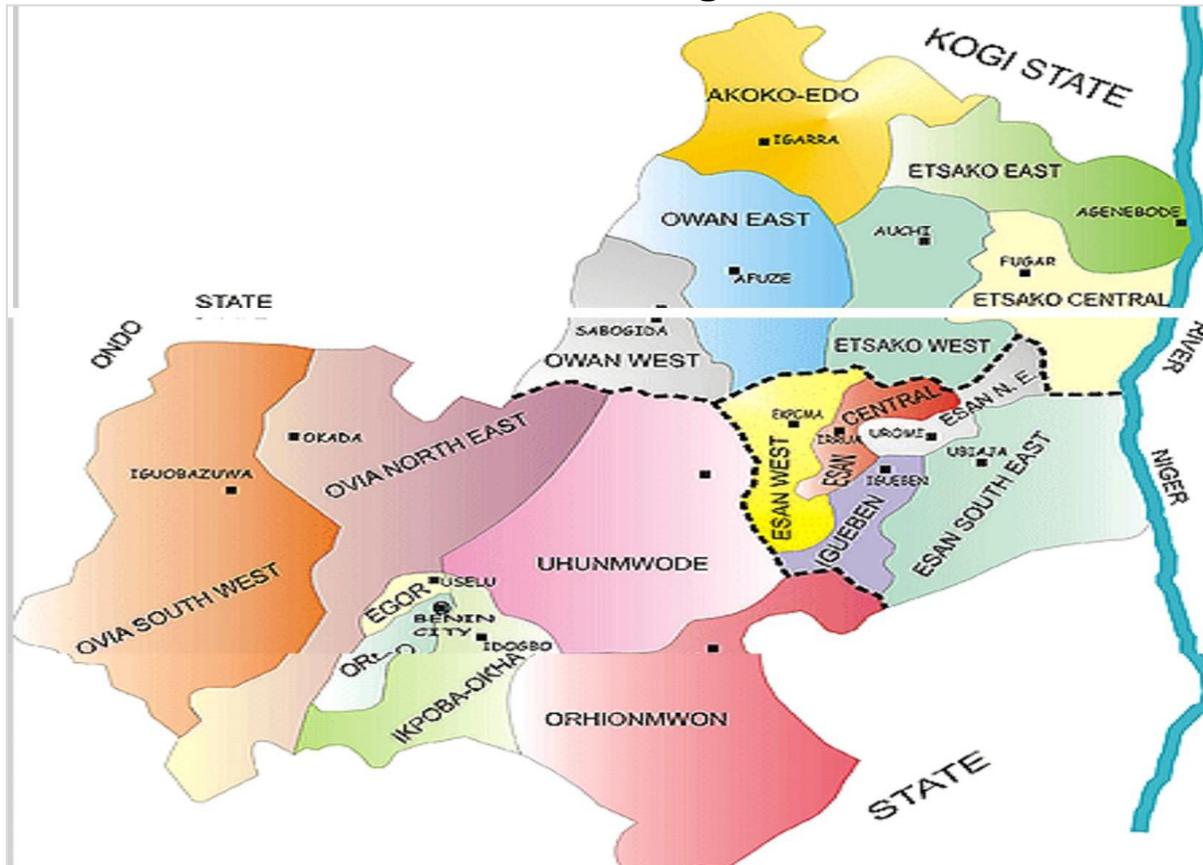


CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM STRENGTHENING MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT EDO STATE

Heart Beat of Nigeria



SEPTEMBER 2014

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FORWORD

The Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment report is the result of remarkable efforts by numerous institutions and individuals dedicated to improving the child protection system in Nigeria. Multiple partners contributed directly to this assessment process, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UNICEF, IntraHealth International through its Capacity*Plus* project, with guidance and technical support from Maestral International, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and Edo State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

The traditional parallel response approach to child protection has over the past few years received a call for an alternative. The international community through key actors in children related issues (UNICEF, World Vision, USAID) maintained that a systems approach to child protection is the way forward, this requires a considerable conceptual shift from the traditional stand-alone programming focus on particular groups of children in need of protection, to the achievement of more sustainable, comprehensive and long-term responses to child protection issues. A systems approach addresses child protection more holistically, brings greater focus on prevention, and strengthens the critical roles and assets of the key actors responsible for child protection. These key actors include government, civil society, parents, caregivers, families and other community structures – which together provide formal and informal child protection mechanisms and services.

This report presents findings and insights generated through the mapping and assessment of the Edo state child protection systems. The process began in September 2013 and was completed in September 2014. The goal of the mapping was to provide State actors with a profile of the existing systems and the assessment provide recommendations to existing gaps as revealed through the mapping exercise. As the Edo State Government through the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development works towards a system based child protection approach, this report serves as a guide to strengthening the existing formal and informal child protection components, functions and local context and its relevance.

Mrs. Blessing Maigida
Hon. Commissioner
Edo state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

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First and foremost, my acknowledgment goes to the Almighty GOD for giving us the inspiration for the successful completion of the mapping and assessment of the child protection system in Edo state.

The success of the Mapping and Assessment of Edo state child protection system is a joint effort of numerous institutions and individuals dedicated to improving the child protection system in Nigeria. The idea which culminated into this mapping process was birthed by the trio of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), other partners that contributed directly to this assessment process include Centers for Disease Control and prevention, Maestral International, IntraHealth International through its CapacityPlus project was tasked with the technical assistance management of the secretariat and all logistics, the state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development hosted the state teams and provided a soft landing for the process to be conducted smoothly.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the various Heads of the Line Ministries, Departments and Agencies involved in the child protection system for accepting and assisting in ensuring the smooth progress of the execution of the mapping and assessment process. We offer our profound gratitude to Mrs. Blessing Maigida, Honourable Commissioner and Barr. Akhuamhenkhirim, A. E. Permanent Secretary of the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development as the main custodian of the child protection system in the state for their cooperation during the preparation and completion of the mapping and assessment. We also offer our sincere thanks to the Heads of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and Networks for their assistance and contribution towards the smooth implementation of the mapping and assessment. Certainly, without the ongoing support of these various authorities, the child protection system mapping and assessment could not have been achieved.

The Child Protection System Mapping and Assessment could not have been completed without the tireless efforts of the Child Protection TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG):

Mrs. Elizabeth Enakhimion (Director Child Development Department) Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development –Chairperson of the TWG, Mrs. Enarhome Flora (Director Social Welfare Department) Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mr. Kingsley Ogbodu Osamwonyi (Assistant Director, Donor Agencies and External intervention) Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Jennifer Ero (State Coordinator) Child Protection Network, Rev Lucky Osaobakhoe (Secretary) Christian Association of Nigeria. Barr. Stella Obehi Ojeme (State Chairperson) International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Director Citizens' Right Council Edo state Ministry of Justice as represented by Barr. Anthony Izevbekhai, Mrs. Lucy Bello (State Coordinator) Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria (AONN), Zonal Commander, Mrs Cordelia Ebiringa, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) as represented by Mr. Nduka Nwanwene, Christian Oseghale (State Chairman) Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW), Barr. Dan E. Ehizojie, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics Post Primary Education Board represented by Mrs. Iwelomen Ruth, Mrs. Ogedengbe, Director (Social Mobilization) State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Nosa Musoe Esq. (Deputy Chief Registrar Litigation Dept.) High Court of Justice, Mabel C Ojobo (Mrs.), (Chief Magistrate, Special Grade), Barr. Eddy O. Inenevwo (Edo state Coordinator) Legal Aids Council, Dr Eghe Abe (Director, Primary Health Care) Edo state Ministry of Health, Mr. Anthonio Osaigbovo Osazuwa (Rep. Director Debt Management Office, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Sani Momodu (State Coordinator) National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Mrs. Oluronke Ojeikere, (State Coordinator) National Council of Child Rights Advocates

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Others are:

Mr. Ekata Clement Osa (Director, Administration and Supply) Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Mr. Amadasun C.O. (Director Planning, Research and Statistics) Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, H.I Enemaku Esq. (The Chief Registrar, High Court of Justice), Edo state Judiciary, F.I. Oghoator (Mrs.) (Chief Magistrate) Edo state Judiciary, Mrs Kay Benson Akhigbe, Chief Responsibility Officer, Living Your Dreams Initiative (FBO), Coordinator Girls Power Initiative (GPI) as represented by Grace Ehiagwina, JDPC, Osigbemhe E O, Director, Edo State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Mr David Ebor, Accountant, Office of Accountant General, Ogiekae Ewemade, Royal Palace, Chief Ibrahim Mari Abudukadir, Royal Palace, Social Welfare Officers: Okoeguale Sylvester, Abhulimen Flora, Erhabor Taiye Daniel, Florence A. Nwaozor, Mr. Lawani V. O. Director, Edo State Correctional Center, Ms. Hellen Netugu, Edo state SMILE Coordinator.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Enakhimion
Director, Child Development Department
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
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ACRONYMS

AONN	Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria
AHT/WCPU	Anti-Human Trafficking, Woman and Child Protection Unit
CAN	Christian Association of Nigeria
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CJ	Chief Judge
CPN	Child Protection Network
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRL	Child Rights Law
CRLIC	Child Rights Law Implementation Committee
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CYPL	Children and Young Persons' Law
DHIS	District health Information System
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DR	Desk Review
EDHA	Edo State House of Assembly
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FCT	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FGMC	Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development
GPI	Girls' Power Initiative
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDI	In-Depth Interview
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
JDPC	Justice, Development and Peace Commission
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGAs	Local Government Area/Agency
FBO	Living Your Dreams Initiative
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBPED	Edo state Ministry of Budget, Planning and Economic Development
MOH	Edo state Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWASD	Edo state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
NACCRAN	National Council of Child Rights Advocates in Nigeria
NACTAL	Network of Civil Society organization against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour
NASoW	Nigeria Association of Social Workers

NAPITP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficked in Persons and other related matters
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHRC	National Human Right Commission
NPopC /NPC	National Population Commission
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PPEB	Edo state Post Primary Education Board
PRS	Planning, Research & Statistics
SACA	Edo state Agency for the Control of AIDS
SDS	Social Development Secretariat
SEEDS	Edo state Economic Empowerment Development Strategy
SEMA	Edo state Emergency Management Agency
SMILE	Sustainable Mechanisms for Improving Livelihoods and Household Empowerment
SOP	Standard of Operation
SSG	Secretary to the State Government
SUBEB	Edo state Universal Basic Education Board
SURE- P	Subsidy Re-investment Empowerment Programme
SWO	Social Welfare Officers
TIPPLEAA	Trafficking in persons (Prohibition) and Administration Act
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	World Bank
YES	Youth Empowerment Scheme

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Countries throughout the world have begun to systematically reform their child protection systems. This process has involved moving from an issue/response approach towards the creation of a protective environment and strengthening the child protection system (CPS).¹ The Federal Government of Nigeria decided in 2010 to be part of this global and regional initiative. As such Lagos State decided to be part of a pilot test to map and assess the existing components of the system. Child Frontiers was recruited to undertake the mapping and assessment of the current CPS in Lagos State. After that assessment was completed in 2013, USAID agreed to support the mapping and assessment of the CPS in an additional six states of Nigeria: Benue, Edo, FCT, Kaduna, Kano and Plateau.² USAID agreed to support CapacityPlus (part of IntraHealth International) and UNICEF to oversee the mapping/assessment in the six states. CapacityPlus coordinated logistics and administration; UNICEF oversaw programmatic issues. The Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development in each of the states and the Social Development Secretariat in FCT enthusiastically supported the initiative.

UNICEF, CapacityPlus and USAID approached Maestral International to provide technical assistance to carry out the mapping and assessment in Nigeria.³ Maestral has mapped and assessed CPSs in many countries, particularly those in East and Southern Africa, using the mapping and assessment toolkit and methodology it developed at the request of UNICEF.

1.1 The Child Protection Mapping and Assessment Toolkit

The Toolkit provides a practical method to enable participants to identify the main country child protection risks and gaps within a child rights framework, and to examine the structure, functions and capacity of the existing CPS (both formal and informal, national and sub-national), the continuum of care, accountability mechanisms and resource mobilization approaches. The Toolkit is an Excel-based instrument to gather information about all aspects of a country or state's CPS. The toolkit consists of 22 tools divided into five main sections (General Country Information, System Overview, Child Protection Continuum of Care, Resource Mobilization and Fiscal Accountability, and Summary and Strategies).

