



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Two:
April - June 2021

About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnerships 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](https://pindfoundation.org).

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ABSLTP	Abia State Long-Term Plan
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
AFJB	African Job for Food Program
AGSMEIS	Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme
BASIC II	Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System II Project
BMP	Best Management Practices
BMO	Business Management Organizations
BSPs	Business Service Providers
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CIEPD	Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EDCFA	Edo State Cooperative Farmers' Agency
EGCDF	Egbema-Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FISON	Fisheries Society of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FOLUR-IP	Food Systems, Land use and Restoration Impact Program
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEP	Graduate Employment Enhancement Program
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIZ	German Development Agency
GPP	Good Poultry Practices
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IJD	Intervention Justification Document
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
KEFFES	Koluama 1 & 2, Ekeni, Fishtown, Foropa, Ezetu 1&2 and Sangana Communities
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSD	Market Systems Development
NAEC	Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum
NASC	National Agricultural Seed Council

NCDC	National Center for Disease Control
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NDLink	Niger Delta Link
NDU	Nigeria Development Update
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NEEWS	Nigerian Election Early Warning System
NEPC	Nigerian Export Promotion Council
NGN	Nigerian Naira
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NPPAN	National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria
NRCRI	National Root Crops Research Institute
OSP	Open Society Foundations
P4P	Partners for Peace
PSPs	Poultry Service Providers
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
Q3	Quarter 3
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
SEYP	Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SON	Standard Organization of Nigeria
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
TMG	Transition Monitoring Group
TV	Television
UAE	United Arab Emirate
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFM	Value for Money
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VLD	Village Level Dealers
VSE	Village Stem Entrepreneur
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WB	World Bank
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
YTD	Year to Date
ZAL	Zigha Ayibakoro Limited

Background

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigeria-based non-profit foundation providing support for socio-economic development programs in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. PIND is the Nigerian counterpart of the United States-based Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative (NDPI) Foundation Inc. that was established by Chevron Corporation in 2010. Initial funding by Chevron was \$50 million over a five-year period from 2010 to 2014 to which NDPI and PIND were able to bring a further \$50 million from donor partners including bilateral and multilateral aid donor agencies, Federal and State government agencies in Nigeria, private companies, and foundations. A third, five-year phase of funding commenced at the beginning of 2020 and will last until the end of 2024.

PIND's goal is to act as a catalyst for the establishment of an enabling environment for socio-economic growth in the Niger Delta region, through sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships. 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 nine target States: 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 in order 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 Q2 M&E Report

This second quarter (April – June 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, Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives (NDPI) and PIND, (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 April – June 2021 (Quarter 2 of 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 Q2, 2021:

- PIND's market development projects continue to demonstrate progress towards widespread change. During the quarter, 20,984 farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs (38% of them being women), were reached with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies in the crop and non-crops sectors.

- PIND incentivized private investors and participating farmers to invest N2.4 billion to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations, purchase inputs and other capital expenditures. Majority of the investments this quarter (N2.2 billion) were debt financing from banks and government institutional funding assistance schemes, accessed by farmers and small-scale businesses, while 7% (N176 million) were equity investments in PIND's interventions by the farmers. Also, through the access to energy project, PIND influenced investments in energy solutions by the private sector, worth N17.8 million. In addition, the capacity building project supported women and CSOs to access a total of N10.15 million naira in grants (N10million to train 150 women and youths to produce and sell African patterned fabric) and service fees (N150,000 to support a local organization to develop its advocacy strategy).

- In the GMoU communities, PIND worked with two financial institutions (Sterling Bank and Union Bank) and three agro-input dealers to provide loans and input credit worth N54.7million, to 107 farmers in Delta and Ondo States. Also, in Q2,2021, 15 of the 78 processors who were profiled and screened for access to finance from Sterling bank in Q1, 2021, were approved for funding by the financial institution and are currently awaiting disbursement. PIND will continue to monitor the progress and disbursements of funds to these processors.

- 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. Within the reporting period, PIND facilitated the signing of a power purchase agreement between Infranergy and Opia Community in Warri North LGA of Delta State, leveraging N17.8 million through private sector investment into the construction of a mini grid in the community. InfraNergy is an energy development company that seeks to maximize social impact in energy underserved communities in the coastal areas. They have partnered with PIND to explore the development of a mini grid and allied smaller energy provision services in the coastal areas. This partnership will see the deployment of a solar powered mini grid that will give a total of 100 households and businesses access to power by the end of the year.

- 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 assisted 105 peace actors to constructively resolve emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta. This led to 36 quality actions¹ being taken to mitigate conflict in different locations across the region.

- By amplifying PIND's communications efforts during the first quarter of the year, 5,392,218 people

¹ 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)

gained new or increased awareness about PIND, through its platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional mainstream media. Also, PIND garnered 44 positive media mentions of its work and activities in the second quarter of 2021 and attracted 10 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 conclusion of the Niger Delta Youth Employment Program (NDYEP), the design of the follow-on youth skills

development program, Delta Youth Employment Program (DYEP), was finalized in Q2, 2021, with interventions modelled after the NDYEP.

- In addition, to ensure the sustainability of the economic development and peacebuilding interventions in the region, PIND finalized the Edo State Long-Term Development plan, which will be formally launched in Q3,2021. Also, PIND disseminated and promoted an assessment of the effects and causes of inadequate access to arable land for smallholder farmers in Delta, Edo, and Ondo States, via the PIND and NDLink websites. An intervention concept note is being developed for an approach that will provide the best potential for achieving the desired results of increasing access to land for agriculture.

Summary of progress against 2021 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2021 target as at Q2 (year-to-date).

Economic Development Program Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2021
Outreach	60,800	29,919
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	5,000	2,367
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	19,800	9,892
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	12,000	6,142
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	14,000	5,491
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	7,000	3,757
<i>MSME development</i>	3,000	2,270
Farmers/MSME with increased productivity or sales	43,938	Too early to evidence
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	2,500	
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	18,612	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	8,400	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	8,666	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	4,760	
<i>MSME development</i>	1000	
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦11.14 Billion	Too early to evidence
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦1.04 billion	
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦2.44 billion	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦1.60 billion	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦3.16 billion	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦900 million	
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.0 billion	
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Too early to evidence
New jobs facilitated	9,322	Too early to evidence
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	850	
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	707	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1090	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	2,700	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	1,475	
<i>MSME development</i>	2500	
<i>Access to energy</i>	200	
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	340	
Value of investments by public and private sectors [Naira value]	₦ 8.73 billion	₦ 3.16 billion
		Equity (₦248.42 million)
		Debt financing (₦2.916 billion)
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦1.53 billion	₦6.2 million
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦1.32 billion	Too early to evidence
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦730 million	₦2.4 million
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦1.91 billion	₦176.6million
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦728 million	Too early to evidence
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.5 billion	₦2.92 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

Peace Building Program Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2021
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	200	72
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,000	895
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1100	226

Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	100	61
Population that feel safe in the area they reside	2%	Too early to evidence

Coastal Community Development Indicators	2021 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2021
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	700	114
Households with access to clean energy	700	50
People with access to energy technologies	4,900	734
Cost savings via access to energy technologies	₦10 million	Too early to evidence
<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 Q2 2021
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by Government	₦ 378 million	₦0
Total value of private investment	₦ 0 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	Inception report completed
Level of responsiveness that facilitate access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	Intervention concept note developed awaiting approval
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful / non-violent society	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	Policy Brief on Security Framework published on NDLink which has now reached 4,242 people online.
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦ 468 million	₦0
<i>Communications</i>		
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	25	11
Public endorsements of PIND's work	25	16
Media reports with PIND mention	150	62
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	200	126
Website new visitors	52,020	18,499
Social media reach	1,000,000	1,250,005
Mainstream media reach	5 million	5,610,925
Email enquiries	300	345

1. Context Analysis

1.1 Socio-economic environment

It is glaring that the effect of inflation in Nigeria is biting hard on Nigerians. The National Bureau of Statistics disclosed that the consumer price index, (CPI) which measures inflation (rate of change in the increase in prices) increased by 17.75 percent (year-on-year) in June 2021, though this was said to be 0.18 percentage points lower than the rate recorded in May 2021 (17.93 percent). Similarly, the composite food index rose by 21.83 percent in June 2021 compared to 22.28 percent in May 2021. This implies that prices continued to rise in June 2021 but slightly slower than they did in May 2021. Nevertheless, the reduction is insignificant because on the month-on-month basis, the headline index increased by 1.06 percent in June 2021. This is 0.05 percentage points higher than the rate recorded in May 2021 (1.01 percent)– Vanguard 16 July 2021.

Inflationary pressures have remained since the shutdown of Nigeria's porous land borders with its neighbours, in a move to spur mass local production of food, as well as curb smuggling. However, attacks by bandits on farms and tight exchange-rate controls have contributed to local food demand outweighing production, thus causing food prices to steadily rise.

