

# Family Reunification and Reintegration of survivors of Human Trafficking.

Working paper on Good practices

## Final report

1. Girls Power initiative GPI
2. Uromi Justice Development, Peace and Caritas Initiatives (UROMI -JDPCI)
3. Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)
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## **Acronyms**

GPI: Girl's Power Initiative  
UROMI GDPCI: Uromi -Justice Development, Peace and Caritas Initiatives  
DPWYL: Don't Pay with Your Life Project  
UYDEL: Uganda Youth Development Link  
SOP: Standard operating procedures management

## **Executive Summary**

Family Reunification/Reintegration is a long and complex road. Family reunification refers to the reunion of a family after one or more members has been living in a foreign country for a long period. A growing number of young women from Central Edo - Edo state Nigeria are evidently sexually exploited in Paris and other European cities and returned by force. Also, Middle east and west Africa are common route and/or destination.

The DPWYL project aims at increasing information, knowledge and awareness of stakeholders (girls, parents, local authorities, anti-trafficking stakeholders) so as to prevent and respond to human trafficking and better protect girls from Central Edo.

The exchange was to gather different views, expertise and experiences to improve the quality of the work being done in Nigeria by drawing lessons, documenting good practices and providing recommendations. Results and lessons would be broadly shared with ECPAT France, ECPAT Luxembourg partners and the ECPAT network working on reunification/reintegration of female victims of trafficking into sexual exploitation. Highly participatory methods were employed and for geographical reasons, there were only two field visits in Benin city and Uromi district.

**Several good practices were identified and these need to be promoted when doing family reunification and reintegration.**

*Family tracing and reunion.* Upon receipt of a survivor by the NGOs, a social worker assesses, identify the needs, services, and assist survivor draw a plan. During family tracing, reunion and post resettlement follow ups are recommended as the survivor may have many multiple needs. A social worker should be available for the family during the reunification process, for several months after the arrival. There were several cases of survivors who had returned wanted to start living alone. Agency staff need to give survivors time and NGOs must avoid multiple interviews by many staff.

*Counselling must be undertaken* regularly for the survivors and family to accept the returnee in the family and community. Social workers hence support families in learning how to adjust and adapt as a unit amidst a crisis as well as linking the family to social and economic resources in the community.

*Legal support for the survivor* may be necessary as she may face violence, pressure to pay perpetrators, victimisation or other gender-based challenges.

*Counselling services and other support services* are helpful for psychological help, emotional support to reduce risks of stress, suicide and depression. Survivors may present medical issues hence important upon arrival and during other subsequent follow up visits to assist them access medical facilities for all round health care.

*Survivor involvement in their family reintegration* emerged as a good practice. Mentoring and training newly returned colleagues in business and vocational skills and how to do business coupled with support visits to other peers help one returnee to adjust. These activities help the survivors to positively cope, improve their self-efficacy for a better future. NGOs must put in place mechanism to hear and get survivors views formally and informally from time to time.

*Psycho-social support activities* will aim to address the psychological and social needs of the individual, her family and those related to the community. As a good practice, NGOs need to institute case management plans and follow up meetings which cover many issues. Promotion of life skills and other psycho-social behaviour activities for survivors and need to be undertaken to identify challenges encountered and draw plan to address them.

*Economic empowerment* is critical once you have achieved the psychosocial benefits. It improves livelihood and build resilience of survivors in order to avoid re-victimization. Key areas of interest for survivors undertaking skills for successful reintegration are Orientation services, vocational skills training, access to capital including facilitation of saving schemes, and groups, access to loans (banking) and schemes or revolving funds.

*Multiple skills and multiple income sources for survivors and their families* are important and were assisted with booster grants so as to start income generation activities (IGAs) to enable the family cope and increase incomes.

*Supervision, monitoring and evaluation* are key for following up a reunited returnee and their business enterprises. Staff who possess multiple skills need to mentor and coach other staff to support returnees.

*Long-term reintegration support* may be provided through (preferably formalized) collaboration between the receiving service organization, local or international non-governmental organizations and Government partners. Thus, NGOs must be part of the partnerships and networks in their area to be able to harness services.

There is need to create *community* awareness and education in order to prevent trafficking in persons. This promotes ownership of interventions and in turn promotes community responsibility and watch against perpetrators.

*Helpful interventions wholistic must be designed* at the level of the individual, family, and community environment to prevent further psychological damage resulting from HT experience.

Reunification and reintegration are a long-term goal, for some it will be easier for other it may take time. Any support to survivors and their families on their journey towards reunification and well-being must include: a holistic look at the impact that separation has on the family.

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## **Don't Pay with Your Life project (DPWYL)**

### **Exchange of Good Practices between UYDEL, UROMI JDPCI and GPI in Edo State**

#### **DPWYL partners**

ECPAT France is a French-based organization affiliated to the ECPAT International network aiming to combat the sexual exploitation of children in the world. It coordinates the DPWYL project.

ECPAT Luxembourg is a Luxembourg-based non-governmental organization affiliated to the ECPAT International network and works to prevent sexual exploitation of children. It provides technical and financial support to the DPWYL project.

Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) is a Nigerian non-governmental organization founded to address the challenges facing girls in the Nigerian society and equip them with information, skill and opportunities for action to grow into self-actualized young women.

Uromi -Justice Development, Peace and Caritas Initiatives (UROMI GDPCI) is an association based in the Edo Central district. JDPCI works on governance and participation of the citizens to the rule of law. In the frame of the project, the organization focuses on the prevention and response to sexual trafficking of girls from the remote areas of the region.

IFRA Nigeria is a research institute in social sciences and humanities. The Institute operates from the University of Ibadan (Institute of African Studies). Over the past few years, the research orientation of IFRA has revolved around problems of democratic transition, urban violence, restructuring of educational systems in Africa, transborder studies, religious networks, urban management and the politics of violence.

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL): Is a local non-governmental organization in Uganda that aims at enhancing the socio-economic transformation of disadvantaged children and young people aged 10 - 24 years through advocating for children and young people's rights as well as improving Youth employability and economic opportunities. For more information visit ([www.uydel.org](http://www.uydel.org))

## **Overview of the DPWYL program**

### **Background.**

A growing number of girls and young women from Central Edo- Edo state Nigeria are evidently sexually exploited in Paris and other European cities. The DPWYL project aims at increasing information, knowledge and awareness of stakeholders (girls, parents, local authorities, anti-trafficking stakeholders) so as to prevent and better protect girls from Central Edo. "Don't Pay with your life" aims to block the influx of young girls into Europe, West Africa, middle East Asia and other parts of the world through the desert and the Mediterranean Sea.

The Don't Pay with Your Life Project (DPWYL) goals aim to;

- ☐ Promote child participation in claiming their rights to be protected from human trafficking.
- ☐ Reinforce prevention strategies at all levels, family, community, child protection and local authorities.
- ☐ Improve NGO response for human trafficking survivors with reintegration activities including. social-economic reintegration of young girls repatriated in order to prevent risks of re-victimization and trafficking.

### **The purpose/Aim of the exchange meetings in Edo state Nigeria**

The purpose of the exchange visits was to have a holistic approach in the support and response provided from the prevention to the reintegration / reunification of the victims.

The aim of this exchange was to gather different views, expertise and experiences to improve the quality of the work being done in Nigeria by drawing lessons, documenting good practices and providing recommendations.

Results and lessons would be broadly shared with ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg partners working on reunification/reintegration of female victims of trafficking into sexual exploitation. The objective of the different experts from different fields was to ensure that the response and advice provided to the partners in Nigeria would be disseminated and adopted through mini workshop sessions on good practices and lessons learned.

Date and place: The exchange took place in Edo state, Nigeria during the first week of July 2022.

Participants: Mr. Rogers Kasirye, the Executive Director of UYDEL, in Uganda, brought contextual experience and expertise to support the facilitation of such this exchange. Ms. May Ekido and team from GPI and Mr. Michael Lyoriobhe and team from JDPCI supported the mission.