The Toolkit primarily gathers existing secondary data, supplemented with interviews of key informants and focus group discussions. In addition, the Toolkit is linked to many data sources providing information about CPS s in general and about each country's CPS specifically. As the system is mapped, the Toolkit enables participants to identify system building priorities (recommendations) that are needed to address the main gaps that have been identified.

1.2 Objectives and Process

The main objective of the mapping and assessment is to identify the major gaps in the current CPS in each state, which will provide the basis for specific suggestions on how to improve the

¹ There are several definitions of the CPS. A common theme in the explanation is however a focus on services, laws and policies, social norms and attitudes. UNICEF's definition captures all of the aspects: A CPS is defined as "a set of laws, policies, regulations and services, capacities, monitoring, and oversight needed across all social sectors – especially social welfare, education, health, security, and justice – to prevent and respond to protection related risks." UNICEF Child Protection Strategy, Executive Board Annual Session, 2008. E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1

² Initially six other states were selected to participate in the mapping/assessment. These were: Imo, Gombe, FCT, Katsina, Ekiti and Akwa Ibom. It was soon recognized that USAID was supporting efforts by Catholic Relief Services (SMILE project) and Save the Children (STEER project) to strengthen the CPS in other states. The decision was then made to coordinate the mapping and assessment activities with the reform efforts by CRS and Save the Children organizations and switched the target states to include six in which CRS and Save the Children were working.

³ A team of experts in CPS mapping were identified to assist with the initiative. David Tobis (team leader, Maestral), Shar Kurtishi (public finance specialist, Maestral) and Rebecca Davis (social work specialist, CapacityPlus) formed the international team to facilitate the mapping and assessment process. Jonna Karlsson was the program coordinator from UNICEF, and David Irene, was hired by CapacityPlus as the national coordinator of the state teams.

existing CPS at the state and LGA level. The mapping and assessment also includes a public financial review of all child protection related services and expenditures in all relevant ministries in each state which will be used as an advocacy tool to increase public allocation and expenditure for child protection services.

The findings of the assessment will also be used as a mechanism to promote better coordination among partners to optimize their support to the development of each state's CPS. In particular the findings will be used to determine the extent to which services are appropriate for and are reaching the most vulnerable children, the quality of such services and the extent to which the services are gender sensitive. This information will assist Nigerian state governments and partners to increase access and improve quality of service delivery for vulnerable children. The assessment will also identify areas in which the Nigerian state governments require capacity building to fulfil their obligations as duty bearers. The findings will furthermore be used to determine government expenditures on child protection services and the extent to which state governments are using evidence-based arguments in their efforts to increase the budget allocations for child protection.

The mapping and assessment uses a collaborative, inclusive and transparent methodology in which stakeholders throughout the CPS participate in a Technical Working Group to reach consensus about the strengths and weaknesses in the CPS, and to develop a strategy for reform. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD) in each state (Social Development Secretariat in FCT) is the lead child protection ministry and led the initiative in their respective state. Other government ministries and agencies (e.g. Planning, Justice, Police, NAPTIP, Health, Education), non-government organizations (e.g. Child Protection Network), and representatives of the formal and informal sectors participated in the mapping/assessment process.

The mapping and assessment in the six states of Nigeria was completed in twelve months beginning in September 2013 with an orientation workshop through the completion of the state strategic action plan for each state in July 2014. This was the first time that mapping and assessment of so many states was carried out in one country anywhere in the world.

1.3 Information Gathered

The mapping and assessment of six states in Nigeria gathered an enormous amount of information about the CPS in those states. Although much data are available at a national level describing the risks children face, many key indicators needed for planning to improve the CPS at the state level are unavailable such as the number or percentage of children with disabilities, trafficked children, child marriage and the urban/rural breakdown for birth registration.

The information that was gathered revealed or confirmed many of the priority issues and gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen the CPS in the six states. The National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria 2013-2020 reported that over 50% of the population lives in poverty defined as less than \$1.25 per day.⁴ By some accounts, the percentage of people living in poverty has increased in the recent years.⁵ Nationally, children's well-being is compromised in many ways—the 2008 Situation Analysis and Assessment of OVC in Nigeria reported that 17.5 million children could be categorized as OVC and an estimated 7.3 million had lost one or both parents.⁶ Benue has the highest percentage of orphans (25%).⁷ The Nigerian Demographic and

⁴National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children in Nigeria, 2013-2020, Final Draft, Nov. 2012.

⁵The World Bank concludes that poverty in Nigeria has increased from 55% in 2004 to 61% in 2010. The figures are based on data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

⁶Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD), The Situation Assessment and Analysis on OVC in Nigeria, 2008

Health Survey DHS 2008 report estimated that 12% of children in Nigeria are not living with one or both parents.⁸ Thirty nine percent of children ages 5-14 are engaged in child labor. Approximately 40% of children do not attend primary school, and as many as 40% of children may have been trafficked.⁹

The risk situations in the six states are similar though conditions vary by states. For example, poverty is more extreme in the northern states of Kaduna, Kano and Plateau than in the southern states of Benue, Edo and FCT. Emergency conditions in the northern states increase the risk for children there as well.

Similarities and significant differences characterize the current CPS in the six states. Two of the northern states, Kano and Kaduna have not domesticated the federal Child Rights Act passed in 2003 (#26) which was passed to conform to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Benue, Edo, Plateau and FCT, which have domesticated the Child Rights Act, report that the law has not been adequately implemented and lack regulations and policies to protect the rights of women and children.

All of the six states report having significant gaps in the horizontal coordination between the lead ministry for child protection, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (Social Development Secretariat in FCT) and other state-level ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) that are involved in child protection. In addition, there are significant gaps in the vertical monitoring and coordination between the MWASD with the Local Government Agencies (LGAs) and community service agencies. There is a similar lack of monitoring and coordination between SDS in FCT and local area councils and community service agencies.

All states report a shortage of trained, professional social workers both within the MWASD to oversee and create appropriate policies for the CPS, and within community service organizations to provide family assessments and case management for vulnerable children and families. Social workers are also needed to provide the wide range of social services which are not adequately available in each of the states including but not limited to a well-functioning juvenile judicial system with an effective Family Court; alternative care placements including emergency shelters; family support programs and psychosocial counseling. A CPS that focuses on prevention is another gap consistent across the six states.

All states report that their general population does not have adequate awareness of child protection issues, including knowledge of children's rights, what constitutes child abuse and awareness of a citizen's responsibility to report abuse. Similarly almost all states report a gap in community awareness of the harm caused by widespread cultural practices such as FGMC, child marriage and belief in witches and wizards.

Three inter-related problems regarding funding for child protection were also identified by all states. First, child protection is not a designated category in the budget of any of the states, making planning difficult. Second, the allocated budget for child protection in each state is not adequate to address the many systemic child protection problems. But more important at the moment, the MWASD in each state and SDS in FCT generally expend only a small percentage of the funds allocated for child protection.

The mapping and assessment of the CPS in each of the six states identified these and other issues and gaps. A Technical Working Group in each state comprised of a broad range of

⁷ Nigeria Research Situation Analysis on Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children, Country Brief, Boston University, August 2009.

⁸ National Population Commission (NPopC) and ICF Macro. Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey 2008, 2009.

⁹ Nigeria National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

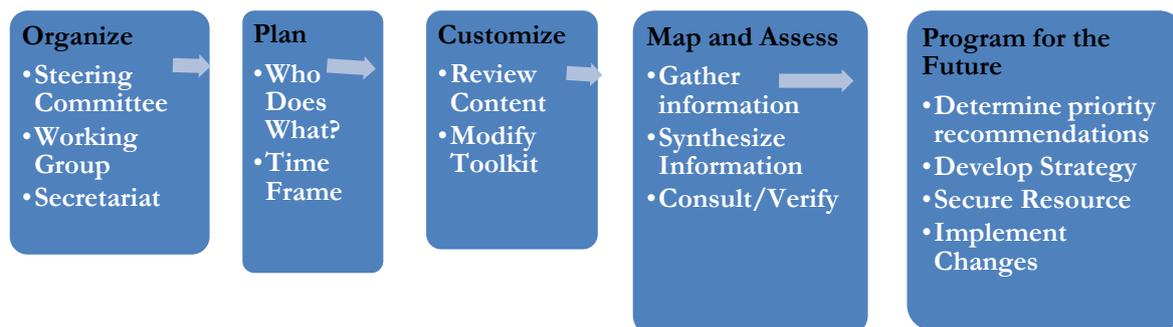
representatives of government and non-government, state and local child protection stakeholders, identified broad strategies and activities to remedy these gaps. This report presents the process the states followed to map and assess its CPS, describes the most significant gaps and presents feasible strategies and activities developed to remedy the gaps in the CPS.

CHAPTER TWO: DESCRIPTION OF THE MAPPING AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1 BACKGROUND

The mapping and assessment of the CPS in Edo state began in October 2013. The process was a comprehensive and transparent exercise that involved all stakeholders relevant to the CPS in the state. These stakeholders were participants in the ‘groundbreaking’ stakeholders meeting and were involved throughout the process, providing information that went into the toolkit. They also formed the team that validated the data in the toolkit after all data were gathered. Consensus was reached among all the key actors in the CPS in Edo state regarding the findings from the mapping and assessment of the CPS in the state.

2.2 STEPS INVOLVED IN THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS MAPPING & ASSESSMENT



2.2.1 STEP 1- ORGANIZE

This stage was the initial launch of the project. It included orientation sessions for the state secretariat (the team coordinator and mapping assistants). The orientation sessions were followed by a stakeholder meeting in which participants learned about the structure and content of the project and developed a common framework for the mapping and assessment.

The participants in the stakeholders’ meeting became the members of an Inter-Agency task force called the Technical Working Group (TWG) on child protection with representatives from government and civil society and other service providers within the state. The TWG included representatives appointed by the:

1. Director, Child Development Department, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare (Chairperson)
2. Director, Social Welfare Department, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare
3. Director, Citizens Right, Ministry of Justice
4. Director, Primary Health Department, Ministry of Health
5. Director, Planning, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
6. Officer in Charge of the state Anti-Human Trafficking, Human and Child Protection Unit, Edo State Police Command
7. State Universal Basic Education Board
8. Post Primary Education Board
9. National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficked in Persons and other related matters

10. Child Protection Network
11. Human Rights Commission
12. Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children NGOs in Nigeria
13. Edo State Judiciary, High Court
14. Edo State Judiciary, Magistrate Court
15. Christian Association of Nigeria
16. Central Mosque, Benin
17. Legal Aids Council
18. Traditional Leader
19. Social Welfare Workers in the LGAs
20. Nigeria Association of Social Workers, Edo state

The Terms of Reference of the TWG was:

- (1) Coordinate the overall implementation of the mapping and assessment of the CPS with the support of the secretariat;
- (2) Promote and facilitate collaboration, consultation, discussion and information sharing among key government and non-government stakeholders working on the mapping and assessment;
- (3) Participate in a launch meeting of all members of the TWG, which would review the toolkit and provide feedback on its content, wording and structure to ensure that it is fully appropriate to the state's circumstances;
- (4) Identify which members of the TWG would be responsible for completing the different sections of the revised toolkit, establishing working groups for each section as appropriate;
- (5) Convene and participate in the working groups and focus groups for each section of the toolkit, as organized by the secretariat;
- (6) Convene one or more review meetings on the overall findings of the mapping and assessment once a draft has been completed;
- (7) Reach agreement on a child protection program utilizing the toolkit, outlining the key vision, strategy, program and resources needed for the state for the five years beginning in 2014; and
- (8) Agree on next steps for presentation of the mapping and assessment to representatives of the government, development partners, and civil society.

2.2.2 STEP 2 - PLAN

In the planning stage the TWG and the state team developed a plan of action for data collection. The timeframe for this process was November 11th to December 15th 2013, in line with the recommendation from UNICEF/CapacityPlus. Data collection methods were also agreed upon using the data collection grid that identified the type of information needed, who is in the best position to supply the information, what methods will be used to gather the information and how the information will be validated.

The methods for data collection included Key Informant Interviews (KII), a Desk Review (DR), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and Case Studies. The stakeholders who were part of the data collection included: Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education (State Universal Basic Education Board and the Post Primary Education Board), Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Anti-Human Trafficking, Human and Child Protection Unit, NAPTIP, National Human Rights Commission, Edo state Judiciary, Correctional Home, Chief Magistrate, Ministry of Justice, Child Protection Network, and the National Association of Social Workers (NASoW) among others

2.2.3 STEP 3 - CUSTOMIZE

This stage involved converting the global/federal toolkit to one that is specific to Edo state. Small modifications were made in language and terminology. Several additional questions were added and others that were not relevant for Edo state were eliminated.

