

Project Document

RESCUE, REHABILITATION & EMPOWERMENT FOR SURVIVORS OF EXPLOITATION IN NIGERIA

By Empower Future Initiative

1. Project Overview

Empower Future Initiative proposes a comprehensive intervention to rescue, rehabilitate, and empower vulnerable populations in Nigeria, including sex workers, trafficked women and minors, men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender persons, and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

The project integrates emergency response, healthcare, psychosocial support, child protection, education, and economic empowerment to address both immediate needs and long-term reintegration. It also prioritizes prevention of intergenerational exploitation by supporting children at risk.

2. Problem Statement

Nigeria faces a growing crisis of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, gender-based violence (GBV), and HIV/AIDS among key populations. Many vulnerable individuals lack access to healthcare, legal protection, identity documentation, and safe housing.

Children of sex workers are exposed to violence, neglect, and exploitation, increasing the likelihood of repeating cycles of poverty and abuse.

3. Project Goal

To improve the quality of life and long-term outcomes for 5,000 vulnerable individuals and 1,500 at-risk children through integrated rescue, healthcare, protection, education, and empowerment services over 24 months.

4. Project Objectives

- * Rescue and provide safe shelter for survivors of trafficking and exploitation
- * Deliver HIV prevention, testing, and healthcare services
- * Provide trauma-informed psychosocial support

- * Ensure access to education and child protection services
- * Equip beneficiaries with vocational and entrepreneurial skills
- * Reduce vulnerability to re-exploitation and HIV infection
- * Promote community awareness and prevention of trafficking and GBV

5. Target Beneficiaries

- * Female sex workers (FSWs), MSM, and transgender persons
- * Trafficked women and children
- * Survivors of gender-based violence
- * Children of sex workers and vulnerable households
- * HIV-positive individuals and at-risk populations

6. Key Project Activities

A. Rescue & Emergency Response

- * Identification and rescue of trafficked individuals
- * Emergency transport, food, clothing, and care

B. Shelter & Protection

- * Safe housing for survivors
- * Child-friendly protection services
- * Case management and safeguarding

C. Healthcare & HIV Services

- * HIV testing and counseling
- * STI treatment and prevention
- * Condom distribution and awareness

D. Psychosocial Support

- * Trauma counseling and therapy
- * Peer support systems

E. Education & Child Protection

- * School enrollment and educational support

- * Child safeguarding and mentoring

F. Vocational Training & Empowerment

- * Skills acquisition (ICT, tailoring, crafts, etc.)
- * Financial literacy and entrepreneurship
- * Startup kits for small businesses

G. Community Awareness

- * Anti-trafficking campaigns
- * GBV prevention programs
- * Community engagement

7. Implementation Timeline (24 Months)

Phase 1 (Months 1–3): Planning, recruitment, baseline

Phase 2 (Months 4–12): Rescue, healthcare, shelter

Phase 3 (Months 13–20): Training, education, reintegration

Phase 4 (Months 21–24): Evaluation, scaling, sustainability

8. Budget Breakdown (Total: \$480,000)

- * Rescue & Emergency Operations — \$70,000
- * Shelter & Protection Services — \$120,000
- * Healthcare & HIV Prevention — \$80,000
- * Psychosocial Support — \$40,000
- * Education Support — \$70,000
- * Vocational Training — \$60,000
- * Staff & Management — \$25,000
- * Advocacy & Awareness — \$15,000

9. Monitoring & Evaluation

Key indicators include:

- * Number of individuals rescued
- * HIV tests conducted and treated
- * Children enrolled in school
- * Beneficiaries completing vocational training

- * Percentage achieving economic reintegration

Quarterly reporting and impact tracking will be implemented.

10. Sustainability Plan

- * Income generation from trained beneficiaries
- * Partnerships with NGOs, private sector, and government
- * Continuous fundraising through GlobalGiving
- * Survivor-led advocacy and peer networks

11. Expected Impact

- * 5,000 individuals supported
- * 1,500 children protected and educated
- * Reduced HIV infection rates
- * Reduced trafficking and exploitation
- * Increased economic independence
- * Stronger community protection systems

12. Evidence Base & Justification

Nigeria has one of the largest HIV epidemics globally, with approximately 1.9 million people living with HIV and a national prevalence of about 1.4% (UNAIDS, 2019).

Key populations account for about 40% of new HIV infections despite being a small proportion of the population. HIV prevalence is significantly higher among transgender persons (28.8%), MSM (25.0%), and sex workers (15.5%).

Human trafficking, gender-based violence, poverty, and social exclusion further increase vulnerability. Nigeria remains a significant source and transit country for trafficking, particularly affecting women and children.

Children of vulnerable populations face increased risks of exploitation, lack of education, and long-term poverty, reinforcing intergenerational cycles of abuse.

13. Development Alignment

This project aligns with:

- * SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- * SDG 5: Gender Equality
- * SDG 8.7: End Trafficking and Forced Labor
- * SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

14. References

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World Bank (2023). *Poverty and Social Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa*.

UNODC (2022). *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.

Conclusion

This project presents a holistic, evidence-based approach to tackling HIV, human trafficking, gender-based violence, and intergenerational poverty in Nigeria. By combining rescue, healthcare, education, and economic empowerment, Empower Future Initiative will restore dignity, save lives, and build resilient communities.