### **Methodology and compilation of good practice document**

The facilitators employed highly participatory methods that made the sessions very interactive. This aimed to help partners gain a proper understanding of the methodology and tools before proceeding to the reunification / reintegration work. Such sessions involved: Literature reviews and knowledge exchange with the teams and staff in charge of family reunification. It also involved looking at the pre-family activities, the reunification and the reintegration processes and sharing with beneficiaries' feedback through FGDs during field visits.

The session by staff working on the reunification of survivors with their families was reflective and participatory. It involved hearing from the survivors themselves discussing their experiences. For geographical reasons, there were only two field visits in Benin city and Uromi district. The teams were allowed time to reflect on what is working and what is not and a report was written. (SWOT tool was also imbedded in the tools that were used).



*Above: JDPCI and 2-GPI staff who participated in the self-reflective workshop on reintegration*



*Above: Group Photo of GPI staff who participated in the reflective workshop*

## **1.0 Family Reunification and Reintegration**

## **1.1 Introduction.**

Family Reunification/Reintegration is a long and complex road. Family reunification refers to the reunion of a survivor with her family after one or more members has been living in a foreign country for a long period. (Months/Years).

## **1.2 Well-being and the United Nations Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking.**

In social work, the notion of wellbeing has a special respect for young people, because ill-being caused by human trafficking (HT) can harm and interfere with the survivor's normal life trajectory. The inclusion of a specific target (SDG 16.2) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end all forms of violence against children and women gives renewed impetus towards the realization of the right of every child and woman to live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

The United Nations protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational crime mandates states and other non-state actors especially Section II on Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Person<sup>1</sup> article 6, requires all state to provide under each state law for protection and reintegration of survivors of Human trafficking (HT). Part of the efforts NGOs are doing is to contribute to this Convention (prevention, protection prosecute and partnerships) and ensure the survivors HT lead a decent life and improve their well-being.

## **1.3 The Theory of Change.**

Family reunification will bring change, improve livelihood, lead to self-efficacy and well-being and curtail further human trafficking and exploitation. This will be based on the commitment of the survivor developed capacity, commitment to adjust and positive adapt and the NGO interventions in psycho social, health and economic empowerment in addressing the issues raised by the human trafficking.

## **1.4 Human Trafficking and Exploitation at the Destination.**

Recruitment of Victims (survivors): According to the discussions at GPI- Nigeria, *“this can be by either fellow peers who may be friends or not, done clandestinely by informal networks operating individually, at times through churches where innocent women are recruited.”*

The community awareness in EDO State on HT also indicated that *“one of the major causes of trafficking is parental pressure. Most of those who fall victims to Human Trafficking are those who dropped out of school as a result of harsh economic*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons>

*situations which made it impossible for their parent to meet their educational needs and in attempt to support the livelihood opportunity in the family, they are given out to other people or pressured to leave the house where they eventually end up as victims of Human Trafficking”*

Other recruiters operate in syndicates or mafias who use social media to advertise better paying jobs abroad, promises to process passports, travel fees, visas and work permits for the unsuspecting victims. The victims are transported either via airports or the road to another country; where other members of the syndicate are waiting for the victims. On arrival at the airport, the travel documents including passports and phones are confiscated and victims are forced into commercial sex to repay their fares. This case shows more transit routes to Europe “Young people still keep finding their ways through land borders to some Africa countries with the hope of migrating to Europe from there. Some of such countries are Ivory Coast, Senegal, Mali, Togo and Ghana”

Many are forced into commercial sex in Europe, the Middle East and Asia against their will. Recently we are also witnessing survivors of human trafficking whose organs have been removed. The hard-economic crisis has given rise to pressures from the family and relatives on survivors to borrow money to support their survival let alone service their own travel to the destination. Usually, victims travel abroad for work through unlicensed recruitment agencies, without formal work contracts and work visas.

### **1.5 Inhuman treatment, sexual exploitation, Labour and bondage**

At the destination and while in transit, victims come face to face with untold exploitation and bondage, including sexual abuse, unpaid or underpaid labour, denied food, right to their passports, freedom of movement and tightly guarded with threats of extreme violence.

## **2.0 Identification and Tracing the family of the survivors**

After successful escape from the traffickers or deportation by governments, the survivor can be reunited with family or helped to relocate to her community. Many NGOs will seek help from the survivor to avail information about the whereabouts of his family members for assessment and a possible re-unification.

Anti-Human Trafficking networks and support amongst NGOs and Role of government

Nigeria as a country has a strong state body NAPTIP that fights human trafficking. Many times, the state agencies in charge of fighting human trafficking through the Edo state supported network, agencies contact NGOs they considered appropriate to help in a given area. Government and NGOs members meet regularly to share information, train and discuss cases of reintegration. It is important for NGOs to be part of partnerships and networks; as many will identify survivors to support each other, share resources and assist where one cannot reach when it comes to tracing and follow up. Some NGOs have trained personnel, tools/forms with question for their staff on what information to collect to help for a successful tracing and reunification.

Working closely with The **National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons** (NAPTIP)<sup>2</sup> in tackling incidence of human trafficking. NAPTIP is the focal Agency empowered to prosecute all forms of human trafficking in Nigeria. According to NAPTIP statistics from 2019- 2022, analysis shows that 61% of human trafficking in Nigeria happens internally (that is within the state and across state lines) and 39% across our borders. The State Taskforces as a strategy to combat human trafficking brings together Government, Law Enforcement, Government Agencies and CSO's at state level with coordination from NAPTIP as well as support from International Partners.

The ECPAT France supported exchange in early July fits in well in the efforts by NAPTIP in the review of National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons, Research on Trends, Magnitude and Patterns of TIPSOM in Nigeria conducted, Sensitization of key figures in border communities, Reconditioning of Shelters across the country, Development of SOP on SOM, Supply of Intelligence Gathering Equipment to Project Beneficiaries, Hosting of Judges' Conference 2022 Establishment of WACTIPSOM, Return of 15 Nigerian girls stranded in Mali and Hosting of 2021 National Migration Dialogue.

Coordination creates a strategic collaborate framework for a more effective response to TIP and helps stakeholders to bring their expertise together to prevent, identify and protect the victim's, investigate, and prosecute the perpetrators and facilitate for sustainable solutions. Task Forces create an environment in which agencies learn the roles and capacities of other agencies and help to leverage resources. Task Forces provide an opportunity for joint training, create agency buy in and promote dissemination of unified messages to the communities. Operationalization of the task force is key and demands effective leadership and a unified commitment from all stakeholders.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://naptip.gov.ng/naptip-development-partners-and-stakeholders-re-strategize-to-tackle-human-trafficking-as-boot-camp-for-members-of-state-task-forces-kicks-off-in-abuja/>

## **2.2 Involuntary and Deported Returnees.**

Some victims are deported by another government through official channels and are received by state agencies (NAPTIP), interrogated, supported with resettlement kits, skilled and prepared by social workers to return home. At GPI it was noted that two girls had been trafficked and were rescued as far as Burkina Faso. There were cases that were deported from Europe, Middle East and Asia.

The findings carried out, that most children involved in this risky venture of HT were from poor and vulnerable homes, whose parents had failed in their responsibilities in taking care of their children.

## **2.3 Tracing, getting detailed information from survivors' returnees and making reunification plan**

### **Family reunification building activities.**

- Tracing of the family of the survivor. This involves searching for family members, including relatives or former caregivers of survivors of trafficking with the aim of ensuring the restoration of family links and the right of family unity.
- Family reunification. This involves bringing together the survivor with their family members. During this process, the practitioner ought to ensure to put in place measure to avoid re-victimization of survivors.

*According to GPI, "A returnee reunited with her children but they rejected her and ran to the streets for lack of trust in the purported parent. The social workers had to trace the children and begin a reunification and adjustment process afresh."*

*Possible questions the social worker or case manager can raise with the survivors regarding her children were identified by GPI and JDPCI staff:*

1. Did you have children before you left?
2. Were you in contacts with your family and what preparations did you have?
3. What was the frequency of communication?
4. What needs were raised to the Case manager?

