



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Message from the Executive Director



Ten years.

Ten years of saying yes to the impossible and watching it unfold before our eyes.

Ten years of hearing “it can’t be done” and answering with courage, “watch us!”

Pathfinders Justice Initiative was born out of a discontent to stand by while exploitation and injustice ravaged our daughters and sisters. What began as a single determined step has become a relentless march towards freedom, dignity, and restoration.

In this tenth year, our work deepened in new and meaningful ways. Beyond providing livelihood opportunities and raising awareness in communities, we invested significantly in building up our beneficiaries’ knowledge of legal matters, particularly in areas of business law and family issues, equipping them with tools to stand secure in both enterprise and life. Alongside this, we placed greater emphasis on mental health, ensuring that survivors were not only physically empowered but also mentally and emotionally prepared to progress down their individual paths of healing and restoration.

We were also opportuned to share our knowledge and create awareness with international bodies, showcasing our blueprint for combating trafficking and offering practical insights on what works in the alignment with freedom.

The year was marked by flourishing projects: livelihoods restored, traffickers losing their grip on survivors, communities educated, and voices once silenced now rising strong. Every achievement bears the fingerprints of our donors, whose generosity has kept our hands steady; our partners, whose belief in our mission has lightened the road; and our team, whose excellence continues to be matched by their compassion.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, strengthening partnerships, and advancing innovative strategies to prevent trafficking and restore dignity. The progress of the past decade affirms that change is possible, and with sustained collaboration, we can build a future where freedom is protected and hope endures.

Until all are free,

R. Eron Benson-Idahosa

Founder/Executive Director

our

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.

mission

highlights



2024

PATHFINDERS AT 10!

Ten years ago, our Founder and Executive Director traded her law partnership for an unknown path that has proved life giving, transformative, and deeply humbling. From a one woman effort in 2014 to Nigeria's leading anti-sex trafficking organization today, Pathfinders has spent the past decade disrupting the trafficking landscape, defending human rights, and restoring dignity to survivors.

Over the past ten years, outside the box thinking, innovation, and technology have fueled our mission to challenge the systems that sustain sex slavery and to champion gender justice. Our progress has been driven by our now 12 strong team of passionate crusaders, our hundreds of volunteers, the courage and resilience of our survivor community, and the generosity of donors whose partnerships have made it possible to implement multiple diverse projects across the years.

Through these efforts, we have provided holistic, survivor centered support to more than 5,000 primary beneficiaries, both within Nigeria and beyond, while indirectly reaching hundreds of thousands more. Our unique three generational model has integrated economic empowerment and start up capital, financial inclusion and literacy, safe shelter, medical care, legal assistance, counseling, adult literacy, and education scholarships, creating tangible and lasting change.

Here are some of the milestones that define our first decade...

- Leading experts in Nigeria's anti-trafficking response
- Conducted Nigeria's first ever gap analysis on human trafficking (2019)
- developed HERSAfrica.com, Africa's first online and mobile application Hub of Economic Resources for (African) Survivors of human trafficking (2022)
- Developed the Edo State Coordinated Care Mechanism, Nigeria's first state referral mechanism (2022)
- Lead facilitators and trainers for state and non-state actors
- Developed Nigeria's first national stakeholders' guidelines on human trafficking (2021)
- National and international consultants on SGBV, migration and human trafficking
- Created Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative (PALI) (2021)
- Created Pathfinders Business Academy (PBA)(2022)
- Created Pathfinders RISE Job Placement Program (2022)
- Created ACCESS life, adaptive and skills trainings for beneficiaries (2020)
- Created five Pathfinders School Clubs across Nigeria (2016-2024)
- Launched Pathfinders Social Justice Institute (PSJI) (2022)

- Monthly and radio outreaches raising awareness to millions daily
- Groundbreaking, data driven researchers on human trafficking (2020)
- Legislative drafters for anti-trafficking legislation in Nigeria (2019)
- Established three office locations in Benin City, Abuja and New York (2014-2024)
- 300+ volunteers providing supplemental support (2014-2024)
- Sustainable partnerships in 12 countries serving survivors globally
- Thriving shelter for survivors and those at risk
- Multiple awards received, including awards from the United States Department of State, Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency (NAPTIP) and Nigeria's Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) (2022-2023)
- Nigeria's leading NGO providing excellence in holistic survivor care



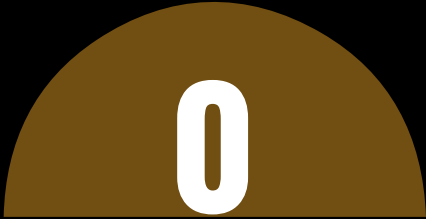
PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

rescue one, create a path for many...



