



Justice Development and Peace Centre (JDPC Benin)

Catholic Archdiocese Of Benin City

ANNUAL REPORT

JAN 2022 – DEC 2023

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OUR PARTNERS



Edo State Ministry of Health, Edo State Ministry of Justice,
Edo State Ministry of Gender Issues and Social Development
Edo SACA, Edo State Police Command



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His Grace
Most Rev. Dr. Augustine O. Akubeze
Legal Holder



Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu
Executive Director

S T A F F M E M B E R S



Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu
Executive Director



Anna Chibuzor-Ewesiobi
Communication Officer



Omionawele O. Theresa
Legal Officer



Okojie Sandra
Finance Officer



Omoigui Adesuwa Juliet
Finance Officer II



Awai Ruth Emeghomhe
Social Worker



Michael Okolie
Social Worker





OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

Justice Development and Peace Centre (JDPC) Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City, is a Faith-Based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that falls under the legal instrument establishing the Catholic Mission. It is governed by the Conference of Catholic Archbishops of Nigeria (CBCN) and operates under the National Coordination of the Department of Church and Society.

The Centre was established in the Archdiocese in 1991 and commenced active operation in 2001 and is guided by the common values of the Catholic Faith. It was registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) 2010 Abuja with registration number (CAC/IT/NO 40003).

ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:

The Organization have members and volunteers all over the communities/villages, parishes and mass centers under the catholic Archdiocese of Benin which covers the seven (7) Local Government Areas of Edo South Senatorial District, namely: Oredo, Ikpoba Okha, Egor, Ovia South-West, Ovia North-East, Uhunmwonde, and Orhionmon. The Centre has four (4) members of Board of Trustees headed by the Archbishop of the metropolitan see of Benin, the Coordinator who is a priest and a legal adviser. JDPC Benin has a staff strength of ten (10) regular workers headed by the Archdiocesan coordinator who is the head of the management structures and is responsible for the day to day running of the organization in union with the other staff.

The Centre has a central Archdiocesan office in Benin and branches in all the communities in the forementioned Local Government. Our vast network across the Communities/ villages in Edo South Senatorial district makes us very effective in carrying out community-based interventions for two notable reasons. First, the Commission has a vast network of long standing JDPC volunteers, over 100 of them and second, the Centre has a long-standing and proven community structure that has effectively implemented community-based programs over the years.

VISION

To champion the cause of humanity through advocacy, justice and social development to create an inclusive society

MISSION

To evolve and execute development programs through implementing people-oriented policies with available resources to achieve desired result of inclusive society.



CORE VALUES

- The Dignity of the Human Person.
- Rights and Responsibilities
- The Common Good
- Accountability
- Solidarity
- Fundamental option for the poor
- Honour and Integrity

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Promotion of Justice, Development and Peace in the communities of our intervention
- Capacity building and empowerment for indigents in the society.
- Uplifting Social Justice, democratic value, human rights culture and human dignity in the society.
- Promoting Christ Love and Togetherness in the communities.
- To Promote Catholic social teachings so as to contribute to the process of social transformation and reformation.
- Networking and collaborating with other local, national and international development agencies, to effectively address common social concerns.

THEMATIC FOCUS

- Human Rights Education
- Prison Apostolate/Police Interaction
- Alternative Dispute Resolution and Free Legal Aid
- Child Protection
- Anti Human Trafficking Campaigns
- Livelihood Support / Empowerment
- Good Governance
- Health
- Training/Capacity building
- Education and Literacy Program
- Peace Building/ Community Development

THE ORGANIZATION/ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

<u>Primary:</u>	<u>Secondary:</u>	<u>Tertiary:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poor and less privileged • Those marginalized and unjustly treated • Children, youth, men and women • The sick, the aged and Prison inmates • Rural Populace Communities in conflict • The physically challenged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor partners • Health facilities and Schools • BOT and members, Staff • Governmental bodies • Religious organizations • Media houses • financial institutions • Community volunteers/ • Care givers • CSO/Networks • HIV MARPs • Community groups and leadership • Market women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT providers • Youth and youth organization • Local Govt. legislation • Community elites • Community, religious and traditional leaders • Politicians at all levels • National and international donors (bilateral, multilateral, foundations) • Corporate organizations



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Justice development and peace Centre (JDPC Benin), Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City, present her comprehensive report of activities of the Centre from January 2022 to December 2023. We are indeed grateful to God for seeing us through these years affecting lives with utmost fulfilment.

JDPC Benin steered a number of interventions geared towards positive impact and meaningful development in the lives of the rural populace especially amongst the vulnerable and the oppressed in the society with a lot successes recorded.

We wish to in a special way appreciate all our partners and funders, Swisshand Foundation, Catholic Caritas Foundation OF Nigeria, Irish Embassy, Sun24, Italian Bishops Conference, Missio, NDI, Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City, Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja, Group and Individual Donations, Volunteers, Authority of the Correctional Center, Edo State Ministry of Health, Edo State Ministry of Justice, Edo SACA, Edo State Ministry of Gender Issues and Social Development, Edo State Police Command among others for their support to our programmes.

Special thanks to the Archbishop of the metropolitan see of Benin, Most Rev. Dr. Augustine Akubeze and the entire archdiocese for their support towards achieving the set objectives and goal of JDPC Benin. May God bless and reward you all abundantly

Rev. Fr. Benedict O. Onwugbenu



Justice Development and Peace Centre (JDPC Benin)

Catholic Archdiocese Of Benin City

ACTIVITY REPORT

JAN 2022 – DEC 2023



2022 ACTIVITIES

JDPC BENIN

JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CENTRE

ANNUAL STAFF RETREAT

It has become a tradition in JDPC Benin to always open the year with staff retreat. Building a good team for better service delivery and putting the right strategies in place were the major agenda of JDPC Benin as she opens the year with a staff retreat. The Retreat was to create an avenue for all staff to learn new innovative ideas in carrying out official duties. The Retreat which is held first week of resumption every year also give staff the opportunity to fill out an online assessment form that was needed to evaluate staff performance in the previous year and suggest possible ways for improvement. In the past, the retreat has featured lecture sections on strategic management, Proposal / Report writing and documentation, understanding Monitoring & Evaluation framework, budget tracking Organizational Structure, and creating visibility through social media. The lectures were handled by a project management expert Mr. Isaac Noble Israel.

JDPC Benin director Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu usually charged all staff to be ready to put all that they have learned during the retreat to action as plans are not effective until there is implementation. He further encouraged staff to build good team spirit to achieve timely results. Some staff speaking after the retreat were appreciative of the fact that the retreat was needed because it exposed them to certain things, they were ignorant about and are ready to work with the Director to take JDPC Benin to a greater height and also improve its service delivery. The Retreat was mainly for staff and selected community volunteers.