5. What challenges did you encounter as you related with your children?
6. How can you be supported to build the relationship again?
7. How can we help to bring you closer to your kids/what needs to be done?

One girl in FGD held at GPI mentioned, *“Am so ashamed to face my children, because I lost everything, we worked so hard for.” “I know it’s going to be a struggle to bond with my children.”*

Women may consider themselves ‘irresponsible’ especially if they do not have anything to show for their hard work. This absurdity may imply a loss and can make a survivor physically present but psychologically absent.

It is important to get answers to some questions from survivors at the government shelter and also during the initial family tracing visit. The answers will be helpful in discussing and making a reunification plan for the survivor let alone identify any challenges likely to be faced by the returnee.

Possible scenarios were cited during family tracing visit as likely to occur in some cases,

- ☐ Some survivors had disappeared from homes without communication, stayed out of touch for long.
- ☐ Some survivors were disappointed and depressed because all the money they sent home was used hence had nothing to show for all their suffering and efforts.
- ☐ A few previously married and had children.
- ☐ Some husbands remarried.
- ☐ During tracing the survivor families may deny for fear of being arrested hence reject her because they don’t have capacity to add an extra dependent in the home.
- ☐ Other families will accept.

Key issues to note prior to the family reunion:

- Take time to understand the circumstances leading to trafficking during tracing.
- Give the survivor and the family time and plan another visit.
- Look out for possible alternatives (relatives or independent living) if a family reunification is not possible.
- Assess the vulnerability of the family (some tools have been developed by the Nigeria government and these can be very helpful) and capacity to support the returnee.

- Share with the returnee feedback from the family visits and agree on a reunification plan.
- Plan a visit to the home with the survivor to assess their reaction, agree with family on the day of final of return home; possible initial support and basics that will be required to start the journey of reunification once returned home.

A case of JDPCI girl brutally embarrassed, escaped form home and trafficked

*“One girl was accused of stealing and was stripped naked. She felt embarrassed and decided to run away and ended up being trafficked and she was rescued in Libya on her way to Europe”.*

### **Survivor returned home by self**

Survivors and returnees who come on their own without state agency support may go directly to their families or leave independently. Such a case may not be difficult but the woman who has returned unattended to needs and may seek the agency’s support to avoid victimisation, re-trafficking and adjustment.

A few cases of survivors showed up at JDPCI and GPI seeking help to resettle well in their communities and were absorbed in the project. Once identified, the initial discussion involved explaining the circumstances of separation, short and long term needs and educating them about likely consequences of human trafficking. Counselling ensues for relatives to accept the returnee in the family and community with help to start a new life and improve their well-being with a business project as agreed.

### **Resettlement and tracing the home.**

Tracing can be easy or difficult at the same time because sometimes they hide before getting to their home. some of the survivors will deny until we get the good story or until the family adapts to the situation. The effect, the trauma, the suffering and the pain will be transferred to the partner if the survivor has a husband, family and neighbours. Adjustment is difficult because of the promises by the perpetrators/traffickers such as building big mansions, flashy cars and so many good things. Some even sell their properties and some parents facilitate the victims travelling, they borrow money to facilitate their children travel abroad. Sometimes they go through recruitment agencies on line but not formal in Nigeria.

### **Returning home, identify needs, services for survivor and family**

A social worker is required to assist any survivor coming to a family so that they are helped to identify the services needed in order to manage the emotional, psychological and physiological stressors caused by the traumatic experience including new residence, access to self-employment. These must be reflected in the reports and plans regularly made to the individual and family. It is important the NGO develops a possible list of service providers for which the victim can be referred or contacted to easy support.

At Uromi JDPCI and GPI, vulnerable children and their families were assessed using a tool and supported with scholastic materials for a full year to reduce vulnerability. Their families were also helped to improve economic capability through livelihood support and income generation activities hence reducing the risk of being trafficked. They also participated in financial literacy and business skills training on how to increase their incomes and savings; acquisition of assets/capital/tools.

As this case study from JDPCI may elaborate

Sequel to the outcome of the assessment of the Returnees, The Project Team conducted Family visitation and Reunification for 9 out of the 15 selected beneficiaries. The purpose was aimed at meeting and getting acquainted with the Families of the Returnees, assess their family and socio-economic situations as well as facilitate their reunification in order to foster tolerance, re-establish trusting relationships, forgiveness, acceptance and a safe environment void of stigmatization.

Initial support may include an immediate and comprehensive medical/psychological examination and treatment, improving personal and family attachment to address loneliness and mistrust with a clear safety plan. Forums organised at the NGO offices played a critical role by increasing participation, awareness, provision of space for discussion of issues with caring staff and peers.

While survivors may be supported with short-term housing and other social, legal and economic needs, steps should be taken to avoid situations of dependency to assume self-reliance.

### **2.3 Follow ups during tracing and family reunion**

During family tracing and reunion, it is recommended;

- The family reunion must be well planned about the survivor arrival on the actual day, support needed and the family must be prepared well in advance.
- that a weekly visit followed by a monthly, then after three months' visit should be planned to be undertaken to ensure survivors adjust with minimal problems.
- Take note that girls have many multiple needs hence need to plan for effective adjustment and necessary psychosocial, medical and legal support to be given.

## **2.4 Recognising survivor and family trauma and support**

Social workers assist the survivors and their families in recognizing signs of trauma hence support families in learning how to adjust and adapt as a unit amidst a crisis as well as linking the family to social and economic resources in the community. This alleviates stress and helps to build a cohesive bond in their family.

Helpful intervention on the level of the individual, family, and community environment to prevent further psychological damage resulting from HT experience with survivor and those close to her are availed. Social workers help the survivor learn new ways of communicating their feelings respectfully and effectively, and after several counselling sessions, they commit to collaborating as a family to use the skills they learnt. The family becomes more open to communication, and are able to readjust their belief systems to adapt to stressful situations of the survivor.

## **2.5 Legal support to prosecution of offenders**

Legal support for the survivor may be necessary as she may face violence, pressure to pay perpetrators, victimisation or other gender-based challenges. NGOs sometimes collect good information that can be helpful in investigations and prosecutions. Working with state agencies, NGOs have successfully referred cases where perpetrators still demand ransoms even upon return. The state agency has been able to follow up, investigate and prosecute traffickers.

Victimisation scenario *a* (A case study from Uganda<sup>3</sup>)

### Survivors upon return to their home country – A case of Uganda

*A Ugandan girl aged 21 is currently undergoing psychological treatment and counselling after contracting HIV/ AIDS from the United Arab Emirates where she had been forcefully recruited into commercial sex work for two years. Trafficked and placed under the situation of bondage, she*

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<sup>3</sup> How Ugandan girl got pregnant, contracted HIV after being forced into commercial sex in Dubai.  
<https://nilepost.co.ug/2022/05/30/how-ugandan-girl-got-pregnant-contracted-hiv-after-being-forced-into-commercial-sex-in-dubai/>

*contracted HIV/AIDS. She was arrested by the traffickers who wanted her to pay more than 20 pounds to one, Cathy in Dubai on return to Uganda and her documents handed over to an accomplice at the Airport. She objected to being arrested, causing commotion at the Airport and catching the attention of other police officers. Aviation Police arrested the officer that had facilitated the trafficking of the girl to Dubai.*

## **2.6 Reuniting a survivor with children:**

NGOs needs to pay attention closely if a survivor had children as this can be an extremely exciting, stressful, and sometimes traumatic experience for both the parents and children after a long period of separation. A good practice here is a social worker needs a thorough and thoughtful preparation of survivors before the reunion. This may reduce the confusion and frustration associated with this transition. A social worker should be available for the family during the reunification process, for several months after the arrival.