2.2.4 STEP 4 - MAP & ASSESS

This step was the main part of the project. It involved gathering existing data and synthesizing information from various sources. The stakeholders helped to verify the data and identified system gaps which took place at a workshop in Benin City between 21st – 23rd January, 2014. A Desk Review¹⁰ and Key Informant Interviews¹¹ were used throughout the data collection exercise.

FGDs¹² were carried out on the 5th, 6th and 12th of December 2013 at the office of an NGO, the Foundation for Good Governance and Social Change on Sapele Road, (because of a strike in the state at that time) and at the hall of the state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The participants generally had similar views though at times there were disagreements which were resolved through discussions with the TWG or by gathering additional information. For example disagreements about proceedings in the court involving children were referred to the chief magistrate who described the actual process in court.

Key Informant Interviews: Key informant interviews were held with selected stakeholders.¹³ To enrich the data generated from the interviews, each key informant interview was used to address a specific section of the toolkit.

Case Studies

In order to complement and also triangulate the information that was captured in the toolkit, case studies were identified and documented. These are real life stories based on the field experiences of child protection workers. Two cases were finally presented to the stakeholders during the validation workshop for the purpose of complementing the information captured in the toolkit, to assist in identifying the gaps in the systems as well as developing systems building priorities. The state secretariat and a child protection specialist representing UNICEF heard a total of eight case studies presented by three agencies (CPN, the Police and Living Your Dream Initiative) during 19th – 20th December 2014. The secretariat and the UNICEF representative selected three case studies based on the types of child protection issues involved, the nature and

¹⁰ For the Desk Review, information was gathered from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, State Universal Basic Education Board and Post Primary Education, National Population Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Anti-Human Trafficking, Human and Child Protection Unit, Correctional Home, NAPTIP, NHRC, Child Protection Network among others.

Some of the documents used were the Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), Edo State Strategic Plan: 2010-2020, Edo State Strategic Health Development Plan. 2010-2015, Child Rights Law (2007), NEMA Law, Edo state 2013 Budget, Ministry of Budget, Planning and Economic Development (Donor Agencies/External Intervention Dept.), National and state population and housing tables (Vol. 1)(NPC), Edo State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy – EDO – SEEDS, SACA reports, NAPTIP reports, NPC reports, NAPTIP Benin reports, Correctional Home reports, etc.

¹¹ Stakeholders who provided information were: the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Ministry of Health, NAPTIP, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Anti-Human Trafficking, Human and Child Protection Unit, National Human Rights Commission, Edo state Judiciary, Correctional Home, Chief Magistrate, Ministry of Justice, Child Protection Network, National Association of Social Workers (NASoW) among others. Key informant interviews were used to provide information of the following sections of the toolkit: Data for Decision Making, Structure Function Capacity, The Workforce, Primary Secretariat Mapping, Civil Society and Resource Mobilization.

¹² Stakeholders who participated in the FGDs are representatives from: the Ministry of Women Affairs, Child Development and Legal Departments, Chief Magistrate Edo state Judiciary, Ministry of Justice (Citizens Rights), Social Welfare Officers (Oredo, Owan East, Uhumwode, Estako West, Esan Central, Etsako East Local Government Areas) Association of Orphans and Vulnerable Children NGOs in Nigeria (AONN), Child Protection Network (CPN), Justice Development and Peace Commission, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Police, CSOs working in the community, traditional and religious Leaders, among others. Sections of the toolkit addressed by FDGs were: Policy Context (Partially), Justice Process, Children and Justice, Continuum of Care, Overall Structures, Functions and Capacities, and Community Structures, Functions and Capacities.

¹³ See Annex One C for list of Key Informants

severity of abuse or violence, the number of actors involved, and the multidimensional nature of the case.

Disagreements among stakeholders concerning the final data in the toolkit and the priority gaps were settled during the validation workshop by gathering additional information or repeatedly reviewing the areas of contention and voting when consensus was not easily reached. Everyone had a chance to speak.

2.2.5 STEP 5 - PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE

This was the last phase of the project which involved discussions to prepare the final recommendations and report. These discussions took place at a Systems Building Priority Workshop for all states involved in the mapping and assessment. The workshop was held in Akwanga, Nasarawa State. Some of the members of the TWG¹⁴ as well as Directors of Planning in the line MDAs attended the meeting from Edo state. The workshop developed strategies for creating a CPS. A Plan of Action was developed that was aligned with ongoing reform initiatives within the state. The Plan of Action was based on the consensus of all the government and non-government representatives from Edo state.

CHAPTER THREE: GAPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Laws, Policies, Standards and Regulations: Limited Implementation of the Child Rights Law in the State

3.1.1 Background

The Child Rights Law (CRL) was domesticated in Edo state in October 2007 but is not fully implemented. In addition to the rights guaranteed under Chapter IV of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the law protects the rights of every child, with the best interests of the child as the primary consideration in all matters. The effectiveness of any existing law lies in its implementation and enforcement mechanisms. Adequate measures should be provided to enforce these laws through the appropriate legal and non-legal mechanisms.

3.1.2 Legal Implication and Impact

The CRL is not yet fully implemented after seven years. One important aspect of the CRL which is not implemented is the establishment of the Family Court. The Family Court would handle all justiciable family matters including annulment, divorce, alimony, desertion and non-support, custody, adoption, neglect, paternity disputes, intra-family behavior problems, juvenile delinquency etc. Since Family Courts have many functions, they employ a wider range of personnel than other courts. In an integrated Family Court, all family cases are heard in one location. Without such a court there will be jurisdictional overlap and loss of efficiency. A Family Court will make the legal process more 'family friendly'. The CRL requires a Family Court to be established for each of the 18 Local Government Areas in Edo state to hear all matters relating to children. The law requires Family Court to operate at two levels--as a division of the High Court and at the Magistrate Court level.

¹⁴ Participants at the strategy meeting were representatives from: Social Welfare Dept, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Dept. Planning, Research and Statistics Dept. Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. Planning, Research and Statistics Dept. State Universal Basic Education Board, Social Mobilization Dept. State Universal Basic Education Board Planning, Research and Statistics Dept, Post Primary Education Board, School Services Dept. Post Primary Education Board, Citizens' Rights Dept. Ministry of Justice, Debt Management Dept. Ministry of Finance, CPN Coordinator and Secretary, Legal Aids Council, Ministry of Budget, Planning and Economic Development.

The inadequate implementation of the CRL, including the absence of a Family Court, severely affects children and families. Without legal rights, children are defenseless and vulnerable. The Children and Young Persons Law (CYPL) of 1976 is still used in trying children's cases. The environment in the open courts is not in the best interest of children, either as witnesses, victims or offenders like absence of a child-friendly environment where the child has a sense of ease and sense of belonging. Some children are found in prison which is meant for the detention of adults instead of transit/shelter homes or remand homes as the CRL requires. Not all children in prison are juvenile offenders. Some, whose mothers were in prison, were born there. Others were brought there to live with their imprisoned mothers. These situations would not occur if the Family Court had been set up with personnel who are trained to be child sensitive and act in the best interest of the child.

Other problems in the court system harm children including a weak institutional foundation. For example, cases brought before the courts experience long delays resulting from inadequate court procedures in the form of injunctions, ex parte motions and unwarranted adjournments, and legal loopholes. Thus, cases drag on for many years.

3.1.3 Recommendations

The main recommendations are:

- 1) The process of setting up the Child Rights Law Implementation Committee (CRLIC) should be reactivated by the Commissioner of MWASD.
- 2) The CRLIC should focus on creating an effective Family Court among other functions.

The Technical Working Group of Vulnerable Children (VC TWG) should lead the effort to bring about these reforms. These activities are needed to eliminate the problem:

- The Commissioner of MWASD should request that the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) establish the Child Rights Law Implementation Committee (CRLIC).
- The TWG of Vulnerable Children will also advocate to the SSG for his support and commitment for the full implementation of the CRL and the implementation committee.
- Once established, the CRLIC will advocate to the Chief Judge of the State for current status and seek the creation of the procedure rules for establishing the Family Court.
- The TWG of Vulnerable Children will also advocate to the Attorney General and the Chief Judge as soon as possible.
- The Family Court should begin with a High Court and a Magistrate Court in each of the three senatorial districts instead of in the 18 LGAs by the end of the first year. The remand home in Ugbekun (Edo South) will start off immediately since it has a court in-house and the capacity to accommodate 100 inmates.
- Transit shelters should be established in each senatorial district because the remand home in the state capital does not have sufficient capacity to house children referred by the three Family Courts. The existing correctional home should be refurbished to serve Edo South and new transit shelters should be built for the remaining two senatorial districts.
- Personnel who work in the Family Court should be trained to enhance their professional competence to handle the diversity of child and family issues.
- Allowances for sitting and operating costs should be allocated so the Family Court can be effective.
- Funds should be earmarked for statewide high level publicity of the launch of the Family Court in the state.

3.2 COOPERATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION: *The agency responsible for follow-up in specific child protection cases is not always clear*

3.2.1 BACKGROUND

CPS are interdisciplinary, requiring coordination and collaboration among many different actors including government, non-government, community groups and individual community members.

Child protection often involves several agencies. At times this leads to duplication of efforts and overlapping regulatory responsibilities, confusion over jurisdiction and inefficient use of resources. These problems in the state have led to decreased satisfaction of children and families served. The mapping and assessment of the state's CPS documented inadequate coordination and collaboration among child protection actors, including the MWASD.

Collaboration among child protection actors requires strong leadership to provide a vision, instill confidence, exert influence, handle crises, and move the process forward. The state MWASD is responsible for leadership on child protection issues.

3.2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Child protection stakeholders' roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined. This includes creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describing roles and responsibilities among all child protection stakeholders. A round table meeting to review the MOU should take place among all stakeholders (leadership) between October and November. The MWASD will be the lead and partner with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Child Protection Network, Police, NAPTIP, NHRC, CSOs, the media and other stakeholders.

The MOUs should spell out how the partners will work together, including:

- A detailed definition of roles and responsibilities of cooperating partners
- A referral mechanism to be used among cooperating agencies
- Target beneficiaries
- Support services to be provided
- Duration of support
- A code of conduct for personnel involved in providing care for children
- Designating focal persons who can be contacted to facilitate efficient communication among the cooperating stakeholders

A first step in establishing a referral mechanism is to have a network of relevant agencies and key stakeholders with capacity to provide relevant support services. A comprehensive needs assessment of the types and quality of support services provided by each partner or network should be undertaken by the State MWASD.

Several other activities are also required for satisfactory linkages and coordination among different child protection agencies including:

- Access to information by creating databases. One database will provide information on where and what kind of services are available. The second will be a case management database of children recorded by service providers.
- A website that provides links to information on child protection projects within the state.
- Coordination of strategies and work plans among service providers based on organizational mandate and core competencies.
- Develop a communication strategy that will help stakeholders to utilize information.
- Share best practices among stakeholders. A study tool would be developed to describe best practices in other states.
- Clear delineation of roles and responsibilities with a written agreement among the key actors.

- Respect for partners' and stakeholders' mandate, expertise, roles, capacities and internal processes.
- Transparency in collaboration and cooperation.
- Information-sharing and networking among agencies and relevant actors.
- Respect for data protection and responsible information sharing.
- One outcome of the MOUs will be a referral directory and protocol for all child protection stakeholders in Edo state. The directory should be produced by the end of the year.

3.3 CAPACITY BUILDING: Shortage of qualified social workers in the CPS

3.3.1 BACKGROUND

The social work profession promotes social change, problem-solving in human relationships and the empowerment of people to enhance their well-being. Social workers follow formal procedures to help clients deal with their problems more effectively. Furthermore, social work interventions help people connect with needed resources and negotiate problematic situations.

Social work increases social integration and ameliorates deficits in policy and programs in areas such as health, education and child protection. Social workers' roles include:

- Counselor (or caseworker), working with individuals to help them address personal issues.
- Advocate on behalf of the poor and socially excluded.
- Partner working with disadvantaged or disempowered individuals and groups.
- Assessor of risks or needs of client groups.
- Case manager who arranges services for clients.
- Social control agents who help maintain the social system from the activities of individuals with problematic behaviour.

