

REPORT OF COMMUNITY MAPPING EXERCISE AT NDUEBOR EZZAINYIMAGU IN IZZI LGA OF EBONYI STATE HELD ON FRIDAY 22ND OF MARCH, 2019.

On Friday 22nd of March 2019, The Regional Community Engagement Manager - Mr Raymond Ukwa and The community mobilization officer Ebonyi state- Mrs Onyinyechi Mbam-Ikokwu visited the community of Nduebor Ezza Inyimagu in Izzi LGA of Ebonyi State.



The meeting was held at Chief Godwin Mbapfu's palace; The traditional ruler of

Nduebor Ezzalinyimagu community, Izzi LGA. In attendance was the traditional ruler and his wife, the ward councillor, the village Secretary, the women leader, members of the cabinet and Committee of Child Protection network Champions. We had a total number of fifteen (15) persons who represent the gate keepers of the community.

The meeting commenced by 12 noon with an opening prayer from the traditional ruler. After wards, Mr Francis one of the Community Champions took to the floor and introduced the members of Youth network for community and sustainable development Nigeria and reminded the leaders of the organisation's penultimate visit last year.

The traditional ruler welcomed the YNCSD team by presenting cola which was accepted by Mr Raymond on behalf of the team. After the cola breaking, Chief Godwin Mbapfu went ahead to thank the team for coming to his community and asked to know the purpose of the visit.

Mr Raymond Ukwa thanked the traditional ruler for the warm welcome and then introduced the organisation and what we do to the leaders. After which he reiterated on the previous mapping exercise that was carried out in the community last year and the outcome of the exercise. He explained to the leaders that the mapping showed that a large number of the community said they do not practice FGM and will not want to keep the practice after learning of its disadvantages as well as the government sanctions on any offender. However, some still maintained that it is their culture and will keep to it. He went further to explain that the visit was a familiarisation visit to get to know the leaders and the community as well as their stand on the practice of FGM.

Chief Godwin Mbapfu thanked Raymond for his speech and the organisation for choosing his community for this particular exercise. He went further to state that since the Ebonyi State government instructed against the practice of FGM, His community has abandoned the practice.

The traditional ruler does not support the practice of FGM. He also stressed that there are interior villages within the community that might still be practicing FGM due to the fact that there is no awareness of its implication to such villages, attributing this unawareness to lack of access road network and money to get to those villages and educate them.

He further requested the organisation to see if the village champions can be equipped to visit those villages.

After his speech, Mr Francis stood and told everyone that the message of EndFGM needs to get to the people at the interior villages. The women leaders also requested the organisation should also look into other health issues affecting members of the community especially their children to see a way of bringing solution to them.

One of the champions requested the organisation to bring in Drug awareness programs for the youth of the community as most have become drug addicts.

The Village councillor thanked the team for coming to their village and pledged to support the team in ending FGM in Nduebor Ezza Inyimagu community.

Mrs Onyinyechi Mbam-Ikokwu thanked the traditional ruler and his leaders for accepting the team's visit as well as pledging support to end FGM in their community. She further assured them that their complaints will get to the appropriate office to be able to proffer solutions.

The meeting ended at 1:20 pm with closing prayer from Chief Godwin Mbapfu.



Group photograph of the leaders and Mrs Onyinyechi Mbam-Ikokwu

YNCSD Community Mobilisation Officer Ebonyi State.