

# CARITAS NIGERIA/JDPC

## Annual Report 2015

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs); the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria  
Plot 459, Cadastral Zone B2,  
Durumi 1, Abuja  
Federal Capital Territory.







"We are Caritas" Caritas Nigeria Staff, Abuja Region with members of the Board of Directors

## CARITAS NIGERIA

**C**aritas Nigeria was established in September 2010 by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), as the specialized national development agency with a mandate for overall coordination of development programs for the Catholic Church in Nigeria. Although independently registered, Caritas Nigeria is an arm of the Church and Society Department of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN). **The legal name of the organization is Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), however it is generally known as Caritas Nigeria.**

The Catholic Church in Nigeria has a total of 55 dioceses grouped into 9 provinces which cover the entire geographical spread of Nigeria. Caritas Nigeria serves as the umbrella organization supporting these regional institutions to implement development-oriented programs based on local needs. At the Diocesan and Provincial levels, Caritas Nigeria works with the existing structures of Church and Society; Justice, Development and Peace/Caritas (JDPC), Health, Family and Human Life etc, to execute programs impacting on human life and dignity. Caritas Nigeria also partners with relevant CSOs, CBOs, FBOs, NGOs and Government agencies to implement programs in various states.

As part of the universal mission of the Church, Caritas Nigeria targets beneficiaries on the basis of rights and need, and not based on creed, race or nationality.

The Catholic Church is known to be one of the oldest and greatest institutions in the world providing in addition to spiritual growth, access to good education, healthcare delivery services and humanitarian assistance to the poor, vulnerable and excluded persons regardless of race or religion. In Nigeria, the Catholic Church has 1384 Health facilities and 375 schools mostly spread across hard-to-reach communities in the 36 states of Nigeria and CCFN works with other Church Structures and relevant agencies to provide underserved groups/communities access to these services.

### Caritas Nigeria Vision

*"A harmonious environment where everyone enjoys fullness of life".*

### Caritas Nigeria Mission

*"Advance the wellbeing of all through participatory measures, in line with Catholic Social Teachings".*

### Thematic Focus Areas for Development Interventions:

- Emergency Response and Humanitarian Services
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Good Governance
- Agriculture & Livelihoods
- Anti-Human Trafficking and Forced Migration
- Institutional and Capacity Strengthening
- Environment
- Education

# FOREWORD

## Freeing Nigeria of Terrorism

-Most. Rev. Dr. Lucius Ugorji,  
EPISCOPAL CHAIRMAN  
CBCN Department of Church and Society



Episcopal Chairman of Caritas Nigeria visits Maroua camp in Cameroun with Fr. Solomon Onyiwara in solidarity with the Nigerian Refugees.

**T**he abduction of over 200 schoolgirls in Chibok and their continued captivity for more than a year, must not leave the consciousness of the average Nigerian. No less condemnable is their purported “conversion” into Islam by the use of naked force. It is appalling that the members of Boko Haram, who engage in such criminal acts of terrorism aimed at throwing the nation into chaos, seek to justify them as a religious duty undertaken in the name of God. They try to “re-create” God in their own fancy, fashioning Him into an “idol”, to be used for despicable evil purposes. By their bizarre claims of acting in God's name, they profane religion and abuse it.

It is wrong to use religion as a cover for political, economic or ideological causes. When extremists of any religious tradition radically distort their professed faith in order to justify violence and

hatred, they do a great disservice to religion. Whatever the motivation and whichever way one looks at it, there can be no moral justification for targeting innocent, defenceless people by the Boko Haram fanatics.

Our hearts are drawn close to the young hapless girls. No doubt, they are experiencing unspeakable trauma in captivity. We pledge our fervent and constant prayers for their safe and unconditional release and for the change of heart of their captors, and urge government to do all in its power to secure their safe release. In a spirit of solidarity, we also unite with their parents. Distressed and broken-hearted, they anxiously look forward to reuniting with their beloved children. May their hope not be in vain!

The sporadic Boko Haram attacks, Fulani herdsmen attacks, Niger Delta militancy; these are



great trials for our nation. It is a time when all Nigerians should remain focused and join hands to do all that it takes to ensure that the nation is secure. It is not a time of buck-passing. We must resist those who want to exploit the present situation to antagonise one religion against another or pit one ethnic group against the other.

The great threat of Boko Haram terrorists and Fulani herdsmen should not be underestimated. Their surprise and murderous tactics on soft targets, make them extremely unpredictable and dangerous. The fight against them is made a herculean task by the fact that there is no battle line drawn between them and our security agents. It is thus difficult to identify them and their hideouts. They live side by side with other citizens and easily follow the plans made to check mate them.

We commend our security agents, who put their lives on the line to contain them, despite all odds. Even as the focus moves to the Niger delta their continuing priority must be to ensure that military force is directed only at those who use terror and those who assist them. Everything possible must be done to minimise or totally avoid civilian casualties. Security agents have a grave moral obligation to respect the principle of non-combatant immunity even in guerrilla warfare. Indiscriminate attacks on innocent people, their mass arrest and torture cannot be morally justified.

Using the services of intelligence officials, government should do more to unmask and hold accountable those individuals and groups responsible for the dastardly acts of terror in the country. Above and beyond, it should make a serious effort to uncover the grievances of

perpetrators as well as policies and problems that provide fertile grounds in which terrorism thrives. The anger and resentment in their hearts are deep and arouse their most destructive impulses. Terrorism will go on in our nation as long as its underlying causes remain unaddressed and the structures of inequality are not dismantled.

The grinding poverty among the almajerins, especially in the North East, intolerable extremes of hardship and misery, the growing gulf between the “have” and “have-nots”, the lack of participation of the vast majority in political life, the abuse of human rights, endemic corruption, and threats to local cultures by the forces of globalisation, aided by powerful opinion-shaping media are sources of deep resentment and anger, which terrorists seek to exploit for their own ends. The needs of the jobless, hungry and homeless cannot be ignored or neglected without dreadful consequences. Government should, therefore, wage unrelenting war against poverty, ignorance and corruption at all levels. No doubt that there will still be people of hate and violence, but they will have fewer allies, supporters and resources to commit their heinous acts.

As citizens of this nation, we must be united in insisting that politics is not simply a tool for grabbing power and using it in the selfish interest of the rulers and their cronies. We must all rightly see government as a mechanism for installing a just society that ensures the overall welfare of the populace. Any government, debilitated by a lack of concern for the welfare of its people, provides a fertile ground for all kinds of lawlessness. In this regard, the Nigerian nation has a great challenge before it. We must learn the culture of justice, equity and tolerance or perish together through violence and mutual destruction.

# 2015: A YEAR IN REVIEW

**-REV. FR. EVARISTUS BASSEY,**

**DIRECTOR CHURCH & SOCIETY/CEO CARITAS NIGERIA**

As far as politics go in Nigeria, 2015 is a year not to be forgotten in a hurry. The general elections in April saw the emergence of a retired General and erstwhile military president emerge as the new president. It was the first time a political party in the opposition would oust the incumbent political party in a freely conducted election. Notwithstanding the successful elections, Boko Haram's perennial insurgency hit the roof of history as it became globally recognized as the most deadly terrorist group with more fatalities than even ISIS. With its infamous strategy of using teenage girls as suicide bombers, it extended insurgent attacks from the hotbeds of the North-eastern Nigeria to Abuja and Kano State. Pro-Biafra protestations gained momentum in the South-eastern parts of the nation and attracted the government's attention and armed response. The year's end was punctuated by deteriorating access to fuel, a wobbling economy mirrored by the plummeting Forex rate, and the global fall in oil prices. As expected, the poor in Nigeria who, unfortunately are the lowest on the food chain, are the worst hit by these events.

On the global scene, the year 2015 played host to major events such as the attack on France by two radicalized brothers which led to the death of 131 people; the Syrian conflict which gave rise to displacement of about 4.39 million registered refugees across Europe, Turkey, Middle-East, and North Africa (as reported by UNHCR); Climate Summit in France attended by over 200 countries, whose resolution was the long-term goal of keeping global warming "well below" 2 degrees Celsius.

In addition, Caritas participated in the Caritas Africa 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference and the 20<sup>th</sup>



General Assembly in Rome which led to the election of and emergence of new executives for the confederation.

Furthermore, a major highlight was the United Nations 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. This assembly officially closed the 15-year Millennium development goals (MDGs) and launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in which my humble self was a participant. Pope Francis' address to the UN General Assembly and his encyclical *Laudato Si* were wake-up calls for everyone to preserve the Mother Earth from the destructions arising out of global industrialization.

