

# Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) Program

**PIND's Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) program seeks to enhance the institutional and technical capacity of development organizations and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Niger Delta to achieve their goals and objectives.**

## Background

Assessments of PIND's stakeholder consultations in early 2011 showed capacity building of Niger Delta-based organizations was a primary concern for stakeholders throughout the region. Since then, PIND has begun implementing various projects within its Capacity Building program to equip officers from local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with the skills to succeed in enabling their organizations' contributions to be more impactful for the region's development.

The CAPABLE project, implemented in partnership with the Crown Agents (CA) Foundation, officially commenced in June 2012. Under the project, 60 individuals from 30 CSOs took a three-module course covering grant application development, computer training for a business environment, budget development and financial management in three one-week sessions.



Representatives from PIND, Crown Agents, and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs gathered for the official launch of the CAPABLE training program in June 2012.

## Objectives

The CAPABLE project aims to:

- Build and enhance the institutional and technical capacity of Niger Delta civil society organizations for effective organizational performance and program management
- Build the financial and program management capacity of Niger Delta organizations to increase financial and program accountability, endear local organizations to development partners and foster partnership prospects and competitiveness of local organizations
- Provide in-house training and capacity assessment support to PIND staff, programs and partners

## Training Workshops

As of September 2012, the CAPABLE training workshops have exposed 20 course participants to an array of grant development and project planning subjects including:

- An introduction to working with grant making bodies and managing projects
- Working with computers in a business environment/information and communications technology
- Budgeting, financial management, and reporting

In addition to improving their professional skills, participants also had the opportunity to expand their networks and create contacts throughout the workshops. By doing so, participants left the training with a list of development professionals to turn to for future collaboration, problem solving, and potential partnership.

## Classroom Learning, Real Life Application

Participants who completed the CAPABLE training returned to their organizations with new skills and learning. Below are stories from two participants on what they learned and how they applied those lessons to help improve their organizations.

### Attracting More Donor Funding

By learning to improve her grant writing skills, one participant and coordinator of the Development Initiative for Community, Racheal Misan, produced significant results for herself and her organization. Following the CAPABLE training, Misan revised and resubmitted a previously rejected project proposal using the skills she learned during the training. The proposal was approved, to which Misan credits the tools and techniques taught during the training course for enabling her to make the necessary revisions. “After the training, I resent the same proposal again, this time adding the logical framework and I made sure to do things sequentially – the way we were taught.”



The first session of the CAPABLE training focused on grant application and development with 20 participants from 10 CSOs representing five Niger Delta states.

### Enabling Organizations to Reach More Beneficiaries

Another CAPABLE participant Ekanem Inyang, Director of Applicants Welfare and Development Centre, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, also applied the technical skills he learned from the workshop to attract additional donor funding for his organization’s Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project. “The impacts of the last CAPABLE training have been wonderful for us and our organization. We were able to put our thoughts into a proposal for funding,” said Inyang. The funding generated from that approved proposal boosted his organization’s ability to assist an additional 150 OVC, increasing the organization’s total number of beneficiaries from 975 to over 1,000. Inyang credits his improved proficiency in skills such as proposal writing and presentation making learned during the course as grounds for why the proposal was approved. “The skills we need to attract donors are those that we learned, which we have applied,” said Inyang, adding that, “with those skills we are touching lives, which has been our passion. And the community people are happy that more support is getting to them.”

## Contact

For more information on the CAPABLE program please contact PIND at <http://pindfoundation.net/contact-us/>.