In some few cases the children and family may be either slow or unwilling to cooperate and survivor may face rejection and stigma. Many women survivors in the FGD confessed that it was difficult to meet the needs of the family as well as of their children and this may escalate their trauma. This can be challenging for them all to adjust to the new lifestyle. Children have no idea how to react to this strange, new woman in their lives.

### **2.6.1 Design Activities to build the lost love, to repair relationship**

Social workers need to educate and design activities that repair the lost love and relationship as she is working with survivors whose children have been living without her and have now become more independent. There is usually a breakdown in communication between parent and children who most times feel abandoned. The survivor parent may have trouble disciplining or expressing authority over them. Social workers need to work with the survivors and design a plan to repair this relationship since there has been a total disconnect between survivor and child.

## **2.7 Independent living away from the family.**

There were several cases of survivors who had returned wanted to start living alone and never wished to go back to their families. These also require the NGO social worker help and attention to successfully reintegrate in the community.

Several reasons were cited in both FGD as factors that hinder some women affected by human trafficking from reuniting with their families:

- *Escape from stigma and discrimination from the community and family especially if there are sensitive cases of commercial sex work, being HIV+ or pregnant.*
- *Sometimes family members are part of the cycle of HT abuse*
- *If the factors that pushed them into situations of trafficking still exist e.g. poverty in the household, need for income to support survivals*
- *Dishonesty which causes disappointment and bitterness especially after misusing the money sent while abroad.*
- *If the perpetrators of abuse are still residing in their communities; have a lot of influence/ are in powerful positions and active within their settings*
- *If they are the bread winners/ have children to take of - they will definitely want to go find work.*
- *Attitude/ mindset that they can't survive in their own community environments and that it's better to go abroad and or there are better opportunities elsewhere*
- *Some still experience trauma and want to first heal/ get psychosocial support especially if the homes have triggers or environments that trigger the trauma of the bad incidences they went through.*
- *They are offered shelter and other benefits at the place of work.*

### ***Developing trust with NGO social workers and Government officers.***

When survivors approach NGOs and other service providers, they may encounter or face challenges such as lack of trust for staff and other strange people. Their past history of people who pretended to be good and ended up cheating and abusing them, severed trusting any one instantly. Survivors are usually confronted with the question of who should be trusted and why...? And because of this, it may take them time to disclose information.

*Agency staff need to give survivors time but also make sure staff avoid asking a barrage of judgemental questions which undermines the interviews, gathering of information and limit the scope of intervention to be agreed upon with the survivors.*

*NGOs must avoid multiple interviews by many staff as this leads to wear out of the survivor. This can lead to confusion arising from many social workers who want to assist and end up giving differing messages. Other survivors become so dependent on the program and end up asking too much from the agency beyond what they can do. Months of waiting*

while undergoing many multiple interviews, and copious paperwork all undermine the trust, hope and patience of the survivor.

### **3.0 Counselling phase for survivors and the family during reintegration**

#### **Introduction**

This phase is the corner stone of the change and adjustment as the social worker and other staff do a lot of interface with the returnee and his family. The survivor memory of the entire experience of trafficking and subsequent exploitation may be poor because of time lapse. Counselling means a process where an individual or family meet with a trained professional counsellor to talk about issues and problems that they are facing in their lives during family reintegration. Counselling helps a lot to restore and build the survivor's hope and assurance during reintegration phase. During counselling, many times survivors report experiencing difficulty in focusing on what they should specifically do.

#### **3.1 Survivor trauma and trauma focused intervention**

There are women returnee who observed *"We experienced panic; had flashbacks because of the adversities faced during exploitation."* Another confessed that she contemplated committing suicide hence increased use of alcohol arising from abuse and involuntary re-experiencing of the verbal and emotional abuse. Feelings of depression, skin rashes and scars on the body were cited as common among women possibly a somatic manifestation of the trauma and violence after a trafficking situation".

Generally, counselling services and other support services are helpful for psychological help, emotional support to reduce risks of stress, suicide and depression. During counselling, a social worker, is likely to recognise that the survivor had difficult experiences, and such painful scars of trauma usually affect the next generation. Adults who have suffered trauma may or may not be emotionally approachable and it takes a while to get over it.

Trauma causes crisis emanating from the occurrence of HT that disrupts the individual survivor and her family. It was recommended that survivors be helped as soon as possible, to avoid trauma inadvertently spilling into secondary trauma. Girls noted, *"On returning, we were overwhelmed by the feelings of sadness, anger and aggressiveness of how things never materialised, hence ended up in exploitation and abuse"*. The returnee, her children and family did not know how to react to each other. This affected the quality of their relationship and the bonding. The trauma responses and recovery experience may vary from survivor to survivor with less similar situations. Ability and time, it takes to cope and heal are different for each survivor.

**Key areas of good practices sited by NGO social workers as very important in counselling and reintegration.**

**a) Coping skills for the survivor.**

This helps survivors to reason and reduce or tolerate the demands on them within and externally created by stressful HT activities. Helping survivors cope was seen to take long due to their past experience and where they stay which can also be delayed by the concurring factors. Coping behaviour is the “cognitive and behavioural efforts made to master, tolerate, and reduce external and internal demands, and conflicts among survivors from their nasty experience” (Larkin, 2014).

**b) *Other Possible services and help for a survivor.***

*Needs and vulnerability of survivors*

It is important to explore if the survivor has any communications and relationship need minimal contacts with the child or family, safety, emotional health, financial instability; social and family needs-balancing. Service providers and NGOs need to understand the complex and sometimes competing needs of victims of human trafficking and their children as some may take long to adjust.

NGO staff observed and encourage that the survivor receives trauma-focused counselling; with additional help like transport money, food, medical attention, shelter and financial support. Social workers and survivor create a safety plan addressing some of the feelings. Explore new support systems and legal support and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, social workers need to be multi skilled, regularly screen, assess survivor progress and work with significant others (family, church, NGOs etc).

**c) Medical help upon return to their home country.**

Survivors may present medical issues hence important upon arrival and during other subsequent follow up visits to assist them access medical facilities for all round health care. In the case below;

*A Ugandan girl aged 21 s is currently undergoing physiological and psychological treatment after sustaining a broken limb and contracting HIV/ AIDS from the United Arab Emirates where she had been forced into commercial sex work. Victim was trafficked and placed under bondage where she resorted to commercial sex work. By the end of two years, she had contracted HIV/AIDS and damaged a limb in a struggle with one of her dishonest clients.*

Health workers handle issues related to sexual reproductive health, drug addiction, child care and other health services at health centres. Social workers and other professionals need to promote self-care, among those exiting prostitution and create awareness for health services amongst survivors. The health issues and support need to be clearly documented in the NGO case files.

#### **4.0 Survivors Involvement, forums and peer support groups**

Survivor involvement in their family reintegration emerged as a good practice. NGOs had regularly organised frequent meetings to get feedback and needs to support the survivors. They also formed forums/clubs led by survivors to discuss their lives and reintegration. Survivors gave colleagues more advice on how to adjust and deal with challenges. This was helpful as survivors also become part of agents of change in their social networks and highly recommended.

NGO activities that promoted positive coping delivered around this teaching of coping skills included, allowing survivors emotional healing from grieving. NGOs taught survivors anger management and psychological safety with individual counselling sessions. Social workers encouraged survivors to belong to a peer support group which meets monthly where they can share and discuss positive coping in forums. The peers' survivors strengthened colleagues with encouragement of positive thinking for quick recovery and promoting self-care and prayers.

Peer involvement in psycho-social support, encouraging their colleagues to avoid being re-trafficked in their communities and EDO state. Peer interaction, moral and material support was repeatedly mentioned by staff and this has been found to be a great tool of communication and discouraging and increasing awareness about HT. Mentoring and training newly returned colleagues in business and vocational skills and how to do business coupled with support visits to other peers help one returnee to adjust. These activities help the survivors to positively cope, improve their self-efficacy for a better future.

