



OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR WEST AFRICA

**1<sup>st</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**ON**  
**DECLASSIFICATION AND**  
**DECRIMINALIZATION OF PETTY**  
**OFFENCE IN NIGERIA**

**February 2019- July 2019**

**Submitted by:**





## Section One: Executive Summary

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This report detailed the activities conducted during the inception phase of the project, covering between February to July 2019. The declassification and decriminalizing of petty offences in Nigeria project being implemented by Prisoners' Rehabilitation And Welfare Action (PRAWA) focus on three core components, namely:

- ❖ Influencing attitudinal change towards petty offences,
- ❖ Increasing media awareness of the negative impact of criminalizing poverty, and
- ❖ Assessing the status of legislations on petty offences at municipal levels.

During the period under review (inception phase), the project has embarked on setting the foundation for effective implementation of the project and has commenced some aspects of the project activities. The activities implemented during this period include the following:

- ❖ Introductory Meeting (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Baseline Research (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Dissemination Workshops (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Training of Law Enforcement Agencies & Other Related Support (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Coordination Meetings (FCT and Abia State)
- ❖ Participation in Regional Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting)
- ❖ Training of Paralegals
- ❖ Training of Journalists (Abia State)
- ❖ Publication of Policy Brief (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), Titled: 'The Criminalization of Poverty'

A key deliverable during the inception phase is the production of the baseline assessment report, which provided a synopsis of the status quo regarding petty offences in the country. Other components include selection and training of team paralegals, initial engagement and training of selected law enforcement agents, and dissemination of the findings of the baseline assessment report. On the overall, there were clear indications that the project has started on a good note as there is perceived high interest amongst the key stakeholders, and willingness of the policy makers to share and discuss issues relating to the adverse effects of our legislations on petty offences. One of the key lessons learnt is the sensitivity of some of the stakeholders to decriminalizing petty offences like prostitution, as it was perceived as an intolerable act in the Nigeria and amongst many stakeholders. The project plans to strengthen engagement on this issue going forward.

During the period under review, the project also identified law enforcement agencies that tend to arrest for petty offences in each of the project locations. In each location a key agency is focused on to help achieve efficient utilization of the limited resources available to the project. With this approach attempt is being made to strengthen the operations of the targeted agency in



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each project location through continuous capacity building of personnel, follow up supervision and mentorship.

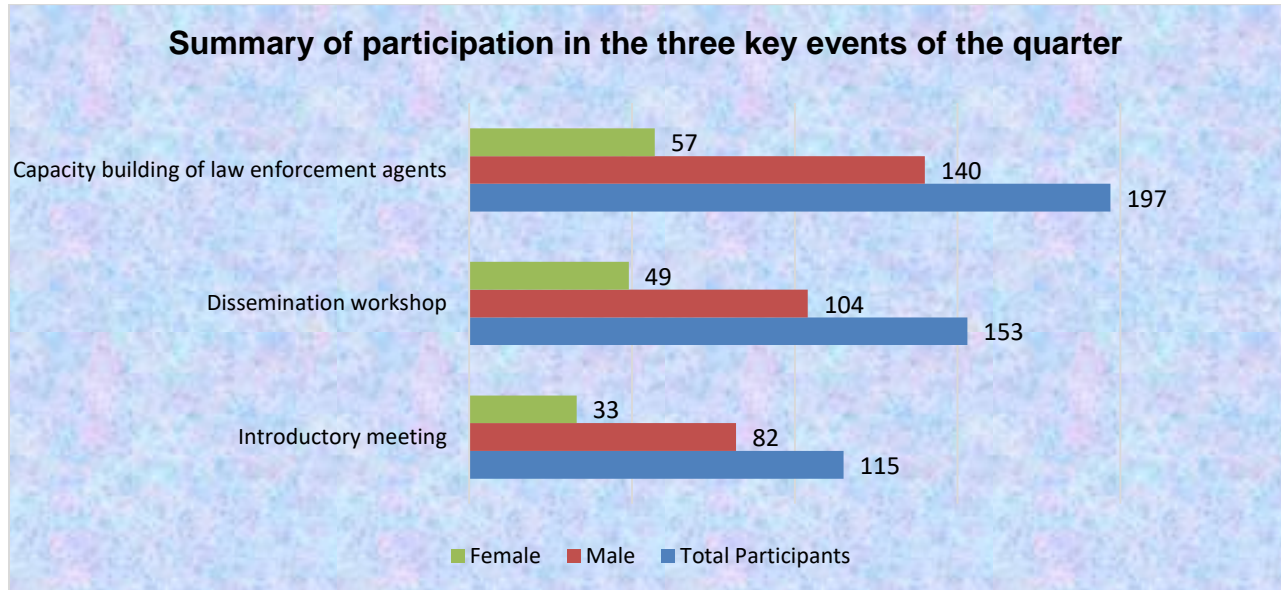


Figure 1: Summary of participations in key events

As can be seen in Table 1 below a total of 879 persons were directly reached through activities implemented during the period under review (i.e. the first 6 months of the project). Also, an estimated number of over 30 million persons were reached through the media coverage on the project activities implemented during the period. The breakdown of the number of people reached directly during the reporting period through the activities of this project is presented in the table below as follows:

Table 1: summary of the people reach through the project intervention

S/N	Activities	Number Reached
1	Initial Planning meeting	115
2	Baseline Assessment	305
3	Dissemination workshop	153
4	Training of selected Law enforcement personnel	197
5	Training of journalists	37
6	Coordination meeting of stakeholders in Justice Sector	42
7	Composition and Training of Paralegal team	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>879</b>



Figure 2: overview of the activities and people reached

## Section Two: Activities and Progress:

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This section provides a highlights of the key activities delivered over the reporting period. These are as follows:

### Inception / Preliminary Activities:

- ❖ Introductory Meeting (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Baseline Research (across all the project locations)

### Influencing attitudinal change towards petty offences

- ❖ Dissemination Workshops (across all the project locations)
- ❖ Training of Law Enforcement Agencies & Other Related Support (across all the project locations)

Coordination Meetings (FCT and Abia State)

Participation in Regional Meeting (1<sup>st</sup> Meeting)



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## Training of Paralegals

### Increasing media awareness of the negative impact of criminalizing poverty

- ❖ Training of Journalists (Abia State)
- ❖ Publication of Policy Brief (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), Titled: 'The Criminalization of Poverty'

### Assessing the status of legislations on petty offences at municipal levels.

- ❖ Publication of Policy Brief (1<sup>st</sup> Edition)

Details on these include the following:

#### **1. Initial Planning/Introductory Meetings:**

The project take-off meetings were held across the project locations, which is an initial engagement with the selected personnel and groups. The objective of this meeting is to enhance active participation and involvement of key stakeholders in the project implementation and this was achieved. In all, the introductory meetings encouraged sense of ownership and buy – in of the relevant stakeholders in the project.

*Federal Capital Territory (FCT):* The meeting was held at the Secretariat of the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee, Abuja. A total of 18 participants with representations from seven organizations which includes; Abuja Environmental Protection Bureau, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, Nigerian Police Force, Nigerian Civil Defense Corps, Petty traders, Commercial sex-workers.