The World Bank (WB) in its Nigeria Development Update (NDU) released in June 2020¹, noted that Nigeria's economic growth is being hindered by food inflation, heightened insecurity, unemployment, and stalled reforms. It was further reported that surging inflation and rising prices pushed an estimated 7 million Nigerians below the poverty line in 2020 alone. The report went on to state that although the Nigerian economy experienced a shallower contraction of -1.8 percent in 2020 than had been projected at the beginning of the pandemic (-3.2 percent), prices of goods both urban and rural, are increasing rapidly, severely impacting Nigerian households. As of April 2021, the inflation rate was the highest in four years with food prices accounting for over 60 percent of the total increase in inflation.

The effect of inflation on farmers in Nigeria and specifically Niger Delta region, is significant as farmers grapple with the high cost of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, herbicides, animal feeds, as well as the high cost of labour/transportation, etc. This is negatively affecting the scale of farmers' activities resulting in a contraction of businesses. Also, Sombreiro Kapital, a special purpose vehicle facilitated by PIND to improve farmers' access to finance, is experiencing increased requests for loans and a corresponding increase in the loan and credit amounts, to help address the surge in the price of inputs.

PIND is working with Service Providers across the region to explore alternative methods for farmers to source inputs/credit, as well as address other ancillary needs of farmers, to mitigate the effect of the current inflation on their businesses. For example, farmers and agro-allied enterprises are encouraged to adopt good practices such as good record keeping, proper planning, adoption of improved innovations introduced by PIND, and take advantage of market linkages meetings/workshops to increase their relationships with other value chain players.

1.2 Security

Varied conflict risk factors continued to shape the peace and security landscape in the Niger Delta in the first half of 2021. Violent crimes were reported across the region, with kidnapping being the most prevalent. Though multifaceted, the main conflict risk factors included historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian), as well as the emergence of "unknown gunmen". To mitigate this, 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.

2. Economic Development Program

The economic development program comprises three projects: Market Systems Development, Access to Energy, and the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP). 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 NDYEP project which was funded by the Ford Foundation and implemented in Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers states, ended in March 2021. With focus on agriculture, construction, finished leather goods and ICT sectors, the NDYEP project was built on PIND's economic development strategy, which emphasizes sustainable interventions that result in full-time employment for youths. The model is being scaled up to other states and kicked off in Delta State in January 2021, under the name Delta State Youth Employment Pathways project.

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



2.1 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements for all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development (MSD) project, in Quarter 2, 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 plans to further strengthen 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 will be to implement interventions to improve access to finance to smallholder farmers through its Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Sombreiro Kapital.

In this reporting period (Q2 2021), the Market Development 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 access to quality seeds to farmers 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, 20,984 new farmers and enterprises were reached directly with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies by the end of the quarter. The result represents a 123% performance against the quarters' target of 17,119. It also brings the total outreach for the year to 29,919 representing 49.2% of the 60,800-target set for the year.

Regarding the performance of the impact indicators (Jobs, Value of Increase in Income and Number of farmers and SMEs with increased incomes), outcome monitoring to determine the results are usually carried out later in the year and are thus scheduled for Q3 and Q4 for the various sectors.

Nonetheless, N2.4 billion was recorded as investment leveraged by the project within the quarter. Out of the N2.4billion leveraged, N2.2billion was debt financing attracted by the enterprises supported during the quarter, while about N176m was invested in the purchase of technologies in the palm oil sector.

Table 1. MSD achievement against Q2 2021 and annual targets and performance year-to-date

	Target	Achieved	Performance Q2 (%)	Target	Achieved	Performance
	Q2	Q2		2021	YTD	YTD (%)
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached	17,119	20,984	123%	60,800	29,919	49.2%
Number of jobs facilitated	*	-	-	9,322	-	-
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦2.4bn	-	₦8.731bn	₦3.19bn	36.4%
Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	-	-	43,938	-	-
Change in the income of farmers	*	-	-	₦11.14	-	-

* 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 or results expected for the quarter under review.

2.1.1 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.

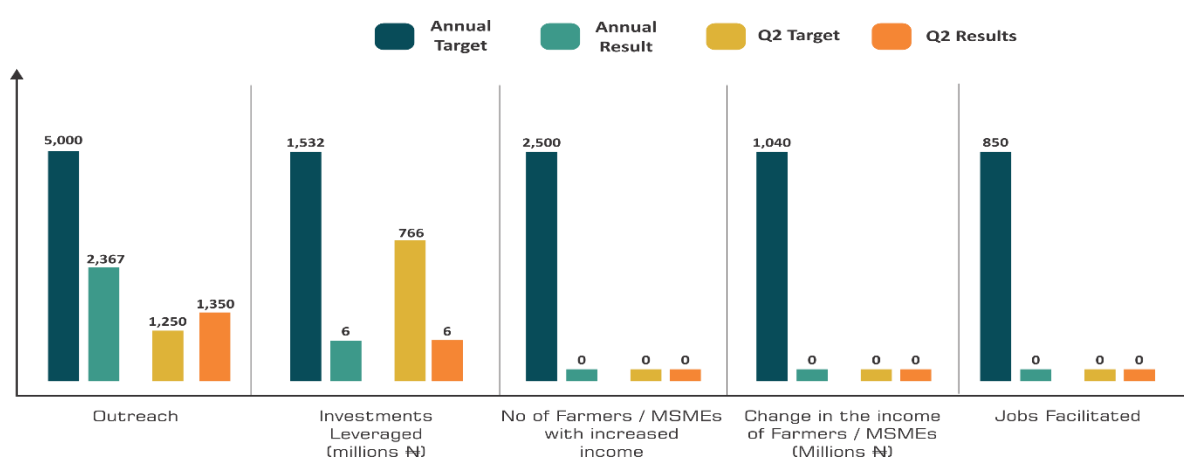
In 2021, the high rate of inflation in Nigeria and the naira devaluation continued to impact the aquaculture sector. This was evidenced in the continuous rise in the cost of fish feed which constitutes over 70% of the cost of production. The cost of fish feed increased by 34% over the last

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.

KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM AQUACULTURE INTERVENTION Q2 DASHBOARD

Figure 1. Performance status of aquaculture interventions for Q2 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, or results expected 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 to also improve their productivity and efficiency. As a result, a total of 763 (276 Females and 487 Males) fish farmers were reached by 15 service providers over the course of the quarter. The details of the training activities are provided below:

- Marich Agro-Allied, a service provider based in Delta State with support from PIND, facilitated

two (2) capacity-building training programs to 47 fish farmers (16 females and 31 males) on best pond management practices as well as business skill training using the NAEC curriculum to build their capacity to access finance. He also collaborated with Durandel Ltd during a training in May to promote the use of improved probiotics for better performance of fish seeds.

- Three (3) training programs were organized by Arkshore Consult, a master service provider alongside three other service providers based

- in Ondo State to reach 201 fish farmers (31 females and 170 males) with a focus on improved management practices and financial training.
- In Bayelsa State, Kingdom Obuza Ventures, an aquaculture service provider facilitated three (3) training sessions on best practices, reaching a total number of 83 fish farmers (36 males and 47 females).
- In Cross River State, Bangadonase trained 21 participants (11 males and 10 females) on fish farming practices and also exposed them to improved processing technology.
- In Rivers State, Aqua Green Initiative (AGI), a Master Service Provider alongside two other service providers facilitated five training sessions on fish farming best practices, reaching a total of 256 farmers (144 males, 112 females).
- PIND supported Durandel, a service provider to reach 56 farmers (38 males and 18 females) in Edo State on the use of probiotics to improve feed conversion ratio and the health of the fish as well as a cost reduction measure in their farming operations. This was done in collaboration with the Edo Fish Farmers Association (EDOFAC).
- Diyen Agro Services also facilitated training for fish farmers in Delta state with a total outreach of 65 farmers in attendance having 42 males and 23 females.
- Atim Okoko, a service provider, facilitated a live demonstration at the Ministry of Agriculture, Akwa Ibom State on the process of building a chorkor oven. 20 participants were recorded during that activity comprising 13 females and 7 males.
- Sharon Ohaka, facilitated training on best practices in Imo state, reaching a total of 14 fish farmers (8 males and 6 females).

In addition, five (5) demonstrations to promote the adoption of improved smoking technology (smoking kiln and chorkor ovens) and two financial literacy training sessions were carried out to reach a total of 587 processors in Delta, Ondo, and Rivers states.

The table below summarizes the total outreach recorded in the reporting period. A total of 1,350 farmers and processors (610 females) were reached through the above-mentioned activities as against the 1,250 set for the year. This brings the total outreach for the year to 2,367 as against the 5,000-target set for the quarter.

