



**MARKET
DEVELOPMENT
IN THE NIGER DELTA**

DFID Department for
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Development

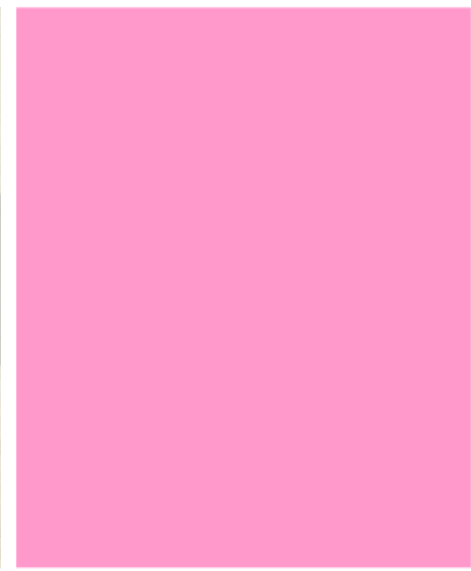
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Using Market Systems Development Approach to Stimulate Livelihood Opportunities and Reduce Human Trafficking in Edo State

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Learning Paper Series



Using Market Systems Development Approach to Stimulate Livelihood Opportunities and Reduce Human Trafficking in Edo State

September 2019



**Lessons from the Edo State Investment Portfolio
(ESIP) Intervention, from inception to
implementation.**



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------------|--|
| BBG | Bulk Buyer Group |
| CBR | Community Based Reintegration |
| CSOs | Civil Society Organisations |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| EPC | Edo Production Centre |
| ESIP | Edo State Investment Portfolio |
| FMCG | Fast Moving Consumers Good |
| ICT | Informations and Communications Technology |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| LGA | Local Government Area |
| M4P | Making Markets work for the poor |
| MADE | Markets Development in the Delta |
| MCPL | Multi Pro Consumer Product Limited |
| MDS | Modern Day Slavery |
| MSD | Market Systems Development |
| MT | Metric Tonnes |
| NAPTIP | National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons |
| NGO's | Non Governmental Organisations |
| PIND | Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta |
| QBWA | Quintessential Business Women Association |
| SME's | Small Medium Enterprises |



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in human beings, a form of modern-day slavery, involves the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain, and is a \$150 billion global industry generated by forced economic exploitation of people for commercial sex, domestic work, or other economic activity. It is the result of forced economic exploitation of people for commercial sex, domestic work or other economic purposes. In July 2018, the Global Slavery Index reported that there are 40.3 million victims of modern slavery worldwide and that 71% are women and 25% are children.

While Nigeria is making substantial attempts to fulfil the minimum trafficking elimination requirements, according to the United States. Trafficking in Persons Report 2019—The country remains a major transit and destination country for traffickers. The Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons reports that the state of Edo is the most heavily trafficked destination in Africa. According to the United Nations International Organization for Migration, more than 60,000 Nigerians remain trapped in inhumane conditions in Libya as of July 2018, 50 per cent of them from the state of Edo¹.

Modern day slavery in Edo State represents a complex development issue that requires consistent, well-focused and targeted efforts to address. This development issue has attracted the attention of international and local organisations as well as religious organisations with a multiplicity of initiatives by the different actors aimed at curbing the issue of human trafficking in Edo. While these are addressing many symptoms, the underlying causes of human trafficking and irregular migration are often missed. The root causes of human trafficking include poverty and lack of awareness about adverse effect of irregular migration. Due to general deprivation and livelihoods insecurity, youth sometimes experience pressure from family members to travel overseas, mostly through irregular means that predispose people to the risk of being trafficked.

This paper looks and highlights the lessons learned that have emerged from an initiative that intends to assist victims and potential victims of human trafficking, while also looking at sustainable ways of tackling the complex issues of human slavery that range from poverty, livelihood, insecurity and irregular migration in a nutshell. This is a first attempt at addressing these issues through a market system that looks at issues from a holistic perspective and placing poor people at the very centre of the discourse.

In addressing the economic and social challenges that have fuelled the rise of modern-day slavery over the last twenty years, the Government of Edo State established a Task Force to fight the scourge of human trafficking and irregular migration in the State. (The multiagency and multidisciplinary Task Force was a recommendation by Pathfinders to the Governor following our successful consultation for the state and organization of the Edo State Workshop on Human Trafficking in May 2017.) On May 23, 2018 the Governor of Edo State signed into law the Edo State Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Bill (2018) in Abuja. The new Act, which was approved by the Edo State House of Assembly in March 2018 (just shortly after the Oba of Benin's pronouncement on March 9th renouncing all curses which had been placed on victims of human trafficking in Edo State by juju priests), "provides an effective and comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of human trafficking and related offenses in Edo State,".

1.2 BACKGROUND TO EDO STATE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

In tackling the complex issues of modern slavery, DFID looked to an already existing programme in the Niger Delta that had shown strong evidence of success in its interventions, the programme known as Market Development in the Niger Delta (MADE) a market development systems approach, focused on raising the incomes of poor people in the Niger Delta over a five-year period. Results indicated that the MADE programme has exceeded its target of increasing incomes for 155,000 during this period five-year period and this led to an

¹ <http://pathfindersji.org/nigeria-human-trafficking-factsheet/>

extension period of two years that had in addition to the original components an intervention that tackled the challenges of modern slavery from a market developments systems approach.

1.2.1 THE EDO STATE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO (ESIP) component is to address illegal migration by creating aspirational employment opportunities and influencing behaviour change in a target group of vulnerable women, youth, and victims of human trafficking. By providing access to opportunities and increased incomes, the lure of illegal migration is reduced, increasing resilience and reducing the vulnerability of those most at risk of being trafficked. All done through the adoption of the Markets Systems Development (MSD) approach a relatively new way of tackling development challenges from a more holistic perspective.

During the inception phase in 2018, a number of specific activities took place amongst them the following:

- **Vulnerable group assessment**
- **Edo Economic outlook and investment scan**
- **Stakeholders mapping and capacity assessment**
- **Sector Analysis**
- **Edo LGA mapping of business and crops with comparative advantage.**

These activities during this 3-month inception phase led to the identification of potential opportunities of intervention, that has resulted in ESIP creating a specific portfolio of the following activities:

- **Access to Market**
- **Apiculture**
- **Micro Retailing**
- **Skills Development**
- **Feed Finishing**

Also through ESIP, MADE II is also strengthening the capacity of state institutions to attract local and foreign investment. The programme's goal is to attract £10 million in seed investments that make Edo State more economically attractive to investors and residents. To achieve this, MADE II is supporting the Edo State Investment Promotion Office to better position itself to attract private sector investments and grow existing investments.

