St. Bakhita, the Archdiocesan Commission in collaboration with Caritas Lagos and Africa Network against Trafficking in Human (ANATH), held a Press Conference on 7th February, 2018, to mark the International Day of Prayer & Awareness against Human Trafficking. The theme of the Press Conference was Migration without Human Trafficking! Similarly, the Archdiocesan JDPC along with Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization (CYON), held a rally on 8th April, 2018, to sensitize the society, especially youths, about menace of trafficking in persons.
- ii. **International Women's Day:** The JDPC held its annual International Women's Day on 10th March, 2018. Over 150 women were impacted.
- iii. **International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women:** To mark this day, a rally was organized to disseminate information about gender equality, and to sensitize the masses about the need to uphold women's rights.
- iv. In addition the JDPC Lagos was well-represented at some stakeholders meeting on anti-human trafficking, such as the Campaign against Sex Trafficking (CAST 2018).

4) **Human Rights, Prison Welfare and Legal Aid Programs:** The Archdiocesan Commission facilitated the release of 74 inmates from Kirikiri and Ikoyi prisons. The released prisoners also received monetary support and were re-united with their families. Furthermore, there were courtesy visits to Kirikiri medium prison, to initiate the process of reforming, rehabilitating and re-integrating the released inmates. Additionally, food and clothing items worth N854,000.

5) **Integrated Empowerment Development Program:** The following were achieved under this program;

- i. Digital literacy training in collaboration with Google for about 530 youths.
- ii. Free lecture scheme for 50 General Certificate Exam (GCE) students. Likewise, the sum of N450,000 was expended on JAMB registration for thoirty students.
- iii. The sum of N88,000 was expended on the purchase of school uniforms for

- twenty-two students. Also, the sum of N220,000 was used to offset the school fees of four students
- iv. An indigene was trained and established on catering service (about N200,000 was expended on this). Also, household economic empowerment activities were undertaken for eleven persons (about N880,000 was expended on various activities).
 - v. Five residents of Lagos had their house rents settled by the Commission (about N450,000) was expended on this project.
 - vi. Settlement of medical bills for about five people (about N700,000 was used for this purpose).
 - vii. A one-day seminar on Literacy and Skills Development was organized on 8th September, 2018, to mark the International Literacy Day. About one hundred and twenty students in attendance were given books and stationeries.

6) Institutional Capacity Strengthening Training: Resource and Human Capacity Development Programs: Caritas Nigeria conducted institutional capacity strengthening trainings for selected staff of the Commission, from 12th – 15th March, 2018. In a similar vein, Caritas Nigeria facilitated capacity strengthening trainings from 4th – 8th June, 2018, for Abeokuta, Ekiti, Ijebu-Ode, and Ondo diocesan JDPCs. The training comprised sessions on Project Writing, Financial Management/Budgeting and Reporting. Furthermore, with the support of Maria Ebun Foundation, CAFSO-WRAG organized a two-day instructive training on fundraising and project-writing, from 14th – 15th February, 2018.

- i. **JDPC Archdiocesan Quarterly Delegates' Conference:** In the year under review, the Archdiocesan JDPC quarterly conferences took place on 10th February, 12th May, 4th August, and 6th October. In attendance were Coordinators and Secretaries from 115 parishes from across fourteen deaneries.
- ii. **Training on Project Writing:** With the support of Maria Ebun Foundation on Fundraising and Project Writing (Incorporating monitoring and evaluation with Organization profiling). The training was quite instructive.
- iii. **Training on Savings & Internal Lending Communities (SILC):** On 19th - 22nd June, 2018, Caritas Nigeria trained staff of the Archdiocesan JDPC on SILC modus operandi.

7) Fundraising Activities: The annual Lenten campaign was held in designated parishes within the Archdiocese of Lagos on 18th February, 2018.

8) JDPC Farm: The Archdiocesan JDPC has begun the revitalization of the Archdiocesan Farm.

Challenge

Worth noting is the fact that funding has been a huge challenge to Lagos Archdiocesan JDPC. We hereby crave the indulgence of the National Office to intimate us about funding prospects from external donors, so that we can benefit from such opportunities.

ONITSHA PROVINCE

Onitsha Province comprises Onitsha Archdiocese, Abakaliki, Awgu, Awka, Enugu, Nnewi, and Nsukka Dioceses. In the year under review, JDPC Onitsha Ecclesiastical Province took giant strides to bring succour to the distressed, to give voice to the voiceless and to nurture the earth, our common home. The theme of the Province for this year, Hope to the People, was demonstrated through the various activities aimed at spreading love at different levels of the society.

JDPC ONITSHA ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE

The Secretariat operates to coordinate and ensure a unified and progressive operation of the JDPCs in the Ecclesiastical Province at large. Some of the key activities carried out in the year under review include;

- **Partnership with the National Catholic Secretariat:** The Secretariat ensures a continuous link and collaboration with the National Catholic Secretariat, Abuja, by participating in programs of the national office. One of such programs was the orientation for newly-appointed JDPC Directors and Secretaries which was organized by Caritas Nigeria in Abuja in February 2018 CCFN in Abuja. The orientation was impactful as the newly-appointed Directors and Secretaries were tutored on how to run JDPC programs.



At the Orientation Program for newly-appointed Directors/Secretaries in Abuja

- **Coordination and Support for the Diocesan JDPCs:** The Secretariat made a conscious effort to participate in key activities of the Diocesan JDPCs, and this created a greater sense of togetherness in the Province. On February 9, 2018, the Secretariat participated in the unveiling of an auto mechanic workshop/training centre of the JDPC Onitsha Archdiocese. The occasion was led by the Archbishop of Onitsha Archdiocese, Most Rev. Dr. Valerian Okeke.



Furthermore, the Ecclesiastical Province participated actively in the Lenten Campaign flag-off which was hosted by Nnewi Diocese on 25th of February, 2018. The Lenten Guide theme for the year is Nigeria and the Quest for National Unity. The Bishop of Nnewi Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Hilary Okeke, was the chief celebrant of the flag-off Mass.



Flag-off of 2018 Lenten Campaign

Similarly, the Secretariat participated in the campaign for Clean Environment which took place on 6th June, 2018. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness among the inhabitants of Onitsha and its environs, about the need for a clean environment and proper waste disposal. In addition, the Secretariat participated in the distribution of relief materials to some of the flood victims in IDP camps on 10th of October 2018.