252

**PATH PLANS AND
SURVIVORS SERVED**



0

**SURVIVORS
RETRAFFICKED**



12

**COUNTRIES WHERE WE
MAINTAIN PARTNERS**

Our leading initiative is anchored in two interconnected program streams. The first focuses on prevention, empowering women and girls at risk of trafficking with sustainable economic opportunities that build financial independence, while providing critical education on the tactics and dangers of trafficking to reduce vulnerability.

The second centers on restoration, walking alongside survivors who have escaped exploitation as they rebuild their lives. Through tailored Personalized Action to Healing (PATH) Plans, we provide legal support, financial literacy training, startup capital, vocational and job training through our RISE job placement program, educational scholarships, counseling, medical care, and safe housing.

The following pages highlight the impact of our work in 2024.

THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS



EDUCATE. TRAIN. ADVISE. HOLD ACCOUNTABLE.

POLICY MAKERS AND GATEKEEPERS

WHO HAVE THE POWER TO END TRAFFICKING

Through our Justice Initiative Program, we work hand in hand with law enforcement, legislators, judges, and other key decision makers to build stronger systems, policies, and practices that close the gaps enabling human trafficking to persist. Our approach is twofold: first, to expose systemic weaknesses, and second, to address them through training, accountability mechanisms, and sustained legal advocacy. In 2024, we continued to convene and participate in national and international trainings and workshops that brought together Parliamentarians, government officials, and the wider public to deepen understanding of human trafficking and migration. We are intentional about seeking out spaces where diverse stakeholders, particularly those with the authority to drive meaningful change, are present, ensuring that our advocacy resonates where it matters most.

PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

COMPREHENSIVE SURVIVOR SUPPORT

In 2024, every survivor in our care benefited from our complete Pathway to Freedom menu of services, which were co-created with them amidst the evolving landscape of trafficking, ensuring safety, stability, and a sustainable future.

RESTORATION AND HEALING	EMPOWERMENT AND GROWTH
 Family reunification	 Vocational skills training
 Counseling & mental health support	 Capital to start small businesses (solo or cooperative)
 Medical care & medications	 Financial literacy training
 Medical outreaches to local communities	 Soft, adaptive & life skills training
 Legal & social services	 Community of fellow survivors
 Humanitarian support	 Adult education classes (Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative)
 Shelter (in-house or external)	 Advanced financial literacy (Pathfinders Business Academy)
 Education scholarships	 RISE job placement program

Because of these interventions, which we implemented via different projects, many of our beneficiaries are now thriving, launching businesses, advancing in education, gaining stable jobs, and leading in their communities. Their success is a testament to their resilience and to the unwavering support of our donors and partners.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED



OHCHR: PATHWAY TO FREEDOM (PTF) PROJECT

With the invaluable support of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), we successfully completed the fifth year of our Pathway to Freedom (PTF) Program. Over the past year, the program delivered life-changing interventions to 40 women, including 30 survivors of sex trafficking and 10 additional beneficiaries across Nigeria. Participants received comprehensive support that included humanitarian aid, medical care, counseling, vocational skills training, and business development training led by certified professionals such as lawyers, accountants, and mental health therapists. Each woman was also provided with start-up capital to launch her own income-generating venture. Remarkably, to date, none of the program's beneficiaries have been re-trafficked.



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY: PROJECT ARISE

With the support of the Australian Embassy in Nigeria, we successfully completed Project Arise, reaching 30 beneficiaries with holistic, life-changing interventions. Through this initiative, we also graduated all 20 students from our Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative (PALI), equipping them with essential literacy skills to strengthen their independence and future opportunities.

Project Arise delivered a comprehensive package of support, including humanitarian aid, medical care, counseling, vocational skills training, business training, school clubs, and start-up capital to empower each beneficiary towards self-reliance and stability.



UNODC: 'REACH ONE REACH MANY' PROJECT

With the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, we successfully implemented the Anchor Project, delivering targeted, survivor-centered services to 20 beneficiaries. Each participant received medical care, counseling, vocational skills training, and start-up capital to establish sustainable livelihoods. We are proud to report that all 20 beneficiaries are thriving living safely, earning income, and building independent futures with no cases of re-trafficking recorded.



O.U.R: PROJECT RISE

With support from Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), we completed Project RISE 2, which served 5 beneficiaries, and launched RISE 3, a one-year initiative that provided direct services for 12 beneficiaries who received humanitarian aid, medical care, business registration, humanitarian support, counselling, vocational skills training and start-up capital. All 12 Project beneficiaries continue to thrive and have not been re-trafficked.