In over a year, ESIP's intervention has stimulated some notable changes; for instance it has:

- Supported development of a framework for the Edo Diaspora Development Fund to attract remittance-based investments from Edo indigenes in the diaspora;
- Worked with local organizations to—create awareness about the negative effects of human trafficking, implement a Media for Development pilot, hold town hall meetings in collaboration with the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, and counsel 500 vulnerable households.
- Supported the U.K. Cabinet Office to implement a six-week “Not for Sale” communications campaign to discourage young girls and women from migrating abroad into modern slavery while raising awareness of economic opportunities in Edo and throughout Nigeria.
- Conducted the “Strengthening Market-Based Approaches to Stimulate Livelihoods” conference for more than 100 stakeholders (returnee trafficked persons, vulnerable youth, private sector representatives, Edo State Government, and civil society organizations) to reflect on the MADE approach to livelihoods programming, outcomes, and scale-up approaches.



1.3 SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM ESIP INCEPTION TO IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

The purpose of this report is to share the lessons that are emerging from the ESIP implementation, most specifically from the pre-design, through implementation, to the exit strategy, which is currently being undertaken. It must be noted that at this stage the lessons are classified as 'emerging' and will be updated at the end of the programme in more detail. Despite the short length of the intervention, just barely over two years to design and implement the results emerging so far have been encouraging and have shown that alternative development approaches such as the adoption of a market systems development approach can yield positive and sustainable results that impact the poor positively and in the long run will turn a state like Edo into an economic enabling environment that supports and provides opportunities for the poor.

The following Lessons Learned emerged from the ESIP from pre-design to exit strategy and is explored in detail in the later part of this paper.

Lesson 1.3.1 - Diagnostic studies shape a better project design; In short it is critical that you begin your process of intervention with research and analysis in defining the focus of development interventions. Programmes seeking to adapt or crowd-in to the sphere of modern slavery can improve their perspective and understanding of this complex environment by performing a diagnostic study steeped in research and analysis at the outset. This helps to clarify the project's scope of complexity, define its goals and set milestone. It allows for interventions to be tailored to the appropriate target audience.

Lessons 1.3.2 - Improved selection of potential victims by utilizing demography and geographic factors are important factors when targeting potential victims of human trafficking, vulnerable household and returnees. The process of selecting potential victims of human trafficking, vulnerable household and returnees should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate demographic and geographic factors to ensure that the right target audience is captured.

Lessons 1.3.3 - Matching of potential victims without considering their perceived aspirations will only lead to the victims being unsatisfied and uninterested in the potential opportunities of the intervention, which eventually means they will only increase their propensity to emigrate.

Lessons 1.3.4 - High level buy-in, part of the ESIP intervention's success has been attributed towards the programme ensuring a strong institutional commitment and support by the Edo State Government. This has enabled to ESIP programme to overcome the mundane bureaucratic blockages that programmes sometimes face and enabled strong political will from every aspect of the state to guarantee a positive final outcome of the intervention.

Lessons 1.3.5 - Increased level of awareness is critical to ensure not only the sustainability of the programme, but also ensure increased crowding in and adoptability. This can only be achieved through increasing the of awareness of the ESIP programme, especially by highlighting the impact it has had on victims of modern slavery as well as on the young who would have otherwise considered migrating abroad or to other states. Raising the level of awareness can be done through the implementation of a strategic communications plan.

Lessons 1.3.6 - Creating a one - stop shop for beneficiaries to link up and acquire services. Once beneficiaries have been trained and given the appropriate skills to begin work in their selective aspirational sector, it is important that the programme does not leave them to fend for themselves, but see how they can introduce a 1 stop shop approach towards assisting them in areas such as business development skills, simple writing of a business proposal to a bank to acquire funds, marketing, digital marketing and booking skills in order to ensure the sustainability of the individual in their specific area of activities. The 1 stop shop can also feature a space where demand and supply of skills can be met, for instance if I have just started my business and I want to build a website, the 1 stop shop will have

individuals who have already been trained in such skills and they can offer to build websites at either a subsidies or reduced rate for fellow beneficiaries.

Lessons 1.3.7 - Creating a network of not only beneficiaries of modern slavery interventions but also organisations involved in assisting victims of modern slavery, this networking and the development of trust between organizations and stakeholders is the most important factor in achieving positive outcomes. This allows for exchange of ideas within the sphere of modern slavery but also creates opportunities for collaborating to ensure more effective approaches towards tackling this issue of poverty and deprivation of livelihoods.

Lessons 1.3.8 - *Strengthening capacity of CSOs and government agencies to adapt their interventions to stimulate investment will bring greater scale for aspirational jobs. The best results are achieved when strong managers lead a motivated and well prepared staff, backed by clear support from senior leadership, standardized processes. Hence it is also crucial to train CSOs and government personnel to mirror what international backed organisations are doing to combat human slavery.*

Lessons 1.3.9 - Knowledge sharing is driven by individuals, not institutions; Knowledge sharing among CSOs, Government Agencies and international NGOs is not a top-down affair, rather it hinges on the engagement of key mid - level officers and staff who become influencers and advocates for new ideas within their institutions, and across the field more broadly.

1.4 LESSON SHARING AND DISSEMINATION

The programme organised a learning event on 19th September, 2019, to disseminate these lessons to identified stakeholders working within the space of human trafficking in Edo State. There were 29 participants in attendance comprising local and international organisations, government agencies and business membership organisations working within the space of human trafficking in Edo State including the new DFID-funded Stamping out Slavery in Nigeria (SOSIN) project, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and other local organisations operating within that space. Drawing from the learning document drafted in preparation for the event, ESIP's Portfolio Manager, Rufus Idris made a presentation on the lessons that ESIP has learnt through the project cycle and how it has adapted this learning to upscale reach to returnees, potential victims of human trafficking and vulnerable households in Edo and northern Delta.



Two partners on the feed finishing (Edo Exporters Cluster) and apiculture (Apiculture Service Provider) interventions also shared their experiences of working with MADE to trigger wider adoption by target beneficiaries.