Table 2. Distribution of aquaculture training and demonstration activities in Q2 2021

	Delta	Imo	Edo	Cross River	Bayelsa	Akwa Ibom	Ondo	Rivers	Total
<i>Number of training programs</i>	4	1	1	1	2	1	3	5	18
<i>Number of service providers</i>	3	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	15
<i>Number of farmers reached</i>	112	14	56	21	83	20	201	256	763
<i>No of fish processors reached</i>	304	0	0	0	0	3	239	41	587
Total									1,350

Facilitating Linkage to Finance and input Loan for fish farmers

Access to finance is pivotal for the uptake of improved practices and technology by farmers. This quarter, PIND continued to deepen its efforts and build on previous engagements with financial institutions to facilitate linkages to finance for fish farmers. Furthermore, in collaboration with two service providers, PIND worked with two financial institutions (Sterling Bank and Union Bank) and three agro-input dealers to provide funding and input credit to 107 farmers worth N54.7million. The transaction details are provided below:

- In Delta State, Sombreiro Kapital collaborated with an agro-dealer to facilitate input credit to 28 fish farmers worth N9.4 million. Also in Delta, 42 farmers accessed N25.2 million worth of loan from the Sterling Bank/Sombreiro Kapital loan product for agric enterprises.
- In Ondo State, Arkshore Consult, a service provider collaborated with Union Bank and two input companies to finance input credit to 37 benefiting farmers worth N20 million.

Thus, overall, for the quarter, a total of 107 farmers accessed input facilities and loans worth N54,707,086 across Delta and Ondo states. This figure added to the N10.2 million Recorded in the previous quarter brings the total loans recorded for the year to N64,907,086.

Furthermore, as part of the strategy to deepen its activities in the riverine communities through financial inclusion, PIND in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital expanded its access to finance activities to the GMOU communities in Delta and Ondo States. In the previous quarter, 78 processors were profiled and screened for access to finance. The processors were supported with the necessary documentation and linked to Sterling bank to enable them to access funding for the purchase of chokor ovens and working capital to increase their productivity. This quarter, 15 of the 78 processors were approved for funding by the financial institution and are currently awaiting disbursement. PIND would continue to monitor the progress and disbursements of funds to these processors.

Increasing uptake of Fish Processing technologies

The chokor 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 chokor ovens and smoking kiln technologies to improve the efficiency of fish processors in the Niger Delta region. Overall, in the GMOU and non-GMOU communities, three promotional activities were carried out by four service providers and a master mason in Delta and Rivers states to reach 587 processors. Another planned demonstration in Imo state was cancelled as a result of the unrest in the state during the period of this report. The details of the demonstrations are provided below:

In the GMOU communities, PPGwarry global resources, a master mason, promoted the chokor oven through practical demonstration in two communities (Obaghoro and Ogheye) in Delta state to reach 180 fish processors. This resulted in the adoption of 11 ovens by 10 processors from the two communities. Also, in the quarter under review, an oven was adopted by one processor from Madangho. This brings the total ovens adopted in the GMOU to 12, and a cumulative of 26 for the year.

In the non-GMOU communities, a demonstration activity was held at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in River state for 20 beneficiaries of the presidential amnesty program. These beneficiaries, mainly fisher folks and processors, were drawn from various communities in the creeks of the state who expressed interest in the value addition training which was facilitated by Aqua Green Integrated Ltd and Captain Paul of PPGwarry Global Resources.

Also, a demonstration activity was organized in Agbor, Delta State to reach 28 processors with knowledge on the improved smoking technologies. As a result of these activities and those carried out in the previous quarter, a total of 29 processing technology (15 smoking kiln and 14 chokor ovens) were adopted by fish processors in non-GMOU communities in Delta (13), Rivers (5), Imo (7), and Ondo (4) states.

This brings the total processing technology adopted for the quarter to 41, bringing the cumulative number of processing technology adopted so far to 55, for the year as against the 150-target set for 2021. The low rate of adoption is because of the high and increasing cost of technology adoption brought about by rising inflation, leading to the devaluation of the local currency.

Leveraged funds

Leveraged funds from the adoption of the 55 smoking technologies (15 smoking kilns and 40 chokor ovens) in this quarter amounts to N6.23 million.

Expanding interventions to reach more community members in the GMOU communities

This quarter, following the completion of a livelihood assessment to identify opportunities for improving the economic wellbeing of individuals in the GMOU communities in the previous quarter,

the Aquaculture team carried out a further opportunity scoping study across four GMoU communities: Tsekelewu, Opuama, Awoye, and Ogidigben, to streamline viable interventions that portend opportunities for broader reach.

At the end of the scoping study, PIND found an opportunity to support fisherfolks to improve their efficiency through the adoption of improved fishing practices and technologies. PIND also found the potential to increase the productivity of pond fish farmers identified in Tsekelewu by improving their fish farming practices and systems. Subsequently, intervention justification notes have been developed for both proposed interventions for consideration by PIND management. In the coming quarters, PIND would commence engagement of partners and implementation of the designed interventions in the target communities.

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, 450,000 fish seeds were produced from the brood stock by four of the hatchery operators, against the 250,000 targeted for the quarter; resulting in sales of N11.2million at an average sale of N25 per fish seed. These fish seeds were sold to 76 farmers. One of the hatcheries in Ondo state is developing another set of brood stock for fish seed production from the initial stock developed by FISON.

Aquaculture:

Improving production of quality fish seeds

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. Farmers are faced with the constraint of accessing good quality fish seeds because there are only very few hatcheries with quality fish seeds, and over time, as a result of inbreeding, the quality of seeds from the good hatcheries have declined.

To address the constraint, PIND partnered with the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON) to develop quality broodstock banks for catfish with selected hatcheries in the region. The parent stock for the project was sourced from the wild to minimize, to a large extent, gene contamination. 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.

Cedar of Lebanon in Ondo state is one of the hatcheries partnering with PIND to promote quality seeds in the state. Mr. David Aregbesola, the CEO of Cedar of Lebanon farms said the broodstock developed has contributed significantly to the production of quality seeds from his facility. He has increased his production by almost 43% (from 140,000 per cycle to 200,000 fish seed per cycle) due to the high productivity of the broodstock and the growth rate. This has resulted in a total turnover of 5 million Naira.

A parent fish used to produce other fish

He has now expanded and upgraded his hatchery production unit to RAS (Recirculatory Aquaculture System) to accommodate the increased production. According to him,

“the broodstock development program has contributed so much to our growth and we are getting good feedback from our clients. I must thank PIND for this program”

PIND would be tracking the impact of the fish seeds on the farmers in quarter three.



Inbreeding: mating of fish closely related
Broodstock: a group of mature fish used in aquaculture for breeding purposes
Purelines: organisms with only the desired characteristics
Recirculatory Aquaculture System: culture water is purified and reused continuously

2.1.2 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 (FSP)s 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.

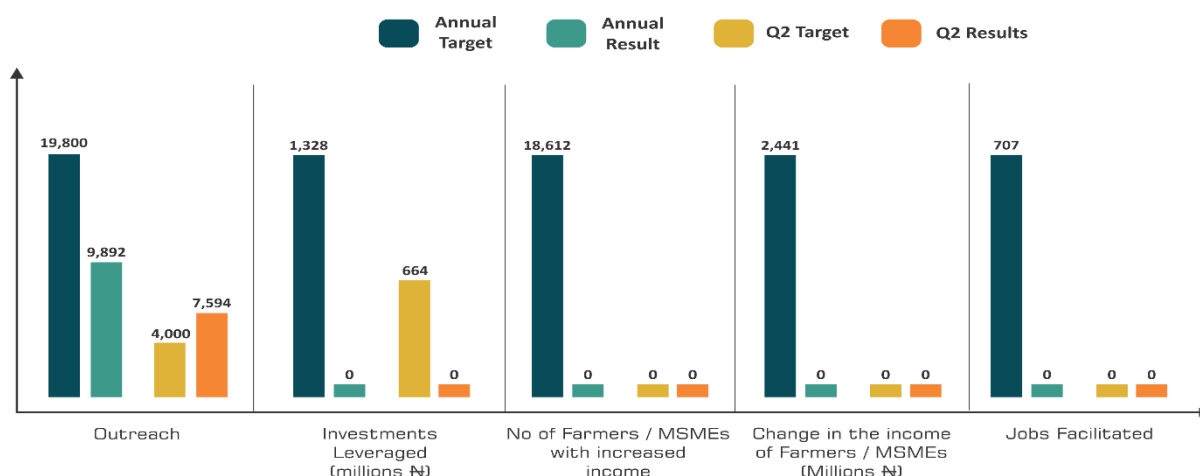
This year, PIND’s target is to reach an additional 19,800 farmers. This will be achieved through the expansion of its work across the region, by partnering with service providers to establish demonstration plots aimed at promoting the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in more communities 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 Q2, 2021 with the commencement of the 2021 cassava planting season, PIND continued its activities with partners to provide support to farmers. Specifically, PIND scaled up its collaboration with BASICS II to establish a viable commercial cassava seed system in the region by training and onboarding 69 new Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs). Also, previously trained CSEs continued to provide support to the sector through the sale of improved stem varieties. PIND further expanded its support to investors currently exploring opportunities for implementing out-grower and cassava aggregation programs with the signing of an MOU with Shine Bridge Global towards the implementation of the African Job for Food Program (AFJB) in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture.

