

GPI Edo State 2013 Annual Report  
Empowering Girls for Social Action

# Girls Power Initiative (GPI)

## Edo State

# Annual Report

*“Towards an empowered womanhood”*

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2013



## INTRODUCTION

The year 2013 is one which GPI as an organization would term fulfilling as success was recorded in many facets of her work on youth development chief among which are the following:

- Raised public awareness and sensitivity on discriminations suffered by women and girls.
- Empowered and graduated 12 girls from her three year program who have become advocates for change.
- Mobilised Policy makers for legislation and action on issues of women and children.
- Maintained her 30 minutes weekly slot on Edo Broadcasting Service Television Station for the 13<sup>th</sup> yer running.
- GPI has successfully advocated along with other civil society groups for law reforms and new legislations on issues such as Child Marriage, Human Trfficking, and Teaching of Sexuality Education.
- GPI annual community intervention in selected rural communities where she intervened on issues affecting women and girls in the community has made tremendous impact on the affected communities especially around issues of Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage, HIV and AIDS Stigma and discrimination.
- Referral of Girls at risk to NAPTIP and other NGOs
- Collaborative activities with other NGOs and active membership at different levels of coalitions against human trafficking
- Higher rural awareness on differences between trafficking and migration and increased ability of in-school children to say NO to human trafficking and other vices
- Return, rehabilitation and reintegration of vulnerable unaccompanied children on the move back to their families in several States of Southern part of Nigeria

## GOVERNANCE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair:

- Prof Ogoh Alubo

Members

- Prof Ekanem Braide
- Prof Ayo Atsenuwa
- Dr Gloria Achibong
- Barr Dorothy Ihaza
- Prof Bene Madunagu - Co-ordinator Cross River and Chair GPI Executive Board

Secretary

- Grace Osakue - Co-ordinator Edo

Other Co-ordinators

- Ehita Aikpitanyi – Delta State
- Florence Obaika – Akwa-Ibom

### REGISTERED OFFICE

**National:** Anyamura Estate, Atimboh Road, P.O. Box 3663 Unical Post office Calabar

**Edo:** 67 New Road, Ugbiyoko, P.O. Box 7400, Benin City. Tel: 234-807-3042499.

email [gpibenin@gpinigeria.org](mailto:gpibenin@gpinigeria.org)

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

Auditors:

- Paul Awokulehin & Co



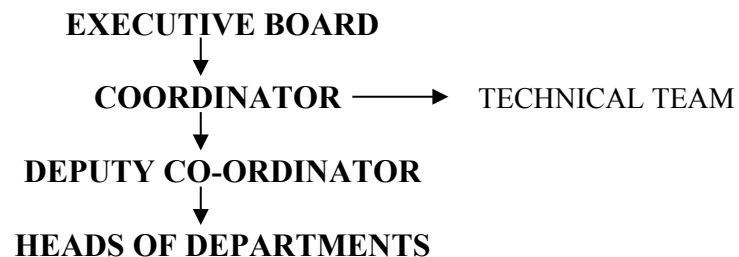
Co-Founder, Co-ordinator Cross River and Chair GPI Executive Board



Co-Founder, and Co-ordinator GPI Edo State

**PERSONNEL**

<p><b>Program Staff: Full Time</b></p> <p>Blessing Ehiagwina – Facilitator / Head Services Dept</p> <p>May Ekido – Head Knowledge Management &amp; Public Education</p> <p>Pearl Osamudiamé – HRO / Head Youth Development Dept</p> <p><b>Program Staff: Part Time</b></p> <p>Grace Osakue - Co-ordinator</p> <p>Elizabeth Okoojion – Head Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</p> <p>Ayo Amen Ediae - Facilitator / Head Outreach Unit</p> <p>Ruth Ikhidé - Youth Director GPI on Air</p>	<p><b>Administrative Staff: Full Time</b></p> <p>Phil Inusa - Office Manager / Head Admin</p> <p>Toyin Bakare – Head Finance Department</p> <p>Patience Igbinedion - Library Officer</p> <p>Uwaila Oviasuyi – Accounts Assistant</p> <p>Sunday Itua - Security Officer</p> <p>Pearl Dorcas Okoyo – Front Desk Officer</p> <p>Patricia Edafe – Cleaning Officer</p> <p><b>Admin Staff (Part time)</b></p> <p>Ese Amadasun -Communication Officer</p>	<p><b>Volunteers / Technical Team</b></p> <p>Ramat Asemota - Outreach</p> <p>Angela Edekin - Outreach</p> <p>Laura Uwangwe - Outreach</p> <p>Vera Iyamu - Outreach</p> <p><b>Interns:</b></p> <p><b>GPI Abudu Rural Office</b></p> <p>Mrs Edokpayi - Admin</p>
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↓ <b>FINANCE</b> Toyin	↓ <b>SERVICES</b> Blessing	↓ <b>ADMINISTRATION</b> Phil	↓ <b>YOUTH DEVELOPMENT</b> Maria	↓ <b>KNOWLEDGE MGT &amp; PUBLIC EDUCATION</b> May	↓ <b>MONITORING &amp; EVALUATION</b> Elizabeth
↓ <b>UNIT HEADS</b>	↓ <b>UNIT HEADS</b>	↓ <b>UNIT HEADS</b>	↓ <b>UNIT HEADS</b>	↓ <b>UNIT HEADS</b>	↓ <b>UNIT HEADS Ayo</b>
→ ACCOUNTS	→ COUNSELLING, REFERRALS & HOME VISITS → SOCIAL / COMMUNITY WORK	→ PERSONNEL OFFICE MGT & SUPPLIES → COMMUNICATION → INTERNSHIPS → SECURITY	→ CENTRE GROUPS → OUTREACHES → SKILLS TRAINING → NETWORKING	→ GPI ON AIR → RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION & DISSEMINATION → PUBLICATION → TRAINING → ADVOCACY → LIBRARY → SOCIAL MEDIA	→ MONITORING & EVALUATION → ALUMNAE AFFAIRS
<b>GPI GIRLS GROUPS / CLUBS AND THEIR LEADERS</b>					