To respond effectively to the throes of the poor and the most vulnerable, Caritas Nigeria launched an Emergency Appeal (EA) to Caritas member organizations around the globe and with their support Caritas Nigeria sought to respond to the needs of 11, 900 IDPs in Adamawa State through access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities; access to primary healthcare; Psychosocial support and Peacebuilding activities in liaison with DREPCentre, Jos

To further ensure that there is "fullness of life for all", Caritas Nigeria, with the support of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of Nigeria, sought to address basic needs of 10,000 Internally Displaced Persons in the dioceses of Maiduguri, Yola, Bauchi, Zaria, Katsina Ala, Jalingo, and Jos. Reaching beyond the shores of the country, Caritas Nigeria sent funds to the Bishops Conference of Cameroon and the Diocese of Maroua, Cameroon, to enable the diocese address food and Non-food needs of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. With



supports in cash and kind from UNICEF, Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program, and Ladies of the Knights of St Mulumba, Caritas Nigeria was able to respond to the needs of 12,664 IDPs through the distribution of WASH Kits, construction of latrines, fertilizer distribution, construction and rehabilitation of water points, etc., in Abuja and Yobe State.

In the area of Health and HIV/AIDS, Caritas Nigeria (through CDC-funded SUSTAIN project) exceeded its hitherto expanded target: 56,259 HIV positive beneficiaries and many more indirect beneficiaries like spouses, children and relatives of persons living with HIV including HIV orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) are supported; 112 health facilities across the country are being technically supported. Support has been extended from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to include Faith Based facilities to implement the comprehensive HIV/AIDS program with more than a hundred and fifty thousand persons being affected positively in one way or another.

To further strengthen its capacity in the area of Project Management, Caritas Nigeria successfully trained its staff in the recently developed Project Management for Development professionals, Level 2. Consequently, Caritas Nigeria formed part of the 800 development professionals trained in this course at the second level worldwide. So far the Institutional Capacity Strengthening unit has worked assiduously to train over 500 development professionals in the country, as it still maintains the position of the only Organization with the certification to train in West Africa. In addition, Caritas Nigeria partnered with CRS and trained some members of staff on Project Package (Pro-pack), Level 1, in a pioneer training program.

In its strive to enhance the building of a transparent and accountable society where citizens participate in decisions that affect their lives, the CAFOD-supported Good governance unit successfully monitored elections in Kogi State by establishing a coalition with National Union of Journalists (NUJ) to ensure proper accountability, creation of awareness through voters' awareness in Parishes, Churches, mosques, and the print media; organizing political

debates, and training of 240 election observers.

With the dwindling international funding looming, it was of utmost imperative to deepen efforts in promoting internal (local) funding. As a result, great focus was given to resource mobilization and sensitization of the organization's vision and mandate to local parishes in Lagos and Abuja Archdioceses. This was done through adverts in bulletins, meetings with corporations, distribution of letters to parish priests, distribution of solicitation flyers and tracking of fund raising remittance.

In other developments, the Executive Secretary was invited to a round table at the CRS Headquarters on the World AIDS Day, which he featured with Dr. Redfield, the founder of IHV (Institute of Human Virology). He spoke about the opportunities and the challenges of local entities in HIV treatment in Nigeria. Thereafter meetings were arranged for him with the Senate and House committees on Public health, and the House Committee on Foreign Relations. Furthermore, preparations are in top gear for Caritas Nigeria to successfully host the Caritas member organizations on the *International Conference on Human Trafficking Within and From Africa*.

Finally, Caritas Nigeria commemorated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary after the re-establishment of the agency in 2010. Activities of this event cuts across fundraising dinners to support Caritas Nigeria reach more children, women and men, blood donation drive in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) to help accident victims, pregnant women and victims of insurgency.

The fiscal year 2015 was an eventful year for Caritas Nigeria which strives harder to ensure 'fullness of life for everyone' in its programs. In its strategic plan, it aligned its objectives and thematic areas of intervention with the newly launched SDGs. With its renewed vigor from the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Caritas Nigeria looks forward to continued and strengthened partnerships as she works together towards her vision of "fullness of life for all".



# THEMATIC AREA REPORTS

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

Responding to emergencies, is a core mandate of Caritas Nigeria. Emergency and Humanitarian Response (EHR) interventions are usually designed and implemented together with the local Caritas in the affected areas. Caritas Nigeria works through the 55 local (diocesan) Caritas offices spread across the country to respond to humanitarian issues. In 2015, the humanitarian needs in Nigeria and environs was enormous due to the insurgency in the north-east leading to displacement of over 2.2million persons (IDPs & Refugees) and about 7 million persons in need (*OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, Dec. 2015*).

According to its mandate as the Church's relief and development agency, Caritas Nigeria responded to the needs of about 1,834,790 direct & indirect beneficiaries with relief materials, psychosocial support, building of water and sanitation facilities, provision of agricultural inputs and skills acquisition to internally displaced persons in Adamawa, Bauchi, Kaduna, Nassarawa, Benue, Taraba & Yobe States, FCT and refugees in Maroua, Cameroun.



### Achievements

In 2015, we launched Emergency Appeal (EA) to our Caritas member organizations through Caritas Internationalis to enable us respond to the needs of the IDPs in North Eastern state of Adamawa.

- 106 toilets constructed in Yobe, Wassa district of FCT, and Maroua, Cameroun
- 38 water points rehabilitated at school and community Centre sheltering IDPs
- 10 bathing cubicles constructed in Wassa camp FCT
- 1 Solar powered motorized borehole in Wassa district of FCT
- Over 6,382 Households of 5 persons average, reached with food and non-food items.
- We are currently responding to the needs of 11,900 IDPs in camps and host communities in Yola, in Adamawa State through:
  - Access to water and sanitation facilities (provision of water & hygiene kits, hygiene promotion, construction of latrines, hand pumps, shower cubicles).
  - Access to primary healthcare (3 mobile clinics and 2 motorcycle ambulances equipped to diagnose and refer medical emergencies, communicable and non-communicable diseases).
  - Peace building activities in liaison with Justice and Peace (inter-religious dialogue, training of community peace vanguards).



A cross section of Nigerian Refugees in Maroua, Cameroun that were supported by Caritas Nigeria. Photo by: Fr. Solomon Onyiwara.

**Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) support to IDPs:** between February and July



2015, The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria supported Caritas Nigeria to address basic needs of 10,000 Internally Displaced Persons in the dioceses of Maiduguri, Yola, Bauchi, Zaria, Katsina Ala, Jalingo, and Jos. Furthermore, the support was extended to the Bishops Conference of Cameroun and the Diocese of Maroua, Cameroun to enable the diocese address food and Non-food needs of Nigerian refugees in Cameroun. Cooking utensils, condiments, hygiene items, bedding and mosquito nets were distributed to the refugees. Also 15 toilets with four compartments each were built for the refugees.



One of the toilets built by Caritas Nigeria in Maroua camp, Cameroun. Photo by: Fr. Solomon Onyiwara.

**UNICEF PCA PROJECT TO SUPPORT IDPS IN YOBE STATE: Integrated Humanitarian Assistance for North East Nigeria:** Caritas Nigeria implemented the WASH component of this project through distribution of basic water treatment, dignity and hygiene kits to 5,823 IDP Households and host families in addition to the construction of 81 emergency latrines, rehabilitation of 38 water points at school and community Centre sheltering IDPs and training of 42 Community volunteers on Hygiene promotion, water treatment, water storage and handling as well as promoting hygiene amongst the IDPs on bodily and menstrual hygiene, handwashing at critical times to prevent diseases. This project was supported by UNICEF to respond to appalling Water and Sanitation condition of the IDPs in Yobe state, the project was implemented from January to June, 2015.



Some water points constructed in Yobe State.  
Photo by Friday Alhassan.

In addition, Caritas Nigeria also secured a new project from UNICEF to implement WASH Intervention to address the impact of insurgency on both IDPs and their host communities. A total of 21 Health centres will be covered in six LGAs of Yobe state in the coming months in 2016. The project will address the appalling WASH situation of IDPs through:

- Rehabilitation/ Provision of new water facilities in selected communities hosting IDPs and in informal camp settings;

- Construction of 50 latrines to serve 2,000 IDPs living in informal camps and another 500 IDPs in high risk communities; and
- Hygiene promotion and Distribution of Dignity & Hygiene Kits to 2,500 IDPs.

**Emergency/Early Recovery Support to IDPs in the FCT affected by Boko Haram Insurgency:** this project has two very key components; WASH and Livelihood/Food Security. The total households reached were 160 IDP Households including another 129 host community households.



Hygiene and sanitation training for IDP children in Yobe State.  
Photo by Friday Alhassan.



100 Households (700 IDPs) were enabled to recover their agricultural livelihoods through provision of seedlings, tools facilitated in an Agriculture input fair conducted in the community and training on best practice farming techniques for them; and the distribution of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene kits to 60 IDP HHs, distribution of Fertilizer to 129 host Community households, construction of 10 VIP latrines; 10 bathing cubicles; and construction of One Solar powered motorized borehole in Wassa district of FCT where some IDPs are currently residing. The project was funded under the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program.



### Ladies of the Knight of St. Mulumba (National Commandery)

During the period under review, Caritas Nigeria received food and non-food items from the Ladies of the Knight of St. Mulumba during their Charity program at the Metro Meetings in Lagos, Owerri, and Kaduna Archdioceses which were geared towards empowering widows, indigent persons and IDPs. These relief materials were distributed to 103 IDP households living in different locations in the FCT namely: New Kuchingoro, Karamajiji and Igu Bwari



Caritas Nigeria Emergency Team Lead Friday Alhassan, distributes hygiene kits to displaced women in Yobe State.