A major socio-economic environment consideration this quarter is the rising inflation. The key effect of which is seen in the increase in the cost of inputs and services that farmers require for their productions. The current input price inflation has created a cash flow problem for farmers in the region. PIND will continue to refine and support partners with strategies to cope with current market realities including access to finance leveraging Sombreiro Kapital.

Figure 2. Performance status of cassava interventions for Q2 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, or results expected for the quarter under review.

Increasing Outreach to more Farmers on good Agronomic Practices

Activities in the cassava sector during the major planting season are focused on ensuring that farmers continue to enjoy access to quality agriculture-inputs and information. This is usually provided alongside training and demonstrations organized by agriculture-input companies and other service providers including agriculture dealers and farm services providers (FSPs) in the Cassava sector.

In the period under review, which marked the commencement of the cassava planting season, PIND continued to support its partners to strengthen their relationships and linkages with farmers that will ensure access to quality inputs including stems, fertilizer, and Crop Protective products (CPP)s required for their production. It also developed and shared a call for proposals from interested agriculture-input companies and service providers interested in partnering with PIND to expand its activities to new areas in the region under the Small-scale Service Providers Grant SSPG. The selection process for activities that will commence in Q3 2021, is ongoing.

PIND continued to provide support to agriculture-input companies, Agriculture dealers, and FSPs to

carry out training and demonstration across several locations in the region. Six (6) agriculture-input companies including Saro, CHC organic, Indorama, Wacot, and Golden fertilizer, either by themselves or in collaboration with 63 agriculture-dealers/Farm Services providers actively provided support to farmers this quarter. These activities reached a total of 5,391 (2795 female) farmers across the region.

Additionally, through the Access to improved Cassava stems activities, Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) who were trained in partnership with BASICS II in 2020 carried out step-down training using their multiplication plots across Abia state reaching 2,203 cassava farmers (1,381 females). This together with the 5,391 reported above, brings the total outreach for the quarter to 7,594 (4,176 females) farmers, surpassing this quarter's direct outreach target of 4,000 farmers and brings the total outreach for the year to 9,892. PIND deferred plans for outcome monitoring earlier planned for Q2 to Q3. The results from the outcome monitoring exercise will be used to estimate results for higher-level indicators including indirect outreach, changes in income, investment leverage and jobs, etc.

Table 3. Distribution of new outreach activities for Cassava in Q2 2021

	Abia	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Cross River	Delta	Imo	Edo	Ondo	Total
<i>No of demos</i>	3	0	0	4	0	2	4	2	15
<i>Lead input company working</i>	Golden Fertilizer and CHC Organic	Indorama	Saro	Saro and Harvest Field	Saro, CHC Organic and Harvest Field	Golden Fertilizer, Harvest Field & Wacot		Saro	-
<i>No. of agro-dealers /FSPs/CSEs working</i>	18	8 ²	16	9	2	4	20	11	78
<i>No of farmers reached</i>	2511	0	2094	600	140	195	1529	525	7,594

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

To support increased access to improved high yielding and disease resistant Cassava stem varieties, in the Niger Delta, PIND is partnering with the BASICS II project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) as well as the National

Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI). PIND is doing this through the Cassava Seed Entrepreneurship (CSE) program – the Village Seed Entrepreneurship (VSE) program. The program aims to establish a commercial seed system in the region.

Last year, 75 new CSEs drawn from Delta, Abia, Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Cross Rivers states were trained

² CSEs who participated in the training in May are mobilizing farmers for step down training and establishment of multiplication plots, which will be done in Q3.

and onboarded into the National Network of Seed entrepreneurs. These CSEs went on to establish stem multiplication plots in their communities using foundation stems of improved and high-yielding varieties, received from the NRCRI's foundation stem distribution outfit, Umudike Seeds. In the previous quarter, PIND and BASICS II continued their collaboration with a plan to onboard additional CSEs and also strengthen collaboration with the National Seed Council (NASC) to ensure certification and effective monitoring and support to the trained CSEs.

This quarter, PIND and BASICS II trained and onboarded 69 CSEs in Abia State. The CSEs were drawn from Edo, Delta, Abia, Imo, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, and Cross Rivers State. These CSEs are expected to utilize the current planting season to set up multiplication plots and organize step-down training for farmers within their communities. In the future, they will also be expected to ratoon and sell improved stems varieties acquired from the National Root crop Research institutes (NRCRI) and previously trained CSEs.

Leveraging large-scale investment into the Cassava Sector through outgrower schemes

PIND has been engaging with potential partners, including leading cassava processors and investors in the industrial cassava sector to attract investments into the sector, to help address issues around access to land, finance, and markets for actors in the Cassava sector in the Niger Delta region. Through this, PIND seeks to support effective linkages between these market actors who are potential bulk buyers of Cassava, and small-scale Cassava farmers, through the establishment of Cassava out-grower/aggregation schemes.

Last year, PIND began engagements with SAEL Global, a Cassava farming and production firm in a bid to establish a Cassava out-grower program in Edo State. Through this partnership, PIND expects to leverage the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) 5-star cassava Anchor project to provide funding for the participating farmers, while SAEL Global will make

the initial investment in land development for the program, and provide a guaranteed offtake of the cassava roots at harvest. Last quarter, SAEL Global secured a lease agreement for 2,000 ha of farmland in Orhionwhon LGA for the scheme and PIND worked with the Edo State Cooperative Farmers Agency (ESCFA) to compile a list of 400 farmers in Orhionwhon LGA to participate in the program. PIND also facilitated a process to secure the consent of the Edo State government for these farmers to participate in the out-grower program under the CBN five-star cassava Anchor project as requested by the CBN. PIND is awaiting the release of the consent of the state government for the commencement of the scheme.

This quarter, PIND continued to engage the Edo State government to facilitate the release of the letter of consent having provided all the requested documents to include an MOU between PIND and SAEL Global, lease agreement, and GPS coordinates of the land as well as participating farmers list.

Also, this quarter, PIND signed an MOU with Shine Bridge Global West Africa Limited to collaboratively participate in the African Job for Food Program (AFJB), in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Through this program, PIND is expected to reach at least 6,000 cassava farmers cultivating 3,500 ha of farmland across the region. PIND developed a work plan and budget for the implementation of the program and is currently engaging with Shine Bridge Global to agree on the details and commencement date for the scheme.

Support to farmers on Access to finance/credit

PIND also collaborated with Sombreiro Kapital and Sterling Bank Ltd to identify 100 cassava farmers across Delta and Imo States to be supported with access to finance to cultivate 1 ha of Cassava farm each. PIND also engaged and secured the buy-in of two major cassava processors Dufil Prima Foods and VON Foods to offtake the estimated 200 tons of cassava to be produced by these farmers. Account opening processes are currently ongoing by these farmers with Sterling Bank, and the program is expected to commence in early Q3

2.1.3 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.

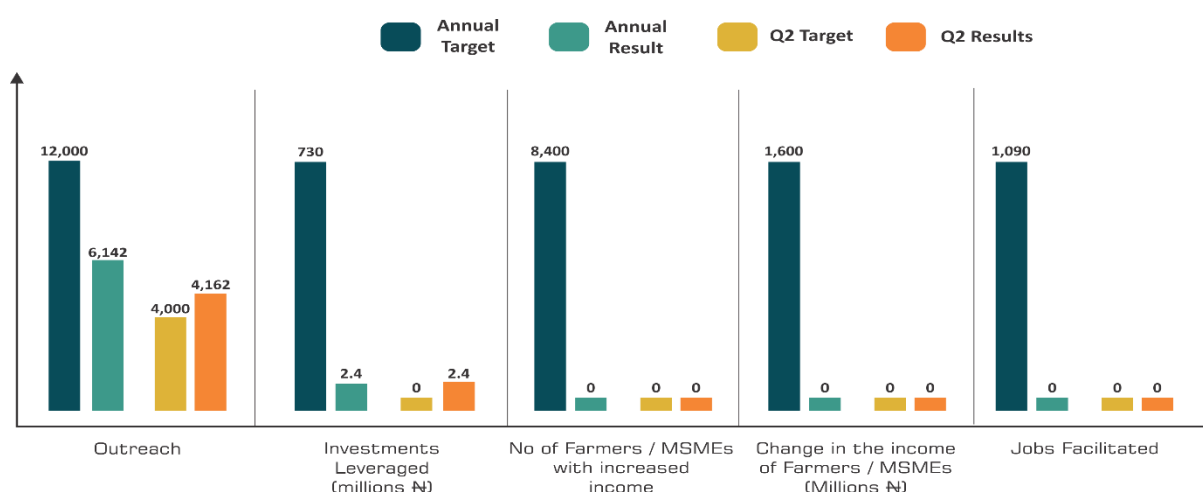
Since 2019, PIND has onboarded and partnered with 44 different support market actors³ to promote productivity improvement and quality

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 plans to reach a further 12,000 farmers through a series of interlinked activities aimed at deepening the solutions it has introduced and expanding it to all the cocoa-producing states in the Niger Delta. To achieve this, PIND plans to work with both new and existing partners to upscale the solutions in the operating year.

