



International Conference “The role of international cooperation in tackling sexual violence against children”

**Panel 4 African projects - Good practices showcase
Thursday, 29 November 2012**

**Presentation of Vittoria Luda di Cortemiglia,
Programme Coordinator and Focal Point on Human Trafficking at UNICRI**

<p>Programme Title: Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Minors and Young Women from Nigeria to Italy Duration of the Programme: 24 months (2008-2010) Programme Countries: Nigeria and Italy Partners: UNODC/Nigeria, NAPTIP, Nigerian and Italian NGOs Donors: the Italian Cooperation</p>
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Programme Description

The present programme is built upon the achievements of an innovative 18-month pilot programme (to find out more go to www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/nigeria/index.php) funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and carried out by UNICRI in cooperation with UNODC, Nigerian Institutions and NGOs, from September 2002 until April 2004. It aims at confronting the issue of trafficking of minors and young women for sexual exploitation from Nigeria to Italy by creating, on the one hand, conditions that lessen vulnerability of women and children to trafficking, and on the other hand, by strengthening anti-trafficking capacities of Nigerians. To that effect, the programme established a fully operational and functional Monitoring Centre within the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), raised public awareness among the population, and provided economic and educational opportunities for vulnerable girls and young women.

The overall objective of the programme

To decrease substantially trafficking of minors and young women from Nigeria to Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Key objectives

The programme intended to:

- help in reducing human trafficking in minors and young women from Nigeria to Italy;
- create conditions to lessen their exposure and vulnerability to traffickers through their economic, social and cultural empowerment;
- prevent trafficking, assist victims of trafficking and foster their successful reintegration in areas of origin;
- support the Nigerian authorities in their response to trafficking and in developing and enforcing appropriate measures to fight against trafficking, in particular the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP);
- disseminate lessons learned and best practices in the field of anti-trafficking and victims' assistance and reintegration.

Programme Activities

The programme entailed over 16 activities in two countries, Nigeria and Italy, over a period of 24 months:

- Creation and set up of the centralized database on investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases within the National Monitoring Centre;
- Awareness raising campaigns in Edo State, Nigeria;
- Women empowerment activities (skill acquisition, micro-crediting, etc.);
- Local Nigerian NGOs training and capacity building;
- Action-oriented research on successful intervention modalities for Nigerian minors victim of trafficking in Italy;
- NGOs networking and cooperation with Italian and European NGOs;
- Establishment of Cooperation Platform between relevant regional institutions in Italy;
- Final International Conference.

Beneficiaries:

- Minors and Young Women from Nigeria, vulnerable and victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- Nigerian, Italian and European NGOs, providing assistance and support to vulnerable Minors and Young Women and victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation
- Nigerian institutions and law enforcement agencies involved in anti-trafficking activities, in particular the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and the National Monitoring Centre.

MAIN RESULTS/ OUTCOMES

The main outcomes of the programme, carried out from March 2008 until April 2010, were the following:

- a research report on human trafficking from Nigeria to Italy containing useful information on trafficking flows and patterns between Nigeria and Italy and current modalities of intervention aimed at the empowerment and reintegration of Nigerian minors and young women victim of trafficking in Italy (to find out more go to https://www.unicri.it/emerging_crimes/human_trafficking/nigeria2/research.php)
- signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian National Antimafia Bureau and the Nigerian Attorney General and Minister of Justice for the exchange of judicial information on criminal groups involved in trafficking;
- information and awareness raising campaigns in Edo State and in Italy; (to find out more go to https://www.unicri.it/emerging_crimes/human_trafficking/nigeria2/campaigns.php)
- victims' assistance and social reintegration activities in Nigeria and Italy (to find out more go to https://www.unicri.it/emerging_crimes/human_trafficking/nigeria2/activities.php)
- creation of the centralized database on investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases within the National Monitoring Centre (NMC) of NAPTIP in Nigeria (to find out more go to https://www.unicri.it/emerging_crimes/human_trafficking/nigeria2/database.php)
- local Nigerian NGOs training and capacity building in providing Nigerian minors and young women, actual or potential victims of trafficking, with needed services (to find out more go to https://www.unicri.it/emerging_crimes/human_trafficking/nigeria2/local_ngo.php).