Social workers are needed to support individuals and families affected by poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion, who are a majority of the state's population.

Although more information needs to be gathered about the current situation of social workers in Edo state, it appears that the majority of people working as social workers are not formally trained as social workers. Most people occupying positions meant for social workers are either YES (Youth Empowerment Scheme) staff or have learned rudimentary social work while on the job. Few people working in government organizations are trained as social workers. The few skilled, trained social workers are concentrated in urban areas and working in the private sector rather than in the public sector.

The state chapter of the Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW) also has limitations. The majority of social workers within the association work in non-governmental organizations or are non-practicing social workers.

Social Workers are not only needed by NGOs (private sector) or the Ministry of Women Affairs (public sector), they are needed in schools, hospitals, police stations, courts and all other places where people require their services. The current pool of social workers is insufficient to meet the need for social work services.

There is an urgent need for public acknowledgment by high-level government officials of the critical roles of social workers in social development. Those officials should provide additional support for social work professionals at both the level of practice and education.

The need for social workers is greater today than ever before for several reasons.

First, the HIV and AIDS epidemic is destroying the social fabric. Social workers are needed to protect the rights of, and bring healing to, Edo state's most vulnerable citizens (children) through counseling and case management.

Second, rape in Edo state is increasing rapidly. Counseling for sexually abused children is vital to deal with the escalating problem. Because of the severe shortages in qualified social workers and counselors these victims do not receive the help they need.

And third, social workers in rural areas describe their work as 'overwhelming' and 'frustrating' because 'the needs of the community are many, but the numbers of professionals available to assist families in rural areas are few.' For instance, a social worker from the MWASD working with the local government will cover two or more LGAs which is grossly inadequate, leaving other LGAs uncovered.

3.3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Child Rights Law Implementation Committee should partner with the SMILE Project (the Technical Working Group of Vulnerable Children in collaboration with the High Level Management/Steering Committee) to work with the Civil Service Commission to place more social workers where they are needed. This will involve advocacy visits to the State Governor and Head of Service about the need for more social workers to be trained, recruited and deployed.

- The advocacy should be extended to the Edo State House of Assembly (EDHA) for the appointment of more social workers since they scrutinize MDAs spending for approval.

Advocacy visits should also be made to line MDAs to request more social workers in positions occupied by non-professionals or to create social work positions where they are needed. Every year when the Civil Service Commission asks all MDAs to send in their list of vacancies, hospitals, schools and other relevant ministries should ask for more social workers.

- It is recommended that a hundred social workers be hired and deployed among the line MDAs. Of the new social workers to be hired, one should be posted to each police division, while the Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES) staff who are qualified social workers will have to be converted to full fledged staff.
- Government systems should train and re-train social workers. Unused government funds budgeted for training should be utilized for training of social workers. Most MDAs are not aware that there is a budget allocation from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning for training of staff in each ministry.

The director of training in each relevant ministry should organize training for social workers. This training should begin by February 2015. The Ministry of Women Affairs and the directorate of training under the Ministry of Establishment will lead the process while all line ministries with social workers and heads of the different MDAs will partner with them.

Due to the lack of social workers covering the LGAs, there is the need to have at least two social workers in each of the 18 LGAs within the next three years. The social welfare departments of the Local Governments are not working with the social workers from the MWASD which needs to be corrected; hence advocacy visits will be made to the Commissioner of the State Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs who will set up a meeting with the LGAs chairmen on the need for the LGA Social Welfare Department to collaborate with the MWASD. This will include MWASD organizing periodic institutional capacity building trainings for the LGA social workers as well as submission of periodic reports to the MWASD too.

3.4 COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND MOBILIZATION FOR CHANGE: *Insufficient awareness of the CRL and inadequate accessibility to child protection services*

3.4.1 Background

Though the Edo state Child Rights Law (CRL) came into effect in 2007, there is still inadequate awareness about the existence and provisions of the law among the general public including those directly involved in child protection. Most structures necessary for the implementation and popularization of the law are not in place.

Inadequate awareness about the CRL has contributed to limited access to and use of child protection services where they are available. Citizens are not aware of children's rights provided for in the CRL. They often do not recognize situations in which children's rights are violated and do not know where to access child protection services. The Child Rights Law Implementation Committee (CRLIC) which is charged with educating the public on the CRL does not yet exist. Thus harmful social and cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and child labour are still practiced.

3.4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

There should be massive and sustained awareness creation of the CRL and its provisions throughout the state through promotional materials, town hall meetings, open air sensitizations in schools, markets, motor parks etc. The simplified CRL should be more in the form of pictorials for better understanding by the general public.

Traditional rulers should be involved in promoting awareness in communities after they have been made aware of and trained to address practices in communities that are harmful to children.

There should also be statewide awareness on the availability of services provided by the CRL and delivered by child protection actors within each locality. Print, electronic and social media should be engaged throughout the period of awareness creation as well as showcasing success stories and shortcomings that will emanate from the sensitization and subsequent implementation of the CRL.

The CRL should be described in easy to understand written language. This document is now being produced by the state MWASD in collaboration with the state Ministry of Justice which started the process last year. Copies are likely to be available in the last quarter of the year. In order to reach a wider audience, more copies will be produced. Information on child rights and available child protection services will also be developed and distributed with the simplified copies of the CRL. The simplified copies should be distributed in hospitals, markets, schools, worship centers, and urban and rural communities. Line MDAs, religious and traditional leaders, teachers, women's groups, media and other members of the public should distribute the materials.

Work should be done by the MWASD and TWG of Vulnerable Children in collaboration with the media to produce jingles and other simple and clear materials on child protection services and the CRL. The information will be aired on radio and television to inform the general public.

The Child Rights Law Implementation Committee should be established. When it is in place it should be involved in community events and meetings to inform communities, especially rural communities, about the CRL and available services. It is recommended that the CRIC hold six events in each LGA annually. This will help to decentralize child protection activities which currently are located in the state capital and surrounding urban communities.

3.5 ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM: Inadequate documentation and monitoring of child protection activities by social workers and other stakeholders in the state

3.5.1 BACKGROUND

A good child protection information system reflects the importance of children in society. The reporting and monitoring of activities relating to children are essential components in the development of effective prevention and protection policies and programs. Despite some progress in interventions and programmes to alleviate children's problems, data about such activities remain limited. Actors in child protection in Edo state generate data from their activities but lack necessary research capacities, systematic child protection information and monitoring mechanisms. As a result, there is no clear and effective system of documentation, monitoring and reporting of child protection activities.

The state Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD), the primary coordinating ministry for child protection, does not receive monitoring reports from any child protection agency. Social workers from LGAs, NGOs and other organizations do not even report findings from social enquiries to the state MWASD. As a result, relevant child protection data are not available for program monitoring, accountability, policy planning or program development. These data are very important for planning which would aid in the equitable distribution services for children. Without an evidence-base for more resources, children will lack the basic support they need.

Lack of Information on child protection leads to a decrease in awareness of child protection rights, misinformation about professional practices, lack of understanding about prevention and protection measures, inadequate training and capacity building and very limited financing for the CPS.

3.5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Civil Society Organizations and the SMILE Project should work to build the capacity of the MWASD and other key stakeholders to create case management reporting and documentation systems for child protection activities and programmes.

The MWASD should also work with the Child Protection Network (CPN) with a view to adapting CPN's reporting and monitoring tool. Workshops should be held in which 50 stakeholders will be trained on IT and reporting. All the relevant stakeholders in child protection should agree on their roles and responsibilities in reporting and documentation of state child protection activities.

Social workers, Civil Society Organizations, LGAs and Ministries, Departments and Agencies should be trained in the use of the reporting and monitoring tools developed during the workshop.

A software or portal (akin to DHIS) should be developed for stakeholders to document and report their activities and provide data to the MWASD.

In line with the above, there should be collaboration with the Department of Social Work in the University of Benin to develop a curriculum in case management. There should also be a training of trainers who will annually train 50 social workers and newly employed workers. This training of trainers should be outsourced.

3.6 SERVICE AND SERVICE DELIVERY MECHANISMS: *Insufficient access to proper health and forensic services and poor access to child protection services*

3.6.1 BACKGROUND

Several kinds of social services are essential to community life. These services prevent problems and maintain the quality of life in a community. Some of these services include health care, adult literacy, employment training, housing, youth development, food for the hungry or shelter for the homeless.

Developing and improving community services includes *establishing services* where they did not exist before, *making existing services more effective and more widely available*, *improving access* to services, and *coordinating services*. Organizations should be aware of what others are doing and work together to ensure that a range of services are available for everyone who needs them.

All these ways of improving services involve advocacy, public education, and reaching out to the community. It is important that the community at large as well as legislators, local officials, service providers and other advocates and policy makers understand the need for services and are involved in planning and implementing reforms.

The mapping exercise in Edo documented the lack of child protection services, the lack of awareness of services and the inaccessibility of the few services that are available. In addition, the majority of the people in Edo state are not fully aware of their rights regarding child protection and health care delivery.

The provision of health care in Nigeria is the function of the three tiers of government: federal, state, and local. The primary health care system is managed by the 774 LGAs with support from their respective State Ministries of Health (MOH) as well as from private medical practitioners. The primary health care system has its sublevel at the village, district, and LGA. The secondary health care system is managed by the MOH at the state level. Patients at this level are often referred from primary health care entities. The state primary health care system includes laboratory and diagnostic services, rehabilitation, etc. Tertiary health care is provided by teaching hospitals and specialized hospitals.

In Edo state, most of the laboratories in the primary and secondary health care centers require some infrastructural upgrading to provide a safe, secure and appropriate environment for patients. Some basic health center laboratories are better equipped than those in comprehensive health centers and some secondary level hospitals, but equipment is often minimal.

In spite of the various reforms to increase the provision of health services, less than half the population has access to health services. The inadequacy of the health care delivery system in Edo State could be attributed to the peculiar demographics of the populace. About 65% of the population lives in rural areas and only about 35% lives in urban areas. About 70% of health care is provided by private vendors and only 30% is provided by the government.

One major service needed to improve child protection in Edo State is the availability and accessibility of forensic services. Its absence has negatively affected child justice in the state especially in the area of rape. When faced with serious cases the MWASD will mandate the concerned parties to carry out DNA tests in order to arrive at a conclusion. This costs a whopping one hundred and fifty thousand naira (#150,000) which most people cannot afford hence such cases are left unattended to.

Forensic science, the method of gathering and examining information about the past, is especially important in criminal or civil cases such as:

Forensic DNA analysis which takes advantage of the uniqueness of an individual's DNA to answer forensic questions such as paternity or maternity, or placing a suspect at a crime scene as in a rape investigation.

Forensic interviews with victims, witnesses, suspects or other sources to determine the facts regarding suspicions, allegations or specific incidents in either public or private settings.

Forensic pathology is used to determine a cause of death or injury in the context of a legal inquiry.

However, another issue related to sexual violence, especially among children, is the care and treatment received afterwards – access to healthcare. There are limited skilled health staff that can deal with children that have been sexually violated. The security and development of any state depends on the adequacy of its social service delivery to the populace. State governments and LGAs need to allocate adequate funds to support the CPS. Philanthropic societies, organizations and individuals can donate time, resources, equipment, and staff to strengthen the system. Child protection stakeholders in state governments should collectively mobilize resources from international and local NGOs, businesses, philanthropic societies and prominent people in the state and LGAs to improve the CPS.

3.6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The MWASD should work with child protection service providers and other stakeholders to identify the reasons for poor access to child protection services. This will be accomplished by conducting a Knowledge, Attitude and Practices' (KAP) survey. The process should be led by the MWASD in collaboration with the TWG of Vulnerable Children and supported by the CPN), Civil Society Organizations/NGOs/CBOs, the MOH, the Ministry of Education, the Police, and other organizations. It will be a statewide process with emphasis on rural and outlying communities. It is expected that the process will begin by January 2015. The survey will identify factors responsible for poor access to child protection services and present recommendations to improve access to services.

The MWASD will work with the TWG of Vulnerable Children to bring in stakeholders and funding for the provision of forensic laboratory services. This approach will help provide concrete evidence in most child justice cases. This will lead to the establishment of at least one laboratory that will handle all forensic cases in the state at a reduced cost for those who cannot afford it. There will also be periodic training of lab personnel. It is expected that this will begin by December 2014. The process of establishing the forensic lab will be led by the State MOH with support from the MWASD, TWG of Vulnerable Children & the Steering Committee. Sustainability will be ensured through government funding, donor funds and fees-for-services.

