



 **PATHFINDERS**  
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

20  
20

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**PATHFINDERS JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

[www.pathfindersji.org](http://www.pathfindersji.org)

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# 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.



## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Partners,

Thank you for walking with us through a most trying year! Despite global lockdowns and recessions, we saw our impact and influence expand as a result of the trust we cultivated over the years with survivors and national/global leaders. There is a lot to be thankful for, particularly as Pathfinders turned SEVEN amidst a global pandemic!

Like most CSOs, we were initially blindsided by the extensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in us initially having to scale back our direct services at a time when they were most desperately needed for survivors. However, we efficiently and successfully pivoted, innovating through government mandates, lockdowns and quarantines in a manner that ultimately resulted in our survivors emerging and continuing to thrive. We were glad to have been able to continue to offer shelter at *The Anchor* to survivors who were desperate for housing support.

Amongst other innovations, we launched *Each One, Reach One*, a 'my sister's keeper' initiative that paired our survivor advocates with at-risk women whose economic desperation was leading them to seek smuggling outlets from Nigeria, to provide sustainable economic support. Our COVID relief drives, which provided immediate basic needs to our beneficiaries, emerged as a life saving resource, along with mental health services which we ensured were consistently available to address triggers and trauma. Our adaptive business trainings also presented opportunities for our beneficiaries to adapt their small businesses to include the sale of goods/services that were in-demand as a result of the pandemic.

We also pivoted to create PALI (Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative), our free adult education classes for women and girls who were unable to return to school post-COVID (due to financial hardships) and were privileged to publish Pathway to Prevention, our ground breaking research on recruiters of sex trafficking from Nigeria, whereby contributing to the growing database of evidence that substantiates the face of trafficking in and from Nigeria. Our street outreach program, The Redemption Project, also launched in 2020 to serve women who are voluntarily in prostitution but desperately seeking a way out.

As consultants and contributors on the global stage, we continued to amplify the voices of survivors and share learnings at the C20 Summit speaking on legislated disempowerment, at CPA UK's Modern Slavery Conference 2020 and at IJM's Conference on Cross Border Trafficking: Ghana-Nigeria.

And so, as much as the world shut or slowed down, we were, with your support and partnerships, able to continue to do our structurally transformative work that is not only changing the narrative of African women and girls, but also disrupting the economic landscape across the continent. As part of the critical minority, I am certain that you will conclude, as you review this Annual Report, that there was certainly much to be thankful for in 2020- the year that afforded us all the opportunity to build back better!

Until all are free,  
R. Evon Benson-Idahosa  
Founder and Executive Director



# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## **WE SURVIVED!**

Documented as stories of triumph, our "We Survived" photobook captures the photographs and triumphant stories of 25 of our survivors who, amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic, not only survived, but thrived. Their photographs were beautifully captured by Italian photographer, Francesco Bellina. With our survivors' consent, some of their photographs and stories are reflected herein.

*"Mercy O." by F. Bellina*

# PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

Rescue one, create a path for many

94

**PATH PLANS**  
GENERATED FOR SURVIVORS

9

**COUNTRIES**  
WHERE SURVIVORS SERVED

0

**SURVIVORS**  
RETRAFFICKED



Our core project has two programming arms: (i) we help women and girls who are at-risk to becoming trafficked by providing alternative economic paths to sustainable livelihood, while educating them on the dangers and risks of trafficking and thus reducing the overall 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 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 2020 are outlined in the following pages.



"PATHFINDERS GAVE ME A SECOND  
CHANCE TO LIVE AND SUCCEED..."

*-Charity U. by F. Bellina*



## OHCHR PTF PROJECT

OHCHR PROJECT (JAN-DEC)

# 20

**SURVIVORS SERVED**

With support from the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, we launched our PTF Program. Via this Project, which commenced right at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to provide immediate humanitarian aid, as well as medical care, counseling, vocational skills training, business training by certified professionals (lawyers, accountants, mental health therapists, etc.), skills training and start-up capital to 20 women survivors of sex trafficking in Nigeria.

To date, all 20 Project beneficiaries have not been re trafficked and continue to thrive in Nigeria. With supplemental support from Pathfinders during the height of the pandemic, they were able to overcome the worst of the pandemic and remain on a path towards sustainable economic independence.



