PROJECT ALERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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E-Newsletter

The Quarterly Newsletter of Project Alert on Violence Against Women

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LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY ORGANIZES ONE-DAY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



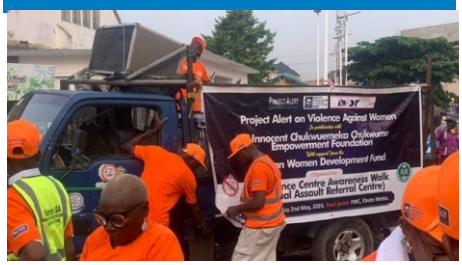
Project Alert Participates in One-Day Workshop on Stakeholders Engagement and MOU Signing

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> Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace
>
> – KOFI ANNAN (FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL)

Break the cycle of violence. Keeping it quiet is participating.
Call the Hotline: 234-07070467832; 08180091072

PROJECT ALERT, OSJRP & DSVA SPEAK ON HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE



Cross section of participants at the visit

Project Alert has consistently been at the forefront of advocating for the rights and protection of survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). Recently, following a stakeholder workshop and engagement with surveillance team members, significant steps have been taken to enhance the approach towards combating SGBV in Lagos State. A joint television appearance featuring Mrs. Josephine Effah-Chukwuma, the Executive Director of Project Alert, Barrister Samuel Akpologun from the Open Society on Justice Reform Project (OSJRP), and Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, the Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) was organized to further this discussion and create awareness to the general public.



During this TV appearance, these key figures discussed an integrated approach to addressing sexual and gender-based violence. They highlighted the importance of a collaborative effort among various stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system.

Address: 21, Akinsanya Street, Off Isheri Road, Taiwo Bus stop Behind FRSC),Ojodu - Berger, Lagos. Telephone: 08180081072, 07070467832
E-mail: projectalert@projectalertnig.org Concept Design: Gabriel Akinremi

DEVATOP COMMEMORATES WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

On June 20, 2024, Devatop Centre for Africa Development commemorated World Day Against Child Labour with an event supported by the US government and Freedom Fund. The theme centered on TALKAM AGAINST CHILD LABOUR. Their focus is on protecting child domestic workers from harm and speaking out against child labour.



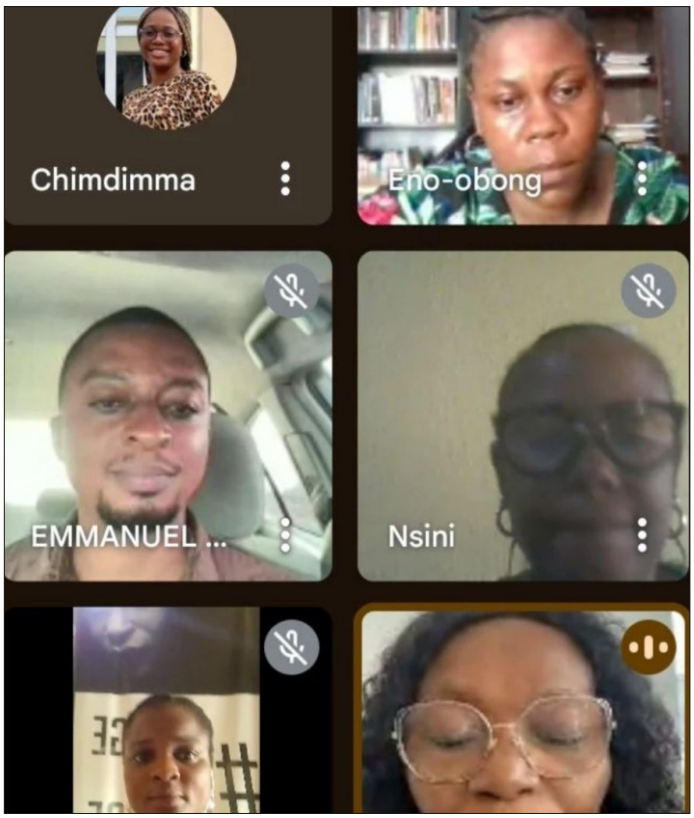
A keynote speech was delivered by Mrs. Mienye Badejo, representing the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment. She highlighted the alarming statistic that Nigeria has an estimated 87 million child labourers, with six out of ten children engaged in child labour. Mrs. Badejo emphasized that child domestic workers have the same rights as all children, including rights to recreation, health, education, and safety.

The event stressed the need to end the exploitative aspects of child labour, despite its deep cultural integration in society. The rallying cry, "If You See Am, Talk Am," encouraged everyone to speak out against child labour.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED IN AN ONLINE EVALUATION OF THE IRAJA APP PROGRESS

To ensure the success and collective approval of the key features and functionalities of the IRAJA App, key stakeholders were invited for a virtual review of the application in its design stage. This meeting focused on reviewing the progress and features of the app to ensure a satisfactory outcome that meets the approval of not only Project Alert but all involved stakeholders.

The Iraja App aims to serve as a tracking system that monitors activities at the police station (FSUs) and the court, which will address the gaps in access to justice and perpetrators accountability. During the online session, participants examined various aspects of the app, ensuring the app is user friendly, effective and meets the needs of intended users.