SEMINAR WITH PARISH JDPC EXECUTIVES

As JDPC Benin keeps expanding, there was need for the Centre to further educate and remind her volunteers on the WORKINGS OF JDPC Benin. To achieve this, a one-day seminar was organised to further enlighten community volunteers on JDPC Works. The facilitator of the Seminar and director of the Centre, Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu took the participants through the thematic areas of JDPC Benin and where the volunteers come in, in making sure that our vision and mission statement is actualized.



ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

The Church on the 8th of February every year, marks the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, the Patron saint of victims of slavery and Human trafficking. The feast day is an avenue to reflect on her impact in advocating for freedom for trafficked persons and those in slavery. This year's feast Day was celebrated all over the world with the theme, The Power of Care, Women, Economy, and Human Trafficking.



In Benin City, Justice Development and Peace Centre, Benin carried out school sensitization activity in Collaboration with the Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (CUSODOW), Genius Hub Global, and Caritas Nigeria. This activity took place on the 7th, 9th, and 10th of February 2022. The Sensitization was carried out at Aduwawa Secondary School, Uteh Secondary School, and Urora Secondary School, where the students and teachers were sensitized on the dangers of Human Trafficking and safe migration.



The feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita would always be celebrated because of her exemplary role in pushing for freedom for those in captivity and her impact on the church and the world.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY CELEBRATION

JDPC Benin annually carries out impactful rally to commemorate International Women's Day. The rally serves as a powerful platform to raise awareness, advocate for gender equality, and celebrate the achievements of women.

The primary goal of the rally was to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality, emphasizing the role of women in societal development and the need for collective action to address gender-based disparities, Advocate for Women's Rights: The rally aimed to serve as a collective voice advocating for the rights of women. Through speeches, placards, and chants, participants emphasized the significance of equal opportunities, access to education, and the elimination of discrimination, Celebrate Women's Achievements: JDPC Benin sought to celebrate the achievements of women in various fields, showcasing inspiring stories and accomplishments that underscored the positive impact women make in their communities and beyond.

JDPC Benin's International Women's Day rally was a resounding success, drawing attention to critical issues surrounding Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Gender Stereotypes, Discrimination, and Bias. The event's diverse activities effectively conveyed messages of empowerment, celebration, and advocacy, leaving a lasting impact on the community. JDPC's commitment to fostering positive change was evident throughout the rally, marking a significant step towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society for women in Benin city and Nigeria in general. We support an inclusive and gender-balanced world. #BreakTheBias



SGBV PARISH SENSITIZATION

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) has become a reoccurring issue in recent times, young girls, women, and even boys have not been spared from this Dare Devil societal vice. This violence has also extended to homes, Markets, Streets, Mosque and Churches where domestic violence or child abuse is the order of the day.

In Helping to curb this menace, JDPC Benin carried out SGBV sensitization campaign in Edo South Senatorial District at the Catholic Church of Assumption Ute Community, St. Mary Obe, St. Michael Prayer Ministry, Holy Cross Cathedral and St. Francis catholic Church as well as an International Association of Christian Religious Leader in Benin City. Parishioners of the various parishes/groups visited were enlightened about the dangers and damages caused by Sexual and Gender-based violence. They were also enlightened on the Provisions of Edo State Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2021. The Centre is poised at reaching out to more religious and traditional Institutions to sensitize more persons. Let us come together and join this fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).



40 DAYS LENTEN MEDICAL OUTREACH

The Season of Lent is a period of sober reflection on the prize Christ paid for us on the cross. It revolves around three pillars Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. It is also a time to render service to our neighbors and community.

JDPC Benin having a core value of service to humanity began her 40 Days Lenten Medical Outreach Program from March 28th, 2022 to April 4th, 2022.

This Medical outreach was an avenue for persons residing in the various community invited to get tested on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and also get to know their blood pressure and blood sugar level. Beneficiaries were also counselled on health-related issues affecting them, and drugs dispensed to persons who were reactive to malaria. The Community Health Testing Activities carried out include:

- **Malaria Testing**
- **HIV/AIDS Testing**

- **Blood Pressure check**
- **Blood sugar level Check**

The following Communities were visited; Umelu Community, Ekae Community, Evbaubogun Community, Igbogor and Ogbahu-Igbanke community.



YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Raising Youths who can be productive members of the society has always been a prominent activity of the Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City, this also corresponds with the activities of JDPC Benin as the Centre organized Youth skill development program

The training program was open to all youths of Edo South senatorial district, where they can learn useful skills like Baking, Hair wiggging, Makeup Nail tech, Soap making, Event Planning, Gele tying, and other top demand skills so that they can be able to make a living out of it.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, The Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Benin City, Rev Fr. Mike Oyanohfo who represented the Archbishop was indeed pleased with the outcome of the training and told the trainees not to end the learning here but go out and put them to use. Also, the Arch Diocesan Youth Chaplain Rev Fr. Raphael Anojie was optimistic that the youths who were part of this training would definitely make good use of this opportunity. The Coordinator of Justice Development and Peace Centre, Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu told the Trainees to see this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and make the best out of it, he also added that JDPC Benin would always be at the forefront of Youth development and promised to make activities like this a continuous one.