*Lagos State:* The meeting was hosted at Nigerian Prison Service Headquarters, Alagbon with 20 stakeholders in attendance. Organizations represented includes; Nigeria Prison Service, Office of Public Defender (OPD), National Human Rights Commission, National Union Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Tricycle Operators Association, and Representative of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA).

*Enugu State:* The meeting was hosted at the PRAWA Enugu Office with 13 participants. Organizations represented include the following: Nigerian Police Force Enugu State Command (who was represented by the OC Legal for the State), Enugu State Ministry of Transportation, Traders' Association, Tricycle Riders Association, Nigerian Prisons Service Enugu State Command, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, and Nigerian Bar Association.

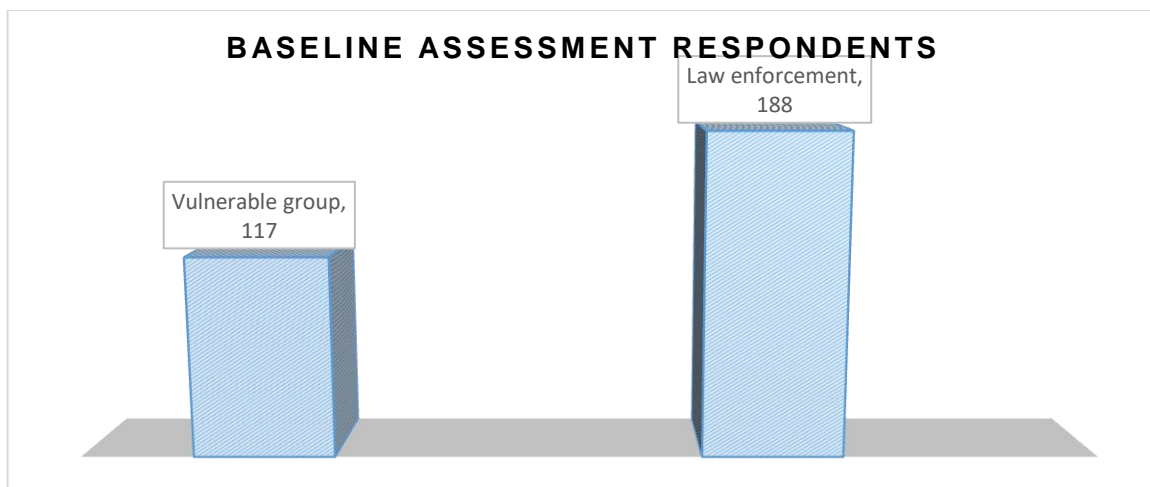


*Abia State:* The meeting was held at Rapha Hotel, Umuahia. Organizations represented include the following: Nigerian Prison Service, National Human Rights Commission, Legal Aid Council, Nigeria Police Force, Federation of International Women Lawyers, Nigerian Bar Association, Abia State Government House, State Ministry of Women Affairs, and Traders Association. About 30 persons attended this meeting.

*Kano State:* The meeting was held at the PRAWA Office in Kano, and there were 18 participants with representatives from Nigerian Police Force, Hisbah Commission, Federal Road Safety Corps, Legal Aid Council, Nigerian Prison Service, Road Transport Workers, Nigerian Bar Association, and Tricycle Riders Association.

## 2. Baseline Assessment:

The baseline assessment was conducted in all the project locations with the objective of understanding the status quo and establishing the baseline indicators. The assessment includes development of various data gathering tools covering qualitative and quantitative analysis. The respondents were drawn from both law enforcement agencies and victims/potential victims of petty offences. The total number of respondents was 305 (117 persons identified vulnerable persons and 188 persons in law enforcement/justice delivery services). The reports and its findings was presented to the key stakeholders during the dissemination workshop held across all the project locations.



*Figure 3: Baseline Assessment respondents*

An excerpt from the baseline assessment report which depict a summary of findings is presented, in the figure 3 below;

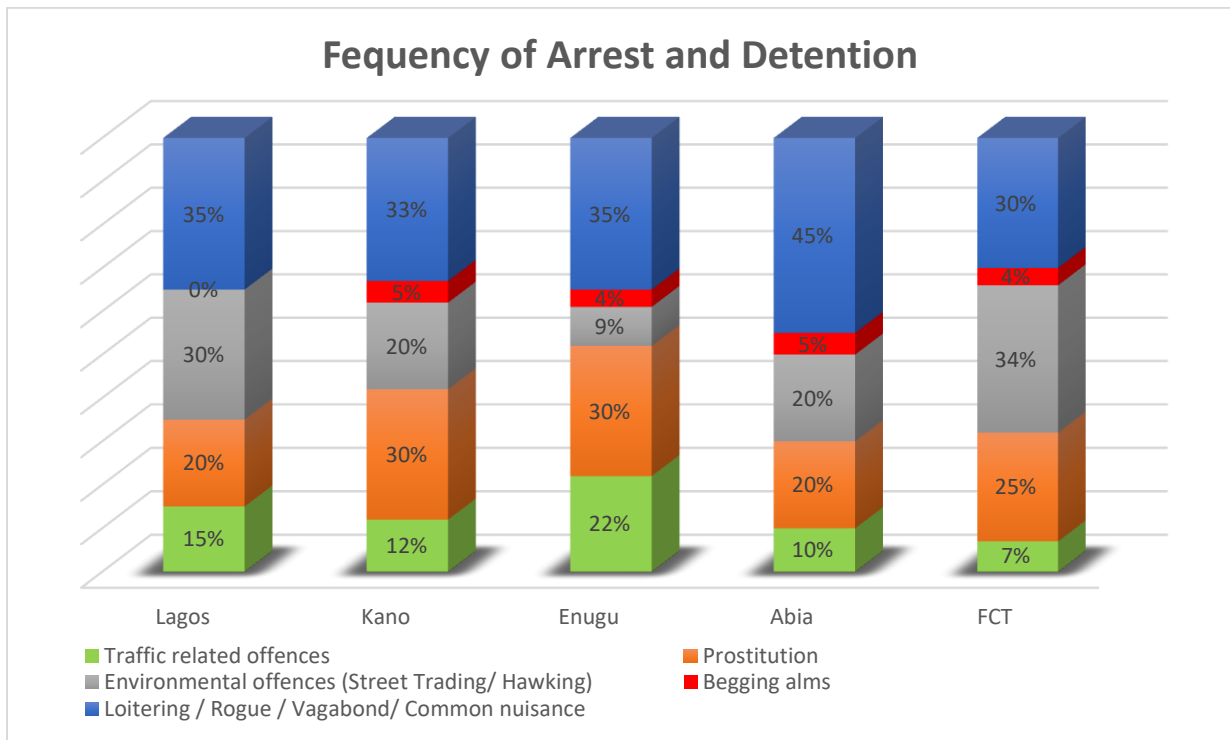
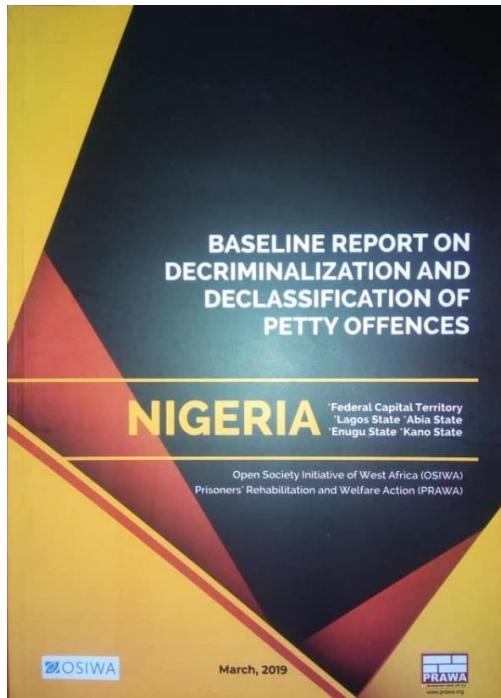