The TWG of Vulnerable Children will advocate to the Commissioner for Health on the need for the State Hospital Management Board to appoint a police doctor to each major government owned hospital in the state to handle cases where needed since the former one left the state and any other doctor (who attended to the child victim) does not always come to court to testify when needed.

There is a need to offer waivers for fees and services for criminal cases involving children in public hospitals such as tests involving rape or abuse cases, DNA, etc.

There is also a need to sensitize medical personnel on how to handle cases involving children especially those involved in protection cases or abuse.

3.7 FINANCIAL RESOURCES: Inadequate funding of the MWASD and Inadequate capacity of the MWASD to access budgeted funds for child protection programmes

3.7.1 BACKGROUND

It is reported that the MWASD has been able to spend only 5% of its budget in 2013. Despite great progress and promising practices that have been recorded in the state, it is too early to advocate for a substantial increase of funding of the ministry until the ministry is able to absorb the budgeted funds earmarked for its programming. An additional problem is the budget of the ministry has no separate line item for child protection.

The quality of child protection services depends on the motivation and competence of skilled professionals. Investing in staff as well as creating an enabling work environment is necessary for staff retention. Inadequate funding in the ministry has contributed to poor career plans, poor implementation strategies, unattractive salaries and incentives, excessively large caseloads and stigma associated with social work. A full budgeting exercise of new priorities should be undertaken as previous budget estimates were anecdotal. Such an exercise will result in a greater commitment by the state government to provide more resources for the MWASD.

The MWASD should compare the cost of preventive services with remedial services. In addition it should study the costs and outcomes associated with investing in staff and administration for the ministry verses not making those investments.

3.7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The TWG of Vulnerable Children/Steering Committee will work with the state government to increase the funds available to the MWASD. This will be achieved through advocacy visits to the Governor, Secretary to the State Government, Head of Service, Edo State House of Assembly Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development. It is expected that this advocacy will be initiated by the Commissioner for Women Affairs and begin in August 2014.

Building the capacity of MWASD is needed to utilize already allocated funds. Senior staff should be trained on writing budget memos and how to follow up these memos to speed up access to the budgeted funds. The TWG of Vulnerable Children will work with heads of departments in the ministry as well as with training consultants beginning in December 2014. It is expected that the ministry will be able to utilize all of its budgeted funds in the 2016 budget.

With the support of the Child Protection Technical Working Group, the finance department of the MWASD will ensure that:

- The state allocates adequate financial resources to child protection.
- Allocated resources are prudently used for the intended purposes.
- Children are well protected.

Line items for child protection should be inserted into this next round of budgeting; hence advocacy to EDHA is very urgent and important.

The house also recommended the provision of counseling offices and public toilets in the MWASD (office expansion) by the TWG of Vulnerable Children and finance department of MWASD.

The MWASD should work with the media (print and electronic) and other stakeholders to create awareness about the activities and successes of the MWASD. These activities should entail paying advocacy visits to media houses within the state and to the state National

Orientation Agency, and the state Ministry of Information to secure their participation in creating awareness about the work of the MWASD. The Commissioner of the MWASD and the TWG of Vulnerable Children will lead the process beginning in September 2014. The CPN and media houses should support the process.

Table 1: List of Edo State Gaps	
Gap #1	Cooperation, Coordination and Collaboration
Gap #2	Capacity Building
Gap #3	Communication, Education and Mobilization for Change
Gap #4	Accountability Mechanism
Gap #5	Services and Service Delivery
Gap #6	Financial resources

Table 2: EDO STATE - COSTING OF CP SYSTEM BUILDING PRIORITIES (By Year) (NGN, 000s)

									Year 1 (2015)					
Pri ori ty	Acti vity	State	Gap no	Activity Description	Action	Qty	Unit Price	Resposi ble inst.	Development cost				Recurr ent Costs	Dono r cont.
									TA/ Trng.	Equip	Infras.	Other		
1			0	STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION					24,036	-	-	840	-	-
	1.1	EDO State	1	Workshops on Child Rights Act (2 days)	Sensitization of Justice and CP stakeholders on CRA - 3 workshops(Group size 30 participants)	90	30		2,700					
	1.2	EDO State	1	Training on the use the Management Information System (MIS /Database) for Stakeholders, Service provider	MIS training for administrators and End-users	1	336		336					
	1.3	EDO State	1	Training on Case Management System for the CP social workers-trainers' fees, participants' per diem, course materials etc.	Annual training of trainers and training of Social workers on Case management for CP (30 participants)	30	84		2,520					
	1.4	EDO State	2	Pool fund for training for MWASD and LGA staff and social workers in Case Management, Referrals, IT and other skills	Institutionalized training for about 50 CP staff (lump sum of 16,800,000N in annual basis)	1	16,800		16,800					
	1.5	EDO State	4	Development of training programes for CP case reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability practices to CSO, LGA, Police, Justice workers	Development of curricula and training programe for the CP staff.	1	1,680		1,680					
	1.6	EDO State	6	Capacity building for MWASD on Public finance, Budget and MTEF preparation	Annual budget & MTEF preparation training for the MWASD (Group size of 10 members)	1	840					840		
2			0	DEVELOPING THE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION					3,000	6,720	-	17,640	1,030	-
	2.1	EDO State	1	Development of a web site that provides information on CP projects, stakeholder, services within the State.	Purchase of a domain, hosting and development of resource materials to be published. (Yearly, local subcontract to feed and maintain)	1	840					840		

	2.2	EDO State	1	Development of database for Service provisions, stakeholders and resource material to manage the Management Information System (Database) for Admin & End users	Complete set: Development of MIS and Manuals for Administrator and End users	1	5,040			5,040				
	2.3	EDO State	1	Equipment for the two Management Information System	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment	1	1,680			1,680				
	2.4	EDO State	1	Development of Case Management System for Child Protection in EDO State	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment (2nd and 3rd year 10% of the total price for annual maintenance)	1	16,800					16,800		
	2.5	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Committee per diem for 35 members that three times a year (35 members x 3 per diems annually x 3,000N sitting)	105	3	MWASD /CSOs					315	
	2.6	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Meetings outside of Benin for 5 members that three times a year (5 members x 3 annually x 5,000N sitting)	15	5	MWASD /CSOs					75	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Lunches for 40 participants x 3 meetings annually x 2,000 per lunch	120	2	MWASD /CSOs					240	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination, cooperation & Collaboration consultancy	Support to the Ministry of Woman Affairs and Social Development on coordination, cooperation and collaboration through consultancy	1	3,000	MWASD /CSOs	3,000				-	
	2.8	EDO State	3	CRLIC committee	Committee for 25 members that meet on quarterly basis (25 members x 4 annually)	100	4	state Govt./ MWASD					400	
3			0	ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND ACCESS OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES					11,094	16,800	151,000	8,400	93,000	-
	3.1	EDO State	1	Conduct a needs assessment on CP service provided and the quality of services in EDO state	Subcontract a provider to map & assess the services provided in Edo State (lump sum)	1	8,400					8,400		
	3.2	EDO State	1	Improving working conditions by renovating remand home.	Renovation of the Existing Remand Home in Ugbekun	1	10,000	State Gov. MHUD			10,000			
	3.3	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition and equipping family courts	Construction and equipping the 7 million x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	7,000	State Gov. MHUD			14,000			
	3.4	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition, construction and equipping transit	Construction and equipping transitional shelters x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	60,000	State Gov. MHUD			120,000			

				shelters										
	3.5	EDO State	1	Enhancing the CP services by training family court staff	Training of 15 staff in annual basis for all 3 courts	45	30	Donors and MoJ	1,350					
	3.6	EDO State	1	Operational cost for Family courts	Operational expenditures for 3 family courts (each courts 2 Mil. In annual basis)	3	3,000	MoJ					9,000	
	3.7	EDO State	1	Annual operational cost for temporary shelters	Operational expenditures for 3 temporary shelters (each of 3 shelters is allocated 4 Mil. In annual basis)	3	4,000	MoJ					12,000	
	3.8	EDO State	1	Study tour for sharing best practices for CP stakeholders on Communication, Coordination and Collaboration	A study tour for 30 stakeholders within Nigeria (3 day * 30 participants * 67,200 N)	60	67.2		4,032					
	3.9	EDO State	2	Better service coverage through employment of staff at Edo State central level institutions	Hire of 100 fulltime child protection officer to be deployed among MDAs (100 staff *12 Months * Avg. Salary of 60,000N monthly)	1200	60		-				72,000	
	3.10	EDO State	4	Capacity Building and on the job training for reporting, monitoring, evaluation and increased accountability (related to activity 1.5, following development of curriculum)	Annual on the job training for CP staff within MWASD, LGA, Police, Courts (50 staff)	50	33.6		1,680					
	3.11	EDO State	5	Improve services by identifying factors responsible for poor access to child protection services and present recommendations	Conducting a state wide survey known as Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) with emphasis on rural and outlying communities	1	3,360		3,360					
	3.12	EDO State	5	Improve the availability and accessibility of forensic services within EDO State.	Development of forensic laboratory services. Joint imitative with MoH, MoE, Police. (lump sum contribution from MWASD of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	16,800			16,800				
	3.13	EDO State	5	Improved capacity for use of forensic services	Periodical training for CP staff on evidence collection and lab workers on lab services (20 staff will be trained annually)	20	33.6		672					
	3.13	EDO State	6	Improving working conditions by expansion of the space in MWASD	Capital investment in expanding the MWASD in Edo State	1	7,000	State Gov. and MHUD	-		7,000			
4			0	STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS					3,024	-	-	5,880	-	-
	4.1	EDO State	3	Development of simplified child rights law - printed materials	Promotion materials development in support to the MWASD material to	1	3360					3,360		

					be distributed together									
	4.2	EDO State	3	Development of CP Video, audio and written media awareness campaign for faith community, schools, health care providers and relevant stakeholders	Subcontracted media house to develop campaign (lump sum of 840,000 Naira)	1	840					840		
	4.3	EDO State	3	Broadcasting of the campaign in major EDO State TV, Radio and written media	Subcontracted broadcasting (lump sum of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	1,680					1,680		
	4.4	EDO State	3	Rural community open air event organized to introduce CP activities	Minimum 6 events to be organized every year (lump sum of 168,000 Naira * 6 events in each senatorial district)	18	168		3,024					

EDO STATE - COSTING OF CP SYSTEM BUILDING PRIORITIES (NGN, 000s)														
Pri ori ty	Acti vity	State	Gap no.	Activity Description	Action	Qty	Unit Price	Responsi ble inst.	Year 2 (2016)					
									Development cost				Recurr ent Costs	Dono r cont.
									TA/ Trng.	Equip	Infras.	Other		
1			0	STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION					22,020	-	-	840	-	-
	1.1	EDO State	1	Workshops on Child Rights Act (2 days)	Sensitization of Justice and CP stakeholders on CRA - 3 workshops(Group size 30 participants)	90	30		2,700					
	1.2	EDO State	1	Training on the use the Management Information System (MIS /Database) for Stakeholders, Service provider,	MIS training for administrators and End-users	1	336							
	1.3	EDO State	1	Training on Case Management System for the CP social workers- trainers' fees, participants' per diem, course materials etc.	Annual training of trainers and training of Social workers on Case management for CP (30 participants)	30	84		2,520					
	1.4	EDO State	2	Pool fund for training for MWASD and LGA staff and social workers in Case Management, Referrals, IT and other skills	Institutionalized training for about 50 CP staff (lump sum of 16,800,000N in annual basis)	1	16,800		16,800					
	1.5	EDO State	4	Development of training programmes for CP case reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability	Development of curricula and training programme for the CP staff.	1	1,680							

				practices to CSO, LGA, Police, Justice workers										
	1.6	EDO State	6	Capacity building for MWASD on Public finance, Budget and MTEF preparation	Annual budget & MTEF preparation training for the MWASD (Group size of 10 members)	1	840		-			840		
2			0	DEVELOPING THE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION					-	-	-	2,520	1,030	-
	2.1	EDO State	1	Development of a web site that provides information on CP projects, stakeholder, services within the State.	Purchase of a domain, hosting and development of resource materials to be published. (Yearly, local subcontract to feed and maintain)	1	840					840	-	
	2.2	EDO State	1	Development of database for Service provisions, stakeholders and resource material to manage the Management Information System (Database) for Admin & End users	Complete set: Development of MIS and Manuals for Administrator and End users	1	5,040							
	2.3	EDO State	1	Equipment for the two Management Information System	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment	1	1,680							
	2.4	EDO State	1	Development of Case Management System for Child Protection in EDO State	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment (2nd and 3rd year 10% of the total price for annual maintenance)	1	16,800					1,680		
	2.5	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Committee per diem for 35 members that three times a year (35 members x 3 per diems annually x 3,000N sitting)	105	3	MWASD/ CSOs					315	
	2.6	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Meetings outside of Benin for 5 members that three times a year (5 members x 3 annually x 5,000N sitting)	15	5	MWASD/ CSOs					75	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Lunches for 40 participants x 3 meetings annually x 2,000 per lunch	120	2	MWASD/ CSOs					240	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination, cooperation & Collaboration consultancy	Support to the Ministry of Woman Affairs and Social Development on coordination, cooperation and collaboration through consultancy	1	3,000	MWASD/ CSOs					-	
	2.8	EDO State	3	CRLIC committee	Committee for 25 members that meet on quarterly basis (25 members x 4 annually)	100	4	State Govt./ MWASD					400	