His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Alfred Adewale Martins, Archbishop of Lagos and Dame Patricia Ngozi Nwachukwu (Noble President, National) handing over donated items to Caritas Nigeria staff Cecilia Agrinya-Owan in Lagos State.

### Challenges of the Emergency Response & Humanitarian Services Unit/Programs

- **Poor funding:** we have suffered a lot of setbacks especially with our various EA launched to respond to the needs of people affected by one form of disaster or the other.
- Inability to fund basic interventions that promotes our visibility and hence increase our presence amongst the communities we serve without recourse to donors is a great challenge. It is glaringly clear that setting up an Emergency Fund for the church in this direction is a sine qua non if we desire to be big responders.
- **Effects of the strategies used by donors in our sector:** most donors seem to be funding the INGOs in clusters than single entity. Caritas Nigeria now wants to engage our strategic partners especially with the CIDSE partners that are within the country - CAFOD and CRS to build that strategic alliance that will project us favourably to access the bigger grants to reach more persons as the needs are enormous.





*States supported for Emergency Response and Humanitarian*

## **HEALTH & HIV/AIDS RESPONSE: The Sustainable HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Action in Nigeria (SUSTAIN) Program**

September, 31st 2015 marked the start of the 4th year of implementation of the Sustainable HIV/AIDS care and Treatment Action in Nigeria (SUSTAIN) program by Caritas Nigeria. This program, with support from the United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) provides prevention, care & support, and treatment for People Living with HIV/AIDS through faith based organizations operating as health facilities, community based organizations and psycho-social support groups. Activities carried out by the SUSTAIN program include: Community Engagement for Demand Creation and Behavioral Change; HIV Testing and Counseling ; HIV Treatment, Care and Support, Prevention ; support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children ; Laboratory Services, Commodity Logistics Management and Information System, and Strategic Information.

Caritas Nigeria presently supports 56,259 HIV positive beneficiaries and many more indirect beneficiaries like spouses, children and relatives of persons living with HIV including HIV orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). The SUSTAIN

project operates through 112 health facilities (comprising of 44 comprehensive centers and 68 stand-alone ante-natal clinics focusing on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV or PMTCTC sites) distributed across 12 states in Nigeria, namely: Benue, Delta, Kaduna, Kogi, Nasarawa, Oyo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Plateau, Lagos and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In addition, SUSTAIN also works through 7 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) located in FCT-Abuja, Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Lagos States which provide HIV prevention, community outreaches for HIV testing and OVC services. Caritas Nigeria supports Health Systems Strengthening in all the partner faith based facilities as well the respective Denominational Health departments through whom the project is being implemented. These faith-based platforms include Catholic, Anglican, NKST, ECWA, and other Christian denominations as well as potentially with Muslim partners (with partnerships being explored with hospitals and CBOs in Lagos and the FCT-Abuja)





Since the last report to the Board, Caritas Nigeria has had to adjust its strategic focus following implementation policy changes from the donor, CDC. These policy changes and their consequent effect are summarized below:

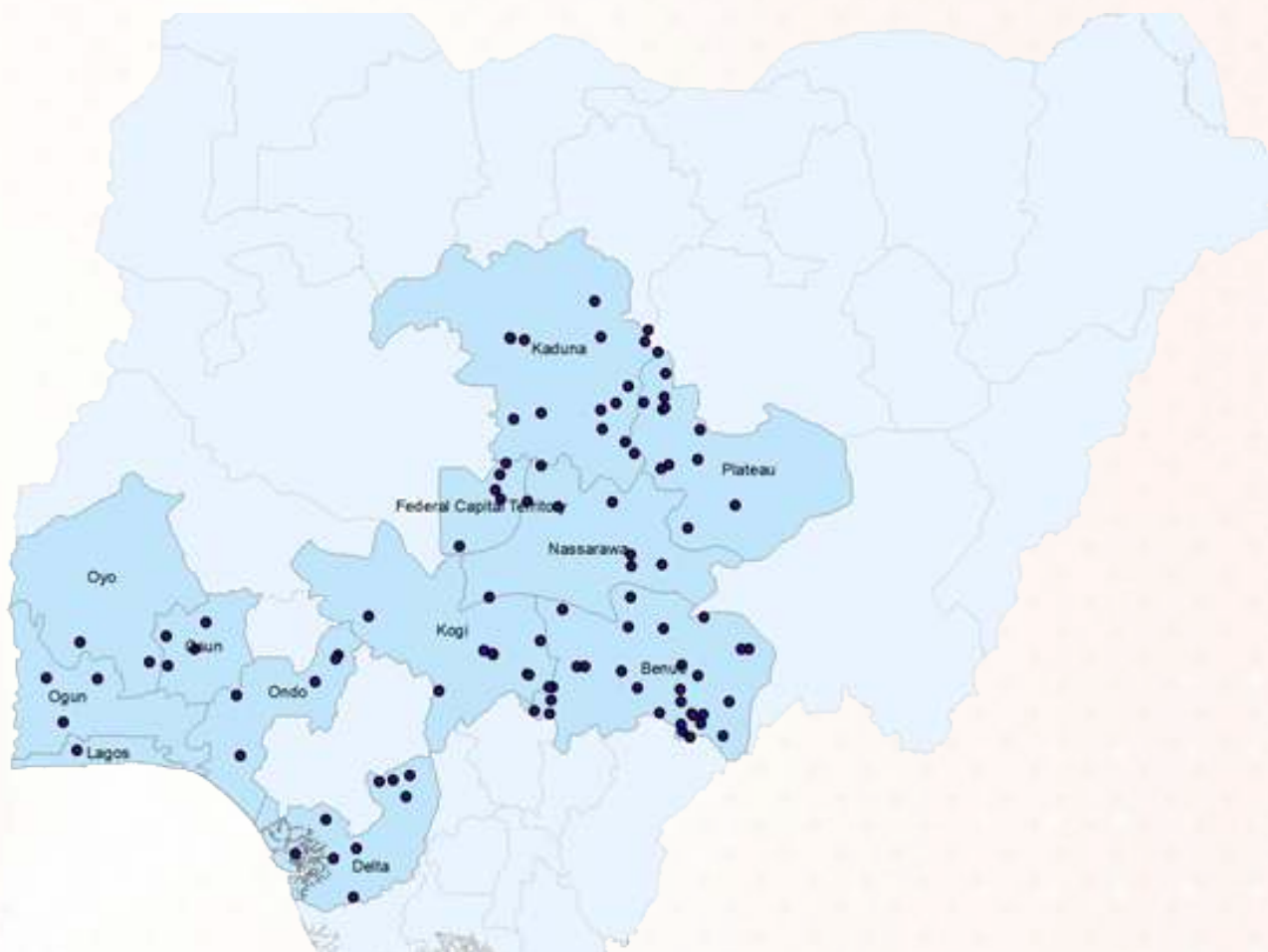
One of the Caritas Nigeria SUSTAIN health facility laboratories.  
Photo by: Cecilia Agrinya-Owan.

Implementation Policy Changes from CDC	Strategic Response By Caritas Nigeria
Prioritization of 32 “scale -up” Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Nigeria where epidemiological studies have shown the greatest unmet need for HIV services; SUSTAIN operates in 18 of these LGAs located in FCT, Benue, Nasarawa and Lagos.	Increased attention to faith -based and government structures in these LGAs with new partnerships identified with Health Coordinators of dioceses covering these LGAs
Maintenance of services in the remaining LGAs where scale-up is not a priority (called ‘sustained support’ LGAs) with minimal operational costs and technical support.	Pre-transition meetings with hospital administrators and health coordinators managing hospitals in these LGAs. Identifying other mechanisms to sustain activities that are no longer supported by US government in these LGAs.
Massive increase in the targets to be achieved in the “scale-up” LGAs; for example, SUSTAIN had a target to test 439,535 in the 2014/15 fiscal year compared with 1,809,809 this year; SUSTAIN also placed 9,299 new patients on life saving HIV drugs but this fiscal year, the target is 17,480 persons	Adopting new strategies to meet increased targets including increasing more staff with extensive field experience, working through more partners with greater geographic coverage and community presence, etc
All US -funded NGOs in “scale -up” LGAs must demonstrate on -the-ground presence in these locations including creating community linkages, activating new partner organizations (health facilities and CBOs) and work more closely with staff of these organizations to achieve control of the HIV epidemics and prevent all new infections.	Ongoing site assessments in FCT - Abuja, Benue, Nasarawa and Lagos states with new health facilities and CBOs being proposed for activation. So far, an additional 6 hospitals were activated between October and December, 2015.



