A man in a patterned orange and white traditional African garment is using a chainsaw to prune a palm tree in a lush green plantation. The background is filled with tall palm trees and dense foliage.

Monitoring & Evaluation Report

**Quarter Three:
July - September 2021**

Olasehinde Bankole, pruning
oil palm trees at Ilado, Ekunebe
Farms, Akure

About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigerian non-profit organization working to promote peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region by forging multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the regional, national and international levels. PIND works closely with numerous partners to implement collaborative market-based, community-owned programs to mitigate conflicts and boost economic opportunities for local businesses, ensuring that economic progress occurs in a systemic, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

PIND's projects span the nine states in the region: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Imo, Ondo and Rivers, with special focus on the underserved and hard to reach coastal communities of the region that are most forgotten in development programming.

At PIND, we strongly believe that no single organization can solve the complex and interconnected development challenges in the Niger Delta. Since 2010, PIND and partners have been contributing to strengthening and stabilizing the region by *reducing poverty, powering coastline communities, nurturing employment, fostering stability, and enabling development*. Learn more about PINDfoundation.org.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AIPC	Aja-Amita Inclusive Peace Committee
AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
AGSMEIS	Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme
AIPC	Aja-amita Inclusive Peace Committee
APM	Agwa Peace Monitor
BASIC II	Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System II Project
BMP	Best Management Practices
BMO	Business Management Organizations
BoT	Board of Trustees
BRACED	Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta
BSPs	Business Service Providers
CAPABLE	Capacity Building for Local Empowerment
CB	Capacity Building
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CCDCs	Coastal Community Development Committees
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CEPEJ	Center for Peace and Environmental Justice
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
CIEPD	Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development
COFA	Conservation Cocoa Farmer Association
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DICI	Development Initiative for Community Impact
DPO	Divisional Police Officers
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EGCDF	Egbema-Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FFB	Fresh Fruit Bunches
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FISON	Fisheries Society of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIZ	German Development Agency
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
GPP	Good Poultry Practices
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment

ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IHT	Improved Harvesting Tools
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
ISOPADEC	Imo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission
KEFFES	Koluama 1 & 2, Ekeni, Fishtown, Foropa, Ezetu 1&2 and Sangana Communities
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MNDA	Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSD	Market Systems Development
MSP	The Warri Multi Stakeholder Platform
NAEC	Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum
NBS	Nigerian Bureau of Statistics
NCDC	National Center for Disease Control
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NDLink	Niger Delta Link
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NEEWS	Nigerian Election Early Warning System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIFOR	Nigerian Institute for Oil-Palm Research
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NRCRI	National Root Crops Research Institute
NSRP	Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OPGAN	Oil Palm Grower's Association of Nigeria
P4P	Partners for Peace
PPCD	Participatory Partnerships for Community Development
PGPA	Policy, Governments and Public Affairs Unit, Chevron
PSPs	Poultry Service Providers
PWC	PricewaterhouseCoopers
PWD	Persons living with disabilities
P&ELOA	Peace and Economic Livelihood Opportunities Assessment
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
Q3	Quarter 3
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEPCO	Sterling Oil Exploration & Energy Production Company Ltd
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
SSPE	Small-scale processing equipment
TMG	Transition Monitoring Group
ToR	Terms of Reference

TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Centers
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VLD	Village Level Dealers
VSE	Village Stem Entrepreneur
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
YTD	Year to Date
ZAL	Zigha Ayibakuro Limited

Background

PIND's goal is to identify, catalyze and leverage opportunities, jobs and incomes for our target beneficiaries. In these roles, we robustly engage in the identification of our multi stakeholder partners, and then act as a catalyst for the establishment of an enabling environment for socio-economic growth in the Niger Delta region. The goal of these partnerships is to reduce poverty, increase welfare benefits and reduce conflict by implementing interventions that result in stability and equitable increase in employment and incomes of beneficiaries in the nine target States of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. To deliver on this goal, PIND tries to understand the root causes of economic instability, conflict, and fragility concerns to forge community-owned, market-driven, sustainable results.

PIND's activities fall under two distinct but interrelated program areas:

1. An **economic development program** focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment generation.
2. A **peace building program** that strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms for enabling integrated peace and economic growth.

Additional initiatives designed to support, enable, measure, and communicate the results and achievements of the 2 core pillars of Economic Development and Peace Building include:

- **Capacity Building** that builds the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations and communities.
- **Advocacy** that seeks to influence policies, practices and programs underpinned by in-depth analyses and understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- A robust **communications** and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts and learning.

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

For the third phase, PIND Foundation aims to achieve the following targets:

Expand program benefits to 150,000 farmers and small-scale enterprises to increase their income by 40%.

Facilitate the creation of 20,000 new jobs of which 50% will be youth and other vulnerable groups.

Deliver economic benefits to 10,000 people in GMoU communities through job creation and income generation interventions and facilitation of clean energy.

Strengthen the effectiveness of 5 regional development committees as grassroots development organizations in the GMoU/coastal communities.

Enable active engagement of 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction and positively affect up to 3 million individuals with peace building interventions.

Influence US\$ 25 million spend by donors, federal and state governments in new projects that reduce conflict and poverty in the Niger Delta; and

Raise US\$ 6.5 million from private sector and donor community for PIND programs.

Introduction: 2021 Q3 M&E Report

This third quarter (July – September 2021) report, is intended to serve three purposes which are linked to the needs of key stakeholders:

The Sponsor: That is, Chevron – to keep them abreast of program results, establish the business value of the investment in PIND, showcase the causal link between PIND’s impact and a peaceful and more stable operating environment.

Program Implementers: That is, PIND and the Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives (NDPI) (including the Boards of both organizations, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) committees, Partners, and Program Managers) - to keep all parties aware of project achievements and constraints, share lessons learned and seek deeper level of collaborations.

Donor/Project Partners: These include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UK’s Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office ((FCDO) (formerly Department for International Development, DFID), German Development Agency (GIZ) and Ford Foundation - to share successes and challenges for learning and for further collaborations.

Executive Summary

This report highlights the achievements of PIND's program interventions in the Niger Delta from July – September 2021 (Quarter 3 of 2021), and cumulatively (Q1-Q3, 2021). It also provides relevant information about program management, lessons learned, and plans for the next quarter. The report demonstrates how PIND is driving change, to ensure broad-based economic growth in the Niger Delta.

PIND's activities are designed to promote and sustain a culture of learning and adaptation, to build a process where evidence plays a significant role in determining policy direction and interventions in economic development, peace building, advocacy, and capacity building of both government institutions and civil society in the Niger Delta.

PIND made significant progress in its initiatives this quarter. The following are highlights of its achievements in Q3, 2021 and cumulatively (Q1-Q3, 2021):

- PIND's market development projects continue to demonstrate progress towards widespread change. During the quarter, 26,038 farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs (37% women), were reached with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies in the crop and non-crops sectors, making the total outreach for the period (Q1-Q3), 55,955 farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs. These farmers earned an estimated N12.5 billion in additional income in 2021 so far and enabled the creation of 8,734 full time equivalent jobs between Q1-Q3, 2021.
- PIND incentivized private investors and participating farmers to invest N5.76 billion to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations, purchase inputs and other capital expenditures. Majority of the investments this quarter (91%) were equity investments by these farmers in PIND's interventions (to implement best management practices and purchase improved agricultural technology and inputs). The total funds leveraged from Q1-Q3, 2021 by these actors is N8.93 billion (N5.5 billion – Equity and N3.4 billion – debt).
- In the GMoU communities, 15 fish processors who were screened and recommended to Sterling Bank by Sombreiro Kapital last quarter, accessed loans worth N3 million, in Q3, 2021, at an average of N200,000 per processor. The funds were given to improve the processors' working capital and for technology upgrade. Also, 88 fish farmers received loan disbursements and input credit worth N27.1 million in Delta and Ondo states, through Sombreiro Kapital's collaboration with input dealers and Sterling Bank. 10 smoking technologies (Chorkor ovens) were also purchased in Delta and Ondo States. A total of 36 chorkor ovens have been purchased in 2021.
- Also, to support the GMoU communities, PIND trained various committees and leadership of the Regional Development Committees (RDCs) on video production and photography, gender & social inclusion and sustainable project management in Q3, 2021. These training areas were chosen to bridge the gaps identified by the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of the Regional Development Committees (RDCs) conducted in 2018¹.
- PIND also played a significant role in driving the market for low-carbon, low-cost solutions that offer high-quality energy access to coastal communities. Community-centered initiatives which PIND has championed, including the environmentally-friendly solar energy mini grids and solar-powered freezers, have addressed the challenges of energy access directly via an improved off-grid energy access to the poorest populations and businesses that operate in under-served or off-grid communities in the Niger Delta. In Q3, 2021, 126 people from 20 households and 6 businesses were provided with access to clean energy from new connections to the existing mini grid at Gbokoda community. A total of 860 people from 134 households and 56 businesses now have access to clean energy because of the operationalization of solar interventions in various communities, from Q1-Q3, 2021.
- An assessment of the solar refrigerators and solar mini grid energy solutions facilitated by PIND,

¹ Key training needs: resource mobilization, advocacy, communication, and stakeholder engagement; planning, managing, execution, and monitoring of sustainable projects

revealed that beneficiary households and businesses experienced a total energy cost savings of N342 million between Q1- Q3, 2021.

- Shifting its strategy from growing the membership of the P4P Network to intensely activating its thousands of members/peace actors and deepening their work in peacebuilding by tackling conflict situations in their communities, PIND facilitated targeted peace building and conflict mitigation interventions to lessen the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta. In Q3, 2021, PIND produced a total of 9 weekly updates that provided a data-driven analysis of the dynamics of violent criminality and solicited the intervention of relevant stakeholders during the period. Also, PIND assisted 181 peace actors to constructively resolve emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta. This led to 35 quality actions² being taken to mitigate conflict in different locations across the region. Consequently, data from the Peace Map (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map) show that there was a decrease in violent criminality from 151 incidents and 366 fatalities in Q2, to 60 incidents and 121 fatalities in Q3 (60% and 67% reduction in violent criminality and fatalities, respectively) across the Niger Delta states.
- By amplifying PIND's communications efforts during the third quarter of the year, 3,337,673 people (10,217,573, so far in 2021) gained new or increased awareness about PIND, through its platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional mainstream media. Also, PIND garnered 39 positive media mentions of its work and activities in the third quarter of 2021 and attracted eight (8) public endorsements from stakeholders who interacted with its content on the website, newsletters, and social media posts during the same period.
- PIND continues to work with State governments, the private sector, and local partners to improve the quality of capacity building and vocational training and to expand access to financial services for entrepreneurs. Following the redesign of the Delta Youth Employment Program (DYEP), informed by data from the Delta State labor market assessment and the scoping study carried out in selected coastal communities, in Q3, 2021, nine organizations were selected to provide technical vocational and soft skills training to youth in four sectors: ICT, Construction, and Services. Training will commence in Q4,2021.
- In addition, to ensure the sustainability of the economic development and peacebuilding interventions in the region, in Q3, 2021, the study/assessment of multiple taxation and illegal levies in the Niger Delta continued with Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held with stakeholders in Abia, Delta, and Rivers States. Initial study findings reveal that many businesses in the region are struggling with illegal levies and multiplicity of legal taxes, which have hampered their productivity and growth. In addition, PIND held meetings with high-level government stakeholders in Delta, Edo, and Ondo States in a bid to establish committees that will help to articulate policies on access to agricultural land for smallholder farmers in the three pilot States. It is expected that these committees will move the recommendations from the high-level forum organized in Asaba in quarter one, forward and ensure that state governments develop policies that will improve access to land for agriculture in the respective States. Similarly, PIND held extensive meetings with the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), culminating in an agreement on the terms of collaboration, as well as timelines for the collaborative activities, between the Ministry and PIND for setting up a Peace and Security Architecture for the Niger Delta region¹.

² Actions have to meet at least three of five criteria to be considered as 'Quality actions'. 1. All key stakeholders consulted. 2. Intervention focuses on identified risk. 3. Intervention contributes to risk reduction/ mitigation of group-based violence. 4. Intervention affects a significant number of people positively. 5. Impact of the intervention is long lasting (based on the context and nature of the problem).

Summary of progress against 2021 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2021 target as at Q3 (year-to-date).

Economic Development Program Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q3 2021
Outreach	60,800	55,955
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	5,000	3,674
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	19,800	21,585 ³
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	12,000	8,820
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	14,000	12,819
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	7,000	5,944
<i>MSME development</i>	3,000	3,113
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	43,938	31,874
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	2,500	1,552
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	18,612	11,465
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	8,400	6,187
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	8,666	7,594
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	4,760	3,535
<i>MSME development</i>	1000	1,540
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦11.14 billion	₦12.49 billion
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦1.04 billion	₦1.09 billion
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦2.44 billion	₦ 2.57 billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦1.60 billion	₦ 1.44 billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦3.16 billion	₦ 4.35 billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦900 million	₦ 1.26 billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.0 billion	₦ 1.77 billion
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Too early to evidence
New jobs facilitated	9,322	8,738
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	850	925
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	707	1,371
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1090	714
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	2,700	1,505
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	1,475	1,347
<i>MSME development</i>	2500	4
<i>Access to energy</i>	200	0
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	340	
Value of investments by public and private sectors [Naira value]	₦ 8.73 billion	₦ 8.93 billion Equity (₦5.51 billion) Debt financing (₦3.42 billion)
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦1.53 billion	₦2.1 billion
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦1.32 billion	₦536.53 million
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦730 million	₦523.3 million
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦1.91 billion	₦1.19 billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦728 million	₦1.12 billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.5 billion	₦3.42 billion
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦100 million	₦63.2 million
Women's empowerment in agriculture index (WEAI)	0.2 score	Too early to evidence
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	1
Youths with applicable skills for employment	340	Too early to evidence
Change in market sector	1 case study report	Too early to evidence
Change in GMoU communities	1 case study report	Too early to evidence

³ This includes indirect farmers (copying farmers – ratio of 1:1, with 20% overlap discounted from 16,771 direct farmers.

Peace Building Program Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q3 2021
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	200	169
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,000	1,227
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1100	407
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	100	96
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	Too early to evidence

Coastal Community Development Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q3 2021
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	700	56
Households with access to clean energy	700	134
People with access to energy technologies	4,900	860
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	₦10 million	₦342 million
<i>GMOU Capacity Building</i>		
Net change in capacity index of RDCs	2.4 (average score)	Too early to evidence
Organizations accessing funds/grants	6	4
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦45 million	₦25.55 million
GMOU organizations providing improved services to their beneficiaries/Communities (RDCs and implementing Partners).	8	2

General Enabling Program Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q3 2021
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by Government	₦ 378 million	₦0
Total value of private investment	₦ 882 million	₦0
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦100 million	₦63.2 million
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of progress	Field assessments ongoing
Level of responsiveness that facilitate access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	Policy Committees have been set up in the 3 pilot States.
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful / non-violent society	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	Shared concept note/policy brief for the design of a Peace and Security Framework for the Niger Delta region, with Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs.
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦ 468 million	₦14 million
<i>Communications</i>		
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	25	24
Public endorsements of PIND's work	25	24
Media reports with PIND mention	150	101
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	200	276
Website new visitors	52,020	29,650
Social media reach	1 million	2.2 million
Mainstream media reach	5 million	7.98 million
Email enquiries	300	426

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-economic environment

The world economy is experiencing a strong but uneven recovery, with global growth set to reach 5.6 percent in 2021. While advanced economies are rebounding, many of the world's poorest countries are being left behind⁴. In Nigeria, the near-term economic outlook in the third quarter remains clouded by high inflation⁵. After declining in the first half of the year, inflation has steadily risen, despite the resumption of economic activities in the country. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the inflation rate was 17.02 percent in August 2021, up from 16.47 percent reported in January 2021.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) make up 97 percent of the Nigerian economy⁶ and according to the NBS, their activities contribute to about 48 percent of the country's GDP. Besides inadequate access to finance, erratic electricity supply, inadequate basic infrastructure, and more recently, the COVID-19 crisis and inflation; MSMEs in Nigeria continue to face the challenge of multiplicity of taxes and illegal levies. Studies have shown that the rate of closures of these enterprises is on the ascendancy. According to the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN), 85 percent of small and medium scale businesses in Nigeria close before their 5th anniversary. Tax-related issues ranging from multiple taxations, illegal levies, and enormous tax burden, are among the factors responsible for the untimely demise of these enterprises⁷.

MSMEs in the Niger Delta states also face similar issues with multiple taxations and illegal levies being major impediments to doing business in the region.⁸ Sustainable economic growth in the region has been lacking, and more than 50 percent of its population live in poverty. Though economic diversification, job creation, and poverty reduction are required for sustainable economic growth, small businesses which are presumably the engine of growth and diversification in the region, continue to face a challenging business environment.

To address the issue of multiple taxations and illegal levies, PIND commenced an assessment of multiple taxations and illegal levies in the Niger Delta. It is anticipated that the study findings will help guide policy advocacy efforts in the region. It is also expected that the discourse which will result from the exercise, would engender tax reforms and reduce the burden of multiple taxations and illegal fees in the Niger Delta and thus improve economic efficiency in the region. PIND also continued to build on its efforts in partnering with new and existing business service providers and other market actors to ensure that MSMEs in the Niger Delta Region thrive, despite these numerous challenges that they faces.

2.2 Security

Data from peace maps facilitated by PIND (www.p4pnigerdelta.org/peace-map) shows that there was a significant decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta region in Q3, compared to Q2. For instance, there was a decrease in violent criminality from 151 incidents and 366 fatalities in Q2, to 60 incidents and 121 fatalities in Q3. Similarly, violent agitations decreased from 25 incidents and 86 fatalities in Q2, to 13 incidents and 26 fatalities in Q3.

To build on these gains PIND, through its peacebuilding interventions continued to promote collaboration and synergy between existing local, regional, and national actors in both public and private sectors, to develop/deploy early warning and response mechanisms to address conflict in the region.

⁴ See World Bank group flagship report, 30th anniversary edition: "Global Economic Prospects". June 2021

⁵ <https://www.proshareng.com/admin/upload/report/14896-The%20State%20of%20the%20Economy%20-%20Dr%20Salami%20updated-proshare.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.eajournals.org/wp-content/uploads/An-Appraisal-of-Nigeria%E2%80%99s-Micro-Small-and-Medium-Enterprises-MSMEs-Growth-Challenges-and-Prospect.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.ijarp.org/published-research-papers/apr2019/Effect-Of-Multiple-Taxation-On-Small-Medium-Enterprises-In-Nigeria.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/investigation-thugs-rule-in-rivers-markets-force-multiple-illegal-taxes-on-petty-traders-as-govt-feigns-ignorance/>; <https://thenationonlineng.net/abia-dissociates-self-from-illegal-market-levy/>

3. Economic Development Program

The economic development program comprises three projects: Market Systems Development, Access to Energy, and the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP). The overarching objective of the program is poverty reduction through increases in the number of men and women experiencing positive changes in income and attaining gainful employment. This is achieved through the facilitation of interventions with sustainable outcomes.

The market systems development project portfolio is made up of five agricultural value chains (aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry) and three cross-cutting interventions (access to finance, access to inputs, and business linkages). The project aims to identify binding constraints in the sectors and seek sustainable solutions that can increase the income of thousands of poor men and women.

The Access to Energy project focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy such as the energy cabin and solar refrigeration. While Access to Energy identifies and tests technological solutions, the market development project facilitates activities to develop market systems for uptake and adoption of such technologies.

The Youth Employment Pathways featured the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) project between 2018 and 2021. Funded by the Ford Foundation and implemented in Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers States, it focused on agriculture, construction, finished leather goods and ICT sectors, and was built on PIND's economic development strategy, which emphasizes sustainable interventions that result in full-time employment for youths. Following its successful piloting of being market-led, and demand-driven, the NDYEP model is being scaled up to other states and kicked off in Delta State in January 2021. This edition under the name, Delta Youth Employment Pathways project is funded by the Chevron Corporation.

PIND's Economic Development Program contributes to the following global Sustainable Development Goals:



3.1 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements for all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development (MSD) project in Quarter 3, 2021.

This project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors in the Niger Delta to improve their productivity, leading to an increase in income and reduction of poverty. The project utilizes the market systems development approach that relies on a sound initial analysis of market systems to pinpoint the underlying causes of market weaknesses, to inform the design and implementation of interventions that address the underlying causes, rather than symptoms, of market failure. To ensure the sustainability of PIND's interventions, the development activities are further anchored on a service providers' model that equips local service providers with the right skills, tools, and connections to sustainably provide viable market solutions that address the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises in the region. This approach is used to support poor farmers in aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry. The sectors represent the most viable agricultural value chains in the Niger Delta.

To focus on growth sectors that are strategically aligned to the commercial interests of service providers and implementing partners, PIND re-engineered its market systems project portfolio in 2019 to focus on two broad

categorizations of crop and non-crop agricultural value chain intervention areas. By this, partners are strategically enabled to lead program implementation, in line with their incentives for participating in program interventions.

For the year 2021, the project has focused on further strengthening the adaptation strategies developed by its network of market actors to increase its reach to 60,800 additional farmers and SMEs, out of which 43,938 are expected to experience an increase in income. It also plans to collaborate with the Peacebuilding team to design and implement interventions aimed at supporting individuals in remote coastal communities to address opportunities for improved livelihoods. Another key area of focus for PIND in the operating year has been to implement interventions that improve smallholder farmers' access to finance through its Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Sombreiro Kapital.