## GPI BENIN ACTIVITIES FOR 2013

	ACTIVITY	DATE	FUNDER	STAFF IN CHARGE
1.	Weekly sexuality Education Lessons	PET: Fridays Sat: GPI Groups	FORD	Pearl
2.	Newsletter Editorial Comm Meetings	Every other Friday	FORD	May, Ese
3.	Programme Co-ordinating Committee (Advisory)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	FORD	Ayo
4.	Office Management Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday quarterly	FORD	Grace
5.	Holiday intensive Sexuality training (Assessment and training)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term Holiday	EMPOWER	Toyin
	Schools Outreach and Interactive Sessions	Weekly	FORD	Ayo
6.	In-house Staff Training	1 <sup>st</sup> Mondays	GPI	May, Pearl
7.	Community intervention	July – Dec	FORD	GAA/ Ayo, Pearl
8.	Sensitization talk / International Women's Day (TV)	To be aired March 9, 2013	OXFAM/FORD (A RIDE WITH GPI)	Pearl, Toyin, Ayo
9.	Parents, Daughters Forum / International Day of Action for Women's Health	May 28, 2013	GPI	Toyin, Uwaila
10.	Excursion	May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	GPI	Dorcas, Blessing
11.	Boys and Girls Forum / Day of Action on African child (TV)	To be aired June 15, 2013	OXFAM/FORD (A RIDE WITH GPI)	Ruth, Ayo
12.	Parents/Guardians/Teachers Forum on Day of action on African women	July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2013	GPI	Elizabeth, Toyin,
13.	Social Work by Girls	July 2013	FORD	Patience, Blessing, Dorcas
14.	Graduation	August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	FORD	Phil, Uwaila, Patricia
15.	Debate Among Groups	Nov. 2013	FORD	Elizabeth, Toyin, Amenze
16.	Youth Talent Festival/Awards	Nov 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2011	EMPOWER/FORD	Phil, , Amenze, Uwa
17.	Scholarships	Nov 2013	GPI	Elizabeth, Maria
18.	Quiz b/w Schools/World AIDS Day	To be aired Dec 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2013	FORD	Toyin, May
19.	Skills Training	On-going	FJS/FORD	Ruth, Patricia, Patience
20.	Implementation of CSE Edo State	On-going	FORD	May, Phil, Uwaila
21.	Anti-trafficking events in LGAs	On-going	FJS	Patience, Elizabeth, May
22.	Rescue, Return, Rehabilitation and reintegration of Children and TIPs	On-going	ISS/WAN	Blessing, May, Maria
23.	GAA meetings	On-going	GPI	Pearl/GAA
24.	Edutainment PCWAP	On-going	OXFAMNOVIB	Blessing, Ayo, Ruth
25.	Publication of Pamphlets, CDs, Posters	On-going	FJS/FORD	May, Pearl, Ese
26.	External Training of Staff	On-going	GPI	Pearl, Phil
27.	Counselling, Referrals, Home visits	On-Going	GPI	Blessing, Toyin
28.	Monitoring & Evaluation	On-going	FORD	Ayo, Ese
29.	Networking	On-going	GPI	Dorcas
30.	Internship	On-going	GPI	Phil, Pearl
31.	Advocacy on Gender issues and Girls' Leadership	On-going	FORD	Ayo, Pearl, May
32.	Female Condoms	On-going	SFH/OXFAMNOVIB	May, Patience, Amenze,
33.	Library	On-going	GPI	Patience
34.	Website	On-going	FORD	Ese, Pearl
35.	Office Holidays	March 29-April 1, May 1, 29, Oct 1, Dec. 16 – Jan 10, 2014	GPI	Phil

## PROGRAMME REPORT

### SCHOOLS' OUTREACH PROGRAM

During the period under review, eighteen schools were visited through outreach activities which recommenced in seventeen of such schools.

- Asoro Grammar School Senior
- New Era College
- Evbareke Senior Secondary School
- Evbareke Junior Secondary School
- Uselu Secondary School
- Russel Secondary School
- Discovery Secondary School
- Iyoba Girls College
- Eweka Secondary School
- Itohan Girls Grammar School
- Ihogbe College
- Excel Group of Schools
- Chinnel Universal Academy
- Oghede Secondary School
- Urora Secondary School
- Garrick Memorial Secondary School
- St Maria Goretti Secondary School
- Oredo Secondary School



The topics facilitated during the first quarter are:

- All about GPI
- Body Image
- Self Esteem and Self Assurance
- Assertiveness
- Gender and Leadership Roles
- Communication
- Decision making
- Values Clarification
- Vision and goal setting
- Rights and responsibilities
- Pubertal changes and Menstruation
- Peer pressure.