<p>CDC and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) are collaborating with HIV implementation NGOs to adopt the 2015 WHO Guidelines which propose prompt initiation of HIV treatment for persons tested HIV positive and seize the advantage of delayed onset of disease that this evidence-based innovation offers (before expanding it as best practice for the whole country).</p>	<p>Patients no longer have to wait until their immune system (the target of HIV infection) deteriorates beneath a defined cut-off (determined by laboratory tests called CD4 assays of 500cells/uL and below).</p> <p>All existing and new SUSTAIN partner hospitals in the “scale-up” LGAs are implementing the new</p>
<p>CDC’s demand for data and timely reports has increased with Caritas Nigeria expected to generate, validate, collate and submit monthly data reports from partners with quarterly data review meetings (compared with bi - annual reviews in the preceding years)</p>	<p>Caritas Nigeria must continue to demonstrate the data quality and timeliness of reporting that has earned us commendation from CDC in the past.</p>
<p>CDC has assigned Caritas Nigeria additional data management tasks in view of the performance of our Strategic Information unit, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The National Data Repository (NDR) project which supports the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) with an archive of the performance of every health facility providing HIV services in the country. This internet-based platform will be expanded to include other priority diseases with time.</li> <li>2. Real Time Data Reporting for PMTCT services, also implemented in support of FMoH, such that all ante-natal clinics providing PMTCT services are linked electronically (via the internet) so new PMTCT cases, childbirth, treatment completion, etc are notifiable and received centrally in the state and federal ministries of health</li> </ol>	<p>New assignments have exposed Caritas Nigeria to new partnerships with data management, software designers – Inductive Health, who are designing the platform for both the NDR and the real -time data reporting platform.</p>
<p>Increased requirements for technical assistance and data reporting will necessitate expansion of the human resources supporting the SUSTAIN program. For example, Caritas Nigeria was noted to have the smallest Strategic Information (data management) team after a comparative analysis of all US funded HIV/AIDs implementing partners.</p>	<p>Caritas Nigeria recruits additional 36 staff across program areas but with particular emphasis on the Strategic Information unit. Effort was made, where possible, to prioritize technically sound officers with experience working in other US-funded NGOs</p>
<p>The increased targets in the “scale -up” LGAs and the geographic location and size of these LGAs will necessitate Caritas Nigeria working more through other organizations through a sub-granting mechanism.</p>	<p>Caritas Nigeria will engage sub -grantee partners who will work locally in the focus communities within the “scale -up” LGAs. Priority will be to identify faith based organizations and secular CBOs with demonstrated competencies in localities.</p>





*States supported on the SUSTAIN Program*

### **Achievements/Beneficiaries Reached**

Despite the afore-mentioned programmatic adjustments in the last 5 months, the SUSTAIN program was still able to demonstrate some achievements (as at November, 2015) since the last report to the Board;

#### **HIV Care & Support:**

- 30,906 persons were tested for HIV.
- 1,691 new patients currently placed on Anti-Retro Viral drugs.
- 56,259 HIV+ patients (cumulative) enrolled into care; and a total of 54,034 currently receiving life-saving HIV drugs.
- 5,992 pregnant women were tested for HIV.
- 514 HIV positive pregnant women received ARVs to prevent transmission of HIV to infants.
- 408 infants born to HIV+ women were tested to verify transmission during pregnancy and/or delivery and 22 of them were found to be infected with HIV (a transmission rate of 5.3%)
- 540 individuals assessed for malnutrition

and 105 received nutritional therapy

- 7,892 Orphans and Vulnerable Children received support services.
- 3,678 in-school and out-of-school youths reached with prevention messages.

#### **Capacity Building:**

- Trained over 1,500 SUSTAIN supported facility staff and CBOs in the area of HIV Treatment, Care and Support, Laboratory Services, Pharmacy and Logistics, Community Services, HIV Testing and Counseling, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT), Demand Creation for PMTCT Services, Monitoring and Evaluation of the project.
- Trained Caritas Nigeria Staff on Advanced HIV case management
- Trained 35 Caritas Nigeria Staff on Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro)

Trained Caritas Nigeria Staff on Finance and Grants management systems





Caritas Nigeria Pharmacy & Logistics Advisor, Lawrence Agur and Logistics Assistant, Francis Agim take stock of commodities in the warehouse for distribution to SUSTAIN supported health facilities and CBOs.



### Networking and Collaborations:

- Collaborating with other Implementing Partners, Nigerian Federal and State Government Agencies and International Donor Agencies in Technical Working Groups, Site Supervisory Visits and Advocacy Visits. Noteworthy is Caritas Nigeria's participation in the review of the National data recording and reporting tools and the National Drug Resistance sub-committee.
- Caritas Nigeria commenced a collaboration with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in November, 2015 on their U-Report project. The U-Report project uses text messages to engage the wider society and get their opinion on emerging political, economic, social and health issues; with Caritas Nigeria providing technical clarification on questions related to HIV/AIDs, reproductive health and communicable diseases.

This collaboration allows Caritas Nigeria to engage with the over 1 million subscribers on the platform and has created good visibility for the organization.

### Commemorating International Health Events:

**World AIDS Day:** Caritas Nigeria commemorated the World AIDS Day in December, 2015 with special focus on communities and partner health facilities and CBOs in the “scale-up” LGAs in FCT-Abuja and Benue State. Caritas Nigeria communicated with JDPCs, Parish Priests and community leaders to sensitize their people on the persistent HIV/AIDS prevalence and also encourage them to access HIV testing and counseling services to know their status. As part of the week-long activities, commemorative mass was held in the Catholic Secretariat and the SUSTAIN officers worked in Kabusa, Jikwoyi, Kubwa (FCT) as well as in Benue State to give over 1,400 persons the opportunity to know their HIV status.



One of the Caritas Nigeria teams during the World AIDS Day 2015, sensitization and testing outreach.



# GOOD GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

On governance, Caritas Nigeria works to strengthen citizens' participation in governance to demand accountability for good governance in Nigeria. Caritas implements both at the National and at the Diocesan (state) levels through advocacy with relevant structures, capacity building for stakeholders, media engagement, election observation/monitoring and budget monitoring.

Presently Caritas Nigeria is collaborating with the Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah while supporting Dioceses (states) to observe/monitor elections. Good Governance on its own addresses issues around integral human development using the structures of the Catholic Church in Nigeria.

## Achievements

- Coordinated the deployment of over 3,500 Justice Development & Peace Commission observers for the 2015 General Elections.
- Trained and mentored Women Political Aspirants who contested for various political Offices in Kogi State
- Formed a coalition in Kogi State called "Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWEC), who are championing the cause for gender mainstreaming in Kogi State.



L – R: Fr. Zacharia Samjumi, Deputy Secretary General Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Fr. Ralph Madu Secretary General CSN, Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, Bishop of Sokoto, Fr. Evaristus Bassey, Executive Secretary, Caritas Nigeria and Fr. Emmanuel Idoko, Director Pastoral Affairs, CSN as Panelists at the 2015, Catholic Secretariat Forum.

- Held Good governance week in Kogi State where issues that promote good governance were brought to the front burner.
- Held the Catholic Secretariat Forum where eminent personalities like Most Rev. Dr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, Bishop of Sokoto discussed issues of good governance.
- Organized town hall meetings on good governance in Kogi State.
- Formed Human Rights Monitors in Kogi State.

- Formed the Nexus Forum, a group of Civil Society Organizations who are working together to promote good governance in Kogi State.
- Conducted voters' education in Kogi State.
- Conducted over 15 media advocacy on issues of integral human development.
- Prepared a bill to be sponsored in the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly, to establish the Nigerian Development Fund for Non State Actors.
- The unit in conjunction with the Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah participated actively in the the Kogi State Governorship Election which took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 2015. In order to effectively carry out some of the activities slated for the project:
  - A coalition was formed between JDPC, Council of Ulama'U, Christian Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Union of Journalists- Correspondents Chapel to

collaborate on ways of promoting peaceful elections across the state

- Awareness was created through voters' education in Parishes, Mosques, Electronic media and the print media
- A political debate was organized in which Seven Governorship Candidates participated.
- Accreditation of election observers was obtained from Independent National Electoral Commission for the deployment



- of 240 election observers in Kogi State.
- The election observers were trained by Caritas Nigeria and deployed on the day of the election
- Organized partners meeting that identified the areas of intervention for the 2016/2017 project year. Partners have been mandated to develop their proposals in line with areas identified.

Caritas Nigeria Good Governance Projects in 2015 were largely funded by Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) the Caritas Nigeria core funds.

### Challenges

The Challenges experienced in carrying out the good governance activities are follows:

1. **Politicization of the Development Associations:** The build-up to the gubernatorial election in Kogi State negatively affected the progress of project work, resulting in protracted delays, because members of the Development

Associations (DA's) who are the social accountability vanguards were divided along party lines, making it difficult to mobilize them to speak with one voice. As a result of, they insisted that they will only participate in the project activities after the gubernatorial elections are concluded.

2. **Unstable National Assembly:** The National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been unstable because of disagreement over the formation of principal members of the Assembly. Since the inauguration of the Assembly in May 2015, there has been several long adjournments apparently for the purpose of trying to resolve the leadership tussle and this has made it difficult to organize the Catholic Legislators for any meaningful engagement.
3. Late release of funds by the sponsors of the project slowing down implementation of activities.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & VISIBILITY

Caritas Nigeria has been making great efforts at increasing local fundraising to enable her reach more persons in need across Nigeria, as the needs are increasing day by day and putting a strain on both donor funding and internally generated funds.

