**INPUTS FROM NAPTIP FOR THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, GENDER PEACE AND SECURITY TOWARDS 79TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is **the Federal Government of** Nigeria’s response to trafficking in persons. NAPTIP was established in 2003 via the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 (As re-enacted). **In addition,** NAPTIP implements the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015 in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria, Abuja, only. The Agency strategically combats human trafficking through its 5Ps paradigm of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Policy and Partnership.

**RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED:**

**Mandatory trainings for peacekeeping personnel on trafficking in persons for all purposes of exploitation:**

NAPTIP has a functional partnership with the Nigeria Army’s Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre Jaji, Kaduna State where components on human trafficking have been infused into the institution’s training programmes. These trainings have been ongoing over the years. Several batches of military and paramilitary personnel deployed for peacekeeping programmes receive trainings at this Centre Some of the courses include:

* **Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)** Course
* **Civil Military Coordination (CIMIC) Course**
* **Comprehensive Protection of Civilian Course**
* **Civil Military Coordination Course** for Law Enforcement Agencies -
* **Basic Human Rights Awareness Course f**or Law Enforcement Agencies
* **Awareness On Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender Mainstreaming Course**

**Design of gender sensitive responses and programmes on prevention, protection and recovery from conflict-related sexual violence, psycho-social and medical support services, which mainstream trafficking in persons:**

Nigeria has a robust legal framework to combat human trafficking and to protect children and women's rights. The Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015; the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2015, Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Laws of the 35 States across Nigeria, Child Rights Act of 2003 and the Child’s Rights Laws of the various States, are all gender-responsive legislations that covers all forms of exploitation including victims of trafficking in persons.

Policies developed by NAPTIP include:

* National Policy on Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons in Nigeria 2008, which was reviewed in 2022)
* Guidelines for the Protection of Children in Formal Care are instruments that support the protection of Children’s Rights and provide amongst others comprehensive measures for prevention of human trafficking, protection and recovery from conflict-related sexual violence, psycho-social and medical support services.
* NAPTIP’s Gender Policy, 2021.
* NAPTIP Disability Inclusion Policy, 2022
* Protocol for Identification, Safe Return and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons, 2022
* Minimum Standards and Guidelines for Service Providers Rendering Assistance to Victims of Trafficking, 2023
* Standard Reporting Handbook on Trafficking in Persons in Nigeria for Journalists, 2023
* Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Coordination of Law Enforcement Response to Human Trafficking and Sexual and Gender Based Violence
* The National Action Plan on Human Trafficking in Nigeria (2022 – 2026), Sub-Objective 1.2 urges all stakeholders to develop and implement programmes targeted at reducing gender inequality and vulnerability of persons, especially women and children.

Nigeria has revised its National Gender Policy 2021 - 2026 which contributes to the protection of women’s rights and mitigate sexual and gender-based violence through appropriate buffers and related services.

NAPTIP and other relevant institutions have developed Institutional Gender Policies for their Organisations to guide internal operations and ensure that the rights of women and are protected in the work place. NAPTIP’s Gender Policy was launched in March 2021.

**Investigations and accountability for trafficking and in persons and exploitation of natural resources and land dispossession and the nexus between trafficking and militarization which address challenges, protection gaps and good practices**

Investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenses is part of the of the Agency’s mandate. From January 2023 to June 2024, 1,490 cases have been investigated and 97 persons convicted with many others at various stages of prosecution in Court.

On the nexus between trafficking and militarization and the challenges, it is important to note that the insurgency and banditry in different parts of Nigeria have made the counter trafficking activities in Nigeria more challenging as insurgency and banditry have encouraged trafficking in persons through the human rights violations that go with them and the use of victims to play various in the commission of a crime. It is also difficult for the security agencies to differentiate between criminal elements and those who were forced to carry arms as part of the exploitation of trafficked persons.

**Responses to trafficking in persons in the context of climate related conflict and displacement, incorporating a gender dimension**

Nigeria government is conscious of the gender dimensions of human trafficking, as well as the contributions of socio-cultural climate and conflict, displacement and other variables that affect the crime. To this end, NAPTIP provides context-based responses in this direction. Insecurity and insurgency increase the vulnerability to human trafficking.

NAPTIP carries out awareness campaigns across IDP camps to eliminate the possibility of further exploitation of victims of displacement in camps. Some of the IDP camps sensitized in the last one year include: Wasa IDP Camp, Apo Abuja, with about 2000 residents on the 23rd March 2023; Farm centre IDPs camp in Maiduguri, Shinge IDP Camp, Lafia Nasarawa State; Mai Mala IDP camp, Yobe state, Damaturu, amongst others.

**NAPTIP**

21st June 2024