Feedback from participants showed they had gathered new knowledge on the market systems approach and how they plan to adapt it to their programming. Ideal Development and Resource Centre for instance, shared their experience of the unsustainable approach they have been using to reach out to returnees which had not yielded much results. Their representative showed great interest in adapting the M4P approach in their

programming. All organisations present indicated interest to be part of a network for sharing knowledge and particularly requested to access the various research and scoping studies ESIP has conducted to help them glean data for their programming. The event also served a good opportunity to validate the lessons articulated, with comments and feedback integrated into this learning paper.

1.5 CONCLUSION

The purpose of this paper was to highlight the lessons learned that have emerged during the implementation cycle, to share these salient issues, which eventually will be used as an advisory guide for the potential and existing partners that intend to either crowd in or adapt into the market system eco system that the ESIP programme has assisted in developing. At the very least best practices that have also been identified alongside with the lessons will or can be replicated and where things did not work so well, there is now some documentation on why this was so and what the challenges were, ensuring future programmes do not make the same mistakes.

As we have pointed out severally, Modern day slavery in Edo State represents a complex development issue that requires consistent, well-focused and targeted efforts to address. With the introduction of both the ESIP and MADE interventions specifically in Edo state, they have approached this matter by adopting an alternative methodology, the market development systems (M4P) look at addressing this complex issue from a holistic perspective and places the victims or potential victims at the centre of its intervention approach.

While the interventions have achieved some degree of success, a lot remains to be done as well as understood. Much remains to be learned about the nature and extent of MDS, the underlying factors that are driving it, and how best to address the issues in Nigeria. Deepening the foundational understanding of the underlying causes and political economy of MDS in Edo State, and why it is so prevalent there, is necessary before embarking on interventions to address those underlying causes rather than the symptoms.

The ESIP inception and implementation phase have highlighted the confused nature of 'trafficking', difficulty in accessing vulnerable groups such as children, overlap in service provision, slow speed of policy development, and issues of weak capacity within government agencies present difficulties for counter modern slavery initiatives.

On the other hand, some positive lessons about 'what works' have been learned by the ESIP intervention: political will from the state government of Edo, networking and good communication, openness to change, and provision of education and social support to vulnerable groups, all lead to the achievement of positive outcomes for trafficked persons.

Ultimately what this initiative has shown is that by thinking outside the box, adopting innovative approaches issues such as Modern Day Slavery can be tackled and in doing so also provide the opportunity for a state like Edo, to truly position the resources it has both human and natural to elevate the state into an economic hub.



1. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, a global scourge in which people are illegally traded for exploitation and commercial gain. Overall, it generates more than \$150 billion from forced financial exploitation for business sex, domestic work, or other financial activities. The Global Slavery Index revealed in July 2018 that there are 40.3 million victims of contemporary slavery around the world, 71% being females and 25% being children.

In recent years, human trafficking from Edo State has been increasing and an established channel has developed taking women and girls into forced labour both in other parts of Nigeria and abroad.² Today, Nigeria is the largest contributor to trafficking from Africa into Europe.³ The causes and drivers of trafficking are complex and not fully understood. More research is required⁴ to understand the interplay of opportunity, law enforcement, social norms, ignorance and awareness of realities of being trafficked, and financial drivers. While perceptions of poverty may drive the desire to emigrate, for example, it is the better-off who are able to fund journeys. This interconnectivity between politics, economy and vulnerability—particularly of women and girls—has triggered a strong interest linking MADE and the modern day anti-slavery agenda of HMG and the Home Office.

In tackling the complex issues of modern day slavery, DFID looked to an already existing programme in the Niger Delta that had shown strong evidence of success in its interventions and ticked all the right boxes in terms of addressing a complex situation such as modern slavery. The attraction being the implementation of a markets system approach in addressing modern slavery and the intertwining complexity of issues. The programme known as Market Development in the Niger Delta (MADE) a market development systems approach, focused on raising the incomes of poor people in the Niger Delta over a five-year period. Results indicated that the MADE programme has exceeded its target of increasing incomes for 155,000 during this period five-year period and this led to an extension period of two years that had in addition to the original components an intervention that tackled the challenges of modern slavery from a market developments systems approach.

This has led to the creation of the Edo State Investment Portfolio (ESIP), Market Systems Development (MSD) approach in the Niger Delta, the core objective of this initiative has been applying sustainable, cost effective market-based principles to improve the livelihood opportunities aimed improving livelihoods of those at risk of human trafficking and reduce the push factors that enable trafficking. The programme is working with key actors in the region, including Edo State Government, to facilitate access to economic opportunities aimed at improving livelihoods of the most vulnerable segment of the population who are most susceptible to irregular migration and human trafficking. Hopefully these economic opportunities respond to the people's aspirations to convince them not to migrate.

The purpose of this paper is to share lessons learned from ESIP's implementation of interventions designed to address human trafficking, applying MSD approaches. After more than a year of applying market-based approach to livelihoods programming as means of addressing human trafficking in Edo, MADE Programme is articulating lessons learned for dissemination to stakeholders.

The lessons captured in this paper follow a project cycle approach, providing a roadmap for addressing human trafficking in Edo using a MSD approach. By sharing its learning, MADE hopes to stimulate the interest of public and private sector actors working in the area to learn the critical success factors with respect to MSD approach and the pitfalls to avoid, and the key learning described in this paper will serve as guidelines for replication.

² *Christiana E.E. Okojie et al* Trafficking of Nigerian girls to Italy report of field survey in Edo state, Nigeria, July 2003; Catherine Enoredia Odorige, The Dark Side of Migration Remittances and Development: The Case of Edo Sex Trade in Europe, *Pécs Journal of International and European Law* - 2016/I; Geir Skogseth Trafficking in Women – Fact-finding trip to Nigeria (Abuja, Lagos and Benin City), 12-26 March 2006.

³ Home Office, Country Policy and Information Note Nigeria: Trafficking of women, November 2016, p 12.

⁴ The Home Office is currently supporting three pieces of related research, while the MADE project team is also undertaking studies

The paper begins with some background to ESIP interventions, providing the context for the lessons learned. The specific lessons are then presented and discussed. The final section provides some concluding remarks, including the feedback stakeholders provided during the learning event.