In this regard, several strategies have been implored to increase the organization's local funding. Past experience has shown that one of the best ways to do so will be to first create awareness of its existence through various visibility strategies that will help people know more about Caritas interventions and identify with Caritas Nigeria.

During the last quarter of FY 2015, great focus was given to resource mobilization and sensitization of the organization vision and mandate to local parishes in Lagos and Abuja Archdioceses. This project was supported by Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the CBCN through Caritas Nigeria core funds.

### Achievements

- **Caritas @ 5 Celebration:** Caritas Nigeria commemorated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary after the re-establishment of the agency in 2010. Activities to mark this event includes a Charity Ball/fundraising dinner to support Caritas Nigeria reach more; displaced persons, widows, orphans, youth empowerment on sustainable agriculture; A blood donation drive in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) was conducted to help accident victims, pregnant women and victims of insurgency and finally a family fun-fare was also conducted to raise funds.
- **Distribution of letters to Parish Priests:** This has been given to twelve different Parish Priests to solicit their support to allow Caritas Nigeria address the parishioners and fundraise for

interventions to reach the poor and those in need.

- **Distribution of solicitation flyers to Parishes:** The flyers were fixed inside parish bulletins before selling to the Parishioners. This activity has been carried out in six Parishes.
- **Meetings with Corporations:** Some corporations were visited to introduce Caritas Nigeria, get information about their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), so as to enable us access their CSR to enable Caritas Nigeria reach more persons in need. Proposals were also submitted to 2 of these corporations.
- **Produced and aired Caritas Nigeria radio jingles and TV spot:** a TV spot and radio jingle were produced and aired for the “Sacrifice a Meal and a Drink” fundraising campaign across two national television stations; one regional television station and one national radio stations for a period of three months to appeal for support for Caritas Nigeria.
- **Increased Social Media Presence/Engagement:** Caritas Nigeria has increased its presence on social media by sharing information on various

program activities and success stories.

- **Designed Caritas Nigeria mobile App for resource mobilization:** a Caritas Nigeria mobile app is being developed to support mobile fundraising while improving Caritas Nigeria visibility. This will be done through launch of various fundraising campaigns and advertisements from big businesses and corporations for a fee. With over 30 million Catholics in Nigeria, Caritas Nigeria hopes to promote this app amongst Catholics and other philanthropists for support.
- **Promoted the formation of a network of friends who wish to support Caritas Nigeria:** we solicited the support of our high profile donors to encourage their friends to form a network of friends of Caritas to support the work of Caritas. Presently there are three persons in the first group formed in Lagos state.
- **Established a collection point for relief materials:** we have established collection points for relief materials in St. Leo's Parish, Lagos to collect food and non-food items to support those in need especially internally displaced persons. Other points will be established in Abuja and another selected Archdiocese as well.



His Eminence, John Cardinal Onaiyekan, Archbishop of Abuja, Fr. Evaristus Bassey, Caritas Nigeria Executive Secretary, Dr. Stella-Maris Okey & Dr. Ann Osakwe, members of the Board of Directors of Caritas Nigeria, Senator Victor Ndoma Egba, Priests and Religious of the Catholic Secretariat cutting the Anniversary cake. Photo by: Obal Ofem.





Caritas Nigeria Pharmacy & Logistics Associate, Peter Aboje shares the meal of the poor with others at the Charity Ball. Photo by: Obal Ofem.

## Challenges

- There was a slight delay from the printer as a result of some mistakes in the initial copy which nearly affected the time-bound for the activity
- The delay with securing dates immediately was as a result of bazaar season.
- Many corporations want to do their CSR by themselves thereby allowing limited room for others.
- Inadequate Human Resource: the Unit is under-staffed and with the enormous task of reaching over 2,700 parishes across Nigeria it makes it difficult to do so much. Also most Parishes lack adequate logistics especially as regards sending the flyers to those that will sell bulletin in the morning from the Parish office.

## Recommendations

- There is need to have a team of staff supporting the unit especially as regards parish sensitization.
- We might need to explore the strategy of educating the parishioners on some important health tips parishioners on some important health tips in the sensitization package. This will be a way of giving back to the people as well as a means of securing dates faster from the Parish Priests.

- Caritas Nigeria has to continue promoting herself as a viable partner.
- Design a fundraising structure that incorporates the dioceses into fundraising.
- Organize Caritas Charity Ball annually as captured in our Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Develop capacity of diocesan partners on fundraising to support the national office' fundraising endeavours.
- It is pertinent to have a pool of volunteers that will join the Speaking at Mass team.

## STRENGTHENING CARITAS: Institutional Capacity Strengthening (ICS) Program

Caritas Nigeria provides capacity building and institutional strengthening support for Church institutions through meetings, workshops, assessments, trainings, on the job mentoring and technical assistance. At Caritas Nigeria, we believe that capacity building is key to sustainable development that is why the organization is building and improving project management capacity of Church institutions and development practitioners across Nigeria to effectively respond to humanitarian and development needs of the Church.

The strategy for implementing the project is based on the concept of 'on the job training'. The Church institutions that have undergone HOCAI capacity assessments are provided seed grants to implement a project to address a need which they have identified in their respective communities. The process involves the Church partners identifying a problem/issue, and developing a project proposal to address the issue. Caritas Nigeria with support from CRS Nigeria evaluates the submitted proposals and also provide technical assistance to the partners to enable them select a suitable project that can be implemented easily. The partners are then trained and coached through the course of the project implementation on the various aspects of program management and financial management. The identified system weaknesses during HOCAI evaluation are also corrected in the course of this process.

## Achievements of the CRS-ICS

### Project in FY 15

- One of the major achievements of ICS this year was the redirection of funds in favour of the Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) Project. Caritas Nigeria is now an established PMD Pro Training hub in West Africa offering both level 1 and 2 courses. In December 2015, the ICS project sponsored the training of 12 CCFN staff by LINGOs (Learning in NGOs) to become PMD Pro Trainers. CCFN therefore has a pool of 12 certified project management trainers.
- In January, 2015 some of the trained PMD Pro trainers facilitated the orientation training for 7 new JDPC Coordinators held in Abuja.
- The Province of implementation in FY 15 was Abuja Province. In June 2015, the ICS Project conducted organizational assessment and corrective action plans for JDPC Katsina-ala, Health Department Katsina-ala, Health Department Gboko

and JDPC Makurdi.

- In September, 2015, ICS sponsored PMD Pro training in Abuja for 11 staff selected across JDPC Katsina-ala, Health Department Katsina-ala, Health Department Gboko and JDPC Makurdi. The improvements in institutional and project management capacity of Health Department Gboko and Katsina-ala has helped the CCFN SUSTAIN project to scale up its activities with these partners in FY 16.
- Between January and December last year, the PMD Pro Project under ICS has trained and certified over 200 development professionals across Nigeria. These participants cut across international NGOs, local NGOs, government agencies, students and those new to development work.

### Achievements of the Caritas Nigeria - ICS Project in FY 15

- 100 youths and women from Onitsha Province were trained on Agri-business and Climate smart agriculture in November 2015. The objective of the training was to enable them understand different value chains in agriculture so that they can see the business and livelihood opportunities in farming. After the training, each participant was empowered to start up his/her farm on a small scale.



Youths and Women trained and empowered in Onitsha. Photo by: Abel Amodu.





# ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED MIGRATION

Caritas Nigeria Anti-Human Trafficking and Migration Program goal is to combat Human Rights abuses, human trafficking for labour & sexual exploitation, child labour/domestic servitude and illegal migration in order to restore human dignity in our society.

Caritas Nigeria supports the JDPCs and other sister organizations to reach its goal of restoring human dignity through;

- Sensitization and awareness creation on the dangers of Human Trafficking and Migration in our society
- Networking and building linkages with other organizations/international bodies working on Human trafficking and Migration
- Support Rehabilitation and Re-integration of rescued persons
- Explore program funding opportunities to support Human Trafficking and Migration programs
- Capacity building sessions/workshops on Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants for Caritas Nigeria staff and Local Partners to improve program quality
- Effective Monitoring & Evaluation of programs

## Achievements

- **Commemoration of World Anti-Human Trafficking Day also referred to as modern day slavery:** In line with the Catholic Church, Caritas Nigeria marked the World Anti-Human Trafficking Day on the



Participants with Caritas Nigeria Ant-Human Trafficking Program Manager Barr. Priscilla Onome Oriakhi during the sensitization on the ills of human trafficking and child labour at Illushi community in Edo State.



A cross section participants at the congress with Caritas Nigeria Anti HT Desk officer at the awareness creation meeting on Human Trafficking in Uromi, Esan North East L.G.A

feast day (February 8<sup>th</sup>) of St. Josephine Bahkita, a Sudanese-born former slave who became a Canossian Religious Sister in Italy. Caritas Nigeria marked this day through; media campaigns against trafficking in persons, enlightenment campaigns in Parishes by Priests to create awareness of these vices in over 1,072 Parishes across 36 states and FCT.