Figure 4: Frequency of arrest and Detention

### 3. Dissemination Workshop:

The Baseline Report was publicly presented and disseminated with full media coverage in all the project locations in the order – FCT, Lagos State, Abia State, Kano State and Enugu State. Participants were drawn from the judiciary, Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Prisons Service, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice, Legal Aid Council, Nigerian Bar Association, NGOs, and the Media. The workshops witnessed attendance of high level stakeholders including for the FCT Workshop - the Chief Judge of FCT; Lagos State - the Deputy Controller General of Prisons (Welfare), the Deputy Controller General Zone ‘A’, and State Controller of Prisons Lagos State; Abia State - Chief Judge of Abia State; Enugu State – Controller of Prison Enugu State; and Kano State - member National Judicial Council.



Cover page of the Baseline Report Produced and Dissemination

**4. Training of selected Law enforcement personnel:**

As part of the findings of the baseline assessment, which identified the agencies of government that are most susceptible to arresting and detention of vulnerable citizen for petty offences, in each of the project locations. This activity formed part of the engagement with these enforcement agencies. A two-day workshop was organized in all the five project locations to facilitate training of selected law enforcement personnel on human rights. The expert-led sessions was also to enlighten them and build their capacity on how to approach their work differently by being truly law enforcers rather than abuser of fundamental human rights.

*Table 2: Summary of the capacity building training for law enforcement agencies*

Location	Beneficiary Organizations	Number of Participants	Venue
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<b>Federal Capital Territory</b>	Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB)	<b>60</b>	National Human Right Commission (NHRC)
<b>Enugu</b>	Enugu State Waste Management Authority (ESWMA)	<b>35</b>	PRAWA Office, Conference room
<b>Kano</b>	Kano State Road and Traffic Agency, and HISBAH Commission.	<b>43</b>	PRAWA Office, Conference Room
<b>Lagos</b>	Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC)	<b>25</b>	Elite Studio Conference Hall, IKEJA
<b>Abia</b>	Traffic and Indiscipline Management Agency of Abia State (TIMMAS)	<b>39</b>	Ralpha Hotel, Umuahia

Furthermore, as established in the baseline assessment the agencies that most arrest and detained for petty offences were the agencies targeted during the training of the law enforcement agencies. For example, in Kano State these are the HISBAH Commission and Kano Road Traffic Agency (KAROTA). Their participation is presented in the chart below:

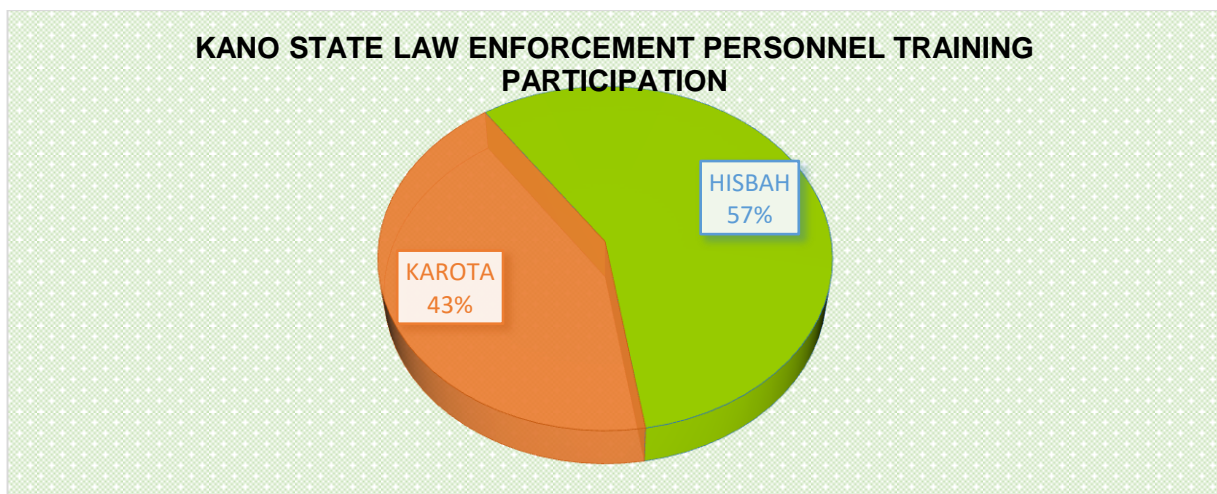


Figure 5: Kano State Law enforcement personnel training

Similarly, the training of personnel of law enforcement agencies in Lagos presented below which was between the two major enforcement agencies; Lagos State Traffic Management



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Authority (LASTMA) – 27%, while Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC) – 73%

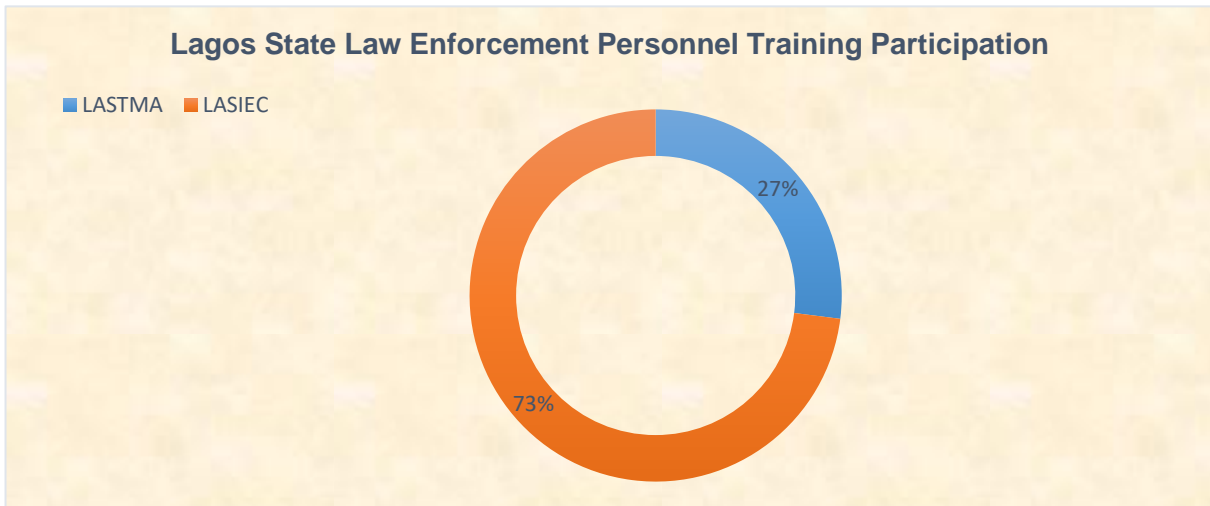


Figure 6: Lagos State Law Enforcement personnel Training Participation

### 5. Composition and Training of Paralegal team:

The team of paralegal is expected to serve as the intermediary role among various actors in the result chain – interfacing between the law enforcers, the identified vulnerable groups, pro-bono lawyers, and other actors. This is aimed at providing administrative and supporting roles to fast track processes and necessitate quick interventions. A total of 30 paralegals were trained during the period under review. Their term of work was also developed during this period, which would serve as the guide for their functions. Whilst the training and approach to work by the paralegal team is consistent across the various project locations, there are some levels of peculiarity and state specific elements. All these were clearly highlighted during the trainings.