BACKGROUND TO EDO STATE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

The Market Development in the Niger Delta (MADE) programme uses a market systems approach to generate wealth creation and employment in the Niger Delta's non-oil economy. Building off its successful first phase which increased incomes for 155,000 people, DFID has expanded the mandate for MADE in its second phase to address the causes of human trafficking in Edo State, the epicentre of human trafficking in Nigeria. In its second phase (March 2018 - February 2020), the Edo State Investment Portfolio (ESIP) component is stimulating economic livelihood opportunities and increasing Edo State's capacity to provide aspirational economic opportunities that can increase the incomes of returnees and potential victims of human trafficking, and by doing so, reduce incidence of irregular migration. The project is also driving investment into Edo State to make the economy more attractive to local people.

ESIP's target is to create aspirational employment opportunities and facilitate income increases for at least 30,000 poor low-skilled youths and women from Edo State, who are susceptible to human trafficking. The component presents a unique opportunity to apply market systems activities, specifically to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of those most at risk of being trafficked.

The design of ESIP interventions takes into consideration the different segments of the population that are susceptible to human trafficking, including:

- Rural polygamous households with insecure livelihoods, resulting in family pressure on young girls to travel overseas and becoming victims of human trafficking;
- Young unemployed girls from large families, with little to no education or skills, living in rural areas with a high incidence rate of trafficked persons.
- Uneducated youth in rural communities propelled by economic pressure from families to migrate to the city to find jobs and thereafter attempt irregular migration. This group lacks requisite skills and educational qualifications to guarantee employment and they also lack access to strategic information about real foreign opportunities. As a result they are easily deceived about employment opportunities overseas. Women and youth with low educational qualifications are among the most susceptible to this risk;
- Young educated people cannot find employment within the country and prefer travelling overseas through irregular means;
- Young people with jobs and assets who are seeking better job opportunities abroad as there are reported cases of some victims sell off their properties to raise money to travel overseas;
- Returnees that often fall back to the at-risk situation due to loss of livelihoods partly due to limited rehabilitation schemes and alternative livelihoods. While some victims of human trafficking become successful returnees, some remain susceptible to trafficking due to livelihood insecurity.
- Unsuccessful returnees that were trafficked but did not reach their destination before being returned to Nigeria and are susceptible to a second attempt to travel.

This classification of vulnerable groups, their situation and preferences informed design of ESIP interventions. Following a three-month inception phase when it reviewed 10 sectors to identify potential opportunities for intervention, ESIP has initiated a portfolio of activities in Access to Markets; Apiculture; micro-Distribution and Retailing; Skills Development; and Feed Finishing. The interventions outlined below take into consideration the vulnerability of the target segments of potential victims of human trafficking identified above. A summary of ongoing ESIP interventions is outlined below:

2.1 ACCESS TO MARKETS

In the Access to Market Sector, MADE worked with multiple off-takers and aggregators and facilitated:

- a) Novus Agro, a market aggregator, trained 122 field facilitators (youth and women) on aggregation of farm produce and registered 4,001 cassava and oil palm farmers for access to inputs, finance in return for guaranteeing to sell their produce (e.g. pineapple and plantain) to Novus Agro. This collaboration has attracted a £641,000 investment from Novus Agro into Edo state and it will facilitate up to NGN 300 million in offtake transactions in Cassava, oil palm, maize and vegetable produce.

- b) Business development support services are enabling Asanita, an investor in ethanol processing, to leverage finance, risk guarantee, access to smallholder cassava farmers and potential off-takers of ethanol. The Asanita Group has invested £738,553 so far on this initiative for the project land, engineering drawings and management consultancy; it is expecting to invest a total of xxxxx as the investment proceeds.
- c) Support to Okomu Oil, a leading palm oil company, to meet its demand for fresh fruit bunches supply arising from its expansion of the old mill and building of a new mill. MADE is facilitating an inclusive business model and mapping exercise for Okomu to build commercial relationships with Tenera oil palm smallholder farmers within 30-50km radius of their processing plant. Okomu Oil has invested £8.5 million already in the new mill line and ancillary equipment and needs to access cccc more tons of FFB.
- d) Linkages by Oklan Best and Hills Harvest to smallholder farmers clusters in Edo state. These partners are aggregating demand from high value markets in Lagos and offering coordination and logistics to align smallholder farmers to sell into their supply chain.
- e) Hills Harvest registered 2,794 plantain and pineapple farmers from 25 communities for market linkage, aggregating 290 tons of pineapples and 240 tons of plantain from smallholders in the highly human trafficking endemic communities in Uhumwode LGA.
- f) The programme signed memorandum of understanding with Elephant Group that is interested in taking advantage of the programme opportunities to implement a cassava out-grower scheme in Edo to meet its high-quality cassava flour (HQCF) needs.

2.2 APICULTURE

In Apiculture, MADE established a partnership with major off-takers Sehai Foods, A and Shine Honey, and Nana Celestine, with a cumulative off-take capacity of 390MT (271,000L) of honey per annum. A total of 27 services providers have adopted the model where they provide fee-based trainings on best bee-keeping management practices to new and existing beekeepers as well as support them to access inputs such as improved beehives. So far, they have exposed 1,993 new beekeepers to best beekeeping management practices. Trained beehive carpenters are producing more affordable improved beehives to meet increased demand. At least 23 of the 31 trained carpenters are now producing beehives for sale to beekeepers. A total of 338 beehives have been produced and 328 sold.

2.3 MICRO-DISTRIBUTION AND RETAILING

In the Micro-distribution and Retailing Sector, MADE established relationships with Multipro Consumer Product Limited, Unilever's major distributors in Edo, Quintessential Business Women Association (QBWA) and Lift Above Poverty Organisation (LAPO-NGO) to pilot group bulk-buying of FMCGs. A total of 29 cluster heads from Local NGOs and BMOs are beginning to appreciate the benefit of adopting the business model and have mobilized 2,072 micro-retailers, with support from QBWA. PayByana invested ₦5m in software development and maintenance for micro-enterprise use and MADE supported the training of trainers of heads of Bulk Buying Groups on the use of mobile application ordering, inventory management and record keeping.

2.4 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In Skills Development, MADE has partnered Genius Hub to pilot a business model that mainstreams local producers into a supply chain that guarantees regular products production. Through this collaboration:

- a) Genius Hub has trained 733 vulnerable people on cosmetology; 40 of these are now associate trainers of Genius hub in Edo south Senatorial district who are carrying out commercialized trainings for 2,000 local producers in human trafficking endemic communities such as Uhumwode, Oredo, Ikpoba Okha, Egor and Orhionmwon LGAs.
- b) MADE supported Handy Jacks to facilitate the reconfiguration of its platform for artisans in Edo state. The programme also facilitated engagement with apex associations of artisans in selected informal sectors, supporting activities for enumeration, sensitization, coordination and registration of artisans in the state. MADE is accost sharing the promotional activities for the platform and creation of demand for the services of the registered skilled artisans. A total of 1,000 artisans have been registered on the Handy Jacks platform.