- **Capacity Building for Diocesan JDPCs:** The Provincial office organized a meeting/leadership training on 16th February, 2018, for the Program Managers of the seven dioceses. Furthermore, the Secretariat carried out an awareness campaign on The Negative Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation in Awgu diocese, through a seminar delivered to the Diocesan C.W.O on 23rd February, 2018. The campaign was insightful as a number of women shared their traumatic experiences about genital mutilation. Worth mentioning is the impact which the training made on them, as they pledged to desist from such practice. On the 23rd of March 2018, the Provincial office in conjunction with JDPC Awgu, carried out a capacity building workshop for JDPC Awka through a training on Building Active Community Participation and Proper Reporting. The training was impactful as the participants were tutored on community participation as well as report writing.
- **Partnership with other Organizations:** The collaboration with other organizations yielded benefits towards the accomplishment of goals of human development. Through the partnership, capacity building opportunity was created for staff, such as the Training-of-Trainers workshop on CASE (Concrete Assessment System for Election) which was organized by the Yar' Adua Foundation in Port Harcourt. The training was in preparation for 2019 General Elections observation.
- **Strengthening the Vision through the Promotion of Catholic Social Teachings:** As part of the efforts geared towards promoting the Catholic Social Teachings which form the basis of the work of the JDPC, the Provincial Commission held a session on Deepening the Knowledge of the Catholic Social Teaching during the annual meeting of the JDPC Onitsha Archdiocese.

- **Fortifying the Secretariat's Complex and Organizational Structure:** The two-storey building which was at the first floor in the previous year was raised to the parapet level. However, due to lack of funds, the building has yet to be roofed. The Provincial office appeals to Caritas Nigeria to rent the complex as the regional office in Enugu. To strengthen the affairs of the JDPC, the Provincial office has begun the production of an official handbook/operational guidelines.



The Provincial office at first floor level



The Provincial office at parapet level

Challenges

- **Lack of Fund:** Fund has been a major challenge for the Secretariat as the provincial office depends only on the funds realized from Lenten campaign/Lenten fast. Sometimes, some of the dioceses do not remit the funds as at when due, and this creates financial drawback in the project activities.
- **Poor Power Supply:** The inconsistency in power supply at the provincial office usually slows down operations. Hence, there is need to install an alternative power source.
- **Need for a Provincial Project:** In the year under review, the provincial office had no project running to keep the Secretariat maximally functional.
- **Dilapidated Rooftops:** During the rainy season, the rains which usually permeate the office through the leaking roofs have damaged office equipment and files. The molds resulting from the dampness caused by the rains are a health hazard.

Lessons Learnt

- The involvement of the provincial office in some of the major activities of the diocesan JDPCs helps to create a greater coordination and a sense of togetherness.
- Maximum co-operation among the dioceses is very important to enhance information sharing and resources, in order to further strengthen the provincial structure.

Best Practices

- Attendance at provincial statutory meetings.
- Good representation at national level.
- Capacity building for Program Managers and other staff.
- Resource sharing among provincial and diocesan JDPCs.
- Continued interaction with the national office.

Recommendations

- The Bishops' gratuitous and personal contributions to the provincial JDPC.
- Inclusion of JDPC in annual diocesan budget.
- That the dioceses contribute towards having a provincial project for the Secretariat.
- Improved collaboration among the dioceses and the national office.

Next Steps

- Continuous proposal-writing for the benefit of the provincial office.
- Greater coordination of Caritas week.
- Continued capacity building, out-reach/visits to the diocesan JDPCs.

JDPC ABAKALIKI

In the year under review, the Commission undertook the following activities:

- **Good Governance Activities:** As part of the efforts towards ensuring free and fair elections in the upcoming General Election, the Commission deployed observers to monitor the voter registration process which took place across the LGAs in Ebonyi State. Reports generated from the process were submitted to INEC and other stakeholders. Additionally, JDPC Abakaliki mobilized persons through awareness creation and materials through interventions to INEC to supply sufficient thumb-printing machines and replace faulty ones.
- **Leprosy Interventions:** The JDPC Abakaliki has continued to work in collaboration with the Ebonyi State Ministry of Health to support the three major leprosy hospital of the diocese namely; Mile Four Hospital, Abakaliki, St. Vincent's Hospital, Ndubia, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Afikpo. The Bishop of Abakaliki Diocese, Most Rev. Michael N. Okoro upgraded the three hospitals to Federal-approved Specialist/Teaching Hospitals with a School of Nursing attached to them. This step has continued the State government's partnership for the actualization of the health component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the approval of the Bishop, the JDPC Abakaliki paid a needs-assessment visit to the leprosy rehabilitation home located in Mile Four area, with the intent of granting assistance through awareness creation, human and resource mobilization. A further step of partnering with the hospital for a more permanent presence has been concluded for the year 2019. Shortly after the conclusion of the needs assessment, the JDPC Abakaliki went into partnership with the hospital management, in order to intervene at all levels at the leprosy treatment and rehabilitation centre. A legal team has also been set up to assist the discharged patients in obtaining justice for their heritages denied them in the course of their treatment and rehabilitation.
- **Intervention on Chronic Skin Ulcer/Diseases:** The Commission embarked on a sensitization in partnership with the Germany Leprosy & TB Relief Association to assist people with different kinds of skin diseases, in line with donor's specifications. The priests and religious who were sensitized were instrumental to the identification of the Buruli Ulcer (BU). About 40 persons who were identified with the ailment are currently undergoing treatment.
- **Peace Building/Conflict Resolution:** The JDPC Abakaliki has continued to remain at the forefront of the search for peaceful co-existence in Ebonyi State. The JDPC brokered 43 conflicts and is at the head of Izzi/Ikwo Peace Committee set up by the Bishop, to resolve the protracted violent conflict between the two neighbouring communities which has been on prior to the Nigerian Civil War. There have been positive glimpses of hope as the mainstream of the two divide believe that the Bishop's Committee can achieve lasting peace. It is important to note that since the committee commenced work, there has been no gun fire or hostilities. Relief materials and huge sums of money were donated across the diocese to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of war. The people have for a long time considered JDPC/CETJAD a veritable instrument for achieving peace among them.

- **Poverty Reduction:** The Promotion of Micro Credit (PROMIC) is a program that was established to grant soft loans to energetic and actively poor women for business purposes, in order to reduce the rate of poverty in the diocese. The program is piloted through the Open-Hand Foundation of Switzerland (Swiss Hand), to promote economic stability and empowerment for the women. During the course of the year, the office coordinated the activities of the dioceses involved with the PROMIC program within her area of supervision, namely: Abakaliki, Awgu, Awka, Benin, Calabar, Enugu, Nnewi, Nsukka, Ogoja, Onitsha, Owerri, and Uromi. The JDPC Abakaliki monitors the performances of the aforementioned dioceses, processes the proposal of new members, reports to Swiss-Hand, collects accruing revenue/dues from members, and keeps records of individual and collective accounts and assessment of members. In the year under review, the Regional Coordinator, Emmanuel Itanwu, paid courtesy visits to some of the dioceses, in order to assess their progress on the PROMIC project.

Achievements

- A total of One Hundred and Ten (110) women were economically empowered within a loan amount of One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N1,450,000.00) only.
- A total of One Thousand and Forty-eight (1,048) women benefitted from an entrepreneurship training.
- Four quarterly meetings were conducted in the business areas of the PROMIC beneficiaries.

Challenges

- Insufficient funds for disbursement to beneficiaries.
- Communal conflict in some of the program areas.
- Natural disasters.
- Poor means of transportation to the rural areas.
- Short duration of the loan.
- Micro-nature of the loan.
- Beneficiaries' inability to repay the loan within the stipulated time.