### 6. Coordination meeting of stakeholders in Justice Sector:

During the period under review, two coordination meetings were held as follows:

- (i) *In the FCT*: This took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 with agencies Security and Justice Sector Agencies and Oversight Mechanisms. This was organized in collaboration with the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC). This was held at the Secretariat of the ACJMC in Abuja. The meeting sensitized the participants on the Decriminalization and Declassification of Petty Offences Project and discussed the mandates of the various security and justice sector institutions and oversight mechanisms. The meeting also discussed approaches to strengthening the synergy between security and justice sector agents



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as reiterating the mandates of agencies especially in relation to the decongestion of prisons and use of non-custodial sanctions. The project overview was presented to aid stakeholders in recognizing their roles and contributions to the decriminalization of petty offences in Nigeria. The meeting in FCT was attended by 33 participants. The organizations that attended include the following: Nigerian Prison Service (NPS), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Legal Aid Council (LACON), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Nigerian Bar Association, Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), National Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSDC), Department of State Security (DSS), National Agency Against the Trafficking In Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP), ICRC, Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee, PRAWA, Sentinel, etc.

- (ii) *In Abia State:* This took place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 at the Chief Judge of Abia State Conference Room, Abia State Judiciary Complex Umuahia. This coordination meeting was held in collaboration with the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee Abia State with 9 persons from six institution attended, namely: Solicitor General Abia State Judiciary, Controller of Prisons Abia State, National Human Rights Commission Abia State Coordinator, Legal Aid Council of Nigeria Abia State Coordinator, OC Legal Nigeria Police Force Abia State Command, Chairman Nigerian Bar Association Umuahia Branch, Chairman Nigerian Bar Association Ohafia Branch, PRAWA Executive Director, and Abia State Chief Judge (represented). Representatives of Abia State Judiciary Training Center were also in attendance as observers. The meeting amongst other things discussed the programme of activities under the Decriminalization and Declassification of Petty Offences Project and agreed on the need to commence the training and sensitization workshops in Abia State on non-custodial measures from the month of September 2019.

### 7. Quarterly meeting with media representatives:

During the period under review, one training workshop was held media representatives in Abia State and this led to the establishment of the Penal Reform Media Network (PERMNET)/ Security, Justice and Development (SJD) – Media Network in Abia State. This is aimed at increasing the quality and frequency of media reporting on petty offences in Abia State. 37 persons participated in the workshop. These were drawn from various media houses in Abia State including TV, radio, online and print in the state - the Guardian, Love FM, Channels TV, AIT, FRCN, Broadcasting Corporation of Abia State (BCA), Galaxy TV, MAGIC FM, TVC, the Sun Newspapers, Telegraph, Abia Newspaper, Vision Africa Radio, Flo FM, Pacesetter Radio, News Agency of Nigeria, and the Nation. Specifically, member of the trustee of the Nigerian Union of Journalists were in attendance, and they expressed commitment to coordinate efforts among members to achieve the project objectives in Abia State.



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### 8. **Participation in African Regional Workshop (5<sup>th</sup> African Correctional Service Association Conference):**

There was a representation of PRAWA at the regional event held in Bukina Faso with 30 African nations represented, where the project's activities and progresses were shared among partners in the region. This was during the 5<sup>th</sup> African Correctional Service Association Biennial Conference held in Burkina Faso from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 under the theme: 'Deepening Reforms in Corrections / Prisons / Penitentiary Services: A Critical Objectives. The event had in attendance heads of African Corrections/Prisons/Penitentiary Services from the following 30 countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cental African Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissua, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. PRAWA utilized this platform to sensitize the participants of the project as well as convey different strategies correctional officers can support the decriminalization and declassification of petty offenders in their respective countries. PRAWA Executive Director who represented the organization at the event undertook the following activities during the conference:

- (i). Delivered a paper titled: 'Promoting Reforms in the Prisons and Justice Sector in Africa though Multi Sectorial Interventions: Case Study of the Decriminalization and Declassification of petty Offences Project in Nigeria'.
- (ii). Chaired and facilitated the session on 'Promoting Effective Cooperation Among African Prisons Services: Prospects and Challenges' (Paper delivered by Senegal and Tanzania)
- (iii). Chaired and facilitated the session on: 'Improvement of Conditions in African Prisons: The Reform Agenda'. Paper delivered by Penal Reforms International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

### 9. **Production of Policy Brief and other IEC materials:**

The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials produced during the period under review are:

- ❖ Policy Brief (one edition)
- ❖ The Baseline Reports.

These were produced and disseminated both in hard and electronic copies strategically to stakeholders.



**Introduction**  
The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) adopted the Principles on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa in 2017, as a necessary measure for the integration of human rights principles in the dispensation of justice. This followed the recommendations of the Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Accelerating Prisons and Penal Reform in Africa in which the urgent decarceration of prisons through the review of petty offences, was underscored. Under the Plan of Action, 1(a) and 1(b) reference the use of alternative penal measures as alternatives to minor offences, with particular focus on persons who are young offenders, and who have mental health or addiction issues as well as calling on state parties to decriminalise petty offences.

In much of Africa, petty offences such as being a rogue and vagabond, loitering, hawking, and being a public nuisance are criminalised by state law. This inadvertently contributes to prison overcrowding. In Nigeria, 71% of the inmate population is made up of awaiting trial persons. With an estimated high number of unconvicted offenders, it has become imperative to take concerted actions in addressing some of the challenges within the Nigerian criminal justice system.

**Legal Context: Principles on Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa**  
In Nigeria, the Criminal Code refers to a set of criminal provisions applicable in Southern Nigerian states. Section 249 of the Criminal Code criminalises offences such as "common prostitute (behaving in a disorderly or indecent manner in any public place)", "loitering and persistently importuning or soliciting persons for the purpose of prostitution", "wandering", "some of chance" and "breach of peace". The prescribed punitive measure is imprisonment for one month, and may be implemented without a warrant. On the other hand, the Penal Code applies to Northern Nigerian states and similarly references acts such as being a public nuisance.

Drawing into the Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa, the instrument was developed as a human rights standard to guide countries in re-evaluating and implementing laws which would not be seen as discriminatory to persons based on their socio-economic status, background, or fortune, through the criminalisation of offences occurring from life-sustaining activities'. Furthermore, Articles 2 and 3 of the African Charter specifically establish the equality of all persons without distinction for personal or social circumstance such as sex, race, social origin or birth, and Nigeria has ratified the African Charter thus making its provisions applicable. Equally enshrined in s.42 of the Nigerian Constitution, is the prohibition of laws of administrative actions of the government, to disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religion or political opinion are not made subject".

