

The introduction of the Community Monitoring System (CMS) and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage and Domestic Servitude, November 2024

Objectives:

The activities aimed to raise awareness and promote the adoption of a **Community Monitoring System (CMS)** and a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** as tools for safeguarding children against child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude. Additionally, they sought to empower students and youth through skill acquisition and strengthen community ownership of child protection initiatives.

Executive Summary:

From October to November 2024, a series of advocacy and outreach activities were conducted across Ikwo and Izzi LGAs, Ebonyi State. These included advocacy visits to traditional rulers, a school outreach program, a town hall meeting, and a church outreach. The advocacy efforts targeted key stakeholders, including community cabinet members, school leaders, teachers, students, and church congregants. The activities highlighted the risks associated with child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude and emphasized community-led solutions through CMS and MOU. Skill acquisition sessions were integrated to economically empower youth, fostering independence and resilience.

Outcomes/Achievements:

1. Advocacy Visits:

- **Ndufu-Achara Autonomous Community, Ikwo LGA (5th October 2024):** Secured the commitment of five cabinet members to implement a CMS and integrate the MOU into child welfare processes.
- **Inyimagu Ndiabo Igbuhu, Izzi LGA (17th October 2024):** Engaged eight cabinet members who pledged to prioritize child protection initiatives and enhance efforts against domestic servitude and child marriage.

2. School Outreach at Enyibichiri Alike, Ikwo LGA (8th November 2024):

- Reached 304 participants (198 males, 106 females), including students, teachers, and community leaders.
- Conducted skill training on liquid soap, air freshener, Izal, and Dettol production, equipping youth with practical economic skills.
- Strengthened schools' capacity to advocate for and report child protection violations.

3. Town Hall Meeting at Ezza Inyimagu, Izzi LGA (18th November 2024):

- Engaged 198 participants (77 males, 121 females) in discussions on ending child exploitation.
- Fostered a community-wide understanding of child protection responsibilities and secured commitments to implement the CMS and MOU.

4. Church Outreach at Ascension Church, Ndieborishiagu, Izzi LGA (11th October 2024):

- Educated 209 participants (89 males, 120 females) on child marriage risks and the church's role in advocacy.

- Church leaders pledged to champion child protection efforts and disseminate messages through services.

Overall Impact:

These activities successfully raised awareness, secured community and stakeholder commitments, and empowered individuals to take proactive measures. They strengthened collaborations between advocacy groups, schools, and religious institutions, fostering a collective approach to ending child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude in Ebonyi State.

Brief Report of Activities on Ending Child Early and Forced Marriage and Domestic Servitude

1. Advocacy Visit to Ndufu-Achara Autonomous Community, Ikwo LGA

Date: 5th October 2024

Objective:

To advocate for the adoption of a Community Monitoring System and implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to track and monitor the welfare of children, ensuring protection against child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude.

Executive Summary:

A targeted advocacy visit was conducted to Ndufu-Achara Autonomous Community in Ikwo LGA. The advocacy team engaged five male cabinet members of the community leadership to discuss the importance of establishing a Community Monitoring System. The meeting emphasized community ownership of child protection efforts and the implementation of an MOU to safeguard children.

Outcomes/Achievements:

- Secured the commitment of cabinet members to support and champion the implementation of the Community Monitoring System.
- Initiated discussions on integrating the MOU into the community’s child welfare processes.



2. Advocacy Visit to Inyimagu Ndiabo Igbuhu Community, Izzi LGA

Date: 17th October 2024

Objective:

To advocate for community-led ownership of child protection measures, focusing on the development and implementation of a Community Monitoring System and MOU.

Executive Summary:

An advocacy visits to Inyimagu Ndiabo Igbuhu Community engaged eight male cabinet members. The team highlighted the dangers of child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude, stressing the need for a Community Monitoring System to track children’s welfare.

Outcomes/Achievements:

- Gained a pledge from community leaders to prioritize child protection initiatives.
- Strengthened community leaders’ understanding of their role in combating domestic servitude and child marriage.



3. School Outreach at Enyibichiri Alike, Ikwo LGA

Date: 8th November 2024

Objective:

To raise awareness among students and school leaders about child early and forced marriage, domestic servitude, and the role of the Community Monitoring System, while providing skill acquisition training.

Executive Summary:

A school outreach program at Enyibichiri Alike engaged 304 participants (198 males and 106 females), including students, teachers, and community leaders. Participants were educated on the risks of child marriage and domestic servitude, and skill training sessions on liquid soap, air freshener, Izal, and Dettol production were conducted to empower students economically.

Outcomes/Achievements:

- Enhanced awareness of child protection measures among students and educators.
- Equipped youth with practical skills for economic independence.
- Strengthened the role of schools in advocating for child welfare and reporting violations.



4. Town Hall Meeting at Ezza Inyimagu, Izzi LGA

Date: 18th November 2024

Objective:

To engage community members in discussions on ending child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude, emphasizing the Community Monitoring System and MOU as tools for child welfare.

Executive Summary:

A town hall meeting at Ezza Inyimagu brought together 198 participants (77 males and 121 females). The discussion highlighted the dangers of child marriage and domestic servitude and introduced the MOU and Community Monitoring System as key strategies for child protection.

Outcomes/Achievements:

- Fostered community-wide understanding of child protection responsibilities.
- Encouraged active community participation in the adoption of the MOU and monitoring system.
- Secured commitments from participants to serve as child protection advocates within their community.



5. Church Outreach at Ascension Church, Ndieborishiagu, Izzi LGA

Date: 11th October 2024

Objective:

To educate church members on the risks of child early and forced marriage and domestic servitude and encourage the church's role in promoting the Community Monitoring System and MOU.

Executive Summary:

A church outreach program at Ascension Church, Ndieborishiagu, engaged 209 participants (89 males and 120 females). Church leaders and members were educated on the implications of child early and forced marriage and the importance of monitoring systems to safeguard children.

Outcomes/Achievements:

- Church leaders pledged to disseminate child protection messages during services.
- Church members gained awareness of their roles in reporting and preventing child exploitation.
- Strengthened collaboration between the church and advocacy groups in advancing child welfare.