- **Sensitization and awareness creation on human trafficking and child labour in Illushi, Esan South East of Edo state**
- Working with diocesan Caritas and sister agencies to provide psychosocial and livelihoods support for trafficked victims while also providing linkages to agencies that can provide more help for trafficked victims.
- **Sensitization and awareness creation on the effect of human trafficking and migration:** Due to the high increase in the number of persons migrating overseas for illicit drug deals, prostitution and other crimes, it was very important to sensitize young men and women who in their quest to make ends meet, fall prey to traffickers and are suffering in Europe and other parts of the world. Sensitization was conducted in Uromi, Esan North East of Edo State.
- In addition, Caritas Nigeria is making preparations to host the International Conference on Human Trafficking from Caritas Member organizations (165 countries), COATNET affiliates, Bishops' Conferences, Religious Orders, NGOs, UN Agencies, Embassies, Governments and other Agencies working on Anti-Human Trafficking. The conference is expected to host between 110-130 participants and resource persons from all over the world and will hold in 2016.



## Additional Reports

**International Advocacy Work:** The Executive Secretary of Caritas Nigeria participated as a member of the Caritas Internationalis Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals which paved way for his invitation to New York in September to participate in the adoption of the SDGs. What is more important is to ensure that it becomes adopted as the framework for the church's development efforts; therefore an awareness of the frameworks itself is very important for church leaders. We had distributed an earlier version to the Bishops and hope to adopt a booklet authored by the working group for dissemination.

**Advocacy with CRS headquarters:** The ES was invited to a round table on the World AIDS Day, which he featured with Dr. Redfield, the founder of IHV (Institute of Human Virology). I spoke about the opportunities and the challenges of local entities in HIV treatment in Nigeria. Thereafter meetings were arranged for him with the Senate and House committees on Public health, and the House Committee on Foreign Relations. He also met with the Caritas Rep that came from Geneva. He was exposed to the network of relationships and possible influence we could exert if we have issues to address.

**Caritas Africa 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference and the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:** In May, 2015, Caritas Nigeria participated in the Caritas Africa 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference and the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Rome which led to the election and ratification of new executives for the confederation. The following are the new Representative Council (2015-2016) for the confederation:

- **H.E. Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle (CI President)**
- § **H.E. Msgr. Gabriel Anokye (Caritas Africa)**
- § **H.E. Msgr. Isao Kikuchi, SVD (Caritas Asia)**
- § **H.E. Msgr. Luc Van Looy (Caritas Europa)**
- § **H.E. Msgr. Jose Luis Azuaje (Caritas Latin America-Caribbean)**
- § **Msgr. Gerard Burns (Caritas Oceania)**
- § **Mr. Gabriel Hatti (Caritas MONA)**
- § **Mr. Sean Callahan (Caritas North America)**
- § **Mr. Alexander Bodmann (CI Treasurer)**
- § **Catholic Charities-USA (Sr. Donna Markham)**
- § **Caritas Samoa (Mr. Puletini Tuala)**
- § **H.E. Msgr. Antoine Audo (Caritas Syria)**
- § **Caritas Mauritius (Ms. Patricia Adele Felicite)**
- § **Caritas Uganda (Msgr. Francis Ndamira)**
- § **Caritas Congo (Mr. Alain Robert Moukouri)**
- § **Caritas Pakistan (Mr. Amjad Gulzar)**
- § **Karuna-Caritas Myanmar (Dr. Richard Win Tun Kyi)**
- § **Caritas Brazil (Ms. Cristina Dos Anjos)**
- § **Caritas Mexico (Fr. Patricio Sarlat)**

- § **CAFOD-Caritas England & Wales (Mr. Chris Bain)**
- § **Caritas Spain (Mr. Sebastian Mora Rosado)**
- § **Secours Catholique-Caritas France (Mr. Bernard Thibaud)**

**While Mr. Albert Mashika is the incoming Executive Secretary of Caritas Africa.**

The outgoing executives encouraged Caritas to keep the flag flying high as they respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

Jacques Dinan, from Mauritius, is the outgoing Executive Secretary, one of the seven regions of Caritas Internationalis sums it all up in his farewell interview with Caritas Nigeria Communications Specialist, as he highlighted the importance of Caritas Africa at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the role of Caritas in promoting the global civilization of love and the need to increase visibility of Caritas

As a member of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation Secretariat's Team, he participated actively in the preparation of the 2015-2019 Caritas Internationalis (CI) Strategic Framework which was adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> CI General Assembly on 17 May 2015, while as the Executive Secretary Emeritus of Caritas Africa, Jacques is known and referred to by many as an excellent communicator, a visionary leader and an energetic and efficient coordinator, with a great passion for what he does.

Similarly, the incoming Executive Secretary, Albert Mashika promised to do his best in ensuring that Caritas Africa Region upholds the vision of the Church, reaching out in love and charity to our brothers and sisters in need regardless of their race, creed or status and acknowledging everyone as one human family in God.

In another development, incoming President of Caritas Africa, Most. Rev. Gabriel Justice Yaw Anokye, Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana, and second Vice President of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and Justice and Peace Commission, described his vision as that of a Church for the Poor in Africa as Caritas, and also emphasized the relationship between Caritas, Justice and Peace Commission.

He reiterated his resolve to fulfil the vision there is already for Caritas Africa to "*give life in abundance*" (John 10:10). He stated that he not change that vision but will fulfill it by making sure it is owned by everybody, loved, cherished and implemented, also by talking about it and reminding members of the African region (46 countries) about it, to ensure that we achieve our mission of reaching out in love to our brothers and sisters who are in need.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE & 20<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Photo credits: Alberto Arciniega, Ingrid Saavedra, Michelle Hough and Cecilia Agrinya-Owan





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE & 20<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Photo credits: Alberto Arciniega, Ingrid Saavedra, Michelle Hough and Cecilia Agrinya-Owan





# PROVINCIAL REPORT AT A GLANCE

Caritas Nigeria is structured to work at the National level. The Diocesan Justice Development and Peace/Caritas Commissions (JDPCs) are Caritas Nigeria's primary implementing partners, along with Health departments and health facilities of dioceses and religious congregations. The 56 dioceses themselves are grouped into nine regional sub-coordinating bodies known as Ecclesiastical Provinces, which work with Caritas Nigeria national office to facilitate coordination. The 9 Ecclesiastical Provinces altogether sub-coordinate fifty five dioceses, many with varied and same number of dioceses. The following are reports from the provinces for this reporting period.

## ABUJA PROVINCE

Abuja Ecclesiastical Province is made up of the following Dioceses; Abuja, Gboko, Katsina Ala, Makurdi, Lokoja, Idah, Otukpo and Lafia. The following are the programs/projects that were implemented in 2015 across the Province.

**2015 GENERAL ELECTION OBSERVATION:** The Provincial Office of Health and JDPC, Abuja, trained a total of two thousand, one hundred and seventy-one (2,171) election observers in eight Dioceses, Abuja, Lokoja, Idah, Lafia, Makurdi, Otukpo, Katsina-Ala and Gboko, respectively. However, we were not able to concretely deploy all trained election observers largely because of stringent conditionalities of INEC (Independent National Electoral Commission) that placed limitation on number of observers to be deployed by each organization and its inability to provide Election Observation kits for those duly accredited, were some of the conditions that limited Abuja Province from effectively deploying all the trained persons. However, for the Presidential Election that held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, we deployed six hundred and

forty three (643) Election observers across all the Dioceses within Abuja Province with exception of Lafia Diocese as the Observers' kits, which were to be produced by INEC for accredited observers for Nasarawa State was not ready before the election. Similarly, for the Governorship/House of Assembly Elections of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015, we deployed five hundred and sixty-seven (567) observers to all the Dioceses with exception of Abuja. Abuja Provincial Office of Health/JDPC was about the only Provincial structure that coordinated the 2015 election observation for her Dioceses which made it possible for all the Dioceses within the Province to be fully involved in the election monitoring of 2015 General Elections.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE:

- **Membership of Interagency Consultative Committee on Election Security, (ICCES):** Abuja Provincial office of Health and JDPC was nominated as a Member of the referred Committee by the office of National Security Adviser, NSA. The National Security Adviser, NSA inaugurated ICCES to essentially collect and collate information on Election related Early Warning Signs throughout the Federation and to respond accordingly. Abuja Province was one of the few CSOs that were chosen to collect election-related Early Warning Violence Signs and directly fed it into the data base of ICCES. The information generated from our respective Diocesan Offices was fed into ICCES Data base which was acted upon by relevant security agents. This singular effort contributed in averting violent conflict especially in Nasarawa State (Lafia Diocese) and aided the relative peaceful elections within Abuja Province.

- Health/JDPC Abuja Province was the only Faith Based Organisation that was invited by the Directorate of Defense information to participate on a Town Hall meeting on the State of Security in Nigeria, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2015. The meeting provided Abuja Province with unique opportunity for in-depth engagement with the Military hierarchy especially on the Pastoralist Vs Farmers conflicts as it affects Benue and Nasarawa States of Abuja Province. The platform also availed the Provincial Office of opportunity to submit report of an earlier Research conducted by Abuja Province on Conflict Assessment in Abuja Province to the Chief of operations, Defense Headquarters who pledged to study and act on the recommendations of the research's findings.