#### **4.1 Working with survivors to identify risk and utilize protective factors**

Survivors need to be helped to draw plans that will identify and address risks such as those related to drug abuse, violence, crimes, suicide, survival sex and multiple sexual patterns. Open talks and forums were identified as promoting open discussions to help develop skills to tap into the resources to help them drop risky behaviours the use of alcohol and drugs hence able to speak negatively about drugs. Protective factors as well as building individual survivor's survival skills to relate with supportive people, improve

their communication, competencies and connectedness with resourceful people were regularly discussed.

#### **4.2 Moral campus and addressing stigma**

It was noted that women survivors agreed that there was a need to believe in a higher spiritual being (God). During the focus group discussions, it was noted that among the desired change the women wanted was to practice respect for others and spiritual support in order to promote empathy in humanity. Other women survivors at GPI yearned for honesty, respect and care for others and generally doing good.

Stigma can be a major hindrance in the re-adjustment of the returnees. Many are subjected to exclusion in the family and community and are considered failures in their bid to travel and get rich. Girls confessed this and many opted to live away from their families in self-reintegration. Other survivors had to pay back money to witches in order to feel safe. Many of those who had faced stigma managed to overcome them and were doing well in their business enterprises and helped colleagues on how to deal with rejection and negative talks about their ordeal in HT and completely ignore them. The women noted that *this was one way to identify a girl who has been successfully reintegrated in the area.*

Prayerfulness integrated in most of the training sessions and also encouraging them to attend church services and activities this helped many survivors to overcome witchcraft which they had been subjected to in voodoo rituals before and during HT so as to be slow to anger, be patient, calm and spiritually oriented through the support of the Pastors. This also was part of the resettlement plan and seeking support of pastors for spiritual support.

#### **4.3 Use of Physical exercise and sports**

This was highly encouraged especially during the survivor's forum at GPI and JDCPI and time is allocated on the day's program. This was meant to improve socialization, teamwork and physical health especially using music dance and drama. The survivor's involvement/sharing during centre activities and in their communities helped improve their physical and mental health.

#### **4.4 Gratitude Journal**

Survivors were given training sessions on how to appreciate what is going on in their lives. Participants in their forums would regularly record five experiences for which they are grateful. This approach has helped to increase gratitude, life satisfaction and adaptation.

Women who have gone through traumatising experiences are helped to learn and record things they appreciate and are thankful about in their daily lives. This activity also helps women survivors in opening up, adjusting, and forgetting the challenges they went through hence developing a positive mind-set.

See the case study below from a group discussion at JDPCI

*An art therapy was administered to help the participants feel relaxed. The activity entailed painting a gratitude treasure box in which they expressed their gratitude to for the things and people in their lives. The box contained varieties of things which could be used to represent whatever they were grateful for and thus painted with any colour of their choice. Some of things they were grateful to God for as described by them in their paintings included: Their ability to regain focus in life after the various ordeals they passed through en-route Europe, for their lives that were preserved despite the many deaths in the Mediterranean Sea and the Desert, providing them with a means of livelihood through the support from DPYWL program, which came to them as a blessing when all hope was lost. Feedback of the participants from the activity were characterized by feeling of relief, joy, sadness etc. as the painting brought to their memory both good and bad moments. Some of them shared tears while recounting their sad moments which they expressed in painting.*

Successful reintegration will show gratitude as these two cases of survivors Reveals.

*Survivor 1:” I was reintegrated by GPI when I came back from Libya. I thank the organizers and everyone in the project. I actually travelled because of my father’s ill health but things did not go well with me that was when GPI came to my rescue. GPI gave psychosocial support, emergency support and set up a big salon for me that I now use to take care of myself and my family. My father sends his appreciation to GPI”.*

*Survivor 2: “I travelled to fend for my family and myself. I suffered on the route thereafter GPI came to my rescue and reintegrated me. Also set me up with a fashion home. I am now a madam of myself that can provide for myself without depending on anyone .*

#### **4.5 Building on the strength of survivors**

Saleebey (2006) defines client’s strengths through three interlinked aspects of competence, capacities and courage; P for promise, possibility and positive expectations; and R for resilience, reserves and resources (references). Strength Perspective (SP) helps to explain how SP is a strong pillar in resilience building and useful for survivors who are being reintegrated into their families. Strength perspective (SP) in a multi-dimensional way recommends that there is need to look at survivors of HT from a strength perspective

not as a problem; free them up from the problem and tap their inner potential without creating dependency, using holistic approaches.

A returnee woman survivor is not completely helpless but has some strength to build on. SP emphasises that social workers need to look out for more positive hope and possibilities from a survivor than focusing at past problems, which ignite trauma. SP tends to divert from a residual deficit and problem-solving approach of the early 1980s which makes survivors dependant and asking for more and more from the NGOs.

Social workers who are ignorant of SP approach may deliver interventions that focus more on survivors' deficits, handouts and look at survivors who have problems that need to be fixed. NGO staff may put more effort in administering treatment to an affected person, creating avenues to meet their needs which in some situations creates dependence. At the beginning, NGOs need to make it clear what support they can give while highlighting the survivor's primary responsibility to work and make her life get better.

### **Getting regular feedback from survivors individually or in groups.**

NGOs must put up mechanism to hear and get survivors views formally and informally from time to time. In our FGDs, we were informed that female survivors cherished supportive family members and the friendship they made with peers and these encouraged and gave them the moral support during the reintegration. Mentors such as peers and guardians are key during reintegration as these will help advise the young people on the next steps and through the reintegration process. The survivors also acknowledged the vocational skill and business capital that were passed to them.

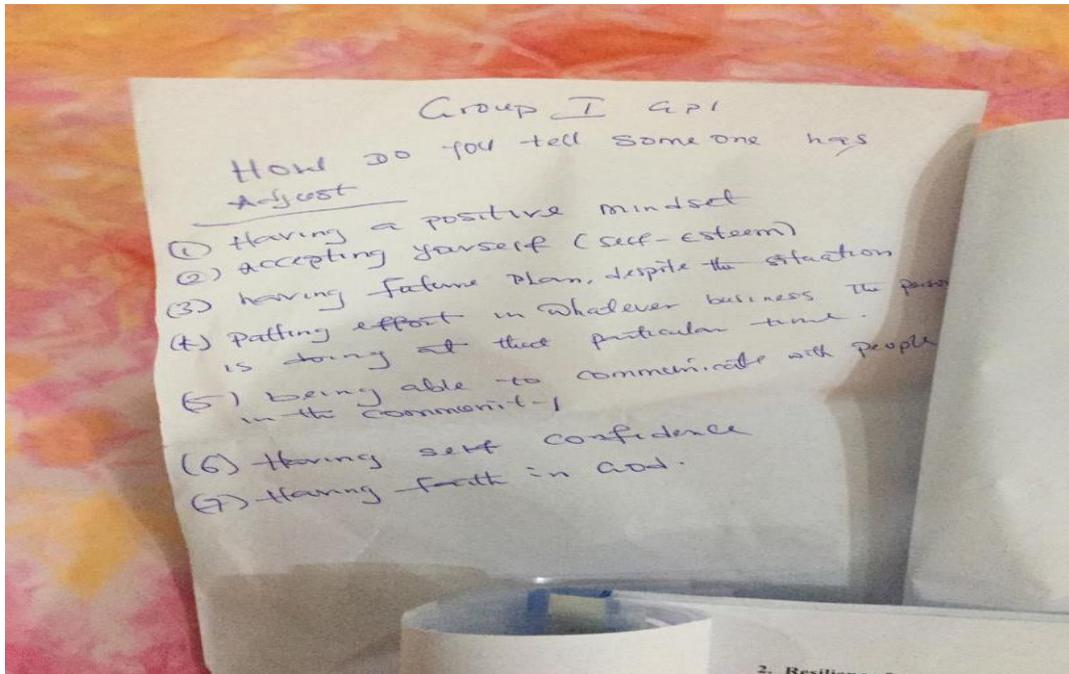
Follow up visits to support young female returnees: Uromi JDPCI within the period (October-December) 2021, visited the businesses of the supported young female returnees under the Don't Pay with Your Life Project to ascertain their business status, evaluate their business performance over the period, determine the impact of the business in their lives, note their challenges and provide technical advice where necessary. These helped them start businesses to get income that sustained them.