2.5 FEED FINISHING

In the Feed Finishing intervention, MADE provided Animal Care, a pioneering Livestock feed company, with business information and a value proposition for it to reach untapped market opportunities for small ruminant producers in Edo and Northern Delta State. Animal Care has invested £55,000 in the purchase of a ruminant feed production machinery; training of trainers' programme for paravets; deployment of personnel to support trainers during farmers training and demos; and the distribution of feed to strategic locations and purchase of project vehicles for Edo operation. A total of 170 paravets have been trained to transfer modern feed finishing techniques and extension services to small ruminant farmers. The paravets have trained 3,255 farmers in ongoing pilots and demonstrations, and Animal Care has initiated bulk breaking of 25kg bag of feed into 5kg bags to ensure affordability on the part of the farmers.



3. **LESSONS LEARNED**

The lessons learned from implementation of ESIP interventions are organised along the project cycle – from pre-design, through implementation, to the exit strategy now being implemented. As the programme is still in the implementation phase, the learnings presented below are identified as emerging lessons that will be updated at end of the programme.

Lessons Around Programme Inception and Design

LESSON 3.1 - DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES SHAPE A BETTER PROJECT DESIGN; *In short it is critical that you begin your process of intervention with research and analysis in defining the focus of development interventions.* Programmes seeking to adapt or crowd-in to the sphere of modern slavery can improve their perspective and understanding of this complex environment by performing a diagnostic study steeped in research and analysis at the outset. This helps to clarify the project’s scope of complexity, define its goals and set milestone. It allows for interventions to be tailored to the appropriate target audience.

It is always necessary for project proponents to arm themselves with relevant information and data before venturing into designing and implementing programmes. Considering the general lack of credible secondary data to inform programme design, MADE II invested significantly in gathering appropriate data during the four-month inception phase (i.e. March – June 2018). The background research provided information on demographics, key drivers of human trafficking and aspirational opportunities for livelihood improvement, and provided evidence that supported design and effective implementation of the interventions thereafter. Studies conducted during the inception phase include:

- Vulnerability groups assessment, which helped to deepen understanding of the gender dynamics, the vulnerability context (shocks, trends and seasonality of livelihood options), determine the livelihood assets available to vulnerable populations and understand the interaction of these assets with structures and processes that can lead to their livelihood adaptation.
- Socioeconomic assessment that enabled the team to determine more specific characteristics of aspirational sectors depending on the nature of the target population: expectations of monthly earnings; quality of work; location of work; required levels of education; etc.
- Assessment of the political economy, particularly how this shapes human trafficking in the region;
- Edo State economic outlook and investment scan that explored the business enabling environment;
- Stakeholders mapping and capacity assessment that provided an indication of the different interest groups and actors addressing human trafficking in the state and;
- Edo LGA mapping of businesses and crops with comparative advantage, which has informed selection of the geographical focus for the access to market intervention.

Beyond the inception studies that informed the sector selection, MADE commissioned baseline and scoping studies that generated additional information and evidence in support of review of the strategies and impact assessment. For example, the baseline and scoping study in the skills development sector provided opportunity to profile unemployed youth, artisans, service providers and youth development agencies in Edo and Delta States. This enabled MADE to be more strategic in designing and delivering the artisanal intervention being implemented with Genius Hub.

Findings from these studies enabled MADE identify and prioritise interventions being implemented. For instance, findings from the socioeconomic study showed that agriculture may not be a veritable alternative to potential victims of human trafficking wanting to migrate to Europe or even to returnees, some of whom might still be influenced by the push factors. The studies helped MADE to clearly define what these returnees and potential victims might see to be aspirational sectors they can engage in to improve their livelihoods, thus reducing their chances of getting lured by juicy offers of human traffickers.

Causes and drivers of trafficking are complex and not fully understood. More research was required to understand the interplay of opportunity, law enforcement, social norms, ignorance and awareness of realities of being trafficked, and financial drivers. While perceptions of poverty may drive the desire to emigrate, for example, it is the better-off who are able to fund journeys, thus the need to understand the interconnectivity between politics, economy and vulnerability—particularly of women and girls.

The study findings challenged our initial assumption that potential victims of human trafficking might want to get jobs in formal employment; it helped us to realize the huge opportunities that are largely untapped within the informal sectors and to develop strategies that could provide employment opportunities for the different segments of the population. These include:

- Facilitating private-sector driven investments in the identified sectors as a means of improving livelihoods for the different segments of the target population.
- Supporting state agencies such as Edo Jobs to influence their approach to job creation;
- Undertaking media campaigns aimed at addressing adverse effects of irregular migration and drawing attention to livelihood opportunities. The media campaign is also contributing towards marketing Edo as a place with desirable economic opportunities like Lagos and other parts of Nigeria.
- Supporting local NGOs and development agencies to strengthen sustainability and viability of their re-integration programmes;

LESSONS 3.2 - IMPROVED SELECTION OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS BY UTILIZING DEMOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHIC FACTORS ARE IMPORTANT FACTORS WHEN TARGETING POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD AND RETURNEES. *The process of selecting potential victims of human trafficking, vulnerable household and returnees should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate demographic and geographic factors to ensure that the right target audience is captured.*

MADE has ensured that interventions selected for implementation are appropriate, considering both demography and geography and targets three broad categories of people: potential victims (women and youth, returnees and vulnerable households). As part of the background information presented earlier, segments of the population the programme targets are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Segment of target population | Aspirational livelihood opportunities |
| Vulnerable households | Apiculture, feed finishing, and poultry |
| Potential victims (youth and women) | ICT, access to market, digital marketing (i.e. use of online platforms), hospitality, entertainment and employment in the formal sectors, access to market and credit |
| Returnees | Skills development and employment in the formal and informal sectors |

MADE's interventions target returnees and potential victims as well as the vulnerable households from where they come. MADE realised that simply focusing on returnees or potential victims will not deliver lasting change as family pressure can push people back to their vulnerable state. The early studies noted that pressure on young people to travel overseas often comes from parents and other family members, and contributes significantly to irregular migration. Therefore, MADE is focusing on strengthening vulnerable households knowing that if they are not targeted, they will continue to exert pressure on the returnee or potential victims who comprise MADE's primary target, and this might cause them to shift their aspirations to irregular migration or re-migration.