## PEACE'S STORY

Peace was born in December 1991 to a family with limited resources and into circumstances which led her to becoming trafficked overland from Edo State to Libya in June 2017. After being raped and forcibly impregnated by her smuggler, she was forced to abort the baby before being imprisoned for five months in a detention centre in Libya. Thankfully, she returned to Nigeria in December 2017 via IOM's voluntary return program and was hopeful for a new life.

Peace contacted Pathfinders in February 2019, after coming across a Pathfinders flyer offering free support to survivors of trafficking. Excited, she contacted us, following which she received the necessary mental, medical and financial support that enabled her to start a provisions business. Her children also received an education scholarship from Pathfinders that enabled them to return to school, an occurrence that lifted a heavy weight off her shoulders and allowed her to focus on growing her business.

Then came COVID-19. Faced with the reality and financial implications of a debilitating lockdown, Peace quickly pivoted, moving her "essential" provisions business (which was allowed to stay open) from a commercial location to her home. With supplemental support from Pathfinders, she focused on making available products which were in high demand in the market as a result of the pandemic and as a result, was able to see her business continue to thrive.

*Sharon A. by F. Bellina*

**act:onaid**

## POST COVID-19 FREEDOM PROJECT

ACTION AID PROJECT (SEPT  
2020-FEB 2021)

# 20

**SURVIVORS SERVED**

With support from Action Aid, via its Women's Voice and Leadership Project (with support from Global Affairs Canada), we launched our Post COVID-19 Freedom Project. Via this Project, which commenced in September 2020, right as Nigeria began easing lockdown restrictions and gathering limitations, we were able to provide medical care, counseling, vocational skills training and start-up capital for 20 women survivors of sex trafficking in Nigeria. In addition, we were able to provide immediate humanitarian support (food, household items, hand sanitizers, soap, facemasks, etc.) as well as adaptive business trainings for the Project beneficiaries, which allowed them to quickly pivot their business models and remain financially viable during the pandemic.

All 20 Project beneficiaries continue to thrive and have not been re trafficked.





## OUR TRANSITIONAL SHELTER

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 around-the-clock staffing, the Anchor became fully operational in 2019 and has since been providing services for survivors, including adult literacy classes and legal, counseling and medical services.

We were thrilled to have been able to continue to offer shelter services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.





## OUR STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM

In March 2020, we launched 'The Redemption Project,' our street outreach program, after we found that some women in Edo were deeming voluntary prostitution a viable alternative to poverty. The program seeks to serve women who are voluntarily trapped in prostitution but desperately seeking a way out and an alternative path to financial stability. Because most of these women are too ashamed to seek the assistance themselves, we take our support to them- on the streets at night- offering them medical, mental health and legal services, as well as vocational skills training and/or start-up capital. Those that require shelter are welcome at The Anchor, our 20-bed shelter, located in Benin City. The program is ongoing and has been very successful.



We launched this initiative, which paired 10 of our survivor advocates with 10 at-risk women (ages 18-35), in September 2020, further to a recommendation by our program survivor advocates when it became clear that at-risk women in their local communities were actively seeking smugglers and traffickers to leave Nigeria due to the economic downturn and recession that followed the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Via this 'my sister's keeper' Project, at-risk women are able to 'shadow' survivor advocates in sisterhood, while survivors provide mentorship/guidance, information on where they can get mental health/economic empowerment support, information on recruiters/traffickers and other support. Once referred to our program, the at-risk women are assessed via our 12-point Vulnerability Indicator, a tool we developed to determine vulnerability to sex trafficking following research conducted with over 500 survivors. Those who qualify will receive economic empowerment and mental health support as well as basic services. Beneficiaries continue to receive ongoing support and monitoring from their paired 'sister' (PJI survivor advocate) throughout their engagement in the program.



We launched PALI, our Pathfinders Adult Literacy Institute, in September 2020. These free adult education classes are geared towards providing basic education for women and girls, (generally) ages 15 to 35, enabling them to read, write and enunciate correctly. At Pathfinders, we understand that education has a ripple effect on other aspects of a person's life, in terms of the decisions and choices they make. As such, and in alignment with our mission to generate structural transformation of both the narrative and economic landscape for African women and girls, PALI extends our strategic vision by educating young women while raising awareness and enlightening them on the dangers of sex trafficking and other social ills. More so, once equipped with these basic educational skills, these young women will maintain the capacity to express themselves whenever the need/opportunity arises and ultimately contribute to the growth and development of themselves, their families, their careers and their local communities.