In this reporting period (Q3 2021), the Market Systems Development (MSD) Project continued its work with service providers and other key market actors (fabricators, agricultural-input and equipment companies, farmers' associations, financial institutions, etc.) to improve the performance of farmers to achieve the following objectives:

- expand the training in best agronomic and business practices to more farmers and enterprises.
- introduce new efficient technologies and expand the demonstration and adoption of the existing ones.
- Improve farmers' access to quality seeds and support more enterprises to address market and funding opportunities.
- collaborate with the Peacebuilding team to finalize the design of viable interventions in the Chevron GMoU communities to address opportunities for improved livelihoods; and
- implement interventions to improve access to finance for smallholder farmers through its Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Sombreiro Kapital.

As a result, 16,771 new farmers and enterprises were reached directly with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies by the end of the quarter. In addition, to the direct outreach, a total of 9,265 indirect cassava farmers copied from the 'direct' participating farmers at a copying ratio of 1:1, making the total farmers reached to be 26,036. This result represents a 95% performance against the quarter's target of 27,364. It also makes the total outreach for the year 55,955 (direct: 46,690; indirect: 9,265) representing 92% of the 60,800 target for the year.

Within the quarter, the market development program undertook an outcome monitoring exercise of its activities. This was to determine the extent of behavior changes by farmers who participated in the various trainings provided by service providers, and the level of farmers' adoption of the improved practices introduced by PIND. The result of the outcome monitoring was used to update the annual program results estimations framework based on the current business reality in all the sectors. This was necessitated by the need to reflect current market realities and trends in the framework, following the disruptions caused by COVID-19 in 2020 and the rising cost of doing business in Nigeria which further worsened in 2021.

The following summarize the results of the MSD project activities in Q1 - Q3, 2021.

- The outcome monitoring exercise revealed that 87.3% of the farmers/MSMEs who had been reached directly by the program, adopted improved practices. Consequently, 40,746 'direct' farmers/MSMEs have adopted improved practices, out of a total 46,690 farmers/MSMEs directly reached by the program from Q1-Q3, 2021.
- The cumulative net additional (attributable) income of the adopting 'direct' farmers was estimated to be N12.5 billion, by Q3, 2021.
- The project facilitated 8,734 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs, by Q3 2021.
- Also, within the quarter, PIND leveraged N5.76 billion from direct farmers and MSMEs investing in the adoption of intervention activities through equity/debt financing. This makes the annual funds leverage as at Q3 2021 N8.93 billion (N5.5 billion – Equity and N3.4 billion – debt), representing 102% of the 2021 annual target of N8.73 billion.

Table 1. MSD achievement against Q3 2021 and annual targets and performance year-to-date

	Target	Achieved	Performance Q3 (%)	Target	Achieved	Performance
	Q3	Q3		2021	YTD	YTD (%)
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached	27,364	26,036	95%	60,800	55,955	92%
Number of jobs facilitated	*	8,734	-	9,322	8,734	94%
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦5.76bn	-	₦8.731bn	₦8.93bn	102%
Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	31,874	-	43,938	31,874	72%
Change in the income of farmers	*	₦12.49 bn	-	₦11.14	₦12.49 bn	112%

* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices which will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set for the quarter under review

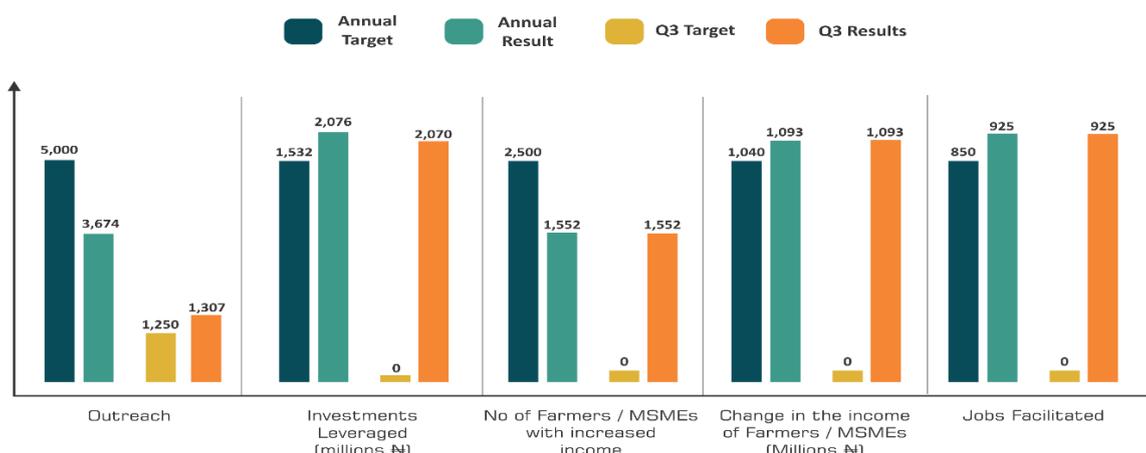
3.1.1 Key Achievements: Aquaculture

PIND’s interventions in the aquaculture sector focus on improving the efficiency and productivity of fish farmers and processors, through improved knowledge of best fish farming practices, access to improved processing technology, as well as access to quality input, market, and finance for farmers. The sector’s activities are driven by aquaculture service providers working with input companies, fabricators, and other market actors. In 2021, the aquaculture interventions plan to reach an additional 5,000 fish farmers and processors through the promotion of improved technology in the coastal communities, adoption of improved practices amongst fish farmers in the region, and facilitating access to quality fish seeds and finance for farmers and processors in the coastal communities of the Niger Delta.

In 2021, the high rate of inflation in Nigeria and the naira devaluation continued to impact the aquaculture sector. This was evidenced in the continuous rise in the cost of fish feed which constitutes over 70% of the cost of production. The cost of fish feed increased by 34% over the last eight months with a concurrent increase in the price of fish by 29%. This further increased farmers' production costs, necessitating access to finance/input credit for farmers and more efficient farm practices.

In the quarter under review, PIND deepened its work with the network of aquaculture service providers to further create awareness on the use of quality inputs and to build the capacity of fish farmers/processors, particularly in the GMOU communities to access funds for equipment and input purchase. PIND also continued to provide support to selected hatchery operators to produce and promote quality fish seeds for farmers, in addition to overseeing and tracking the expansion of the training on good pond management and business practices to more farmers and processors, through service providers and input companies in the region.

Figure 1. Performance status of aquaculture interventions for Q3 2021



*Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set for the quarter under review

Increasing Outreach to more farmers on pond management practices

This quarter, PIND continued to support service providers to provide pond management practices and business skill training to build the capacity of fish farmers and processors to access finance, and improve their productivity and efficiency. As a result, a total of 970 (297 Females and 673 Males) fish farmers were reached by 13 service providers. See annex 1 for details.

In addition, five (5) demonstrations to promote the adoption of improved smoking technology (smoking kiln and chorkor ovens) were carried out, reaching 184 processors in Cross River, Bayelsa, and Rivers States. Also, three demonstrations were carried out in three GMOU communities in Ondo (Awoye) and Delta (Bateren and Usor) States, reaching 153 fish processors and making the total outreach for the quarter 1,307.

The table below summarizes the total outreach recorded in the reporting period. A total of 1,307 farmers and processors (505 females) were reached through the above-mentioned activities against the target of 1,250 for the quarter. This brings the total outreach for the year to 3,674 against the target of 5,000 for the year.

Table 2. Distribution of aquaculture training and demonstration activities in Q3 2021

	Delta	Imo	Edo	Cross River	Bayelsa	Akwa Ibom	Ondo	Rivers	Total
<i>Number of trainings programs</i>	2	1	1	3	3	1	3	7	21
<i>Number of services providers</i>	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	4	13
<i>Number of farmers reached</i>	44	4	6	30	98	8	154	626	970
<i>No of fish processors reached</i>	0	0	0	114	81	0	83	59	337
Total									1,307

Facilitating Linkage to Finance and input Loan for fish farmers

As part of its strategy to deepen the activities in the riverine communities through financial inclusion and access to finance, PIND in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital expanded its access to finance activities to the GMOU communities in Delta and Ondo States. Within the quarter, 15 fish processors who were screened and recommended to Sterling Bank by Sombreiro Kapital last quarter, accessed loans worth N3 million at an average of N200,000 per processor. The funds were given to improve the processors' working capital and for technology upgrade.

Furthermore, Sombreiro Kapital collaborated with input dealers and Sterling Bank to provide opportunities for more farmers to access loans. Subsequently, 224 of the 1307 farmers reached were profiled and by the end of the quarter, a total of 88 fish farmers out of the 224 presented got loans worth N27.1 million in Delta and Ondo States.

Increasing uptake of Fish Processing technologies

The chorkor oven and smoking kiln technologies were introduced by PIND as part of the effort to improve the efficiency of fish processors in the Niger Delta region. To sustainably promote the adoption of the technologies, PIND built the capacity of masons and fabricators to enable them to produce and market them commercially. PIND also worked with the masons and other service providers to carry out demonstrations to stimulate the adoption of the technologies, particularly in the coastal (GMOU) and riverine communities.

This quarter, PIND continued to provide support to the Service Providers, masons, and fabricators (whose capacities have been built) to drive the uptake of chorkor ovens and smoking kiln technology to improve the efficiency of fish processors in the Niger Delta region. Three promotional activities using the smoking kiln and chorkor oven were carried out by four service providers in Rivers, Bayelsa, and Cross River States, reaching 184 processors. As a result of these activities, and those carried out in the previous quarter, a total of 17 smoking technology (12 smoking kilns and 5 chorkor ovens) were purchased in Rivers (10), Delta (2), Cross River (4), and Imo (1). Similarly, two service providers, organized demonstrational activities to promote the chorkor oven in three GMOU communities in Delta (Bateren and Usor) and Ondo States (Awoye), reaching 153 fish processors. This resulted in the purchase of 10 smoking technology in the communities, making a total of 36 Chorkors purchased/adopted in GMOU communities in 2021 so far. Overall, the total number of technologies purchased/adopted- Chokor and Kilns so far in 2021 is 82 (27 in Q3) against the target of 150 for the year. The low rate of adoption is due to the increase in the cost of the technology brought about by the high inflation rate and the naira devaluation.

Expanding interventions to reach more community members in the GMOU communities

In the previous quarter, PIND carried out a scoping study in four GMOU communities (Tsekelewu, Opuama, Awoye, and Ogidigben) to identify opportunities to improve livelihood of individuals in the GMOU communities. Following the study, an intervention was designed to increase the productivity of fisherfolks in the target communities through the adoption of improved practices and technologies.

This quarter, PIND engaged Yamaha, a producer of outboard engines for fishing, and the Nigeria Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR) as potential partners for implementing the identified interventions in the GMOU areas. PIND also identified interested service providers who are willing to expand their service provision to these communities. In subsequent quarters, PIND will finalize the engagement of technical partners and onboard new service providers to drive pilot intervention activities in the target communities in the GMOU areas. PIND will also facilitate capacity-building training programs for identified service providers and fisherfolk groups/associations.

Improving Access to Quality Fish Seeds for Niger Delta Fish farmers

The use of quality fish seeds/fingerlings is one of the major contributors to good yield and improved productivity of

farmers in the aquaculture sector. In 2019, PIND Collaborated with FISON, to develop quality broodstock banks for catfish with selected hatcheries in the region. PIND also identified and partnered with six private hatchery operators from Delta, Ondo, and Rivers States to raise broodstock banks from the pure lines produced by FISON. In 2020, the hatchery operators commenced the production of fish seeds from the broodstock, and over 515,000 fish seeds were produced by them.

This quarter, PIND continued to work with the selected hatchery operators to promote quality fish seeds to farmers in the region. This quarter, 420,000 fish seeds were produced from the broodstock by five of the hatchery operators compared to 300,000 targeted for the quarter, resulting in sales of N9.6 million at an average sale of N25 per seed. 154 farmers purchased these improved fish seeds.

PIND's partnership with the USAID Feed the future Ag-Extension activity in Delta and Cross River State is also complementing the promotion and use of quality fish seeds by farmers in the states. 4 cohorts comprising of over 40 hatchery operators were formed and trained on hatchery management and business development. These hatcheries are beginning to adopt and promote the adoption of quality fish seeds to farmers.

Improving the productivity and income of fish farmers and processors through the adoption of improved practices and technology.

As farmers adopt the improved practices from the various demonstrations and training programs, they are expected to experience a better feed conversion ratio and reduced mortality leading to improved productivity and income. In 2020, PIND developed a framework for tracking and projecting the impact of the intervention activities on the farmers using multipliers obtained from previous impact assessments, complemented with outcomes data from field monitoring visits. Due to the market dynamics and macro-economic impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 results, an outcome monitoring exercise was carried out this quarter to re-evaluate the parameters applied in estimating the impact of the interventions. Of a total of 2,561 fish farmers reached so far in 2021 (January to September) study findings showed that 1,470 of the farmers experienced an increase in income. These 1,470 had a Net additional income of N1,076,160,333, at an average of N731,989/farmer. This income was estimated for production on 3 ponds for one cycle carried out within the year.

Similarly, of the 1,113 processors reached, 82 adopted smoking technologies- chorkor ovens (55) and smoking kilns (27). The additional income earned by the 55 processors adopting the chorkor ovens so far in 2021 is estimated to be N5,744,259⁹. Also, a total of N11,295,362¹⁰ was earned by the 27 processors who adopted the Kiln so far in 2021.

The total value of Net Additional Income earned by adopting farmers and processors is N1,093,199,955 so far in 2021, against a target of N1,039,706,390 for the year. Similarly, the total number of farmers and processors with increased income in 2021 so far is 1,552, compared to a target 2,500 for the year.

Contribution to Jobs

As farmers adopt improved practices and expand production, they engage more labor to carry out various pond management activities such as pond preparation, stocking, sorting, and harvesting of the ponds. It was estimated that about 782 new Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs were created by the 2,023 farmers who adopted improved practices in 2021. Similarly, it was estimated that the 82 fish processors who adopted the chorkor oven and smoking kiln technology employed 143 labor to support the operation of the technologies. This makes a total of 925 jobs facilitated so far by the project in 2021, against a target of 850 for the year.

Leveraging investments for the adoption of improved practices and technologies

As market actors see the benefits derived from various economic activities in the sector, they make investments to maximize such opportunities. This enables them to expand their business and increase their income, PIND's analysis showed that the 2,023 farmers who adopted improved practices between Q1 to Q3 invested an average of N1,023,238, per farmer at N341,079/pond for the three ponds stocked.

This makes the equity invested by the farmers during the period, N2,070,206,176. The increased investment was mainly due to the 34% increase in the cost of fish feed when compared to 2020¹¹. The outcome monitoring found that the spend was mostly for the purchase of improved feeds, nets, fish seeds and conditioning of the level of water pH.

⁹ This only covers seven months, as farmers reported that the first two of months of each year is their off season.

¹⁰ Smoking Kilns have only been used for an average of five months so far in 2021

¹¹ It should be noted that there was also a 37% increase in the price of fish when compared to 2020

3.1.2 Key Achievements: Cassava

The Cassava value chain interventions are designed to improve the productivity and incomes of actors in the cassava sector. This is achieved by incentivizing partners to invest in activities that will improve access to information and quality inputs as well as markets for cassava farmers. Since 2015, PIND has partnered with key market actors like input companies and agro-dealers to embed demonstrations and training into their marketing and sales models. These partners have continued to report increased sales because of this collaboration.

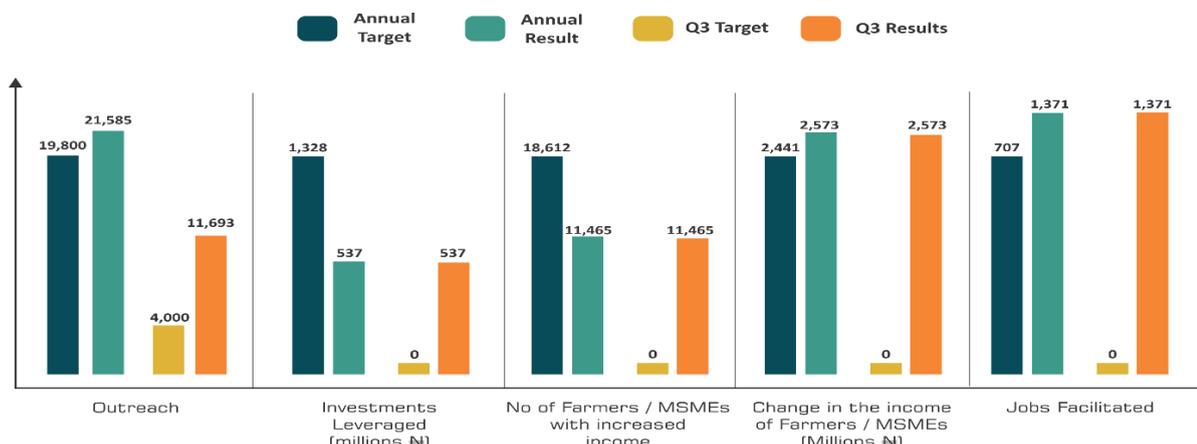
In this new strategic phase, which commenced last year, PIND continued to leverage the network of input companies, agro-dealers, Farm Service Providers (FSPs) and the Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) it has strengthened, to drive and expand activities in the sector to reach more farmers with information and quality agro-input.

This year, PIND’s target is to reach an additional 19,800 farmers. This will be achieved through the expansion of its work across the region, by partnering with service providers to establish demonstration plots aimed at promoting the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in more communities in the Niger Delta. PIND will also increasingly leverage platforms to train and increase farmers’ access to agro-inputs including stems, fertilizers, and other crop protective products, CPPs. Also, PIND will support investors to establish Cassava out-grower and aggregation programs in target locations.

In Q3, 2021 PIND continued the implementation of activities for the remainder of the main cassava planting season, while identifying and selecting partners and potential grantees for collaboration to ramp up activities in the sector in 2021, for the late planting season. PIND also intensified monitoring of CSEs trained in May as they establish multiplication plots across their various locations and step down the technical training received last quarter. With the increased rate of vaccination against Covid-19, there was an observed relaxation in COVID restrictions allowing more physical engagements involving larger numbers of people.

The project management unit of BASICS II visited PIND during the quarter for a joint review of the ongoing collaboration between PIND and BASICS II. Both organizations expressed satisfaction with the collaboration and results so far and encouraged both work teams to continue joint activities.

Figure 2. Performance status of cassava interventions for Q3 2021



* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set, for the quarter under review.

Increasing Outreach to more Farmers on good Agronomic Practices

Access to information about improved agronomic practices and quality inputs enable cassava farmers to improve their productivity and income. Private service providers continue to bridge the gap created by limited government extension services, by the providing this information directly to farmers through training and demonstrations embedded in the sale of agro-inputs; thereby ensuring that farmers can immediately implement these practices in their farms.

In Q3, following the major planting season last quarter, PIND supported its partners to strengthen their relationships and linkages with farmers, to guarantee continuous access to quality inputs such as stems, fertilizer, and Crop Protective

products (CPPs) required for production. Expectedly, fewer field activities and farmer outreaches were achieved this quarter as the major planting season gradually wore off. Nevertheless, a total of 1,342 (647 females) cassava farmers, directly, across the region, while an additional 1,086 (660 Females) farmers were reached via CSEs, making the total farmer outreach for Q3, 2,428 (1,307 females) against this quarter's direct outreach target of 4,000. The total outreach so far in 2021 is 12,320 surpassing the years' direct farmer outreach target of 11,000. See annex 1 for details.

The results from the outcome monitoring exercise confirm a 1:1 copying ratio for farmers. This result was further discounted by 20% to account for overlaps, thus bringing the total copiers as of Q3,2021 to 9,265. These copiers are the indirect outreach and form part of the sector's outreach for the year. Consequently, the overall outreach for the year as of Q3 2021 is 21,585 against the years' target of 19,800.

Table 3. Distribution of new outreach activities for Cassava in Q3 2021

	Abia	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Cross River	Delta	Imo	Edo	Ondo	Total
<i>No of demos</i>		5	0	4	0	3	3	0	15
<i>Lead input company working</i>	Golden Fertilizer and CHC Organic	Indorama	Saro	Saro and Harvest Field	Saro, Organic and Harvest Field	CHC and Harvest Field	Golden Fertilizer, Harvest Field & Wacot	Saro	-
<i>No. of agro-dealers /FSPs/CSEs working</i>	12	5	0	5	0	4	3	0	29
<i>No of farmers reached</i>	1110	278	0	660	0	230	150	0	2,428

Scaling up partnership to establish a viable Cassava Seed System in the Niger Delta

PIND is partnering with the BASICS II, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), as well as the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) to implement interventions to increase access to improved Cassava stem varieties that are high-yielding and disease-resistant in the Niger Delta, through the Cassava Seed Entrepreneurship (CSE) program, formerly called Village Seed Entrepreneurship (VSE) program. The program aims to establish a commercial seed system in the region. PIND believes this model implemented with CSEs is sustainable because the CSEs are found across the various Cassava farming clusters in the region and are encouraged to establish stem multiplication plots with which they train farmers within their clusters and from which they hope to sell quality cassava stems at maturity.

This quarter (Q3), many of the CSEs trained in Q2 established multiplication plots using foundation stems procured from NRCRI and other CSEs and organizing step-down trainings for farmers within their communities.

Also, in Q3 the project management unit of BASICS II visited PIND the quarter for a joint review of the ongoing collaboration between PIND and BASICS II. Both organizations expressed satisfaction with the collaboration and results so far and encouraged both work teams to continue joint activities. The BASICS II team also presented a proposal for collaboration with PIND to host a National Cassava Summit, similar to the one supported by PIND in 2016. PIND leadership confirmed PINDs interest to collaborate to host the National Summit, which is focused on stimulating the power of Private Sector-Led Cassava Seed Development in Nigeria. The summit is scheduled to hold in Abuja in Q4.

Cassava Farmers' Productivity and Income

94% (11,581) of the 12,320 farmers trained, applied these improved practices on their farms. Although these direct farmers are expected to experience increased yields at harvest next year, the outcome monitoring exercise collected metrics with which to estimate income increases for adopting farmers, thus the projected net attributable income for these farmers is N2,573,752,285, at an average of N224,488 per farmer.