JDPC AWGU

The Commission carried out various activities in the following areas:

- **Women and Girl Child Safety:** The JDPC Awgu Diocese worked in collaboration with the JDPC/OEP Secretariat to carry out a campaign against Female Genital Mutilation. Hence, on February 23, 2018, an awareness seminar was organized on the Negative Consequences of Female Genital Mutilation for the diocesan C.W.O. The seminar, which was delivered by the Provincial Secretary, Sr. Mary-Ann Okoye, was insightful. Likewise, the JDPC Awgu joined the C.W.O in celebrating the International Women's Day. Additionally, on October 11, 2018, the JDPC Awgu also marked the International Day of the Girl Child at St. Anthony's Parish Oduma.
- **Water and Sanitation:** The JDPC Awgu champions the course of sanitation. On March 22, 2018, Awgu diocesan JDPC organized a seminar on water hygiene at the Cathedral. This seminar was attended by at least five delegates from each parish in Awgu diocese. Similarly, on October 11, 2018, the JDPC Awgu commemorated the Global Hand Washing Day, where people were sensitized about the importance of hygiene and promotion of same within their communities.

- **Health and Well-Being:** On May 27, 2018, the JDPC Awgu organized the Children's day celebration. The Commission seized the opportunity to attend to the health needs of some of the poor children, in collaboration with health personnel; over 67 children were screened for HIV.
- **Conservation of the Environment:** The JDPC Awgu made efforts within the year to conscientize the society on the need to care for their environment. On the June 5, 2018, the JDPC Awgu organized a seminar for youths on Environmental Care and Safety. Bush burning, indiscriminate waste disposal, felling of trees etc. were enumerated as the harmful practices which affect the integrity of the environment.
- **Capacity Building:** The JDPC Awgu works with the different groups in the society to strengthen the capacities of staff. In commemoration of the International Day of Families, on May 12, 2018, JDPC organized a leadership training for the diocesan C.M.O.

In addition, the Commission partnered a lot with the Provincial Commission in capacity building programs, as a way of promoting ideas and resource sharing. The Provincial Secretary facilitated a capacity building session for the JDPC Awgu staff on Building Active Community Participation and Reporting.

Challenges

- Lack of funding.
- Lack of personnel.

Lesson Learnt

Collaboration is the springboard of success in JDPC work.

Best Practices

- Collaboration
- Openness to suggestions and new ideas

Recommendation

The diocesan JDPCs should engage more in human resource-sharing in the area of capacity building.

Next Steps

- Fortify the foundation laid from capacity building programs.
- Extend the influence of diocesan JDPC to other parishes where the presence of the Commission was not felt within the year.

JDPC AWKA

The core programs that were implemented within the eight LGAs covered by the Catholic Diocese of Awka, are Good Governance, Agriculture, Micro-credit Scheme, Election Monitoring, Environmental Justice, Prison Apostolate, Educational Scholarship, Budget Monitoring & Tracking, Bookshop/Religious Articles Apostolate, Skill Acquisition Training, Conflict Resolution, and Social Justice.

- **Educational Scholarship Program:** The target beneficiaries were school pupils and student within Anambra State and the South-eastern region. Under this program, JDPC Awka bursary/scholarship project powered by Barmherzkeit International (World Mercy

Fund), Switzerland, awarded scholarships to one hundred (100) secondary school beneficiaries (57 males and 43 females). The project also included a donation of a Coaster Bus to St. Patrick's College, Awka, as well as a Hummer School Bus to Holy Innocents' Nursery and Primary School, Owerre- Ezukala. Additionally, with the support of HIFA, an international organization in Austria, JDPC Awka offers a scholarship program to primary and secondary schools students.

- **Community Empowerment and Development Initiative (CEDI):** CLIP is an initiative which empowers individual with various. In the year 2018, CLIP trained and empowered 40 women and girls in Ekwulobia in tailoring. Tailoring kits were availed them after the training, to enable them become economically viable. The skill acquisition was funded by Barmherzkeit International.
- **Good Governance:** The project implemented under this program was the Community and Legislative members Interactive Platform [CLIP], which was carried out within the 12 constituencies of the Catholic Diocese of Awka. CLIP, funded by Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and facilitated by Caritas Nigeria, enhanced good governance by promoting effective communication between community members and their Representatives, through trainings on the roles and functions of Representatives in the State House of Assembly, and how to engage them on community-related issues. Under the Democracy and Good Governance program, the JDPC Awka has worked tirelessly to educate the common people on their rights and duties as citizens. To this effect, the Commission carried out voter education and promoted voter registration to encourage the people to exercise their franchise. Furthermore, the JDPC Awka partnered with Enough is Enough Organization – an NGO which seeks for responsive, accountable and transparent governance – sensitized the citizens on salient issues relating to government, through a radio program, Office of the Citizen Radio Program. The program aired on Fridays from 10:00 – 11:00 am on Blaze 91.5 FM. There also exists a Budget Implementation and Monitoring Team for communities in Anambra State.



Voters' Education session at INEC Headquarters, Awka

- **Prison Apostolate:** In the year under review, the Commission organized periodic visits to Amawbia and Ekwulobia prisons.
- **JDPC Farm/Agriculture Project:** The Commission has farm lands at Isiagu, Ugwuoba and Ogbaru in Anambra State. JDPC Awka is a strong advocate for promotion of Agriculture in Nigeria, given the massive employment opportunities therein. Hence, 20 hectares of farm land was prepared within the year, for the cultivation of over 5,000 tubers of yam, maize, and cassava crops. Prior, JDPC Awka had several farm lands for the

cultivation of cassava, rice and yam. This is part of the Commission's efforts to achieve the SDG 1 and 2, 'No Poverty, Zero Hunger'.

- **Caritas Activities:** Periodically, JDPC Awka and Caritas committee for the diocese distribute food and non-food items to indigent people. To effectively carry out her hunger eradication and poverty reduction activities, the Commission coordinated the diocesan Easter distribution of food items, relief materials and monetary enumeration to over 463 indigent persons (173 males and 290 females). Similarly, the JDPC Awka visited the IDP camp in Achalla housing persons who were displaced by the flood that occurred in 2018. Relief materials were given to them to ameliorate their plights. In addition, every Tuesday in the year under review, the Commission provided material support to indigent and homeless people.
- **JDPC Bookshop:** This initiative serves as a means of internal revenue generation for the Commission, to facilitate the financing of humanitarian activities and operations of JDPC Awka. The bookshop is fortified with spiritual and motivational books, Sacramentals and other Religious items that are intended to meet the demands of the Catholic faithful. The bookshops are located at the Catholic Cathedral, Awka and St. Joseph's Parish, Ekwulobia. Likewise, the JDPC Vocational centre set up for designing of vestments and other religious wears, contributed remarkably to the financing of humanitarian activities and operations of JDPC Awka.
- **The International Women's Day:** This JDPC Awka utilized the International Women's Day to discuss critical harmful practices perpetrated on women, people living with disabilities and the minority groups. Consequently, action plans were drafted towards addressing the identified issues, with volunteers assigned to ensure the implementation of proposed actions.
- **Care of the Sick:** JDPC Awka went on a humanitarian visit to leprosy settlement and veteran soldiers in Oji-River, Enugu State, who were wounded during the Nigeria civil war at during the period of Easter 2018, as a way of epitomizing love. They were given relief materials, monetary support and food items.