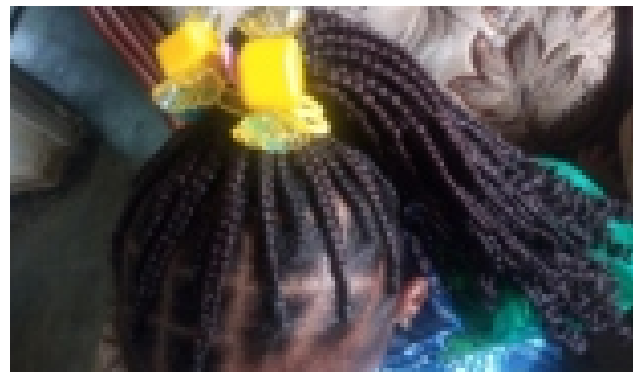
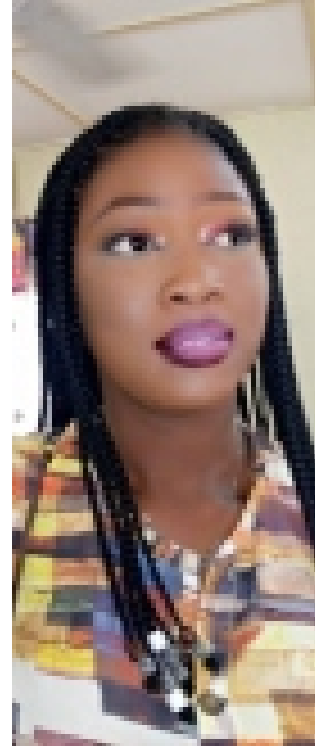
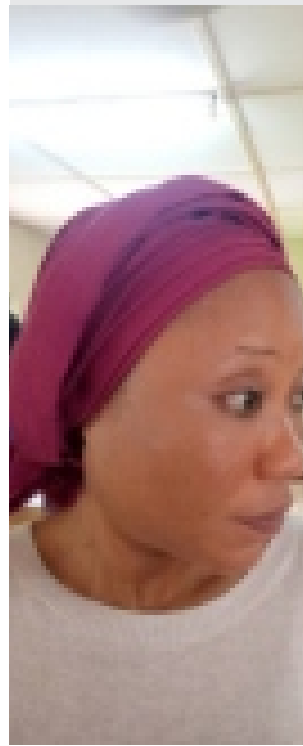
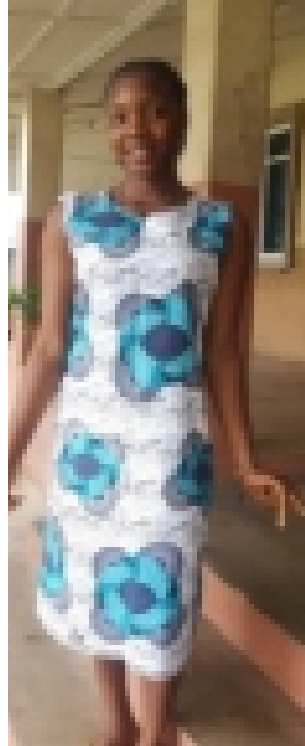
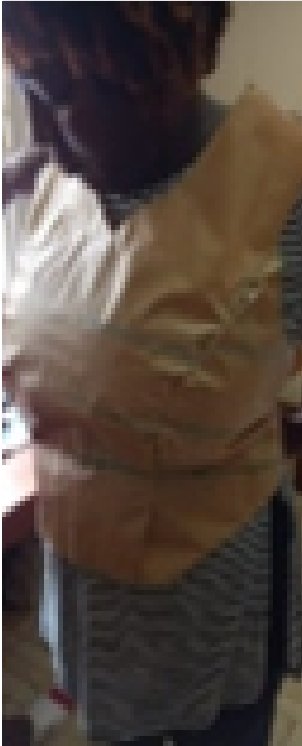
The Closing Ceremony saw the trainees display their products in the various skills learnt like Baking, Hair wiggging, Make up, Soap production etc. Certificates of completion were presented to 86 trainees and outstanding youths were also awarded.



INNOVATIVE HUB

As promised at the closing ceremony of the first phase of the skill development program that a skill Centre will be open where every intending youth will walk up to and acquire a skill in any desired field, the Archdiocesan innovative Hub is open with the overall goal of improving the capacity of young persons between the ages of 15-35 with specific objective of building them vocationally with a skill and training on Business Development thereby reducing the economic hardship amongst young persons.

The Hub officially commenced operation on the 8th of August 2022, after meetings with both the trainers and the trainees to enable smooth running of the Centre. The Centre is currently carrying out three vocational skill classes; which includes Fashion and Design, Make-up and Gele and Hair Dressing. Presently the Centre has twenty-two (22) students, six (6) students for Hairdressing, nine (9) students for the Make-up and seven (7) students for the Fashion and Design.



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND VOTER EDUCATION

The need to brainstorm and initiate ideas that will help provide solutions to the problems bothering on good governance and finding ways to promote voter education at the grassroot levels in Nigeria was the core focus of the stakeholder's meeting organized by JDPC BENIN on the 8th of July, 2022 held at the new chancery hall, Airport Road, Benin City.

The Coordinator of Justice Development and Peace Centre, Benin, Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu giving the welcome address welcomed all present and said this meeting will create an avenue for stakeholders to brainstorm and share ideas on how to improve good governance in Nigeria and the need to carry out more voter education programs and

sensitize those at the grassroots on election matters. He added that the opinions of stakeholders present here will be useful as a way of encouraging popular participation among citizens.

Stakeholders speaking during the meeting decried the state of the nation and that the government has not lived up to its promise of safeguarding the lives of citizens as these can have a negative impact on the electorate when they come out to vote thereby denying them of their civic duty. They said there is an urgent need to inform the conscience of electorates so they can make the right choices at the polls and citizens should be vocal and fearless when demanding accountability from political office holders. The common view of the stakeholders present was that there should be more advocacy and sensitization programs as regards educating voters as it's the people that hold the power as sovereignty belongs to the people.

The meeting saw the constitution of a stakeholders' forum that will oversee the organizing of town hall meetings with citizens and political aspirants with the aim of making these aspirants accountable to the citizens, as one of the ways to promote good governance in Edo State.

The meeting had in attendance notable personalities from different works of life including the Secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Sir Best Humphery Iriabe, A one-time Attorney General of Edo State, Dr. Osagie Obayuwana, the Nigerian Bar Association Chairman, Edo State Chapter, Barrister Pius Oiwoh, officials from the Archdiocese of Benin Laity Council, Staff of JDPC BENIN, Executive from the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, and Catholic Priests.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The commission carried out her membership drive and formation of JDPC in Holy Cross Cathedral, St. Thomas Catholic Church ogbeson Church of Assumption Uteh, St. Mary Obe and St. Francis Catholic as part of the Commission's activity on formation of JDPC at the parish level. Members were also sensitized on voters' education and the need for registered voter to go and get their permanent voters' card (PVC). They were also sensitized on sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) and inform of all other activities that JDPC carry's out in the Archdiocese.

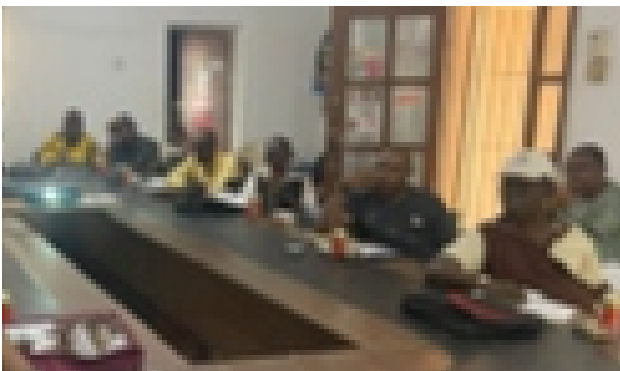


TRAINING ON CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS (CST):

The training aimed to deepen the understanding of catholic principles among participants, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to integrate these teachings into their communities.

The primary objective of the training was to provide participants with a thorough understanding of the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching, emphasizing concepts such as human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity, and the common good, it also aimed to empower participants to apply CST principles in addressing social issues and promoting justice within their communities. It sought to cultivate a sense of responsibility and active engagement in social justice initiatives, and encourage dialogue and collaboration among participants, fostering a sense of community and shared commitment to the principles of CST.

The comprehensive nature of the training, including theoretical discussions, practical applications, and collaborative activities, contributed to a holistic learning experience. The training created a network of individuals dedicated to advancing social justice. The training was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu.



SCHOOLS SENSITIZATION ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

The Centre as part of her continued sensitization on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) carried out schools sensitization to educate the pupils on how to avoid falling victim and building defense mechanism. The pupils and teachers were sensitized also on the need to always speak out were these incidents of SGBV and Irregular Migration occurs. Schools visited included; Pioneer Education Centre, John Kelly Education Centre and Brain tutor Academy respectively.