Contribution to jobs by farmers

It was found that the adopting farmers engaged labor to implement improved practices such proper spacing, application of fertilizers etc. On average, each adopting farmer created 0.07 FTE jobs, and as such the 11,581 direct adopting farmers in 2021, had enabled the creation of 762 net additional FTE jobs. Similarly, the 9,265 indirect farmers, who copied improved practices in their farms, created 609 FTE jobs. In summary, as at Q3 2021, the net attributable job estimated for cassava farmers was 1,371, compared to the annual target of 707 jobs.

Leveraging investment through the adoption of improved practices and technologies

The adoption of improved practices comes with additional production costs for farmers. The cost of adopting the innovations introduced by PIND was also verified during the monitoring exercise, revealing average additional production costs of N26,987.07 per hectare, for each direct farmer. Thus, the estimated equity spend for farmers adopting improved practices with average farm size of 0.95 ha, is N25,739 per farmer. Therefore, the projected cost of production for 11,581 direct farmers in 2021 is N298,077,297, while the additional cost of production for the 9,265 indirect farmers', is N238,461,837. The total additional equity spend on improved practices by farmers so far in 2021, is projected to be N536,539,134 as at Q3, compared to the annual target of N1.32 billion, which is 41% of the annual target.

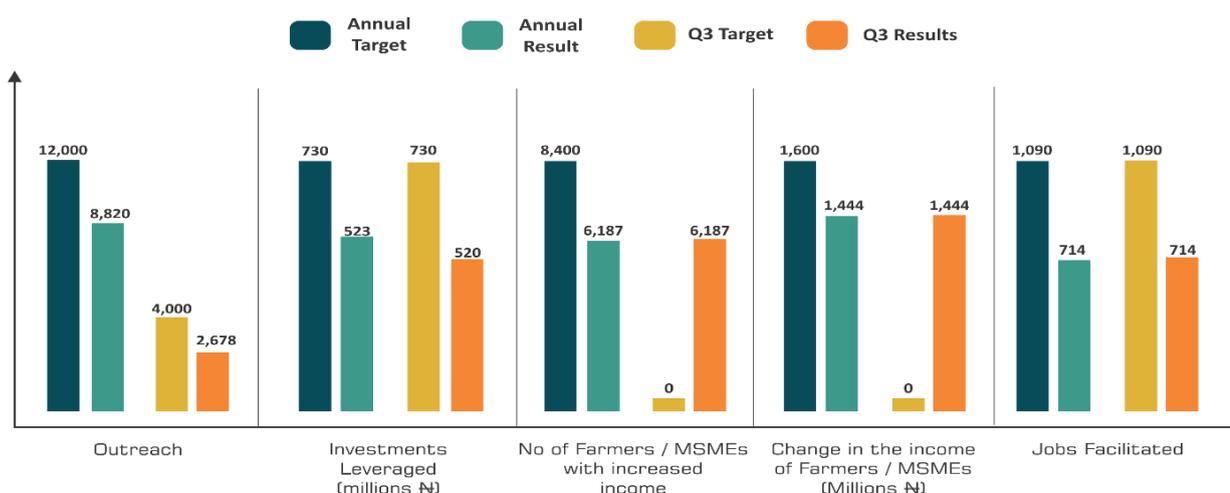
3.1.3 Key Achievements: Cocoa

PIND's Cocoa value chain interventions are designed to improve the productivity and income of cocoa farmers through the adoption of improved farming practices in planting/re-planting, pruning, weed management, pest and disease management, and harvest and post-harvest operations. The main intervention areas are productivity improvement and quality enhancement. To achieve this, PIND is working with business partners to invest in the promotion of good agricultural practices and technologies by providing quality agricultural information and access to quality agro-inputs and technologies to farmers. In the last two years, PIND has on-boarded and supported input suppliers, equipment dealers/promoters, output buyers (off-takers), and farm service providers to conduct a series of training programs and demonstration/promotional activities, towards stimulating the adoption of good agricultural practices and technology by farmers.

Since 2019, PIND has onboarded and partnered with 44 different support market actors¹² to promote productivity improvement and quality enhancement practices and technologies among cocoa farmers. These partners have reached over 18,000 farmers with agriculture information, quality agro-inputs, and technologies in five cocoa-producing states of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, and Ondo.

In 2021, PIND's plan is to reach a further 12,000 farmers through a series of interlinked activities aimed at deepening the solutions it has introduced and expanding them to all the cocoa-producing states in the Niger Delta. To achieve this, PIND is working with both new and existing partners to upscale the solutions in the operating year. This quarter (Q3), PIND continued to expand its outreach to more cocoa farmers by working with new and existing partners to conduct training programs and demonstrations on good agricultural practices for farmers. Also, PIND's partnership with the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) organized its first set of training for selected nursery operators, on best nursery management practices.

Figure 3. Performance status of cocoa interventions for Q3 2021



* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set for the quarter under review

¹² Three (3) input companies, three (3) off-takers, eight (8) agriculture-dealers, five (5) technology companies/promoters, and over 25 farm service providers

Expanding Outreach to More Farmers through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

The promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) was introduced by PIND in 2019 as a strategy to improve farmers' access to information, quality inputs, and technologies necessary to increase their yield and productivity. In Q3 2021, PIND worked with five farm service providers to organize demonstration activities, train and provide farm services to farmers on good agricultural practices. The project partnered with three off-takers (companies) to provide quality improvement training and agro-input support to farmers. Also, PIND supported three trained nursery operators to undertake awareness campaigns on the benefits of planting quality seeds. These led to PIND reaching an additional 2,678¹³ (674 females) farmers in Q3, out of a target of 4,000 farmers set for the period making the total outreach for 2021, 8,820; which is 74% of the targeted outreach of 12,000 for the year. See annex 1 for details.

Table 4. Distribution of new outreach activities for Cocoa, in Q3 2021

	Ondo	Cross River	Akwa Ibom	Total
Off-take companies	1	1	1	3
Input Companies	4	1	1	6
Number of FSPs	1		1	2
Number of farmers reached	1,823	258	597	2,678

Increasing Cocoa Farmers' Productivity and Income

70% (6,187) of the 8,820 reached directly, adopted the improved practices/technologies on their farms. These 6,187 farmers earned net attributable income increases of N1,444,462,017, at an average of N233,459 per farmer.

The 6,187 farmers with increased additional income represent a 74% performance of the 8,400-target for 2021. Also, the N1,444,462,017 net additional income is 90% of the N1,600,000,000 target for the year.

Leveraging investment through the adoption of improved practices and technologies

As farmers see benefits in terms of increased yield and income from adopting the improved practices, they continue to invest in the products and technologies promoted by the partner market actors. PIND has been working with agro-input suppliers, service providers, and agro-technology and equipment dealers to introduce and promote appropriate productivity improvement technologies (such as mechanical pruners, motorized sprayers and brush cutters) and quality enhancement technologies (fermentation boxes, and Pelle bongo) to farmers.

In Q3, PIND leveraged new investments worth N870,000 from three service providers who invested in the purchase of spraying and pod-breaking technologies, promoted by partner equipment dealers. The N870,000 invested by farmers in Q3, along with N2,400,000 leveraged in Q1+Q2 make the total amount leveraged so far in 2021 by market actors, N3,270,000. Also, in Q3, each adopting farmer invested an average of N83,666 in their farms. This gives a total of N517,660,185 worth of investments made by the 6,187 farmers who adopted improved practices and technologies from Q1 to Q3, 2021. Cumulatively the total equity investment leveraged by the sector is N520,930,185 in 2021. This is 71.4% of the N730,000,000 target for 2021.

Contribution to job creation through the adoption of improved practices and technologies

As farmers adopt improved practices and technologies and expand production, they engage more labor to carry out various improved farm management activities. The average additional job created by each adopting farmer is 0.12 FTE. As such the 6,187 farmers who adopted improved farm practices, created a total of 714 new FTE jobs between Q1-Q3, 2021. This is 66% of the 1,090 target for 2021.

Strengthening relationships between actors to improve access to quality seeds for cocoa farmers

PIND's cocoa value chain study (2018) revealed that about 90% of cocoa beans harvested in the Niger Delta are from older trees with low-yielding potential. Also, over 70% of farmers who are planting new trees either plant old seed varieties with low-yielding capacity or take cocoa seeds from their old farms and nursed them as seedlings for planting. For farmers interested in planting new varieties with high-yielding potential, accessing these varieties was a big challenge due to limited information and unavailability. Ultimately, this resulted in the low yield (between 350 to 420 kg per hectare) and productivity experienced by farmers in the Niger Delta compared to about 1,000kg obtainable in neighboring countries like Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. To address this, PIND designed the access to quality (high-yielding) seedlings intervention as a strategy to improve access to improved seedlings for cocoa farmers. The intervention aims to strengthen

¹³ The low outreach numbers recorded in Q3 compared to the target was due to reduced training and demonstration activities, considering rising logistics costs of reaching new farmers. Input suppliers and FSPs, these partners, as a fallout of the impact of covid-19 are focusing on reducing investment and maximizing sales by targeting existing farmers. In Q4, PIND will engage further/incentivize these partners to increase their outreach

the relationship between entrepreneurial nursery operators and seed producers as a mechanism to increase the distribution network for improved seeds in the Niger Delta.

This quarter (Q3), PIND partnered with CRIN to carry out the first set of training for 31 entrepreneur nursery operators from Ondo, Edo, Abia, and Cross River states. The training program aimed to improve the technical knowledge and skills of the nursery operators on seed handling and nursery management, as well as provide an opportunity for CRIN to interact with the nursery operators towards expanding their distribution network. Following the training, the nursery operators commenced promotional/awareness campaigns on quality seed. Specifically, three nursery operators organized access to quality seed awareness campaigns to improve farmers' knowledge on the availability and benefits of planting quality seeds. In subsequent quarters, PIND will further support the entrepreneurial nursery operators to carry out more awareness and sensitization programs, access the TC 1-8 series from CRIN, raise these seedlings in their nursery, and supply to farmers commercially and sustainably.

3.1.4 Key Achievements: Palm Oil

PIND's interventions in the palm oil sector focus on stimulating best management practices (BMPs) among farmers and improving access to palm oil seedlings. These interventions aim to increase the productivity and income of farmers and small processors in the region. The interventions utilize the market systems development approach and are driven by agro-dealers, fabricators, input companies, and palm seed nursery operators and producers who have the incentives to provide a range of services and products that improve the productivity of farmers and processors. Previous interventions included stimulating the use of harvesting technologies and improved processing equipment.

In 2021, PIND plans to further expand its outreach in the Palm Oil sector to 14, 000 farmers, through the network of both the existing service providers whose capacity were built, and new partners. This will deepen access to improved seeds, and adoption of best management practices by farmers, individually or through oil palm business membership organizations for inclusivity. Emphasis will be on stimulating collaboration and coordination amongst different value chain actors in the sector by facilitating linkage activities to expand the field activities of the market actors.

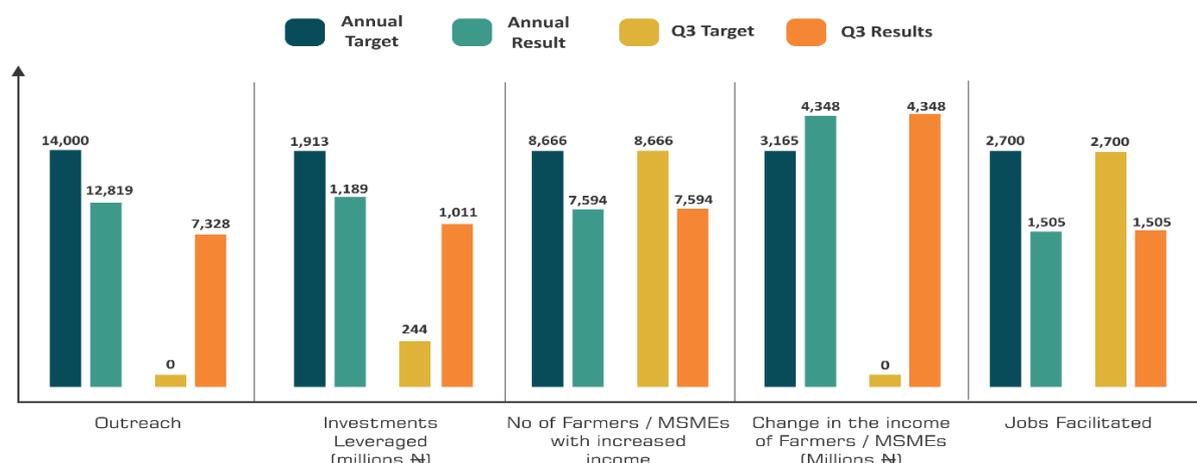
Specifically, for the access to improved seeds intervention, PIND plans to expand its reach by strengthening the collaboration between seed producers and nursery operators in the region. It also intends to scale up the business finders' model with new seed producers willing to increase their distribution network across the Niger Delta. Through these activities, oil palm farmers are expected to have increased access to improved and affordable seeds. In Q3, the focus was on working with intervention partners to expand intervention activities and strengthen the relationship between value chain actors in the agricultural input industry. PIND leveraged its relationships with oil palm Business Membership Organizations to onboard new farm services providers who are interested in using the BMP model to reach more farmers in the region.

Improving the relationships between support market actors to broaden outreach to farmers

During the quarter, PIND held meetings with the Oil Palm Grower's Association of Nigeria (OPGAN), an oil palm business membership organization that works across the Niger Delta to agree on a strategy to deepen the BMP intervention in the region and expand outreach activities to farmers. The partnership activities commenced with an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) in Akwa Ibom state. This was to support the team to identify improvement areas within management systems, and to reinforce healthy organizational practices. After the training, an action plan was developed to identify areas of high priority. One key area in the action plan was for PIND to onboard new Farm Service Providers and support the training of farmers. In August, PIND and OPGAN identified four champion farm service providers who were onboarded to provide services to farmers in Akwa Ibom state.

In Q3 2021, 7,328 compared to the Q3 target of 6,814 farmers; and cumulatively 12,819 farmers reached (92%) compared to the annual target of 14,000, as shown in Figure 4 and Table 5 below.

Figure 4. Performance status of palm oil interventions for Q3 2021



* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set, for the quarter under review.

Table 5. Distribution of outreach activities, for Palm Oil, in Q3 2021

	Abia	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Cross River	Delta	Edo	Imo	Ondo	Rivers	Total
Number of demonstrations	5	4	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	18
Number of agro-dealers/lead farmers/farm service providers	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	8
Number of farmers trained by agro-dealers/farm service providers	227	349	0	0	19	43	0	390	0	1,028
Number of lead farmers	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Number of farmers trained by lead farmers	383	2241	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,624
Number of program stakeholders participating in technical training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of farmers that purchased Improved seeds	30	13	0	0	42	1	30	0	5	121
Number of farmers that adopted Improved processing technology	30	285	0	0	45	30	45	0	30	465
Number of farmers that adopted Improved harvesting technology	0	222	0	126 ¹⁴	528	1,854	0	270	90	3,090

Increased Income and Jobs in the palm oil sector

Income and jobs for the palm oil sector as at Q3, were estimated under for three intervention areas – improved productivity of farmers through adoption of best management practices; increased harvest of fresh fruit bunches through adoption of improved harvesting tools; and increased volume of oil through adoption of improved processing tool – the small-scale processing equipment (SSPE). See annex 1 for details.

Increased income and Jobs under BMP: 4,039 of the 8,413 trained experienced improved productivity. These farmers earned total net attributable income of N1,792,685,814. Regarding jobs facilitated, the average FTE job contributed by 1 farmer was 0.096 which makes the total jobs created by the intervention, 731.

Increased income and Jobs under Improved harvesting tools (IHT): Farmers who adopt the improved harvesting technology, increase the quantity of fresh fruit bunches (ffbs) harvested from their farms, which reduces the losses experienced due to scarcity of climbers, and delayed harvesting. As shown in Table 5 (last row), between January and

¹⁴ These are farmers who recently adopted harvesting technology which were promoted in previous quarters.

September 2021, 3,090 oil palm farmers adopted 1,030 improved harvesting technologies (Malaysian Knife and Mechanical Adjustable Harvesters) at an average of 3 farmers per technology. On average the use of improved harvesting technology led to a 32% increase in the quantity of ffb harvested. Consequently, the net attributable income from the additional ffbs harvested by 3,090 adopting farmers so far, is N2,095,268,328.99.

Regarding the jobs facilitated, the average FTE job created by 1 farmer was 0.17 making the total jobs created by the farmers who adopted the improved harvesting technologies, 519 FTE jobs so far in year 2021.

Increased income and Jobs under Improved processing tools (SSPE): 31 improved processing technologies were adopted between January to September 2021. On average 15 processors jointly use each improved technologies, making the total number of processors using the technologies, 465. The projected income earned by the 465 processors adopting improved processing technology during the peak season in 2021, is N416,478,830.50. On the other hand, the projected income earned by these processors during the off-peak season is N459,562,304.27. Regarding jobs facilitated, the processors who adopt the improved processing equipment hire additional hands to help separate the fruits from the palm bunches, sieve the loose fruits, load the sterilizers, and separate the nuts from the fiber. One processor creates 0.55 FTE, making the total jobs created by the 465 processors who adopted the improved technologies so far, 255 FTE jobs.

Overall, the total number of farmers/processors with increased income, because of interventions in the palm oil sector is 7,594, while the estimated value of increased income for actors adopting these interventions is N4.347 billion. The performance exceeds the 2021 target of 8, 666 farmers earning additional N3.164 billion in income. The total number of jobs created in the sector from Q1-Q3, was 1,505 against the 2021 target of 2,700. The shortfall in the target for jobs was due to the high cost of adoption of BMP activities by farmers. For example, the additional cost of maintaining one hectare of farmland increased by 146% due to the high cost of inputs.

Leveraging investment through the adoption of efficient technologies and quality seeds

The investments in the sector in Q3, 2021 resulted from the adoption of improved seeds, and the purchase of improved harvesting and processing technology. In the quarter under review, N82,590,400 was leveraged through private sector investment in the sector. Also, the 7,572 adopting farmers invested in the purchase of fertilizer, and engagement of labor for pruning and fertilizer application and palm circle weeding, estimated at N929,651,476 in total. In total the investment leveraged by actors adopting improved practices is N1,012, 241,876.

Cumulatively, the total Investment leveraged in 2021 so far is N1.2 billion against the 2021 target of N1.9 billion. The major reason for the shortfall is reduction in equity investments due to the high cost of labor and other farm inputs.

Strengthening coordination between market actors to increase access to improved Seeds for Palm Oil Farmers

From the sector scoping study, PIND identified the sale and use of adulterated planting materials as a major cause of low yield among smallholder oil palm farmers in the Niger Delta. A typical farm with improved seeds produces 16 tons of fresh fruit bunches per hectare but farmers in the region only produce 4 tons of fresh fruit bunches per hectare. This has resulted in a high demand-supply gap of palm oil in the sector and low income for oil palm farmers. To address this, PIND is strengthening the capacity of private nursery operators, and improving the distribution channel for improved planting materials the Niger Delta through linkages to sprouted nut-producing companies. This is to ensure quality control and the provision of improved seeds for oil palm farmers. So far, 147 nursery operators have been trained and linked to seed producers including PalmElit CIRAD, NIFOR, and ALLISSEE Seed Company. These linkages have strengthened the relationship among the actors and led to the availability of improved seeds for smallholder farmers.

In Q3, PIND trained 11 nursery operators on nursery management, from Ondo (4), Bayelsa (1). Akwa Ibom (2), Edo (2), and Delta (2). Consequently, 81,378 seedlings were purchased by 121 farmers across Delta (42), Edo (1), Rivers (5), Akwa Ibom (13), Abia (30), and Imo states (30). These bring the total number of seedlings purchased in the year to 228,628 seedlings, by 202 farmers against the annual target of 210, 000 seedlings by 500 farmers.

3.1.5 Key Achievements: Poultry

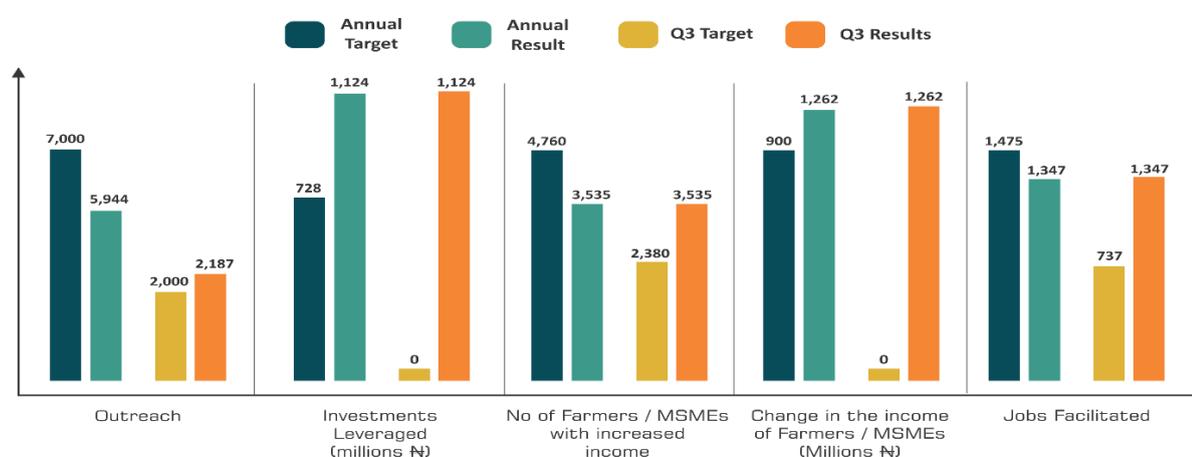
The poultry value chain interventions are designed to improve the productivity and income of poultry farmers in the Niger Delta through the adoption of good poultry practices and linkages to quality inputs (vaccines and feeds). Other intervention activities focus on improving access to market and finance to aid the growth and expansion plans of farmers. The sector's activities are driven by Poultry Service Providers (PSPs) and Village Level Dealers (VLDs) working with input

companies, chicken processors, and other market actors, who see the incentive to make more money by providing their services and products commercially to farmers, to improve their productivity.