From the nature of such commonly referred to as petty offences, it is apparent that these are largely committed by vulnerable, marginalised and socio-economically disadvantaged persons whose culpability in the offence is often tied to the source of their livelihoods.

**Approach**  
OSIWA is currently implementing a two-year project funded by the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the Decriminalisation and Declassification of Petty Offences Project. The first phase includes the baseline assessment study to investigate the awareness and state of petty offences in the focal states, in order to determine the kinds of support and interventions to be provided to the project's beneficiaries.

The respondents were categorised into two: vulnerable groups and enforcers. The vulnerable groups consisted of socially and economically disadvantaged persons who have either been petty offenders or whom are potential petty offenders - petty traders, hawkers, sex workers, and artisans. Law enforcement agents in the various focal states made up the latter. The data from the respondents were recorded through surveys, focus group discussions and participatory forum discussions.

**Findings from the Baseline Study**  
The study findings are categorised into level of awareness about petty offences, and the status of existing laws on petty offences.

**1. Level of Awareness**  
Amongst the enforcement group, there was predictably a high level of awareness of the classification of petty offences with the percentages, 70%, 80%, 72% and 70% in FCT, Enugu, Abia and Kono states respectively. In contrast, the awareness of the classification of petty offences was abysmally low averaging at 35%.

## 10. Establishment of Whatsapp Groups for sharing of information and coordination:

During the reporting period, the project was also able to establish platform for communication among the stakeholders. Whatsapp groups were created to facilitate experience sharing and FastTrack resolution of issues and cases relating to the objectives of the project in the FCT and Abia State. The groups include;

- (i). FCT - Administration of criminal justice stakeholders group (19 active member) – established after the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Coordinating Meeting with theme – enhancing synergy amongst justice sector oversight mechanism.
- (ii). Abia State - The Security Justice and Development Media Network (19 active member); established after media training workshop
- (iii). Abia State - Law enforcement Agencies network group – (18 active members)
- (iv). Administration of criminal justice monitoring committee Abia state – (12 active members)

Other project locations will explore the introduction of these or similar initiative during the next phase.

## Section Three: Outputs and Deliverables

Over the period under review, the project activities yielded some notable results and deliverables. Some these includes:



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- ❖ 115 persons introduced the project to across the 5 project locations - (FCT, Lagos, Enugu, Abia and Kano States).
- ❖ One Baseline Report produced (with 305 research respondents).
- ❖ Five Dissemination Workshops held across the 5 project locations with 153 participants in attendance - (FCT, Lagos, Enugu, Abia and Kano States).
- ❖ Team of paralegals (30 paralegals trained) (FCT, Lagos, Enugu, Abia and Kano States).
- ❖ 197 personnel of the law enforcement agencies were trained on application of human rights in carrying out their functions and on the negative impact of criminalization of poverty and arrest / detention of petty offenders across the 5 project locations (FCT, Lagos, Enugu, Abia and Kano States).
- ❖ 37 Journalists trained in one project location (Abia State)
- ❖ Coordination meeting held with 42 participants in two project locations (FCT and Abia State).
- ❖ One Policy Brief Produced.

The table presents summary of participation in the key meetings/workshops held during this reporting period by location also indicating fair representation of females in the activities:

*Table 3: Summary of the Participants Number and Gender for the Dissemination Workshop and capacity building for law enforcement agencies*

	Location	Total Participants	Male	Female
<b>Dissemination workshop (Baseline assessment)</b>	Lagos	47	35	12
	FCT	30	18	12
	Kano	26	17	9
	Enugu	27	18	9
	Abia	23	16	7
<b>Capacity building of personnel of Law enforcement agencies</b>	Lagos	23	14	9
	FCT	72	54	18
	Kano	28	25	3
	Enugu	35	23	12
	Abia	39	24	15

In addition, during the reporting period, the project was also able to establish platform for communication among the stakeholders. Four (4) Whatsapp groups were created with 68 members in all. These were created to facilitate experience sharing and Fast Track resolution of issues and cases relating to the objectives of the project.



## Section Four: Outcomes

A total of 879 persons were directly reached through activities implemented during the period under review (i.e. the first 6 months of the project). Also, an estimated number of over 30 million persons were reached through the media coverage on the project activities implemented during the period.

One noticeable outcome attributed to the activities over this reporting period is the increase in awareness of the adverse impact on petty offenders. The presentation of key findings of the baseline assessment report was widely received and gained backing of significant voices in the justice delivery sector. For instance, the launch of the report in FCT was attended by the Chief Judge of the FCT who expressed commitment towards ensuring drastic changes in the ways petty offenders are being treated. The Chief Judge has also emphasized the need to personally engage with some Judges at magistrate courts where most of the petty offenders are being tried. In Lagos, following the Dissemination Workshop and the media public that followed it, the Chief Judge of Lagos State stated that she has issued a practice direction requesting that no court should henceforth detain petty offenders in prison custody.

In addition, the dissemination event was covered by several media agencies and the event was reported across, being the first time the attention of the public is being drawn to petty offenders in this magnitude. Thus, the activities carried out during this phase help to place the issue of petty offenders and the need to decriminalize and declassify these offences in the front burner of public discourse.

From the result of the pre and post test administered to participants it is very clear that the trainings are needed to increase the awareness as well as build the capacities of the targeted officers. For example, see below some of the data from the analysis of the pre and post test administered participants during the Human Rights Training for Law Enforcement Agencies in Lagos State.



Table 7: Outcome of Questionnaires Administered during the Training for Law Enforcement Agencies