### **The most important change that the survivors identify**

During FGDs, Survivors identified the following:

- *Being able to cater for their own basic needs and supporting their siblings with scholastic materials.*
- *Being able to cater for their children's needs and to pay rent for the workplace and the houses where they reside. Being able to contribute towards the welfare of their families/parents.*

- No respect and trust from their family members to the extent that they cannot help them start-up businesses.



## 5.0 Family re-unification and Resilience building.

Families are shattered by crisis arising out of HT as many may not be aware where their daughter was, what happened and dangers that go along with human trafficking. Therefore, NGO social workers should be able to help the survivor with clear plans and stages (steps) involved for the short term, and long term as to be able to “withstand the stress that comes with HT and rebound from disruptive life challenges, strengthened and more resourceful” (Walsh, 2011<sup>4</sup>) when their daughter reappears. Family resilience is the ability to develop and grow strengths that can help you meet life's challenges, be able to work through them in a positive way, and emerge stronger in the process.

<sup>4</sup> Walsh, F. 2011. Family resilience: a collaborative approach in response to stressful life challenges. Pages 149-161 in S. M. Southwick, B. T. Litz, D. Charney, and M. J. Friedman, editors. Resilience and mental health: challenges across the lifespan. Cambridge University Press, New York, New York, USA. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511994791.012>.

## **Case study of JDPCI managing and supporting forums for survivors**

### **Focus Group Discussion with DPWYL Beneficiaries (Young Female Returnees)**

Uromi JDPCI holds focus group discussion with 15 of her young females returned Migrant. Discuss topics like Resilience with the aim of providing emotional healing and practical support to returnees and as such enhance their coping skills through mutual support and information sharing. the session was to make them act as support toward each other as they have all gone through a similar ordeal hence will be able to boost the confidence of each other when the need arises. RESILIENCE was extensively discussed and the participants were made to understand that resilience was not about avoiding the stress, but learning to thrive within it. It was described as the ineffable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever.

One of the participants shared with the house how she was able to overcome the pains and discomfort she went through at a point in her life when she was broken down as a result of the betrayal by a trusted friend. She told her fellow participants that her being able to forge ahead was achieved only by her personal resolution to do so. Hence, she advice other to always resolve to be successful and move ahead in spite of the challenge life brings their way. The participants expressed satisfaction and joy with the session and some of them said that it was a source of motivation to them who taught all hope had been lost. They expressed appreciation and anticipation for more of such sessions in the future.

### **5.1 Care givers roles in reunification and fighting against Human Trafficking**

Any support to survivors and their families on their journey towards reunification and well-being must include: a holistic look at the impact that separation has on the family; the effects of trauma on the individual, resulting in the possible intergenerational transmission of trauma; and solutions that assist the family as they work to rebuild bonds. Reunification and Reintegration is a long-term goal, for some it will be easier for other it may take time. Multiple skills are important, opportunities. We belong to a family community and societal systems and we need to fit in there or need their support.

#### **Focus Group Discussion with Beneficiaries in Edo Central Senatorial District**

Uromi JDPCI held a focus group discussion that provided a platform that brought the beneficiaries together to form a support group that would become the mouth piece and advocates in their various communities to sensitize their fellow caregivers as well as their wards on the ills of human trafficking. It was also emphasized that the need for the joint

meeting was to allow the potential beneficiaries to get acquainted with those that were previously empowered so that they could become a support group who would join voices to speak against human trafficking in their respective communities and to also promote mentorship in business between the old beneficiaries and the newly selected beneficiaries. It was noted that the group discussion will be held once in every two months for the first six months thereafter it would be once in a quarter. It was also noted that various topics around parenting skills, child development, human trafficking and irregular migration would be discussed.



## **5.2 Supporting families with livelihood support to prevent trafficking.**

It was noted at GPI and JDPCI that families of survivors were assisted with booster grants so as to start income generation activities (IGAs) to enable the family cope and increase income in order to reduce the stress among returnees. Activities that assist the family cope are part of a reintegration process - not something you do once and get done. Mitigating and helping the family eliminate risk in families and communities which when they succeed, increase the health and well-being of survivors and families. It is important that you assess the vulnerability of the households and support them in training and booster grants to prevent further HT of the survivors.

*JDPCI had identified 43 beneficiaries mainly children from vulnerable homes that were empowered with the sum of one hundred thousand naira (#100,000) as grant but would later receive the second and final disbursement worth fifty thousand naira (#50,000), making the total grant, one hundred and fifty thousand naira (#150,000) to start-up businesses and care for the school needs of these children. The 43 children would also be given one-year educational scholarship package to the tune of fifty thousand naira (#50,000). The empowerment, he said was a social enterprise which would eventually take the beneficiaries from the level of vulnerability to human trafficking and prostitution to income generating activities with measurable social impacts. He noted that these activities were geared towards finding lasting solution to the issue of poverty which makes them vulnerable to traffickers and other vices.*

*These 20 Beneficiaries were deemed to have successfully utilized their first instalment of the grant in Income Generating Activities as was observed during the three phases of supervisory t and monitoring visit made to their businesses, hence they were given the second part of the monetary support which was to the tune of fifty thousand naira each so as to expand their respective business activities to enable them take care of their children and the educational needs of their children. By so doing, their children could be retained in school as such, assuage their livelihood situations and vulnerability to human trafficking.*

## **6.0 Psycho-social behaviour and health-based activities.**

Psychosocial activities will aim to address the psychological and social needs of the individual, her family and those related to the community.

### **a) Continuous use of case management processes (CMP)**

As a good practice, NGOs need to institute case management plans and follow up meetings which cover many issues. For example, the two NGOs were using government approved assessment tools including the *vulnerable children follow up assessment form; Household vulnerable follow up assess form and the Vulnerable children educational performance assessment tools*. GPI and JDPCI instituted committees which looked at the case-by-case basis and evaluated it for future support.

Staff collaboration in assessing and screening survivors and their house holds is vital. It highlights the necessary coordination and referral of survivors based on their case

management plans to seek outside help with other NGOs and public offices. It enables develop a comprehensive picture and plan of individual survivors needs, participation and progress of recovery hence a sense of future direction This comes with immense benefits to avoid duplication of resources in order to build a long-lasting relationship.

Absence of CMP creates an information gap amongst NGO staff actors which affects their effectiveness and leads to duplication of services on one survivor. Inadequacy of CMP limits the extent to which survivors can benefit from a range of services provided by social workers that are beyond the NGO reach as many factors may be beyond the individual child and NGO. Therefore, NGOs must show evidence of use of case management processes for each survivor.

#### b) **Life skills promotion sessions**

Promotion of life skills and other psycho-social behaviour activities for survivors and those at risk to mitigate and reduce risks for HT by increasing their ability to accept and deal with life challenges. Skills promoted by NGO staff help the survivor understand herself, develop capacity and ability to solve problems when they arise. Survivors needs to be helped to learn communication skills and how to relate with others on returning home. The returnee needs to improve skills that enable her identify risks, stressors, toxic environment, suicide ideation, anger, grief and loss, anxiety disorders and failing to sleep (insomnia), trauma related to sexual abuse, barriers to exiting such as violence and stigma and draw plans to address them.

