

## ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA

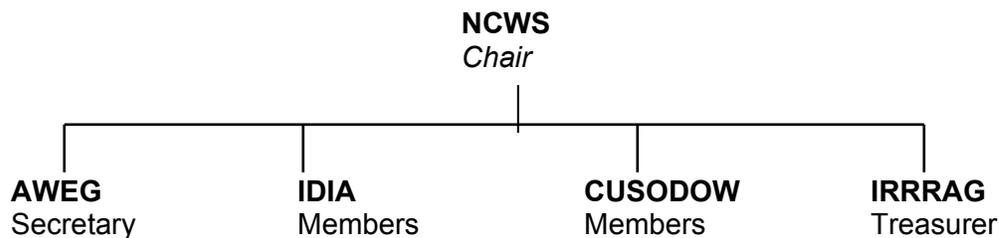
The pilot Assistance Project in Edo State was carried out in collaboration with a Coalition of five Nigerian NGO's working in Edo State in two phases from December 2003 to April 2004 (phase 1), and from April 2004 to April 2005 (phase 2 –ongoing).

Members of the Coalition:

1. National Council of Women Societies, Nigeria (NCWS);
2. Idia Renaissance;
3. Committee for the Support of the Dignity of Women (COSUDOW);
4. International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group (IRRRAG);
5. African Women Empowerment Group (AWEG).

### MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

The project management was as follows:



### METHODOLOGY/PROJECT STRATEGY

The methodology used followed the so-called “Bottom-Up Strategy”, which seeks to actively engage those primarily beleaguered by problems in resolving their own problems. It assumes that the necessary structural adjustment can be brought about with the people’s active involvement. Providing people with greater access to resources and information should enable them bring about changes at the micro-level in the short-run, and at the macro-level in the long run.

The method employed in monitoring involved visits to the by beneficiaries and invitations of beneficiaries to joint monthly meetings with Coordinators. Each beneficiary has been visited at least twice every month. During the joint meetings beneficiaries shared their problems and challenges and the solution was sought collectively.

### TARGET OF THE PROJECT

The target of the project were:

- Edo girls/women who have been trafficked into Italy;
- Edo women and minors who are at-risk of trafficking.

Beyond these direct beneficiaries, the programme had a trigger effect on government and other NGOs to join the huge task of rehabilitating women and minors victim of trafficking.

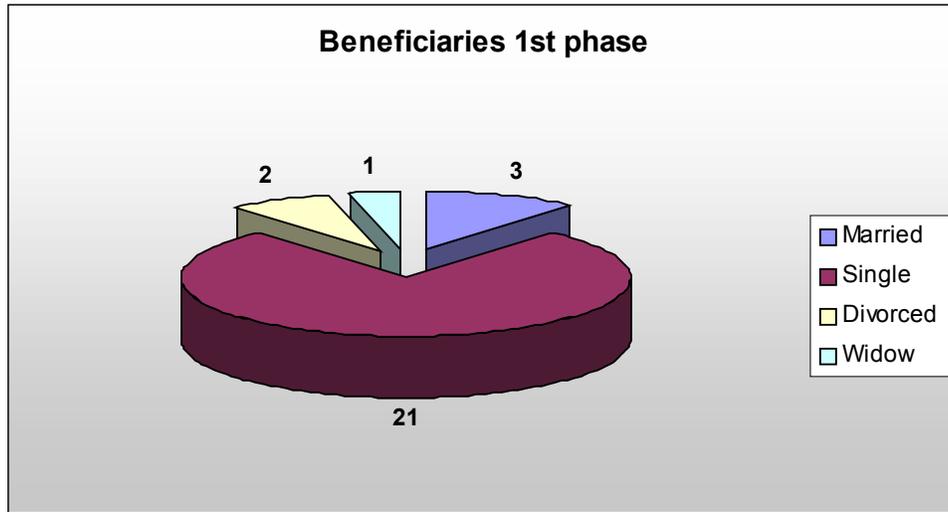
Over 500 applications were received for a project, which being a pilot project, could initially accommodate about 25-30 persons. Thus, in phase one **27** beneficiaries were selected by the NGOs that had the primary responsibility to organise and monitor the individually designed micro-finance

projects. In the second phase, up to December 2004, additional **41** young women were selected. Out of these, 10 were initial beneficiaries who asked to continue the programme and are hence still benefiting from it.

**Beneficiaries Dec. 2003 - Dec. 2004**

First phase	27
Second phase	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

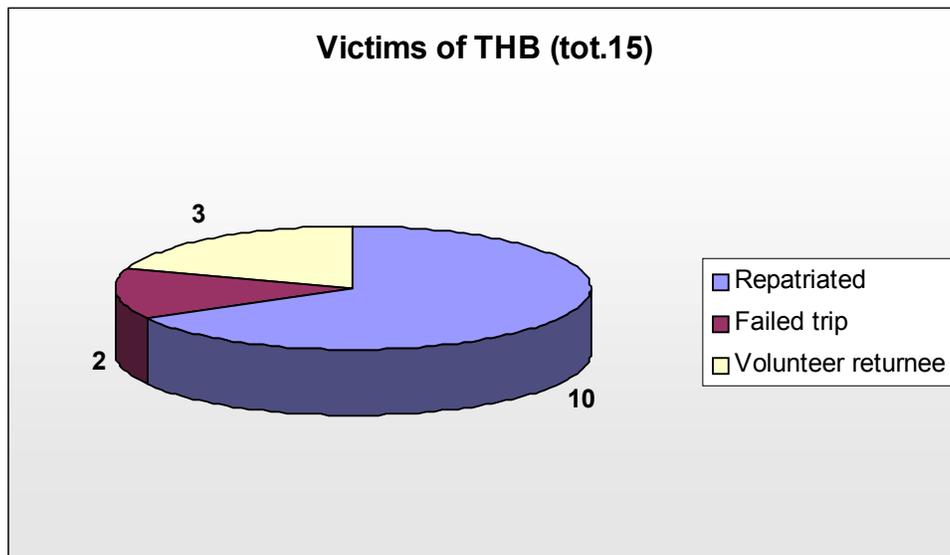
In the phase 1, the largest percentage of the beneficiaries were single (78% - 21 women), and 10 out of 27 had one or more children.



**Age declared by the beneficiaries (1<sup>st</sup> phase)**

17	1
18	1
22	3
23	1
24	1
25	1
26	4
27	2
28	1
30	1
31	2
35	1
39	1
N.a.	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

According to the declarations of the 15 young women victim of trafficking for sexual exploitation, enrolled in the programme in phase 1 and 2, the majority (10) had been repatriated, while 3 were voluntary returnees, and two failed their trip abroad.



**BUSINESSES**

All beneficiaries, after counselling sessions with the project management, were granted loans to start up new businesses according to their capacities and interests. Most beneficiaries of phase 1 applied for catering (fast foods, and restaurants - 10), and tailoring (7) and hair saloons (6). Two applied for opening a phone booth business or selling GSM telephone cards, and two for farming.