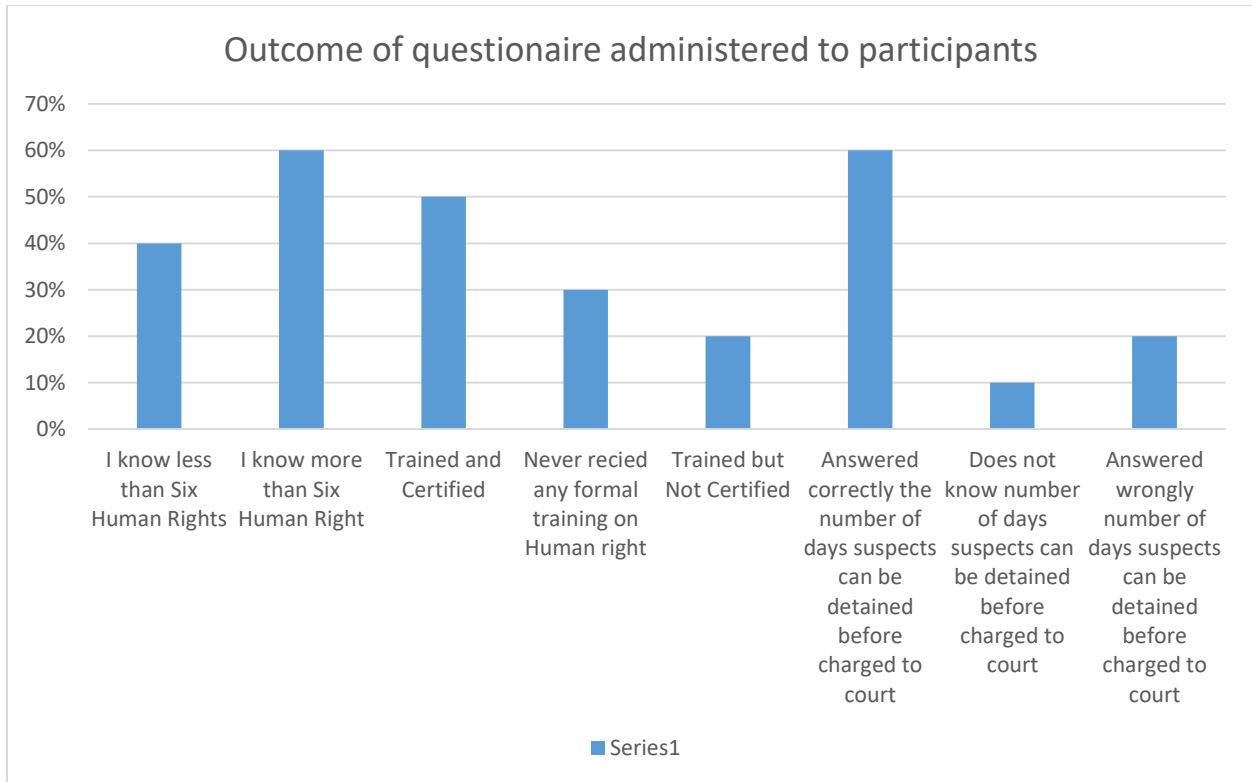


Fig 8: Status of Human Rights Training / Knowledge Level by Law Enforcement agencies

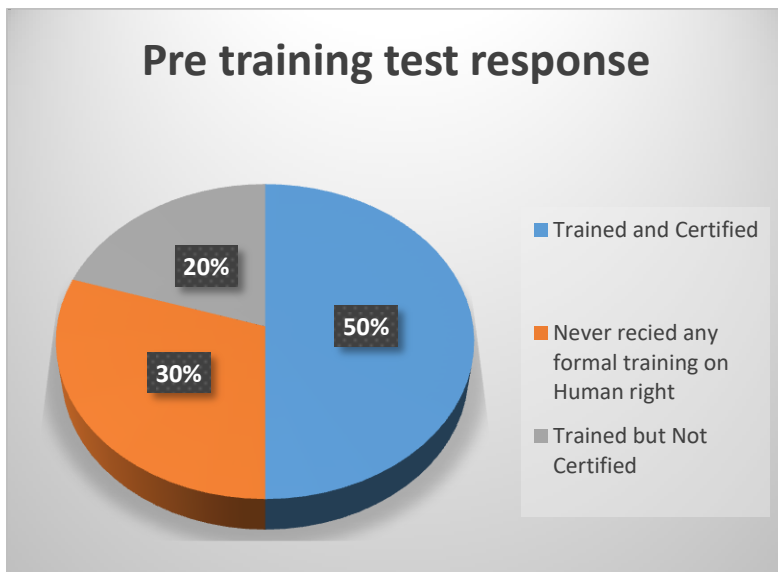






Table 9: Summary of Responses on the Knowledge of Detention Limit by law enforcement agencies

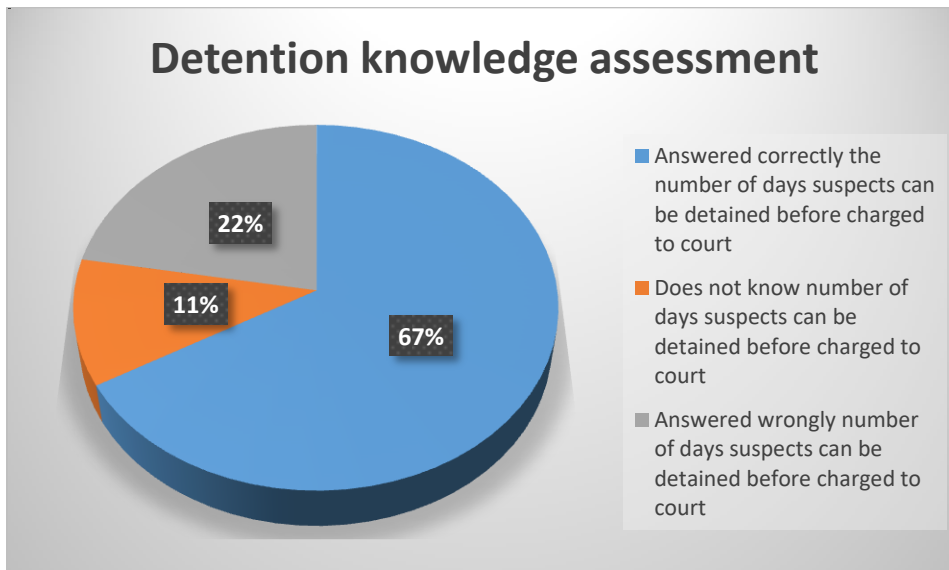
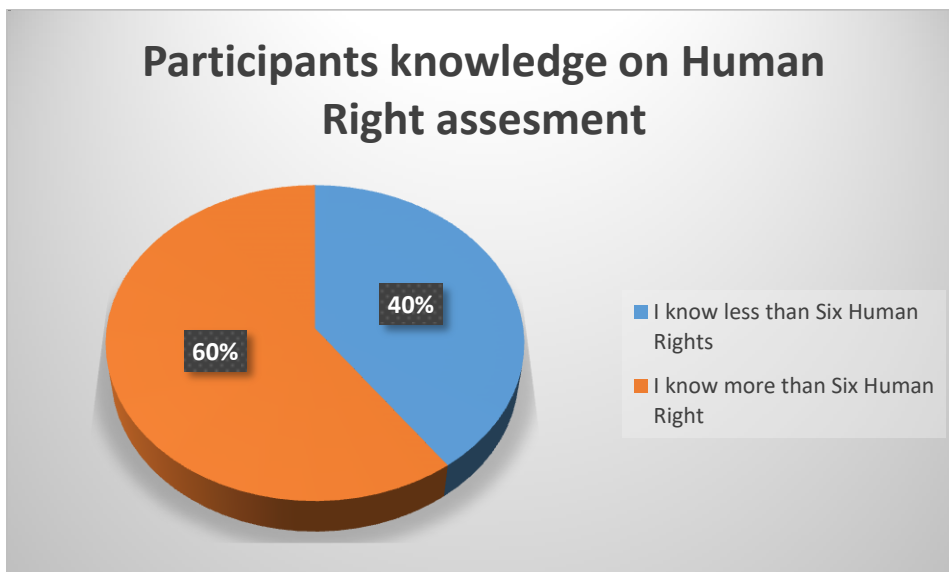


Table 10: Summary of the Participants law enforcement agencies Knowledge on Human Rights





## Section Five: Issues, Challenges and lessons learnt

### (i). Issues and Challenges:

These include the following:

#### *(a). Resistance of most commercial sex workers to speak out and give details of the violations the suffered:*

In all the project locations, getting the vulnerable groups to come together was identified as a major issue over this period. For instance, commercial sex workers in Kano, Enugu, and Abia, were very reluctant to sharing their experience with law enforcement agencies. Whilst it was gathered that they consistently suffer arbitrary arrests, detention and extortion in the hands of the personnel of law enforcement agencies, they were unwilling to share details. Without these details it would be a big challenge to devising means to support them.

