

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



DEVATOP CENTER FOR AFRICA
DEVELOPMENT

...bringing positive change

ABOUT DEVATOP

Devatop Center for Africa Development is anti-human trafficking and human rights organization in Nigeria that focuses on combating human trafficking, gender-based violence, child abuse, irregular migration and supporting survivors and vulnerable persons. Our vision is built on ensuring a nation without human trafficking, gender-based violence, child abuse and related human rights violations to the end that the rights of everyone will be promoted and enforced.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES



Combating Human Trafficking



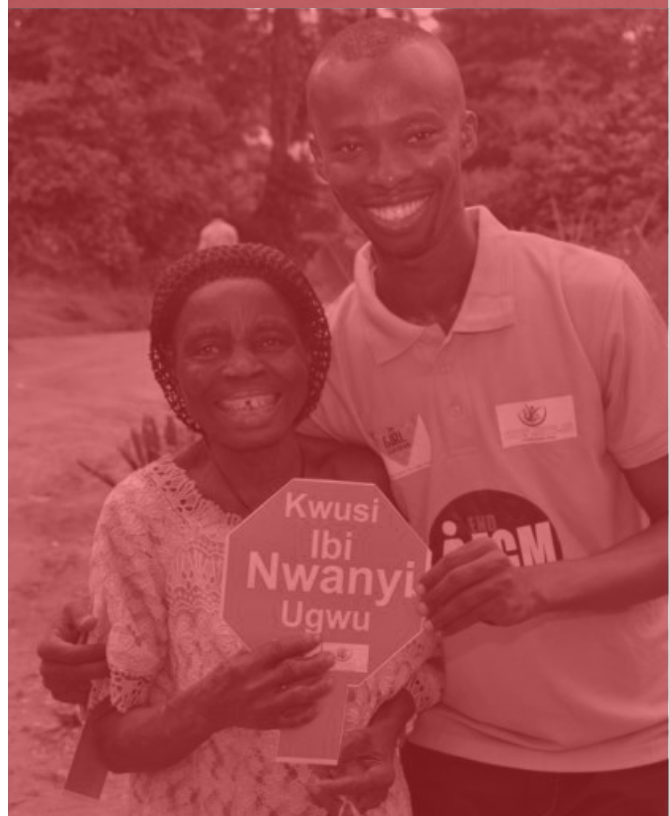
Ending Gender-based violence



Empowerment of vulnerable persons



Eradicating Child labour



OUR PROJECTS

Human right abuses if left unchecked will lead to anarchy and a distorted society. Some of these human right violations are difficult to fight by just a few people or with just one approach. This is because human right abuses like Human trafficking have become a transnational organized crime and an illicit business venture which records huge financial gain. The activities of such human right violation like human trafficking have sadly caused despicable things like diseases, pain, organ theft, slavery of humans, death, and destruction of a nation's human resources. Many individuals, organizations and governments have been trying to stop such situation by making and enforcing laws that strive to make the society fair and the right of each individual protected. Devatop Center for Africa Development is one of such organizations. We have strategically implemented projects that are targeted at fighting human trafficking, gender-based violence and child abuse. In the year 2017/2018, **Devatop Center for Africa Development implemented Six (7) projects namely:**

Humans Not4Trade Campaign

Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Project with U.S Embassy

World Day Against Trafficking Campaign with U.S Embassy

Voices4Victims Project (Enhancing the Capacity of Lawyers to Address Human Trafficking)

Anti-Human Trafficking Internship Project

Victims Support Services (VSS)

Volunteers Against Human Trafficking

PROJECTS OBJECTIVES

These projects are focused on building a strong and sustainable network that is efficient in recognizing human trafficking and related human rights abuses, reporting such abuses, rescuing the victims of such abuses, supporting, and reintegrating the victims into the society and strengthening the legal system. This is aimed at having more prosecution of perpetrators which in effect will decrease the rate of human rights abuses.



HumansNot4Trade Campaign

HumansNot4Trade is part of Devatop Centre for Africa Development's End Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking Advocacy Project which focuses on educating people about dangers of irregular migration and trafficking in persons. We used social change communication method to change the mindset of Nigerians towards embarking on illegal travelling outside Nigeria, and as well as make them realize how valuable and priceless they are. The initiative aims at promoting the dignity of humans and making young people to overcome the traps and tricks of traffickers, who often come to them with promises of non-existing better life, job, and scholarship.