PIND’s target for 2021 is to reach 7,000 farmers with information on good poultry practices (GPP), quality inputs (Vaccine and Feed) and facilitate access to market and finance in the Niger Delta region. GPP leads to a reduction in mortality and a good feed conversion ratio, meaning that farmers can have more birds at maturity and achieve the ideal 2-3kg life weight in less than eight weeks, instead of the typical 9 weeks spent; thus saving money on feed and other inputs.

In Q3, 2021, 12 additional poultry service providers (PSPs) were trained to complement the existing 32 PSPs making the total number PSPs trained by PIND, 44. PIND will continue to mentor the new PSPs and facilitate linkages between them and other actors, including farmers' associations. PIND also began engaging day-old chick (DOC) producers to begin the process of improving access to quality DOCs to farmers. The team also facilitated linkage forums and promotional workshops aimed at linking farmers to service providers and exposing them to the importance of vaccination to chicken and egg production.

Figure 5. Performance status of poultry interventions for Q3 2021



* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set, for the quarter under review.

Expanding outreach on good poultry practices to more farmers.

Improving the productivity of poultry farmers is one of PIND’s strategies to increase farmers' income and jobs creation in the Niger Delta region. The 12 newly-trained service providers were strategically targeted to enable PIND to reach more farmers in new locations with knowledge on good poultry practices, access to improved inputs (vaccine, feed, DOCs, etc.), and access to markets and funding opportunities. Also, this quarter, PIND worked with eight PSPs, 4 Village Level Dealers (VLDs), one input company, and 2 institutional buyers, to reach poultry farmers in Imo, Ondo, Delta, Rivers, Edo, and Cross Rivers with knowledge on good poultry practices, and access to the quality vaccine, market & funding opportunities. Overall, a total of 59 training activities were carried out to reach 2,187 (749 females) poultry farmers in Ondo, Delta, Rivers, Imo, Edo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross Rivers states. Some of the farmers were further supported with linkages to inputs (feed & vaccines), and finance. See annex 1 for details.

Change in the income of Poultry farmers

Farmers’ income in the Poultry sector were estimated for the two intervention areas: Improved productivity of farmers through adoption of good poultry production practices (GPP) and the adoption of Vaccines for backyard poultry farmers promoted by the Village level dealers (VLDs). As poultry farmers adopt the improved practices and quality vaccines from the various promotional forums and training programs, they experience a better feed conversion ratio and reduced mortality leading to improved productivity and income. A total of 3,535 (74% performance against the target of 4,766 for the year) increased their incomes between January to September from the adoption of GPP and vaccines for backyard poultry farmers. This led to a total value of N1.26 billion, net additional income, earned by these farmers; exceeding the target of N900,000,000 for the year.

Contribution to jobs

As farmers adopt improved practices and expand production, they engage additional labor to carry out various poultry farming activities such as feeding, vaccination, debeaking, daily record keeping, etc. About 1,347 FTE jobs were created

by the 3,858 adopting farmers reached by the PSPs from Q1- Q3, 2021. Jobs were not created by the farmers reached by the VLD farmers as most of them do the work themselves due to their small bird holding sizes.

Investment Leveraged

As market actors continue to experience the benefits derived from various economic activities in the sector, they make some investments to maximize such opportunities. This enables them to expand their business and increase their income. Using metrics from previous studies, complemented with data from the outcomes assessment during the quarter, PIND estimated that the 3,858 farmers who adopted good poultry practices invested an average of N275,649 per farmer at N137,824 naira per cycle. This brings the total investment leveraged by farmers reached through the poultry service providers (PSPs) to N1,063,348,269.64.

For farmers reached by VLDs, the 912 farmers who adopted the use of quality vaccine and drugs invested an average of N67,206, at N33,603 per cycle. This brings total investment leveraged by farmers reached by village level dealers to N61,292,148.99. Overall, the total investment recorded for the sector from Q1- Q3, 2021 is N1,124,640,418.63.

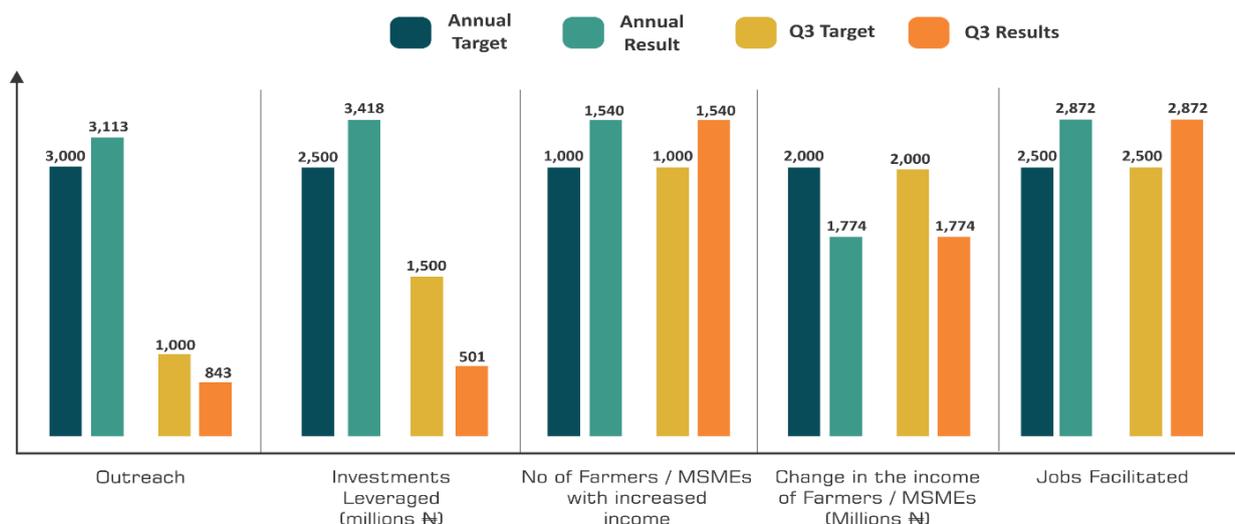
3.1.6 MSME Development and Linkages

The PIND MSME Development and Linkages project aims to stimulate a market that creates a dynamic and diversified set of strong local enterprises that can meet the demand created by large buyers operating within the Niger Delta. This, in turn, strengthens the local economic environment capable of driving economic growth and job creation. The project also strengthens platforms that enable micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to access quality business support services, market, and funding opportunities that enable enterprises to grow and be more competitive in both local and global markets.

The project activities are driven by business service providers (BSPs) strengthened by PIND, to enhance the growth of local enterprises. These BSPs work in partnership with private and public stakeholders, to organize business linkages and investment forums, as well as to access new market and funding opportunities necessary for MSME development.

In Q3 2021, PIND focused on supporting the BSPs to organize business linkages forums and clinics, provide business development services and facilitate access to finance for MSMEs through the Central Bank of Nigeria Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS). The scheme is an initiative to support the Federal Government's efforts and policy measures for the promotion of agricultural businesses and small and medium enterprises as vehicles for sustainable economic development and employment creation.

Figure 6. Performance status of MSME development for Q3 2021



* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for adoption of the new practices that will enable effective monitoring. Consequently, no targets were set, for the quarter under review.

Reaching more MSMEs through access to business information, new markets and finance

Business Service Providers (BSPs) provide a variety of services to MSMEs to improve their competitiveness and growth.

This variety of services includes but is not restricted to business management training, business diagnostics and upgrading, business plan development, marketing strategy development, and linkages to finance and market. In Q3, seven BSPs organized outreach events and support to MSMEs reaching 843 enterprises (including 302 women-owned), exceeding the target of 500 for the quarter. This makes the total outreach for the year to 3,113 MSMEs against the target of 3,000 for 2021.

Increased Sales and Income for Enterprises

PINDs work in the MSME landscape focuses on improving business efficiencies by enhancing MSME's business management and technical skills and supporting them to access new markets and funding opportunities. With improved business skills they can increase business efficiency while the funding and market opportunities enable them to expand and sell into new viable markets. All these lead to growth and an increase in net profit for the enterprises¹⁵.

49% of the micro-enterprises, 57% of small enterprises, and 67% of medium enterprises who receive business information, training, and access to new markets and funding opportunities, witnessed significant changes in their business performance attributable to the support of PIND in collaboration with the BSPs. This translates to 1,540 MSMEs (1,445 micro, 86 small, and 9 medium businesses) with improved performance in 2021 out of the 3,113 that accessed various business support services. These MSME's earned additional income of N1.77 billion, against the target of N2 billion for the year. One of the major contributors to the improved performance of the businesses, is the access to funding, as most of the enterprises benefitted from the Federal Government financing Initiatives-AGSMEIS. Most of these enterprises were trained and supported by the BSPs to access loans from the AGSMEIS program which helped them expand their business operations. As at Q3 2021, over 1,270 enterprises had received loans worth N2.4 billion. Similarly, through the linkages support by the BSPs, over 200 businesses had been linked to large buyers like SPAR and Market Square. See annex 1 for details.

Leveraging investment by MSMEs through the CBN AGSMEIS Program

One of PIND's priorities in the MSME Development and Linkages project in 2021 is to deepen relationships between the business service providers and financial institutions, particularly the Central Bank of Nigeria to unlock access to capital for small enterprises under various financing schemes such as the Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS).

In Q3, 189 enterprises (77 women-owned) accessed loans worth N501,508,965 from the CBN AGSMEIS. These loans were given to fund the acquisition of new equipment and technologies, expand into new business lines and improve working capital. This enhanced the business performance of the enterprises to meet new market opportunities. Cumulatively, the total year-to-date investment leveraged through debt financing is N3.41 billion for 2021, exceeding the year's target of N2.5 billion.

MSMEs Create more Jobs through Business Expansion

As enterprises expand by accessing new markets and funding opportunities, they engage more staff to support their increased business operations. An estimated 2,873 jobs¹⁶ were created by the 1,540 MSMEs reported to have experienced a significant increase in income in 2021. The 2,873 jobs exceed the target of 2,500 jobs for the year.

3.2 Skills Development for Youth Employment

Delta State Youth Employment Program (DYEP) – Program Design

The Delta Youth Employment Program (DYEP) was borne out of the successes recorded from the implementation of the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) project. The initial concept development for DYEP commenced in Q1 2021 with the review of the Delta State Labor Market Assessment report to identify key areas of importance and entry point for the skill development program in the state. Some of the areas identified are ICT, building construction and agriculture.

In Q22021, the program design was revised, informed by data from the Delta State labor market assessment and the scoping study carried out in selected coastal communities. The DYEP design clearly identified three (3) core intervention areas: strengthening the capacity of program implementing partners, conducting technical/vocational and soft skills training and applying specific vocational training for coastal communities. Also identified are four sectors for intervention in the first year: ICT, building construction, agriculture and services. Participants will be trained in 18 sets of vocational

¹⁵ Businesses supported by the BSPs include across agricultural production and process, manufacturing, catering and confectionaries, fashion design, etc.

¹⁶ Supported businesses engaged additional staff to carry out their expanded operations. These jobs can be temporary jobs (those engaged for a specific operation within a short period) or permanent jobs (those engaged as full-time staff within the enterprises). From the outcome monitoring data, the average additional jobs created by each MSME was estimated at 1.75 FTE for micro enterprises, 3.43 for small enterprises and 5.6 for medium enterprises.

skills within the 4 sectors targeted at enhancing their employability at completion. The program design will adopt the Niger Delta Youths Employment Program (NDYEP) model and core project principles to meet the Delta State current labor demand as well as build the capacity of 9 implementing partners for sustainability. Strategic program objectives: mindset orientation and peace building components will be embedded in the soft skills training.

Selection of Implementing Partners

In Q3, following advertisements for implementing and screening of potential partners to conduct technical, vocational and soft skills training under the program, 13 organizations were shortlisted across the 4 sectors for assessment to ascertain their capacity to conduct training.

On completion of the capacity assessment, nine organizations which met the basic requirements were recommended for grant awards following which site inspection of their facilities took place, including the organizations' ability to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Four of these organizations had worked with PIND under the NDYEP project. All nine organizations will train at least 595 youth (including those from the GMOU communities) across the four sectors. A total sum of N71,130,200 was also approved as grants to the nine implementing partners.

Table 9: Number of people to be trained by DYEP.

Sectors	Delta State	GMOU	Total
Construction	60	40	100
Agriculture	150	0	150
ICT	185	20	205
Services	100	40	140
Total	495	100	595

Private Sector Engagement

In Q3 also, a workshop was organized to strengthen the existing relationship between DYEP and the organized private sector in the state (Warri and Asaba Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture). In participation also were government and private technical and vocational education centers (TVETs), tech hubs, agricultural organizations and some private companies. The aim of the workshop was to bring together strategic private sector actors and players in the youth employment ecosystem in the state, to share ideas about the DYEP intervention to learn about their organizations and TVETs.

3.3 Access to Energy

The coastline rural communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria suffer poor rural electrification. Many of these communities do not have access to regular electricity supply to power basic economic assets and household needs, thereby reducing economic activities in them. Expectations for connection to the National grid anytime soon is unlikely due to high-cost implications and the difficult terrains. Since 2018, PIND has been addressing this gap through alternative and affordable off-grid solutions, capable of targeting not only basic energy needs (i.e., lighting and cooking energy), but also productive use of energy at both household and rural enterprise levels (such as use in barber shops and beauty salons).

In Q3 2021, 26 additional connections- 20 households and 6 businesses) were recorded on the existing mini grid at Gbokoda. Also, 73 persons participated in various PIND-supported demonstrations and workshops on Access-to-Energy technologies.

Outreach

PIND's Access to energy program had an outreach of 199 persons in Q3 2021. These are the 73 participants who attended the two PIND organized events to promote optimization of the solar mini grid interventions, and 126 people from 20 households and 6 businesses, with access to clean energy solutions from the new connections to the existing mini grid at

Gbokoda community. Cumulatively in 2021 so far, 134 households and 56 businesses and thus a total of 860 persons, now have access to clean energy because of the operationalization of solar interventions in various communities.

Preventing postharvest losses through access to solar refrigeration hubs

In Q3 2021, PIND carried out a survey of the solar refrigeration interventions in Sangana and Fishtown communities in Bayelsa state. The survey reveals that fish traders are the key actors who have been positively affected by the intervention. The adoption of the technology has had a significant effect on the dynamics of the local fish trading regime with a knock-on effect on the seagoing fishing vessel business (since the traders are the vessel owners). The technology has eliminated an estimated 8kg daily of postharvest losses for the cooperative members. With losses eliminated, these farmers, increased the daily quantity of fish they harvest by an average of 10kg¹⁷ per cooperative member. Also, these traders increased the daily quantity of fish they preserve by 18kg¹⁸, since the adoption of solar refrigerators.

With eight days of purchasing or harvesting fish each month, additional income for the 252 members of the cooperatives in Sangana and Fishtown, using the facilities in Bayelsa state from Q1-Q3, 2021 is N329,576,846.76, at an average additional income of N145,316 per trader, each month.

Beyond the figures for income growth and demonstrable change in the fish market sector, the survey also suggested that the welfare benefits of renewable energy have been a major driver for the increased rate of adoption of the technology better preservation quality, more time to do other things and reduced exposure to traditional fish smoking practices. Most importantly, other users outside the cooperative, are increasingly having access to the solar refrigeration service on offer.

The impact of solar mini grids on livelihoods and welfare in the coastal communities

Results of the outcome assessment of solar mini grids facilitated by PIND suggest that in 2021 alone, the interventions in four coastal communities Gbokoda& Ogheye (both in Delta State) and Molutehin & Gbagira (both in Ondo State) have unlocked a significant amount of capital through savings for coastal businesses and in some cases households. The assessment showed that 85% (221) of the 272 households and businesses which connected to the solar mini grids in these communities experienced cost savings, resulting from reduced energy costs (use of generators in particular). Beneficiary households and businesses in Molutehin and Gbagira communities of Ondo State reportedly saved an average of N11,286 on energy costs each month, while beneficiary households and businesses saved N6,407 each month. The total cost savings for these 221 households and businesses, across the four communities, is N12,326,733, for Q1-Q3, 2021. The effect of community-based access to energy interventions often goes beyond the numbers of direct beneficiaries utilizing the technologies. At the community scale, a lot of beneficiaries have reported a reduction of household energy expenditure and the convenience of having constant electricity to charge their phones and battery-powered devices. 11% of the MSME's, also reported that the supply of electricity has boosted patronage of their business, while 4% reported a perception of increased security and a safe environment due to the presence of night- time lighting and the elimination of noise from petrol generators that have been displaced by the solar mini grid.

Optimizing access to energy for businesses and households through the adoption of Productive use equipment

PIND carried out a demonstration with some technology partners, in Ogbimbiri community, to optimize the solar mini grid as an economic enabler through the adoption of productive-use-equipment. PIND had previously facilitated the installation of a hybrid solar energy mini grid in Ogbimbiri during the first two quarters of year 2021 and the idea of a demo was conceived, firstly to sensitize the community on potential health and safety issues pertaining to the mini grid – especially due to the localized nature of the plant, and secondly, to promote the adoption of complementary technologies that support economic activities, such as hair clippers, low energy light bulbs, low energy freezers and low energy televisions for both households and businesses to optimize the solar mini grid as an economic enabler by adopting various productive-use-equipment (PUE).

44 men and five women from across various sections of Ogbimbiri participated in the demonstration, to enable the understanding of the technology options that will enable them (households and MSMEs) to optimize their new electricity supply by using more energy efficient appliances like bulbs and low energy refrigerators. With an estimate of up to 200 connections in Ogbimbiri, an optimal use of the mini grid will translate to faster recovery of the investment by the power developers. This will in turn facilitate a faster scale up of the electricity supply towards total community coverage.

¹⁷ Avg daily volume of fish -before solar refrigeration: 62.6kg; with/after solar:72.7Kg

¹⁸ 20.1kg for preservation by smoking compared to 37.2kg for preservation in solar refrigerators

In Q3, 2021 PIND had a community stakeholders engagement meeting with leaders and members of Kpokugbene community, Warri North LGA, Delta State. Kpokugbene community was nominated by the EGCDF to CNL PGPA as one of two options for a proposed grant funded energy cabin, and PIND's stakeholder meeting was designed to further engage the stakeholders in view of the planned implementation. Seven women and 17 men representing the leadership and key stakeholder groups within the community participated in the meeting to discuss various aspects of the project such as communal night-time lighting. Additional noted above 26 were recorded on the existing solar mini grid at Gbokoda, which is consistent with the forecast for increase business and household demand for electricity.

Increasing women economic power through access to energy goods and services

PIND's gender programming in energy also reflects the efforts at mainstreaming access to energy. The various surveys suggest that 60% of the solar refrigeration users are between the ages of 20 – 40 years, while a high percentage of the beneficiaries (78%) are females. Similarly, 45% of the beneficiaries of the community mini grids are women and women headed households. This underscores a conscious programming that deliberately targets the youth and women through participation in local economic development sectors that "leaves no one behind" principle of the SDG.

3.4 Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS)

The Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) Activity is jointly-funded by USAID and PIND over five-year period (May 25, 2020 – May 24, 2025). Like PIND, the Activity utilizes a facilitative approach to market development by partnering with micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and key market actors within the aquaculture, cowpea, maize, rice, and soybean value chains to pilot proven technologies, scale up successful ones, and promote the adoption of improved production practices. It also aims to improve service delivery that will rapidly, effectively, and sustainably provide access to agro-inputs and disseminate extension messaging to at least two million smallholder farmers in Benue, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Kebbi, and Niger states.

The Extension Activity uses Lean¹⁹ production principles and tools to develop a deep understanding of the existing production systems to identify the most promising opportunities (also known as most impactful practices- MIPs) and the most important constraints to improve efficiency and increase return on investment for farmers. The Extension Activity leverages MSMEs as change agents around the identified on-farm opportunities. These MSMEs are strategically placed intermediaries for upstream and downstream movement of inputs and commodities through the market system; and their businesses depend on and can grow with the enhanced competitiveness and profitability of smallholder producers: their core customers.

The MIPs identified were validated in stakeholder workshops with over 60 people in attendance, including USAID, PIND, FMARD, research institutions, international experts, senior personnel from government ministries, departments, and agencies, and key players in the private sector. MIPs were determined based on the costs, number of occurrences for improvement, and the value of suggested alternatives.

PIND and AEAS interventions in the Niger Delta

PIND's collaboration with the PIND-USAID co-funded AEAS project focuses on interventions in Aquaculture, Maize and Rice in Delta and Cross River States. Between July and September 2021, the Extension Activity continued to train and enlist interested MSMEs for intervention partnerships. A total of 470 MSMEs, as seen in table 6 have been enlisted so far to provide intervention support, through the promotion of MIPs to farmers in Delta and Cross River States. By the end of the report period, 33 MSMEs (1 female-owned) had adapted their business models to reach small holder farmers with innovative solutions and had started deploying MIPs to farmers. These 33 MSMEs facilitated access to improved inputs and services to 1,445 (498 females) aquaculture, rice and maize farmers in the focal states. A summary of farmers reached with various interventions across Delta and Cross River States, is shown in table 7.

¹⁹ Lean is a process-driven analytical and management set of principles and tools the Activity will use to develop a deep understanding of the existing production systems to identify the most promising opportunities and the most important constraints to improve efficiency and increase return on investment for farmers. Lean principles emerged from the Toyota Production System, known for efficiency and high net margins within its industry, and have been applied in agriculture as well as other sectors and industries in the recent decades.