#### *(b). Resistance of many towards discussions on commercial sex workers:*

Also, it was observed during the engagement with actors in the Justice Sector that there is a strong resistance towards the issue of commercial sex workers. Many of the stakeholders believe that commercial sex workers deserve the treatments they get and their activities are perceived to be immoral and anti-social, which should never be allow. Therefore, making discussions on decriminalizing or declassifying prostitution an unwelcome idea to them.

#### *(c). Resistance of lower cadre officer to change in human rights compliance:*

In addition, there appears to be some level of systemic resistance to change among the law enforcement agencies. The experience so far with engaging with the leadership of the identified law enforcement has revealed high level of interest in the need to demonstrate human rights principles in their operations. However, the lower cadre officers seem to be less interested in embracing core human rights elements in carrying out enforcement.



(ii). Key Lessons Learnt:

These are:

*(a). Sensitive and Strategic Approach in engaging the project targeted victims:*

One key lesson learnt over this reporting period in the implementation is the need to be sensitive and strategic in the approach to engage with vulnerable groups. This is because most of them are unwilling to speak out or come forward with their plights for the fear of victimization, stigmatization and reprisal. Such approach would be tailored specific need and peculiarity of the situation at each location and the respective groups.

*(b). Gain of engaging high level stakeholders:*

Increased visibility and buy – in on the issue of decriminalization and declassification occur with engaging high level stakeholders to speak out in support of the initiatives. These influence the level of media coverage and visibility that will be given to the activities. Also, it influences a higher number of persons to support the initiative.

## **Section Six: Next Steps**

Having successfully completed the activities in the project inception phase, the focus would be on the full scale implementation of the activities as planned. Whilst doing this, there would be emphasis on sustaining the gains and build on the results already recorded. The major emphasis of the next phase will be on the following:

- (i). Implementation of the Non - Custodial Measures Component of the Project. This will be implemented mainly in Abia State with minimal activities on this in some of the other project locations. This is to ensure that the impact of this intervention is achieved and that we avoid spreading the resources too thin.



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- (ii). The paralegal teams and pro-bono lawyers would be fully engaged throughout the implementation of this project. Their services would be deployed to facilitate engagement with the law enforcement agencies and the group of vulnerable in each of the project locations.
- (iii). Focus would also be on continuous efforts to further strengthen collaborations among actors in the justice delivery sector in all the regions. High level advocacy and active engagement with policy makers would be prioritized going forward.
- (iv). Furthermore, there would be an advocacy and active engagement with legislators on issues relating to the focus of the project.



## Section Seven: Appendix

### (1).Some links to media publications

Link for the publication of the training: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/06/prisons-decongestion-cp-urges-police-to-limit-judicial-prosecution-of-petty-offenders/>

Link for publication for the dissemination workshop:  
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/.2019/05/prawa-tasks-government-on-review-of-criminal-laws/>.  
<https://nnn.com.ng/.2019/05/02/enugu-prisons-controller-cries-out-over-congestion/>.  
<https://theeagleonline.com.ng/enugu-prisons-controller-cries-out-over-congestion/amp/>.  
<https://guardian.ng/features/declassifying-petty-offences-and-engendering-justice-for-all/>

Link for media interviews:

Interview with NTA Insight Programme <http://tiny.cc/7nf86y>

Interview with Abia Breaking News <http://tiny.cc/zie86y>

MEDIA LINKS SHOWING IMPACT BEFORE AND DURING THE PROJECT:

[Nigeria: Police Abolish Wandering Offence](#)

[27-year-old man jailed for wandering around the streets of Abuja](#)

[Prostitution, hawking 'should not be treated as criminal offences'](#)

[Lagos to jail street hawkers, buyers](#)

[Stop jailing people for petty offences, PRAWA tells Lagos, others](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1S2LlzF3ymE&fbclid=IwAR3J1V7ZeYrxEYLwTzReFxAa7G8NfGqWn4R3z7F3Q3fOs2gA7vJHqBD-FyY>

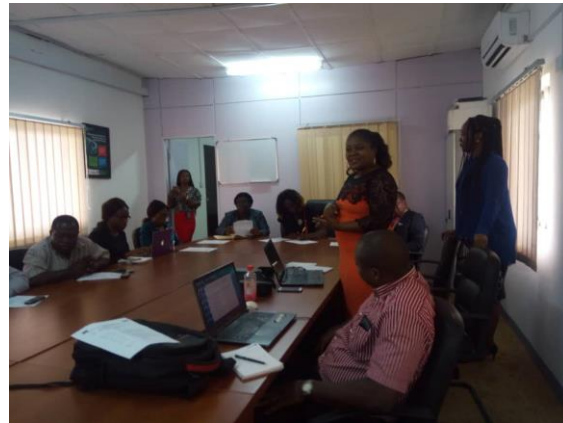
<http://tiny.cc/7nf86y>

### (2). Photographs on some of the project activities





### Introductory Planning Meeting



### Baseline Research Activity







**Baseline Dissemination Workshops**



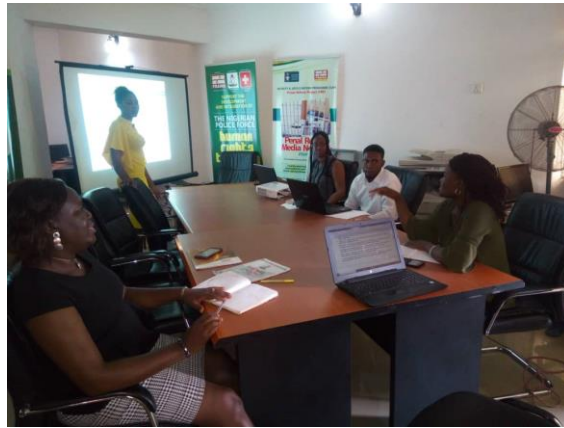
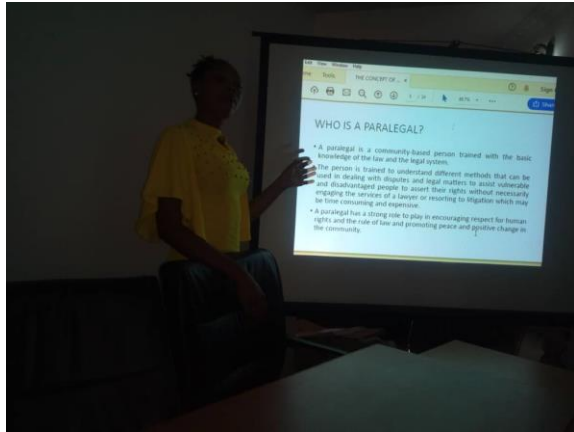
Executive Director of PRAWA with the Chief Judge of the FCT at the Baseline Dissemination Workshop in Abuja