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PROJECT ALERT AND ICCEF ORGANIZE ASSURANCE CENTRE AWARENESS WALK

Project Alert, in collaboration with the Innocent Chukwuemeka Chukwuma Empowerment Foundation (ICCEF), organized the Assurance Centre awareness walk to promote the crucial services offered by the Centre. Located within the Federal Medical Centre in Ebute Metta, Lagos State, Nigeria, the Assurance Centre was established to provide comprehensive support to victims of sexual assault and abuse. Despite its vital role, the Centre faces significant challenges due to poor publicity, which has hindered access to its critical services.



In response to these challenges, the awareness walk was organized to amplify the message of support for survivors and raise public awareness about the Assurance Centre. Held on the 2nd of May, 2024, in the community surrounding the Federal Medical Centre in Ebute Metta, the walk sought to engage the local population and inform them about the resources available at the Centre.

The walk garnered substantial participation, including Project Alert's community surveillance teams, representatives from various civil organizations, healthcare professionals, and volunteers. Participants carried banners and distributed flyers and stickers bearing messages of support and empowerment for survivors of sexual assault. The banners and flyers highlighted key services offered by the Assurance Centre, including medical care, psychological counseling, legal support, and social services. By making this information widely available, we hope to bridge the gap between survivors and the critical resources they need to heal and seek justice. Overall, the Assurance Centre awareness walk was a significant step towards increasing the visibility of the Centre and its services.

PROJECT ALERT PARTICIPATES IN ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT AND MOU SIGNING



Project Alert recently participated in a one-day workshop on Stakeholders Engagement and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), organized by the Lagos State Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Social Development. Held on the 28th of May, 2024, this event marked the fifth and final workshop of a project funded by the World Bank, with Professor Olabisi Yusuf serving as a consultant.

The workshop sought to enhance participants knowledge of sexual harassment and abuse and addressing the challenges in resolving Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) within the socio-cultural context. Key issues identified included:

- Deep-rooted cultural beliefs and practices: These perpetuate gender inequalities and condone violence.
- Weak or discriminatory legal systems: The legal processes are often lengthy, complex, and expensive.
- Limited understanding of SGBV: This affects the effectiveness of interventions.
- Victim's fear of social stigma and retaliation: Many victims need support rather than blame.
- Societal power imbalances such as patriarchy: These imbalances sustain SGBV.
- Cultural sensitivity: Interventions must be culturally sensitive to avoid resistance.
- Limited resources: There is a shortage of resources for prevention, support services, and education. Additionally, inadequate healthcare infrastructure and social support systems hinder survivor access.
- Data collection and under-reporting: Fear and negligence contribute to under-reporting.

Following the discussion on these challenges, the participants made recommendations and adjustments to the referral pathway document. The workshop concluded with the finalization of the document, which is set to be signed and publicized. This document represents a collaborative effort to establish a structured and comprehensive referral pathway for SGBV cases, ensuring that survivors receive timely and appropriate support and that perpetrators are held accountable. The MOU signing signifies a commitment from all stakeholders to work together towards eradicating SGBV and supporting survivors within the community.



LAGOS STATE DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENCY ORGANIZES ONE-DAY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



On May 29, 2024, the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) organized a one-day stakeholder engagement meeting. The purpose, as stated by Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, the Executive Secretary of DSVA, was to identify and address systemic barriers hindering effective adjudication of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases and to enhance collaboration among stakeholders. Participants included representatives from the Government, Police, Health agencies, the Department of Public Prosecution (DPP), Civil Society Organisations, and the Judiciary. Hon. Justice Alogba, represented by Lagos High Court Judge Justice Rahman Oshodi, emphasized the need for a collaborative effort, noting that the judiciary alone cannot address the challenges faced by SGBV survivors. Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Adegoke Fayode, presented on the challenges, gaps, and opportunities from the police perspective, advocating for proactive protective measures. Dr. Oluwajimi Shodipo highlighted the issue of poor research outputs and stressed the importance of proper data documentation and sharing for medical analysis.



The meeting concluded with breakout sessions where participants were divided into four groups: the judiciary, the DPP, healthcare, and the police. Each group discussed the specific challenges they face in dealing with SGBV incidents and presented their recommendations to the general assembly.

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CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING BY CUSO INTERNATIONAL



Cuso International hosted a capacity building workshop on Gender-Responsive Budgeting at the Project Alert office, attended by staff from Project Alert and the Shanty Town Empowerment Foundation. The workshop covered key aspects of GRB, including:

- Introduction to GRB: Understanding its importance in promoting gender equality.
- Analyzing Budgets: Techniques to identify gender biases in existing budgets.
- Developing GRB: Steps and tools for creating gender-responsive budgets.



- Advocacy and Implementation: Strategies for advocating and implementing GRB.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Methods and indicators for tracking GRB effectiveness.

The training included group discussions, case studies, and practical exercises, equipping participants with the skills to advocate for and implement GRB in their organizations. This initiative is part of Cuso International's efforts to promote gender equality and social justice.

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