


PATHFINDERS
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

*Artwork by
@shadys-art*

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

www.pathfindersji.org



Dear Partners,

When people ask me what we do at Pathfinders, I often say we stretch tight shoes, i.e., create more space for women and girls at the table. In 2019, we did precisely that- making it a year worth celebrating!

As I reflect over the winding path that has led to us emerging as one of Nigeria's leading anti-trafficking and impact organizations, I am humbled that our voice has resounded in spaces that I could only have imagined when we started six years ago. We have been honored to serve as consultants for national and international governments, agencies and organizations, have trained and advised Parliamentarians, drafted anti-trafficking legislation, reached millions over the years through our various outreaches/campaigns and have now forged partnerships with partners in eight countries, while increasing our staff capacity.

In June, we conducted Nigeria's first ever Gap Analysis on human trafficking and unsafe migration, bringing together leading government, civil society and academic stakeholders to collaboratively identify gaps in Nigeria's national response. We also commenced ground-breaking research on recruiters of sex trafficking from Benin City, Edo State, a trafficking hub, and trained journalists across West Africa on the import of their role on trafficking.

But what I am most proud of is that we have concretely partnered with hundreds of survivors to ensure that their path to recovery has been graced with dignity and that their voices are amplified and represented. Many of you supported our launch of The Anchor Shelter last year and I am thrilled to note that it remains fully operational. We are known for excellence in survivor care- so much so that in June of this year, we had to place survivors on a waiting list, as the demand for our support has been so high. And so even as we celebrate, there is still so much more to do. But together, I am confident that we will continue to stretch tight shoes!

Gratefully,

R. Eron Benson-Idehosa

Founder and Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

OUR MISSION IS TO PREVENT SEX SLAVERY AND TO LIBERATE ENSLAVED WOMEN AND GIRLS THROUGH THE DIRECT ERADICATION OF ROOT CAUSES. WE ARE A THOUGHT LEADER AND LEADING IMPACT ORGANIZATION WORKING IN NIGERIA AND WITH NIGERIAN SURVIVORS GLOBALLY TO BUILD A BEST PRACTICES MODEL FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD.



WONDERING WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO?

Because we believe that every woman is entitled to a life of dignity, a life where she is not robbed of agency; a life that is graced with self determination and free from exploitation.

Changing the narrative is what we do every day at Pathfinders in our mission to eradicate sex trafficking, sexual violence and the sexual exploitation of women and girls from Nigeria. We believe in second chances, not because they are uncommon for the marginalized in Nigeria, but because they are deserved.

We are change agents who are unafraid to speak truth to power and to the seemingly powerless. We believe that trafficking can be overcome in one lifetime. Ours.





highlights from 2019

T

PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

RESCUE ONE AND CREATE A PATH FOR MANY



104

PATH PLANS
GENERATED FOR
SURVIVORS

8

COUNTRIES WHERE
SURVIVORS SERVED

0

SURVIVORS
RETRAFFICKED

Our core project has two programming arms:
(i) we help women and girls vulnerable to being trafficked (pre-trafficking) by providing alternative economic paths to sustainable livelihood, while educating them on the dangers and risks of trafficking and thus reducing the risk to trafficking; and (ii) we assist those who have already been trafficked to leave captivity and rebuild their lives with customized Personalized Action to Healing (PATH) Rehabilitation Plans, legal services, financial literacy and start-up capital, vocational skills training, education scholarships, job training and via our RISE job placement program, counseling, medical services and housing.

The Pathfinder Project, our social enterprise, utilizes an adapted 'basic income guarantee model' to provide survivors with sustained, monthly income generated via their own businesses. Some of our Program Highlights for 2019 are outlined in the following pages.



"PATHFINDERS BECAME THE FAMILY I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD EVER HAVE..."

-Juliet O.

HERS

HUB OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS (PHASE I)



JUNE-DECEMBER 2019

36

SURVIVORS SERVED

With support from the French Embassy to Nigeria's PISCCA Program, we launched Phase I of our HERS (Hub of Economic Resources for Survivors) Project. Via this Project, we provided medical care, counseling, vocational skills training, business training by certified professionals (lawyers, accountants, mental health therapists, etc.) and start-up capital to 36 young survivors of sex trafficking in Nigeria.

The Project, which included a drop-in centre, is revolutionary and transformative in Africa's human trafficking space, as it is the first and only offline and online (launching in 2021) one-stop economic hub for African survivors of sex trafficking who are eager to begin their path to healing and financial independence.

MERCY'S STORY

"Mercy" was trafficked overland from Nigeria to Libya in 2017, after being assured by her traffickers of a 'good life' in Italy that would lift her family in Benin out of abject poverty.

Upon her arrival in Sabar, she was kidnapped, trafficked and beaten thrice a day until a ransom of ₦600,000 (~\$1,670) was paid by her 'Madam' (her trafficker) to the kidnappers. Shortly after that ransom was paid, Mercy was kidnapped for a second time and when her Madam refused to make a second payment, she was forced to contact her family back in Nigeria who borrowed the sum of ₦1,600,000 (~\$4,450) and used their home as collateral in order to pay off the traffickers and spare her life.