## **PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES WITH CARITAS NIGERIA/CSN:**

Abuja Provincial Office had a fruitful partnership with Caritas Nigeria in 2015. First, Caritas Nigeria assisted Abuja Province to develop standard accounting practices and procedures which is of acceptable International standard. Secondly, Caritas Nigeria conducted HOCAI assessment of four Commissions within Abuja Province. The assessment took place from 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and eleven Staffers of the four Commissions were further trained and exposed to Project Management in Development certification which held from 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The participants were also supported to take the PMD Pro certification exam. Thirdly, Caritas Nigeria is presently facilitating the process of developing a

five year Strategic Plan for Abuja Province, the process commenced on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and it is still on-going.

## **PROVINCIAL COORDINATORS' MEETINGS:**

In the year under review we had three (3) Coordinators meetings where varied issues and strategies were developed. For the first time in many years there was a joint meeting of all the Units of Church and Society; JDPC, Health, Education, Family and Human Life. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the collaboration and work of these units as the humanitarian, social and development arm of the Church to reach our brothers and sisters in need.

Notably, two of the meetings of the Province were used as platform to espouse coordinators understanding of the provisions of the National Health Act (An Act to promote a framework for the Regulation, Development and Management of a National Health system and set standards for Rendering Health Services in the Federation and



A cross section of participants at the joint meeting of Church and Society. Photo by Dr. Justin Ekpa.

other matters connected therewith 2014) and its implication to Catholic Health Systems. Secondly, we used the last Coordinators' meeting of 2015 that held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to discuss extensively *Laduo Si Encyclical* and how to expound the understanding of the provisions of the encyclical to the masses in our respective dioceses.



## **SYNOPSIS OF DIOCESAN JDPC ACTIVITIES IN ABUJA PROVINCE JDPC MAKURDI**

- Trained 274 selected community leaders of farmers and pastoralist on Alternative Dispute Resolution; mediation and negotiation skills. Participants at the training were made up of 111 women/female while 163 men/male.
- Convoled stakeholder's peace forum in Guma, Gwer west and Makurdi respectively. The peace program of Makurdi Diocese is supported by Misereor.
- Within the year, a total of 41 Clients, mainly women, benefited from PROMIC (Promoting Micro Enterprise for Poverty Reduction) Scheme. In the year under review, N1, 750,000 were disbursed to the beneficiaries. The Scheme is supported by SWISHAND.
- JDPC is still working with selected farmers on sustainable cassava seed aimed at improving yield in Gwer, Gboko and Ushongo. The project is receiving support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through CRS.

### **JDPC ABUJA**

- Established a learning centre for Internally Displaced Persons at Yirntu Village camp. Presently, 90 Children have been enrolled at the Centre, where JDPC provided Desks, Chairs, School books, black boards and enlisted the services of four volunteers that are providing educational services to the children.
- Established a Cassava and bean farm at Kuchitco village, near Bwari. The farm is one of JDPC sustainability options.
- JDPC Abuja is involve in "Sustainable Mechanism for improve Livelihood and Household Empowerment "(SMILE) project which is funded by USAID through CRS. In the year under review, 350 caregivers received improved Agricultural inputs such as cassava stems, potato vines and orange flesh; 1,331 received

HTC(HIV Testing and Counselling): formed seven (7) clubs for vulnerable children, 49 selected caregivers were trained on Business management and 98 Caregivers were enlisted in SILC (Savings and Internal Lending Scheme).



Meeting of Coordinators in the Province with the ES Director of Church & Society, Fr. Evaristus Bassey. Photo by Dr. Justin Ekpa.

### **JDPC OTUKPO DIOCESE**

- Facilitated and assisted 14 Cassava Seed entrepreneurs to establish one-hectare farm for certified improved cassava seed and six demonstration farms in rural communities in Atekpo, Ingle(Okpokwu LGA), Otobi Otukpo, Otobi Akpa, Ogobia and Upu(Otukpo LGA). The project is being supported by Caritas/CRS.
- Mediated in conflicts between pastoralist and farmers in Agatu and provided Relief materials for the IDPs.
- JDPC Otukpo is also implementing sustainable mechanism for improved livelihood and household Empowerment project which has availed her the opportunity of reaching many orphan and vulnerable children and empowering their caregivers on varied skills and livelihood supports.

### **JDPC LOKOJA DIOCESE**

- Convened a State-wide political Debate on Kogi State's Governorship elections. The Debate attracted representatives of political Parties, front-line candidates, relevant Government Institutions like

INEC, Police, the Media, Community/Religious Leaders and Opinion Leaders.

- JDPC Lokoja also trained and deployed Observers who observed the Kogi State's Governorship election. The electoral strengthening activities of Lokoja were supported by CAFOD.
- About 120 persons, mostly women, accessed varied sum of credit and loan scheme of PROMIC (Promoting Micro Enterprise for Poverty Reduction) in Ogori and Magongo. The scheme is supported by SWISSHAND. It is heartwarming to note that repayment of loans have been reasonably prompt.

### **JDPC GBOKO DIOCESE**

- Gboko Caritas continued the provision of comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and sustainable services to 4000 vulnerable children and 1000 households in Adogo, Buruku, Kur-Baka and Usar communities of Buruku LGAs. The intervention is funded by USAID through CRS under SMILE project.
- In the year under review, Caritas Gboko provided Relief materials to IDPs arising from Pastoralist/farmers violent conflict that is prevalent in the Diocese.
- Eight new Parish-Based JDPCs were inaugurated in 2015.
- Continuation of Prison Apostolate, legal aids to twelve Inmates were provided, varied care and support services were provided for the prison inmates and celebration of Christmas with the Inmates where the Bishop provided clothing, sanitary materials, food and non-food items were shared for the inmates.

### **JDPC LAFIADI DIOCESE**

- Facilitated the training of Community Leaders in Alternative Dispute Resolution; Mediation and Negotiation skills in Agbashi, Ekye and Bassa. The Peace effort

is supported by Misereor.

- Provided Relief Materials of over N7 million to IDPs in various camps in Nasarawa State. This intervention is supported by CCFN and the diocese
- JDPC Lafia is involved in SMILE Project which has availed her the opportunity of providing varied services to about 4,000 vulnerable children and over 1,000 households. This is funded by USAID/CRS.

### **JDPC KATSINA-ALADI DIOCESE**

- Ten Parish-Based JDPCs were strengthened in 2015 using the Parish-Based JDPC Manual that was recently circulated by CCFN.
- Provided varied services to about 4,000 vulnerable children and provision of livelihood support to about 1,000 households under the SMILE Project. The communities targeted are- Uyam, Boikyo, Kendev in Ukum LGAs.
- Conducted head-count of displaced persons from Tombo Mba Agia, Ukum, Saai Mbatyura Shitile-Ya, and Gbishe-Shitile-Ya as a result of Pastoralists invasion. The head count was used as a baseline data for mobilizing and distribution of relief materials to the IDPs in the year under review.



Beneficiaries of the Agricultural and livelihoods intervention of the Province.



## JDPC IDAH DIOCESE

- Continuation of SMILE project with services that targeted 4,000 vulnerable children and 1,000 households in three communities of Igalamala in Odolu LGAs. The vulnerable children and households were identified and duly registered in 2014. The intervention is supported by USAID/CRS.
- Trained and deployed about 100 election observers that observed the Kogi State Governorship election in Kogi East. This was supported by CAFOD.
- Mobilize communities to monitor the implementation of five constituency projects of Federal Government in Dekina LGA.

### Key Achievements

- 2015 General Elections were observed in all Dioceses within Abuja Province without any funding support from Development partners.
- Abuja Province contributed through ICCES (Interagency Consultative Committee on Election Security) in mitigating electoral violence especially in Lafia Diocese (Nasarawa State).
- HOCAI Assessments were conducted on four Commissions by CCFN and consequently Eleven Staff were exposed to PDM pro on line Examinations.

### Challenges

- In the year under review we loss Very Revd. Fr. David Baka through auto-accident while on official duty.
- The greatest challenge of Abuja Provincial office of Health/JDPC is the cessation of Misereor's funding of the organization's operational costs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016
- We are also faced with challenge of adoption of a new Governance structure in response to cessation of Misereor's funding without affecting expected productive.

- Absence of a functional Strategic Plan to guide the intervention focus of the Provincial office

### Lessons Learned/ Best Practices

We maintain quarterly Coordinators meetings of both Health and JDP Commissions to strengthen these structures for effective service delivery. The meetings rotate amongst the eight (8) Arch/Dioceses and it serves as platform for experience sharing and trainings/learning.

### Recommendation

We wish to propose that the National Office (Caritas Nigeria) should make more use of the Provincial Structure in reaching out to the Dioceses and getting feedback from Dioceses to help strengthen this structure.

## BENIN PROVINCE

Benin Province is made up of the following dioceses; Benin, Bomadi, Warri, Issele-Uku, Auchi and Uromi. We thank God for seeing us through 2015 and hereby present our report for the year.