### Impact

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this educative programme, even when I could not come to GPI office you brought it to our school”. *Favour Tochukwu from New (Era College)*

“The information I got from GPI outreach has been helpful in my relationship with people around me. I can conveniently make decisions especially on sexual activities”. *Sophia Okonkwom (New Era College)*

## A RIDE WITH GPI

A Ride with GPI is a weekly television program that educates the general public on GPI objectives, activities and enables girls who are not enrolled in GPI to benefit from GPI sexuality and human rights lessons. In 2013, beyond the use of the program to promote our campaigns on trafficking, girls empowerment and end to gender based violence, a total of 26 topics and two feedback segments were recorded and aired in the tv program which has a viewership of over 600,000 persons. This achievement was attributed to the effort of the team on “A Ride with GPI”. Below are the topics and their discussants

### TOPICS

- Self - Actualization
- An overview of Cancer
- Woman Achiever
- Genotype and Love
- Breast self - examination and Cancer
- Child Marriage
- Dating and Intimacy
- Pubertal Changes
- Career and Parenting
- Reproductive Tract Infections
- Abortion
- Drug Abuse
- Time Management
- Pregnancy and Child birth
- Friendship
- Romantic Relationship
- Challenges of a working class woman
- Incest
- Love, Lust and Infatuation
- FGM
- Parenting
- Culture and Society
- Impact of GPI programs on girls
- Feminism
- Body Image
- Negative things women do

### DISCUSSANTS

Ajayi Uwema and Obievbebi Tosin  
Dr Osamwonyi Irowa  
Isimeme Whyte  
Dr Maureen Obarisiagbon  
Onose Juliet Okhuakhua  
Ayo Amen- Ediae  
Vera Iyamu  
Vera Iyamu  
Roli Oviawe  
Imade Cynthia  
Dr Bright Oniovokukor  
Dr Bright Oniovokukor  
Uwa Ogbolodi  
Pearl Dorcas Okoye  
Pastor Harrison Ehimehen  
Pastor Harrison Ehimehen  
Uche Abolo  
May Ekido  
May Ekido  
Pearl Osamudiamé  
Pearl Osamudiamé  
Grace Osakue  
Best Osayawe and Abigail Ighodaro  
Priscilla Usiobaifo  
Best Osayawe  
Phil Inusa

### Impact:

“Your response to a question on trafficking during a feedback segment saved my sister from being trafficked”.  
Cynthia (a GPI girl)

“I benefitted from GPI television program greatly. In fact, my appearance on that program gave me the recommendation for my present appointment” NAPTIP Benin Zonal Commander

“I am a regular viewer of your television program and I gained a lot from it. I must say that GPI and her activities are not new to me.” Edo State Commissioner for Higher Education; Barr Washington Osifo

“I watch your television programs regularly” Maria Amieghemen



## SERVICES

### COUNSELLING, REFERRALS AND HOME VISITS

Counselling and referrals are on-going activities in GPI for GPI girls and their friends which aids them in making the right decisions concerning the challenges associated with growing up and others. Five of the cases out of which three referrals were made for further services and followed through were:

1. A GPI graduate with lumps in the breasts who was referred to UBTH
2. A woman denied of her visiting right to her children who was referred to Ministry of Women Affairs
3. A rape victim who after counselling, was assisted in obtaining justice against the culprit
4. A case of three girls being sexually abused simultaneously by one man.
5. A case of a lady seeking information on the right choice of family planning method who was referred to Central hospital.

### GPI WORK WITH WAN/ISS

GPI as a coordinating office for the West Africa Network for the Protection of Children (WAN) Nigeria South did the following during the period under review:

- Received a total of 28 children of which 23 were females and 5 were males. Two out of the 28 children were identified by GPI. All the children were provided with access to emergency care, counselling, self-esteem building and returned to their families after development of business plans except one taken to Ministry of Women Affairs, Uyo based on certain factors and a personal request by the child.
- 21 children already reunited with their families were handed over to GPI by Save The Child Initiative (STCI) in February, 2013 for follow up
- 28 children rescued from Mali and empowered by NAPTIP are being monitored by GPI. GPI was able to visit them, established their contacts and continues following up on their progress.
- So far, GPI carried out family tracing for 31 children, prepared their parents on the need to receive their children back home and were counselled for them not to be trafficked again. 27 of the children were reunited with their parents, one was taken to Ministry of Women Affairs, Uyo, two ran away from the shelter in Ghana and Niger where they were kept after tracing their families and one (a mother of three children) is yet to be received from Sierra Leone. Findings from the family tracing revealed that majority of the children are from broken homes, orphans or semi-orphans and are either primary or secondary school drop-outs, parents and siblings looked haggard and unkempt and some children give wrong names etc.
- On Mapping, GPI has been able to identify similarly focussed NGOs to network with, in the 17 States of Southern Nigeria. A Memorandum of Understanding was designed for the collaboration and sent to the NGOs to sign if okay by them. Some empowered children have been assigned to some NGOs for monitoring.
- Establishment of individual business: With the involvement of the children and guardians, 42 business plans were identified and developed for the children. 13 of the returned children are back to school. 10 children have started their own businesses after completing apprenticeship. Some of the children changed their initial business plans due to the available resources. A parent's business has been supported so that she continues to pay her three returned children's fees.

## ACTIVITIES

### GRADUATION

The 17th graduation ceremony of Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) Benin was held on the 31st of August 2013 in the organization's multipurpose hall at 67, New Road off Amadasun Street, Ugbiyoko, Benin city. The event was attended by 96 registered participants comprising of 20 males and 76 females.

