

EXTERNALISATION OF BORDERS

detention practices and denial of the right to asylum

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LAGOS (Nigeria)

The risks of refoulement of trafficked persons, member states' responsibilities and law enforcement actions. Introductory speech

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Introduction

Movement of people seeking better opportunities has always been part of human history and has led to productive human development and growth through social, cultural or professional interactions. However, the conditions under which people migrate can cause adverse effects and make them vulnerable to trafficking and smuggling, especially for the children among them.

The irregular conditions under which people migrate has aided the act of human trafficking and smuggling of persons to other parts of the world and has become a great concern to government.

On the 15th of August, 2017 His Excellency, Mr Godwin Obaseki, the Executive Governor of Edo State inaugurated the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, Chaired by the States Attorney General. This Taskforce was set up to tackle the menace of human trafficking and irregular migration.

The vision/mission

Sradicare la minaccia della tratta di esseri umani nello Stato di Edo

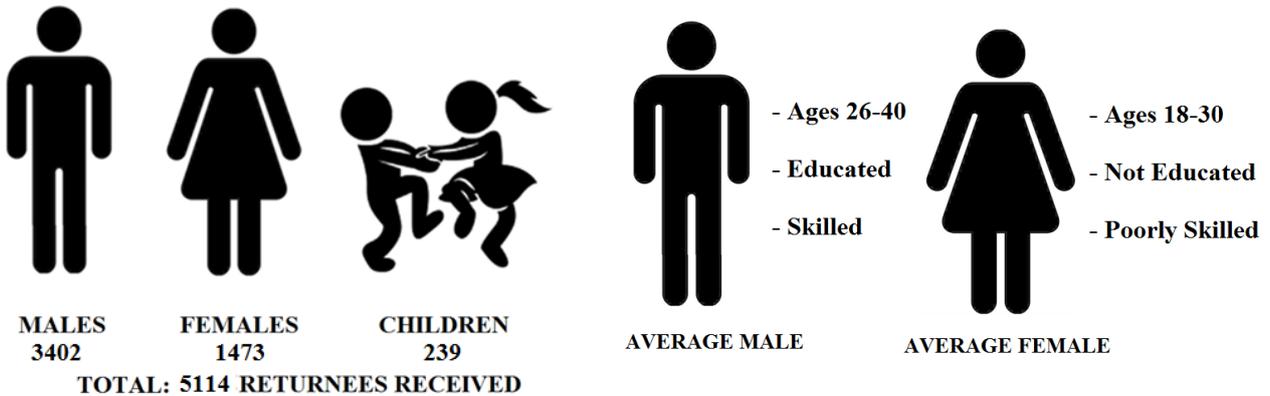
Objectives

- To reduce the problem of human trafficking in Edo State
- To research and promote strategies to eradicate human trafficking
- To assist in the support and rehabilitation of victim of human trafficking in Edo State

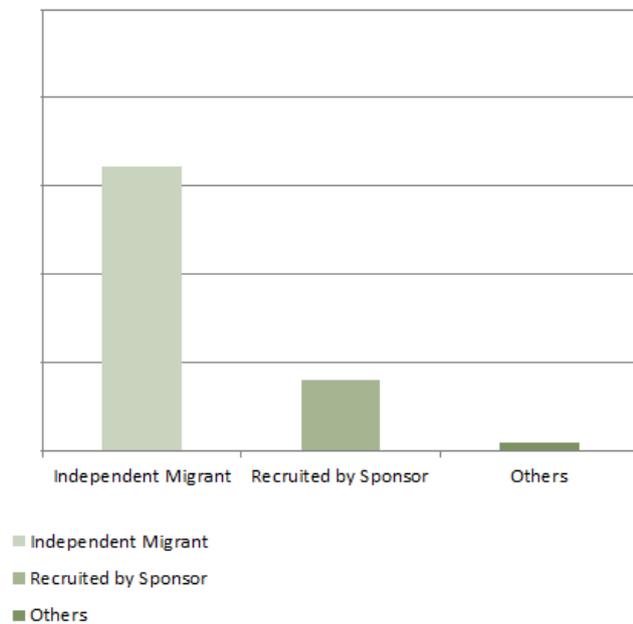
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- To work in collaboration with relevant agencies/bodies in addressing the problem of human trafficking

So far Edo State has received 5,114 returnees (3,402 males, 1473 females and 239 children).



Migration patterns



80.% migrated independently

18.% were recruited by a sponsor

2% migrated for other reasons.



Some of the vulnerabilities identified are:

- Gender Inequality especially in the rural areas
- Poor working conditions
- Unemployment both in the rural and urban areas

- Lack of access to basic social services such as health care, education, electricity supply etc
- Lack of social protection or loss of social protection
- **Ignorance**
- **Decay of societal morals and values**

Activities of the taskforce

1. Welcome Programme (Rehabilitation & Re-integration)
2. Investigation & Prosecution
3. Data Collection, Research & Statistics
4. Advocacy

1. Welcome programme (rehabilitation)

1. Airport welcome and receiving exercise
2. First aid administration and treatment
3. Transportation to Edo State
4. Welcoming to Edo State
5. Provision of Medical diagnosis and assistance
6. Handing out welcome packs
7. Feeding and refreshments
8. General address and statement
9. Counselling
10. Profiling and interviews
11. Security screening and investigation/protection
12. Taking bio-metric data
13. Photo passport/identification
14. Contacting family members and loved ones
15. Temporary shelter/accommodation
16. Reunion with family members
17. Vocational training and empowerment
18. Monitoring and evaluation
19. Payments of Stipends for 3 months