On the 8th of March 2018, we partnered with Accion Contra La Trata (ACT) and Ayuntamiento de Sanguesa/Zangoza organized an enlightenment program on human trafficking and irregular migration at the IDP Camp Durumi, Abuja -Nigeria, captioned, HumansNot4Trade. The project, which was managed by Devatop's volunteer, Lady Egodi Anyaehie was targeted at educating women, children, and youth at IDP Camp about human trafficking, how to spot it, and recognize traffickers. During the sensitization, over 140 people were supported with food items and toiletries.

In same regard, on 9th of March 2018, we organized an interactive discussion on HumansNot4Trade focusing on "Taking Action to End Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration" at Government Secondary School Kuje Area Council. The speakers inspired over 200 students to abhor any form of illegal travel out of Nigeria.

Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Project with U.S Embassy

The trainees of Devatop Center for Africa Development, with support from U.S Embassy Nigeria, took the challenge to sensitize other people on the implications and the operations of human trafficking in our society, the negative effects caused by human trafficking in the society and how to stand up against human trafficking. These about 40 youth were trained and empowered to carryout community project against human trafficking. They carried out six projects and educated 1648 students and religious members at Abaji Council Area. They reached out to four(4) Secondary schools, one (1) church and one(1) ICT Center in the Area Council as captured below:

- Junior Secondary School, Sabon Gari-Abaji, 415 students & the teachers.
- Junior Secondary School, Agyana-Abaji, 352 students & the teachers.
- Government Science Secondary School, Agyana-Abaji, 423 students & the teachers.
- Thaqfatul Islamiyah Secondary School, Sabon Gari-Abaji, 185 students & the teachers. National Information Technology Development Agency-NITDA, Abaji, 56 students & the instructors.
- ECWA one Abaji – 217 members



World Day Against Trafficking Campaign with U.S Embassy

The U.S. Embassy Abuja, in collaboration with Devatop Centre for Africa Development, held a program on July 31 to commemorate World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The program whose theme was Combating Human Trafficking: A National Priority, highlighted the scale and severity of human trafficking and efforts to fight the problem.

With Africa accounting for the second largest number of victims of forced labor after the Asia Pacific region, discussions were held around the nature of human trafficking and “how to work together to end human trafficking, if not in this generation, at least in the next”. Part of the key focuses of the discussion points to the fact that human trafficking does not always involve travel to the destination of exploitation. It can take place in a person's country of birth, e.g. by persons coerced in bonded labor whether by the state or private persons.

Active participants at the program include commissioner of police, U.S. Embassy Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, the Executive Director of Devatop Center for Africa Development, members of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF).

These key principals in the fight against human trafficking held a panel discussion on how to better combat human trafficking and urged participants at the event to “get involved and take action against human rights violation.



Voices4Victims Project (Enhancing the Capacity of Lawyers to Address Human Trafficking)

Delay in the administration of justice, delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting awards to victims, untrained legal practitioners, lack of pro bono services for victims of human trafficking, including poor representation of victims in the justice system and lack of understanding of victim's right among judges are among the obstacles impeding the realization of justice for victims of human trafficking.

To commemorate 2018 National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, Devatop Centre for Africa Development, through her Volunteer, Pharm. Joan Ndubuisi hosted a one-day symposium for 2000 Nigerian Law Students at Nigerian Law School Bwari on 31st Jan, 2018, with the theme: "Fostering Action Against Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration- The Role of Lawyers".

The discussion stimulated the interest of 2000 Law students on the need to participate actively in combating human trafficking and irregular migration. The discussants called on the lawyers to start providing pro bono legal services to victims and become strong voices for victims of human trafficking.

To further address and bridge the gap, created by the lack of access to justice and legal representation of victims which fosters human trafficking, Devatop Centre for Africa Development through her project: End Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration Advocacy, under the activity tagged "Voices4Victims" partnered with National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and Federation of International Women's Lawyers (FIDA) to train 120 lawyers as anti-human trafficking advocates. The training held on Saturday, 24th March, 2018 at Nigerian Law School, Bwari, FCT and was targetted at raising lawyers as anti-human trafficking advocates who will become strong Voices4Victims of human trafficking.



Anti-Human Trafficking Internship Project

The fight against human trafficking is one that requires all hands to be on deck. It is a collective fight that cannot be entrusted to only a few individuals and organizations. That is why at Devatop Center for African Development, we encourage individuals to serve in their various capacities. To make this feasible, we have opened the door for interns to come and be trained on being anti-human trafficking advocates and join strength in the fight against human trafficking.