Phil Inusa the officer in charge of the ceremony in her address, reiterated that the 12 graduating girls have gone through and successfully completed the three years Sexuality Education Curriculum and have met other graduation criteria set by the organization and used the opportunity to thank parents and guests present for celebrating with the graduands.

The chairperson of the ceremony, Pearl Osamudiamé in her remark, enlightened the participants on the Mission, Vision and goals of GPI and encouraged the graduands to "keep the flag flying". The Coordinator of the Benin centre also congratulated the graduating girls for the period they spent with the organization and encouraged them to make the best use of their time, ensuring that they work hard to keep their dreams alive, and always be agents of positive change as GPI's dream is to see them great and successful.

The valedictory speech titled "GPI has made us what we are" was read by Angela Edekin, on behalf of the 2013 graduating girls, and this was followed by recitation of poems by the graduating girls and outreach girls from New Era College. The Emotan centre girls also presented a drama titled "Consequences of infidelity in relationships".

The guest speaker Ehita Aikpitanyi, (Coordinator of GPI Asaba centre) spoke on the topic "impunity the anchor of corruption". She defined impunity as the brazen and willful violation of rules, principles, laws and ethical regulations without giving a thought to its consequences. She added that impunity is very high in our society because people feel they cannot be punished for doing what they do, and added that impunity creates room for corruption, stating that it exists in all tiers of government especially in budgeting and allocation. She added that the effects on impunity include a high level of insecurity in the country, reduced life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality and that it is a threat to 2015 general elections. She concluded that nobody is exempted from the guilt and effects of impunity.

Priscilla Usiobaifo, the founder and coordinator of Brave Heart Initiative in Igarra, Edo State also presented a paper titled "Impunity and feminism in Nigeria." In her discourse, she agreed with the guest speaker that impunity has done a lot of damage in Nigeria and that it is an issue that is widely discussed because of its importance. In addition, she spoke about the African feminist and her experience of impunity as a feminist.

Certificates were presented to all the 12 graduating girls while the following outstanding girls in addition, received gifts:

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- Stella kadiri most volunteering girl
- Christian Gift Eno most punctual girl
- Success Osiogwe the best chair
- Angela Edekin most innovative
- Angela Edekin most featured on A Ride With GPI

## Impact:

*“The program was fine and highly educative. It will build the strength of women and give them confidence to know their rights and stand in our nation. Continue the outreach activities in schools and churches.” Blessing Arioguenye 08062614429*

*“I was really impressed by the lecture” Imarenakhue Aisosa 08104228681*

*“The program was great, I applaud GPI for raising such inspiring girls” Aikpitanyi Zoe student GPI Delta State.*

*“It was successful, the graduates uniform was nice compared to when we graduated, the lecture was on point.” Pauline Ayobahan Okpara 07035059530*

*“I really enjoyed the program. I like the fact that GPI is helping us build up our daughters into disciplined girls, straightening their ways, giving them hope for tomorrow to be good children within the family especially when they are married.” Mrs Bola Olaniyi 08074322132*

*“It was fantastic, it was well organized the graduates have been empowered and they are looking radiant” Mercy Ebohon 08135004083*

*‘I like the fact that this is taking place today it is something worth celebrating, going by the needs in the society these graduates will be pacesetters in their environment’. Ufuoma Akpobi Indomitable Youth Organisation 08026233860*

*‘I am very much in love with GPI, I really love this organization and I will tell my sister to come and join so that one day I will attend her graduation. But the distance is much and the road is bad. In all, the program was a success’. Emmanuel Essien (Ghanaian) 08172583152*

## DEBATE COMPETITION

The 2013 edition of GPI annual debate competition commenced on 13th November 2013 with balloting for topics by school representatives. The objective of the 2013 debate was: To scale up social empowerment of girls and young women to overcome patriarchal and gender norms that place them at higher risk of adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

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Five secondary schools were represented in balloting. The first stage which is the preliminary stage of the debate was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November while the semi-final stage followed shortly on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2013. The final stage of the completion will come up during the Youth Talent Festival which is scheduled for January 2014.

The schools that participated in the debate were

1. Integrity National High School
2. Franej International High School
3. St. Maria Goretti Girls Secondary School
4. Chinnel Universal Academy
5. Imaguero College

The topics discussed were:

1. Kidnapping is an aftermath of bad leadership not the improper upbringing of a child
2. A man is the head of the home and should provide all the needs of the family
3. Curbing impunity is a general responsibility not that of our elected leaders
4. Maternal mortality is the fault of the woman not the society.