Table 6. Breakdown of MSME's enlisted in Delta and Cross River States

State	Men owned MSMEs		Women owned MSMEs		Aggregate		
	15-29	30+	15-29	30+	15-29	30+	Total
Cross River	0	102	0	47	0	149	149
Delta	45	202	16	58	61	260	321
Total	45	304	16	105	61	409	470

Table 7. Breakdown of MSMEs enlisted in Delta and Cross River States

MIP /intervention	Male			Female			Total		
	Youth	Non-Youth	Total	Youth	Non-Youth	Total	Youth	Non-Youth	Aggregate
Juvenile fish seed	34	641	675	28	223	251	62	864	926
Improved seeds									
Maize	15	38	53	2	17	19	17	55	72
Rice	33	79	112	5	28	44	38	107	145
Services									
Rice threshing	53	175	228	12	62	74	65	237	302
Total	135	933	1,068	47	330	388	182	1,263	1,445

3.5 Sombreiro Kapital Ltd/Gte

Over the years, poor or no access to finance has consistently affected the productivity of smallholder farmers in the Niger Delta. This is due to systemic constraints (existing laws, infrastructural deficit, and knowledge gap), which influence the demand and supply of financial services. In response to these constraints, Sombreiro Kapital was incorporated to facilitate lending to smallholder farmers through the issuance of credit guarantees to partner financial institutions and inputs companies (Commercial banks, Agro-dealers, etc.) to de-risk lending and unlock the flow of funds to farmers.

In 2021, the institution's target is to facilitate loans worth N450 million to 900 smallholder farmers through risk-sharing with partner commercial banks and agro-dealers. The plan for the year also includes identifying potential loan beneficiaries from the aquaculture, poultry, cocoa, palm oil, and cassava value chains in Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Imo, and Ondo states. In Q3, the institution facilitated loans worth N75,134,060 to 301 farmers in Edo, Delta, Imo, and Ondo.

Facilitating innovative financing models to support the growth of farmers in the region

In 2021, SK plans to achieve its targets using guarantee and non-guarantee instruments. Following receipt of the N100 million donated by PIND to SK, the institution can only reach 525 smallholder farmers with loans worth N163, 000,000, based on an average loan amount of N267, 000 per farmer, a 60% risk coverage on loans supported through Sterling Bank Plc and a 100% risk coverage on loans supported by partner Agro- dealers. Therefore, to achieve the target for the year, the institution plans to utilize non-guarantee instruments to facilitate 375 additional loans worth N275,000,000 through the dissemination of the SK's business model to organizations with intersecting objectives to inform collaboration. Following the dissemination of SK's business model to Partners for Development (the implementing partner of a US-funded access-to-finance intervention), a decision was reached by Partners for Development to subsequently revise the initial program design of the US-funded intervention to reflect SK's business model. Currently, 600 smallholder farmers in Delta state are being trained by Mr. Alfred Ukane (an SK partner) to access loans worth N300, 000,000 through LAPO microfinance bank. It is expected that the farmers will start receiving the loans in Q4, 2021.

Loans to Aquaculture, Cocoa, cassava, and Poultry Farmers

In Q3 2021, SK facilitated loans worth N75,134,060 to 301 smallholder farmers in the aquaculture, cocoa, cassava, and poultry sectors. From the total loans facilitated, Sterling Bank Plc disbursed loans worth N54,817,880 while partner agro-dealers (Hofete farms Ltd and Savee livestock services Ltd) supported farmers with loans worth N20,316,180.

Table 8a. Loans disbursed for farmers and processors by Sombreiro Kapital, in Q3 2021

	Delta	Ondo	Imo	Total
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to fish farmers</i>	11,108,000	16,020,000	0	27,128,000
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to Poultry farmers</i>	12,229,100	0	0	12,229,100
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to cassava farmers</i>	0	0	14,178,580	14,178,580
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to cocoa farmers</i>	0	21,598,380	0	21,598,380
<i>Total</i>				75,134,060

Table 8b. Number of credit (Input) disbursed for farmers and processors by Sombreiro Kapital, in Q3 2021

	Delta	Ondo	Imo	Total
<i>Number of loans facilitated to fish farmers</i>	48	40	0	88
<i>Number of loans facilitated to Poultry farmers</i>	20	0	0	20
<i>Number of loans facilitated to cassava farmers</i>	0	0	52	52
<i>Number of loans facilitated to cocoa farmers</i>	0	141	0	141
<i>Total</i>				301

Onboarding additional participating financial partners for improved sustainability

Part of the institution's sustainability strategy is to onboard additional commercial banks as lending partners to promote business continuity should Sombreiro Kapital's current lending partner (Sterling Bank) decide to reduce its funding appetite for agricultural businesses. This informed the engagement with and dissemination of partnership proposals to five licensed commercial banks in Nigeria: Guaranty Trust Bank, Fidelity Bank Plc, First City Monument Bank, Wema Bank Plc, and United Bank for Africa. At the end of the engagement sessions, three of the five commercial banks (Guaranty Trust Bank, Fidelity Bank, and United Bank for Africa) expressed interest in collaborating with the institution and are currently evaluating the institution's partnership requests to inform future collaboration.

In Q4, 2021, the institution intends to fully onboard the three financial institutions as lending partners to promote business continuity.

4. Peace Building Program

The strategic thrust of the peace building program is to achieve regional and lasting peace in the Niger Delta. To achieve this, PIND is creating sustainable peace partnerships, encouraging collaboration and cooperation amongst peace actors, providing support for economic development, and strengthening indigenous structures for peace, while also creating and building interfaces with larger state-level or regional peace efforts; thereby creating an enabling environment for sustainable broad-based economic development.

The peace building program consists of two interrelated and interdependent projects: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) and Partners for Peace (P4P) Network. The IPDU focuses on undertaking research and providing training to local and international stakeholders to implement innovative pilot projects that show promise of making a difference on the ground. Responding quickly in a targeted manner to rapidly changing dynamics, IPDU promotes collaboration and synergy amongst existing local, regional, and national efforts of actors in both public and private sectors to develop/deploy early warning and response mechanisms to address conflict, with a focus on gender and youth.

The P4P Network is PIND's strategy towards establishing social infrastructure and capital across all nine States of the Niger Delta. In the last five years, PIND has established a network of self-identified agents of peace that have deployed the power of grassroots networking towards building peace in the region. Using conflict analyses and early warning as key instruments, P4P identifies, and supports existing initiatives, and creates new ones to address the conflict risk factors. The P4P Network currently has chapters and subchapters in all the 9 States and 119 LGAs of the Niger Delta.

In the current strategic phase, the Peace Network will focus on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that promote a more enabling, integrated, and peaceable environment conducive for economic growth and development in the region.

PIND's Peace Building Program contributes to this global Sustainable Development Goal:



4.1 Peace Building

This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program for Q3,2021.

Since 2012 PIND has embarked on extensive interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the region. PIND's role in and its support for grassroots-led conflict resolution initiatives are examples of both the scope and the limits of long-term peacebuilding projects. Recognizing the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict in the region, PIND adopted a plan of action that aimed to keep the level of violence as low as possible, particularly in key communities of interest, while also building the social infrastructure and social capital of peace actors across the region for long term sustainable peace. This ushered in a paradigm shift reflecting a different way of working on problems of militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)²⁰. In the 2020-2024 strategic cycle, PIND's objective is to positively affect up to 10% of the Niger Delta population through its peacebuilding interventions by enabling active engagement of 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction.

In Q3, the Peacebuilding Program carried out a series of targeted peace building and conflict mitigation interventions to mitigate the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta. As part of these targeted interventions, the Program trained 129 community-based field monitors to report incidents of conflict risk and violence to the integrated

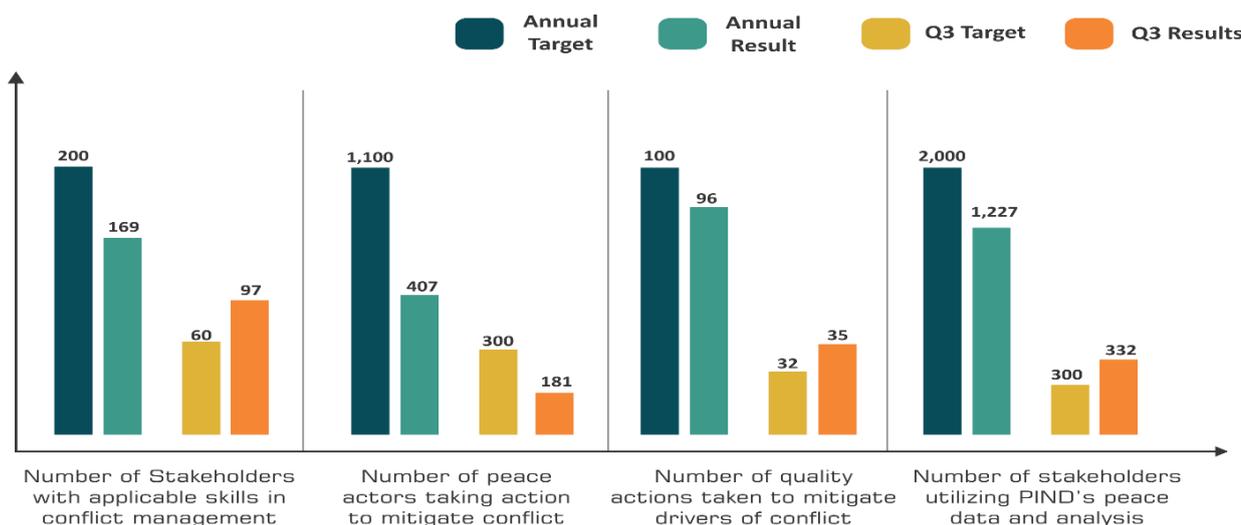
²⁰ PIND Impact Assessment: promoting peace in the Niger Delta 2012- 2018.

Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) platform to aid proactive responses. The program also produced weekly conflict briefs and a quarterly conflict report to update stakeholders and facilitate interventions to mitigate prevailing and emerging conflict issues in the region. These interventions by PIND’s Peacebuilding Program, together with interventions by similar and complementary programs, resulted in a significant reduction in the level of violence and conflict fatalities during the quarter compared to Q2.

According to data from the Peace Map (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map), there was a decrease in violent criminality from 151 incidents and 366 fatalities in Q2, to 60 incidents and 121 fatalities in Q3 (60% and 67% reduction in violent criminality and fatalities, respectively) across the Niger Delta states. PIND produced a total of 9 weekly updates in Q3 that provided a data-driven analysis of the dynamics of violent criminality and solicited the intervention of relevant stakeholders during the period.

Similarly, there was a reduction in the level of violence and conflict fatalities caused by ethno-national separatist agitation during the quarter. Following a resurgence of violent separatist agitation in Q2, PIND and the P4P network intensified efforts towards updating stakeholders with weekly situation reports and data analysis, and mobilized peace actors through the P4P network for targeted conflict mitigation and peace messaging in Abia and Imo States. These contributed to the reduction in violence and conflict fatalities related to the separatist agitation in the region. For instance, there was a decrease in violent agitation from 25 incidents and 86 fatalities in Q2, to 13 incidents and 26 fatalities in Q3. At the community level, there was also a decrease in inter- and intra-communal conflicts over land and boundary disputes from 13 incidents and 49 fatalities in Q2 to 8 incidents and 8 fatalities respectively in Q3.

Figure 7. Performance status of Peace Building program for Q3 2021



Stimulating peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace.

Conflicts are a natural part of social processes of change. However, peace and development are dependent on the ability to resolve conflicts constructively and without resorting to violence. This is where PIND’s peace efforts come in: to prevent violence as a means of resolving conflicts, to reduce fragility as a breeding ground for violence, and to create opportunities for long-term development. PIND is relentlessly promoting a culture of peace by providing relevant data for early response and facilitating collaborative efforts for implementing conflict management and peace building interventions. Through its Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) and Partners for Peace network, PIND has continued to facilitate training and workshops to enhance capacities of peace actors to constructively mitigate conflict.

In Q3 2021, 97 peace actors whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training²¹ sessions and workshops (Figure 8), applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. A significant number of peace actors reportedly applied their skills by providing further training to others; engaging in conflict mitigation efforts in their communities; reporting conflict issues to the PIND/SMS platform; engaging in peacebuilding awareness campaigns against electoral violence and analyzing conflict trends and patterns. Here is an

²¹ Training areas: capacity to provide further training to others; engage in conflict mitigation efforts in their communities; write proposals to receive funding for their organizations; enable them to become better leaders in their communities; report conflict issues to the PIND/SMS platform; engage in peacebuilding awareness campaigns against electoral violence; empowerment to make a difference as regards conflict issues in the community; and ability to analyze conflict trends and patterns.

example of the way peace actors previously trained have applied skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q3: **Bridget Anyafulu**, in Delta State, participated in a conflict mitigation training in 2018, during which trainees formed a network for sharing ideas on conflict mitigation. She stepped down her training to colleagues in her organization and members of her community, as advised during the training. Because of these step-down trainings, she has been called upon to intervene in various issues in her community. In July 2021, she was contacted by her community to help resolve a human trafficking issue. To address this, she spoke with her local government chairman, who in turn reported the issue to the DPO leading to the apprehension of the perpetrator. She said that people in her community have told her they feel safe because that first there is someone to call on to help resolve issues and that they are assured that if they call on her, she will do all she can to ensure their issues are resolved. Also, 181 peace actors constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 35 ‘quality actions’²² to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period. Some interventions carried out by various peace actors towards creating a long-term peaceful environment, during the quarter are presented in Table 10.

Imo State P4P Chapter Restores Peace in Agwa Clan
<p>The destruction of property and loss of lives in Ubah, Obudi, Mgbala, Mbanu, Umuefeke and Uworie communities, which make up the Agwa Clan, Oguta Local Government Area, in Imo State, led to the disruption of socio-political and economic activities in the communities from 2020 to early 2021. Schools, banks, and markets were closed, and farming activities affected. Findings of the P4P intervenors showed that the conflict was caused by a long-standing leadership tussle between traditional rulers, regarding who should represent the six autonomous communities during engagements with Sterling Oil Exploration & Energy Production Company Ltd. (SEEPCO), the operating oil company in Agwa clan. Other causes identified were youth restiveness, boundary disputes, and cult supremacy tussles and some traditional rulers engaging various cult groups as community vigilante security for their personal interest.</p>
<p>To mitigate this multidimensional conflict and ensure peace returned to Agwa clan, the Imo State chapter of the P4P, in 2020, through a project tagged “Cult Violence, Ezeship Tussle and Intra/Inter Communal Violent Conflict”, began deploying a joint problem-solving conflict management mechanism. The P4P intervenors held a series of meetings with traditional rulers in the six autonomous communities, cult groups (Ganjaba Boys, Icelanders, Deygbam, Ward 4, Urashi, Boko Haram and Middle Belt Boys), youths leaders, political leaders, public office holders, women leaders, officials of the Sterling Global Oil Company, community vigilante Groups, religious leaders, SEEPLAT Contractors, government security agencies, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and Imo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (ISOPADEC).</p>
<p>These efforts resulted in the signing of a peace agreement by actors/ key stakeholders in all the communities in Agwa Clan. The six traditional rulers supported the peace process and agreed to discontinue the patronage of cult groups as community security outfits. Stakeholders agreed to establish Agwa Peace Monitor (APM) with the responsibility of maintaining peace in the entire Agwa clan. Some youth denounced cultism, apologizing to the elders for the atrocities committed during the crisis. A subchapter of the P4P network was created in the community and leadership for this subchapter constituted, for the advancement of peace in Agwa community.</p> <p>In August 2021, in demonstration of the relative peace in the Agwa clan, the Agwa subchapter of the P4P in collaboration with the Imo State Chapter of the P4P, organized a one-day community stakeholders’ dialogue on “Agwa Peace Process and Reintegration Project”. Elders from these communities attributed the newfound peace in Agwa clan to P4P and thanked them for the role they played in mitigating the conflict. With relative peace restored, people have returned to their homes and socio-political and economic activities have resumed in the six communities.</p>

Table 10. Summary of selected interventions carried out by peace actors in Q3 2021 by location, type and results

Peace actor/Location	Type of conflict issue	Outcome of interventions
Ogbiji Joseph <i>Cross River</i>	Community violence	Incessant boundary disputes between the Itega-Okpane and Oba communities, Yala LGA, over ownership of farmlands re-emerged during the 2021 farming season. The dispute claimed several lives and property were lost. There was restriction of movement and economic activities between both communities. Ogbiji, in collaboration with P4P members and other stakeholders, brought the disputing parties in the conflict to dialogue and at the end relative peace returned to the two communities. Currently, commercial activities between both communities have commenced.

²² Actions have to meet at least three of five criteria to be considered as ‘Quality actions’. 1. All key stakeholders consulted. 2. Intervention focuses on identified risk. 3. Intervention contributes to risk reduction/ mitigation of group-based violence. 4. Intervention affects a significant number of people positively. 5. Impact of the intervention is long lasting (based on the context and nature of the problem).

Azubiike Peter <i>Abia State</i>	Community violence	He organized a mentoring workshop in some communities of Bende LGA on peacebuilding volunteering for youths. He also trained them on COVID-19 awareness and the need to maintain the basic protocols to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Furthermore, with the support of the P4P subchapter in Bende, he facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the traditional rulers of Ozuoteli community and Miyeti Allah (cattle breeders association) in the locality for peaceful coexistence. Peter also organized a town hall dialogue session on peaceful coexistence and respect of economic rights /livelihood between the farmers and the herders in Eluoma, Ngwuzuakali and Mkpa communities. After the session, there has been improved relationship between farmers and herders in these communities as there is respect of rights for survival.
Ukorebi Essien <i>Cross River State</i>	Community conflict	Ukorebi intervened to mitigate and resolve inter-communal clashes between Ebom, Ebijakara, Usumutong, and Ediba in Abi Local Government of Cross River State. Through the intervention, the disputing communities accepted P4P members as mediators in the conflict dispute. P4P facilitated the setting up of a committee by the Cross River State government to investigate the conflict and it is mounting pressure on the government to implement the report from the committee. However, the four disputing communities had a joint dialogue interactive session which had not happened before. The communities are jointly planning a peace rally in November 2021, to demonstrate publicly that they are working towards resolving the conflict and establishing durable peace. The key success in the intervention is the absence of hostilities between the four communities.
Hon. Uchella <i>Abia State</i>	Ethno Separatist Agitation	The Abia State Coordinator of P4P used media sensitization and public awareness to de-escalate conflicts arising from unknown gunmen attacks on state security agencies and government infrastructures in two Local government areas of Aba and Umuahia in Abia State. In the course of the intervention, the leaders of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in the two LGAs, Abia State Commissioner of Police and LGA Divisional Police Officers (DPO) were engaged. As a result of the P4P interventions and those of other stakeholders, there was drastic reduction of attacks by unknown gunmen in Abia State in Q3 compared to Q2. The Abia State Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Janet Agbade applauded P4P intervention and promised to partner with the Abia Chapter of P4P.

An analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products revealed that 332 stakeholders utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis during Q3 2021. Many organizations in Nigeria are gathering data on conflict drivers and fatalities. Each focuses on different issues, locations, and periods. Integrating all these data sources on a single platform allows for cross-validation and triangulation to better identify hotspots and trends so that peace agents can target their efforts in addressing emerging conflict. Data sources currently integrated on the Peace Map include West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Fund for Peace's UNLock, Transition Monitoring Group's (TMG) Quick Count of the Nigerian Election Early Warning System (NEEWS2015), Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program (NSRP), Council of Foreign Relations, Nigeria Watch, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), and Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD). Table 11 presents examples of how organizations are using PIND's data products.

Table 11. Utilization of PIND's Peace Building data products

Organization/Location	PIND's Data Products Used	Purpose Utilized
Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI) Delta State	Peace Maps; Quarterly conflict trackers; Annual conflict report	DICI has used the data products for more than 24 months. It uses it to track trends in violence affecting women and girls. Moreover, these products help the organization to write peacebuilding project proposals for targeted interventions.
CARA Development Foundation Imo State	Quarterly conflict trackers, Weekly conflict updates	For over one year, CARA has used the products to monitor conflicts in project locations, which helps staff members to take decisions before field trips.
Throne Seeds Global Investment Company Ltd Rivers State	Policy briefs, Peace Maps, Quarterly conflict trackers, Weekly conflict updates	Throne Seeds uses data from the Peace Maps to engage conflict prone communities and its network of oil palm and other farmers – advocating for peace and conflict resolution.
Dise Ogbese Foundation Bayelsa State	Peace Maps, Weekly conflict updates	DO Foundation works with Bayelsa P4P to implement conflict mitigation interventions based on evidence from the Peace Maps.
European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS Abuja	Quarterly conflict trackers, Weekly conflict updates, Annual conflict report	According to the contact, the products help the EU delegation to decide states in the Niger Delta to steer clear of, capture issues analyze and capture GBV issues as well as engage in conversations in different peace fora.
Gender and Development Action Rivers State	Policy briefs, Peace Maps, Quarterly conflict trackers	For over two years, GEDA has used data from the quarterly conflict trackers and Peace Maps to analyze VAWG related issues, write proposals and advocate for reduction on VAWG.

4.2 Small Grants

In 2020, PIND funded two organizations - Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI), and Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ) to implement projects aimed at mitigating conflict drivers in two coastal communities in Warri North LGA of Delta State for a period of nine months. The projects, which closed out in Q3, 2021, had the objectives of strengthening local capacities for conflict transformation and sustainable conflict resolution; reducing community leadership conflicts and establishing community dispute resolution structures.

Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI) Intervention

The “Promoting Social Cohesion through mitigating of Conflict Drivers in the Coastal Community of Aja- Amita” project was implemented to reduce community leadership conflict. Key stakeholders such as the Trust Management Committee executive, youth groups, community-based organizations and the Itsekiri Regional Development Council were engaged. Other key activities implemented were training workshops on conflict transformation and resolution, EWER, conflict sensitivity and community peacebuilding; dialogue sessions and advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders. Key achievements from the intervention were

- establishment of a framework for the peaceful transition of leadership in Aja-Amita by the community leadership and residents;
- reconciliation of conflicting parties in the Aja-Amita leadership tussle;
- strengthened capacity of community leadership and stakeholders to mitigate and build peace in Aja-Amita;
- establishment of inclusive Aja-Amita community peacebuilding committee;
- inauguration of Aja-Amita Inclusive Peace Committee (AIPC) as a sub-chapter of Partners for Peace (P4P) network in the Niger Delta;
- inclusion of women into AIPC for the first time in the history of the community and
- improved working relationship between security agencies and community through the advocacy visits and bilateral meeting.

Center for Peace and Environmental Justice Intervention

Aside from building the capacity of the Tsekelewu youths on peace building and conflict management, the “Strengthen Tsekelewu Community Leadership System to Support Conflict Mitigation” project’s specific objective was to reduce leadership conflicts and establish peaceful transition of power within the Tsekelewu youth groups. The youth leadership conflict began in 2017 which led to the community being split into factions. Youth groups, women associations, community women, elders, Community Development Committees (CDCs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), national and community leaders of thought were engaged in town hall meetings, dialogue and roundtable discussion sessions, sensitization events as well as training activities. The key successes of this intervention were:

- agreement between the factional youth groups to reconcile, withdraw and settle all pending issues for peace to reign in the community as evident in the withdrawal of all court cases and agreement to settle all differences between themselves with the intervention of Tsekelewu Peace-building Committee and the CEPEJ Team;
- agreement between the factional local vigilante groups to form a common community security group;
- improvement in youths’ skills in leadership, peace-building, conflict management, negotiation, mediation and dialogue as members of opposing factions were seen hugging one another, a behavior that was foreign to both groups before the intervention;
- peaceful women group leadership transition process as evident in the conduct of peaceful elections for women groups in 2021 and
- agreement between community members to amend the community constitution to provide for a single term tenure.

Women now part of Aja-Amita Decision Making Body

In many African societies, women are often seen but not heard,. Nigeria remains a largely patriarchal society, where structural and gender inequalities ensure that men dominate the private and public spheres and hold positions of power. Women are in many instances relegated to the background with diminished agency and decision-making power in the economic, reproductive and social arenas (ICRW, 2020).

Aja-Amita community, in Warri North of Delta State, is not left out in women exclusion in decision making bodies. This was revealed when Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI) began implementing a conflict mitigation intervention in the coastal community using PIND’s small grant support. Findings show that women were side-lined and hushed whenever they sought to ask for inclusion in decision making structures.

Through advocacy, DICI requested the elders to nominate women to be part of the Aja-Amita Inclusive Peace Committee (AIPC). The elders granted the request, and seven women were nominated as members of the 15-person AIPC. The women are elated and are now actively contributing to decision making concerning peacebuilding and community development issues.

4.3 The Warri Multi stakeholder platform (MSP)

The Warri Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP) is a nonpartisan peacebuilding platform established by the Foundation for the partnership initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) in 2018. It has 16 members cutting across traditional rulers, State and Local Government representatives, and community representatives from the Ijaw and Itsekiri ethnic groups in Delta State. Its primary aim is to hold dialogues on the drivers of violent conflict and mutually forge a pathway for addressing those issues, through appropriate conflict management mechanisms.

Fostering peaceful coexistence.

As part of its strategic approach of promoting peaceful co-existence among the two major ethnic groups in Warri, the MSP held the leaders' summit in September 2021, with the theme, "Leadership Role in Fostering Peaceful Coexistence, Security and Development". The summit in Warri, was attended by civil society organizations (CSOs), government functionaries, and politicians within the State and the three Local Government Areas, communities' leaders and opinion leaders. The objective of the Summit was to create a platform for interactions at strategic level to further promote peaceful co-existence and dialogue amongst the Ijaw and Itsekiri ethnic groups in Warri, Delta State. Also, to harness social capital and enhance resource availability to the Warri MSP for prevention and mitigation of ethnic violence.

Lack of elite consensus; inability to learn from previous events of communal dispute from other tribes by the Ijaw and Itsekiri; inappropriate engagement of youths; absence of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism in managing conflict and lack of adequate funding to peacebuilding platform like MSP were identified as key factors that thwart socio-political and economic advancement of Warri kingdom.

The MSP members in a post review meeting made a commitment to engage elites from the two ethnic groups to come to a consensus on the composition of persons to be part of the joint investigation visits (JIV) team and communities to be visited among the two ethnic groups in the alleged oil spill in the Abiteye and Utonana Fields operated by Chevron Nigeria limited (CNL. They agreed that though their intervention had doused ethnic tension on possibility of violent conflict, the non-production of oil by the major operator in the area, caused by lack of elite consensus, has negatively impacted the local, state and national economy.

5. General Enabling Program

PIND's interventions fall under two distinct but interrelated program areas: (1) an Economic Development program focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment generation; and (2) a Peace Building program that strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms for enabling integrated peace and economic growth.

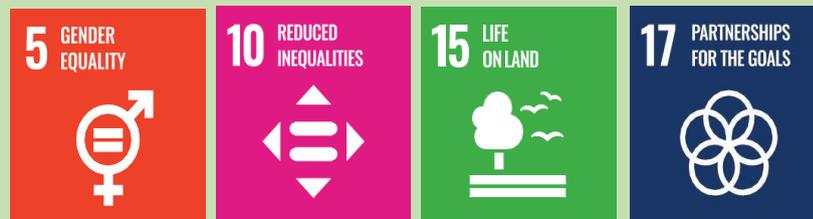
Additional initiatives designed to support, enable, measure, and communicate the results and achievements of the 2 core pillars of Economic Development and Peace Building include:

A capacity building that will build the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations and communities.

Advocacy that seeks to influence policies, practices and programs underpinned by in-depth analyses and understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.

A robust communications and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts and learning.

PIND's General Enabling Program contributes to the following global Sustainable Development Goals:



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 3 of 2021 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

5.1 Capacity Building

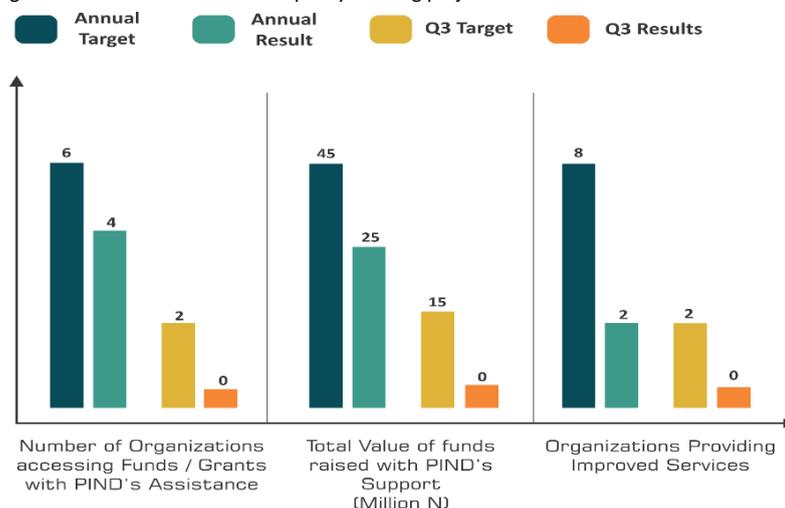
Between 2012 and 2019, PIND's capacity building program primarily focused on providing organizational development and institutional strengthening support to a wide range of organizations: government agencies, civil society organizations, business membership organizations and community-based service providers. During this period, PIND enhanced the capabilities of these organizations to engage and deliver on their goals of increasing opportunities to diversify resources in addressing the needs of Niger Delta communities in an accountable, inclusive, and sustainable way. Following a re-alignment of PIND's strategic focus at the end of 2019, the capacity building program (CB) was re-purposed to advance the capacity strengthening efforts of the economic development and peace building programs. First, it will continue to strengthen the institutional, organizational, and technical capacity of local development organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the market systems approach. In addition, it will continue to strengthen capacities of peacebuilding program stakeholders in conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution to fortify a peaceful environment for expansion of economic growth and development in the region. Different stakeholders in the region admit and endorse a peaceful environment as a pre-requisite for development.

As part of its continued support to CAPABLE organizations this year, PIND is providing direct mentorship to 10 selected organizations to implement projects using the market systems approach. This support will also involve handholding on proposal writing and fund mobilization to diversify their funding base following the virtual training to organizations last year. The program will also explore opportunities to strengthen GMoU institutions, the Regional Development Councils (RDCs), and trade associations and groups based on findings from the Peace and Economic Livelihood Opportunities Assessment (P&ELOA) in the GMoU communities.

In Q3, the capacity building program initiated some engagements for a capacity building consultant to provide support to CAPABLE organizations, for its support to the market systems development projects. Also, under its RDC capacity building, PIND developed the capacities of the various Regional Development Councils (RDC) to implement selected

recommendations from the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA), conducted on them in 2018. Three training programs covering video production and photography, Gender equality and social inclusion, and Sustainable project management in line with the OCA recommendations were delivered at various times this quarter to the various committees and leadership of the RDCs. The program also continued to provide coordination and secretarial support to the PIND and PGPA teams for their collaborative activities and hosted the third collaborative team meeting for 2021, in August 2021.

Figure 8. Performance status of Capacity Building project for Q3 2021



Intensifying Capacity Strengthening Support to RDCs

To effectively support the Chevron GMoU communities, PIND conducted an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) on the Regional Development Committees (RDCs) in 2018 to identify gaps and possible entry points for interventions. As part of ongoing support to the RDCs, PIND continues to build the capacity of the RDCs to implement recommendations of the OCA. This quarter, three training programs were organized for various committees and leadership of the RDCs, more details of the training are given in annex 2.

Video Production and Photography Training

In 2019, PIND in collaboration with Participatory Partnerships for Community Development (PPCD) facilitated the first phase of video production and photography training for the RDCs/CCDCs, to build the capacity of the RDCs and CCDCs on video production and photography for resource mobilization, advocacy, communication, and stakeholder engagement. To further deepen their understanding and enhance their skills, a second phase of the capacity-building exercise was done on video production and photography for the RDCs and CCDCs in Q3. The training had a total of 30 participants (5 females) from five RDCs, one CCDC, and five mentoring organizations.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Training

To further close the gaps identified from the 2018 OCA process, PIND in collaboration with PPCD conducted training on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion for Chevron RDCs and CCDC's leadership and Gender Committee members, with an overall objective to increase participants' knowledge and understanding of GESI concepts and application in projects and processes. The training was held in Asaba, Delta State from August 3 to 5, 2021. It had in attendance a total of 31 participants (18 females) from five RDCs, two CCDCs, and four mentoring organizations. A major outcome of the training was a commitment by the RDCs and CCDCs to effectively mainstream GESI in their programs, projects, and activities and in the distribution of development resources. This is evident in the draft GESI mainstreaming policies developed by each RDC and CCDC. The next step is for PIND and PGPA to further deepen their capacity through a coaching and mentoring session to finalize the draft policies for effective GESI mainstreaming.

Sustainable Project Management Training

The 2018 OCA also identified the need for the RDC PPRC committee members to be trained on sustainable project implementation and monitoring with an overall objective of enhancing the skills of the RDCs and CCDCs PPRC committee members to successfully plan, manage, execute, and monitor sustainable projects that will outlive their tenures in the communities they represent. This quarter, PIND and PGPA, organized a training on sustainable project management. The training was held in Benin, Edo State from August 31 to September 2, 2021. A total of 26 PPRC members (three females) from five RDCs and three CCDCs were in attendance. The training introduced the participants to sustainability for project

implementation and managing for results. An immediate outcome of the training was the development of a draft project sustainability plan for the RDCs and CCDCs which will be finalized through further coaching and mentoring, for effective implementation. The training also brought out the need for further strengthening of the PPRC M&E unit of the committee and capacity building for the RDCs and CCDCs Resource Mobilization Committee members. All these have been factored in as the next step of action.

5.2 Advocacy

Facilitating the development of well-structured and articulated State long-term development plans and influencing policies are examples of ways to drive equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth.

The principal focus of the advocacy project in 2021 is to promote, inform and influence policies and approaches that foster productivity increases and inclusive, equitable economic opportunities for businesses, State Governments, and Federal institutions and agencies operating in the Niger Delta; thereby contributing to the achievement of SDG 8. Specifically, Advocacy will continue to focus on three key areas of work as contained in PIND's Strategic plan (2020-2024): To influence spending and funding from government, donors, and the private sector organizations on new projects in the Niger Delta; Support the Economic Development program in addressing emerging advocacy issues of access to arable land for smallholder farmers and addressing constraints on small businesses brought about by multi-taxation and illegal levies; and Provide support to the peacebuilding efforts to institutionalize strategies that will promote security and conflict prevention across the Niger Delta.

Significant Achievements – summary

In Q3, 2021, the study/assessment of multiple taxation and illegal levies in the Niger Delta continued with Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) held with stakeholders in Abia, Delta, and Rivers State. Initial study findings reveal that many businesses in the region are struggling with illegal levies and multiplicity of legal taxes, which have hampered their productivity and growth.

In addition, PIND held meetings with high-level government stakeholders in Delta, Edo, and Ondo States in a bid to establish committees that will help to articulate policies on access to agricultural land for smallholder farmers in the three pilot States. It is expected that these committees will move the recommendations from the high-level forum organized in Asaba in quarter one, forward and ensure that state governments develop policies that will improve access to land for agriculture in the respective States.

Similarly, PIND held extensive meetings with the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), culminating in an agreement on the terms of collaboration, as well as timelines for the collaborative activities, between the Ministry and PIND for setting up a Peace and Security Architecture for the Niger Delta region.

The extent of responsiveness in addressing discriminatory practices concerning equitable access to land by smallholder farmers.

To expand program benefits to 150,000 farmers and increasing their incomes by 40% during the third funding cycle, one key advocacy support is to advocate for increased access to agricultural land to enable smallholder farmers to expand their production. In Q3, PIND continued to advocate for increased access to arable land for smallholder farmers in the Niger Delta.

Following the validation of the findings of the access to arable land study and dissemination of the report, PIND proposed the formation of state-based committees in the pilot states of Edo, Delta and Ondo, to brainstorm and generate state-specific action plans for the implementation of recommendations from the study. The rationale for working through committees is to create a platform for public-private partnership in the agriculture sector, improve relations between government, communities, and agro investors and create better economic opportunities for smallholder farmers who are the backbone of the agriculture sector. The proposed committees would be expected to carry out three key responsibilities:

- Produce a brief on the arable land-related laws, policies, and practices in the State
- Liaise with relevant stakeholders to provide strategies to address constraints in bureaucratic bottlenecks for arable land acquisition, rent, or allocation
- Rally funds to strengthen the geographical information systems for mapping available arable land and resources required to develop them in the short, medium, and long term.

In furtherance of this objective in Q3, PIND held a series of meetings with State executives in Delta, Edo, and the Ondo States to encourage them to form these committees. So far, the States have agreed to collaborate with PIND and commence the process of internal identification and selection of members of the proposed committees.

The extent of change in policy concerning multiple taxations on small-scale businesses.

Many scholarly resources have reported that there has been an increase in multiple taxation, as well as the collection of illegal levies in many of the Niger Delta States. This issue has also been reported by PIND's Economic Development partners. To better understand the extent to which the issue of multiple taxation and illegal levying affects small businesses operating in the Niger Delta, the study/assessment of multiple taxation and illegal levies in the Niger Delta continued in Q3 with Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions with stakeholders in Abia, Delta, and Rivers State. Key stakeholders interviewed included the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture in the respective States, Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and government agencies in charge of taxation in the State and local government areas. Initial study findings reveal that many businesses in the region are struggling with illegal levies and multiplicity of legal taxes, which have hampered their productivity and growth. Local radio conversations are planned for Q4, 2021.



Long-Term Planning

Abia State Long-Term Development Plan:

In Q3, Governor Ikpeazu presented the Abia State long-term development plan to 'Abians' during the Abia State 30th anniversary celebration in Umuahia. It is interesting to note that before this public presentation, there had been diverse interest groups and citizens' engagement forums aimed at ensuring the government's accountability for the plan.

Edo State Long-Term Development Plan:

In July 2021, PIND formally presented the final draft of the Edo State Sustainable Development plan (2020-2050) to members of the review committee established by the Executive Governor of Edo State, H.E. Godwin Obaseki in Benin, the Edo State capital. PIND also continued to support Edo State to prepare for the public launch of the plan which the Governor has scheduled for November 2021 at the Alaghodaro Festival.

Quality and comprehensive policies and strategies that promote a peaceful non-violent society.

PIND has continued to engage with the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA) and the BRACED Commission committee assigned by the South-South Governors, to design the Peace and Security Framework for the region. In Q3, 2021, the BRACED Commission followed up on their initial meeting in February 2021 to advance work with the six South-South State governments to set up the regional security framework. After PIND submitted a concept note to both the BRACED Commission and MNDA in a bid to harmonize efforts being made by the two parties; PIND held two meetings with the MNDA involving Directors and Deputy Directors of the Policy and Statistics unit as well as the Community Development department.

The Honorable Minister for Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio has requested a meeting with PIND in November 2021 to discuss PIND's role in providing technical assistance to the Commission as it designs the framework for peace and security in the Niger Delta region.

NDLink

The platform attained 15,000,000 visits milestone in Q1 and continued to build on this in Q2 and Q3. To ensure that the platform is sustainable and runs independent of PIND, PIND is working to make it attractive for external partners. To this end, PIND is developing a Partner circle initiative which will help raise funds for the platform and simultaneously give Partners who join the circle, visibility on the platform. Partners will be grouped into gold, silver, and bronze partnership level, with varying service offerings for each level. PIND will engage a myriad of partners to join in funding and directing the future of the platform.

So far, NDLink has recorded 4,233 downloads surpassing its target of 2,200 for the year. These downloaded documents include weekly conflict reports, briefs, journals, etc. NDLink has also reached 3,503 people with information about activities of development organizations in the Niger Delta with 19 verified job applications published in 2021 thus far.

5.3 Communications

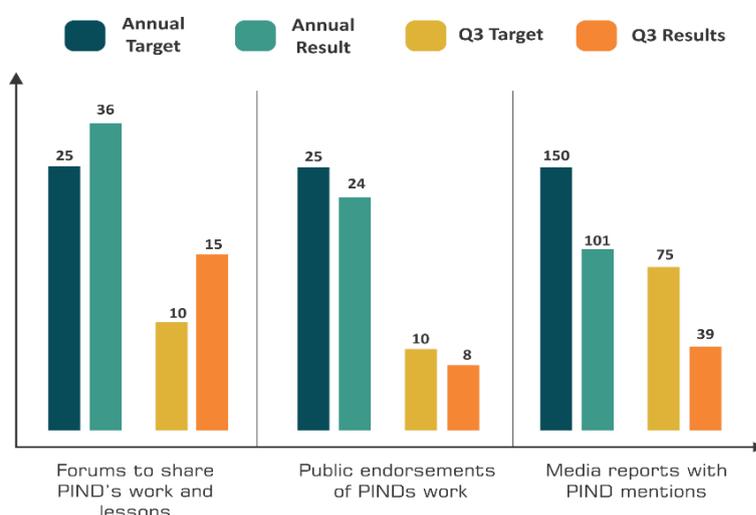
PIND's communication activities are geared towards upscaling the visibility of the Foundation by getting people to know about PIND, talk about PIND, and engage with PIND, to strengthen its reputation and attract target stakeholders to support PIND's cause, partner with PIND, fund PIND's programs and replicate PIND's proven models.

PIND continued its social responsibility of reporting incidents of COVID-19 within the region. The aim is to provide information on regional incidents of COVID-19, state hotlines, and other relevant resources gathered from global and national health authorities such as the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) via PIND Niger Delta COVID-19 update webpage and PIND’s social media platforms.

PIND shared 21 new contents about PIND and its partners in Q3, 2021. Some of the knowledge products, organizational updates, and social issues actively promoted during the quarter include: Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Updates; Georgetown Case Study on Private Sector Engagement and Social Investment in the Niger Delta, that spotlighted USAID and PIND’s partnership for the MARKETS II project; the PIND Q2 2021 Progress Report; Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Tracker - 2021 Q2, Improving Production of Quality Fish Seeds, 30- Year Development Plan - A Roadmap in Taking Policy Decisions, and other original or repurposed website content.

These products earned 2,131 downloads from the PIND website. PIND’s website recorded 11,151 new visitors and 19,130 repeat visitors, resulting in 29,956 views of posted content that increased awareness of PIND.

Figure 11. Performance status of Communications activities for Q3 2021



Increasing awareness of PIND among stakeholder groups through digital and mainstream media

Through PIND’s communications efforts, an additional 3,337,673 people gained awareness about PIND through the Foundation’s digital media platforms (968,916) and the mainstream media (2,368,757) persons gained awareness about PIND through the Foundation’s digital media platforms and mainstream media in Q3, 2021. This makes the total number of persons with new or increased awareness about PIND in 2021 so far, 10,217,573 persons, exceeding the annual target of 6,052,520.

Some specific PIND models, knowledge products, organizational updates, and social issues actively promoted during the quarter and their reach and engagements with stakeholders include the following:

1. Social Media

During the second quarter of the year, PIND posted a total of 137 new content about PIND and related topics across PIND's social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These posts reached 957,532 people who viewed them and became either more aware of, or newly aware of PIND, its programs, and its activities. In total 2,207,537 people have been reached this year through social media platforms, surpassing the annual target of 1,000,000 persons reached via these platforms. People who viewed the posts positively engaged with them by liking, commenting, sharing, replying, retweeting, clicking links, and referencing the posts, leading to a total of 34,613 engagements in the reporting period, and a total of 77,215 so far in 2021. These increased engagements increased the potential for PIND to attract new audiences.