STRENGTHENING CIVIC ADVOCACY AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT (SCALE) PALLADIUM PROJECT

JDPC Benin participated in the SCALE project which is a capacity building and advocacy project, targeted to build and strengthen the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders as well as the survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) using the Nigerian Legal Framework as guide and tools for advocacies.

The Objective of The Project is to Strengthen SGBV And Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) Prevention and Service Delivery Effectiveness Capacity Of 50 Civil Society Organizations and Local Actors in Borno, Benue and Edo States.

SCALE Palladium Project which commenced in October, 2021 to September ,2022 implemented by Caritas Nigeria with JDPC Benin as an implementing Partner has so far changed the narrative In Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Psycho-social Support, Victim Centered and Trauma informed Case Management Approaches for CSO's. This has broadened the knowledge Of CSO's and survivors within Edo State, and persons residing in Edo South Senatorial District. Lessons learnt from the various SCALE trainings has been put into use by participating CSOs and survivors to ensure cases of SGBV, and CEFM are reduced within communities. The continuous GBV sensitization and positive results in communities have led to JDPC Benin getting an approval from the Archbishop of Benin City to carry out more sensitizations in various parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City.

This project has helped put in place better collaborative mechanisms between CSO's traditional and religious leaders in curbing SGBV and CEFM. It has also helped CSO's to adopt a standard reporting/ referral mechanism as well as standard monitoring and evaluation process.

Activities between the Month of October 2021 and September, 2022 ran simultaneously in parts of Edo State. 30 persons benefited directly through capacity building from the project.

SUCSESSES RECORDED

- Increased awareness on SGBV issues among persons in communities
- Engagement of traditional and religious leaders on issues of SGBV
- Increased knowledge on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse among CSO's in Edo State.
- Increased knowledge on prevention on safeguarding policy among CSOs in Edo State
- Cordial relationship between CSO's and relevant stakeholders
- Organizational assessment carried out
- Increased knowledge on referral pathway and linkages for SGBV and CEFM cases
- Increased knowledge on monitoring, evaluation and data utilization for CSO's
- Mobilization of CSO's to carry out step downs trainings within their communities

- Stronger relationship with traditional and religious leaders.
- Focused group discussion with survivors and caregiver.
- Strong relationship with survivors
- Approval from the Archbishop of Benin City to carry out more sensitizations in various parishes of the Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City.



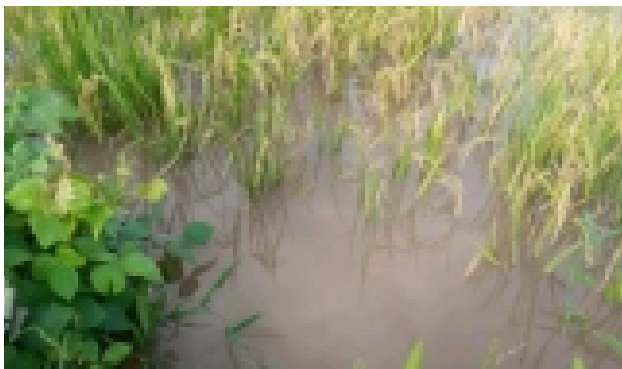
FLOOD VICTIM SUPPORT PROJECT:

In October, 2022 Nigeria witnessed its worst flooding in decades which claimed over 600 lives, rendered about 1.3 million people homeless and destroyed over hundred thousand farm lands in 34 out of 36 states of the federation, including the FCT.

Many communities in Edo state were affected by the flood. Houses, crops, and businesses were completely destroyed in the flood incident. Many households struggled to survive the difficult period of flooding and could barely feed; as their means of livelihood was destroyed by the flood.

JDPC Benin, team visited Iguomo and Ikoro community leaders of the two communities in Ovia North East local government, of Edo state. the meeting helped to identify the most affected households, while a meeting was later held with the victims in the two communities respectively. The farmers whose cassava and rice farms covering hundreds of hectares of farmland, worth millions of Naira, were washed off by flood, they were however encouraged to continue with their farms and explore available opportunities to secure support to improve their farms and businesses in the coming farming seasons. JDPC Benin is willing to engage relevant state actors to increase support for rural farmers and at the same time address the environmental challenges they encounter, due to climate change.

Justice Development and peace Centre, JDPC Benin through funding support from the JDPC Abuja, distributed food items to 60 household affected mostly in the two communities, 22 out of the 60 beneficiaries were widows. Men and women, breadwinners of households who are farmers, traders and fishermen affected by the flood received packages of food items.





INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION

The international Human Rights Commission has set aside the 10th of December yearly as a day to mark the International Human Rights Day. The celebration was adopted as an annual event after the resolution of the general assembly of the United Nations on 10th December 1948 for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

JDPC Benin on the 10th day of December, 2022 joined the rest of the world to celebrate Human Rights Day, 2022, with the global theme “DIGNITY, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR ALL”. The day was also set aside to join the UN Women to mark sixteen (16) days of activism, against Gender Based-Violence, create awareness and campaigns on violence against women and girls under the Global Theme: ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

JDPC Benin carried out rally/ sensitization of the public on the needs to know their rights and how to act accordingly when these rights are been violated.

The program commenced with registration of participants at JDPC Secretariat thereafter there was opening prayer led by Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu Coordinator of JDPC Benin and at 9:35 am the rally commenced.

Participants were drawn from Parish JDPC, CSO's as well as Government stakeholders which included the Nigeria Police, Pensioners also known as Senior Citizens of Nigeria, Persons with Disabilities amongst others.

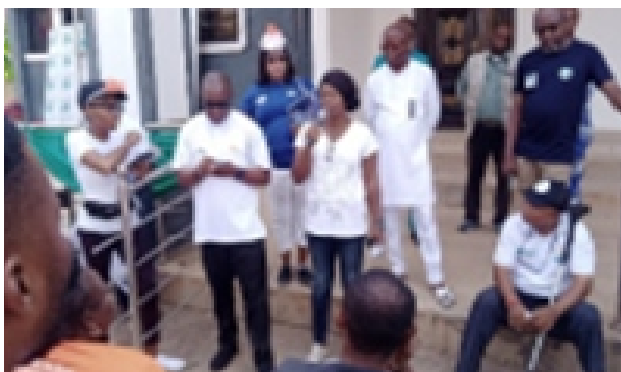
Participant moved from the secretariat to Airport Road to ring road where there was a stopover at the Edo State House of Assembly to sensitize the people. Then the walk continued to Sapele Road to NUJ's office along plaza Road where there was a stopover and participants were addressed by the NUJ Chairman representative Comrade Otunba Mike Aladenika as well as representatives of other stakeholders who took turn to address the people on the current situation of the country. There was distribution of fliers and sensitization on human rights along major roads.