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Preliminary	7	40	47
Semi Final	9	33	42

## PROJECTS

### FOUNDATION FOR A JUST SOCIETY (FJS)

*The overall goal of this project was to raise awareness on human trafficking, child rights and enhance life opportunities of girls and young women who are vulnerable to trafficking or re-trafficking in four rural local government areas (LGAs) of Edo and Delta States.*

In pursuant of the above goal, contacts were made with the education authorities for permission to execute the project among students in Owan West, Etsako West and Uhumwode Local Government Areas (LGA) of Edo State and Aniocha North LGA of Delta State. Co-ordination committees consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Education, school heads, community leaders, students and GPI were set up in each of the LGAs which held meetings before and after activities to plan, execute and assess progress. Film screenings to increase knowledge on issues of migration and trafficking were held in three locations in each of the LGAs which were attended by the number of schools and students shown in the table below:

*Table of Participants at Film Screening*

STATE	LGA	VENUE	NUMBER OF SCHLS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	LGA TOTAL
EDO	Owan West	Sabongida-Ora	6	87	83	170	515
		Uhomora - Ora	4	102	66	168	
		Uzebba	6	96	81	177	
	Etsako West	South-Ibie	4	84	94	178	541
		Iyamho	3	98	99	197	
		Auchi	4	82	84	166	
	Uhumwode	Ehor	2	72	93	165	447
		Ugoneki	3	99	78	177	
		Oghada	3	63	42	105	
DELTA	Aniocha North	Isele-Uku	3	90	72	162	453
		Idumujunor	1	41	92	133	
		Onicha-Olona	3	72	86	158	
G. TOTAL		12 Locations	42	986	970	1956	1956

Phone in and walk in counselling services were provided to students from the selected local government areas during the period on issues of adolescence, health and trafficking. Referrals were also made. The film screening confirmed that awareness programs to effect behavioural change are more impactful when there are visuals telling the stories of victims of the phenomenon. This was the case in all LGAs as although some students had heard of trafficking, not many were aware of the constraints the victims faced during travel and at work when on transit or even in destination countries. In Ugoneki, a participant had this to say after viewing ‘Greener Pastures’ and ‘Sisters of no mercy’. “I have learnt a lot and have seen that girls go through a lot when they are trafficked” (Augustine Roberts, 14yr old JS3 student). The most at risk girls that were identified and assisted to remain in school or learn trades was also a remarkable achievement as we found that there were large numbers who were really vulnerable to being trafficked as a result of abject poverty. We also confirmed that knowledge levels on the issues of migration and trafficking are relatively

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low in the program communities. This was shown in evaluations done through pre-and post-tests of project participants.

Our challenge is external and linked to the government's inability to reduce poverty. The Enogie of Ehor puts it this way "It is not enough to tell children to refuse traffickers; the government needs to improve on development and job opportunities"

## **STRATEGY:**

GPI's capacity for project implementation was put in mind during project design. Each LGA was assigned a project officer who took charge of program activities at the LGA. An implementation team of all 3 project officers, the Accountant, M&E officer and the Co-ordinator met monthly while the organization's Program Executing Team (PET) was briefed weekly of the FJS activities. Staff also acted as resource persons making presentations during the screenings.

The consultations at the beginning of project implementation and the setting up of Committees in all four LGAs led to the input of new ideas, mobilization by team members on their own, greater willingness of schools to play roles without remuneration and enthusiasm of their students to play peer education roles in their schools and communities. Copies of the film had to be produced and distributed to the schools and communities in response to their demand.

The FJS supported program has three objectives all of which are related and complement each other to bring about the achievement of the goals of the project. They are equally important and address different aspects of the goal we are aspiring to. However, the first two are what we are tracking throughout the project and which GPI is also programming in other ways to achieve through other projects as no efforts to reduce trafficking and re-trafficking will succeed without awareness raising and support to vulnerable girls and children.

Tracking of the former was by means of pre and post test instruments, monitoring of the peer education efforts of participants and the feedback from the teachers and leaders who participated in the film screening. Monitoring of the latter is through documentation of calls received, the reports of the teachers on the interventions they carry out on behalf of the students, the needs of the students and demand for GPI services. Our work brought to our notice the increasing vulnerability to trafficking in rural areas as a result of parental neglect of children who they make to rent apartments in nearby towns where they school thus making barely grown up children to become wards of their younger ones who share such apartments with them.

## **SUCSESSES:**

So far, the organisation can say a lot of progress has been made as regards this project.

These voices from program participants speak to the impact of our activities

- In a speech on behalf of the Honourable Commissioner for Education the CIE in Uhumwonde LGA, Mr A.E Agho commended GPI and FJS for the enlightenment programme which he described as having "a life-long effect". He also said that "this Local Government is lucky to be part of this noble project"
- Uzoagbu Blessing, 14yr JSS2 (Uhumwonde), "Greed is what push[es] many people into Trafficking. I would rather suffer at home".
- "People should think wisely before taking decision to travel". Usiobaifo Precious 12yr old JS 1 student Oghada
- "Parents should have the number of children they can take care of" Iro Osariemen 14yrs old JS 2 male Oghada.

Invitations by teachers and community leaders to intervene in situations of distressed students also indicate progress as several of them are already being investigated for consideration for support due to their vulnerable conditions

- *Constraints*

There is so much work going on that many things can fall through the cracks without being properly documented. We have found external assessments to be very good ways of documenting our impact but this happens only when funds are raised for that purpose.

Supporting the activities of the graduates of GPI who have been constituted into an Alumna association is one means of tracking impact but the fact that they move out of Benin to school and work makes it difficult to record good attendance at their periodic meetings where updates are done on where the girls are, their accomplishments and challenges.

We continually need support for proper monitoring and evaluation methods that effectively report our impact and presently need access to M&E training for our M&E personnel

Specifically on the FJS project we found that communication between the teachers and their students reduced in the LGA where we carried out interventions in 2012 possibly because the phone card support stopped at the end of the project. A constraint we might face at the end of this project year in these 4 LGAs also.

**Conclusion** The project is on course in the achievement of planned objectives and activities, and we look forward to been able to accomplish them all by the end of the project period.