PROJECT S.T.A.A.Y

PJI launched Project S.T.A.A.Y (Safe Traveling Awareness for At-Risk Youths), a five-month strategic campaign targeting hot-spot trafficking source locations in Edo, Lagos, Abuja, and Delta States. The campaign combined survivor voices, data-driven strategies, and viable economic alternatives to reach vulnerable communities and potential irregular migrants. Through these efforts, we conducted school outreaches to over 2,000 students, market outreaches engaging more than 1,000 traders, and a community outreach in Ugoneki involving over 60 residents, including the community head and cabinet members. Our social media campaign further amplified this reach, engaging over 230,000 people within the target audience and generating more than 673,000 impressions.



PROJECT RESTORE

With support from the JTIP Office at the U.S. State Department, Project Restore is a three-year initiative designed to serve 240 beneficiaries across Edo State. In Year 1, we reached 40 survivors and at-risk women, providing them with humanitarian aid, medical care, counselling, vocational and life skills training, business training by certified professionals, and start-up capital. We are now implementing Year 2, expanding into three additional Local Government Areas and continuing PALI (Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative) alongside other services that equip beneficiaries with the tools and resilience needed for sustainable independence.



OUR HEALING SANCTUARY

The Anchor Shelter is Edo State's only dedicated 20-bed sanctuary for female survivors of sex trafficking. Since becoming fully operational in 2019, it has offered a secure and nurturing environment where women can begin rebuilding their lives after escaping trafficking, often from abroad, or sexual violence. Depending on individual needs, residents stay between six months to one year, receiving holistic support that includes adult literacy education, legal representation, counselling, and medical care. At The Anchor, safety is the foundation, and restoration is the goal.

PATHFINDERS BUSINESS ACADEMY

April marked a significant milestone for Pathfinders Business Academy (PBA), as we celebrated our first full year of operations. PBA was established to equip female survivors of trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, and women at risk with the skillset and mindset to identify, launch, and sustain successful business ventures. This year, PBA graduated 75 resilient women into a future of economic independence and self-determination.

Our mission is clear: to ensure every participant leaves with transferable business and life skills/tools they can apply not only to running their own enterprises but also to navigating broader opportunities and challenges in life.



Each five-week training cycle is intentionally designed to demystify complex business concepts, presenting them in ways that are engaging, practical, and relevant from our beneficiaries' perspective. The structured curriculum, delivered through 10–15 interactive sessions, focuses on four core skill areas: interpersonal and personal development, creative thinking, financial management, and risk management.

TRUTHTELLERS

AWARENESS RAISING AND OUTREACH SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS

In 2024, through Project Restore, we deepened our commitment to raising awareness about the hidden realities of human trafficking, its devastating impact, and the alternative economic pathways that empower women and girls to thrive. Unlike previous years, this time we went directly into the communities, meeting survivors and community members where they are. We were able to reach survivors in Orhiomwon, Ikpoba Okha, and Egor, extending not only awareness but also pathways to hope and empowerment.

Through TruthTellers, we continued to amplify awareness via campaigns, online interviews, training sessions, seminars, daily radio public service announcements, and monthly outreach initiatives and workshops. In 2024, we also expanded our work with male allies, challenging harmful cultural norms around the devaluation of women and girls, and fostering cross gender support for lasting change.



Outreach at Orhiomwon Local Government Area



Discussion with BBC Media Action on plight of survivors

TRUTHTELLERS

SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS



Outreach at a Secondary School in Ugoneki



PJI School Club Ambassadors

2M

REACHED DAILY VIA
RADIO PSAS IN
5 STATES

1.5M

SENSITIZED
QUARTERLY VIA
RADIO & OTHER
INTERVIEWS

100K

SENSITIZED
ANNUALLY VIA
CONFERENCES

400K

REACHED ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

100K

SENSITIZED
MONTHLY VIA
OUTREACHES

200K

REACHED QUARTERLY VIA
PSAS IN
PRINT AND EMAIL

PATHFINDERS ADULT LITERACY INITIATIVE (PALI)

PALI, which partners with women in local communities to provide free adult education courses to decrease vulnerability to trafficking, graduated ___ batches of students in 2024. All ___ students on our campus, Ogba Village and Faith Campus, were trained on the basics of English and Arithmetic. The profound impact of education was particularly poignant for our students, many of whom had given up on the possibility of accessing any form of free education.

By providing free and flexible classes, we were able to help survivors of trafficking, at-risk women and working women learn to read, write and maintain effective communication, a much needed skill set, according to our graduates. In addition to acquiring these skills, students also learned how to identify and sensitise their local communities on the dangers of trafficking.



PALI Graduates



PALI Graduates



1. Survivors at group counselling
2. Humanitarian support/food distribution
3. Survivors building teamwork skills at play



What worked in 2024?