We currently maintain three (3) PALI locations in Edo State, the most endemic hub for sex trafficking in Nigeria: Uzebu Community, Ogba Community and GRA. It is our hope that providing these free classes, coupled with raising awareness about the dangers of sex trafficking, will result in addressing one of the root causes we have identified that results in the proliferation of trafficking in Edo: the lack of access to life-sustaining economic opportunity and basic social services.





*Mercy E. by F. Bellina*

# COVID-19 RELIEF DRIVES

## PROVIDING SUSTENANCE IN THE SHADOWS



In 2020, we were privileged to conduct three COVID-19 food drives for 200+ survivors and at-risk women in our programs. In addition to providing training on how to protect themselves from COVID-19, each beneficiary received immediate humanitarian relief which included food, household items, clothing, lunch, soap, hand sanitizers and face masks. They also received transportation stipends and some financial support to carry them through the initial stages of the pandemic. In addition, our counselors were all available to provide mobile services for those whose past traumas were triggered by the isolation and solitude of the lockdowns.



# ACCESS

## QUARTERLY TRAININGS

Our ACCESS Training Program provides quarterly trainings to survivors based on their identified needs. Our trainings in 2020 covered optimal mental health and stress management, accounting and branding for small businesses, legal rights, securing child support and adapting business models.

# 50-60

**SURVIVORS TRAINED 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.





# 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

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 2020 *The Justice Initiative* Program Highlights are outlined in the following pages.



**IJM**  
PRESENTS

A VIRTUAL

## CONVERSATION ON CROSSBORDER TRAFFICKING: GHANA-NIGERIA

DATE: THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, 2020  
TIME: 4:00 PM (NIGERIAN TIME)

**S P E A K E R S :**

 <b>MODERATOR:</b> MR. LEONARD KOBINA AICKON (IJM)	 <b>CHIEF SUPT. / MR. MIKE BAAH</b> DIRECTOR OF ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, GHANA POLICE	 <b>AKWEYETTEH NORTEY</b> HEAD OF ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT, ECONOMIC AND ORGANIZED CRIME OFFICE, GHANA	 <b>ALBERTA AMFOFO</b> HEAD OF ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING & TRAFFICKING IN PERSON UNIT, GHANA IMMIGRATION SERVICE	 <b>PATRICE KOUASI</b> REGIONAL, SPECIALIZED OFFICER, INTERPOL, REGIONAL BUREAU ABUJA	 <b>HON. FREDA PREMPEH</b> DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
 <b>JULIE OKAN-DONLI</b> DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (NAPTIP)	 <b>JOSE ANTONIO</b> NSANO ANDANE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR, FRAPP A-TIPSON NIGERIA PROJECT	 <b>VICTORIA KLIMOVA</b> COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROJECT MANAGER, IOM GHANA	 <b>R. EVELYN BENSON-IDAHOSA,</b> ESQ FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PATHFINDERS JUSTICE INITIATIVE, INC.	 <b>EMMANUEL ADARAMOLA</b> NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF NETWORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY CHILD TRAFFICKING, ABUSE AND LABOR (NACTAL)	 <b>ANDREWS DOOZI ADUGU</b> STATE ATTORNEY, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND PRISONS, VOLTA OFFICE
		 <b>MUHAMMAD BABANDIR</b> M.P., CONTROLLER GENERAL, NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE			

**ZOOM LINK: <https://bit.ly/3msnVYm> PASSCODE : 43jck0**

# THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In light of global lockdowns and travel restrictions, we pivoted to amplify the voices of our survivors online, continuing to hold governments and policy makers accountable by bringing them to or joining them at the table to address the implications of COVID-19 on gender based violence and on women and girls. Our voices were heard at the C-20 Summit, where we addressed the legislated disempowerment of women and girls in the developing world and at IJM's Cross-border Trafficking: Ghana-Nigeria Conference where we tasked border officials to ensure that trafficking victims were not criminalised. We also served as a consultant to the UK Home Office's Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in co-organizing its 2020 Modern Day Slavery Conference which targeted parliamentarians and other global policy makers. As sexual violence against women and girls began to rise as the 'shadow pandemic' in Nigeria, we joined our voices with the voices of other activists to demand that state governors issue a state of emergency and direct funds towards protecting women and girls. Our webinar on the subject, which included government officials, also helped to raise awareness and proffer solutions for survivors.