#### Case study

*GPI and JDCPI worked so hard to help the returnees improve sense of optimism (hopeful and cheerful) and humour (fun) in order settle harmoniously in the new life at home or on her own. Active participation in activities such as music, dance and aerobics was used and helped other colleagues to adopt, transform and adopt a positive outlook and mind-set which improves their self-esteem. Cheerfulness and confidence were acknowledged by the women in all the FGD as energiser to having positive future plans.*

*Staff of these agencies always looked out for the survivors whose optimism, attitude and self-esteem are low. They involved them in FGD session to discuss, and encouraged them with the support of their peers, as well as looking out for the challenges encountered to draw individual plans to address and develop an optimistic view of their lives.*

### **c) Helping survivors improve Cognitive flexibility and exercise emotional control**

The traumatic experience survivor returnees went through before and after the aftermath of HT needs social workers to work together to regulate their emotions whenever need arises. The survivor may exhibit anger and distorted view of people. During the FGD with the staff and survivors we noted that survivor returnees were helped by the agencies to deal with traumatic past worries and negative thoughts. They involved in role plays during the survivors' forums, and exercises that build self-esteem and emotional control. They are also helped to look out for the positive aspect of their emotions such as joy, cheerfulness and encouraged to boost self-control and anger management in many sessions and role plays.

Survivors need to be helped to identify challenges encountered and draw plan to address such as to deal with depression, anxiety, suicide tendencies and seek support where needed. All these emotions play a significant role and if not well managed can have negative consequences to the survivor who may underperform, be violent hence end up being re- trafficked. A training and delivery plan with an individual and groups needs to be in place in their files

#### *Case study*

*JDPCI Progressively, Participants were enlightened about how difficult or negative emotions (such as anger, frustration, anxiety and the likes) could affect their relationship with their children if not properly managed thus preventing them from being good examples to their children.*

*It was also stressed that severe or excessive anxiety could negatively affect their health, thus, they were taught to manage anger and anxiety. It was reiterated that controlling negative emotions may take time, but was achievable through practice and conscious efforts. The caregivers were taken through some Relaxation exercises such as (inhaling and exhaling and imagining a relaxing scene) for stress management and relief.*

## **7.0 Capacity building for NGO staffs**

### **7.1 Training**

The needs and issues which are presented by survivors cut across many professions hence need for training. These may be psychological, social, economic, health, business and

livelihood related. Supervision, monitoring and evaluation are key for following up a reunited returnee and their business enterprises and reports on this must always be written. Staff who possess multiple skills need to mentor and coach other staff to support returnees. The use of evidence psychosocial support therapies such as motivational interviewing, life skills, counselling sessions, resilience and youth participation in religious and other community engagement need to be regularly promoted to improve survivors' lives.

Provision of capacity building for frontline workers and staff in NGOs in reunification and orientation of reintegration good practices. This is aimed at ensuring provisions of quality care and support for the survivors during the transition back into their communities. Some of the benchmarks for trainings include; Cognitive behavioral therapy, Motivational Interviewing, counselling among others.

**Prevention of Human Trafficking.** There is need to create community awareness and education in order to prevent trafficking in persons. This promotes ownership of interventions and in turn promotes community responsibility and watch against perpetrators. This should target the entire community to raise awareness about HT.

**Ethical issues.** As a matter of good practice, there are standards that must be undertaken by the NGO staff and organisations at large. Staff must always seek consent from the survivor; be non-judgmental; keeping their information and identifies away from public domain; the do no harm principle and mandatory reporting to authorities about any victimisation, supporting investigation of human trafficking and exploitation and illegal migration.

## **Social economic support in family reintegration and reunification.**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This involves empowerment interventions for survivors of HT to make decisions concerning their businesses and develop their capacity, hence enabling them manage their livelihoods to improve their quality of life after human trafficking. Economic empowerment is critical once you have achieved the psychosocial benefits. It addresses the root causes of HT such as poverty, unemployment, injustice for women and how these impacts the women.

Economic empowerment to improve livelihood and build resilience of survivors in order to avoid re-victimization. Some of the activities include; providing survivors employable skills in order to enable them to compete favourably within the job market and access decent work opportunities. The survivors may also be supported with entrepreneurship skills training to enable them start up income generating activities in order to improve their livelihood.

**Key areas** of interest for survivors undertaking skills for successful reintegration are here as follows;

- a. Orientation services
- b. Vocational skills training and Reintegration services
- c. Access to capital
- d. Multi skilled and multi sources of Incomes

#### **a) Orientation services**

This will require motivation of the survivors to accept what is going on.

Have accurate information on market and non-market opportunities.eg baseline marketability studies; inputs from young people; government framework, policies in terms of trade, youth employment opportunities. NGO centre discussions may be around on conditions of work and expected incomes, study visits to artisans/ businesses plus career guidance and contextual factors.

Household economics strengthening activities for vulnerable children as well as with the beneficiaries on household economic strengthening activities.

### Note:

During the economic strengthening intervention, be careful not give everything at once. As a matter of motivation ask the survivor to start, commit to do better and then receive a second tranche.

### ***Training in Business Management and Entrepreneurship for Young Female Returnees***

*As part of the preparation process for the provision of economic support to the young Female Returnees, Uromi JDPCI organized two days training on Business Management and Entrepreneurship for the young female Returnees with the objective to equip the beneficiaries on how to be enterprising, start and manage businesses for profitability and sustainability. The sessions which had 15 Beneficiaries in attendance covered such topics as: Introduction to Business and Entrepreneurship, the concept of Marketing and its relevance in Business, the Basic Marketing Steps, Pricing Strategies, Keeping Business Records and Building Savings Culture. Also, during the training, the Participants were guided to develop a life plan for their chosen businesses and they also signed a memorandum of understanding with Uromi JDPCI for the purpose of documenting the expectations from both Parties.*

Some of other considerations below picked from the ECPAT East Africa manual on reintegration<sup>5</sup> must be considered such as age and education level, survivor interest and talents; availability of vocational training facilities, market opportunities at reasonable distance

### ***Examples of good practices from the Eastern Africa region on economic empowerment***

Strategies of reintegration in the Eastern Africa region try to anticipate multiple sources of income (at one time and over time).

It implies developing and learning some knowledge on global competencies (self-care, life skills, business management; interpersonal communication; literacy skills, etc.); multiple technical skills (artistic skills, tailoring skills, business skills, etc.) and simultaneously both collective and individual projects.

### **b) Vocational skills (VST)**

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<sup>5</sup> UYDEL, ECPAT France and ECPAT International. (2019). ECPAT Country Overview: Uganda. Bangkok: ECPAT International <https://www.ecpat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ECPAT-Country-Overview-Report-Uganda-April-2019.pdf>

Vocational skills training is defined as training that emphasizes a skill and knowledge required for a particular job for self-reliance. Vulnerability to human trafficking and eventual sexual exploitation is partly caused by the lack of employable skills and knowledge for adaptation in the community. VST is a direct means of providing young people with skills more relevant to the evolving needs of employers and the economy. VST is a key component in promoting secure livelihoods and social functioning of the youth at present and in the future.

Vocational skills training scheme has considerations to be made i.e be adapted to the environment, the resources of the organization, the profile and number of candidates and the support scheme set up by the organization. Survivors are placed with the artisans of the trade they choose in their living area. A memorandum of understanding is signed with artisans stating the obligations of parties, time, fees and expectations of both parties. This scheme is based on learning by doing.

After discharge, *artisan-trainers may employ the trainees* or refer them through their network. It works in both rural and urban settings. In the informal market, employees are expected to provide their own tools. It is *helpful to procure professional tools or to facilitate access to capital*.

There should be a diversification of vocational skills courses provided by the organizations so as not to hinder career choices. Additional schemes can be proposed (referral to other VT facilities, support to income-generating activities, etc). Informal learning results from daily activities related to work, family life or leisure. It is not structured and usually does not lead to certification

Non-formal learning is not provided by an education or training institution and typically does not lead to certification but follows and supports the jobseeker/client in mapping ambitions, expectations and competencies with a view into future employment and/or training.

### **c) Access to capital.**

This refers to money to start or expand a business. This money can be a loan, a grant, or group/ individual savings. Addressing vulnerability to income is one the best strategies in improving women's control over their bodies as well as reducing risk taking that end up in trafficking. Promoting access to capital is one of the services proposed by organizations. It is done through 3 main channels:

- Facilitation of saving schemes, and groups
- Access to loans (banking)
- Schemes or revolving funds.