2. Investigation & prosecution

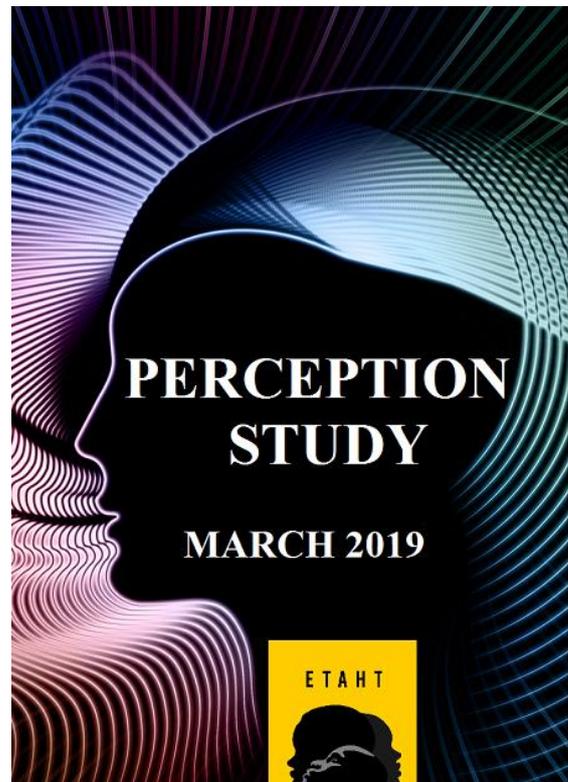
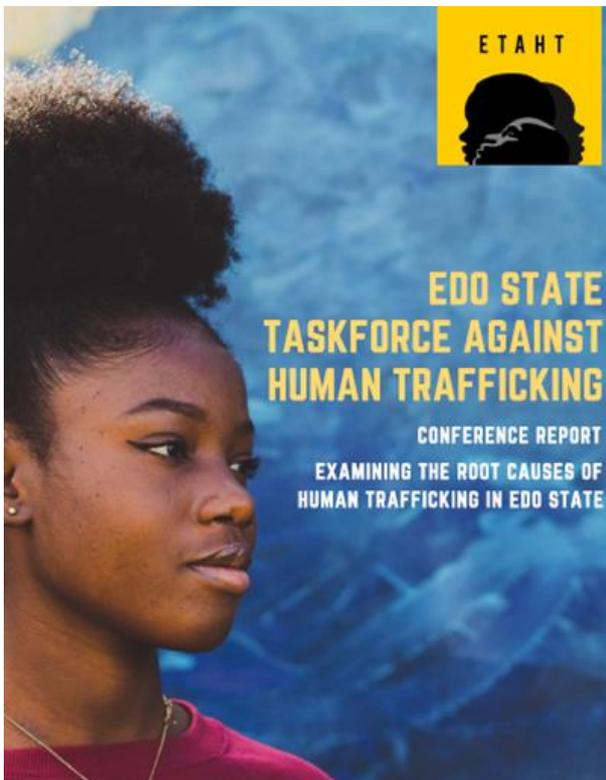
The Edo State Anti-Human Trafficking Law has been passed on May 23, 2018 and the state has made serious efforts in investigating and prosecuting traffickers.

A ten man investigation team comprised of Federal Police officers, Immigration officers and DSS officers presently exist within the taskforce. They carry out the duties of investigating suspected traffickers.

There is a four man prosecution team headed by the director of public prosecution, Ministry of Justice.



3. Data collection, research & statistics



Research forms a key part of our work. The Taskforce has released two major research works, which are:

1. The Root Causes Report which was an offshoot of the Taskforce's first research workshop held on the 30th of July, 2018. Participants of the workshop included the Iyase of Benin

Kingdom, the European Union, heads of international organisations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, Edo State Government officials, research experts, NGO's, and CSO's.

2. A Perception Study; to assist, monitor and evaluate the work of the Taskforce, a perception Study was commissioned in March 2019. The perception Study sought to examine changing public perception on human trafficking and irregular migration among residents in Edo state, so as to guide and provide strategic direction to the anti-trafficking activities of ETAHT.

4. Advocacy

The Taskforce has held several advocacy programmes in various local governments within the state to inform people of the ills of human trafficking and irregular migration. We have held several town hall meetings, a drama presentation for our international partners and as part of our outreach programmes, several road shows, religious outreaches. school outreaches and other media campaigns.

Advocacy is an essential part of what ETAHT does. Our advocacy efforts have:

- Helped to change mindsets and perceptions about human trafficking and irregular migration in Edo state.
- Stimulated community action by providing communities with information and skills that enable them to identify traffickers.
- Showcased the efforts of the Edo State government to the people.

The narration is changing...

- Before now, Edo State accounted for the highest proportion of known Nigerian irregular migrants. Data from the European Union and the Taskforce suggests that the figures from Edo have gone down significantly.
- The activities of the Taskforce were instrumental to Nigeria's upgrading to Tier 2 in the United States Trafficking in Persons Report 2019.
- Edo state is now looked up to as a model to be emulated. This has been clearly and openly advocated by NAPTIP, and as a result Delta and Ondo States have also set up their own Taskforce headed by their Attorneys General.

Conclusioni

In conclusion, it is important to emphasize that the Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT) remains resilient in its work which is geared towards the eradication of human trafficking and also changing the perception of Edo youths on irregular migration. We therefore call all stakeholders both local and international to come together to fight and end human trafficking in Edo State, and Nigeria.