## Modern Day Slavery: Legislated Disempowerment





**Sharan BURROW**  
General Secretary  
**International Trade Union Confederation**  
Moderator



**R. Evon BENSON-IDAHOSEA**  
Founder & Executive Director  
**Pathfinders Justice Initiative**



**Justine CURRELL**  
Executive Director  
**Unseen UK**



**Lynda DIANE MULL**  
Executive Director & President of the Board of Directors  
**International Initiative to End Child Labor (IIECL)**



**Shawn MACDONALD**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Verite**



**Jasmine O'CONNOR**  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Anti-Slavery International**



**Mr. Thomas WISSING**  
Head of the Partnerships & Advocacy





October 7, 2020  
2:30PM - 4:00PM  
UTC +3



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# 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



# 24

KEY INFORMANT  
INTERVIEWS

# 60

PARTICIPANTS IN  
10 FOCUS GROUPS

# 3,600

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES  
ADMINISTERED

In partnership with CLEEN Foundation and with support from FCDO/UK AID, we published 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 and was validated and published in September 2020. Our findings and recommendations are available on our website: [www.pathfindersji.org](http://www.pathfindersji.org).

# TRUTHTELLERS

SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS



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.



# 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



*Joy O. by F. Bellina*

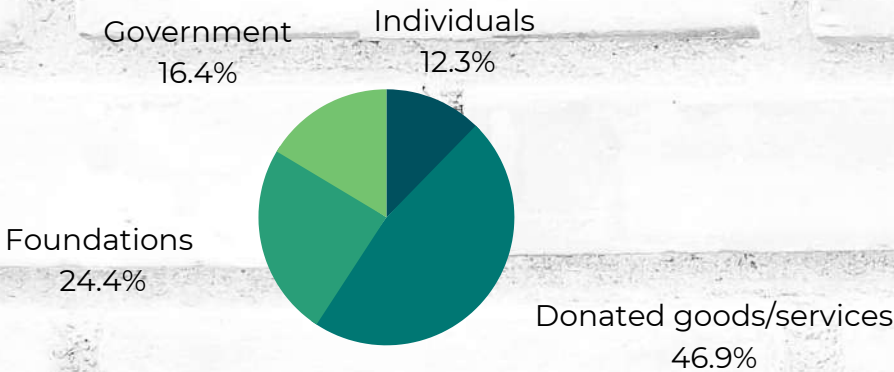
# CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

## FOR PJI U.S. AND NIGERIA OPERATIONS

### 2020 REVENUE

Individuals:	\$45,711
Foundations/Community orgs./Corporations:	\$90,936
Government:	\$61,074
Donated goods/services:	\$175,000
TOTAL*:	\$372,825

\*includes \$104 sale of assets

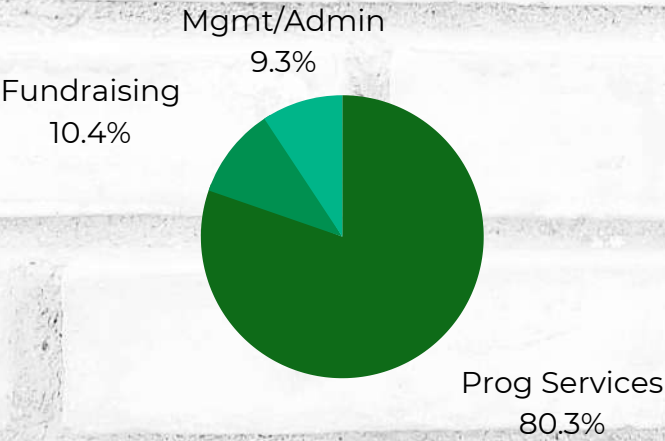


### 2020 NET ASSETS

Beginning of the year:	\$140,437
End of the year:	\$206,558
Change in Net Assets:	\$66,122

### 2020 EXPENSES

Program services:	\$273,569
Fundraising:	\$32,250
Management and administration:	\$31,509
TOTAL:	\$337,328





POWERED BY:



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**COLLEGIATE CHURCHES**  
OF NEW YORK

[collegiatechurch.org](http://collegiatechurch.org)



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE



**EXPERTISE**  
FRANCE



**UKaid**  
from the British people



**ICMPD**  
International Centre for  
Migration Policy Development



Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office

**act:onaid**



M. NIGHT  
SHYAMALAN  
FOUNDATION





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