2. Newsletter

To reach other stakeholders digitally, who may not be active on social media, PIND produced and disseminated three newsletters to recipients in target stakeholder groups during the quarter in review, reaching 1,905 people. The knowledge

resources disseminated include The Georgetown Case Study Launch Zoom Webinar announcement; the Q2 2021 Progress Report launch newsletter; and a voting campaign newsletter for the MKO Abiola Community Engagement Award 2021 organized by CSR in Action. These knowledge resources disseminated as newsletters attracted 152 new subscribers to PIND’s mailing list within the quarter, making the total number of subscribers so far in 2021 to PIND’s mailing list 276,181 persons.

The top 5 stakeholders who engaged most with the newsletters include Local and International Donor and Development Organizations, PIND BoT, Private Sector Investors, Gender and Vulnerable Groups, and Chevron.

3. PIND Website

In Q3, PIND’s approach to reaching stakeholders and providing access to information about PIND through the Foundation’s website, focused on keeping stakeholders updated with PIND news and information in real-time. It also included improving search engine optimization (SEO); making resources easily accessible and consumable for our website visitors by breaking them into bit-sizes, so visitors could engage specifically with their areas of interest contained within the resource information. PIND also ensured that visits to the website were maximized through social media and newsletter referrals, through targeted social media campaigns to increase traffic to the website and the access to the resources hosted within it. PIND’s website performance for Q3, 2021 is presented in Table 12. In 2021 so far, the cumulative number of new visitors to the PIND website is 29,650 against an annual target of 52,020.

Table 12. PIND’s website performance summary in Q3 2021.

11,151 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time
27,837 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND
21 new contents about PIND and partners shared
2,131 downloads of PIND’s knowledge products to learn more, making PIND a thought-leader
Most of the new and repeat visits were from high donor countries like the USA, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom as well as the Nigerian audience.

4. Email Enquiries

Following consumption of the content shared on the website, newsletters, and social media platforms, PIND received a total of 81 email inquiries in Q3, and 426 enquiries so far in 2021, attaining 50% of the annual target of 845. Some of the email enquiries PIND received in Q3 were requests for information on topical issues relating to the Niger Delta, data and partnerships by academia and non-governmental organizations, from local and international stakeholders. This is a good indicator that PIND is becoming the go-to organization for socio-economic development and Peace Building in the Niger Delta.

5. Mainstream Media

IN Q3, 2021, PIND leveraged the vast reach of the mainstream media to reach PIND’s target audience who may not be consumers of information via digital media but rather are avid consumers of news and information from the mainstream or traditional media. To this end, PIND facilitated the mainstream media broadcast of 19 media publications, which led to 39 positive media mentions of PIND (nine of which were media mentions not facilitated by PIND) in Q3, across various formats such as print, radio, or TV, thereby increasing the awareness of PIND, its program and project activities, models, and results as these positive publications expose the PIND brand to its target audience.

As such, 2,368,757 individuals were reached via the mainstream media with key messages about PIND, its program and project activities in Q3, with a cumulative figure of 7,979,682 people reached in 2021 so far, exceeding the annual target of 5,000,000.

6. Public Endorsement of PIND

PIND received eight public endorsements of its work from stakeholders who learned more about PIND, and models by engaging with communication content on PIND’s various communication platforms. Cumulatively, the foundation has received 24 public endorsements of its work so far in 2021, against an annual target of 25. One of such public endorsements was PIND’s nomination for the MKO Abiola Community Engagement Award 2021 by CSR in Action and announcement of the Foundation’s position as the 2nd finalist for the Empowerment of Women in the community – West Africa for the 2021 edition of the Gender Mainstreaming Awards.

PIND also hosted and participated in 15 forums (a total of 26, so far in 2021 compared to an annual target of 25) where it shared relevant and useful lessons and evidence of its work to critical stakeholder groups to stimulate possible replication of the models and position PIND for new partnership opportunities. Details of the forum are given in annex 2.

5.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND's commitment to gender and social inclusion underpins efforts the organization is making to achieve greater gender equality as a key pathway towards sustainable poverty reduction and shared security and prosperity in the Niger Delta. By many measures, the last strategic phase marks a watershed period in PIND's efforts to advance gender equity in its programming. With the adoption of a new strategic plan, PIND is committed to a renewed and more ambitious development in the Niger Delta. At the center of PIND's 2020–2024 strategic plan is the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of poor women and girls, persons with disabilities and most vulnerable population. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming as a cross cutting theme, is embedded within PIND's programs and projects to ensure that PIND's activities are inclusive and reflect equitable participation and access to benefits.

Steering women's economic empowerment

PIND has a target of enabling at least 60,000 women (40% of the overall target) to increase their incomes, thereby positioning women's economic empowerment at the core of its economic development implementation activities. Efforts are being made to:

- drive a process which will lead to sustainable market reforms that are based on increased inclusion of women by ensuring institutions are better informed and equipped to respond and adapt to women's priorities in the short and long term.
- stimulate voice, choice and control for women to be an integral feature in PIND's work, with the aim of raising the agency of poor rural women in their households and communities.
- establish pilot schemes to test innovative approaches to engaging more women in profitable markets and evaluate these with the aim of replicating those which show the potential for greatest impact.

In Q3 2021, 16,509 males and 9,723 females (37% of the total beneficiaries) benefitted from the various economic development interventions in the Niger Delta in, aquaculture, poultry, cassava, cocoa, and palm oil value chains, as well as the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) development, and linkages, access to energy and capacity building events; targeted at improving their knowledge and practices, with an aim to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. Similarly, 926 males and 585 females (39% of peace actors) participated in various peacebuilding interventions including: conflict mitigation, forums on peace and stability, skills enhancements, and mentorships, for the advancement of sustainable peace in the region. Nevertheless, PIND will intensify efforts to ensure the inclusion of persons living with disabilities (PWD) in interventions in the next quarter.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

1. Insecurity in the Southeast and some parts of the South-South region continues to impede agricultural activities. In Imo and Abia states the activities of IPOB and unknown gunmen and the reported criminal activities of the groups, contribute greatly to the general sense of insecurity in these parts of the region. With the IPOB stay-at-home order every Monday there is restricted movement of goods and services including agricultural inputs and personnel. This has also limited field monitoring of activities by partners and co-facilitators. To mitigate this, market actors now devise ways to interact with less reliance on physical contact and more reliance on virtual engagements, despite the relaxation of government-imposed covid 19 restrictions. Also, market actors rely on/use periodic security reports produced by PIND to assess the risks, before embarking on field trips or visits.
2. The willingness of States to adopt new initiatives towards the end of the year appears to be a challenge. To mitigate this, PIND has decided to fund the activities of the proposed Access to Land Policy committees in pilot states, to review the state-specific action plans on the issue.
3. On the access to energy project, the developer for the community grid in Opia community, has been informed that the agreed rooftop space for mounting the solar panels in the community, is no longer available as communal space. This is posing a challenge as the developer now has to search for an alternative location within the community. The relocating the solar panels is likely to have cost implication
4. While PIND's early warning system is advanced and effective, there is a deficiency in the early response mechanism, leading to Peace Monitors getting discouraged when there is no response to the incidents they have reported. This is being addressed through Prevent Team trainings and plans to expand the network.
5. Increased forex rates have hampered PIND's use of paid promotions via social media for increased/wider reach. Social media campaigns, as with all PIND's costs, are budgeted for in NGN whereas social media promotions are paid in USD. To overcome these challenges in Q3, PIND shared content with NDPI, its sister organization, based in the US, to regularly share these contents on their social media platforms. This has also helped to cushion the effects of PIND's absence from the Twitter space since NDPI constantly mentions PIND in discussions within the Twitter community.

Lessons Learned

The effect of capacity building interventions is not always immediate. Responses from stakeholders interviewed showed that some of the impacts recorded were based on trainings that happened months after they had attended a training.

7. Program Management

Organizational Sustainability

In Q3, PIND kicked-off the DMG Events project to train 50 retailers in renewable energy, in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States, as part of DMG's Events' corporate social responsibility and as a way of giving back to communities they work in Nigeria. The company is leveraging PIND's expertise to provide capacity building for business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs in the renewable energy sector. This is a six-month program to equip beneficiaries with business skills and hands-on practical on solar panel installation and maintenance.

In addition, PIND held meetings with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to explore areas of collaboration in Cross River State. Three areas were identified for partnership and a concept note submitted to this effect:

- Expanding productivity improvement activities through demo plots: This activity will seek to improve farmer's production efficiency, working with input companies to provide business and technical skills training and access to fertilizer and other Crop Protective Products (CPPs) to guarantee improved yield for cassava farmers.
- Collaborating on an out-growers program.
- Training and on-boarding more Agro dealers and Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSE).

In September 2021, PIND and Henrich Boell Foundation had preliminary meetings to discuss a potential partnership between the two organizations. PIND subsequently submitted a concept note for deploying Solar Refrigeration 'Cold Stations' in Koluama 2 Community, Brass LGA, Bayelsa State. PIND plans to work with the KOTOFS Deep Sea fishers' association to deploy, operate and maintain the solar refrigeration 'cold-stations' through technical and business services provision. 500 fisherfolks will be targeted in the community with a wide participation of women and youth. The Cold Station will offer blast refrigeration services to the beneficiaries, and it is anticipated that this will lead to increased income and associated benefits for a network of fisherfolks, farmers, trade guilds, market women associations and local cooperatives within Koluama 2 community and its environs.

PIND was nominated for the \$2.5m Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize. The prize was inaugurated in 1996, as a tribute to Conrad N. Hilton's lifetime of international humanitarian efforts, the annual award is presented to a nonprofit organization judged to have made exemplary and extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering. PIND completed the application and submitted all required documents for the process, which will then be evaluated by an independent, international jury for the final selection. Also, in September 2021, PIND was recognized by Accenture and Business Engage for an Africa-Wide award in Gender Mainstreaming (West Africa Category). PIND came second place after competing against several organizations, including Ecobank and Price Water House Coopers (PWC-). The Gender Mainstreaming Awards was designed to encourage non-profit and private sector organizations to commit to achieving more meaningful representation of women in business.

Measuring change, learning, and generating knowledge

In Q3, 2021, PIND concluded the independent review of the MSD portfolio of projects, for determining the areas (sectors) that have a high likelihood of producing sustainable impact, vis a vis PIND's investments, and thus highlight areas where PIND can repurpose its resources to achieve more 'bang for its buck'. The recommendations of the review have been submitted to PIND for consideration.

Also, in July 2021, PIND held its Mid-year review workshop, an internal progress check and learning forum. Specifically, the aim of the workshop was to celebrate overall program accomplishments, collate and share effective practices and learning points, review progress against program plans, and identify areas programs are lagging in order to re-strategize.

In addition, PIND conducted outcome monitoring exercises and assessments of the Economic development program component projects. The aim was to update key assumptions underpinning projects' results and assess the extent to which outcomes and impacts were being achieved by the projects.

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security

The phase 3 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) adopted to contain the spread of the COVID-19, are still in effect at PIND office locations. A two-meter distance is still maintained between seats for shared office spaces, with side-by-side or back-to-back table/seating arrangements. Also, the use of face masks is still compulsory for all personnel in common areas, within our office premises as stated in the SOP. This quarter, PIND also arranged a series of COVID 19 tests for all

consultants in the three office locations and ensured the safety of all personnel by providing hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes and spray, as well as face masks both in the offices and during field trips.

PIND facilitated virtual/remote meetings, as well as physical meetings where necessary, without compromising our HSE standards. PIND continues to undertake risk assessments of planned activities and trips based on informed analysis and security advice, and where necessary, encourage virtual/remote meetings over physical meetings, to ensure the safety of personnel. As such this quarter, PIND continued to deploy resources, such as the provision of weekly regional security reports, as well as community specific reports, when necessary, provided travel advice and security tips for approved field trips, as well as liaised with the emergency response team at various locations in readiness for uncertainties; to safeguard staff lives and well-being. Consequently, no accidents or travel-associated incidents were recorded during the quarter.

8. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Q4 2021, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- facilitate access to finance for fish farmers in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital and monitor the progress of the hatchery operators and outreach activities of service providers.
- deepen the productivity improvement, quality improvement and access to high-yielding seeds interventions in the cocoa-producing states of the Niger Delta
- Partner with BASICS II to host the National Cassava Summit and support SK, Sterling Bank and Dufil to commence the access to finance/Cassava out-grower scheme
- Create/improve linkages between farmers, service providers and large companies/ off takers.
- facilitate loans to 200 farmers in the Niger Delta, recommend qualifying farmers to partnering financial institutions for loans under the risk- sharing arrangement with them.

Under the **access to energy program**, PIND will implement one Chevron Access to Energy Grant in Kpokugbene community in Delta state. It will also facilitate the deployment of one solar refrigeration unit in Akinsolu community in Ondo state, as well as support the implementation of a CSR funded solar entrepreneurship business linkages program for beneficiaries in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states.

Under the **peacebuilding program**, PIND will commence the perception study to ascertain the proportion of the population in intervention locations across the Niger Delta that feel safe in the area they reside, commence activities to ensure the integration of Economic Development and Peace Building programs, for conflict sensitivity, train conflict monitors in KEFFES and Dodo River GMoU communities on conflict management and EWER and supervise the implementation of small grants.

The **Delta Youth Employment Program** will produce an orientation manual to guide the on- boarding of trainees on DYEP, review and adapt soft skills curriculum, conduct learning forums with Implementing Partners, produce the detailed 2022 Plan and Budget for DYEP and commence training of youths in the identified sectors.

Finally, the **advocacy project** will continue engagements to establish Access to Land Technical Policy Committees in pilot states, organize a series of local radio conversations to disseminate the findings and recommendations from the multiple taxation and illegal levies study, support the Executive Governor of Edo State, H.E. Godwin Obaseki, to publicly launch of the Edo State Sustainable Development plan at the Alaghadaro summit (an annual investment summit in the State). There are also plans to meet with the Honorable Minister for Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, to further discuss the details of the proposed Regional Peace and Security Framework. It is expected that a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between PIND and MNDAs after the meeting.

ANNEX 1

Economic Development	
Sector	Details of Key Achievements
Aquaculture	<p>Outreach-People Trained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Delta State, Chuvaak agro, a service provider supported by PIND, trained fish farmers on best farming practices and business skills. This training was carried out in collaboration with Partners for Development, to reach 39 farmers. ○ In Bayelsa State, Kingdom Obuza Ventures, an Aquaculture service provider, in collaboration with Top Feed, a feed company in Nigeria trained 21 farmers on best fish management practices. ○ In Cross Rivers State, Argom Bernard, a service provider, trained 30 fish farmers on fish farming practices and showcased/demonstrated improved fish processing technology to these participants. ○ In Rivers State, Aqua Green Initiative (AGI), a Master Service Provider and two other service providers (Constance and Peter) facilitated seven trainings on fish farming best practices, reaching a total of 502 participants. ○ In Ondo State, two hatchery operators: Shadi farms and Cedar of Lebanon, as well as PD consult, a service provider sold improved fish seeds to 154 farmers. ○ 224 farmers were trained on business skills and entrepreneurship in Rivers, Bayelsa, and Akwa Ibom States, to build their capacities to access loans. The farmers were also linked to the CBN AGSMEIS scheme by CAD consulting and three other business service providers, for the expansion and upgrade of their facilities. <p>Outreach-Access to Finance and input credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Delta State, 48 farmers accessed loans worth N11.1 million. 33 of these farmers received input credit worth N8.81 million from an input dealer, while 15 farmers accessed loans totaling N2.3 million from Sterling Bank. ○ In Ondo State, 40 fish farmers accessed loans worth N16.02 million from Sterling bank. ○ To enable the inclusion of farmers who could not access funds from financial institutions, 24 farmers in Rivers State were further supported by Aqua Green Initiatives, a service provider, to access input credit in the form of fish seeds from hatchery operators and feed worth N3.15 million. <p>Service providers organizing demos for Chokor ovens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PPGwarry global resources ○ Babatunde Samson <p>Improved productivity and income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2,023 (79%) of the farmers had adopted improved practices on their farms. Applying a user-benefit ratio of 73%, it was estimated that 1,470 of the 2,023 farmers adopting improved practices on their farms, experienced an increase in income. When compared with the comparison farmers who did not use better farm management practices, the 1,470 adopting farmers had a Net additional income of N1,076,160,333, at an average of N731,989/farmer. This income was estimated for production on 3 ponds for one cycle carried out within the year. ○ Similarly, of the 1,113 processors reached, 82 adopted smoking technologies. The income changes for 82 fish processors who adopted the chorkor ovens (55) and smoking kilns (27) between Q1 – Q3 was estimated using combined metrics from the outcome monitoring and previous assessments. ○ An average monthly income of N14,459 was used to estimate the income of 55 processors adopting the chorkor ovens. The additional income earned by these fish processors for so far in 2021 is estimated to be N5,744,259 ○ The combined metrics reveal that processors who adopt the smoking kiln as a processing technology, are expected to experience average monthly incomes of N83,699. This gives a total income of N11,295,362 for the 27 processors who adopted the Kiln so far in 2021. ○ The total value of Net Additional Income earned by adopting farmers and processors is N1,093,199,955 so far in 2021, against a target of N1,039,706,390 for the year. Similarly, the total number of farmers and processors with increased income in 2021 so far is 1,552, compared to a target 2,500 for the year.

<p>Cassava</p>	<p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partners (service providers) reached a total of 1,342 (647 females) cassava farmers, directly, across the region. Additionally, PIND and KOLPING Society of Nigeria continued the expansion of activities to improve access to improved Cassava stems working with Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs). Through these activities an additional 1,086 (660 Females) farmers were reached, making the total farmer outreach for Q3, 2,428 (1,307 females) against this quarter's direct outreach target of 4,000. Nonetheless, the total outreach so far in 2021 is 12,320 surpassing the years' direct farmer outreach target of 11,000. ○ CSEs trained in previous years, reported sales of over 1,000 bundles of improved stems ratooned from their plots. <p>Improved productivity and income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12,320 direct farmers were trained on good agronomic practices between January and September 2021. The outcome monitoring exercise revealed that 94% (11,581) of the farmers trained, applied these improved practices on their farms, with an average farm holding (farm size) of 0.95 hectares. ○ Although these direct farmers are expected to experience increased yields at harvest next year, the outcome monitoring exercise collected metrics with which to estimate income increases for adopting farmers within the year. ○ From the outcome monitoring, the estimated additional yield was 12,935kg per hectare for adopting farmers. This is the difference between 20,416kg/ha (adopting) and 7,481kg/ha (comparison farmers i.e., non adopting farmers). The average estimated additional income per hectare is N235,374, resulting in N224,488 as the projected average additional income per farmer with farm size of 0.95ha in 2021. ○ Using a user-benefit-ratio of 99% of the adopting farmers, obtained from previous assessments of the sector, adopting farmers with increased income is projected to be 11,465 direct farmers. The projected net attributable income for these farmers in 2021, at an average of N224,488 per farmer, is N2,573,752,285. <p>Jobs facilitated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The outcome monitoring estimated that on average each adopted farmer created 0.07 FTE jobs, as such the 11,581 direct adopting farmers in 2021, had enabled the creation of 762 net additional FTE jobs by Q3 2021. Using metrics collected during earlier assessments, the estimated jobs facilitated copying farmers is 0.066 additional FTE per farmer. The 9,265 indirect farmers, who copied improved practices in their farms, thus created 609 FTE jobs. In summary, as at Q3 2021, the net attributable job estimated for cassava farmers was 1,371, compared to the annual target of 707 jobs.
<p>Cocoa</p>	<p>Outreach</p> <p>2,678 new farmers reached as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Ondo state, four FSPs (Olumuyiwa Ibikunle, Raphael Adebayo, Olanrewaju Olajide, and Akinbohun Bankole Olawale) trained 1,446 farmers, organized on-farm demonstrations and provided farm support services on GAP. An exporter (Bemata Investment) provided quality improvement practices and support to 336 farmers. Also, a nursery operator (Adebiyi Jimoh) reached 41 farmers through awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of quality seed. ○ In Edo state, an FSP (Ehimika Emmanuel) trained 160 farmers, organized on-farm demonstrations, and provided farm services on GAP to these farmers. An exporter (Novak Investment) provided quality improvement practices and support to 402 farmers. Also, a nursery operator (Adebayo Sylvester) reached 35 farmers through awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of quality seed. ○ In Cross River state, a nursery operator/FSP (Alobi Nentui Ayila), in collaboration with AA Cooperative (an off-taker), trained 258 farmers, organized on-farm demonstrations on GAP and undertook awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of quality seed s to these farmers. <p>Improved productivity and income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The outcome monitoring exercise revealed that 70.15% (6,187) of the 8,820 reached directly, adopted the improved practices/technologies on their farms. These farmers had average farm sizes of 3.49 hectares of cocoa farms. The findings also showed that the adopting farmers also experienced a yield increase of 151kg per hectare (43%) when compared with the comparison group (non-adopting farmers).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The net attributable income increase of the 6,187 adopting cocoa farmers so far in 2021 was estimated to be N1,444,462,017, at an average of N233,459 per farmer with farm size of 3.49ha (N66,919 per ha). ○ The 6,187 farmers with increased additional income represent a 74% performance of the 8,400-target for 2021. Also, the N1,444,462,017 net additional income is 90% of the N1,600,000,000 target for the year. <p>Leverage</p> <p>In Q3, PIND leveraged new investments worth N870,000 from three service providers who invested in the purchase of spraying and pod-breaking technologies, promoted by partner equipment dealers. A breakdown of the equity investment by service providers is presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purchase of two units mist blowers (for agrochemical application) worth N480,000 by farm conservation services in Ondo state from C. Woerman Nigeria Limited. ○ Purchase of another two units of mist blowers (for agrochemical application) worth N140,000 by Conservation Cocoa Farmer Association (COFA) in Ondo state from Ifemco Interbiz. ○ Purchase of 100 pieces of Pelle bongo (for cocoa pod breaking and de-pulping) worth N250,000, by Saro Agrosociences Ltd for their network of farmers in Ondo state from TD&C Limited. ○ The N870,000 invested by farmers in Q3, along with N2,400,000 leveraged in Q1+Q2 make the total amount leveraged so far in 2021 by market actors, N3,270,000. ○ Also, in Q3, farmers' investment in the purchase of agro-inputs (seed, crop fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers, etc.) and agro-technologies, and engagement of additional labor were estimated using the PIND estimation framework. Data from the outcome monitoring exercise showed that each adopting farmer invested an average of N83,666 on their farms. This gives a total of N517,660,185 worth of investments made by the 6,187 farmers who adopted improved practices and technologies from Q1 to Q3, 2021. ○ Adding the N3,270,000 direct investment in technology adoption to the N517.6 million leveraged through investment in the adoption of improved practices, makes the total equity investment leveraged by the sector N520,930,185 for 2021. This is 71.4% of the N730,000,000 target for 2021.
<p>Palm Oil</p>	<p>Outreach</p> <p>7,328 new farmers reached as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Q3 2021, several trainings on BMP were carried out which saw 1,028 Oil Palm farmers (460 females) trained by four agro-dealers; and 2,624 (833 females) trained by seven Lead Farmers as shown in the table below. The activities bring the total outreach recorded for the BMP initiatives this quarter to 3,652 (1,134 female). ○ Others that contributed to the overall outreach for this quarter in the sector were: 121 farmers who purchased improved seeds; 3,090 farmers who adopted the use of improved harvesting technology; and 465 farmers who adopted the use of the improved processing technology. This makes the total outreach for Q3 2021, 7,328 compared to the Q3 target of 6,814 farmers; and cumulatively 12,819 farmers reached (92%) compared to the annual target of 14,000. ○ In Q3, PIND trained 11 nursery operators on nursery management, from Ondo (4), Bayelsa (1), Akwa Ibom (2), Edo (2), and Delta (2). The training was facilitated by PRESCO plantation. The activity was part of the strategy to improve the capacity and sales of nursery operators in the region. It is expected that these nursery operators will pass on key information to other nursery operators within and outside their locality which will lead to improved sales by nursery operators and use of improved seedlings by farmers in the region. Consequently, 81,378 seedlings were purchased by 121 farmers across Delta (42), Edo (1), Rivers (5), Akwa Ibom (13), Abia (30), and Imo states (30). These include small farmers that purchase an average of 10 seedlings each and medium-scale farmers that purchase 1,000 seedlings each. These bring the total number of seedlings purchased in the year to 228,628 seedlings, by 202 farmers against the annual target of 210, 000 seedlings by 500 farmers. <p>Improved productivity, income and jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased income and Jobs under BMP: Between January and September 2021, 8,413 oil palm farmers participated in best management practices (BMP) training. From the outcome monitoring, it was established that 90% (7,572) of the trained farmers adopted the BMP and had an average farm size of 3.2 ha. The average additional yield of the adopting farmers was