For the quarter under review, PIND began operationalizing a working agreement with three new off-takers, Nivik Investment Ltd, A.A. Cooperative, and Abico Nigeria Limited, to scale up the quality enhancement intervention activities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River states. Also, PIND continued to support and expand its work with existing farm service providers and agriculture-dealers to provide training and farm services to new farmers.

Figure 3. Performance status of cocoa interventions for Q2 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, or results expected for the quarter under review.

³ 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 Q2 2021, eight Farm Service Providers (FSPs), one input company, and three off-takers expanded GAP activities to more farmers in Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Ondo States reaching 4,162 (933 females) participants across these locations. The details of the activities are provided below:

- In Ondo, Saro Agrosiences collaborated with two FSPs (Anthony Akinmade and Joseph Bamidele) to reach 213 farmers with training programs on GAP. Two other farm service providers (Ibikunle Olumuyiwa and Olufemi Osatuyi) reached 1,052 farmers with training and farm services on GAP. Also, two off-takers, Nivik Investment Ltd, and Abico Nigeria Limited

reached a total of 1,831 farmers through the quality enhancement practices/activities.

- In Cross River, Saro Agrosiences in collaboration with one FSP (Ngor Oru Ogar) expanded outreach activities to 177 cocoa farmers. Two other farm service providers (Abit Farms and Solomon Agbor) reached 177 farmers with training and farm services on GAP. Also, AA Cooperative, an off-taker, reached 618 farmers through the quality enhancement practices/activities.
- In Akwa Ibom, a farm service provider, Victor Tom reached 94 farmers with training programs and services

Cumulatively, PIND reached an additional 4,162 (933 females) farmers within the quarter, out of a target of 4,000 farmers set for the period. This brings the total outreach for 2021 to 6,142 which is 51% of the targeted outreach of 12,000 for 2021.

Table 4. Distribution of new outreach activities for Cocoa, in Q2 2021

	Ondo	Cross River	Akwa Ibom	Total
Off-take companies	2	1		3
Input Companies	Saro	Saro		1
Number of FSPs	4	3	1	8
Number of farmers reached	3,096	972	94	4,162

Expanding the quality improvement support and activities to more cocoa farmers

Improving the quality of cocoa beans is one of the key objectives of PIND in the cocoa sector. The Nigerian Cocoa industry has a reputation for producing poor-quality cocoa beans. The beans are usually filled with impurities, are salty and have high moisture content, due to farmers' poor post-harvest practices. This results in discounted pricing and low income for the farmers. In 2020, PIND designed an incentive-based model and partnered with Subjugate Nigeria Limited, an off-taker based in Ondo state to implement the first set of activities. The model builds in an incentive in form of higher prices or premiums to farmers who produce good quality cocoa beans. Last year, using the Training of Trainers approach, 40 lead farmers were trained in good agricultural practices including post-harvest

operations. These 40 lead farmers further stepped down the practices to over 1,000 farmers.

In Q2 2021, PIND partnered with two of the three⁴ Off-takers that were engaged in Q1 2021, to train 27 new farm service providers (12 FSPs were trained by AA Cooperatives and 15 by Nivik Investment Limited), to promote quality improvement models to the farmers. The training comprised: good agronomic practices, adoption of quality improvement technologies/innovations, as well as promoting those quality-enhancing technologies to the farmers. PIND also facilitated the linkage of three entrepreneurial Farm Service Providers to one of the three off-takers - Abico Nigeria Limited, to provide farm services support to

⁴ Abico Nigeria Limited, Nivik Investment Limited, and AA Cooperatives

their network farmers on good agricultural practice and quality improvement activities. Through the partnership with these off-takers, 2,449 farmers ⁵

2.1.4 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

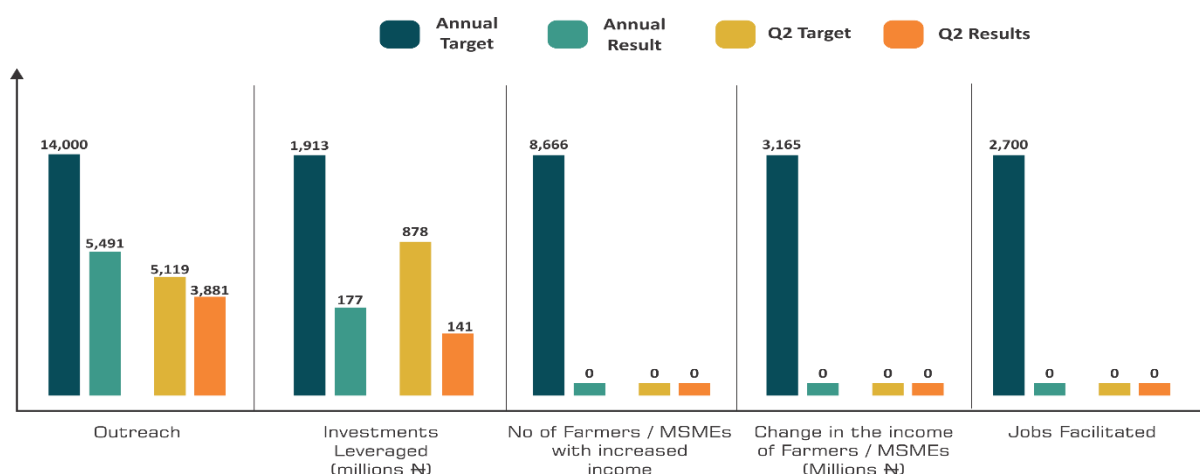
were reached in Ondo (1,831 farmers) and Cross River state (618 farmers).

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

For the quarter under review, PIND’s intervention activities focused on working with input companies, farm services providers, and agro-dealers to expand the demonstrations on best management practices to farmers, and to enhance linkages between palm seed producers and nursery operators to organize promotional activities on quality seed

Figure 4. Performance status of palm oil interventions for Q2 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, or results expected for the quarter under review.

⁵ The 2,449 are part of the total 4,162 farmers earlier reported.

Strengthening service provision to expand the BMP intervention and outreach to farmers

To sustain and deepen the BMP activities in the sector, PIND continued its engagement with the National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN), an oil palm business membership organization that works across the Niger Delta with a membership base of over 10,000 actors. Their members include farmers, processors, agriculture-dealers, and service providers. In quarter one, PIND partnered with NPPAN to develop an outreach strategy that involves identifying and onboarding 20 entrepreneurial farm service providers within the association to provide services to farmers in Abia, Imo, Akwa Ibom, and Delta States on BMP and Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum training.

In the reporting period, PIND collaborated with NPPAN to onboard 35 new FSPs across Delta (15) and Edo (20) States. During the exercises, the FSPs were linked to NIRSAL and Sombreiro Kapital (SK) on access to finance; the Ministry of agriculture on acquiring seeds, and the Nigerian Export Promotion

Council (NEPC) concerning the export of their finished goods. By the end of the quarter, the two groups of FSPs submitted applications for soft loans from SK to expand their businesses and purchase improved technologies to support farmers.

Within the reporting quarter, 18 FSP (17 newly on-boarded) reached a total of 2, 619 (559 females) farmers in Rivers, Delta, Edo, and Abia states. Also, within the quarter, 7 agriculture-dealers and FSPs expanded outreach activities to 532 (199 females) farmers across the Niger Delta. The activities bring the total outreach recorded for the BMP initiatives this quarter to 3, 151 (758 female). Also, 79 farmers purchased improved seedlings and 629 palm oil actors purchased improved harvesting technologies. In addition, 22 farmers purchased improved processing technologies bringing the total outreach for Palm oil to 3,881 against a target of 5,119, for the period and an annual target of 14,000.

