PATHFINDERS
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Message from the Executive Director



The past year reminded us that hope is often revealed not in the absence of challenges, but in the courage to keep showing up, serving with compassion, and believing that lasting change is possible.

Across the world, 2025 was a difficult year for many nonprofit organizations. Shifting donor priorities, funding uncertainties and growing humanitarian needs placed significant pressure on organizations working on the frontlines. Like many others in our sector, we were also impacted by these realities. Yet, rather than allowing them to define our work, they strengthened our resolve to ensure that every survivor who turned to us found a pathway to healing, dignity, and opportunity.

I am especially grateful that despite these challenges, Pathfinders Justice Initiative was able to reach and support more women and girls than we have in any previous year. This is a remarkable testament to what can happen when committed people come together around a shared vision. Every restored life, every child who remained in school, every survivor who launched a business or learned a new skill, and every community that became better equipped to prevent trafficking reminds us that our work continues to create ripples of hope that extend far beyond the individuals we directly serve.

Throughout the year, we strengthened our survivor-centred approach by expanding access to psychosocial support, education, healthcare, safe shelter, business development, and economic empowerment. Through Project Restore and our other programmes, survivors were not only rescued from exploitation but were equipped to rebuild their lives with confidence and renewed purpose. We also continued investing in prevention through advocacy, community engagement, and technology-driven solutions that strengthen support systems and help protect those most at risk.

Innovation has always been part of who we are, and this year was no different. We continued to leverage technology, collaborative partnerships, and evidence-based approaches to improve survivor services, strengthen coordinated responses, and ensure that no survivor had to walk the journey of recovery alone. While our immediate focus is restoring lives, our broader vision remains unchanged, i.e., to address the root causes of trafficking and build communities where every woman and girl can flourish in safety and freedom.

None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of our staff, the generosity of our volunteers, the resilience of the survivors who inspire us every day, and the steadfast support of our donors and partners.

Thank you for believing in this mission. Your trust has enabled us to not only sustain our work over a challenging year but to grow our impact in meaningful and measurable ways.

Until all are free,

Rantiade Benson-Idahosa

Founder/Executive Director

PATHFINDERS
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

OUR MISSION

To prevent sex slavery/sexual violence and to liberate enslaved women and girls through the direct eradication of root causes.

PATHFINDERS
JUSTICE INITIATIVE

highlights 2025







PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

rescue one, create a path for many...

250

PATH PLANS AND SURVIVORS SERVED

0

SURVIVORS RETRAFFICKED

12

COUNTRIES WHERE WE MAINTAIN PARTNERS

Our flagship initiative is built around two interconnected program streams: prevention and restoration.
Our prevention work focuses on empowering women and girls at risk of human trafficking with sustainable economic opportunities that strengthen financial independence and reduce vulnerability. Alongside this, we provide critical education on the tactics, risks, and dangers of trafficking, equipping individuals and communities with the knowledge needed to recognize and prevent exploitation.

Our restoration work supports survivors as they rebuild their lives after exploitation. Guided by tailored Personalized Action to Healing (PATH) Plans, we provide comprehensive, survivor-centered support, including legal assistance, financial literacy training, startup capital, vocational and job-readiness training through our RISE Job Placement Program, educational scholarships, counseling, medical care, and safe housing.

The following pages highlight the impact and progress of this work throughout 2025.

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THE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

INFLUENCING THE INFLUENCERS



Through The Justice Initiative, we engage law enforcement agencies, legislators, judges, government institutions, and other influential stakeholders to strengthen the systems that prevent and respond to human trafficking. Our work focuses on identifying gaps in laws, policies, and institutional practices, and advancing practical solutions through capacity building, accountability, and sustained legal and policy advocacy.

Throughout 2025, we continued to create and participate in strategic platforms at both national and international levels, bringing together parliamentarians, government officials, practitioners, and members of the public to deepen understanding of human trafficking and migration. We deliberately prioritize spaces where decision-makers and diverse stakeholders are represented, ensuring that our advocacy reaches those best positioned to translate dialogue into meaningful policy and institutional change.