## **REPORT ON THE CSW MEETING IN NEW YORK 4<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

The 57th Commission on the Status of Women met in New York from 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The priority theme for the 57th meeting was the “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”.

May Ikoghode and Pearl Osamudiamé represented GPI. The opening ceremony took place at the UN building on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2013.

### **Excerpts from the Opening Ceremony**

The permanent representative of Liberia to the UN and Chair of CSW 57 Marjon Kamara invited participants to follow the work of the 57<sup>th</sup> session of CSW which just started. She revealed that the theme of the session was elimination and Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls and said that gender equality experts of government, civil societies and UN were around to participate. In her opinion, violence against women is a violation of the human rights of women and girls and said it’s a global phenomenon and hence the need to take conscientious action to find global solution and also the need to put a focus on the implementation of decisions on strategies and actions that would be decided here so as to benefit women and girls. She further stated the need to put in place effective response to the violence of women and girls, strategies to help them to recover, help them to take care of themselves and ensure they take action to prevent further violence.

Various meetings were attended by the representatives of GPI. Some of these meetings include:

### **Meeting Organised by IWHC**

A two day meeting was organized by IWHC on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of March in the Land mark view room United Nations plaza. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with delegates of various countries to find out what each country has in their agenda and find ways of having a common voice on some issues that affect women and girls.

The participants looked at the document to be presented and agreed that some changes needed to be made in the document for instance, where just reproductive right was mentioned in paragraph 9 of the document they

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saw the need to include sexual rights. The clause on ‘safe abortion and taking of forensics’ for women who want to prosecute rape cases should be done away with and emergency contraception should be allowed and encouraged.

They also saw the need to defend some of the language used in the document like the language on commercial sex workers, and sexual violence.

## **Meeting Organised by Focus Forum for Women in Development**

At this meeting, the crimes perpetrated against women by the state were shared by various victims of such crimes. Gladys from Peru spoke about the violence women face in Peru, the role of the government, legal case to achieve justice and the results of the study.

A speaker from Guatemala revealed that there is a high rate of killing of women in her country and added that violence against women is seen as a weapon of war as women are brought to the barracks to teach soldiers how to rape women. She said that Guatemala is full of impunity for the law and the raped woman is generally seen as guilty.

There is 10% increase yearly on killings of women and sexual violence has also increased but the government is trying to address the issue by having a democratically elected government. The women do not go to the police because they do not have trust for the judicial process.

## **African Caucus/Forum**

At the African caucus meeting held in the Nigerian House on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2013, the participants and guests were introduced and the chairperson, Ambassador Joy Ugwu (Nigeria Permanent Secretary to the UN) who gave the opening remarks while the UN Women Country representative, NASS member and a governor’s wife delivered good will messages.

In her key note address, Mrs Zainab Maina, the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development gave progress report on the bill against violence against women. She noted that domestic and sexual violence are under reported and that women also contribute to some of such violence e.g “by dealing with their sister’s in-law and mother’s in-law”. She opined that cases of violence should be documented immediately as although reportage has improved, the weakness in our culture of documentation is a major hindrance to ending violence.

A paper presentation titled elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls: documentation and intervention in Nigeria was done by Mrs Saudatu Shehu Mahdi, Secretary General, Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and Mrs Josephine Chukwuma, Project Alert.

## **Meeting on Climate Justice**

At this meeting Mary Robinson the chair, foundation for climate justice, former senator of Ireland and Global fund for Human Rights chair spoke on climate justice saying that justice is about reality on ground and how to address it. She advised that people should learn to reuse, reduce and recycle as 1.3 billion people in the grassroots all over the world have no access to electricity and there is need to provide clean cook stoves for masses to prevent climate shocks. She opined that a major strategy to use is Equity which involves the need to convince leaders, link with business and political leaders, organize women and help them to demand their rights and link with other women with similar problems.

## **Meeting with Foundation for a Just Society.**

A meeting of grantees of FJS present at the UN was held in New York on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to create a forum for the grantees to meet and share experiences with one another. The 15 people present at the meeting were: May Ekido and pearl Osamudiamé representing GPI, Isimeme Ejodame, President of FJS, A Board member, the Director of FJS, 3 delegates from Cameroun and 3 delegates from Senegal African Network, delegate from Grants Management, NYS and two staff of FJS.



Participants stated what brought them into women's rights work and shared experiences that touched their lives, their dreams and also the dreams for their organizations. They also talked about what they expect to take home from the CSW.

## **International Women's Day**

A march was organized to celebrate the international women's day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2013. May Ekido, Pearl Osamudiamé and other guests of GPI Jennifer Odunze and Mrs Christiana Ikoghode were present at the march. The march started at the UN building and ended at the park where a speech was given and the women present were taught the GPI's three stanza anthem.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UNFPA Executive Director gave a speech on the occasion of the international women's day. In his speech, he reiterated that gender-based violence remains a major health and human rights concern and no human development can be achieved as long as women and girls continue to suffer from violence or live in fear of it. He stated that globally, millions of women and girls are subjected to all forms of violence, including rape, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilations/cuttings, child marriages and sexual violence in armed conflict and during humanitarian crisis.

Women and girls who are abused may suffer prolonged psychological pain, may be rejected by their families and communities, and may be denied opportunities for health care and economic self-sufficiency. In addition, he also noted that there are direct physical consequences. Sexual violence can result in unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, traumatic fistula and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV—all of which can be fatal. As part of the global community, we have an obligation to ensure that these human rights violations come to an end. Building on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, we must come together to find an internationally agreed consensus which will bring us closer to keeping women and girls safe and free from violence or the threat of violence.