Table 5. Distribution of outreach activities, for Palm Oil, in Q2 2021

	Abia	Akw a Ibom	Bayels a	Cross River	Delta	Edo	Imo	Ondo	Rivers	Total
Number of demonstrations	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	7
Number of agro-dealers/farm service providers	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	6
Number of farmers trained by agro-dealers/FSP	0	0	39	0	0	106	155	175	57	532
Number of lead farmers	10	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	1	18
Number of farmers trained by lead farmers/FSP	1,480	0	0	0	17	1,105	0	0	17	2,619
Number of stakeholders participating in technical training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BMP Farmers Outreach Total										3,151

Leveraging investment through the adoption of efficient technologies and quality seeds

PIND continued to present opportunities for investments to a wide spectrum of investors in the palm oil sector, for both the public and private sectors. The investments come from the adoption of improved seeds, and also, the purchase of improved harvesting and processing technology. In the quarter under review, N140, 912, 500 was leveraged through private sector investment in the sector. The breakdown of the amount of leveraged in the sector are presented:

- N103.7million was invested in the purchase of 131, 250 improved seedlings by 79 farmers in Ondo, Delta, Edo, Rivers, and Abia states.
- N5.6million was invested in the purchase of 405 improved harvesting technologies in Akwa Ibom, Edo, Delta, Ondo, and Cross River states by 122 farmers. This is in addition to the 224 improved harvesting technology (Malaysian knives) purchased last quarter.
- 12 farmers invested N31.5million in the purchase of 12 improved processing

technologies in Akwa Ibom State. This is in addition to the 10 processing technologies purchased in Q1.

This brings the total investment leveraged for the year to N176, 592, 500 against the yearly target of N1.9 billion Naira. The significant difference in the target set for the year and what has been achieved, is the inclusion of equity investment by farmers adopting BMP. The equity investment will be calculated in Q4 when the outcome monitoring report for BMP is submitted.

Strengthening coordination amongst seed producers and nursery operators to increase access to improved Seeds for Palm Oil Farmers

The access to seeds intervention seeks to increase access to improved and affordable seeds to oil palm farmers in the Niger Delta. One of the key areas that PIND intervened to achieve the intervention objective was strengthening the relationship between seed producers and nursery operators willing to expand their activities in the region to reach smallholder farmers. Another key area was developing the business finders' model which aims to link business finders⁶ to seed producers to market their seeds for a commission after a sale is successful. The model commenced in 2020, and the initial set of results saw 12 business finders supporting 63 farmers to purchase 50,640 improved seeds with N100 commission paid for each seed that was sold.

In the previous quarter, the business finders continued to carry out promotional activities

2.1.5 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

amongst smallholder farmers on the benefit of purchasing improved seeds. These were carried out through on-field farm demonstrations, jingles on radio stations, and cold calls to farmers. At the end of the quarter, seven business finders reported supporting 79 farmers (16 women) to purchase 131, 250, 000 seedlings across Ondo, Delta, Edo, Abia, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom states.

To expand the reach of the model and thus access to improved seed to more farmers, PIND targeted, in the current year, to onboard a new seed producer. Subsequently, Ghanasumatra was engaged and showed interest in increasing its distribution network amongst smallholder farmers in the region. The seed company was then linked to the National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN) on the opportunity to work with its farm service providers to reach farmers on the benefit of planting its improved seeds.

In the current Quarter, a PIND and NPPAN team carried out monitoring visits to farms that have planted the GhanaSumatra seeds since 2018 to verify the claim on the quality of their seeds. Three farms were visited in Ondo, Delta, and Osun states and all the feedback from the farmers was positive. By the end of quarter two, an agreement was developed by GhanaSumatra, NPPAN, and PIND. The GhanaSumatra team travelled into Nigeria to meet with the NPPAN board and firm up the terms in the agreement. Activities are set to commence in quarter 3 after the agreement is signed.

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) as well as facilitate access to market and finance in the Niger Delta region. In Q2, 2021, PIND continued to mentor and track the activities of the service providers and village level dealers across the region, specifically in Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta, to determine the outcome of their support to farmers. Other strategies hinged on facilitating

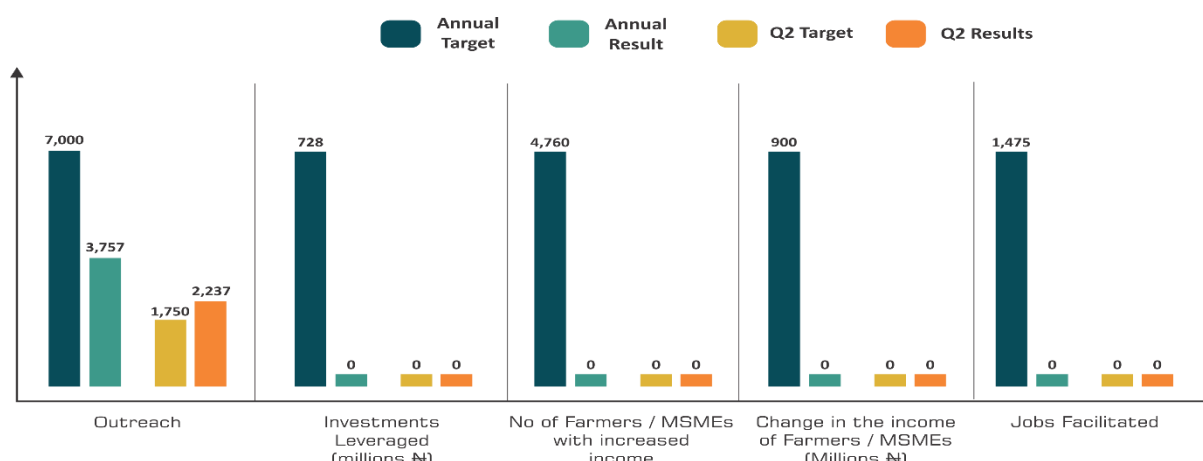
⁶ Business finders are individual agriculture-dealers, nursery operators, agriculture-entrepreneurs, who would market improved seeds and obtain a commission as an incentive.

linkages among actors in the poultry sector, with the aim of exposing farmers to GPP.

Responding to the current rise in the prices of input for poultry farmers, PIND scaled up its access to

finance initiative through Sombreiro Kapital, to enable more farmers access funding. It also scaled up the good poultry practices intervention to ensure more farmers are aware of the cost reduction benefits of adopting improved practice.

Figure 5. Performance status of poultry interventions for Q2 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, or results expected for the quarter under review.

Expanding the outreach of farmers to good poultry practices and access to quality vaccines.

PIND continues to strengthen service delivery mechanisms to provide access to information on good poultry practices, quality inputs such as day-old chicks (DoCs), improved feed, and vaccines to enable poultry farmers in the Niger Delta improve their productivity and income.

In Q2 2021, PIND supported 16 Poultry Service Providers and three (3) Village Level Dealers (VLDs) with identification of new farm clusters and linkages to quality inputs, markets and finance. PIND also partnered with three (3) input companies and five (5) institutional buyers to reach poultry farmers in Imo, Ondo, Delta, Rivers, Edo, and Cross River States with knowledge on good poultry practices. A total of 41 training⁷ activities were carried out during the quarter to reach 2,237 (including 910 females) poultry farmers in the above States. The details of the activities are provided below:

- In Delta State, Chuvaak Agro Services (A master poultry service provider), trained and supported 15 poultry farmers (10 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using

the NAEC curriculum. He also facilitated linkages to inputs and markets to the farmers. In the same vein, Mr. Musa Obohoh (A village-level dealer), reached 96 poultry farmers (22 females) with quality vaccines. Also, Leonard Akachukwu (A poultry service provider), trained and supported 250 poultry farmers (102 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. Also, Akanbi Jamiu, (A poultry service provider), trained 5 poultry farmers (4 females) on good poultry practices and business skills. Mr. Valentine Obi (a poultry service provider) trained three poultry farmers on good poultry practices and business skills, using the NAEC curriculum.

- In Rivers State, Aqua Green Initiatives (A Poultry Service Provider), trained 235 poultry farmers (151 females) on good poultry practices and business skills. Another service provider, CAD digital farms trained 60 poultry farmers (23 females) on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum and facilitated loans for them through the CBN agric Scheme.

⁷ These training included some virtual platform for sharing business information with farmers

- In Ondo State, Green Shield Integrated Technology Limited (A master service provider), trained 220 poultry farmers (54 females) on good poultry practices. In the same vein, The Arkshore Konsult (master service provider) also trained 439 (146 females) farmers on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum.
- In Imo State, Chinedu Uduanusi (A poultry service provider) trained 298 (116 females) farmers on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. In the same vein, Mr. Amadi Anslem (poultry service provider), trained 67 (12 females) farmers on good poultry practices. Also, Mr. Nwaonu John (poultry service provider) provided online training to 70 (33 females) farmers on good poultry practices while Ngozi Buelah (A poultry service provider), trained 18 (6 females) farmers on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. Ngozi Okechukwu (A poultry service provider) trained 49 (26 females) farmers on good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. Similarly, Nwankwo Madonna (A poultry service provider) trained 29 (20 females) farmers on good poultry practices and business skills. Mr. Ambrose Ogbonna (Poultry Service Provider), trained 75 (23 females) farmers on good poultry practices.
- In Cross Rivers State, Mr. Bassey Jacobs, (A poultry service provider) supported 87 poultry farmers (36 females) with technical and business training, advisory services, linkages to inputs and markets. In the same vein, Dr. Osita Okpo (A village-level dealer) reached 119 poultry farmers (34 females) with quality vaccines.

