

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



Pathfinders Justice Initiative Report on Rehabilitation Workshop for Providers Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

January 14-15, 2021
Edo State, Nigeria

Objective and Structure of the Workshop

Pathfinders Justice Initiative (PJI) designed the 2-day Rehabilitation Workshop to equip service providers providing rehabilitation support to survivors of human trafficking across Nigeria to be more trauma-informed and survivor centered across their respective services. The themes and topics were culled from discussions and feedback following our June 2019 Gap Analysis as well as interviews and surveys generated from service providers across Nigeria. PJI facilitated and moderated the workshop, while multiple speakers shared their expertise across a range of subjects. Structured group sessions also provided opportunities to connect with other providers and share good practices. The workshop agenda reflected the journey of how survivors engage with providers and served to generate partner input for Pathfinders' upcoming National Guidelines for rehabilitation service providers.

Participants

PJI selected leading organizations/agencies within the local Edo community and across government segments across Nigeria who work directly with survivors of human trafficking. A total of 49 participants from 20 organizations were in attendance. In addition, media houses were invited to participate, as they are storytellers who are tasked with framing the community's consciousness of and response to human trafficking.

Organizations in attendance:

<i>Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW)</i>	<i>Girls Power Initiative (GPI)</i>	<i>Ministry of Social Development and Gender</i>	<i>Pathfinders Justice Initiative</i>
<i>Caritas Nigeria</i>	<i>Idia Renaissance</i>	<i>NACTAL Edo State</i>	<i>Nigerian Red Cross</i>
<i>Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)</i>	<i>International Organization for Migration (IOM)</i>	<i>NAPTIP (Abuja HQ, Lagos, Benin)</i>	<i>Salvation Army</i>
<i>Genesis House (Freedom Foundation)</i>	<i>Media Houses (AIT, News Agency of Nigeria, Observer)</i>	<i>NAME Foundation</i>	<i>Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons</i>
	<i>Ministry of Justice</i>	<i>National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs South-West</i>	<i>Web of Hearts Foundation</i>

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		(NCFRMI SW)	Dr. Kemi Akintoyese
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Topics covered in the Workshop

- Survivors Panel:** The Workshop began with a Survivors Panel which served to frame and act as the foundation for the two-day training. Three survivors that have partnered with PJI on their path to rehabilitation shared their stories, highlighting where service providers/agencies made an impact and identifying gaps within Nigeria's human trafficking response which contribute to the proliferation of trafficking. The panel was an opportunity for service providers to hear directly from survivors, to tangibly envision the impact of their work and to ask survivors how that work can be improved.
- Victims of Trafficking (VoT) Identification and Protection:** Identification of VoTs is a critical first step as victims may not self identify, want to be stigmatized by their experience or bear feelings of shame, fear of deportation, fines or other punitive consequences. They may even be dependent on the abuser ("Stockholm Syndrome"). This session outlined concrete identifiers for both sexual and labour exploitation and outlined a screening process to ensure that all factors were considered and that relevant information could be surfaced.
- The Import of Trauma on Survivors:** Effective identification and service delivery rely on understanding the role that trauma has on survivors. Clinical psychologist, Dr. Kemi Akintoyese, used case studies to illustrate the effects trauma has on the soul, body, and mind, which often make the job of first responders and providers trying to intervene challenging. This training allowed providers to understand (big picture) why survivors appear to behave the way they do and how their responses may provide support or even further retraumatize survivors.
- Break Out/Group Session: Best Practices for Trauma Informed and Survivor Centered Care:** Groups were organized based on the beneficiaries they serve (i.e., men, children, women), following which participants shared how their organizations were structured to be survivor centered and trauma informed. They exchanged best practices on how they handle extreme cases of trauma and advised on what their organizations needed to be more effective in this area.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Survivors:** This session addressed the need to understand the mental health, psychological effects and broad range of needs of survivors. It outlined the various dimensions (i.e., physical, mental, moral, spiritual,

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social, etc.) which programming should address to ensure survivors become resilient for the long term.

- ***Sheltering, Reintegration and Economic Empowerment:*** This session offered practical guidance related to rehabilitation services, such as housing and economic empowerment. More specifically, NAPTIP led the session on Sheltering, offering technical understanding of victims' rights and obligations, shelter record and documents, and shelter management. IOM led the session on Reintegration and Economic Empowerment in the context of returnees outlining the dimensions required for reintegration support at the individual, community, and structural levels. For the individual, they walked through the reintegration process and the need for economic empowerment and the varying forms which it might take.
- ***Addressing and Overcoming Survivor Setbacks and Challenges:*** During this session, Dr. Kemi Akintoyese addressed the import of survivors' setbacks. Through case studies, she helped the participants understand the cognitive, behavioral, and emotional de-regulation that occurs, making it difficult to recover. She offered practical guidance on how service professionals can work with survivors directly through exercises and other recommendations to support their recovery.
- ***Effective Communication Skills for Service Providers:*** This session, led by PJI, laid out the practical tools required to communicate with survivors in such a way to ensure that services are effective. PJI outlined the five pillars for effective communication as well as blindspots such as implicit biases, stereotypes and prejudices, and tones and body language that may negatively affect the survivor. Role playing was introduced to keep the session engaging and to demonstrate how providers can effectively engage directly with survivors.
- ***Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care for Service Providers:*** This session was included to address the trauma that service providers themselves may experience as they work with survivors. When left untreated, vicarious trauma can negatively impact the quality of work as well as the mental health of the professional. Examples of self-care were introduced for individuals, as well as effective practices for managers and organizations.
- ***Break Out/Group: Challenges to Self-Care and Best Practices for Combatting Vicarious Trauma:*** Groups were organized along roles they serve within their organization (Executive Director/HOD, Program Director/Manager or Case Worker/Social Worker). Groups discussed challenges to self-care personally and organisationally, implications of the failure to address vicarious trauma as well as best practices for combatting vicarious trauma and implementing self-care.

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- **Collaboration and Impact:** As a collective group, participants discussed potential gaps and areas of collaboration (between CSOs and Donors/CSOs and Government/CSOs and other CSOs) and what they needed to more be impactful/cohesive in their work.

Responses from participants

37 participants completed a survey inquiring of the impact and effectiveness of the Workshop. 100% indicated that they would recommend the Workshop to others, confirming anecdotal positive responses after the event. The overall survey results ranged from 4.5 and 4.8 (1= poor, 5= excellent).

- Content usefulness: 4.6
- Speakers' presentation: 4.5
- Structure of the workshop: 4.5
- Venue and facility: 4.6
- Coordination and logistics: 4.5
- Facilitators: 4.8

Representatives' quotes:

"The Workshop was an eye-opener and I will attend the next one." - NAPTIP attendee

"The training was awesome, a lot to learn from it. Beautiful presentation, well organized. Conducive environment." - ETAHT attendee

"The Workshop is commendable and insightful and is very helpful for our services." - COSUDOW attendee

When asked "what would have made [the Workshop] more effective?" - responses largely related to improving the space's internet broadband and other technical issues relating to speakers who made video presentations across online platforms. Participants also highlighted the need for more audience participation, and extending the workshop beyond 2 days.

Representatives' quotes:

"Better wifi to aid electronic broadcast and participation" - Web of Heart Foundation attendee

"It was an excellent workshop, increased participation would have made it more effective" - NACTAL attendee

"More time or PJI could have planned to have it run for 3 days max" - Red Cross attendee