3			0	ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND ACCESS OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES					3,702	-	-	-	93,000	-
	3.1	EDO State	1	Conduct a needs assessment on CP service provided and the quality of services in EDO state	Subcontract a provider to map & assess the services provided in Edo State (lump sum)	1	8,400						-	
	3.2	EDO State	1	Improving working conditions by renovating remand home.	Renovation of the Existing Remand Home in Ugbekun	1	10,000	State Gov. MHUD			-		-	
	3.3	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition and equipping family courts	Construction and equipping the 7 million x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	7,000	State Gov. MHUD			-		-	
	3.4	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition, construction and equipping transit shelters	Construction and equipping transitional shelters x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	60,000	State Gov. MHUD			-		-	
	3.5	EDO State	1	Enhancing the CP services by training family court staff	Training of 15 staff in annual basis for all 3 courts	45	30	Donors and MoJ	1,350				-	
	3.6	EDO State	1	Operational cost for Family courts	Operational expenditures for 3 family courts (each courts 2 Mil. In annual basis)	3	3,000	MoJ					9,000	
	3.7	EDO State	1	Annual operational cost for temporary shelters	Operational expenditures for 3 temporary shelters (each of 3 shelters is allocated 4 Mil. In annual basis)	3	4,000	MoJ					12,000	
	3.8	EDO State	1	Study tour for sharing best practices for CP stakeholders on Communication, Coordination and Collaboration	A study tour for 30 stakeholders within Nigeria (3 day * 30 participants * 67,200 N)	60	67.2							
	3.9	EDO State	2	Better service coverage through employment of staff at Edo State central level institutions	Hire of 100 fulltime child protection officer to be deployed among MDAs (100 staff *12 Months * Avg. Salary of 60,000N monthly)	1,200	60						72,000	
	3.10	EDO State	4	Capacity Building and on the job training for reporting, monitoring, evaluation and increased accountability (related to activity 1.5, following development of curriculum)	Annual on the job training for CP staff within MWASD, LGA, Police, Courts (50 staff)	50	33.6		1,680			-	-	
	3.11	EDO State	5	Improve services by identifying factors responsible for poor access to child protection services and present recommendations	Conducting a state wide survey known as Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) with emphasis on rural and outlying communities	1	3360		-					

	3.12	EDO State	5	Improve the availability and accessibility of forensic services within EDO State.	Development of forensic laboratory services. Joint initiative with MoH, MoE, Police. (lump sum contribution from MWASD of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	16,800							
	3.13	EDO State	5	Improved capacity for use of forensic services	Periodical training for CP staff on evidence collection and lab workers on lab services (20 staff will be trained annually)	20	33.6		672					
	3.13	EDO State	6	Improving working conditions by expansion of the space in MWASD	Capital investment in expanding the MWASD in Edo State	1	7,000	State Gov. and MHUD	-					
4			0	STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS					3,024	-	-	3,360	-	-
	4.1	EDO State	3	Development of simplified child rights law - printed materials	Promotion materials development in support to the MWASD material to be distributed together	1	3,360					3,360		
	4.2	EDO State	3	Development of CP Video, audio and written media awareness campaign for faith community, schools, health care providers and relevant stakeholders	Subcontracted media house to develop campaign (lump sum of 840,000 Naira)	1	840							
	4.3	EDO State	3	Broadcasting of the campaign in major EDO State TV, Radio and written media	Subcontracted broadcasting (lump sum of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	1,680							
	4.4	EDO State	3	Rural community open air event organized to introduce CP activities	Minimum 6 events to be organized every year (lump sum of 168,000 Naira * 6 events in each senatorial district)	18	168		3,024					

EDO STATE - COSTING OF CP SYSTEM BUILDING PRIORITIES (NGN, 000s)

Priority	Activity	State	Gap no.	Activity Description	Action	Qty	Unit Price	Responsible inst.	Year 3 (2017)					
									Development cost				Recurrent Costs	Donor cont.
									TA/Trng.	Equip	Infras.	Other		
1			0	STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION					22,020	-	-	840	-	-
	1.1	EDO State	1	Workshops on Child Rights Act (2 days)	Sensitization of Justice and CP stakeholders on CRA - 3 workshops(Group size 30 participants)	90	30		2,700					

	1.2	EDO State	1	Training on the use the Management Information System (MIS /Database) for Stakeholders, Service provider,	MIS training for administrators and End-users	1	336								
	1.3	EDO State	1	Training on Case Management System for the CP social workers-trainers' fees, participants' per diem, course materials etc.	Annual training of trainers and training of Social workers on Case management for CP (30 participants)	30	84		2,520						
	1.4	EDO State	2	Pool fund for training for MWASD and LGA staff and social workers in Case Management, Referrals, IT and other skills	Institutionalized training for about 50 CP staff (lump sum of 16,800,000N in annual basis)	1	1,680 0		16,800						
	1.5	EDO State	4	Development of training programmes for CP case reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability practices to CSO, LGA, Police, Justice workers	Development of curricula and training programme for the CP staff.	1	1,680								
	1.6	EDO State	6	Capacity building for MWASD on Public finance, Budget and MTEF preparation	Annual budget & MTEF preparation training for the MWASD (Group size of 10 members)	1	840		-			840			
2			0	DEVELOPING THE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION					-	-	-	2,520	1,030	-	
	2.1	EDO State	1	Development of a web site that provides information on CP projects, stakeholder, services within the State.	Purchase of a domain, hosting and development of resource materials to be published. (Yearly, local subcontract to feed and maintain)	1	840					840	-		
	2.2	EDO State	1	Development of database for Service provisions, stakeholders and resource material to manage the Management Information System (Database) for Admin & End users	Complete set: Development of MIS and Manuals for Administrator and End users	1	5,040								
	2.3	EDO State	1	Equipment for the two Management Information System	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment	1	1,680								
	2.4	EDO State	1	Development of Case Management System for Child Protection in EDO State	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment (2nd and 3rd year 10% of the total price for annual maintenance)	1	16,80 0					1,680			
	2.5	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Committee per diem for 35 members that three times a year (35 members x 3 per diems annually x 3,000N sitting)	105	3	MWASD/ CSOs					315		

	2.6	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Meetings outside of Benin for 5 members that three times a year (5 members x 3 annually x 5,000N sitting)	15	5	MWASD/ CSOs					75	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Lunches for 40 participants x 3 meetings annually x 2,000 per lunch	120	2	MWASD/ CSOs					240	
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination, cooperation & Collaboration consultancy	Support to the Ministry of Woman Affairs and Social Development on coordination, cooperation and collaboration through consultancy	1	3000	MWASD/ CSOs					-	
	2.8	EDO State	3	CRLIC committee	Committee for 25 members that meet on quarterly basis (25 members x 4 annually)	100	4	State Govt./ MWASD					400	
3			0	ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND ACCESS OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES					3,702	-	-	-	93,000	-
	3.1	EDO State	1	Conduct a needs assessment on CP service provided and the quality of services in EDO state	Subcontract a provider to map & assess the services provided in Edo State (lump sum)	1	8,400						-	
	3.2	EDO State	1	Improving working conditions by renovating remand home.	Renovation of the Existing Remand Home in Ugbekun	1	10,000	State Gov. MHUD				-	-	
	3.3	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition and equipping family courts	Construction and equipping the 7 million x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	7,000	State Gov. MHUD				-	-	
	3.4	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition, construction and equipping transit shelters	Construction and equipping transitional shelters x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	60,000	State Gov. MHUD				-	-	
	3.5	EDO State	1	Enhancing the CP services by training family court staff	Training of 15 staff in annual basis for all 3 courts	45	30	Donors and MoJ	1,350				-	
	3.6	EDO State	1	Operational cost for Family courts	Operational expenditures for 3 family courts (each courts 2 Mil. In annual basis)	3	3,000	MoJ					9,000	
	3.7	EDO State	1	Annual operational cost for temporary shelters	Operational expenditures for 3 temporary shelters (each of 3 shelters is allocated 4 Mil. In annual basis)	3	4,000	MoLJ					12,000	
	3.8	EDO State	1	Study tour for sharing best practices for CP stakeholders on Communication, Coordination and Collaboration	A study tour for 30 stakeholders within Nigeria (3 day * 30 participants * 67,200 N)	60	67.2							

	3.9	EDO State	2	Better service coverage through employment of staff at Edo State central level institutions	Hire of 100 fulltime child protection officer to be deployed among MDAs (100 staff *12 Months * Avg. Salary of 60,000N monthly)	1200	60						72,000	
	3.10	EDO State	4	Capacity Building and on the job training for reporting, monitoring, evaluation and increased accountability (related to activity 1.5, following development of curriculum)	Annual on the job training for CP staff within MWASD, LGA, Police, Courts (50 staff)	50	33.6		1,680			-	-	
	3.11	EDO State	5	Improve services by identifying factors responsible for poor access to child protection services and present recommendations	Conducting a state wide survey known as Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) with emphasis on rural and outlying communities	1	3360		-					
	3.12	EDO State	5	Improve the availability and accessibility of forensic services within EDO State.	Development of forensic laboratory services. Joint imitative with MoH, MoE, Police. (lump sum contribution from MWASD of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	16800							
	3.13	EDO State	5	Improved capacity for use of forensic services	Periodical training for CP staff on evidence collection and lab workers on lab services (20 staff will be trained annually)	20	33.6		672					
	3.13	EDO State	6	Improving working conditions by expansion of the space in MWASD	Capital investment in expanding the MWASD in Edo State	1	7000	State Gov. and MHUD	-					
4			0	STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS					3,024	-	-	3,360	-	-
	4.1	EDO State	3	Development of simplified child rights law - printed materials	Promotion materials development in support to the MWASD material to be distributed together	1	3360					3,360		
	4.2	EDO State	3	Development of CP Video, audio and written media awareness campaign for faith community, schools, health care providers and relevant stakeholders	Subcontracted media house to develop campaign (lump sum of 840,000 Naira)	1	840							
	4.3	EDO State	3	Broadcasting of the campaign in major EDO State TV, Radio and written media	Subcontracted broadcasting (lump sum of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	1680							
	4.4	EDO State	3	Rural community open air event organized to introduce CP activities	Minimum 6 events to be organized every year (lump sum of 168,000 Naira * 6 events in each senatorial district)	18	168		3,024					

Table 3: EDO STATE - COSTING OF CP SYSTEM BUILDING PRIORITIES (by Gap) (NGN, 000s)