The Coordinator, JDPC Benin addressed all at NUJ secretariat on the need to end oppression and violation of human rights in the state. He thanked all who honored the invitation to be part of the year's celebration with Theme: “Dignity, Freedom and Justice for all”. He said this day is used by JDPC Benin as a platform to advocate for the elimination of injustice, gender, tribe, religious discrimination, also calling for protection of lives, properties and peaceful coexistence of every Nigeria. He further reiterated that police brutality must be tackled as well as Sexual and Gender Based Violence {SGBV}. He called for collaboration and support from the press who are the mouth piece of the people.

Following the speeches by representative of groups there was a session of photograph at the NUJ's secretariat.

List of Participants

1. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
2. Conference of Non-Governmental Organisation CONGOS
3. Department of Health Care Service Providers
4. Nigerian Police
5. Joint Association of Persons with Disabilities
6. Keep Hope Alive
7. Nigerian Union of Pensioners
8. Volunteers from various parishes





2023 ACTIVITIES

JDPC BENIN

JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CENTRE

STAFF ANNUAL RETREAT 2023

Just like the beginning of every year JDPC Benin started the year with her annual staff retreat. The retreat was centered on Mental Health for better service delivery, Budget Tracking and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E). the essence is to enhance staff' skills and knowledge in effectively managing and evaluating project finances. The program was designed to equip the team with the necessary tools and methodologies to ensure transparent budgeting processes and robust M&E systems.

Training Objectives includes;

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of budgeting principles and practices.
2. Acquire skills in tracking and managing project finances efficiently.
3. Learn the fundamentals of Monitoring & Evaluation to enhance project accountability.
4. Apply practical tools for data collection, analysis, and reporting in M&E processes.

The team demonstrated improved proficiency in budgeting, financial tracking, and M&E practices. The training which was facilitated by Mr. Isaac Noble provided a collaborative learning environment, which allows all including Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu, Director JDPC Benin to share experiences and best practices. However, the team expressed a desire for more advanced training sessions in the future.

JDPC Benin training on Budget Tracking and Monitoring & Evaluation contributed to enhancing the capacity of the team especially the finance department in managing project finances and implementing effective M&E systems.





PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING BY CIS AND CARITAS NIGERIA

It is essential that for one to remain relevant in the space you have to expose yourself to new ways of doing things. Having this in mind, JDPC Benin was trained by CIS and Caritas Nigeria on Project Management. The aim of the training was to equip the team with essential skills and knowledge to effectively plan, implement, and monitor projects. The training provided the team with comprehensive understanding of project management principles, tools, and techniques.

Training Objectives:

1. Develop a thorough understanding of project management fundamentals.
2. Acquire skills in project planning, scheduling, and resource allocation.
3. Enhance participants' ability to manage project risks and uncertainties.
4. Foster effective communication and collaboration within project teams.

The training sessions was facilitated by Mr. Michael Ibe, Moses Abang and Linda Bagayang covered the following key areas.

1. **Project Initiation:**
 - Defining project goals, objectives, and scope.
 - Stakeholder identification and analysis.
2. **Planning and Scheduling:**
 - Developing project plans and timelines.
 - Resource allocation and management.
3. **Risk Management:**
 - Identifying, assessing, and mitigating project risks.
 - Strategies for managing uncertainties.
4. **Team Collaboration:**
 - Effective communication within project teams.
 - Building and managing cohesive project teams.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
 - Implementing monitoring mechanisms to track project progress.
 - Evaluation techniques to assess project outcomes.

It was recommended that CIS and Caritas Nigeria continues to provide the team support and mentorship as they apply project management principles to work even after the 5 sections of training, some were physical while others were online. The training played a crucial role in improving the project management skills of JDPC Benin, it provided the team more skills in successfully implementing projects and ultimately making a positive and sustainable impact in the communities of our intervention.

ELECTION OBSERVATION STEP DOWN TRAINING

Election observation can play an important role in enhancing confidence in the electoral process. Deploying election observers support a democratic process. A genuine election is a political competition and transparency, that provides voters with an informed choice between distinct political alternatives.

Election observation is a very important aspect of the democratic setting as it aims to provide an accurate and impartial assessment, it is the standard bearer of any government in a democracy. To this end, it is expected that election observers are well acquainted with electoral laws and their interpretations in order to witness fully to the credibility of an election they observe. Therefore, this training is aim at building credible character who will be fit to witness without being bias.

JDPC Benin team was first trained by Caritas Nigeria and the team latter trained her own observers for the state.

The 40 trained election observers were selected from among JDPC Benin community volunteers from the seven local government area of Edo South Senatorial District which JDPC Benin covers. There were practical sessions on how to use the election observation Mobile App created by Caritas Nigeria, the App was downloaded into participants android phone and a mock election observation was also carried out by participants to ascertain their understanding of what is expected of them in the field.

The training successfully equipped the 40 election observers with the skills and knowledge necessary to conduct their duties effectively. Participants demonstrated a solid understanding of election processes.

While the training was generally successful, challenges such as potential security concerns during the election period and the need for ongoing support and communication among observers were identified.

A real-time information communication exchange channel was established for observers to report incidents immediately as is happening.

The training for 40 election observers for the 2023 General Election has prepared participants to play a crucial role in ensuring transparency, credibility, and fairness during the electoral process. With a solid foundation in election observation principles and methodologies, the observers are well-equipped to contribute to the successful conduct of the upcoming election.



2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OBSERVATION

Nigerians saw its 7th Presidential election after it embraced democracy in 1999 with the emergence of Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, as president. The election was held on Saturday, the 25th of February, 2023 across the country after series of campaign activities which ended on Thursday the 23rd of February, 2023. A total of 18 political parties contested for the presidential election, while National Assembly, (House of Representatives and Senate) had 8 and 10 parties respectively.

JDPC Benin in collaboration with Caritas Nigeria was part of the electoral process through mobilization of observers across Local Governments Areas, Wards and Units.

Nigerians have craved for a more transparent, free, fair and credible elections since the country returned to Democracy on the 29th of May 1999. The 2023 General Election, experienced a new dimension through the use of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) Machine as against the old card readers. There was also provision for INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV portal). The INEC Result Viewing Portal was designed for transmitting of results from each of the polling units. It was expected to receive uploaded results electronically immediately after sorting, collation and counting of the ballot papers. This



was expected to reduce the cases of manual manipulation of votes, promote transparency of election and to build public trust in the Nigerian electoral process. The 2023 election process entailed accreditation and voting simultaneously.

From the reports and analysis of JDPC Benin observers around Edo South Senatorial District, the election fell short of credibility this can be attributed to late arrival of Voting Materials, insufficient voting materials and inability of BVAS to immediately upload results. There were cases of destruction of ballot papers and ballot box snatching by hoodlums and thugs which led to intimidation/harassment of voters.