We believe that young people have a role to play in combating human trafficking, and hence has a volunteer platform for youth to be part of activities targeted at creating awareness and discouraging irregular migration. One of such persons that benefitted from our volunteer program in the year 2017/2018 is Kristi Koci.

Kristi Koci, a student of University of Pisa, Italy was dissatisfied with rate of human trafficking in Italy, and has noticed that Nigerians have been major victims; this prompted her to contact Devatop Centre for Africa Development (a leading youth-based anti-human trafficking organization in Nigeria) to do a three months internship, and contribute her quota in combating human trafficking.

She heard a lot of bad news about Nigeria, which would have discouraged her, but she made up her mind to come to the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria to join other Devatop volunteers in tackling human trafficking and irregular migration. According to Kristi Koci, her stay in Nigeria made her change her perception and believe that Nigerians are good people. She is now changing the narratives about what people talk about Nigeria in Diaspora, letting them know that contrary to their thoughts, there are lots of good things in Nigeria.



Victims Support Services (VSS)

After rescuing three victims, we initiated VSS to ensure that victims are empowered and re-integrated into the society. Through VSS, we make contributions to provide financial and educational support to victims of human trafficking. This includes, opening a restaurant business for Ogechi, a victim that we jointly assisted to escape her captors. Her story was very pathetic. After she was trafficked from Anambra State to Republic of Mali, she was sold three times before she finally escaped. Also, her trafficker was finally trapped and captured in a joint action with Nigerian Police. She (the trafficker) is currently in prison, and her case has been heard in court thrice. We have empowered her(survivor) with small grant to start a restaurant business.

270
VOLUNTEERS
AGAINST HUMAN
TRAFFICKING IN
7
COUNTRIES



Volunteers Against Human Trafficking

We have trained and empowered our volunteers to carry out projects to educate community members or reach out to schools. More than 40,000 people have been impacted by our volunteer-based projects. As of June, 2018, we have over 270 volunteers across Nigeria, and in Italy, France, Spain, USA, Germany, and South Africa, and some of them have executed anti-human trafficking projects in various states.

OUR IMPACT

Through the HumansNot4Trade Campaign Devatop Center for Africa sensitized over 140 people were supported with food items and toiletries. we Inspired over 200 students to abhor any form of illegal travel out of Nigeria. At the end of the project, more than 10, 400 young people, educators, and children in Abuja, Lagos, and Nasarawa have been sensitized, and 200 internally displaced children and girls have been impacted.

Via the **Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy Project** with U.S Embassy project, the consciousness of many people in Abaji Area Council were awakened to the negative consequences of human trafficking. six projects were carried out and 1648 students and religious members at Abaji Council Area were educated.

The World Day Against Trafficking Campaign with U.S Embassy featured key principals in the fight against human trafficking who held a panel discussion on how to better combat human trafficking and urged participants at the event to “get involved and take action against human rights violation.

The Voices4Victims Project (Enhancing the Capacity of Lawyers to Address Human Trafficking) project brings to the fore the urgent need for legal pro bono services for victims of human trafficking and called on lawyers to be the voices for victims and actively fight human trafficking in Nigeria. The project stimulated the interest of 2000 and trained 120 legal practitioners/students on seeking justice for victims of human trafficking.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Internship Project gives youths the opportunity to be actively involved in the fight against human rights abuses. Our volunteer platform gives room for youth to be part of activities targeted at creating awareness and discouraging irregular migration. In the year 2017/2018 we received and trained Kristi Koci, a student of [University of Pisa, Italy](#).

The Victims Support Services (VSS) was initiated to ensure that victims are empowered and re-integrated into the society. We rehabilitated and empowered supported 3 victims of abuses.

Our volunteers who are spread all over Nigeria and beyond has made possible a network that guarantees better reportage and actions towards stopping human trafficking and related human rights abuses.

OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

The fight against human trafficking is capital intensive and sometimes requires the collaboration of not just individuals but organizations and countries. In the year 2017/2018, we received funding from Accion contra La Trata (ACT) and Ayuntamiento de Sanguesa/Zangoza

To combat transnationally organized crimes like human trafficking, it is imperative that different individuals, countries and organizations join hands together to reach a common goal. We believe in the slogan that “we are at our strongest when we collaborate, and we weaken our cause when we compete”. Hence, Devatop Center for Africa Development partnered with other organizations that worked together and helped her in executing her projects.

Worthy of commendation are The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL)





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