



# **THE ROOT CAUSES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NIGERIA.**

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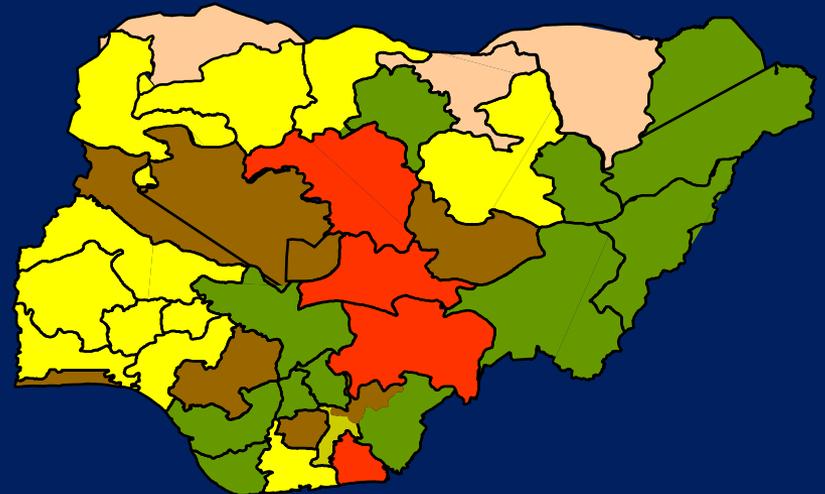
**13<sup>th</sup> UN Crime Congress, Doha, Qatar**

**13<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015**



# FACT SHEET: NIGERIA: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Available reports shows that, Nigeria is a source, transit, and destination country for women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.
- Thousands of Nigerian girls work sex industry. Many are found or return from Europe.
- Within Nigeria, women and girls are trafficked primarily for domestic servitude and commercial sexual exploitation. Boys are trafficked for forced labour in street vending, agriculture, mining, stone quarries, and as domestic servants. There is high demand for child workers at the household level, agricultural, construction, quarries and brass melting mostly in the informal sector.
- Nigeria on the U.S. '2-Tier Watch list'





# Root causes of Human trafficking

## ❖ Poverty: widespread poverty

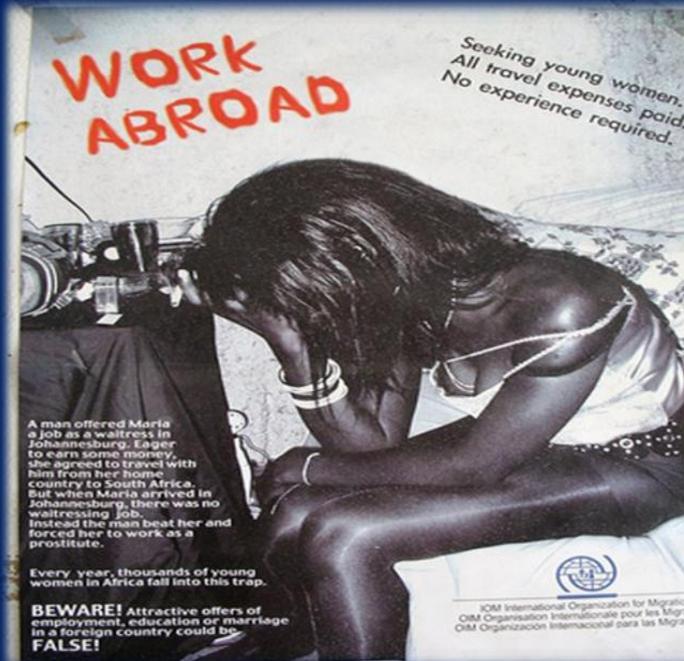


ILO/IPEC report shows that 8 million Nigerian children engaged in exploitative child labour and 40% of Nigerian street children and hawkers are trafficked children due to poverty



# Root causes of Human trafficking contd.

- Desire to migrate to study & work in the urban city and abroad



ILO report showed that the desire of Nigerian potential victims to migrate is exploited by offenders to recruit and gain initial control or cooperation, only to be replaced by more coercive measures once the victims have been moved to another State or region of the country, which may not always be the one to which they had intended to migrate.