Challenges

- **State Relation:** There is little or no cooperation from the Executive government and the agents of Government.
- Community members are uninterested in issues that concern their welfare.
- Due to the harsh economic situation of the country, the Commission usually experiences an overwhelming number of indigent persons seeking for support.
- Proposals submitted in the year 2018 failed to earn the Commission funding opportunities.
- Delayed remittance of parish JDPCs funds impeded project implementation.

Lessons Learnt

- Project team implementation meeting remains key for project implementation.
- Adequate visibility to interventions through social, electronic and print media is the fastest mechanism for promoting the work and image of the JDPC, as well as reinforcing their presence in the diocese.
- Partnership with competent community actors yields success.

Best Practices

- Gender sensitivity and mainstreaming during project implementation.
- Consistent outreach to the vulnerable and follow up.
- A financial structure (as found in JDPC Awka) that ensures transparency and accountability in financial processes should be encouraged.

Recommendations

- Capacity building and proposal writing trainings should be carried out more often.
- Interactions and knowledge-sharing platforms should be encouraged amongst the provincial and diocesan JDPCs.
- Onitsha Ecclesiastical Province of JDPC should organize a strategy meeting on areas of intervention that will focus on issues affecting the society. The Province should also engage more in proposal-writing to increase funding opportunities.

Next Steps

- Focus on improving proposal-writing skills.
- Adopt strategies that will facilitate the progress of parish JDPC.
- Explore funding opportunities and intervention areas.
- Strengthen JDPC Awka prison apostolate program to reach out to inmates, especially those unlawfully detained/abandoned by their families.

JDPC ENUGU

The Commission undertook a number of activities in the year under review. While some of these activities were short term, others were long term and still on-going. In its activities, the JDPC Enugu Diocese covered a wide range of programs including:

- Training of election Observers.
- Seminar on Role of Women towards Good Governance which afforded the women knowledge of their roles in politics as agents of good governance.
- Training on Reducing Defense Corruption Risk in Nigeria (CISLAC/TI).
- Training on Diocesan Election Observation for the Laity and Leadership training.
- Voice to the People (V2P) Extension Governance project which was a platform for giving voice to members of the society and decision makers.
- Tax Justice and Governance platform project which is still ongoing. The number of tax payers in Enugu State increased remarkably.
- Helping the indigent people.
- Care for vulnerable children and the mentally-ill disorders. The Commission established a clinic for mentally-ill people.
- Microsoft loan which is still ongoing.

Challenges

- Inadequate office space and equipment.
- Capacity Strengthening/building for the staff.
- Insufficient funding for program implementation.

Lesson Learnt

Community involvement enhances participation in JDPC affairs and shapes the political culture of the people.

Best Practice

Trainings, workshops and sensitization programs.

Recommendation

More collaboration is needed between the diocese and the provincial body.

Next Steps

- More activities would be undertaken on community development awareness and good governance project.
- In the coming year, the Commission will increase her capacity in Microsoft loan for active rural poor women.
- More outreach programs will be designed for the vulnerable and indigent persons.
- Women and Youth empowerment programs.

JDPC NNEWI

The following programs were implemented in the diocese in the year under review:

- i. Orphans & Vulnerable Children Unit (OVC)
- ii. Distant Adopted Children Program (LABICO)
- iii. Micro Finance Scheme (MFS)
- iv. PROMIC Micro Finance Project
- v. Keke Youth Empowerment Program
- vi. PROMIC Agriculture Project

- **Democracy and Human Rights Program (DHRP):** JDPC Nnewi engaged in sensitization and awareness creation programs through voter and civic education, meetings, review meeting with COMEN, review meeting with Tax monitors, collaboration with CISLAC and OXFAM in Financing For Development (F4D) project, step-down training from Nigeria civil society Situation Room, training of citizens on Gender Based Violence (GBV), with regard to the upcoming 2019 General Elections.
- **Orphan and Vulnerable Children Unit (OVC):** JDPC Nnewi runs this program in partnership with Comitato S. Andrea, Labico-Italia. This program focuses on distant adoption of less privileged children by some Italian families, who are responsible for the academic, social and medical well-being of the children. By the end of the year 2018, the Commission recorded a total of five children who are still in various levels of their educational pursuit. A few glitches were encountered during the program. The economic meltdown in Europe forced some of the families to withdraw their support from the program. On the other hand, two German families took up the sponsorship of two children. So far, in addition to the seven distance-adopted children who benefitted from the program in the year 2018, quite a number of children are currently in the primary and secondary schools sponsored through the JDPC Nnewi continuous advocacy and support platform. The children are imparted with good morals and ethical standards based on the Catholic Social Teachings.
- **Micro-Credit Loan/PROMIC:** A remarkable number of actively poor persons in the Diocese of Nnewi benefitted from the micro-credit facility. Within the first year of implementation, a total number of one hundred and forty-nine beneficiaries were economically empowered to support and handle family needs. The five year program is sponsored by the Swissland Foundation.

- **Youth Empowerment Program:** As part of her efforts to strengthen the young people in the diocese, the Commission empowered so many youths through the keke (a colloquial for tricycle) initiative, which was used for commercial purposes. The aim was to promote diligence among the youths. The program is still operational.
- **Conflict and Alternative Dispute Resolution Program (CADREP):** In a bid to ensure a peaceful co-existence in communities, the Commission introduced the CADREP which aims at conflict resolution among individuals and communities.
- **Agricultural Development and Environmental Program (ADEAP):** With the support of Swissland Foundation, forty-seven (47) farmers from Ogwuanaocha, Azigbo, Unubi, Ozubulu, Amichi, and Ukpok communities were empowered between January – June 2018, to boost agricultural produce in the region. Community members were also sensitized about environmental challenges and food security.
- **Voter and Civic Education:** Under the Democracy and Human Rights Program (DHRP), the Commission sensitized people through community meetings, radio and TV programs, aimed at encouraging community members to register for the 2019 General Elections. Community Based Monitors (CBMs) were also trained on the electoral art and code of conduct of election, the importance of updating the electorate records with INEC, the value of voter's card, and the need to vote properly. This was done to discourage voter apathy, thuggery and other forms of violence during election.
- **Charity Desk:** The JDPC Nnewi through the support of the Bishop, Most Rev. Hilary Okeke, attended to the physical, psychological, emotional and social needs of the indigent persons. Sadly, it was observed that the number of indigent persons increased remarkably, due to the harsh economic situation of the country.
- **Prison Apostolate:** Under the Prison Apostolate program which has been in existence, the Commission attended to the pastoral needs of prisoners in Nnewi Federal Minimum prison, by the celebration of the Holy Mass on Sundays and administering the Sacraments as at when due. Within the Lenten period of the year under review, the JDPC Nnewi also conducted Stations of the Cross and Holy Week activities for inmates of the prison. Above all, eight inmates received the Sacrament of Baptism on Easter Sunday. The prisoners were also supported with food and non-food items. The JDPC Nnewi profoundly appreciates the Diocesan Bishop, Most Rev. Hilary Okeke, for all the support accorded the Commission in this regard.
- **Orientation for New Coordinators/Secretaries of the JDPC:** The newly-appointed Deputy Director of Nnewi Diocesan JDPC, Fr. Stephen Onwukwalu, was at the National Secretariat of the JDPC, Abuja, for an orientation program organized by Caritas Nigeria for Coordinators/Secretaries from the nine provinces, who were recently appointed to office. The training availed participants the foundation of running the JDPC at parish, diocesan and provincial levels.
- **Lenten Campaign Flag-off:** The JDPC Nnewi played host to the campaign of the 2018 Lenten Guide for Onitsha Ecclesiastical Province on 25th February, 2018. The ceremony which was chaired by the Bishop, took two dimensions: Lenten message and Fund raising for the JDPC/Caritas interventions. The theme of the year's Lenten Guide, Nigeria and the