Pri ori ty	Acti vity	State	Gap no.	Activity Description	Action	Qty	Unit Price	Resposi ble inst.	TOTAL					
									Development cost				Recurr ent Costs	Don or con t.
									TA/ Trng.	Equip	Infras.	Other		
1			0	STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD PROTECTION					68,076	-	-	2,520	-	-
	1.1	EDO State	1	Workshops on Child Rights Act (2 days)	Sensitization of Justice and CP stakeholders on CRA - 3 workshops(Group size 30 participants)	90	30		8,100	-	-	-	-	-
	1.2	EDO State	1	Training on the use the Management Information System (MIS /Database) for Stakeholders, Service provider,	MIS training for administrators and End-users	1	336		336	-	-	-	-	-
	1.3	EDO State	1	Training on Case Management System for the CP social workers-trainers' fees, participants' per diem, course materials etc.	Annual training of trainers and training of Social workers on Case management for CP (30 participants)	30	84		7,560	-	-	-	-	-
	1.4	EDO State	2	Pool fund for training for MWASD and LGA staff and social workers in Case Management, Referrals, IT and other skills	Institutionalized training for about 50 CP staff (lump sum of 16,800,000N in annual basis)	1	16800		50,400	-	-	-	-	-
	1.5	EDO State	4	Development of training programmes for CP case reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability practices to CSO, LGA, Police, Justice workers	Development of curricula and training programme for the CP staff.	1	1680		1,680	-	-	-	-	-
	1.6	EDO State	6	Capacity building for MWASD on Public finance, Budget and MTEF preparation	Annual budget & MTEF preparation training for the MWASD (Group size of 10 members)	1	840		-	-	-	2,520	-	-
2			0	DEVELOPING THE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CHILD PROTECTION					3,000	6,720	-	22,680	3,090	-
	2.1	EDO State	1	Development of a web site that provides information on CP projects, stakeholder, services within the State.	Purchase of a domain, hosting and development of resource materials to be published. (Yearly, local subcontract to feed and maintain)	1	840		-	-	-	2,520	-	-
	2.2	EDO State	1	Development of database for Service provisions, stakeholders and resource material to manage the Management Information System (Database) for Admin &	Complete set: Development of MIS and Manuals for Administrator and End users	1	5,040		-	5,040	-	-	-	-

				End users										
	2.3	EDO State	1	Equipment for the two Management Information System	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment	1	1,680		-	1,680	-	-	-	-
	2.4	EDO State	1	Development of Case Management System for Child Protection in EDO State	Purchase of necessary hardware for MIS deployment (2nd and 3rd year 10% of the total price for annual maintenance)	1	16,800		-	-	-	20,160	-	-
	2.5	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances Lunch	Committee per diem for 35 members that three times a year (35 members x 3 per diems annually x 3,000N sitting)	105	3	MWASD/ CSOs	-	-	-	-	945	-
	2.6	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances, Lunch	Meetings outside of Benin for 5 members that three times a year -5 members x 3 annually x 5,000N sitting	15	5	MWASD/ CSOs	-	-	-	-	225	-
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination leadership meeting of CP stakeholders Transport Allowances, Lunch	Lunches for 40 participants x 3 meetings annually x 2,000 per lunch	120	2	MWASD/ CSOs	-	-	-	-	720	-
	2.7	EDO State	1	Coordination, cooperation & Collaboration consultancy	Support to the Ministry of Woman Affairs and Social Development on coordination, cooperation and collaboration through consultancy	1	3,000	MWASD/ CSOs	3,000	-	-	-	-	-
	2.8	EDO State	3	CRLIC committee	Committee for 25 members that meet on quarterly basis (25 members x 4 annually)	100	4	State Govt/M WASD	-	-	-	-	1,200	-
3			0	ENHANCING THE QUALITY AND ACCESS OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES					18,498	16,800	151,000	8,400	279,000	-
	3.1	EDO State	1	Conduct a needs assessment on CP service provided and the quality of services in EDO state	Subcontract a provider to map & assess the services provided in Edo State (lump sum)	1	8,400		-	-	-	8,400	-	-
	3.2	EDO State	1	Improving working conditions by renovating remand home.	Renovation of the Existing Remand Home in Ugbekun	1	10,000	State Gov. MHUD	-	-	10,000	-	-	-
	3.3	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition and equipping family courts	Construction and equipping the 7 million x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	7,000	State Gov. MHUD	-	-	14,000	-	-	-
	3.4	EDO State	1	Enhancing the access to CP services by Improving working condition, construction and equipping transit shelters	Construction and equipping transitional shelters x 2 Senatorial districts (Family court)	2	60,000	State Gov. MHUD	-	-	120,000	-	-	-

	3.5	EDO State	1	Enhancing the CP services by training family court staff	Training of 15 staff in annual basis for all 3 courts	45	30	Donors and MoJ	4,050	-	-	-	-	-
	3.6	EDO State	1	Operational cost for Family courts	Operational expenditures for 3 family courts (each courts 2 Mil. In annual basis)	3	3,000	MoJ	-	-	-	-	27,000	-
	3.7	EDO State	1	Annual operational cost for temporary shelters	Operational expenditures for 3 temporary shelters (each of 3 shelters is allocated 4 Mil. In annual basis)	3	4,000	MoJ	-	-	-	-	36,000	-
	3.8	EDO State	1	Study tour for sharing best practices for CP stakeholders on Communication, Coordination and Collaboration	A study tour for 30 stakeholders within Nigeria (3 day * 30 participants * 67,200 N)	60	67.2		4,032	-	-	-	-	-
	3.9	EDO State	2	Better service coverage through employment of staff at Edo State central level institutions	Hire of 100 fulltime child protection officer to be deployed among MDAs (100 staff *12 Months * Avg. Salary of 60,000N monthly)	1200	60		-	-	-	-	216,000	-
	3.10	EDO State	4	Capacity Building and on the job training for reporting, monitoring, evaluation and increased accountability (related to activity 1.5, following development of curriculum)	Annual on the job training for CP staff within MWASD, LGA, Police, Courts (50 staff)	50	33.6		5,040	-	-	-	-	-
	3.11	EDO State	5	Improve services by identifying factors responsible for poor access to child protection services and present recommendations	Conducting a state wide survey known as Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) with emphasis on rural and outlying communities	1	3360		3,360	-	-	-	-	-
	3.12	EDO State	5	Improve the availability and accessibility of forensic services within EDO State.	Development of forensic laboratory services. Joint imitative with MoH, MoE, Police. (lump sum contribution from MWASD of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	16800		-	16,800	-	-	-	-
	3.13	EDO State	5	Improved capacity for use of forensic services	Periodical training for CP staff on evidence collection and lab workers on lab services (20 staff will be trained annually)	20	33.6		2,016	-	-	-	-	-
	3.13	EDO State	6	Improving working conditions by expansion of the space in MWASD	Capital investment in expanding the MWASD in Edo State	1	7000	State Gov. and MHUD	-	-	7,000	-	-	-
4			0	STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS					9,072	-	-	12,600	-	-
	4.1	EDO State	3	Development of simplified child rights law - printed materials	Promotion materials development in support to the MWASD material to be distributed together	1	3360		-	-	-	10,080	-	-

	4.2	EDO State	3	Development of CP Video, audio and written media awareness campaign for faith community, schools, health care providers and relevant stakeholders	Subcontracted media house to develop campaign (lump sum of 840,000 Naira)	1	840		-	-	-	840	-	-
	4.3	EDO State	3	Broadcasting of the campaign in major EDO State TV, Radio and written media	Subcontracted broadcasting (lump sum of 1,680,000 Naira)	1	1680		-	-	-	1,680	-	-
	4.4	EDO State	3	Rural community open air event organized to introduce CP activities	Minimum 6 events to be organized every year (lump sum of 168,000 Naira * 6 events in each senatorial district)	18	168		9,072	-	-	-	-	-

Table 4: EDO State Cumulative Costing

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST	248,434	35,466	35,466	319,366
TOTAL RECURRENT COST	94,030	94,030	94,030	282,090
DONOR CONTRIBUTION	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL (NGN, 000s)	342,464	129,496	129,496	601,456

Table 5: EDO STATE NOMINAL ROLE	Grade	Step/Scale	Monthly Salary
DIRECTOR – GL 17 ⁹	GL 17	9	454,344
DEPUTY DIRECTOR – GL 16 ⁹	GL 16	9	241,681
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – GL 15 ⁷	GL 15	7	184,750
CHIEF OFFICER – GL 14 ⁸	GL 14	8	138,079
ASSISTANT CHIEF – GL 13 ⁶	GL 13	6	117,820
PRINCIPAL OFFICER – GL 12 ³	GL 12	3	95,322
SENIOR OFFICER – GL 10 ⁶	GL 10	6	88,385
SENIOR OFFICER I – GL 09 ⁶	GL 9	6	76,127
SENIOR OFFICER II – GL 08 ⁷	GL 8	7	66,675
GL 07 ⁵	GL 7	5	49,414
ASSISTANT OFFICER – GL 06 ⁵	GL 6	5	30,425
CLERICAL OFFICER – GL 05 ¹²	GL 5	12	30,963
CLERICAL ASSIATANT – GL 04 ³	GL 4	3	21,687

Annex One: Edo State Child Protection System Mapping Work Plan

MILESTONE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES	TIMEFRAME	Responsible
Step 1. ORGANIZATION			
1. Launch initial meetings with state coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to the mapping and assessment exercise. Description of toolkit. Capacity building of state coordinators and government officials on how to use the toolkit. 	3 rd – 7 th September, 2013	Capacity Plus
2. Orientation session TK overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical application of tool kit. 	3 rd – 7 th September, 2013	Capacity Plus
3. Establish technical working group & Steering committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying the stakeholders concerned. Both state and non state actors Invitation of the various stakeholders Establishing the technical working group Drafting the TWG TOR. 	28 th October – 8 th November, 2013	MWASD & State Mapping Team
Step 2. PLAN			
1. Determine who does what and when	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an action plan on ways of data/information collection Identify methods for obtaining data Develop data collection tracking tool 	16 th – 18 th September , 2013	Draft by State Mapping Team and approval from MWASD
2. Establish communication and coordination mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a contact list of all key stakeholders. Regular meetings with the working group. Creation of a yahoo group within the technical working group and the key stakeholders. Establishment of a focal desk officer in the identified social welfare structure. Advocacy visits. 	28 th October – 8 th November, 2013 Ongoing	State Mapping Team
3. CUSTOMIZE AND TRANSLATE			
1. Identify what to map/assess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the tool kit and user guide. Extract what to map and assess from the different domain of the tool kit. Selecting the appropriate mapping methodologies for the identified indicators in the toolkit. 	September 30 th - October 31, 2013	State Mapping Team
2. Customization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailoring the tool kit into the state context of child protection. 	September 30 th - October 31, 2013	State Mapping Team
3. Translation	N/A.		
Step 4. MAP AND ASSESS			
1. Gather existing data from Primary and Secondary Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up meeting with key stakeholders to collect reports, policies. Conduct desk review. Conduct Focus group discussion. 	November 1 st - 30 th , 2013	State Mapping Team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Key informant interview. 		
2. Synthesize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross reference sources using triangulation method Data quality analysis. Documentation 	December 1 st – 15 th , 2013	State Mapping Team
5. Data verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing validation meeting with all the stakeholders. 	December 15 th – 30 th , 2013	State Mapping Team
Step 5. FUTURE PLANS			
1. Dialogue and Prepare Priority Recommendations Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out invitations to stakeholders Identifying major priorities 	Jan 4 th – 10 th , 2014	State Mapping Team
2. Strategy for Moving Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile final report Design advocacy strategies Advocate for the passage of the outcome of the mapping 	Jan 11 th – 20 th , 2014	State Mapping Team, Steering committee & MWASD
3. Implementation Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send out invitation to stake holders Draft implementation time frame with stakeholders Monitor the implementation 	Jan 21 st - Ongoing	State Mapping Team & MWASD
4. Resource Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing budget based on the identified priorities Validate the budget 	Jan 21 st – 30 th , 2014	Maestral International
5. Final Endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for a steering committee meeting Validate and get endorsement from high officials Advocacy visits 	Feb 1 st - ongoing	MWASD, State Mapping Team, & UNICEF, other stakeholders

Annex Two: List of Participants at Edo State CPS Mapping & Assessment Validation Meeting, Vichi Gate Hotel, GRA, Benin City, 21-23, Jan 2014