### **Training and Initiation to business environment**

Understanding business environment will help the survivor to hold and maintain a job. It can be delivered through: trainings in the area of customer care, hygiene, working hours, etc. Guidance on employer-employee relations (especially when beneficiaries have been taken in charge in long-term shelters and are used to attention and indulgence). Internship to experiment and adjust to working environments. It allows one to get confidence and make contacts. One month is sufficient since interns are not always paid. Support in writing CVs and practicing motivation interviews. Group sessions are usually preferred.

As it was noted at JDPCI that the 15 trained returned migrants were empowered with business Start-up materials and equipment worth N210,000 inclusive of six months shop rent respectively with the aim of contributing to their economic reintegration in order to prevent risks of re-victimization.

### **Training business environment**

Propose time management tools: what to do on

- A weekly and monthly basis - to provide guidance for the trainee.
- Anticipate challenges / unexpected events (family problems, requests for money from close friends, etc).
- Access to banking - new banking facilities with very limited costs have been developed in the Eastern Africa region (through mobile phones). Yet access to banking remains an issue for underage beneficiaries.
- Business training - Different training modules have been developed by ministries, organizations and consultants. Therefore, organizations should be careful.
- Follow-up in the job market includes. Job-seeker services: supervising job-search actions, networking for job opportunities, mediation services with employers, etc.
- Self-employer's' services- Support in business management. When selecting the most appropriate one and ensure the enterprise they are Bout do are not imposed on them.

#### **d) Multi skilled and multi sources of Incomes.**

Survivors need to be helped to develop and learn many skills to enable them to adapt. They also need to look out for many /multiple sources of income within their enterprise or outside to add and boost their meagre incomes. We noticed that many young girls who had opened shop business (provisions) were able to sell additional items like water that also attract more customers. Those operating saloon and hair dressing business were able to sell human hair, oils, sandals shoes and water.

Variety of business enterprises being undertaken by survivors



**Livelihood support:** Unemployment remains unacceptably high in many countries. Help to lessen the risks (re-trafficking, unemployment, prostitution, poverty) new entrants (e.g., young persons) may find it particularly difficult to gain a foothold in a labour market. Thus, livelihood support is needed.

## 9.0 Prevention and Long-term support and reintegration and collaboration with others

Long-term reintegration support may be provided through (preferably formalized) collaboration between the receiving service organization, local or international non-

governmental organizations and Government partners. Thus, NGOs must be part of the partnerships and networks in their area to be able to harness services. Such reintegration activities may include:

- Medical/health-care services
- Counselling for; develop skills to deal with suicide ideation and involve parents.
- Financial and Legal assistance
- Re-insertion into the educational system and vocational training,
- Micro-enterprise and income-generating activities; Job placement, wage subsidies, apprenticeship programmes, Housing and accommodation.

### **9.1 Awareness and advocacy against Human Trafficking in schools and communities to prevent trafficking**

Prevention which raises the awareness on HT to innocent children can go a long way to reduce human trafficking as young women will make decisions based on information acquired. Several ways were highlighted by the two NGOs including training peer educators through former survivors and information media campaigns; Training and follow up of peer educators in Edo North and Edo Central. Support to youth campaign initiatives against human trafficking. Information and awareness campaigns among communities and Community dialogues.

Advocacy to local authorities to promote their implication in the prevention actions through training of local authorities and child protection social actors on Gender and Human Trafficking in Benin City and Edo Central. Training of JDPC staff on family tracing and reintegration support. Psycho-social and economic support to young female returnees Family tracing and reintegration support.

In one of the awareness sessions undertaken by GPI it noted that the participants were led to brainstorm on push and pull factors of human trafficking. Many of them said that the pressure on children to migrate is still there but that in terms of human trafficking parents have now realized the importance of education and many parents now support their children going to school than being trafficked.

**Family reunification and reintegration recommended key steps to follow up, activities and support for returnee of HT. Documentation of the processes is key.**

	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Activity 1:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NGO is part of the state network on Human Trafficking in the area and national where possible.</li> <li>▪ Tracing and collection of information on the survivor background.</li> <li>▪ Meeting and getting acquainted with the Families of the Returnees, assess their family and socio-economic situations.</li> <li>▪ Identify survivor needs, services and development of survivor resettlement and reintegration plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 2:</b>	<b>Counselling sessions (both individual, family and group)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trauma, suicide and drug abuse.</li> <li>▪ Violence and victimisation.</li> <li>▪ Family and relatives</li> <li>▪ Educating the community about HT sessions.</li> <li>▪ Sessions with children of returnees and psychological support.</li> <li>▪ Foster tolerance, re-establish trusting relationships, forgiveness, acceptance and a safe environment void of stigmatization.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 3:</b>	<b>Survivor involvement and participation in reintegration</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organise survivor forums through feedback, identify risks and protective factors</li> <li>▪ Conduct meetings and feedback sessions.</li> <li>▪ Mentoring and training sessions.</li> <li>▪ Moral/spiritual campus and follow ups.</li> <li>▪ Physical exercises.</li> <li>▪ Gratitude journal records.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 4</b>	<b>Identify risk factors that can lead to HT and Support to families of victims of trafficking draw a psycho-social and economic plan.</b>
<b>Activity 5</b>	<b>Support to families struggling with young women economically in schools and income generating activities to prevent human trafficking.</b>
<b>Activity 6</b>	<b>Psychosocial support to survivors</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institute a case management process committee to review cases (case by case basis of each survivors with clear planned activities of interventions).</li> <li>▪ Life skills sessions (undertake individual and groups) sessions on living with one self, problem solving and decision making, etc</li> <li>▪ Cognitive flexibility and emotional control development sessions.</li> <li>▪ Development of individual psycho social plans with the NGO social worker and enabling survivor implement them.</li> <li>▪ Joy, anger management challenges through suicide sessions.</li> <li>▪ Role plays, group sessions, photos and training plans.</li> <li>▪ Building on the strengths of survivor.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 7</b>	<b>Training of staff and capacity building for NGOs</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training of staff and capacity building for NGOs family reunification and integration approaches, good practices and support for survivors.</li> <li>▪ Develop a monitoring and tracking tools to help survivors cope and succeed in life without being re-trafficked.</li> <li>▪ Other services from the community, medical help and assessment tool to benefit survivors.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 8</b>	<b>Economic empowerment of survivors and family orientation services</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and share vocational skills</li> <li>▪ Reintegration and business social enterprises.</li> <li>▪ Access to capital (Identify opportunities, loan groups, banks.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 9</b>	<b>Reintegration and business social enterprises (access to capital)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiation to business environment-plans</li> <li>▪ Training to business environment for survivors.</li> <li>▪ Plan developments for multi skilling and multi sources of incomes for survivors.</li> <li>▪ Livelihood support and access to capital plans.</li> <li>▪ Conduct regular monitoring survivors and their beneficiaries to give support to their business and social concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 10</b>	<b>Long term activities including prevention and awareness</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NGOs need to belong to government/NGO networks.</li> <li>▪ Capacity building for NGOs (training of social workers and other non-staffs).</li> <li>▪ To promote awareness on prevention of human trafficking.</li> </ul>

**Note**

Cases of survivors being supported for family reunification be handled as a case-by-case basis, some may settle faster other will need more time and NGO social support.

Methods of delivery of the sessions must encourage participatory learning give the survivors, parents and facilitators a chance to contribute and chose next course of action.

Participatory methods during survivors' forums such as focus group discussion, sharing, testimony giving, use of drawing and other participatory methods must be identified and used in the training and meeting sessions.

Documentation of processes at every step is key to help make informed decisions.

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**Consultant :**

Kasirye Rogers,

Email: [kasiryer@yahoo.com](mailto:kasiryer@yahoo.com)

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)

Website [www.uydel.org](http://www.uydel.org)