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PATHWAY TO FREEDOM

COMPREHENSIVE SURVIVOR SUPPORT

In 2025, every survivor in our care benefited from our complete Pathway to Freedom menu of services, which were co-designed 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 Aduit Literacy Initiative)
Shelter (in-house or external)	Advanced financial literacy (Pathfinders Business Academy)
Education scholarships	RISE job placement program

Through these interventions, implemented across our various projects, many of our beneficiaries are now building thriving businesses, advancing their education, securing stable employment, and taking on leadership roles within their communities. Their progress reflects not only their resilience and determination, but also the invaluable support and commitment of our donors and partners.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

PROJECT RELIEF

Project Relief, a PJI initiative launched earlier in the year, was specifically designed to support women at risk of human trafficking. Through the project, 20 women were identified and enrolled in PJI's broader programs, including the Business Academy and adult literacy initiatives, providing a holistic combination of education, skills development, and economic empowerment aimed at reducing their vulnerability to trafficking.

PROJECT RESTORE

With support from the JTIP Office at the U.S. Department of State, Project Restore, a three-year initiative designed to serve 240 beneficiaries across Edo State, continued its second year in 2025, reaching 120 survivors and at-risk women across Edo State. We also identified and engaged women in trafficking hotspots, extending prevention support to those at heightened risk.

Towards the end of 2025, we commenced Year 3, continuing interventions including humanitarian assistance, counselling, medical care, shelter, business and vocational training, start-up capital support and the Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative (PALI) to strengthen beneficiaries' resilience and economic independence.

THE JUSTICE PROJECT

The Justice Project, funded by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime through its Resilience Fund, was a ten-month initiative aimed at reducing human trafficking in Edo State by strengthening survivor protection, cooperation, and increasing the prosecution of traffickers.

PJI recruited and trained four Survivor Liaison Officers, the first of their kind in Edo State, to serve as key mediators between survivors, communities and justice-sector actors. The Project raised prosecution awareness for over seventy (70) women survivors of trafficking, resulting in thirteen (13) women who were willing to prosecute their traffickers. Those cases were handed over the Nigeria's anti-trafficking agency, NAPTIP.

PROJECT ARRIVES

The ARRIVES Programme was designed to support returnees in establishing sustainable livelihoods through entrepreneurship. Implemented from January to September 2025, the programme equipped PJI with tailored coaching tools and training resources needed to provide entrepreneurship support to vulnerable returnee groups.

OUR SHELTER & 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 total restoration is the goal.

PATHFINDERS BUSINESS ACADEMY



In 2025, the Pathfinders Business Academy (PBA) continued to strengthen women's pathways to economic independence, delivering four cohorts and training a total of 170 women. The Academy serves female survivors of human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence, as well as women at risk, equipping them with the practical knowledge, confidence, and tools needed to start, manage, and sustain viable businesses.

Each five-week cohort combines practical instruction with interactive learning, making business concepts accessible and relevant to participants' lived realities. Through 10–15 structured sessions, participants build competencies across four core areas: personal and interpersonal development, creative thinking, financial management, and risk management.

Beyond entrepreneurship, PBA is designed to develop transferable skills that strengthen decision-making, confidence, financial independence, and resilience. By the end of 2025, 170 women across four cohorts had participated in the Academy, further advancing PJI's commitment to sustainable economic empowerment and long-term self-reliance.

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TRUTHTELLERS

AWARENESS RAISING AND OUTREACH
SPEAKING TRUTH TO THE SEEMINGLY POWERLESS

In 2025, through Project Restore, we continued and deepened our awareness efforts across three additional Local Government Areas in Edo State, namely Orhionmwon, Ikpoba Okha, and Egor, engaging survivors, at-risk women, and community members on the realities and dangers of human trafficking, while highlighting alternative economic pathways that can reduce vulnerability to exploitation.

We also extended our outreach to secondary schools, where we engaged young students on the risks of trafficking and deceptive recruitment, particularly as they prepared to pursue university education, vocational training, or other opportunities. These engagements equipped them with practical knowledge to make informed and safer decisions about their future.

Recognizing that access to education is also an important protective factor, we provided school fees support to 135 children, helping to ease financial pressure on vulnerable households and support children to remain in school.



PJI Outreach at Emotan Girls College, Benin City

2.2M

REACHED DAILY VIA RADIO PSAS IN 5 STATES

1.5M

SENSITIZED QUARTERLY VIA RADIO & OTHER INTERVIEWS

120K

SENSITIZED ANNUALLY VIA CONFERENCESS

420K

REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

110K

SENSITIZED MONTHLY VIA OUTREACHES

200K

REACHED QUARTERLY VIA PSAS IN PRINT AND EMAIL

PATHFINDERS ADULT LITERACY INITIATIVE (PALI)

Pathfinders Adult Literacy Initiative (PALI) partners with women in local communities to provide free adult education courses aimed at reducing their vulnerability to human trafficking. In 2025, PALI graduated two batches of students from its Faith Campus. All 17 graduates received foundational training in English and Arithmetic, alongside education on the dangers and risks of human trafficking, equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to improve their literacy, awareness, and resilience.