JDPC Benin Province is concerned with promoting Justice, Peace, Dignity of the human being and Development amongst individuals, Church and the community at large. In the course of 2015, the Province' development intervention activities which focuses on the Church's mission as regards promoting integral human development, justice and option for the poor are highlighted below;

## BENIN DIOCESE

- **Capacity Building on Anti Human Trafficking:** the diocese to promote the dignity of the human person and challenge unjust structures that involve in the trading with persons, the diocese carried out sensitization and awareness campaigns using focused group discussions and one-on-one meetings with relevant stakeholders in the communities with high prevalence of trafficking incidences.

### Achievement

15 Males and 14 Females making a total of 29 Persons were trained to become vanguards in helping to spread the word on the ills of trafficking to further prevent this issues especially amongst children and women.



- **Health (HIV/AIDS and Malaria Tests):** the goal of this intervention was to educate and sensitize people on how to stay healthy. So far, total number of persons reached with HIV Testing & Counseling (HTC) was 681 and 751 reached with Malaria screening. The project was supported by Society for Family Health, Edo SACA and State Ministry of Health. The project was supported by Global Fund.
- **Micro Credit Project uplift people from poverty:** the program supported 110 men and women divided into six (6) groups in Ovia South West Local Government, Area Benin.
- **Prison Apostolate/Legal Department:** JDPC Benin provides welfare services to inmates and handles indigent cases such as family/marriage issues, fraud cases, land disputes, assaults for those who cannot afford to pay legal fees. In 2015, the project supported the release of six (6) inmates from prison custody.
- **Empowerment Program:** the program was targeted at vulnerable households with a focus on improving their livelihoods. So far, 13 persons; 11 Females and 2 Males were trained and empowered on bead making, slippers and earring making.
- **Capacity Building on Resource Mobilization:** staff were trained on the various ways the Province could sought for funding from partners/funders and also make available for Dioceses in the Province

## AUCHIDIOCESE

**Good Governance:** the project was focused on training and sensitization of citizens of their basic rights and on how to engage government structures by bringing governance closer to the people to reduce voters apathy. There were Town hall meetings conducted which involved the Local Government Chairman and 10 representatives from all the ward in the Local Government Area.

**Peace Rally:** rallies were conducted across the diocese to promote messages on peace during the



Peace Rallies across the Archdiocese. Photo by: JDPC Uromi.



- **Roll Back Malaria Program:** the diocese implemented the roll-back malaria program which is aimed at eradicating malaria from Nigeria. There were sensitization and awareness creation campaigns in communities to sensitize the people on how they can prevent themselves from having malaria. Rapid Diagnostic Tests were conducted to reach out to the communities and schools and also distribution of Insecticide Treated Mosquito Nets to men, women and children in the communities. Over 7,855 persons were reached on this project with sensitization messages and distribution of ITN.
- **Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and house hold Empowerment (SMILE):** this project aims at supporting improvement of the standard of living among vulnerable households and children through food and nutrition, health, house hold economic, strengthens psychological support, education, cares, protection and shelter. So far, 4,820 vulnerable children and 1,000

households have been supported to improve their livelihoods across three communities; Dangbala, Enwan and Igarra Akoko Edo LGA of Edo State. The project is supported by Catholic Relief Services and funded by the United Agency for International Development (USAID).

In addition, the diocese also was able to support 210 vulnerable persons from their local funds raised with food items.

## UROMI DIOCESE

- **Good Governance:** Community Mobilization and Capacity Strengthening for Good Governance in Edo State Central Senatorial District. 5 LGAs of Edo Central Senatorial District. 25 Communities across 5 LGAs.
- **Sustainable Mechanism for Improving Livelihood and house hold Empowerment (SMILE):** the diocese of Uromi is also implementing the CRS supported SMILE Project which reaches out to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and improves livelihoods of vulnerable households. In 2015, JDP Uromi was able to reach 2,302 households and 7211 children on this project through the provision food and nutrition, health, house hold economic, strengthens psychological support, education, cares, protection and shelter.
- **PROMIC project:** this is a group lending micro-credit scheme that provides individuals with lending facilities as they come together in a group. The project promotes micro enterprise among poor active women in Uromi Diocese, Edo Central Senatorial District. This project is supported by SWISSHAND-Switzerland.



A beneficiary of the Micro-Credit Scheme to improve household economy. Photo by: JDPC Uromi.

- **Campaign against Human Trafficking:** awareness campaigns were conducted across communities in Esan-North Local Government Area to increase knowledge of men, women and young people of the of this issue which has affected a lot of families and dehumanized many.



Anti-human trafficking campaign in Uromi. Photo by: JDPC Uromi.

- **State Action Committee on AIDS Project:** JDPC Uromi partners with the state and other development partners to promote healthy living at the Grass-Root through the Integration of HIV/AIDS Services in hospitals, health centres and traditional birth attendants' homes. So far, 210,000 have been provided with HIV Testing and Counselling (HTC) while 500 PLHIVs are been supported on this program in Esan West, Esan Central and Esan North-East, Edo state

## Challenges

- Lack of fund to reach more persons in need across various program areas like; economic empowerment, citizens' education, sensitization and other programs concerning Human Trafficking.
- Lack of HIV test kits, difficulty in persuading people to join SILK, lack of food supplement for severely malnourished vulnerable children
- Ignorance: most beneficiaries lack information about the HIV virus, causes and effects and this has contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS

## Lessons Learned

- We were able to identify other ways of supporting the poor with the minimal funds we have.



- Citizens' knowledge of their rights keeps political leaders in check and makes more responsible in the discharge of their duties.

## CALABAR PROVINCE

Calabar Province is made up of the following Dioceses; Calabar, Ogoja, Ikot Ekpene, Uyo, and Port-Harcourt. The year 2015, witnessed some interventions in the following areas:

### TAX JUSTICE

Tax Justice and Advocacy Governance programme on making tax just for all citizenry. The programme had the theme of “Making Tax Fair” the programme was supported by Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre and Oxfam Novib and Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A).

The programme focused on enhancing technical skills and Advocacy capacity of tax related stakeholders especially Civil Society Organization (CSO). JDPC Calabar used a training manual developed for Tax Justice Advocacy to relate basic information on the Nigerian Taxation System, existing gaps and advocacy options to be explored for bridging tax justices.

### Achievements

- Civil Society Organizations and other Stakeholders have a significant role in providing impetus for proving integrity and transparency of budget and overseeing government revenue.
- Re-inforced implementation of pro-poor development policies.
- Defined concept of taxation
- Elucidated Nigerian tax system
- Relationship between taxation and

development in Nigeria identified.

- Multiple taxation in Nigeria expatiated.

## USAID, HIFASS/CAACA – OVC Programme

In August 2013 JDP/Caritas, through our sister organization – Calabar Archdiocesan Action Committee on AIDS (CAACA) signed a Teaming Agreement with Health Initiative for Safety and Stability in Africa (HIFASS) for developing a proposal tagged “Local Orphans and Vulnerable Children Partnership Initiative in Nigeria (LOPIN) Region 3

JDP/Caritas and CAACA received information by June 2014 as being successful. LOPIN3 project is implemented in Cross River and Ebonyi State. It is a five year programme with the overall goal of mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and families. The programme uses a tri-focus approach of Community engagement, delivery of Comprehensive care and Support services to OVC and capacity development for Local Organization for better management system of OVC in Cross River State.



Program Manager, Mr. William Itorok during a Community dialogue. Photo by Obal Ofem.

## PROMIC SWISSHAND

PROMIC Project is one focused on poverty reduction through Micro – Credit for rural women

for self-sufficiency, noting that poverty affects women most in the rural communities.

The project kicked off November 2012 with PROMIC I while, PROMIC II project served the first 200 (Hundred) recipients in March 2015.

By mid-2015 till the end of the year, JDP/Caritas Calabar reaching about 500 (Five hundred) rural women with Micro – Credit in Atimbo, Akpap (in Akpabuyo) EfutAbua, Ikot Omin, Ikot Edem Odo, Ikot Ansa&EkpeneTete.

JDP/Caritas Calabar started with PROMIC I and by 2015 we are implementing PROMIC II which presently supports 187 women, empowering them to improve their livelihoods. PROMIC II hopes to reach more beneficiaries in 2016.

### **Lessons Learned**

During the course of the year, we learnt some very important lessons that has helped us in program implementation now and for the future. Some of them are as follows;

- **Stakeholders Involvement:** stakeholders appreciate government policies and will help it succeed if they are made part of the policy development.
- Community poverty indexing will create easy access to identify the active poor in communities.

### **Best Practices**

- Gathering of stakeholder and agreeing on fair taxation; rather that government spewing out policies and using best of judgment for determining tax obligations.
- Credit should be allowed only to active poor persons; and if not active capacity should be built on basic book keeping and minor business management. Formation of cooperative societies for the benefiting women.

### **Recommendations**

- There should be continued sensitization and awareness creation on fair taxation using the Cross River State Local Government Harmonized levies, fees and charges Law No 1, 2015.
- **Create access to market:** while we implement micro-credit and encourage cottage industries, there is a need to also assist in sourcing for market for the produce, produced by beneficiaries.

Partners/Donors who supported JDPC/Caritas Calabar Province are;

OXFAM Novib, (CISLAC) Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre – Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN–A).