In considering geographic segmentation, the programme saw that a sector like Information and Communication Technology (ICT) may not be relevant for youth in the rural areas due to the limited capacity and low demand for related services, but it certainly can stand as an aspirational sector for those in the city. This thinking also guided the design of interventions in the entertainment and hospitality sectors to focus on vulnerable youth in the city due to the relevance and the advantage of demographic dividend. A booming and highly aspirational "Nollywood" industry coupled with Asaba, close to Benin, helps position Edo as a potential new movie and film shooting hub.

On the other hand, interventions focusing on 'aspirational' elements of commercial agriculture (e.g. feed finishing and apiculture), were found to be particularly relevant for rural low-income segments of the target

population, particularly vulnerable households. Interventions in these agricultural value chains in addition to access to markets were found to be more relevant to youth and women in rural settlements or the hinterlands than youth population in the urban areas.

MADE's approach was to support sectors defined by returnees and potential victims of trafficking as 'aspirational' and this informed the initial sectors that were surveyed to include entertainment, hospitality, information and communications technology (ICT), wholesale and retail trade, the creative industries (film, arts and craft) and 'aspirational' elements of commercial agriculture, which may be particularly relevant for rural low-income segments of the target population e.g. apiculture and feed finishing.

LESSONS 3.3 - MATCHING OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS WITHOUT CONSIDERING THEIR PERCEIVED ASPIRATIONS WILL ONLY LEAD TO THE VICTIMS BEING UNSATISFIED AND UNINTERESTED IN THE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THE INTERVENTION, which eventually means it will increase their propensity to emigrate.

Since most people migrating from Nigeria are in search of better jobs and better living standards, influencing their decision to remain in Nigeria requires knowing what sectors will stimulate growth leading to improvement in their livelihoods. As earlier stated, the socio-economic study conducted during the inception phase helped identify aspirational sectors the programme should prioritise. Ongoing interventions cut across various sectors such as hospitality, cosmetology, micro-retailing, skills development for products and jobs as well as agribusinesses such as apiculture, poultry, feed finishing and access to market for rural producers.

Given the livelihood preferences expressed by men, women and youth during the socio-economic survey, MADE II defines '**aspirational sectors' as formal and non-formal sectors with employment and income-generation opportunities that are most attractive to potential victims of human trafficking.** Given the preferences expressed by men, women and youth, sectors such as ICT, hospitality, entertainment and employment in the formal sectors are the most 'aspirational' and the programme's interventions in these sectors target returnees. Considering pressure from family members that suffer deprivation, the programme has identified interventions in sectors such as apiculture, feed finishing, and poultry rearing that may not appear as 'aspirational' to young people, especially those living in Benin City, but meet overall family needs. It is expected that household economic strengthening will contribute to reduced pressure on families, particularly those living in high, medium and low incidence local government areas (LGAs) that are most susceptible to the risk of being trafficked.

During socio-economic survey conducted at the inception phase, most youth indicated that they would like to approach agriculture differently compared to their parents' approach. While men and some youth expressed interest in farming, they tend to prefer large-scale mechanized farming or being employees on farms. They also wanted access to modern farming inputs, practices and equipment. The use of digital platforms for marketing of agricultural produce and off-taking are classic examples of how young people want to approach agriculture. The youth wanted industries to be established, especially food processing industries such as Cassava Flour mills, rice mills, etc., where they could be employed.

Women wanted to continue trading and artisanal food processing but need information on better food preservation methods to reduce waste. Women also wanted access to markets and credit. The youths are interested in skills acquisition in modern professions including ICT, dress-making, barbing saloons, bead-making, etc. Lessons from these findings is what informed the choice of interventions that ESIP is implementing. The programme has also identified non-formal sectors, including emphasis on agribusiness to target potential victims (geographically in the high incidence LGAs and demographically). Although interventions currently being implemented by MADE do not address all aspirational areas of interest mentioned above, MADE hopes that findings from the socio-economic survey can point other organisations working within the space of human trafficking in Edo to better align their interventions to suit the perceived aspirational interests of the vulnerable population.

LESSONS 3.4 - HIGH LEVEL BUY-IN; ENSURING A STRONG INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT BY THE EDO STATE GOVERNMENT. This has enabled the ESIP programme to overcome the mundane bureaucratic blockages that programmes sometimes face and enabled strong political will from every aspect of the state to guarantee a positive final outcome of the intervention.

LESSONS 3.5 - INCREASED LEVEL OF AWARENESS IS CRITICAL TO ENSURE NOT ONLY THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMME, BUT ALSO ENSURE INCREASED CROWDING IN AND ADOPTABILITY. This can only be achieved through increasing the awareness of the ESIP programme, especially by highlighting the impact it has had on victims of modern slavery as well as on the young who would have otherwise considered migrating abroad or to other states. Raising the level of awareness can be done through the implementation of a strategic communications plan.

LESSONS 3.6 - CREATING A ONE - STOP SHOP FOR BENEFICIARIES TO LINK UP AND ACQUIRE SERVICES. *Once beneficiaries have been trained and given the appropriate skills to begin work in their selective aspirational sector,* it is important that the programme does not leave them to fend for themselves, but see how they can introduce a 1 stop shop approach towards assisting them in areas such as business development skills, simple writing of a business proposal to a bank to acquire funds, marketing, digital marketing and booking skills in order to ensure the sustainability of the individual in their specific area of activities. The 1 stop shop can also feature a space where demand and supply of skills can be met, for instance if I have just started my business and I want to build a website, the 1 stop shop will have individuals who have already been trained in such skills and they can offer to build websites at either a subsidies or reduced rate for fellow beneficiaries.

LESSONS 3.7 - CREATING A NETWORK OF NOT ONLY BENEFICIARIES OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY INTERVENTIONS BUT ALSO ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN ASSISTING VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY, this networking and the development of trust between organizations and stakeholders is the most important factor in achieving positive outcomes. This allows for exchange of ideas within the sphere of modern slavery but also creates opportunities for collaborating to ensure more effective approaches towards tackling this issue of poverty and deprivation of livelihoods.