Quest for National Unity, highlighted the need to address the vices which plague and divide the nation.

- **Collaboration and Networking:** In the year under review, the Commission partnered with Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in identifying and addressing gaps and challenges of taxations in informal sector. This collaboration led to government's adoption and use of POS in revenue collection. In a similar vein, the JDPC Nnewi partnered with CISLAC and OXFAM on a project titled Financing for Development, to provide the government with the recommendations on tax rate applicable or chargeable to the informal sector. The project encouraged Anambra State indigenes to support the government by payment of tax. On the other hand, through advocacy visits to the relevant government actors, the Commission admonished the government to provide an enabling environment with generated revenue.
- **Partnership with the State Government:** The Commission has leveraged on the capacity of international, national and state partners to engage with state and local government actors to carry out activities and create working relationships. For instance, through the interventions of the JDPC Nnewi, the state government established Community Choose your Project initiative, which ensures inclusiveness of all the communities in the state. In addition, the project engaged priests in 102 parishes to sensitize community members on JDPC activities and programs.
- **Periodic Meetings:** The Commission participated in 23 community and church meetings. At the Women's August meeting, the JDPC Nnewi facilitated a session on Gender Based Violence as a way of creating awareness on gender-based violence in our communities. The women were also encouraged to vie for political positions. Furthermore, the Commission engaged in review meetings with Community Empowerment Network (COMEN) as a way of supporting them to share their experiences. The Commission also had review meetings with tax monitors who assist the government in ensuring that citizens pay their tax. At the meeting, the tax monitors reiterated their commitment to stop illegal tax collection.
- **Evaluation of Voice to the People (V2P) Project:** Christian Aid (CA) and Department for International Development (DFID) consultants carried out an assessment on V2P project. The JDPC Nnewi team along with the assessors paid a visit to some of the project communities, where they interacted with community members and stakeholders.
- **Radio Program:** The Commission was on Blaze FM, Anambra State, to sensitize listeners about the International women's Day, International Forest Day, World Water Day/Water Summit, and World Environmental Day. Likewise, on 22nd and 23rd October, 2018, the JDPC Nnewi along with Anambra State Tax Justice and Governance platform, was at Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) to advocate for fairness on the tax rate and levy in the informal sector of the major markets in the state.

Challenges

- Inadequate funding for program implementation, as well as support and encourage volunteers.
- The current inflation impacts on the work of the JDPC.

Lessons Learnt

- JDPC Parish Coordinators' involvement in activities is key in community outreach programs.
- Stakeholders' involvement in planning and implementation of cultural activities to the promotion of peace and unity in communities.

Best Practices

- Phone-in radio program ensures citizens inclusiveness.
- Knowledge sharing remains key in enhancing capacities.

Recommendations

- Caritas Nigeria should design a program to address management and program recession.
- Likewise, funding opportunities should be explored for implementation in the dioceses.
- There is need to encourage candidates to be politically-orientated.

Next Steps

- Production of 2018 Pillar of Justice Magazine.
- Engagement with COMEN.
- Charity platforms for prisoners and the indigent.
- Awareness of significant World Day celebrations such as World Day of Peace, International Day for Eradication of Poverty, World Day of the Poor among others.
- Engagement with diocesan Catholic lawyers.

JDPC NSUKKA

Some of the activities undertaken by the JDPC Nsukka in the year under review are as follows:

- **Youth Empowerment Program:** A total of nine indigent but brilliant pupils benefitted from free secondary education in some mission schools.
- **2018 Lenten Campaign:** The Commission recorded an impressive number of sales of the Lenten Guide in parishes. Likewise, the December 2018 edition of the JDPC Newsletter was published and sold.
- **Commemoration of the International Day of Peace:** The Commission marked the event with paper presentations and other related events.
- **PROMIC:** A total of ninety three persons were granted soft loans on this program. The micro-credit scheme of the Commission granted loan to twelve women in eight towns viz: Ulunya, Owere Obukpa, Nkalagu Obukpa, Nimbo, Isiagu Ibagwa, Ugbene-Ajima, Alor-Uno, and Ohodo. Through the scheme, many women were availed sources of livelihood.
- **Charity Activities:** Over three hundred poor families benefitted from various charities activities which included among others, distribution of food stuff such as bags of rice.
- **Good Governance Activities:** The Commission organized a training for selected observers of the upcoming 2019 General Elections.

Challenges

- Delayed repayment of loans by beneficiaries of the micro-credit scheme.
- Lean funding remains a constraint to execution of project activities.
- Lethargy to parish JDPC activities on the side of parish priests.
- Low turn-out of parish Animators at JDPC activities due to inadequate funding

Lesson Learnt

- The scholarship program promoted unity across Christian denominations.

Best Practice

- People-oriented approach is key in program implementation.

Recommendations

- The excessive bureaucracy involved in fund disbursement to the JDPC should be reviewed.
- Much bureaucracy in releasing funds to JDPC should be done away with or at least reduced.
- Designation of funds for the specific purpose of JDPC project should be considered more seriously, as the practice of budget presentation to a finance council tends to make the JDPC less productive.
- Procurement of a project vehicle will make facilitate the implementation of JDPC activities within Nsukka Diocese.

Next Steps

- Sensitization of citizens on the need to be more participatory in governance.
- Follow up on beneficiaries of the scholarship project.
- Plan for more trainings for election observers.

JDPC ONITSHA

The Justice Development Peace/Caritas (JDPC) Onitsha engaged in series of activities in its six core functional areas namely: Economic and Social Justice, Democracy and Good Governance, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, Judiciary and Penal Reform, Environmental Justice, and Caritas. His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Valerian Okeke, the Archbishop of Onitsha has also supported the Commission immensely, promoting and empowering the poor with the aim of actualizing a sustainable life-changing situation. Emergency flood intervention, social justice and environmental sanitization were taken to the nooks and crannies of the Archdiocese.