Each intervention we introduced over the years played a role in transforming lives. But there were certain ones that survivors spoke about most gratefully – those that resulted in visible and lasting changes in their journeys.

- **Counseling** – Opening up to a stranger about trauma is not the natural response for our survivors or in Nigeria in general. Yet, session after session, survivors ended grateful. They found release in sharing their pain, discovered forgiveness, and gained courage to attempt things they once thought impossible. Many told us counseling left them more confident, grounded, and ready to face life with new strength.
- **Life Skills Training** – Survivors often described this as the moment embarrassment lifted. Topics like hygiene, childcare, decision making, and self-esteem gave them knowledge they thought they had to learn silently on their own. Instead, they walked away empowered, with tools they could use immediately and take pride in.
- **Outdoor Games and Play** – At first, many hesitated: “Play is for children, not adults with problems.” But what began with doubt ended in laughter, joy, and freedom. Survivors told us it was the first time in years, sometimes in their entire adult lives, that they felt light enough to play. Days later, they were still calling in, smiling at the memory, recalling happy moments they thought were lost forever.
- **Legal Empowerment** – Survivors spoke gratefully about learning business and family law, saying it gave them a sense of control they had never felt before. Contracts, property, custody, and everyday legal matters no longer seemed like a trap. Instead, they could stand on their rights and protect themselves and their families with confidence.
- **Business School** – For many, standing to pitch their business ideas felt like a miracle. Survivors said this was more than just training; it was a moment of dignity. They left believing that financial independence and entrepreneurship were within reach, not dreams too far away.

What worked in 2024?

- **Holistic Wellbeing** – Survivors noted how deeply they valued the focus on their mental health alongside physical healing. They described feeling lighter, balanced, and ready to move forward, not just as survivors, but as whole women on the path to restoration.

Survivors reminded us this year that healing is not just about programs, but about the practices that reach their hearts in deeply personal ways.

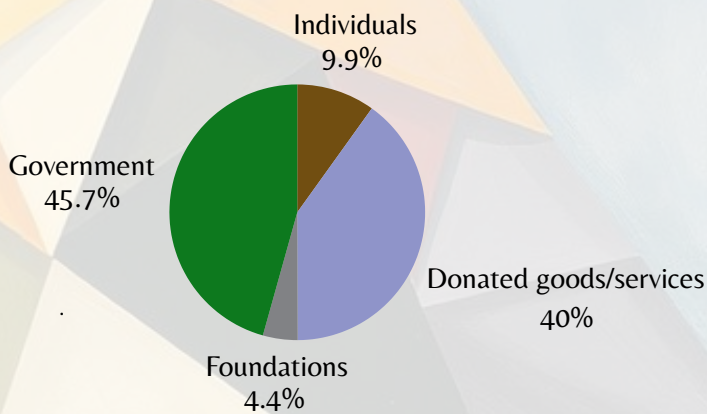
As we mark ten years of impact, we know that none of this happens without our donors, partners, and friends. Your generosity is what makes transformation possible.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

FOR PJI U.S. AND NIGERIA OPERATIONS

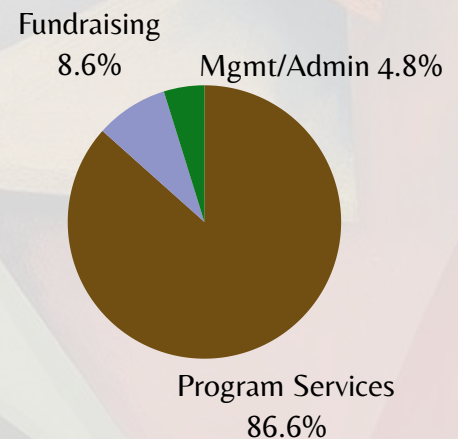
2024 REVENUE

Individuals:	\$42,420
Foundations/Community Orgs:	\$19,010
Government:	\$205,385
Donated goods/services:	\$171,700
TOTAL:	\$438,515



2024 EXPENSES

Program services:	\$372,974
Fundraising:	\$36,905
Management and administration:	\$20,661
TOTAL:	\$430,540





BENIN CITY. ABUJA. NEW YORK

www.pathfindersji.org

info@pathfindersji.org

@pathfindersji

+234 817.612.3228

+234.817.000.PATH

TO SUPPORT OUR WORK: WWW.PATHFINDERSJI.ORG/DONATE
GUARANTY TRUST BANK: ACCOUNT 0164719490
DONATE@PATHFINDERSJI.ORG

   @pathfindersji
Pathfinders Justice Initiative, Inc.

BECAUSE SLAVERY CAN BE OVERCOME IN ONE LIFETIME: OURS