After her release, Mercy was rescued by the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) just before she was to board an unworthy sea vessel on the Mediterranean. With the help of IOM, she returned to Nigeria but was abandoned by her family in light of the sizable ransom they had paid to her kidnappers in Libya. Frustrated and alone, Mercy was fortunately referred to Pathfinders by a friend who had also been previously supported by Pathfinders.

Following her referral, Pathfinders immediately provided Mercy with basic humanitarian assistance (shelter, food, clothing, feminine products, etc.). She also received legal support, counseling and medical services as well as financial literacy training and start-up capital to start a small hair salon in Benin City. Mercy completed her PATH Rehabilitation Plan and is now on a path to sustainable economic independence. She also relishes her role as a Pathfinders survivor advocate.



The Anchor, our 20-bed shelter facility, is the only one in Edo State dedicated exclusively to sex-trafficking survivors and at-risk women. At the Anchor, residents are provided with a safe place to anchor following their exit from trafficking (often abroad) and sexual violence. Residents can stay for anywhere from six months to one year, depending on their needs and circumstances. With 24-hour security and round-the-clock staffing, the Anchor became fully operational this year and has since been providing services for survivors, including adult literacy classes and legal, counseling and medical services.

ACCESS

QUARTERLY TRAININGS FOR SURVIVORS



Our ACCESS Training Program provides quarterly trainings to survivors based on their identified needs. Our trainings in 2019 covered optimal mental health and stress management, marketing and branding for small businesses, financial literacy, physical well being and soft skills.

50-60

**SURVIVORS PER
QUARTERLY TRAINING**

During ACCESS trainings, survivors have access to the internet and one-on-one sessions with skilled professionals (lawyers, doctors, psychologists, accountants, etc.) to discuss any pain points or concerns.

The trainings are also an opportunity for survivors to collaborate and build community. We ended the year with our annual end of year celebration that featured an exhibition of the survivors' products, a graduation ceremony for those exiting our program and awards for outstanding performance.

T

THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS



EDUCATE. TRAIN. ADVISE. HOLD ACCOUNTABLE.

POLICY MAKERS AND GATEKEEPERS

WHO HAVE THE POWER TO END TRAFFICKING

THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



By working with law enforcement, legislators, judges, and other decision-makers to create systems, policies and practices that close the gaps that permit trafficking, we reduce the number of victims. Our work here is twofold: shed light on these systemic gaps and close them through training, accountability and legal advocacy. Additionally, we organize and conduct national and international trainings and workshops for Parliamentarians, government officials and the general public on human trafficking and migration. Some of our 2019 Justice Initiative Program Highlights are outlined in the following pages.

GAP ANALYSIS

IDENTIFYING GAPS IN NIGERIA'S TRAFFICKING AND UNSAFE MIGRATION RESPONSE

In June 2019, Pathfinder conducted Nigeria's first Gap Analysis on Human Trafficking/ Unsafe Migration. To this end, we organised and hosted the 2 day event, which was awarded through the European Union's ICMPD via its Mobility Partnership Facility Action (MPF) entitled: “INSigHT-Building Capacity to Deal with Human Trafficking and Transit Routes in Nigeria, Italy, Sweden.”



The first of its kind in Nigeria, the Gap Analysis culled 40 key anti-trafficking stakeholders across national and international government MDAs, CSOs and development firms and funders. It afforded the stakeholders an opportunity to identify gaps in current anti-trafficking/unsafe migration efforts within the country, to ensure that stakeholders are collaboratively working to ensure that ongoing projects compliment each other (rather than duplicate efforts) and to ensure optimal collaboration, particularly on a transnational level.

PATHWAY TO PREVENTION

A RESEARCH REPORT ON RECRUITERS
OF SEX TRAFFICKING IN OREDO LGA
BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA

Editors:

R. Evon Benson-Idahosa

Suzi Chun-Turley

Oluwole Ojewale

Nnamdi Odo



CLEEN
FOUNDATION
FOR CHILD PROTECTION

24

KEY INFORMANT
INTERVIEWS

60

PARTICIPANTS IN
10 FOCUS GROUPS

3,600

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES
ADMINISTERED

In partnership with CLEEN Foundation and with support from DFID/UK AID, we launched the 'Pathway to Prevention' Research Project, aimed at empowering and 'slave-proofing' local communities in Edo State by deterring the recruitment of potential victims for sex trafficking by local recruiters (Enablers). Our hypothesis was that by targeting local recruiters, the link between potential victim and traffickers could be broken, thus reducing the incidence of sex trafficking from Edo State, Africa's most trafficked through location. Following our Methodology workshop and the training of our fieldworkers, the research commenced in September 2019. Our findings and recommendations are available on our website: www.pathfindersji.org.

TRAINING OF WEST AFRICAN JOURNALISTS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REUTERS



In December 2019, we joined the Thomson Reuters Foundation to train 15 West African journalists from Gambia, Nigeria and Ghana on human trafficking.