After a careful observation by JDPC Benin in the Presidential, Senatorial and House of representatives 2023 General Election, in line with the above observation by JDPC Benin wish to make the following recommendations:

- a. That more INEC officials should be deployed to polling units in subsequent elections.
- b. That security personnel alongside INEC staff be trained on how to identify
- c. That INEC should improve on the technology of BVAS machines to ensure immediate uploading and update of election results as it encourages transparency in the election processes.
- d. That adequate provision be made for ad hoc staff of INEC
- e. That Polling units should be well equipped with security.
- f. That security personnel be trained on electoral processes as the obvious during observation shows that security personnel on ground were not fully abreast with electoral information.
- g. That a complete electronic system of voting be introduced by INEC.
- h. That provision should be made for persons with disabilities.

COURTESY VISIT TO EDO STATE TASK FORCE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING. (ETAHT) OFFICE

Over the years the Commission has served as a Centre of training for Field Placement for students of Social Works from University of Benin City.

The set of students for February to March, 2023 were led on a visit to ETAHT's State office, Benin City, on Monday, the 6th of March, 2023. The students were taken round the center and were briefed on their activities and various ways of possible interventions.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The Commission on Wednesday, the 8th of March, 2023 joined the rest of the World to mark International Women's Day with the theme Digit All: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality #Embrace Equity. The day is set aside to celebrate women all over the world, support and encourage their activities and contribution to technological advancement and online learning, which this year's theme is centered on. The Commission carried out physical sensitization activities as well as online.

VISITATION TO CORRECTIONAL CENTRES.

The Commission's legal team carries out free legal services for inmates in Correctional Centers. This as a regular activity of the Commission is to help decongest the Centers. The commission also distributed food items amongst inmates in Oko and Benin Correctional Centre as well as Edo State Correctional Centre (Children Remand Home):

The Commissions also followed up all her cases which included:

- Visitation to Correctional centers
- Follow Up of cases at the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecution's Office.
- Follow up of cases in Police Station.
- Dispute resolution
- Mediation.



CHILDREN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE.

The legal Department also visited the Edo State Children Correction Centre on the 7th of March and 4th of April, 2023. The services rendered during the visit included counseling, and taking of briefs of Children unable to employ the services of legal practitioners. These children were encouraged and advised on the need to stay away from crime which is destructive to their future.



MICRO CREDIT SCHEME WITH WOMEN

Promoting Micro Credit Enterprise (PROMIC) project Promoting and supporting women's right is one of our topmost priorities hence the need to support women in building their businesses thereby reducing the rate of hunger in our society. JDPC Through her PROMIC/ Micro Credit scheme have empowered a total of 1,488 women as at November, 2023. The Centre on the 1st of February and 8th of March, 2023 respectively, gathered the women of Umelu community to benefit from her Micro Credit Scheme. A total number of 50 Women indicated interest. Formation of other groups in Usen Community is in progress.



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICES/DON-BOSCO SKILLS ACQUISITION TRAINING FOR RETURNED AND POTENTIAL MIGRANTS

The training which began on the 9th of May 2023 with orientation and documentation of returned and potential migrants at the secretariat of JDPC Benin was done to familiarize the trainees with the essence of the exercise and need to be serious with it. The rules and regulations of the centre was given to them which includes decent dressing, also need for them to be frequent and prompt for training, stating that attendance is mandatory and late coming would not be tolerated. It was also stated that they should be of good behavior and any form of disrespect to staffs would not be tolerated. They were made to understand that they will be held responsible peradventure they spoil any of the items used in the course of the training.

They were shared into sessions, morning session (9am – 12pm) and afternoon session (1pm – 4pm) for the tailoring session and one session of ICT group, the training was 3 days a week. And each session had their session prefect.

Training proper started on the 15th of May, 2023 and ended on the 3rd of July 2023 with a total of 70 persons (7 male and 63 female) trained on tailoring and 40 persons (21 male and 19 female) trained on ICT.

The trainees in the tailoring session were happy as their facilitator did justice to all the styles that they came with ranging from skirt, blouse, peplum top, kimono, gown, kaftan, trouser and shirts while those for ICT were trained on visual studio arts, adobe photoshop and web design. Despite the short period of time, they were able to perfect their skills.





TREE PLANTING EXERCISE

In a renewed effort to address pressing environmental concerns, JDPC Benin, Archbishop of the metropolitan See of Benin City, Most Rev. Dr. Augustine Obiora Akubeze and some priests from the Archdiocese planted trees in support for the call for collective action in safeguarding our planet for future generations.

The Archbishop during the ceremony, encouraged all to plant a tree and he discouraged deforestation in order to save our Eco system.





SCALE PALLADIUM PROJECT (PHASE 2, 2023-2024)

JDPC Benin participated in the SCALE project which is a capacity building and advocacy project, targeted to build and strengthen the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders as well as the survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) using the Nigerian Legal Framework as guide and tools for advocacies.

The Objective of The Project Is To Strengthen SGBV And Child Early And Forced Marriage (CEFM) Prevention and Service Delivery Effectiveness Capacity Of 50 Civil Society Organizations and Local Actors In Borno, Benue And Edo States.

The second phase of the SCALE Palladium Project commenced in May, 2023 and is still ongoing. JDPC Benin as an implementing Partner has so far collaborated with Traditional and Religious leaders, Civil Society Organizations, Government and Non-Government stakeholders and other relevant agencies to see to the successful fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Psychosocial. CSO.s from Edo state has also been trained on project management, proposal writing and resource mobilization.

This second phase took a new turn as new communities, CSO's religious and traditional rulers from Egor Local Government Areas were all introduced to the project.

Community heads have also introduced a documented written bye-law in their communities to fight against this societal menace after series of trainings. Referral pathways as well as CSO's collaborative mechanisms have been strengthened.

Activities between the Month of May, 2023- January, 2024 ran simultaneously in parts of Edo State. 40 persons benefited directly through capacity building from the project.

SUCSESSES RECORDED

- Increased awareness on SGBV issues among persons in communities
- Increased Knowledge on resource mobilization
- Engagement of traditional and religious leaders on issues of SGBV
- Presence of written bye laws in communities
- Increased knowledge on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse among CSO's in Edo State.
- Increased knowledge on prevention on safeguarding policy among CSOs in Edo State
- Cordial relationship between CSO's and relevant stakeholders
- Organizational assessment carried out
- Increased knowledge on referral pathway and linkages for SGBV and CEFM cases
- Increased knowledge on monitoring, evaluation and data utilization for CSO's
- Mobilization of CSO's to carry out step downs trainings within their communities
- Stronger relationship with traditional and religious leaders.
- Stronger and better relationship with survivors



STRENGTHENING VOICES AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (STREVAS)

Gender-based violence has been a reoccurring issue in our society, and there is need to address this issue as women, girls, boys and men are affected. There are various factors that give rise to these acts ranging from cultural, moral, Economic and political factors. In Nigeria, most culture Legitimize Violence against women to ensure the Superiority of men, factors such as Gender stereotype, prejudice and socialization of gender has made women and girls more susceptible to Gender-Base Violence.