## **Closing**

The closing ceremony of the 57<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW took place at the UN on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 2013. At the closing the outcome of the meeting (the agreed conclusion) was given. It took quite some time to vote and adopt the agreed conclusion however at the end, the draft was given out.

## **REPORT ON THE REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY WEST AFRICA NETWORK ON CHILD PROTECTION (WAN) IN ERATA HOTEL ACCRA GHANA FROM 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013.**

A four day regional training of trainers on WAN standards for Child Protection was organized by the West African Network on child protection (WAN) in Erata Hotel Accra, Ghana from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2013. The participants at the training were drawn from Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. May Ikoghode Ekido and Blessing Ehigwina represented GPI.

The director of WAN, Mr Djibril Fall made a presentation on the objectives of the Coaching/Training on Regional standards of WAN. He explained the three program proposed as 1, 2, 3 and that this training for trainers is program one. He added that the final objective of the training is to create or strengthen an environment which allows the child to grow and encourage him/her to develop. He stressed the need to work as a team.

## **Presentation on WAN:**

In his presentation on WAN, Olivier revealed that ISS was created in 1932 and that it specializes in dealing with child abduction, child protection, care structure abroad and guardianship. He stated that WAN links up the 15 countries of ECOWAS and has the transnational cooperation of CSO and authorities enabling protection

and quality reintegration of vulnerable children across borders and provides a platform of exchange for professionals in the field.

He also stated the three levels at which the network operates as:

- The child, family and community level
- Professional level, Social workers, Law enforcement (Capacity building)
- National and Regional Authorities (System)

In conclusion, he said that mobilization and networking of partners include the state and non state actors.

## **WAN film:**

A documentary titled “**The Frontiers of Child Hood**” which explains the economic and social reasons why children are on the move in West Africa sub-region with reference to Mali and Burkina Faso was shown. The film focussed on the 8 steps by which a young man that was on the streets was identified and reintegrated in Burkina Faso. The documentary also highlighted the non participation of children in issues that affect their development and growth as what prompts some of them to leave home.

## **Presentation of the Standards:**

The session was facilitated by Abena Yemoah and Olivier Geissler. In their presentation, Abena noted that a minimum standard had five elements which are

1. Explanation of the standard: child, parents, professionals, community.
2. An ethical frame
3. The description of the attitudes and values for the profession of child protection
4. A checklist of the things which needs to be done
5. A list of red lights which shows that something is wrong.

Continuing further, she re-iterated the essence of the standard as being to

- Propose and support a qualitative approach to the reintegration of children
- Working document to harmonise the support of the child
- Encourage professionals to become interested in the child as a unique individual
- Enable professionals ask the right questions.

The methodology to be adopted include having a reference person, using empathy, developing dialogue and a trustful relationship, give the child enough time, communicate with transparency and listen to the family as you listen to the child.

According to the presenters, the standards serve the following purposes:

- Support procedure and West Africa regional standards for the protection and reintegration of vulnerable children
- Regional standards for child protection as a tool aimed to support professionals in their work, contributes to bring quality in the care of children and it is compatible with the national frameworks and main guidelines in the field.

Other presentations on topics such as “ Listening and participation of the child; Identification of vulnerable children; Importance of assessment of the family and the environmental situation of the child; Social, educational or professional re-integration: the importance of reference person; Importance of monitoring after reintegration” were made by different presenters and discussions and group works were also done by the participants who were able to identify various training needs of countries present based on the different challenges identified during the discussions and group works.

In concluding, the facilitators told participants that the implementation of the standard should not be limited to children on the move but all categories of vulnerable children. Participants were also advised that the FBOs should be involved in the work as their little contributions can go a long way in achieving their various goals

## THE REPORT OF THE DISSEMINATION SEMINAR ORGANISED BY GPI AT BISHOP KELLY CENTER BENIN CITY ON 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

A dissemination seminar was organized by Girls' Power Initiative at Bishop Kelly Centre on the 3rd of September, 2013. The opening address was given by Grace Osakue. In her address she revealed that Girls' Power Initiative (GPI) is a feminist, youth development organisation formed in 1993 by Bene Madunagu and Grace Osakue to intervene in the socialisation of girls for the realisation of a future where women are visible and valued actors in the Nigerian society. She said that GPI commenced activities in July 1994 in Cross River and Edo States and expanded to Akwa Ibom and Delta States in 2002. The motto of GPI is "Towards an empowered womanhood" she elaborated on the vision of the organisation, the educational programmes (for the girls, teachers and the public) and the strategies used in the empowerment programme. She also listed some of the achievements so far such as:

- Raised public awareness and sensitivity on discriminations suffered by women and girls
- Empowered and graduated thousands of girls who have become advocates for change
- Developed local curriculum on Comprehensive Sexuality Education
- Mobilised Policy makers for legislation and action on issues of women and children
- Maintained 30 minutes weekly slots on three State Television Stations since 2001
- GPI has successfully advocated along with other civil society groups for law reforms and new legislations on issues such as Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage, Human Trafficking, Harmful Widowhood Rites and Teaching of Sexuality Education.
- GPI is collaborating with the Delta, Edo, Cross River and Akwa Ibom State governments to implement Family Life/HIV Education in secondary schools.
- GPI annual community intervention work in at least one selected rural community per State where she intervenes on issues affecting women and girls in the community has made tremendous impact on the affected communities especially around issues of Female Genital Mutilation, Child Marriage, HIV and AIDS Stigma and discrimination.