Baseline Dissemination Workshop held in Lagos



**Paralegal Training Workshop**



Paralegal Training in the FCT held at PRAWA Abuja Office

**Training of Law Enforcement Agencies**



FCT Workshop: PRAWA Deputy Director With the Executive Secretary National Human Rights Commission (with red cap) and Others



Lagos Workshop







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Abia State Workshop. Note presentation of certificate by the Abia State Solicitor General Ministry of Justice



**Follow-up visit with Law Enforcement**



FCT – AEPB Officers

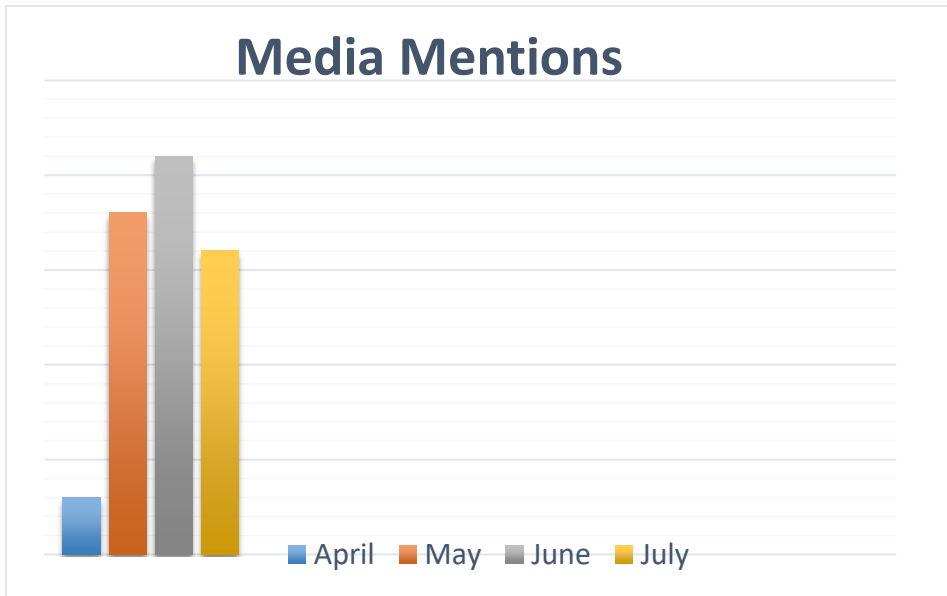
**Media Summary**

**Introduction**

- ▶ This report seeks to outline and showcase how the petty offences project has fared so far in the media space.
- ▶ Before this project, awareness on the subject matter in regards to penal issues was poorly reported as various news platforms seldom report on Hawking, Wondering, Being a public nuisance etc. As a result of this poor reportage in this area, many persons are ignorant of the implications of indulging in these offenses and as such, many keep getting arrested and sent to prison for these minor crimes which in turn further adds to the already crowded correctional facilities around the country.

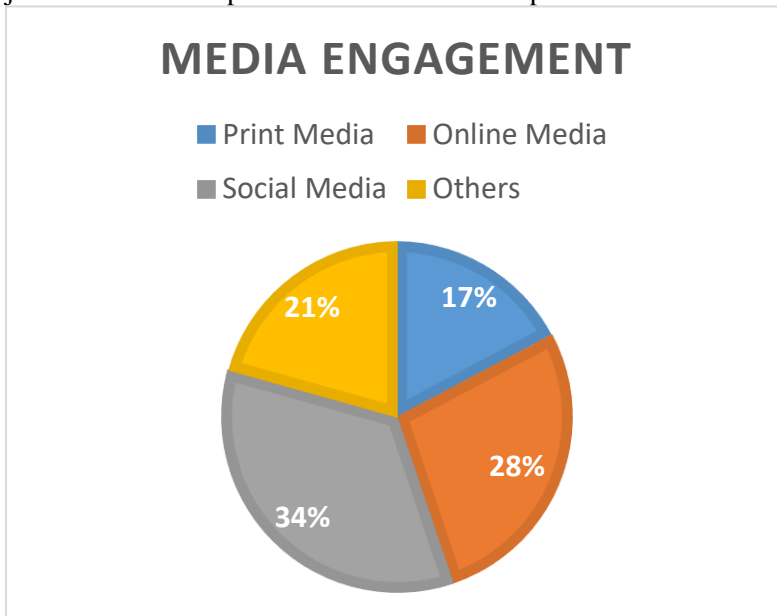
**Period:** The period covered in this report was the month of April – July 2019 (April 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019)

**Media Engagement**



**Media Reportage on Petty Offenses**

As shown by this Bar chart, be for this project there was very poor reportage. In April the awareness began to grow a bit. In May it grow even more as news in regards to petty offenses began to trend on Google news and in June it rose even higher dude to engagement after PRAWA began interfacing with journalists of both print and electronic news platforms.



From the inception of this project, the media has been actively involved in generating reactions across all platforms which include the social media, the print media, the online media and TV (others). The chart below shows that the social media has created more engagements on the issues relating to Petty offences, as people are becoming more interested in this issue and further starting conversations around it. Notable print media such as Daily Sun, This day newspaper etc. have been publishing articles and other news content. There have also been articles and comments from online news platforms and interviews have

been conducted on TV as PRAWA has been on NTA Abuja and on Abia breaking news to further discuss on the Petty Offence project.

This Pie Chart showcases the engagement of PRAWA across various media platforms with social media having the highest ranking 34% this is due to the impact of the online media platforms as well as TV and Radio stations, PRAWA has conducted various interviews in regards to the subject matter further generating conversations on Twitter and Facebook respectively and thus creating awareness.



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The diagram bellow shows news on petty offenses as well as PRAWA's activeness carried by online sources

Google petty offences nigeria

Q All News Images Videos Maps More Settings Tools

About 5,820 results (0.21 seconds)

- Criminality, petty offences and true justice**  
Vanguard - 30 Jun 2019  
The President of Lawyers Alert Nigeria, Mr. Rommy Mom, observed recently that criminalizing petty offences is an indication of inequality in ...
- CSOs form alliance on decriminalization of petty offences in Nigeria**  
The Nigerian Voice (press release) (blog) - 14 Jun 2019  
The Chairman of Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja branch, Mr Folarin Aluko reviewed the concept of petty offences and noted that poor people ...
- PRAWA advocates for decriminalisation of petty offences**  
The Nation Newspaper - 27 Jun 2019  
PRAWA advocates for decriminalisation of petty offences ... declassification of petty offences from Nigeria's justice system with a view to curbing ...
- 'Decriminalization of petty offences will curb prison congestion'**  
Daily Trust (press release) - 10 Jun 2019  
Mom said the vision of the coalition is to achieve decriminalization of petty offences in Nigeria by employing research, advocacy, litigation and ...
- Group advocates for decriminalization of petty offences**  
Daily Trust (press release) - 24 Jun 2019  
Group advocates for decriminalization of petty offences ... declassification of petty offences from Nigeria's justice system with a view to curbing ...
- Prisons decongestion: CP urges police to limit judicial prosecution of ...**  
Vanguard - 19 Jun 2019  
One week search for criminals with Nigeria Navy, US Navy (Opens in a ... and fairness to decriminalize and declassify petty offences in Nigeria.

ICI Nigeria unveils nominees for 2019 Outstanding Young Persons



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