Using real life examples, the journalists were trained on the root causes of trafficking, how recruiting occurs and why it is imperative for journalists, as literary first responders, to ensure that these stories are ethically conveyed and followed through.

The journalists were inspired to recognize the power in their hands and their privilege and responsibility as change agents that with the potential to shift the narrative.

15

**WEST AFRICAN
JOURNALISTS TRAINED**

FRANCE'S FUTURE LEADERS PROGRAM

OUR FOUNDER CHOSEN



Our founder, R. Evon Benson-Idahosa, was chosen as a subject matter expert for France's Future Leaders Program organized by the country's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. During the one week study program in Paris and Nice (March 2019), Ms. Benson-Idahosa was opportuned to educate French government officials and stakeholders on her work at Pathfinders to end sex trafficking and unsafe migration from Nigeria, to discuss France's foreign policy (and its implications on the continent) and to learn more about efforts in France to combat trafficking and unsafe migration from West Africa. Recommendations and suggestions were also provided.

TRUTHTELLERS

SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS

PATHFINDERS
CARE • HEAL • INSPIRE



Our community transformation/education project brings awareness to local communities about the hidden realities of sex-trafficking, its impact, alternative economic pathways and the power of women and girls. TruthTellers accomplishes this through campaigns, training, seminars, daily public service announcements on radio and monthly outreach initiatives and workshops. Additionally, TruthTellers engages male allies as a way of building cross-gender support and breaking down cultural norms around the devaluation of women and girls.

T TRUTHTELLERS

SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS

1.5M

REACHED DAILY VIA
RADIO PSAS IN
5 STATES

1M

SENSITIZED
QUARTERLY VIA
RADIO & OTHER
INTERVIEWS

50K

SENSITIZED
ANNUALLY VIA
CONFERENCESS

40K

REACHED ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

5K

SENSITIZED
MONTHLY VIA
OUTREACHES

125K

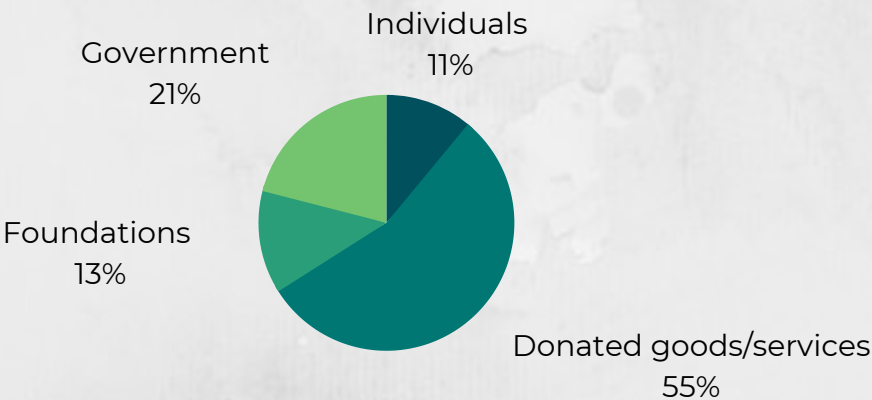
REACHED QUARTERLY
VIA PSAS IN
PRINT AND EMAIL

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

FOR US AND NIGERIA OPERATIONS

2019 REVENUE

Individuals:	\$47,129
Foundations/Community orgs./Corporations:	\$57,434
Government:	\$91,743
Donated goods/services:	\$240,000
TOTAL:	\$436,306

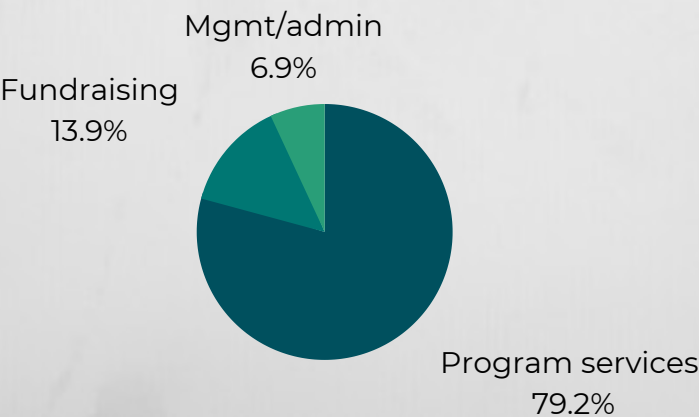


2019 NET ASSETS

Beginning of the year:	\$76,147
End of the year:	\$145,958
Change in Net Assets:	\$69,811

2019 EXPENSES

Program services:	\$311,459
Fundraising:	\$53,158
Management and administration:	\$25,778
TOTAL:	\$390,395



POWERED BY:



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OF NEW YORK

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Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU NIGERIA



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE



UKaid

from the British people



ICMPD

International Centre for
Migration Policy Development



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

act:onaid



M. NIGHT
SHYAMALAN
FOUNDATION



European
Commission



VITAL VOICES
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP



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