Even with the sensitization and awareness campaigns across communities, there is increase in the occurrence of cases of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) which calls for more and urgent attention as survivors are scared to speak out or report cases to the appropriate channels for fear of being shamed or mocked which then leave survivors to continue to suffer in silence. This accounts for low level of reporting of Gender base violence cases in the state. Most of the persons especially women who suffer this fate are usually ignorant of what to do and some are economically handicapped. Ignorance coupled with low economic power makes them more exposed to acts of violence. Women generally have been victims of abuse and left uneducated there by making them ignorant of their rights.

This project seeks to check the excesses caused by SGBV on women by enlightening people as well as relevant stakeholder in Oredo and Egor Local Government Areas on the relevant fundamental human rights of survivors as well as existing laws and sanctions. The project also seeks to enlighten men and young boys to speak out and to be a voice in cases of SGBV when they suffer this faith as men in most cases do not speak out. JDPC Benin in 2022 recorded 22 cases of SGBV reported by 21 female and 1 male.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The project carried out Courtesy visit / entry meeting to Ministry of justice, Uwelu community, Useh community, FIDA, Commissioner of Police, Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, Edo Sexual Assault Center (Vivian Center), Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN).

They also carried out Sensitization/Awareness Campaign in Iyoba girls school, Overcomer's group of schools, technical college, Benin city, Wisdom group of school, Olua primary school, God's favour group school, Ogida secondary school, Our Lady of Apostles Premier College, Holy Child Christian Academy, Our Lady of Apostles Primary School, St. Jude Thaddeus Nursery, Primary and Secondary School and in IDP camp Benin City

Sensitization/ Awareness Campaign in Ogheghe market, Egor market, Uselu market, Uwelu market, Useh market. Ugbighoko market, Egbaen Market, Egor market, Oliha market, Evbotubu market, Oghede Market, Lagos Street Market.

Sensitization/ Awareness Campaign Egba Bike Park, Milan junction Tricycle (Keke) park and in Useh community

Focus Group Discussion/Training.



CHALLENGES:

Delayed response from ministry of Education
Hike in fuel prices leading to increment in transportation.
Delayed cooperation of the officials in IDP camp
Unpredicted weather condition
Restricted access for taking pictures in government schools
Restricted access to all the students in some schools.
Bad roads leading to parks, markets and communities
Some persons do not want to listen to discussion on Sexual and Gender Based Violence.
Fear of stigmatization makes some survivors not to speak out.
Religious Belief has made some of the people not to take the message on Sexual and Gender Based Violence serious - that it is their cross and they will carry it.

SUCCESS STORIES:

Warmth reception and acceptance by the Useh community leaders
Collaboration with ministry of social development and gender issues, Edo Sexual Assault Center (Vivian center), Edo State Security Vigilante Network, Commissioner of Police, FIDA, community leaders in Useh community on matters of SGBV
Warmth reception and acceptance by FOMWAN, Uwelu community leaders, Iyoba girls school principal, Solution Demonstration school principal and teachers.
Market sensitization increased the awareness of SGBV and the reporting mechanism. It also created a platform for women to share their experiences, Men's active participation and contribution to SGBV issues, Majority of Schools visited have invited Project Team to their Parents Teachers Association Meetings to also enlighten parents/guardians on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Most Schools have promised to set up Gender Desk Office/ Counselor to guide the Students, Project team has traced the family of Godswill to Udo community, the little boy that was found by 2:00am.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Having gone round and seen the people's reactions and responses we recommend that Sexual and Gender Based Violence should not be left for some settled few to talk about, rather it should include in our school Curriculum, school should create gender desk with counsellor on ground to always attend to students when they come.

Our Religious leaders should always find time in every gathering to talk about Sexual and Gender Based Violence so their members will be abreast.

Security personnel should treat cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence reported to them with urgency as the delay makes the victim tired of pursuing the case.



Member of the project team addressing the Edo state security vigilante network



Project team and Edo state security vigilante network



Member of the project team addressing the staff of Edo Sexual Assault Centre



Project team and staff of Edo Sexual Assault



Entry meeting with the staff of the ministry of social development and gender issues



Project team and the Directors of Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues



Project team and members of FOMWAN



Member of the project team addressing the members of FOMWAN



Member of the project team addressing community leaders in Uwelu community



Group photograph with community leaders in Uwelu community



Project team member addressing the community leaders in Useh community



Group photograph with community leaders in Useh community



Project team and Staff of FIDA



Project team addressing Staff of FIDA



Members of the Nigeria police force and project team



Project team addressing the members of the Nigeria police force



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in lyoba girl's school



Sensitization / awareness campaign in Solution Demonstration group of school



Sensitization / awareness campaign in technical college Benin city



Sensitization / awareness campaign in Uselu market



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in Milan junction Tricycle (keke) park



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in Uwelu market



Representative of the Enogie of useh giving a welcome speech during the town hall meeting



Group photograph with community members of Useh



Sensitization in IDP camp



Sensitization/awareness campaign in wisdom group of school



Sensitization / awareness campaign in Ogida senior School



Project Team and staff of Olua primary school



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in Ugbehoko market



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in Ogheghe market



Sensitization/ awareness campaign in God's Favour group of schools



SGBV Sensitization carried out in Egbaen market by Project Team



SGBV Sensitization carried out in Egbaen market by Project Team



Project Team carrying out SGBV Sensitization in Oliha market



Project Team carrying Sensitization on SGBV in Egba Bike Park.



Project Team carried out SGBV Sensitization in Evbotubu Market





2023 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATION/INAUGURATION OF PATRONS .

The International Human Rights Day celebration took place on the 8th of December, 2023, with theme "Pioneering a New Generation for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" at new Chancery Hall, Benin City. The event brought together diverse group of participants, including members of the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria (CYON), Catholic Women Organization (CWO), Catholic Men Organization (CMO), Laity, Civil Society Organizations, National Human Rights Commission, Security Agencies, Media, JDPC Benin parish members, and volunteers. The purpose was to discuss and share perspectives on cultism, cybercrime, and drug abuse.

The program began at 10:am with opening prayer by Mr. Audu Martins Asekhamhe, representative of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD). The master of ceremony, Mr. Isaac Noble, welcomed all the participants. He took turn to invite the special guests to the high table. The special guests included Grace Osakwe, Engr Luke Oronsaye, Chief Sunny Okomayin, Princess Ekiuwa, Mrs. Tessy Egware, Olumide Dosumu, Pharm. Osita Idemili, Dr. Tony Uwagie-Ero, Barr Maria Edeko, and Chief Daniel Obakozuwa.

Rev Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu, the Director of JDPC Benin, delivered a welcome speech. Expressing gratitude to everyone present for their attendance. Goodwill messages were then given by various individuals and organizations, including the Edo State Coordinator of the Human Rights Commission, the representative of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), the representative of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGOS), and the representative of the Joint Organization of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD).

