



*Group photo with team from the Federal Ministry of Women.*

# **POSSIBLE AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF**

On 18 November, 2020, a team of four staff from the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs visited Universal Disaster Recovery Foundation (U-DIREF) to ascertain the existence and operation of the organisation in view of completing partnership registration between both organisations.

U-DIREF Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Daniel Gambo, fielded questions from the visiting team on the level of registration, staffing, setting up of offices, areas of partnership with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, project implementation, and scope of coverage so far.

The team was visibly satisfied with the responses to their concerns, although they raised questions on the unavailability of visibility of the organisation, especially around the office facility or structure.

Led by Ms. ...., other members of the team included ....

## POSSIBLE AREAS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS

### CHILD PROTECTION/GBV

There is no generally accepted definition of child abuse as a result of differences in the perception of what generally is acceptable as abusive or not. The African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) defines child abuse as “the intentional, unintentional or well intentional acts which endanger the physical health, emotional, moral and the educational welfare of children.

Child abuse can be seen as any act of omission or commission, physical or psychological mistreatment or neglect of a child by its parents, guardians, caregiver or other adults that may endanger the child’s physical, psychological or emotional health and development.

In this definition, wrongfully maltreating a child or selfishly making an unfair use of a child’s services by adults responsible for the child constitutes child abuse. Thus, the adult may not be directly related to the child but a person in whose care the child is left can be an abuser. This may include the educators, healthcare workers, day care workers, or other responsible adults (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008).



## Forms of Child Abuse

Child abuse can be broadly categorized into five perspectives namely, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and child exploitation (child labour).

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse may be seen as the inflicting of a non-accidental bodily injury on a child. The injury may not have been intended by the parent or caretaker and is not an accident but may be due to over-discipline or corporal punishment that may not be appropriate or is unjustifiable for the child at that age.

**Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse is also known as verbal abuse, mental abuse or psychological maltreatment. The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (2006) defines emotional abuse as “acts or omissions by the parents or other caregivers that have caused, or could cause serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders”. Emotional abuse can thus be seen as any attitude, behaviour or failure to act on the part of a caregiver which interferes with a child’s mental health, social development or sense of self-worth. It is probably the least understood, yet the most prevalent, cruellest and destructive type of Child Abuse and its Implications for the Educational Sector in Nigeria abuse. It attacks the child self-concept making the child see his/herself as unworthy, worthless and incapable. When a child is constantly humiliated, shamed, terrorized or rejected the child suffers more than if he/she had been physically maltreated. The resulting effect is that most children often withdraw to themselves leading to depression and lack of concentration in school (Khartri, 2004).

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse is defined by CAPTA (Khartri, 2004) as the employment, use of persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct. It is the rape, and in cases of caretaker or interfamilial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other forms of sexual exploitation of children or incest with children. As a result of the secrecy that characterizes these cases, sexual abuse is the most often under-reported form of child maltreatment. Sexually abused children experience emotional problems from a feeling of guilt and shame (Corwin & Olafson, 1997).

**Neglect:** This is a failure to provide basic needed care for the child such as shelter, food, clothing, education, supervision, medical care and other basic necessities needed for the child physical, intellectual and emotional development. It is a situation where the guardians or parents fail to perform tasks that are necessary for the wellbeing of the child which invariably can lead to the child’s health and safety being endangered.

**Child Exploitation:** Child exploitation, often referred to as child labour or child trafficking, involves the use of a child in work or other activities for the benefit of others. Child exploitation is a systematic process of using children to work with little or no compensation and consideration for their health and safety (Newton, 2001). These children are used to do hard works in the farms that are above their ages and some are made to hawk wares for long hours without food. Such children rarely benefit from education and will eventually drop out of school. By the time these children reach adulthood, they are physically, emotionally, morally and intellectually damaged.



U-DIREF CEO responding to visiting team



Discussion with U-DIREF Chairman



Family photo at the end of verification visit to Universal Disaster Recovery Foundation (U-DIREF) by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.