Key activities implemented included:

- **Inauguration and Revalidation of Parish JDPC (P-JDPC):** The year 2018 witnessed the inauguration and revalidation of parish JDPCs. Two parish-JDPCs were inaugurated namely, St. John De Baptist Parish and Sacred Heart Parish both in Odoakpu, Anambra State. Prior to the inauguration, prospective members are usually trained on the core functions and activities of JDPC as stipulated in the JDPC manual. Accordingly, ten weak parish JDPCs were resuscitated, bringing the total number of parishes with JDPC to ninety. This brought an additional hundred JDPC volunteers in the Archdiocese.
- **Parish-JDPC Market Lenten Campaign 2018:** JDPC Onitsha Archdiocese conducted its' annual market Lenten campaign which had all the regions converge at St John De Baptist, Odoakpu, from where all JDPC volunteers proceeded to six markets in Onitsha, Dunukofia, Iyiowa, Igbariam, Nnobu and Aguleri regions in Anambra State, to solicit for funds for corporal works of mercy in the parishes and communities. At the end of the charity fund drive, Iyiowa region came tops for the second consecutive year and was rewarded with N10,000 cash incentive as was earlier agreed on by the Archdiocese.

- **2018 Best Parish JDPC Award:** The award is a platform used to recognize parishes that performed impressively, in order to motivate other parishes to do same. Criteria such as attendance at meetings, JDPC parish related activities, yearly account, number of impactful activities implemented etc. are basis of assessment and award. The Award committee members who are drawn from across all the regions, review and collate the submissions in alignment with the stated criteria, after which the best three performing dioceses are selected. In the year under review, St. John De Baptist Parish, Odoakpu, St. Charles Lwanga Parish, Okpoko and St. Theresa's Parish, Umu-eze-anam took the first, second and third positions respectively.
- **2018 JDPC Week Flag-Off:** This year's JDPC week flag-off started with an opening Mass said by the Onitsha Archdiocesan Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Prudentius Aroh, who represented the Archbishop of Onitsha. In attendance also were Rev. Fr. Philip Ibeneme and the Executive Director JDPC Onitsha, Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoe. Participants for the year's flag-off were drawn from JDPC Board members, parish-based JDPC, special guests and members of the public including the media. The week-long event which had the theme, Nigeria and the Quest for National Unity, was cascaded to one hundred and eighty-three parishes in ninety communities. Participants were imparted with discussions that bordered on Becoming an Environmental Ambassador; a Panacea for Environmental Injustice and Decoding the Understanding and Misunderstanding Regarding Inheritance Rights in Nigeria. In attendance were over three hundred persons from various parishes and communities. The week was wrapped up with Archdiocesan JDPC collections in the parishes to aid the work of the Commission.



Cross section of JDPC members and guests at 2018 JDPC Week Flag-off

- **Annual Seminar on Capacity Building:** JDPC central office of the Archdiocese of Onitsha organized its' annual one-day capacity building for parish JDPC members. Topics covered included: Environmental justice, judicial and penal reform, economic and social justice, peace building and conflict resolution, democracy and good governance, fund raising for JDPC work and caritas. Members were also inculcated with the Catholic Social Teachings, through the facilitation of the Provincial Secretary, nhf Sr. Mary Ann Okoye, the Provincial Secretary on Catholic Social teachings.. The annual seminar was attended by 204 participants at Shanahan Hall Basilica of the Most Trinity, Onitsha.
- **Commemoration of the International Women's Day:** JDPC Onitsha partnered with Joy Onyesom Foundation to sensitize the citizens on Curbing Violence and Discrimination against Women. Citizens were also sensitized about the causes of and preventive measures against cancer.
- **Campaign on Environmental Cleanliness (Community Action on Sanitation [CAS]):** According to a CNN report on sanitation which was aired within this year, Onitsha and its

environs were rated among the dirtiest city in the world. This is evident in the foul air that one inhales, contaminated water, hazardous wastes, littered drainages, and indiscriminate waste disposal. As part of its efforts to ensure a healthy living and safe environment for citizens, and in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 6; Clean Water and Sanitation for All), the JDPC Onitsha launched a campaign on Clean Environment in Onitsha. Staff of the Commission staged a walk through the market places, school areas, motor parks, and residences, to sensitize the citizens about environmental cleanliness and the dangers of indiscriminate waste disposal. The Staff also took up the task of clearing the streets and gutters during the walk.



Campaign for Clean Environment

- Campaign on Clean Environment in Schools:** In her effort to ensure environmental cleanliness, JDPC Onitsha embarked on Campaign on Clean Environment in schools. In the year under review, the JDPC Onitsha sensitized about six schools on sanitation. A major outcome of the sensitization was the formation of Environmental Ambassadors in the schools, with the slogan: “See, Talk, Act, Remove” (STAR). The young Ambassadors were commissioned to initiate environmental-related discussions and intervention programs. More so, they were co-opted to the larger JDPC Environmental Justice program reaching out to citizens in their market places, motor parks, schools and residential areas in Anambra State. The environmental sensitization activity is still on course, and many other schools have been notified for the campaign on clean environment. So far, sensitization campaigns have been carried out in 10 schools, reaching over 2,500 students and 150 teachers.



Cross section of students of Seat of Wisdom Secondary School, Nkpor, Anambra State during the campaign

Sensitization of the Catholic Men Organization (CMO), Onitsha Archdiocese: In a bid to build stronger institutions that will promote the course of Environmental Justice through sensitization on Clean Water and Sanitation, JDPC Onitsha visited and sensitized the Catholic Men Organization (CMO), Onitsha Archdiocese during their general meeting. The highlight of the sensitization was on becoming Environmental Ambassadors with the slogan: “See, Talk, Act, Remove” (STAR). The JDPC Provincial Director, Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoeye urged them to replicate the campaign in their homes, businesses and work places. On the other hand, he commended the efforts of the CMO and urged them to protect the environment by engaging in proper/simple waste management, tree planting, market place sensitization etc.

• **Economic and Social Justice Programs:**

- The Archdiocese of Onitsha through the JDPC embarked on a number of social and economic activities for livelihood support, empowerment and poverty alleviation. CADOMICS 1 commenced in December 2014 while PROMIC 1 and 2 commenced in 2010. Beneficiaries of JDPC economic and social justice utilized the accessed loans to boost their products and income, thereby leading to improved livelihood. The PROMIC and CADOMIC projects were aimed at empowering rural farmers and alleviating poverty. So far, the project has empowered over 3,000 farmers and entrepreneurs. In a similar vein, the JDPC Onitsha was at a workshop conducted for PROMIC Coordinators in Onitsha province. The meeting was aimed at accessing the effectiveness of the project. In attendance also were their counterparts from Uromi and Issele-Uku dioceses.
- **Auto-mechanic Workshop/Training Centre:** On 7th February, 2018, two representatives of the Rotary Club of Germany were in Nigeria for the flag-off ceremony of the auto-mobile workshop and training centre constructed by the JDPC Onitsha for youth empowerment. The purpose of the German nationals' visit was to discuss prospects of support in terms of equipment and human capital for the auto-mobile workshop. The duo were also in attendance at the commissioning of the JDPC Onitsha ultra-modern mechatronics centre, Nkpor, Anambra State, which was facilitated by His Grace, Most Rev. Valerian Okeke.