She added that GPI had succeeded in carrying out research in the following areas:

Rape  
Female Genital Mutilation  
Human Trafficking

Other achievements include Dissemination seminars and publication of two books from findings, Expansion of GPI activities to Akwa Ibom and Delta states of Nigeria to address the HT challenge, Awareness Raising campaigns in urban and rural areas.

- Marking of November 26th as day of action against trafficking
- Enlightenment campaigns (Markets, Schools, Television and Radio)
- Implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Schools to enable children say NO to harmful practices including Negative Pressure from Parents
- Collaborative activities with other NGOs and active membership at different levels of coalitions against human trafficking etc.

Still speaking, she gave the purpose of the dissemination seminar as : to establish the patriarchal and gender norms that place girls at risk of adverse sexual and reproductive health outcomes; share findings with relevant stakeholders and produce a document with suggestions for entrenching policies and programs for promoting girls empowerment in Edo state, elimination of harmful and dangerous practices affecting girls; and set up community partnership group on girls' empowerment (CPGGE) consisting of policy makers, members of civil societies, GPI alumnae, community leaders and senior women to follow up promises made at the seminar.

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The keynote address was given by Mrs Elizabeth Okoojion who highlighted some findings on cases of rape, FGM, sexual violence, fertility regulation, the scourge of HIV and other STIs, sexual abuse etc and participants aired their opinions in the way of group discussions and others shared voices on some of the issues discussed.

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FEMALE CONDOM (UAFC) PROJECT

### IPC CONDUCTORS

The activities for the project is still on-going, a phase 2 Steering committee Meeting was held on the 1st November 2013 at the conference hall of SFH office in Benin city. The target of the phase 2 project as revealed by Ifeoma Ideh during the meeting is 60,000 women and men of reproductive age and the involvement of hairdressers and barbers. For this project, Abuja and Rivers have been added to the States. She revealed that so far 22 IPC conductors, 23 barbers have been trained. May Ekido who is a representative of GPI Benin, presented a paper on what GPI has done on the project so far. It was agreed that the other members of the steering committee should find time to carry out field visit to GPI and LAPO so that they will have firsthand knowledge of what was going on in the field. To this end the work plan of GPI for the next month was submitted to SFH. It was then decided that a letter for advocacy should be written to some government offices to enable the members talk about the female condoms and promote it among policy makers.

### NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

GPI has continued to network with NGOs and other organizations to effectively achieve her aim improving the environment for the effective exercise of rights by the GIRL CHILD. In the area of human trafficking for purposes of sex work which is endemic in Edo state, GPI is a member of the Edo State Coalition Against Trafficking In Persons (ENCATIP), and National Coalition against Child Trafficking and Labour (NACTAL) Nigeria, Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), and collaborates with other international organizations like EXIT and International Center for Trafficking in Women (LEFO/IBF), both from Vienna, Austria; Bonded Labour in the Netherlands (BLinN), Hope Now in Denmark, Association Mamre and Tampep onlus, both in Italy.

GPI is also an active member of the following networks:

- West African Network (WAN).
- Child Protection Network (CPN).
- Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, (CISHAN).
- Association of OVC Organization in Nigeria (AOON): an association of CSOs on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).
- Coalition of NGOS, Edo state (CONGOS): a network of civil society organizations in Edo state.
- Universal Access to Female Condom (UAFC).

Advocacy visits were also paid to some places such as the zonal commander of NAPTIP and ministry of higher education.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

External trainings of GPI staff were mostly trainings and fora organized by other organizations. In house trainings were held by staff that went out for trainings in order to step down their new knowledge. Some of the trainings include:

- Case Management training
- The BRACED commission retreat
- Video camera recording training
- Research dissemination seminar

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- Training for NAPTIP NACTAL, NGO counselors and social workers

## CHALLENGES

The long rainy season was a major challenge in 2013 as the streets leading to the GPI centre became permanently waterlogged in too many spots making access to our centre very difficult.

GPI EDO STATE 2013 SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
	PROJECT	INCOME NAIRA	EXPENDITURE NAIRA	BALANCE NAIRA
FORD FOUNDATION	Sexuality education, and community advocacy for Girls' empowerment	8,860,900	8,855,160	5,740
EMPOWER USA	Youth talents hunt	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
OTHER INCOME	Services to other organizations and institutions	4,862,818	4,345,100	517,718
ISS SWITZERLAND	Rescue, return, rehabilitation of vulnerable children on the move	13,764,213	10,502,946	3,261,267
SFH UAFC	Universal access to female condom campaign	2,292,481	2,302,262	(9,781)
FOUNDATION FOR A JUAT SOCIETY	Awareness raising on migration, trafficking through film screening for rural in-school youths	12,286,898	8,328,724	3,958,174
OXFAM (GIRLS EDUCATION)	Implementation of Sexuality Education through teacher training	1,648,401	1,649,000	(599)
OXFAM (PCWAP)	UN Unite supported project to end violence against women and girls through use of popular culture with a purpose	6,818,323	4,702,686	2,115,637
TOTAL NAIRA		51,534,034	41,685,878	9,848,156
/N157		\$328,242	\$265,515	\$62,727



GRACE OSAKUE  
CO-ORDINATOR