	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANIZATION
1	Enarhome Flora	Director	MWASD
2	Ekata Clement Osa	Director Adm & Sup	MWASD
3	Nathaniel I Cole	Coordinator	Cole Ophanage
4	Ugum M I	Social Officer	SUBEB
5	Kingsley Ogbodu Osamwonyi	Focal Officer	MBPED
6	Saliu Solomon	Field Supervisor	FBO
7	J O Aiyevbekpen	Legal Officer	MWASD
8	Barr Nicholas Osadolor	Asst Coordinator	NHRC
9	Kehinde Modupe	Secretary	ISWC
10	Jennifer Ero	Coordinator	CPN
11	Rev Lucky Osaobakhoe	Secretary	CAN
12	Osigbemhe E O	Director	SEMA
13	Abdul-Fatai Enabulele	Chief Imam	Benin central Mosque
14	Ogbue Paul Agiliga	Supt of Prisons	Prisons
15	Uhuangho-Oni Ivie Annette	NPOC officer	NPOC
16	Saliu Aidorolo	Mapping Assistant	CapacityPlus
17	Ekweozoh Monica	Mapping Assistant	CapacityPlus
18	Oseghale Charles	Computer Instructor	JDPC
19	Blessing Ehiagwina	Head, Services	GPI
20	Akhuamhenkhim A E	Permanent Secretary	MWASD
21	Hon Didi Adodu	Comm. for Establishment & Sp Duties	Edo State Govt.
22	Stella Obehi Ojeme	Chairman	FIDA
23	Anthony Izevbekhai	Rep. Director CRC	Min of Justice
24	Enakhimion Elizabeth	Director Child	MWASD
25	Lucy Bello	Coordinator	AONN
26	Cordelia Chiagozie	State Coordinator	CapacityPlus
27	Amadasun C.O	DPRS	MWASD
28	Nduka Nwanwene	NACID	NAPTIP
29	David Ebor	Accountant	Office of Accountant General
30	Ibrahim Mari Abudukadir (Chief)	-	Royal Palace
31	(Ogiekae Ewemade)	His Royal Highness	Royal Palace
32	Christian Oseghale	Chairman	NASOW
33	Iwelomen Ruth	Asst Director	P P EB Egor
34	Okoeguale Sylvester	Social Welfare Officer	Etsako East
35	Abhulimen Flora	Social Welfare Officer	Esan Central
36	Shar Kurtishi		Maestral Int
37	Olajumoke Idowu	Rapporteur	ILP
38	Lawani V O	Social Welfare Officer	Correctional Center
39	Erhabor Taiye Daniel	Social Welfare Officer	Estako West
40	Florence A. Nwaozor	Social Welfare Officer	MWASD, Uhumwode
41	Noriko Izumi	Chief, CP	UNICEF
42	David Irene	Natl Coordinator	CapacityPlus
43	Rebecca Davis	Consultant	CapacityPlus
44	Onaifo Elvis Eloghosa	Social Welfare Officer	Ideal Development & Empowerment Agency
45	Mercy Omojemite	Prog Assistant	UNICEF
46	Agbonkina Adesuwa	SCCO	MOH
47	Mabel C Ojobo	Chief magistrate	Judiciary
48	Justina Idiata	Police	AHT/WCPU
49	Eddy O Inenevwo	State Coordinator	Legal Aid

Annex Three: Case Studies

CASE STUDY 1

TRAFFICKING AND CHILD PROSTITUTION/RAPE (CPN)

This is the story of Mercy, a fourteen year old girl who lost her parents when she was nine years old. She and her siblings (an elder brother and a younger sister) had to live with their grandmother after the death of her parents in their native village where they had lived with her parents before their demise. Her grandmother took ill and Mercy had to live with her uncle in Benin City, her grandmother also died shortly after she moved to Benin.

Her uncle's wife was a Muslim who wanted Mercy to convert to Islam and join her in going to the mosque. Mercy refused to become a Muslim and this made her uncle's wife maltreat her. When things became unbearable, she was sent out of the house by her uncle. Mercy was forced to live on the streets. In the streets she was picked up by a certain 'Madam' who employs young girls as sex slaves and introduced them to cigarettes & drugs (cannabis).

Mercy spent three years working as a sex slave at such tender age for her madam in Benin City. She alongside 30 to 40 girls were made to share a room rented for them by the madam. They are made to sleep with different men who paid the madam handsomely in exchange for a young girl to grace their beds. Her madam gave them only one hundred naira (₦100) a day to feed, even when each of her clients (who paid directly to her madam) paid well more than that. She had no option but to stay there since her uncle or relative refused to accommodate her having lost her younger sister to death and her elder brother was also missing.

One night while returning to her madam from a client she had gone to service (they were not allowed to pass the night with any client so they are duty bound to return back to their room no matter the time of the day), Mercy was gang-raped by a group of unidentified boys. She was found the next day by passers-by bleeding and on the verge of dying. She could not even talk. Somebody among the onlookers who had the Child Protection Network (CPN) number in Edo state, called their hotlines to report about the girl. CPN responded immediately as the Coordinator and two other members were contacted and they rushed to the scene immediately. They picked up Mercy and first took her to the Edo State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (MWASD), reason being that because they wanted to work within the law and the MWASD is the government agency saddled with the protection and support of vulnerable children. They also reported the matter to the police (DPO, Family Unit) so as not to be mobbed for taking the child away.

The Director, Child Development Department in the state MWASD with CPN then took Mercy to the state Central Hospital in Benin City where Ultrasound tests among others were conducted to ascertain the extent of damage. This was now late in the evening. She received prompt treatment in the hospital. The medical bills were shared by both the MWASD and CPN.

By the time Mercy was to able recount her ordeal to CPN, they discovered that this was also a case of trafficking, so they reported the matter to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The Police also came to see Mercy in the hospital to start an investigation. On the other hand, she could not recognize any of the boys who raped her so the police could not do anything so they exited the scene at that point.

After she left the hospital, Mercy stayed at NAPTIP shelter for two months. She assisted NAPTIP with their investigations into the case. She showed them where the madam operated from, but

NAPTIP could not crack down the madam because they were heavily protected by armed boys and NAPTIP officials were not armed. They promised to send message across to their headquarters in Abuja for reinforcement to enable them crack the cartel down. The madams are well connected in the society and even the police officers are on their payroll for their protection. Mercy had earlier on hinted that the police should not be trusted to handle the case so that informed why NAPTIP was called to help salvage the situation but from the look of things, they were also handicapped. At the end of the day, no arrests were made and the Traditional Head/Oba said they should leave those madams alone, that they have been there since the creation of the state.

At this point, NAPTIP said they could not continue to accommodate Mercy in their shelter after three months claiming that their shelter is not meant for children. She was dumped at the MWASD office at quarter to four, CPN was called upon again by the Ministry official and it was agreed that she should be taken to the Children Correctional Home (Remand Home) by the MWASD. While she was at the Children Correctional Home for three weeks, CPN provided counseling to her. They encouraged her to continue her schooling, and after a while she agreed to go back to school instead of learning to be a hairdresser (which she had aspired to be).

After four weeks (by July), she gained admission to a school and was put in a boarding house since there was no relative for her to live with. The MWASD pays her fees and had earlier received vocational training during the period she was in the correctional home. CPN also counseled her while in the remand home on the need to go to school.

The process of enrolling her in a school started almost immediately with a meeting with the commissioner of MWASD; UNICEF also joined in the advocacy to the Commissioner of MWASD. The meeting/advocacy was a success, Edo state tuition in government schools is free so the Ministry only pays the boarding fees. This was well documented so that it does not end with the commissioner but any other commissioner will be able to continue with the payment plan.

CPN identified some public schools from which Mercy chose one. The MWASD social welfare officer assessed the school and she was registered. The Commissioner wrote a letter to the Education counterpart who now wrote to the School requesting that the girl be admitted into the school (since it was not a regular time for registering students).

Mercy is now in girls' only school and CPN makes follow up visits to her on every visiting day to ensure she stays in school. She spends her holiday in the shelter of one of the CPN member organization. CPN has a case file for Mercy. The MWASD also keeps a case file for Mercy since they provide educational support for her. Her story has been presented in about five conferences.

The high points of this case are:

- The Partnership/Synergy between CPN and MWASD made the coordination in the case work well.
- There was a network on ground to provide multi-faceted services as each member was called to offer assistants like Police, Central Hospital etc.
- Medical attention was fast and prompt and the Medical result came out within a day once the #2,000 fees.
- CPN was able to identify the referral system and did constant follow ups.

CASE STUDY 2

ABADONED BABY (LIVING YOUR DREAMS INITIATIVE)

A newly born baby was abandoned on a street beside the office of a Faith-Based Organization (FBO). Someone from the locality called the FBO officer's number (knowing that they work actively in the area of child protection). The FBO project manager got to the scene and baby's umbilical cord was still attached and dangling. The baby's colour had turned blue as a result of excessive crying.

Team members from the FBO took the baby to a nearby hospital which is about two minutes from the site where the baby was abandoned. The doctor refused to accept the baby unless the organization agreed to take responsibility for the baby's medical bills, to which the organization accepted.

After about ten minutes, a Police team came to the hospital heavily armed. They said they received a phone call that an abandoned child was brought there and they wanted to take the child away. The doctor told the Police team that the baby was in a critical condition (and it was initially difficult for the doctor to find the baby's vein to fix drip for the child) and could not hand the baby over at that moment, but the head of the police team told him (Doctor) that they have taken babies in worse conditions so there was no cause for alarm. The police team was trying to force the doctor to discharge the baby by all means even when the child was without clothes and was on drip. The FBO pleaded that the police team come for the baby by the next day but the police insisted that they will be left with no other choice than to arrest those obstructing their duties, so the FBO leader volunteered to be arrested instead so that they can allow the child to receive treatment, still the Police refused.

After sometime the doctor decided to release the baby out of fear, at this point the FBO now called the commissioner for Women Affairs to tell her about what was happening. She was out of the State capital but asked the FBO not to release the child to the police, that if the child is released to the police for fear of losing sight of the child.

It got to a point when the FBO could no longer sway the police with their guns and tear gas, so they contacted some of their members who work in State Government House, who pleaded with the police to wait till the next day. The Commissioner for Women Affairs also called to prevail on the police. At the end of the day the FBO was able to stop the police from taking the baby away that night, but the FBO team was placed on house arrest by the Police.

During the deliberation, a Police lady was calling someone and she was heard saying that "they have a bundle for disposal and that the bundle was half current (which is the code name for a girl child)".

At about 6 AM the following day, the police insisted that they take the child to the Juvenile centre Police Station (where children/family cases are handled). The Police asked the FBO to go home or they will have to come to the station and give their statement, and that the baby will be taken with them as evidence. The Commissioner for Women Affairs was called upon and she asked the FBO team to wait for her to come back from her trip since she had already on her way from Benin City. The Commissioner asked everyone to move to the MWASD to pick up the OVC Desk Officer instead of them going straight to the police station. The FBO team had to distribute themselves into three groups with each of them going to the police station, MWASD to get the OVC officer and the Lawyer in charge of adoption.

When the other team that went with the police to give their statement got to the police station, they were asked to go back because at this time the couple who had earlier been contacted to buy the baby was around and had agreed on a fee of three hundred and fifty thousand naira (₦350, 000) with the police. The police were about to hand over the child to the buyers when the FBO team raised an alarm. Almost immediately, the lawyer from the MWASD arrived at the police station and told the police that the Commissioner had asked them to bring the child to the MWASD immediately. The police carried the child and they all went to the MWASD to see the Commissioner who was back to the office.

The police were angry that the plan to sell the baby had been foiled since the buyer had come for the pickup which would not be possible because of the presence of a lot of actors, especially youths, that were getting agitated and rioting, the media were also on ground to report the matter.

Now the Commissioner of Women Affairs quickly took the baby from the police and she told the police that their main responsibility in any case of child abandonment was to collect a statement and the child should not be in police custody but instead the MWASD. The media interviewed the commissioner for MWASD, she said that police is their problem that they should stop giving children out. The police spokesperson maintained that abandoned children should be in their custody before any investigation can be done. At this point The FBO team coordinator called on the Edo State Government to decide on who should handle cases of abandoned children. At this point UNICEF's Lagos office was called upon to lend a voice on the matter and it was concluded that the child should be released to a neutral person/family where she will see it as her home.

The baby was taken back to the hospital by the MWASD for treatment because the police had denied her that since they forcefully carried the child from the hospital. The MWASD contacted a couple who had been on the adoption waiting list to come forward and adopt the baby girl. The foster mother stayed with the child in an undisclosed hospital (due to the controversies surrounding the child to get used to the child (bond) while the adoption process was going on. The child spent another month in the hospital and was discharged. The MWASD footed the medical bills. The baby girl is now living happily with her foster parents. The adoption, which was processed when the child was in the hospital, took just one week to complete. The FBO makes follow-up visits to the child and her adoptive parents monthly. It was confirmed that the child is well taken care of and looks like a princess. The girl is now 2 years old.

There had since been campaigns on who should take custody of an abandoned child in partnership with other NGOs and government bodies.



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