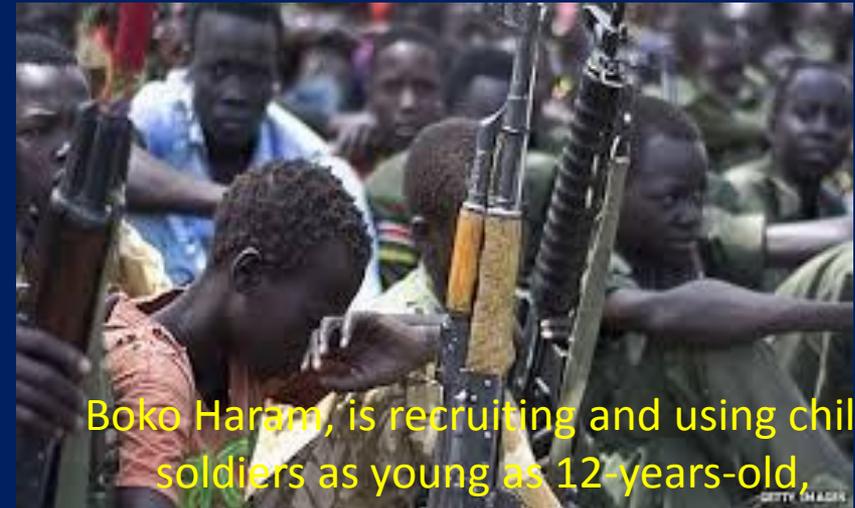
# Root causes of Human trafficking contd.

## Conflicts:

World Bank report showed that more than 1.5 billion people live in countries affected by violent conflict. Conflict is a push factor for trafficking, migration and poverty. In Nigeria prone conflict zone, Boko Haram trafficked children and use them as soldiers and militias. They kidnapped young girls, sell them into slavery and forcefully married them.



Chibok Girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, married and sold into slavery



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Boko Haram, is recruiting and using child soldiers as young as 12-years-old, as well as abducted women and girls in the northern region of Nigeria, some of whom it later subjected to domestic servitude, forced labor, and sex slavery through forced marriages to its militants



# Root causes of Human trafficking contd.

## Weak Legal System:

porous borders, corrupt Government officials, the involvement of international organized criminal groups or networks and limited capacity of or commitment by immigration and law enforcement officers to control borders





## Root causes of Human trafficking contd.

▪ Lack of adequate legislation and of political will and commitment to enforce existing legislation or mandates are other factors that facilitate trafficking in persons.

The Government of Nigeria maintained strong anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. The 2003 Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act, amended in 2005 to increase the penalties for trafficking offenders, prohibits all forms of human trafficking. The law prescribes penalties of five years' imprisonment or a fine not to exceed the equivalent of approximately \$645 or both for labor trafficking offenses; these penalties are not sufficiently stringent, because the law allows convicted offenders to pay a fine in lieu of prison time for labor trafficking or attempted trafficking offenses. The law prescribes penalties of 10 to 15 years' imprisonment for sex trafficking offenses or a fine of the equivalent of approximately \$1,250, or both. For sentences that include only a fine, penalties are not





# Root causes of Human trafficking contd.

- The practice of entrusting poor children to more affluent friends or relatives may create vulnerability. Some parents sell their children, not just for the money, but also in the hope that their children will escape a situation of chronic poverty and move to a place where they will have a better life and more opportunities.



These are some of the children that ACAHD have rescued in the past and has supported while the traffickers have been prosecuted by government.



# Conclusion

## **What can you do to help?**

- ▶ **Get educated on the issue!**
- ▶ **Be aware!**
- ▶ **Get involved in the fight against Human Trafficking!**