LESSONS 3.8 - STRENGTHENING CAPACITY OF CSOs AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO ADAPT THEIR INTERVENTIONS TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT WILL BRING GREATER SCALE FOR ASPIRATIONAL JOBS. *The best results are achieved when strong managers lead a motivated and well prepared staff, backed by clear support from senior leadership, standardized processes. Hence it is also crucial to train CSOs and government personnel to mirror what international backed organisations are doing to combat human slavery.*

LESSONS 3.9 - KNOWLEDGE SHARING IS DRIVEN BY INDIVIDUALS, NOT INSTITUTIONS; Knowledge sharing among CSOs, Government Agencies and international NGOs is not a top-down affair, rather it hinges on the engagement of key mid - level officers and staff who become influencers and advocates for new ideas within their institutions, and across the field more broadly.

LESSONS 3.10 - INCENTIVES FOR CONTINUITY BY PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS AND BENEFICIARIES RELY ON MUTUAL SHARED BENEFITS. To achieve its expected outcomes, MADE II or ESIP is working through lead firms and other market actors including local organisations who are already involved or interested in addressing skills gaps for returnees and potential victims of human trafficking to drive economic growth activities in selected aspirational sectors. In doing this, MADE is conscious of the fact that building mutual understanding of shared value which points to the commercial incentives that lie in a partner adopting and running with a business model or driving an intervention is very important to achieving success. It is important to ensure there is mutual benefit. While the programme achieves the desired goal, it is crucial that private sector partners realise the benefits of increased sales and profits. As it is to be expected, incentives need to be clear and realistic from the onset.

The micro-retailing business model, for instance, brought in Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies like Multipro Consumer Product Limited (MCPL), Unilever Nigeria Plc, Reckitt Benckiser Nigeria Limited and PZ Cussons Nigeria Plc who saw the value in making more sales by engaging in last mile distribution of their products. There are shared-benefits to all market actors participating in this inclusive business model. By selling at wholesale price to micro-retailers in Edo that belong to Bulk Buyers' Groups (BBGs), they could expand their sales. Business Membership Organisations such as the Quintessential Business Women Association (QBWA) appreciated the opportunity to mobilise their micro-retailing members and this is building the credibility of their members who are linked to FMCG companies to access products at competitive prices. Identified service providers like PayByana Limited, a mobile payment platform introduced technology as a means for more efficient ordering of FMCGs by retailers through the BBGs, thus increasing traffic on their platform, and as a result increasing their revenue from the use of their App. The micro-retailers on their part enjoy discount sales, cost savings on transportation as products are delivered to their doorstep, bonus for bulk buying and increased profit margins. Micro retailers have reported 8% from each business cycle – a two-week period before re-stocking products. All things being equal, micro-retailers can restock at least 20 times a year.

Similarly, Thrive Agric's financing model provides a win-win solution to the constraints experienced by smallholder beekeepers (consisting largely of vulnerable households). The key constraints in apiculture the programme is addressing include high cost of improved beehives, poor access to information on beekeeping as a profitable rural enterprise, lack of awareness of best beekeeping management practices and poor access to market for honey and related products (e.g. bee wax).

Thrive Agric is providing a facilitation service for beekeepers to access finance from investors, buy improved beehives and everyone makes more money from the business model. Increased access to improved and affordable beehives (i.e. the Kenyan top-bar hive), realise a least 50% cost-savings on each hive bought, implying increased profitability. Farmers adopting the improved beehive that also adopt best beekeeping management practices realise increased yield and competitiveness of their products. Beehive carpenters realise increased revenue and profits, while Thrive Agric enjoy increased client-base and market-share and income, particularly an underserved segment of vulnerable households.

There is no quicker way to secure partners' commitment than to align incentives properly so that when all partners understand what is in it for them, the chances of sustaining their operations long after MADE's intervention winds off is very strong. When incentives are properly aligned, risks, costs, and rewards of doing business are distributed fairly across the entire network. Contract-based relationship between Thrive Agric and beekeepers providing innovative solutions through crowdfunding is part of the step towards achieving aligned incentives. The profit-share between the market actors in this commercial relationship is based on computation of production costs and profit margins during a transparent process. The programme therefore is building solid relationships and partnerships with key players and is working with them to explore ways to improve the markets by developing new products, exploring new market segments (the bottom of the pyramid), and establishing new practices with shared value for all parties.

LESSONS 3.11 - PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE LEARNING WITH PARTNERS AND CONTINUE TO ADAPT BUSINESS MODELS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AS APPROPRIATE. After collaborative lesson learning from pilot interventions, initial business models have been adapted to suit realities in the field and make them more profitable. This enhances the opportunity to identify and engage new partners who can assist the initial partners to scale up the interventions. For instance, after realising that the Bulk Buyer Group (BBG) model was not driving enough conversion because many of the BBG heads were not retailers themselves, thus were not pushing the target beneficiaries to go into the micro-retailing business, ESIP or MADE is expanding the model to use the company sales reps to identify existing micro-retailers and supporting them to become leaders of direct retail channels linked to FMCG firms. This will trigger more adoption of the micro-retailing business by vulnerable households by the channel leaders who see the value proposition and are able to influence vulnerable population to embrace the business as a way of improving household income.

There were also partners who exhibited great capacity in training of beneficiaries in select skills areas, for example, the skills for products intervention targeting potential victims of human trafficking and vulnerable

households. However, the conversion from training to adoption was low due to market saturation of certain kinds of cosmetic products, so they are now redesigning the trainings to include other competitive products not readily available in the market e.g. black soap .

In the Feed Finishing intervention, the clear value proposition led the Edo Exporters Cluster, a Business Membership Organisation, to influence their members to adopt the improved practice, and through them are reaching more target population. They have invested 1.8 Million Naira into setting up a ranch in Edo State for the sole purpose of feed finishing; they plan to use the ranch to do demonstrations for target beneficiaries to see the value in investing in feed finishing. They have also influenced five more business membership organisations and religious groups to promote the business to vulnerable segments of the population within their clusters.

Okomu Oil Plc, the partner on our access to market intervention, is expanding its mills and building new ones, creating opportunity to establish commercial relationships with smallholder farmers in Edo. Okomu requires at least 40,000 tonnes per annum of oil palm fruits to meet their new processing capacity and wants to source much of it from SHF.

By adapting its models and strategies directly or through partners, ESIP or MADE is ensuring the commercial viability of the interventions, which will lead to scalability and sustainability beyond February 2020 when the programme winds down. The programme is currently looking for better ways to assist partners to think through more sustainable approaches and become more effective at delivering the business models. As more learnings unfold, and the project and its partners adapt, the programme adapts accordingly until it is ready to exit.