5.7 tons/ha –difference between a yield of 13.19 tons/ha (adopters) and 7.54 tons/ha (non-adopting farmers). The average additional income per hectare was estimated to be N138,295.16. Thus, the average additional income per farmer, for average farm sizes of 3.2 ha, is N443,806.91. Previous assessments indicate a user-benefit-ratio of 53%, this implies that 4,039 of the total number of adopting farmers (7,572) increased their incomes because of the intervention. The net attributable income of the 4,039 BMP farmers as at Q3 2021, is estimated to be N1,792,685,814.

- Regarding jobs facilitated, the assessment showed that the average FTE job contributed by 1 farmer was 0.096 which makes the total jobs created by the intervention, 731.
- Increased income and Jobs under Improved harvesting tools (IHT): Farmers who adopt the improved harvesting technology, increase the quantity of fresh fruit bunches (ffbs harvested from their farms, which reduces the losses experienced due to scarcity of climbers, and delayed harvesting. As shown in Table 5 (last row), between January and September 2021, 3,090 oil palm farmers adopted 1,030 improved harvesting technologies (Malaysian Knife and Mechanical Adjustable Harvesters) at an average of 3 farmers per technology. The outcome monitoring revealed that the average farm size per farmer is 8ha, and the additional quantity of fruits bunches harvested from the farm due to IHT adoption was 1,750, compared to 5,553 ffbs harvested from the same farm before adoption of IHT. This gives a 32% increase in the quantity of ffb harvested. It costs an average of N130 to harvest 1 ffb. The attributable income was estimated by the difference in the gross margins before and after the adoption, which is N81, 840 per hectare, from the sales of the additional ffbs, when compared with the scenario before the adoption. The net attributable income from the additional ffbs harvested by 3,090 adopting farmers so far, is N2,095,268,328.99, which is an average of N678, 080 per farmer.
- Regarding the jobs facilitated, farmers usually engage an average of two harvesters in a season to effectively utilize the mechanical adjustable harvester (MAH). They also hire more field assistants to harvest and evacuate the additional fresh fruit bunches resulting from the adoption of the harvesting technology. The assessment showed that the average FTE job created by 1 farmer was 0.17 making the total jobs created by the farmers who adopted the improved harvesting technologies, 519 FTE jobs so far in year 2021.
- Increased income and Jobs under Improved processing tools (SSPE): Thirty-one (31) improved processing technologies were adopted between January to September 2021. The outcomes monitoring exercise showed that an average of 15 processors jointly use each improved technologies; making the total number of processors using the technologies, 465.
- Peak season: The analysis also found the average sales due to increased volume of oil per processor for the peak season, at N1,637,567.69, with processing costs of N741,914.29. This makes the average additional income per processor to be N895,653. Thus, the total projected income for use of the IPT by the 465 processors during the peak season so far in 2021, is N416,478,830.50.
- Off peak season: The average sales per processor during the off-peak season was estimated to be N133,502.96, with seasonal average processing costs of N40,850.33 per processor. This makes the average additional income per farmer to be N92, 653. Thus, the total projected income for use of the IPT by the 465 processors during the off- peak season is N43,083,473.77. This makes the total income earned by these processors during the peak and off- peak seasons of 2021 so far, N459,562,304.27.
- Regarding jobs facilitated, the processors who adopt the improved processing equipment hire additional hands to help separate the fruits from the palm bunches, sieve the loose fruits, load the sterilizers, and separate the nuts from the fiber. The assessment showed that the average FTE job contributed by 1 processor was 0.55, making the total jobs created by the 465 processors who adopted the improved technologies so far, 255 FTE jobs. Overall, the total number of farmers with increased income, because of interventions in the palm oil sector is 7,594 while the estimated value of increased income for actors adopting these interventions is N4.347 billion. The performance exceeds the 2021 target of 8, 666 farmers earning additional N3.164 billion in income. The total number of jobs created in the sector from Q1-Q3, was 1,505 against the 2021 target of 2,700. The shortfall in the target for jobs was due to the high cost of adoption of BMP activities by farmers. For example, the additional cost of maintaining one hectare of farmland increased by 146% due to the high cost of inputs.

Leverage

	<p>In the quarter under review, N82,590,400 was leveraged through private sector investment in the sector. A breakdown for the amount leveraged in the sector is presented below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ N63 million was invested in the purchase of 81,378 seedlings by 121 farmers across Delta (42), Edo (1), Rivers (5), Akwa Ibom (13), Abia (30), and Imo states (30) ○ N14.225 million was invested in the purchase of nine improved processing technology by farmers in Edo (1), Rivers (2), Cross River State (1), and Akwa Ibom state (1) ○ N5.123 million was invested in the purchase of 401 improved harvesting technologies by farmers in Delta (136), in Edo (214), Rivers (30) and Akwa Ibom (21) states.
<p>Poultry</p>	<p>Outreach</p> <p>2,187 new farmers reached as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Q3, 2021, as part of PIND’s strategy and efforts to strengthen the support market for service provision for poultry farmers and ensure proper coordination of actors in the sector, the poultry team facilitated a virtual knowledge-sharing workshop for 15 poultry service providers (PSPs) to learn from one another, share lessons and build viable business relationships. ○ Also, PIND in collaboration with Zoetis International (a vaccine manufacturing company) and CAD consulting (a master service provider) trained and onboarded 12 new poultry service providers to support the expansion of training and other intervention activities to more farmers. The trained new PSPs will complement the existing 32 making the total number PSPs trained by PIND, 44. PIND will continue to mentor the new PSPs and facilitate linkages between them and other actors, including farmers' associations. PIND also began engaging day- old chicks (DOC) producers to begin the process of improving access to quality DOCs to farmers. Initial meetings were held with Agrited Limited. The team also facilitated linkage forums and promotional workshops aimed at linking farmers to service providers and exposing them to the importance of vaccination to chicken and egg production. ○ In Delta State, Mr. Musa Obohor (a village- level dealer), sold quality vaccines to 167 poultry farmers (66 females). Also, Leonard Akachukwu (a poultry service provider), trained and supported 211 poultry farmers (102 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. Also, Jane, (a poultry service provider), trained 161 poultry farmers (78 females) on good poultry practices and business skills. ○ In Rivers State, Aqua Green Initiatives (a poultry service provider), trained 883 poultry farmers (117 females) on good poultry practices and business skills. Another service provider, CAD digital farms trained 184 poultry farmers (63 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum and supported them with the necessary documentation to enable them to access loans through the CBN Agric Scheme: ○ ○ In Ondo State, The Arkshore Konsult (master service provider) trained 32 farmers (16 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. He also facilitated loan access to 17 of the farmers trained, in partnership with Sombreiro Kapital (SK), ○ In Imo State, Chinedu Uduanusu (a poultry service provider) trained 61 farmers (23 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the Nigeria Agriculture Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC). ○ In Cross Rivers State, Mr. Bassey Jacobs, (a poultry service provider) supported 200 poultry farmers (78 females) with technical and business training, advisory services, linkages to inputs and markets. ○ In Edo State, Joseph Osawaru (poultry service provider) trained 60 poultry farmers (46 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC. ○ In Akwa Ibom state, Pastor Christian Kasim (a village-level dealer), sold quality vaccines to 50 poultry farmers (31 females). In the same vein, John Paul (a village Level Dealer) reached 63 farmers (20 females) with vaccine and advisory support. Also, Mrs. Nseobong Udo (a village Level Dealer), reached 115 poultry farmers (69 females) with vaccines and advisory services, as well as market linkages. As a result of the activities listed above, the sector recorded a total outreach of 2,198 (749 females) exceeding the target of 2,000 farmers for the quarter. This makes the total number of poultry farmers reached for the year, 5,944, which is about 85% of the target for the year. <p>Improved productivity, income and jobs</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the outcomes assessment of the sector, two sets of farmers were visited to ascertain and monitor the outcomes and impact of PIND’s intervention activities: farmers who were reached by PSPs for GPP and farmers who were reached by VLDs for vaccines, as at Q3 2021. The findings of the assessment showed that about 79.67% (3,858) of the 4,842 farmers reached by the PSPs with a combination of services (training on Good Poultry Practices, access to market, access to funds), adopted the improved practices with about 10% of these adopting farming obtaining funds worth N299 million to expand their operations. The analysis also showed that about 68% (2623) of the 3, 858 that adopted the improved services earned an additional N232,878 per cycle, per farmer. Unfortunately, due to the rising cost of inputs caused by the devaluation of the naira, many of them were only able to effectively carry out two farming two cycles. Therefore, the total additional income earned by this category of farmers from Q1-Q3, is N1.221 billion. ○ Regarding farmers reached through vaccination by the village level dealers as of Q3, the analysis found all the 1,102 (100%) adopted the vaccine intervention. However, the results showed that just about 83% (912) of them experienced an increase in income as some still reported high mortality. Furthermore, the analysis found that the additional attributable income to PIND from the vaccination intervention was only N21,790 per farmer per cycle. This makes the total additional income for the 912 farmers reached by vaccines, N39.7 million for two cycles. ○ Adding the income data for both categories of farmers, the total value of Net Additional Income is N1,261,508,848.92, exceeding the target of N900,000,000 for the year. Similarly, the total number of farmers with increased income as of Q3 is 3,535, a 74% performance against the target of 4,766 for the year. ○ Using data from the outcomes monitoring, it was estimated that about 1,347 FTE jobs were created by the 3,858 adopting farmers reached by the PSPs as of Q3, 2021. The jobs are mainly part-time jobs that were converted to Full- Time Equivalent (FTE). Jobs were not created by the farmers reached by the VLD farmers as most of them do the work themselves due to their small bird holding sizes.
MSMEs	<p>Outreach 843 new MSMEs reached as outlined below: Outreach activities include a business linkages forum, a business clinic, technical and business management training, business plan development, and loan application through the AGSMEIS program, and linkages to market (bulk buyers). A breakdown of the activities of the partner BSPs in the quarter is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Bayelsa state, Zigha Ayibakuro Limited (ZAL), a business service provider organized training on business management and business plan development for 344 enterprises (221 male, 123 women-owned) and supported these businesses in the loan application process for the CBN Agri- Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme funding opportunity. Of the 344 enterprises trained, 76 enterprises (43 male, 33 women-owned) accessed funds worth N244,232,648. ○ In Delta state, Life edge Consulting, one of the business service providers newly onboarded by Dorbudee Consulting, organized a business clinic for 21 (16 male, 5 women-owned) micro-businesses. The program provided an opportunity for these businesses to receive business management training, advisory support, and customized business development support to grow their businesses. ○ In Rivers states, Wider Perspectives Limited in collaboration with Nigeria Incentive- Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) Micro Finance Bank, trained 35 MSMEs (23 males and 12 women-owned), out of which 16 enterprises (8 males, 8 women-owned) accessed N28,603,650 worth of loans from the CBN AGSMEIS program. Also in Rivers state, Entrepreneurship and Innovative Centre (E&I Centre) trained 43 enterprises (20 males, 23 women-owned) on business management and business plan development and supported these businesses in the application process for the CBN AGMEIS funding opportunity. ○ CAD Consulting Limited, a Master Business Service Provider based in Rivers State, in collaboration with NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank trained 314 MSMEs (203 males and 111 women-owned) on accessing the CBN AGSMEIS fund. Of the 314 MSMEs trained, 97 (61 male and 36

	<p>women-owned) enterprises accessed funds worth N228,672,666 from the scheme. Also, Agric Entrepreneurs Nigeria Limited trained 63 enterprises (40 males and 23 women-owned) on business management and business plan development and supported these businesses in the application process for the CBN AGSMEIS funding opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In Akwa Ibom state, Green Steps Limited, a new business service provider onboarded by CAD Consulting Limited, trained 23 enterprises (18 males and 5 women-owned) on business management and business plan development, and supported these businesses in the application process for the CBN AGSMEIS funding opportunity. <p>Sales and income</p> <p>Findings from the outcome monitoring for the sector revealed that 49% of the micro-enterprises, 57% of small enterprises, and 67% of medium enterprises who receive business information, training, and access to new markets and funding opportunities, witnessed significant changes in their business performance attributable to the support of PIND in collaboration with the BSPs. This translates to 1,540 MSMEs (1,445 micro, 86 small, and 9 medium businesses) with improved performance in 2021 out of the 3,113 that accessed various business support services.</p> <p>Data from the outcomes monitoring also shows that micro, small and medium enterprises make average monthly sales of N266,664.29, N5,862,948.72, and N7,675,000.00 respectively. The average monthly income was found to be N64,250 for micro-businesses, N760,656 for small businesses, and N4,455,000 for medium businesses. The combined sales for Q1-Q3 for the 1,540 MSMEs was therefore estimated to be N8,611,252,250.88, while their combined net additional income was estimated to be N1,774,031,426.54. The N1.774 billion additional income recorded for 2021 is 89% of the N2 billion target for the year. This is broken as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o An estimated combined sales of N3,467,993,035.50 for 1,445 micro- enterprises; while the combined income is estimated at N835,577,032.50 o An estimated combined sales of N4,541,615,965.38 for 86 micro- enterprises; while the combined income is estimated at N589,226,944.04 o An Estimated combined sales of N601,643,250.00 for 9 medium enterprises; while the combined income is estimated at N349,227,450.00 <p>Leverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In Q3, CAD Consulting, Zigha Ayibakuro Limited, and Wider Perspective Limited supported 189 enterprises (77 women-owned) to access loans worth N501,508,965 from the CBN AGSMEIS. These loans were given to fund the acquisition of new equipment and technologies, expand into new business lines and improve working capital. This enhanced the business performance of the enterprises to meet new market opportunities. Cumulatively, the total year-to-date investment leveraged through debt financing is N3.41 billion for 2021, exceeding the year's target of N2.5 billion.
<p>Sombreiro Kapital</p>	<p>In Q3,2021 SK facilitated loans worth N75,134,060 to 301 smallholder farmers in the aquaculture, cocoa, cassava, and poultry sectors. From the total loans facilitated, Sterling Bank Plc disbursed loans worth N54,817,880 while partner agro-dealers (Hofete farms Ltd and Savee livestock services Ltd) supported farmers with loans worth N20,316,180</p> <p>The numbers of farmers supported with loans per sector are described below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In Ondo state, the institution collaborated with Conservation Alliance (a firm that provides technical support to cocoa farmers in the Niger Delta) to support the recommendation of 141 cocoa farmers who received loans from Sterling Bank Plc worth N21, 598,380. o Also, in Ondo state, the institution collaborated with Arkshore consult (a company that provides technical support to fish farmers in the Niger Delta) to support the recommendation of 40 fish farmers who received loans worth N16,020,000 from Sterling Bank Plc o In Delta state, the institution facilitated loans worth N20,316,180 to 20 poultry farmers and 33 fish farmers through the input credit product which is supported by <p>two Agro-dealers (Savee livestock services Ltd and Hofete farm Ltd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To support fish processors in selected GMOU communities of Madangho and Kokodiagbene in Delta state. the institution partnered with Green shield integrated technologies (a company that provides technical support to fish farmers in the Niger Delta) to support the recommendation of 15 fish processors who received loans worth N3,021,0000 from Sterling Bank Plc

o In Imo state, the institution worked with the Cara Foundation (a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance to cassava farmers in the Niger Delta) to support the recommendation of 52 cassava farmers to Sterling Bank Plc to access loans worth N14,178,580. Sterling Bank Plc has since approved this loan for disbursement to the 52 beneficiaries, subject to the availability of the required cash collateral in the bank accounts of loan beneficiaries. The cumulative volume of loan to farmers from January to September 2021 stands is N153,545,123 given to 443 farmers in Bayelsa, Delta, Imo and Ondo States.

ANNEX 2

Enabling Programs	
Program Area	Details of Key Achievements
Capacity	<p>GMOU committees trained on:</p> <p>Video Production and Photography. Key objectives of the training include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build the skills of participants to produce videos using recently procured video and sound recording. ○ Improve the ability of participants to capture good quality pictures for improved media, communication, and advocacy products. ○ Develop the skill of participants to be able to identify and tell stories to communicate the activities of the work they do and advocate for issues that concern them through media. ○ To improve the capacity of participants to generate a database of good quality photographs and videos that can be used to tell the GMOU story effectively. ○ Build the capacity of participants to engage specific target audiences strategically. ○ Build the capacity of participants to plan and conduct Webinar meetings. <p>Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. Key objectives of the training include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased understanding of gender equity and social inclusion terminology ○ Increased understanding of addressing GESI in RDC projects ○ Improved ability to apply GESI concepts and techniques throughout the project cycle ○ Increased commitment to GESI sensitive project design and delivery. <p>Sustainable Project Management. Key objectives of the training include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A better understanding of the projects management cycle ○ Increased knowledge in identifying, designing, implementing, and monitoring sustainable, inclusive growth projects in communities ○ Improved management skills for sustainability performance.
Communications	<p>PIND Website - Some of the most sought-after content on the website during the third quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RFA - Intern to Support PIND's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Department ○ Engagement of Organizations to Conduct Technical Vocational and Soft Skills Training in Delta State ○ NDYEP Model Framework and Final Evaluation Report ○ Expression of Interest for Expansion of Consultants and Vendors Database ○ PIND 2021 Q2 Progress Report ○ Niger Delta Weekly Update for September 05-11, 2021 <p>Public endorsement of PIND- Some of the forums PIND hosted and participated in during the third quarter were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ African Philanthropy Forum: The virtual forum which was held on 1 July 2021 hosted over 947 international development stakeholders who received insights about PIND's model for youth employment creation through the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) as well as an overview of PIND. ○ Georgetown University Case Study Launch on the Chevron-USAID Partnership Through PIND: The webinar was held on July 30 reaching 83 International and national academicians, development experts, donor organization representatives, and stakeholders. ○ Stakeholders' Engagement Workshop for Youth Employment Project (YEP): Hosted on 10 August 2021, 28 representatives of the State government, public and private sector actors and players in the youth employment ecosystem; government and private Technical and Vocational Education Centers (TVETs) gained insight about PIND's YEP project and its model to stimulate the adoption or adaptation of the proven model. ○ Open Citizens Engagement for Delta State 2022 budget: Recognizing PIND's expertise in development planning and the Foundation's ability to influence government spending, PIND by the invitation of the Delta State Government, on 30 August, 2021 participated in the Open Citizens Engagement for Delta State 2020 budget where the Foundation contributed to the proposed budget developed sharing its recommendations with High- level government stakeholders, community leaders, and investors.



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