

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

Action funded by the European Union, contracted by ICMPD through the Mobility Partnership Facility



Report on Human Trafficking Training for Law Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors and Judges

**January 19-20, 2021
Edo State, Nigeria**

Objective and Structure of the Training

Pathfinders Justice Initiative (PJI)'s Human Trafficking Training for Law Enforcement Officers, Prosecutors and Judges in Nigeria was designed to build the capacity of these stakeholders to increase and generate more effective prosecutions against traffickers within and outside Nigeria. PJI organized, moderated and facilitated the training, while multiple speakers shared their expertise across a range of subjects. Via tailored group sessions, participants were able to engage with their counterparts in other agencies and share good practices.

The themes and topics were designed based on discussions generated from Nigeria's first ever Gap Analysis on the country's response to human trafficking which was conducted by PJI in June 2019. In an effort to increase stakeholder engagement in framing the design of the training, interviews and surveys completed by stakeholders and survivors were utilised in the months leading up to the training. As a result, the training focused on the following three thematic areas: (i) proper identification and generating quality investigations; (ii) increasing successful prosecutions; and (iii) improving transnational cooperation.

The training agenda paralleled the journey of survivor engagement with law enforcement and served to generate partner insight/input for Pathfinders' National Guidelines for law enforcement. More specifically, the topics included updates on the current trends and efforts to combat trafficking in Nigeria; an overview of Nigeria's legal framework and its Edo State specialized trafficking courts; insight into Nigeria's National Referral Mechanism and National Plan of Action Against Trafficking; collaborative opportunities (national and international); practical approaches and tactics to improving identification and investigations; and working in collaboration with survivors and other stakeholders outside the law enforcement framework.

Participants

PJI selected leading stakeholders in the law enforcement community and across government agencies in Nigeria who specialize in human trafficking cases. A total of 48 individuals from 14 organizations/agencies were in attendance. In addition, media houses were also invited to participate, as they come in contact with survivors and are tasked with framing their narratives to ensure that their stories remain in the consciousness of the community.

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Organizations in attendance:

Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Joint Border Task Force (JBTF)	Nigeria Customs Service
Edo State Judiciary (Specialized Trafficking Courts)	Media Houses (News Agency of Nigeria)	Department of State Service
International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria (Edo State)	NAPTIP (Abuja HQ, Benin)	UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Nigeria Police Force (Edo State Command)	International Justice Mission (Ghana)
	Nigeria Immigration Service	Pathfinders Justice Initiative

Topics covered in the training

- 1. Indicators, Trends and Patterns of TIP in Nigeria:** To start off the training, UNODC presented statistics from its 2020 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, highlighting key findings on victims, forms of exploitation, offenders, flow of trafficking and convictions. Findings were also presented from UNODC's baseline assessment of Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria Report, with key statistics on victims, forms of trafficking, profiles of traffickers and convictions.
- 2. Overview of JBTF Activities/ Case Studies:** The Joint Border Task Force (JBTF) presented an overview of their activities and introduced scenarios to spark interactive discussions on engaging with victims and survivors.
- 3. Bottleneck Challenges and Pain Points to Increasing Successful Prosecutions (Break-Out Groups):** Groups were organized along Judiciary and Prosecutors, Investigators and Victims/Survivors perspectives to identify challenges/pain points in prosecuting cases and to share insights and good practices.
- 4. Session I: Proper Identification and Quality Investigations:** Using reenactments, JBTF highlighted practical approaches and tactics for effective investigative interviewing. Actors introduced an interviewing framework and speakers outlined tips for gathering and analyzing evidence.
- 5. Session II: The Significance of Inter-Agency/Multi-Disciplinary and Cross-Border Collaboration Panel** (UNODC, ETAHT, NAPTIP, IOM, International Justice Mission). The panel responded to questions concerning the significance of inter-agency/multi-sector/multidisciplinary and international collaborations and networking, the seamless value chain and the strategic mapping of actors.
- 6. National Referral Mechanism (NRM):** NAPTIP introduced the premise and the guiding principles, key elements, and services of the NRM. They provided an overview of how it is intended to work, while outlining the rights and obligations of Trafficked Persons (TP),

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cooperation agreements among actors, and overview of key documents required for referrals.

7. **Session III: Increasing Successful Prosecutions:** JBTF introduced Nigeria's anti-trafficking legal instruments, its trafficking offences and punishment, outlined the roles of prosecutors and the prosecution and addressed various bottlenecks to increasing successful prosecutions. Thereafter, best practices and winning strategies in prosecuting trafficking cases were outlined.
8. **Session IV Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking:** ETAHT presented an overview of its structure, objectives, achievements, challenges and opportunities. A judge from one of the State's two specialized Trafficking Courts articulated an approach to streamlining and enhancing prosecutions.
9. **National Action Plan:** Finally NAPTIP outlined Nigeria's National Action of Plan Against Trafficking which was originally developed as Nigeria's response to trafficking in 2008. They highlighted the structures and mechanisms that were developed for Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership. They also discussed recent initiatives and provided updates on a new National Action Plan that is currently under construction.

Responses from participants

40 participants completed a survey inquiring about the impact and effectiveness of the training. 100% of respondents indicated that they would recommend the training to others, confirming anecdotal positive responses after the event. The average survey score was 4.3 (1= poor, 5= excellent).

- Content usefulness: 4.2
- Speaker presentations: 3.9
- Structure of the workshop: 4.4
- Venue and facility: 4.7
- Coordination and logistics: 3.5
- Facilitators: 4.4

Representative quotes:

"Very well organized. Diverse and dynamic agenda." - UNODC participant

"The training is very relevant and will enable participants to network for effective synergy." - NAPTIP participant

"Excellent venue, well planned, and well delivered." - Ministry of Justice participant

"This type of training should be organized quarterly or bi-annually as it would help collaboration and bring way forward on the fight against human trafficking." - JBTF participant

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"I enjoyed all the training sessions. It was academically enriching and best practices and modern trends of TIP were learnt. Thank you for the opportunity." - NAPTIP participant

When asked what could have made the training more effective, the responses were largely related to speaker presentations and increasing the overall length of the training:

"It would have been more effective if the workshop had been even more interactive." - NAPTIP participant

"Whenever a paper is presented, the presenter should keep to time and also give breaks so that participants would participate in the lectures." - JBTF participant

"This workshop was well planned and implemented. I can suggest that maybe an additional day or two for further discussions." - JBTF participant