- In Edo State, Favour Animal Health (a village-level dealer) reached 104 poultry farmers (41 females) with quality vaccines.

As a result of the above activities, the sector recorded a total outreach of 2,237 (910 females) farmers exceeding the 1700 target planned for the quarter. The cumulative outreach in 2021 so far is 3,757 which is about 54% of the total target set for 2021.

More poultry farmers access funds through Sombreiro Kapital (SK) and CBN AGSMIES

As farmers see the benefits of adopting the improved poultry practices, they continue to seek additional funding to expand their production and make more profit. This has even become more important as the cost of inputs continues to rise due to rising inflation. As part of PIND's effort to address the funding challenges of farmers in the poultry sector, the poultry project team leveraged various platforms to improve access to finance for farmers in the region. PIND leveraged the CBN AGSMEIS scheme, an initiative introduced to support and complement the Federal Government's efforts and policy measures for the promotion of agricultural businesses in Nigeria. Another funding platform the sector leveraged was Sombreiro Kapital (SK), a special purpose vehicle that was set up by PIND to facilitate access to finance for farmers without recourse to collateral in the long term.

In the reporting period, about N13,666,799 was accessed by 41 farmers via SK while the remaining N232,450,602 was accessed by 58 farmers in Rivers state via the CBN AGSMEIS scheme. This brings the total value of loans recorded for the quarter to N246, 117,401 and a cumulative figure of N256, 117, 401 so far for the year.

2.1.6 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.

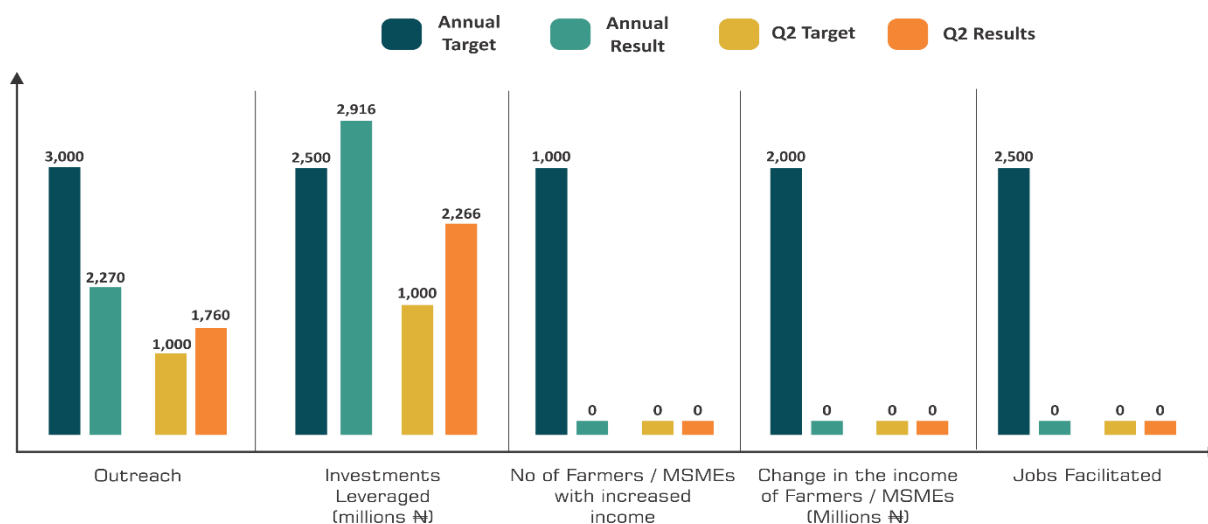
The project activities are driven by business service providers (BSPs) strengthened by PIND, to enhance the growth of local enterprises. These BSPs work in partnership with private and public stakeholders, to organize business linkages and investment forums, as well as to access new market and funding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

In Q2 2021, PIND focused on supporting the BSPs to 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 generation.

Figure 6. Performance status of MSME development for Q2 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, or results expected for the quarter under review.

Reaching more MSMEs through access to business information 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. During the quarter, seven BSPs trained and supported a total of 1,760 (including 623 women-owned) MSMEs to access loans for their businesses through the CBN AGSMEIs scheme. These capacity-building activities involved classroom training, business plan development, and the preparation of loan applications. The breakdown of the activities is detailed out below:

- In Bayelsa state, Wider Perspectives Limited, with support from PIND, collaborated with the Bayelsa State government, Megastar Stores, Silverbird Television, Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON), and Boff & Company to organize a business linkages forum which had 70 MSMEs (50 male, 20 female) in attendance as well as other stakeholders comprising of Government, the Media, and Non-Government Organizations.

- Also in Bayelsa state, Zigha Ayibakoro Limited (ZAL), a business service provider in collaboration with NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank trained 415 enterprises (243 males and 173 women-owned) to access the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme funding opportunity. From the 416 MSMEs trained, 105 (67 male, 48 women-owned) enterprises have accessed funds worth 448.6 million Naira.
- In Rivers state, Wider Perspectives Limited collaborated with NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank to train 121 SMEs (76 males and 45 women-owned) with 34 (19 males, 15 women-owned) enterprises accessing 94.8 million Naira worth of loan from the AGSMEIS program.
- Entrepreneurship and Innovative Centre (E&I Centre) in Rivers state collaborated with NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank trained and supported 97 SMEs (51 males and 45 women-owned); with 43 enterprises accessing 137 million Naira worth of loan from the AGSMEIS program. The support from E&I Centre to the

- SMEs includes business registration, business plan development, and financial management.
- Also, in Rivers state, CAD Consulting Limited, a Master Business Service Provider, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria and NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank provided training on accessing the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme to 595 SMEs (393 males and 202 women-owned). Subsequently, 267 (160 male and 107 women-owned) of the enterprises trained accessed funds worth 1.006 billion Naira from the scheme.
- In Cross River State, Agric Entrepreneurs Association organized training for 161 SMEs (118 males and 43 women-owned) and supported 73 MSMEs (from the 161 trained) to access funds worth 189.7 million Naira from the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme.
- In Akwa Ibom state, Green Steps Limited, a new business service provider onboarded by CAD Consulting Limited, in collaboration with NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank trained 129 SMEs (99 males and 30 women-owned) with 57 of them accessing loans worth 157 million Naira from the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme.
- In Abia state, CAD Consulting Limited, a Master Business Service Provider, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria and NIRSAL Micro Finance Bank provided training on accessing
 - the CBN AGSMEIS fund to 129 enterprises (97 males and 32 women-owned). From the 129 enterprises trained, 32 (18 male and 14 women-owned) enterprises have accessed funds worth 113 million Naira from the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme.
 - In Delta state, Lifeedge Consulting, a BSPs onboarded by Dorbudee Integrated Concept provided entrepreneurship training and linkages to finance to 43 (7 male, 36 women-owned) enterprises. From the 43 businesses supported, 36 have accessed finance worth 17.9 million from the financial institution

Overall, from the activities above, a total of 1,760 (1,137 male, 623 women-owned) enterprises were reached during the period, exceeding the 1,000 targets set for the quarter. This brings the total outreach for the year to 2,270 MSMEs against the 3,000 targets for 2021.

Also, the total value of loans facilitated for the quarter came to a total of N2.2 billion, bringing the total loans facilitated in the sector for the year to N2.9 billion against the target N2.5 billion set for the year. The loans were mainly provided to the enterprises for the purchase of equipment and to meet working capital needs to enable their expansion drive. This injection of the funds is expected to improve the operations of the enterprises and enable them to meet new market opportunities.

Onboarding new business service providers to expand outreach support to MSMEs.

One of the strategic focus areas of the MSME Development and Linkages project in the current operational phase (2020 – 2024) is to upscale the commercialization of the BSP onboarding process leveraging the master business service providers' platform. Already, new BSPs are being trained and mentored by mature BSPs who see the incentive to expand their services by developing and building strategic alliances with emerging BSPs. This has enabled the entrant of new BSPs who are sustainably delivering services to a broad range of small enterprises in the region.

To formalize and upscale the BSP mentoring process, PIND in the previous year, provided support to some of the master BSPs to organize training programs and also shared the value proposition to others who are yet to see the benefit of building a network of services to expand their services.

In Q2 2021, four (4) Master Business Service Providers (comprising of CAD Consulting, Dorbudee Consulting, Remok Consults, and The Arkshore Konsult) collaborated to organize a training for 15

(4 females and 11 males) new BSPs⁸. The training covered the use of the business diagnostic tools and picking sound company tools, developing a bankable business plan, client relationship and management, developing viable service value propositions, commercializing service offerings, and facilitating access to market and finance.

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

The Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS) is a jointly funded USAID-PIND, five-year activity (May 25, 2020 – May 24, 2025). Like PIND, the Activity will utilize 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 service delivery 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 Lean⁹ 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.