LESSONS 3.12 LEVERAGE EXISTING SERVICE PRODUCERS THROUGH IMPROVED VALUE PROPOSITIONS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MARKET OPPORTUNITIES: MADE introduced new value propositions that they can sell to their target clients. This enabled service providers realise more revenue and profits. For Apiculture, there were existing carpenters producing beehives, but the beehives were expensive and were not easily adopted by farmers due to poor quality of the beehives. MADE worked with the carpenters to produce improved and affordable beehives and facilitated a process for the trained beehive carpenters to sell the new value proposition to their peers, thus increasing the pool of carpenters producing improved beehives in the area. With their promotion of the benefits of the improved beehives (up to 10 litres more honey per hive in one harvest) compared to the ones they were producing before (only 5 litres), it was easy to stimulate demand for the improved beehives among beekeepers.

In Feed Finishing, the intervention leveraged existing para-vets, as well as a proven business model, whose capacity was built to promote the feed finishing model and provide improved veterinary services to small ruminant farmers to increase their productivity. Here, 170 para-vets were trained and 70 are actively running with the business model, reaching 3,255 farmers so far.

LESSON 3.13 LEVERAGING THE AGGREGATION MODEL TO REDUCE RISK FOR BENEFICIARY POPULATION: Aggregation is a means for smallholder farmers to cost effectively reach the end market which they otherwise could not reach, which then reduces losses and in turn, improves their livelihoods.. While the term aggregation is commonly associated with the agricultural value chain, MADE has found that it is an effective system that can be applied to other sectors to minimize the risk of losses to local producers and helping them maximise profits through bulk purchases by linking them to markets using the aggregator model. ESIP identified the organisations with those markets (e.g. Sehai Foods for honey and beeswax market and Novus Agro, a major off-taker for Cassava, oil palm, maize and vegetable produce, Oklan Best for black soap, etc.) and engaged them as lead firms and major off-takers, thus providing access to markets for returnees and potential victims of human trafficking as well as vulnerable households. On the demand side, MADE facilitated a process where micro-retailers in the hinterlands could access goods and services that ordinarily would not have reached them in their dispersed settlements by using the Bulk Buyer Groups (BBG) model where the BBGs aggregate orders of their members and send to Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies using a mobile application, and the FMCG firms deliver the goods at various collection points for the micro-retailing members. Similarly, the

Noiler intervention uses the aggregator system to aggregate orders for five to six-week-old chicks from mother units. This is also working for Para-vets (service providers) in the feed finishing intervention as aggregating feed orders for farmers from feed companies further increases their income. Because of promoting aggregation, there is wider adoption of business models. The aggregator model is proving the efficacy of leveraging one person or a group to reach many other farmers or beneficiaries at scale.



4 CONCLUSION

The essence of this paper is to highlight the lessons learned that have emerged during the ESIP design, implementation and exit strategy cycle, to share these identified lessons, which eventually will be used as an advisory guide for potential and existing partners that intend to either crowd in or adapt into the market system eco system that the ESIP programme has assisted in developing. At the very least, best practices that have also been identified alongside with the lessons will or can be replicated and where things did not work so well, there is now some documentation on why this was so and what the challenges were, ensuring future programmes do not make the same mistakes.

Modern day slavery in Edo State represents a complex development issue that requires consistent, well-focused and targeted efforts to address. The ESIP and MADE interventions have approached this matter by adopting an alternative methodology, namely, the market development systems (MDS) that focuses on addressing complex issue from a holistic perspective and places the victims or potential victims at the centre of its intervention approach to empower them through linkages to market, finance and institutions.

While the interventions have achieved some degree of success, a lot remains to be done as well as understood. Much remains to be learned about the nature and extent of the MDS approach, the underlying factors that are driving it, and how best to address the issues in Nigeria. Deepening the foundational understanding of the underlying causes and political economy of MDS in Edo State, and why it is so prevalent there, is necessary before embarking on interventions to address those underlying causes rather than the symptoms.

The ESIP inception and implementation phase have highlighted the confused nature of 'trafficking', difficulty in accessing vulnerable groups such as children, overlap in service provision, slow speed of policy development, and issues of weak capacity within government agencies present difficulties for counter modern slavery initiatives.

On the other hand, some positive lessons about 'what works' have been learned by the ESIP intervention: political will from the state government of Edo, networking and good communication, openness to change, and provision of education and social support to vulnerable groups, all lead to the achievement of positive outcomes for trafficked persons.

The lessons learned have highlighted that it is critical to develop a diagnostic approach as well as methodology in understanding the environment, especially one such as modern slavery which is a complex mixture of politics, social nuances and poverty. This can be mitigated to a large degree through detailed research and analysis.

The importance of political will cannot be stated enough, this is a key factor in ensuring that everyone supports the process by and large and the level of resistance to change is reduced considerably by the efforts of senior policy makers, including the governor in ensuring that everyone supports the change process.

It is important that the level of awareness of what is being done in the area of tackling modern slavery is articulated strategically ensuring that it also reaches its target audience, especially victims and potential victims. This allows people to explore other options before taking the one that leads to migration. Furthermore, it allows interested parties, especially those in the private sector to get an understanding on what is being done by government and the international community. This ensures that identified best practices are replicated which in turn stimulate investment opportunities in the state.

Strengthening the capacity of CSOs and government agencies to adapt their interventions to stimulate investment will bring greater scale for aspirational jobs, will ensure that success level of implementation is high.

Finally, the role of the private sector and government are very clear in tackling this scourge called modern slavery and each entity needs to ensure that they work in their lane to achieve the ultimate goal of combatting poverty and livelihoods. Government has to diligently continue providing an enabling environment, while the

private sector invests and creates jobs. If this approach can be made sustainable, then maybe the youths will find jobs that they consider aspirational along with provision of security, health and education. ESIP has shown that this is not only possible to achieve but also within a five-year period Edo state can hope to begin stem the tide of youths, especially young women that seek to follow the path of irregular migration, in addition Edo state can begin to look at the continued acceleration of the state as a place of opportunity and economic growth.

Ultimately what this initiative has shown is that by thinking outside the box, adopting innovative approaches issues such as Modern Day Slavery can be tackled and in doing so also provide the opportunity for a state like Edo, to truly position the resources it has both human and natural to elevate the state into an economic hub.