PALI Graduates



PALI Graduates

PALI graduates include survivors of trafficking, women who are at-risk, as well as working women to strengthen their reading, writing, and communication skills. Graduates described these skills as valuable to their everyday lives and personal development. Beyond literacy, participants were also equipped with knowledge on how to recognize the risks and indicators of human trafficking and to raise awareness within their local communities, extending the impact of the program beyond the classroom.

WHAT WORKED IN 2025

Each intervention we introduced over the year played a role in transforming lives. However, there were a few which survivors highlighted, with gratitude, as most transformative, resulting in visible and lasting changes in their journeys.

- Holistic support: Combining economic empowerment with literacy, life skills, medical care, shelter, childcare, and humanitarian assistance helped address the multiple barriers beneficiaries face at the same time.

- Practical, livelihood-focused learning: Business, literacy, and life-skills sessions were most effective when beneficiaries could immediately apply what they learned to their businesses, finances, and everyday decision-making.

- Participatory training methods: Role-plays, real-life scenarios, exercises, and interactive discussions strengthened engagement and practical understanding.

- Bringing services closer to beneficiaries: Expanding activities beyond central locations improved access for women in underserved communities.

- Survivor-centred collaboration: Engaging survivor liaisons alongside law enforcement and other institutions strengthened communication, trust, referrals, and survivor-centred responses.

- Strategic partnerships: Collaboration with government agencies, law enforcement, health providers, and other stakeholders expanded the range and quality of services available to beneficiaries.

WHAT WE LEARNED IN 2025

- Economic empowerment is more sustainable when beneficiaries' immediate needs, such as food, health, shelter, and childcare are simultaneously addressed.
- Trainings are more impactful when they respond to beneficiaries' current realities, rather than being delivered as stand-alone activities.
- Literacy remains an important economic empowerment tool, particularly for women managing businesses and household finances.
- Access remains a significant consideration; location, transportation, and other practical barriers can affect participation.
- One-off institutional engagements are not enough. Continued follow-up is necessary to translate commitments into improved survivor services and stronger referral pathways.
- Beneficiary experiences and feedback provide valuable insight into what is working and where programming needs to adapt.

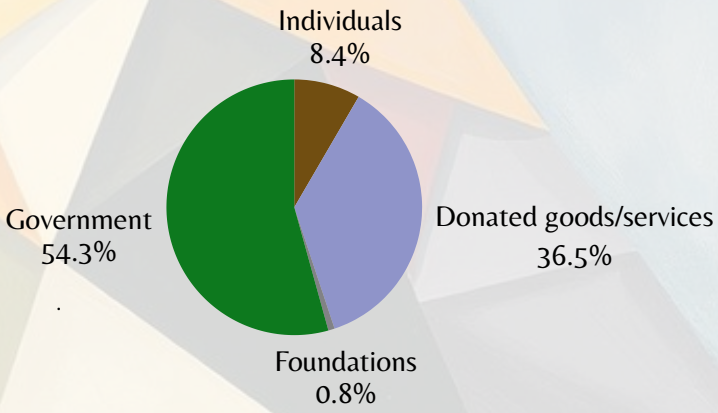
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CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

FOR PJI U.S. AND NIGERIA OPERATIONS

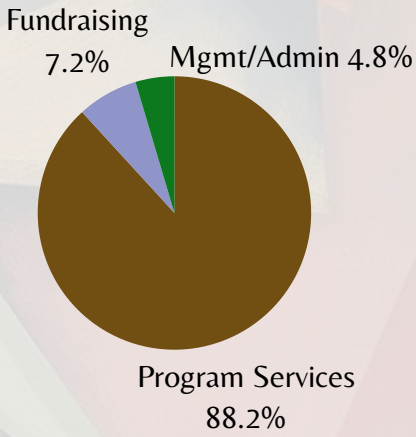
2025 REVENUE

Individuals:	$37.088
Foundations/Community Orgs:	$3,500
Government:	$239,493
Donated goods/services:	$160,700
TOTAL:	$440,781



2025 EXPENSES

Program services:	$421,607
Fundraising:	$34,256
Management and administration:	$22,099
TOTAL:	$477,961.57



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BECAUSE SLAVERY CAN BE OVERCOME IN ONE LIFETIME: OURS