JDPC Staff with the German visitors



Commissioning of the Auto-mechanic Workshop

The auto-mobile workshop/training centre has been stocked with tools such as 45kva generator, three German 2 Pole power lifters, electric aligner, electric tire changer, air compressor 500litres 7.5hp, wheel balancing machine, 4tons floor jacks, complete set of tools, sets of moving tool boxes, AC gas refiller, 50kg wheel fire extinguisher, and Oil sucker. Plans are ongoing to install car wash services and car oven baking. The centre will also serve as a training ground for young men and women who wish to learn mechatronics. It is hoped that this initiative will change the popular narrative about mechanics. The centre has so far employed about 10 engineers who specialized in different aspects of auto-mobile. Prior to setting up the

auto-mobile workshop/training centre, three young graduates were sent to Germany for intensive training on auto-mobile.

- **School-Run Scheme:** JDPC school run intervention was introduced to assist parents in conveying their children to and from various schools in Onitsha. Two buses were provided for this purpose; 47 children are beneficiaries of this scheme on a daily basis.
- **Conflict Resolution, Democracy and Good Governance Interventions:**
 - **Monitoring of Voters' Registration Exercise:** JDPC Onitsha carried out monitoring exercise in INEC offices in some local government areas of the state to ascertain the mode of voter registration exercise across nine LGAs namely: Anambra East, Oyi, Dunukofia, Ogbaru, Idemili North, Idemili South, Onitsha North, Onitsha South, and Ayamelum. The exercise had some glitches such as late arrival of INEC registration officers, inadequate registration material, and minimal unrest at Ogbaru LGA. Regardless, the registration process was very inclusive.
 - **Voter Education:** As part of its activities towards building strong institutions, the Commission had a session with selected priests of Onitsha Archdiocese about the need to encourage their congregations to participate in electoral processes. The priests were also urged to raise awareness in their various parishes about the parlous security situation in Onitsha, in order to ensure vigilance among citizens. In addition, the need to advocate for clean environment through homilies was highlighted at the seminar.
 - **Judicial and Penal Reform:** The JDPC Onitsha Judicial and Penal Reform unit engaged the services of an additional human rights lawyer. The improved judicial services of the unit led to release and rehabilitation of five prisoners with minor offences. The Commission also collaborated with Waterside hospital to treat an abandoned 13 year old dumb boy, and thereafter, rehabilitated him through the Anambra State Ministry of Child Welfare and Women Development. Similarly, the JDPC Onitsha was involved in the rehabilitation of a young woman from Ondo State and her 18 months old child.
 - **Peace Building and Conflict Resolution:** The JDPC Onitsha Peace Building unit and Conflict Resolution unit recorded remarkable peaceful resolutions. Three cases were withdrawn from the various police stations and courts, and reconciliation was achieved through the intervention of the JDPC Onitsha. Likewise, the Commission has continued to assist families, communities and individuals in achieving sustainable peace. For instance, twelve cases of troubled marriages, six cases of child separation and eight cases of business misunderstandings were peacefully resolved leading to happier homes and cordial business relationships.
- **Emergency Response and Humanitarian Interventions:** The JDPC Onitsha collaborated with Christian Aids to implement a flood emergency response program, with funding from STARTFUND. The intervention, which was in three components – WASH, Protection and Cash distribution – was designed to provide emergency relief to households affected by flood disaster in communities across Delta and Anambra States. For this purpose, thirty-five volunteers were recruited and trained by the sponsor. A total of 154 pregnant women/nursing mothers benefited from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) kits, while a total of 1,319 selected households received the sum N23, 000 each from the vendor, United Bank for Africa.

Similarly, the JDPC Onitsha Caritas intervention revolved around cash relief to the less privileged, school fees payment for indigent students, and hospital bill clearance for the sick. A

total of one million, six hundred and eighty-five thousand, one hundred naira (N1,685,100) only was expended on the aforementioned interventions.

- **JDPC/Archdiocesan Emergency Flood Response:** The Archbishop and Auxiliary Bishop of Onitsha together with the faithful of the Archdiocese, promptly responded to the plight of flood victims within the Archdiocese. In the year under review, a total of 11 IDP camps in Ogbaru, Ayamelum and Anambra East LGAs were visited on the 29th September, 10th and 11th of October. The emergency response which was in four phases, involved the distribution of various food and non-food items to flood victims as donated by the Archdiocese of Onitsha and other well-meaning citizens. The Archbishop also promised to sponsor the children in flood affected areas through school.



Rev. Fr. Edwin Udoe, Hon. Arinze Awogu (Ogbaru LGA Chairman) and the JDPC Crew

Challenges

Two major challenges were encountered in the process of implementing planned activities. Firstly, the national economic recession hindered repayment of loan by beneficiaries and hence, limited the number of new loans given to beneficiaries. Some beneficiaries willingly defaulted in their repayment and this led to engaging parish priests, community leaders and lawyers in debt recovery process. Secondly, some of the planned activities and programs for 2018 were not fully carried out as expected due to limited funding and the poor economic situation of the country.

Lesson Learnt

The Commission must be cautious with loan procedures to avoid bad debts. On the other hand, some persons who seek assistance are often insincere.

Best Practice

Partnership with the Provincial Office, other Diocesan JDPCs and other organizations

Recommendation

The world is working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is, therefore, our recommendation that parish JDPC should work hard to establish projects that will sustain the JDPC's activities, in order to meet the needs of parishioners.

Next Steps

- To improve livelihood support programs and alleviate poverty in a sustainable way.
- To work towards making the mechanic workshop a value chain centre for youth empowerment.
- To expand existing agricultural projects.
- To expand the activities in Environmental Justice and Prison Apostolate.

OWERRI PROVINCE

The province consists of Owerri Archdiocese, Aba, Ahiara, Okigwe, Orlu, and Umuahia dioceses. Various activities/project which took place across the province in the year under review are listed below.