Highlight of the event was a lecture titled "Pioneering a New Generation for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" delivered by Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu. He emphasized the importance of addressing issues such as drug abuse, cultism, cybercrime, and irregular migration for the attainment of peace and tranquility.

Barr. Maria Edeko, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly, addressed participants and expressed her commitment to promoting human rights and addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable groups in society. She particularly emphasized the need to combat drug abuse and called for collective action.

Following her speech, the patron and patroness of JDPC Benin were inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu. Awards of recognition were presented to four out of the ten patrons and patronesses.

Students from Our Lady of Apostle Premier College (OLA PC) performed a short drama depicting the effects of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the effects Gender discrimination in our families and society. Lady Grace Osakwe, Co-Founder of Girl's Power Initiative (GPI) further presented a lecture on the topic: "peer pressure preventing substance abuse among vulnerable population". She highlighted the importance of

prevention programs, education, mentorship, community engagement, rehabilitation, and policy advocacy in curbing substance abuse.

The program also included presentations by social work students of the University of Benin on drug abuse and its effects on the society.

There was a slide presentation of JDPC Benin's activities for the year, 2023. The presentation took participants through JDPC Benin program for the year which covered Legal Aid, Prison welfare, Election Observation, Good Governance and Peace keeping, Street Children Program, Micro Credit Scheme and Collaborative and sensitization programs on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

JDPC Benin in 2023 as part of her enlightenment campaign programs against Gender Based Violence worked on a simplified version of the Edo State Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law for better understanding by members of the public with special attention on school children. The book titled "Things You Should Know About Sexual and Gender Based Violence" funded by Catholic Relief Service (CRS) and Caritas Nigeria, was unveiled by Very Rev. Fr. Michael Oyanoafoh, Chancellor Catholic Archdiocese of Benin City. A mini fund raising was conducted by the Patrons to support the work of JDPC Benin.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Paul Ade, speaking on behalf of the Human Rights Day Celebration Committee, appreciated and thanked everyone for their presence.

Rev. Fr. Benedict Onwugbenu gave the closing prayer at 1:10pm, thereafter photographs were taken in groups and lunch was served. A total number of One Hundred and Two (102) participants attended the event.



LEGAL DEPARTMENT

**ACTIVITIES OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT JDPC
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF BENIN CITY
FROM JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2023**



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ACTIVITIES OF LEGAL DEPARTMENT JDPC CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF BENIN CITY FROM JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2023

In the period under review the Department handled legal and non-legal cases which includes:

1. Court proceedings
2. Out of Court settlement\mediation
3. Matrimonial cases
4. Visitation to Correctional centre
5. Visitation to Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for follow up on awaiting trial 6.cases.
6. Participation in the ongoing decongestion of correctional centre.





COURT CASES HANDLED.

NO	NAMES	COURT	NATURE OF OFFENCES	STATUS OF CASE
1		Magistrate Court Egor	Receiving Stolen Property	Case still ongoing. Adjourned definitelt to 16 th April, 2024
2		Magistrate Court Egor	Stealing	Plea bargain concluded. Case struck out and Defendant discharged. The Defendant entered a plea bargain.
3.		High Court 4	Arson	Defendants granted bail at the instance of our application on the 14 th of December, 2023. Case adjourned to 29 th of January,2024
4.		Criminal Court 4	Assualt	Oredo M agistrate Court 3 . Case was struckout for lack of diligent prosecution on the 25 th of July, 2024.
5.		Criminal Court 3	Manslaughter	Case struckout defendant discharged on Monday the 20 th of March,2023.
6		Court 3	Motion	Case still up of Motion adjourned to February, 2024.
7.		Criminal Court 2	Murder	Case ongoing, Adjourned for hearing. Defendant granted bail on the 14 th of December, 2023. Case adjourned to March,2024
8.		Criminal Court 1	Rape	Case is still in Court. Department working closely with MOJ to ensure justice for the Survivor
9.		Criminal Court 1	Rape	Case is still in Court. Department working closely



CASES HANDLED AT POLICE STATIONS:

The legal department also handled cases from Police Stations and resolved some at different police stations within the Archdiocese.

1. E***** L***** STATE C.I.D
2. J***** O***** STATE C.I.D
3. P***** O***** ZONE 5
4. B***** O***** STATE C.I.D
5. MR. F***** EVBOTUBU POLICE STATION



CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

The legal department also visited Benin and Oko Custodian Centre's frequently to follow up its client's cases and wellbeing of inmates and also to get inmates that cannot afford legal representation.



DECONGESTION

The department is presently participating in the ongoing decongestion of Correctional Centre's by the state government in conjunction with the Director of public prosecution (DPP).

The following where however assigned to the commission for assistance in tracing courts and for follow up at DPPS's office.

1. M*** O*****
2. R*** A*****
3. O***** M*****
4. E***** O*****



CASE DISPOSED OFF:

- 1 E***** L*****
2. P***** O*****
- 3 R**** A*****

The department at different stages also wrote letters for clients ranging from legal issues and other related matters.

OTHER CASES HANDLED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

S/N	NAME OF CLIENT	SERVICES RENDERED
1.		Legal Advice
2.		Legal Drafting
3.		Legal Advice
4.		Legal Advice
5.		Legal Drafting
6.		Legal Advice
7.		Legal Advice
8.		Legal Advice
9.		Legal Advice
10.		Counselling/Marital Issue
11.		Legal Advice
12.		Legal Advice/ Legal Drafting
13.		Legal Advice
14.		Legal Advice
15.		Legal Advice
16.		Legal Advice
17.		Marital Issue
18.		Legal Advice
19.		Legal Advice / Petition to University of Benin
20.		Legal Advice
21.		Legal Advice
22.		Legal Advice
23.		Legal Advice
24.		Referral to NAPTIP and Family Tracing
25.		Family Tracing
26.		Legal Advice
27.		Legal Advice / Petition to Commissioner of Police
28.		Legal Advice
29.		Legal Advice
30.		Legal Advice

On curbing Sexual and Gender based violence the Department followed up her Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) cases and worked extensively with Edo State Sexual Assault Referral (SARC) Centre and other notable Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) to ensure a safer space for survivors. The department followed up all her cases in court and made referrals where necessary. A total of 9 SGBV cases were handled.

Overall, 41 cases were handled in the period under review 3 defendants were discharged and their files closed accordingly. Out of the accused 3 awaiting trial inmates has commenced trial, files of 2 inmates are been traced to courts and DPP, 3 were handled and resolved at police station, 27 clients were given legal attention out of which 13 SGBV cases were handled while 3 cases are ongoing in court. Attached to this report are some photographs. Although the department is to handle cases with minor offences it weighed all its cases with an imaginary scale and handled those cases though capital, it thinks the accuse persons/inmates are only victims of circumstances.





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