- **New Appointments:** The following were appointed to various offices: Rev. Fr. Gerald Njoku as Owerri Archdiocesan JDPC Coordinator; Rev. Frs. Jude Onuoha and Charles Agwuocha as the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinators of Ahiara diocese; Rev. Fr. John Onwuka as Aba diocesan Coordinator; Rev. Fr. Remigius Udeze as the Coordinator of Orlu diocese. Similarly, with the assistance of the national office, the provincial office engaged the services of two Youth Corp members.
- **Democracy and Good Governance Project:** With the support of the national office, the province initiated the Democracy and Good Governance Radio Program to sensitize the public about the objectives and activities of the JDPC before, during and after elections. The radio program was also a platform for awareness creation on the need for the citizens to have their Permanent Voter Card, in order to exercise civic responsibilities. A good number of diocesan Coordinators participated actively in series of meetings that held prior to the kick-off of broadcasts on 16th September, 2018.
- **2019 General Elections Preparations:** In view of the 2019 General Elections, Yara'dua Foundation in partnership with Caritas Nigeria, organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) from 6th – 8th December, 2018. The provincial office nominated five staff to represent the province at the training. Likewise, representatives were drawn from across the dioceses to attend a seminar on finance monitoring during election campaign which took place from 17th – 22nd December, 2018. Worth mentioning is the active sensitization of citizens through conferences and seminars in the aspect of civic responsibilities ahead of 2019 General Elections. JDPC Umuahia hosted a successful political awareness conference on 18th August, 2018 with the theme, Ensuring Good Governance, the Role of the Electorate; JDPC Owerri organized seminars and workshops on elections and electioneering which focused on The Youth and 2019 general elections; JDPC Okigwe, beyond the election seminars and workshops, commenced a training on election observation in three zones of the diocese; JDPC Ahiara held her first public lecture on Participatory Democracy and the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria in August, 2018.
- **Health/Medical Outreach:** The diocesan JDPCs were actively involved in health programs. The 26th World Day of the sick was celebrated across the province with free tests on HIV, Eye, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure followed by health talks.
 - The provincial Commission extended her free medical checks to motherless babies' home. In the coming year, JDPC Aba would embark on offsetting hospital bills of indigent patients.
 - The diocesan Commissions within the province participated in Caritas Nigeria's training on GRAIL (Galvanizing Religious Leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to pediatric HIV) project which held in Enugu from 23rd – 25th April, 2018. Similarly, the Provincial Director of Owerri was at a Review meeting of GRAIL

project champions which took place at the national office from 6th – 8th November, 2018.

- **Agriculture:** The dioceses engaged in various agriculture programs as follows:
 - JDPC Umuahia empowered a number of persons with pro-vitamin cassava cuttings.
 - JDPC Owerri EU care farms have continued to feed the poor.
 - JDPC Ahiara has continued to improve on their farm project; the animal farm has 58 pigs and 251 birds, while the Pro-Vitamin A cassava farm, plantain and banana plantations are progressing remarkably.
 - JDPC Okigwe is animal production, fish farm, and multi cash crops such as pineapple and palm plantation. The Commission has intensified palm tree planting campaign in all the parishes in the diocese.
 - JDPC Orlu plans to visit their poultry, fishery and cassava farms as soon as the funds are available.
- **Prison Apostolate:** JDPC activities in Nigeria Prison services within the dioceses have been remarkable. As a follow-up to the campaigns for justice, some dioceses opened public complaints units at the offices to intervene in cases of prisoners who are unjustly incarcerated. In addition:
 - JDPC Umuahia commissioned a well-equipped fully functional law office at the Secretariat.
 - JDPC Owerri embarked on a visit to Owerri prison to provide food and non-food items to the inmates. In a similar vein, there was counselling session. During the course of the visit, some cases were discontinued, thereby leading to the release of accused persons.
 - JDPC Okigwe collaborated with Catholic Lawyers Association to raise a chapel in Okigwe prison; fundraising activities are ongoing for the completion of the chapel. Regular masses, confession, catechism classes are organized periodically for the prisoners.
 - JDPC Aba provided reformatory facilities and pastoral care for the inmates at Aba Federal Prison.
- **Capacity Building:** A capacity building seminar/workshop was organized by the provincial office from 11th – 15th June, 2018, under the sponsorship of CAFOD through Caritas Nigeria. The dioceses in the province sent three participants each to represent them at the workshop. Similarly, the national office organized a training/orientation of newly-elected JDPC Coordinators/Secretaries from 6th – 8th March, 2018. Participants were drawn from across the provinces. Other capacity building programs are recorded as ongoing in all the dioceses.
- **Parish JDPC:** In consonance with the directives of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) with regard to the formation of parish JDPCs, some of the diocesan JDPCs in Owerri province keyed in as follows:
 - JDPC Umuahia held a seminar for all parish JDPC Coordinators on 3rd August, 2018. The seminar was sponsored by Kolping Society of Nigeria and some diocesan benefactors.
 - Seven out of eight deaneries in Okigwe have functional parish JDPCs; forty-two parishes and one hundred and seventy-seven persons were trained to the credit of the diocese.
 - JDPC Aba is working conscientiously towards reviving parish JDPCs and to

- establish in other parishes. A major challenge in this regard is the unresponsiveness of people given the fact that it is a voluntary activity.
- JDPC Ahiara set up a committee to ensure the formation of JDPC in seventy-three parishes. Fourteen parishes that responded have been trained.
 - **Empowerment Programs:** The year under review saw the empowerment of persons in the form of loans, training of auxiliary nurses, support to internally displaced persons, relief services to orphans, widows, and vulnerable children, educational support to the less privileged etc.

Challenges

- Funding support for the renovation of Owerri provincial office.
- Lack of funding for the procurement of office equipment.
- Inadequate capacity in project and report writing, project management, and accounting.
- Limited funding for development programs.
- Lack of a bus or hilux for the provincial Commission poses a challenge to traversing project areas and attending to other needs.
- Reformatory facilities at the Federal Prisons need repairs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As a national agency of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Caritas Nigeria coordinates fifty-six (56) 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 2018 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 (N)	EXPENDITURES (N)
CORE	Caritas Nigeria CORE funds are received through the diocesan Lenten collections, parish collections, donations from individuals and corporate bodies.	133,572,057.19	135,530,959.27
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.	2,437,126,583.60	2,436,788,410.18
Feed the Future	The Feed the Future Nigeria Livelihoods project is funded by USAID through Catholic Relief Services (CRS).	74,569,250.70	73,351,703.03
CAFOD	This is an Institutional Capacity Strengthening project funded by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).	107,828,899.68	27,814,916.29
E.C. Zaman Tare	The European Commission- sponsored project through CAFOD is for peace building. The project is implemented in Kaduna and Plateau States.	11,108,320.68	12,577,273.42
ICS	Institutional Capacity Strengthening (ICS) project funded by Catholic Relief Services (CRS).	10,354,605.65	8,965,063.08
PMD Pro	The Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) is a training facilitated by Caritas Nigeria in collaboration with APMG Group.	22,247,336.12	11,240,619.97

Caritas Int'l	Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance funded by Caritas Internationalis in the North East of Nigeria	114,647,213.80	123,908,182.80
Caritas RRR	Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance funded by Caritas Internationalis for the Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State.	30,974,524.66	30,974,524.70
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) funded Caritas Nigeria for the implementation of some humanitarian Interventions in the North-East Nigeria.	20,730,441.66	17,265,756.22
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on promotion of increased awareness on optimal nutrition and management of severe acute malnutrition among infants and young children in North-East Nigeria	103,918,856.17	103,794,861.46
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.	95,784,984.18	82,136,621.80
Caritas Norway	The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency/Early Recovery Food Security and Livelihoods project for communities affected by insurgency in Borno and Adamawa States	232,802,268.00	216,248,655.84
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.	27,359,135.86	20,010,907.22
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).	114,000,000.00	-
Malteser	Malteser has sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in Michika and Madagali LGAs, Adamawa State.	16,845,972.80	16,845,972.80
TOTAL		3,553,870,450.75	3,317,454,428.08

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



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