⁸ The new BSPs spread across eight states in the region: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers.

⁹ 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

In the coming quarter, the master service providers will provide mentoring and linkages support to the newly trained BSPs to strengthen their capacity to offer business development services to MSME commercially.

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 Rivers States. Between April and June this year, the AEAS sensitized and introduced 132 MSMEs (61 in Delta State and 71 in Cross Rivers State) to four MIPs which were validated for the aquaculture, rice and maize value chains. These MSMEs were sensitized about the benefits of adopting the MIPs as part of their sales strategy. The MIPs are:

- Use of Juvenile fish seed for aquaculture, as a business Solution for Catfish production to increase productivity and income of fish farmers (Delta and Cross Rivers)
- Use of high yielding varieties for rice (Cross Rivers) and maize (Delta and Cross Rivers)
- Adoption of mechanized threshing services for rice value chain
- Adoption of mechanized land preparation in Northern Cross River

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.

Capacity building of these MSMEs to fully grasp, understand, adopt and consequently promote

2.3 Sombreiro Kapital Ltd/Gte

Over the years, poor or no access to finance has consistently affected the productivity of smallholder farmers. This is due to systemic constraints (existing laws, infrastructural deficit, and knowledge gap), which influence the demand and supply of financial services. In the previous quarter, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) tested a business model to sustainably address these constraints. This business model aims to facilitate the flow of financial services to smallholder farmers whilst creating a corresponding demand for financial services.

In 2021, the institution plans to complete the set of activities which were pending from the pilot phase and to develop a close-out report for the pilot, outlining the experiences and lessons learned. Within the pilot phase (July to December 2020), 200 farmers were expected to access loans worth N100 million, with the institution expected overall to facilitate N450 million worth of loans to 700 farmers during its scale-up phase. Thus, in 2021, the institution's target is to support 900 farmers to access N550 million worth of loans.

In Q2, 2021, the institution facilitated loans worth N46,567,966 to 112 fish and poultry smallholder farmers in Delta, Bayelsa, and Ondo states. Following the disbursement of these loans, it is expected that the income and productivity of loan recipients would be positively impacted, as a result of a lower interest rate paid on the loans used for their productions¹⁰.

Within the reporting period, the institution also monitored the utilization of inputs by loan beneficiaries, to mitigate diversions of inputs and to promote prompt repayment of Sterling Bank-funded loans. The results showed a 100 percent repayment on loans/credits.

Development of a strategy to support expansion into new sectors and states

Following the completion of the pilot phase in March 2021, the institution commenced the development of a scale-up plan, which would

these techniques, is planned for July- September 2021.

recommend additional viable sectors and states that will benefit from loans facilitated by the institution. This expansion plan was largely influenced by the feedback received from partners and lessons learned during the pilot phase.

To support the recommendation of additional viable sectors that will benefit from loans facilitated by the institution, experienced market actors in selected agricultural sectors were consulted to provide relevant data that will support the institution's profitability analysis in these agricultural sectors. According to the result of this analysis, the Cassava and Cocoa sectors were considered as the most profitable when compared to other sectors reviewed, owing to a minimum of 50% return on investment which was documented for both sectors.

Furthermore, given the institution's intention to expand into other Niger Delta states, the scale-up strategy also proposed the addition of Edo state to the list of focal states that currently benefit from loans supported by the Institution. This decision was influenced by the state's vast landmass, which supports the cultivation of palm oil, cassava, and cocoa.

Facilitating seed fund growth for increased impact during scale-up

Following the decision to extend loan facilitation to cocoa and cassava farmers in the focal states of Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, and Ondo during the scale-up phase, the institution developed strategies to grow its present capital base to fund its expansion plans. Part of the strategy includes the dissemination of SK's value proposition to selected donor organizations and subsequent engagement of these donors to explore the possibility of attracting funding to the institution

The institution anticipates receipt of additional funding by the end of Q3, because of its engagements with these donors, and based on the institution's social impact, evidenced by the

¹⁰ Sectors whose farmers got the loans are currently being monitored to track outcomes and impact on their businesses.

facilitation of single-digit loans to poor and vulnerable farmers.

Within the reporting period, the institution engaged and shared its value proposition with two donor organizations that promote financial inclusion (O.B Lulu Briggs Foundation and Microcredito); the institution anticipates receipt of funds in the third quarter to support its expansion plan to other states and sectors. The SK team also had conversations with the PIND Advocacy team to map out an engagement strategy with some of the Niger Delta-focused public institutions that may have funding to support agro enterprises, including NDDC and the Delta State Government.

Operationalizing the input credit model

Part of the institution's sustainability strategy is to ensure business continuity, particularly if SK's current lending partner decides to decrease its exposure to smallholder farmers. This informed the development of the input finance model which seeks to facilitate the supply of farm inputs to selected farmers on a credit basis.

Within the reporting period, the institution shared this business model with five agro-dealers for consideration. At the end of the engagement period, two Agro-dealers in Delta state (Savee livestock services ltd and Hofete farms and works Ltd) expressed interest in piloting the model, resulting in the execution of an MOU between concerned parties.

Following the formalization of the input finance partnership with these agro-dealers, smallholder fish and poultry farmers in Delta state will have access to input credit loans for 5-8 weeks to support production.

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

In Q2 2021, SK facilitated loans worth N46,567,966 to 112 smallholder farmers in the aquaculture and poultry sectors. These loans were facilitated through Sterling Bank Plc and partner agriculture input dealers. The tables below lay out the details of loans disbursed within the reporting period.

Table 6a. Loans disbursed for farmers and processors by Sombreiro Kapital, in Q2 2021

	Delta	Ondo	Bayelsa	Total
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to fish farmers</i>	34,707,116	0	0	34,707,116
<i>Volume of loans facilitated to Poultry farmers</i>	13,666,799	0	0	13,666,799

Table 6b. Number of credit (Input) disbursed for farmers and processors by Sombreiro Kapital, in Q2 2021

	Delta	Ondo	Bayelsa	Total
<i>Number of loans facilitated to fish farmers</i>	71	0	0	71
<i>Number of loans facilitated to Poultry farmers</i>	41	0	0	41

Furthermore, following the addition of the cocoa and cassava sectors to the list of focal sectors that will benefit from loans supported by the institution, partner service providers were engaged to recommend farmers from both sectors who will

benefit from loans funded by Sterling Bank Plc. Currently, applications from 241 cocoa and cassava farmers worth N15,000,000 are being appraised by Sterling Bank Plc. These loans will be disbursed at single-digit to applicants for a duration of 1 year.

2.4 Skills Development for Youth Employment

Redesign of the DYEP program

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 Labour 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 Q2,2021, the program design was revised. The revised YEP design clearly identifies core intervention areas focusing on strengthening the capacity of existing program implementing partners; as well as conducting technical/vocational and soft skills training in ICT, building construction and agriculture. The program redesign was informed by data from the Delta State labour market assessment and the scoping study carried out in selected coastal communities.

Scoping Study in Selected GMoU Communities

Within the quarter, a scoping study was conducted in the coastal/GMoU communities of Opuama, Tsekelewu and Ogidigben. The purpose of the scoping assessment was to gather more information to aid the design and implementation of youth development program within the coastal/GMoU communities.

Part of the study was to identify institutional facilities that could support vocational skills training. Nonetheless, it appears, the communities visited so far possess no significant infrastructure or institutions that could support structured vocational training. The current economic activities and means of livelihood in these communities are time consuming given the terrain. This leaves the young people with very limited time and energy for structured vocational training. Also, only a handful of the over 100 young people met expressed willingness to participate in skills development programs. It was observed that some of them are already saddled with the responsibility of parenthood and the majority lack basic formal education, which leaves us with the need to further exploit suitable options in such communities. Given these constraints, non-technical vocational training has to be tailored to skills and services relevant within the coastal communities and its environs. In the revised strategy, a direction for implementing specific skills training for coastal communities such as the marine transportation and services are under consideration.

Private Sector Engagement

Preliminary meetings have been held with Delta State Chambers of Commerce to introduce the DYEP and to share the program’s planned interventions. This was also an opportunity to learn about the work of Chambers of Commerce in the state and to establish a relationship for future collaborations in the implementation of DYEP. The Delta State Chambers of commerce, as an umbrella for the organized private sector in the state, will be useful in supporting the processes of identifying viable companies/organizations for job placements, DYEP participants in apprenticeship and employment pathway, as well support business mentorship of participants.

NDYEP: Concluding Starters’ Business Challenge Fund Administration

The NDYEP business challenge fund which was launched in February to provide seed funds for starter businesses was completed. Although some of the beneficiaries worked in groups to access the business start-up funds, a total of 86 youth emerged as winners of the challenge funds from the project states; Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers. Grants were disbursed to 43 beneficiaries in the aquaculture sector, 10 beneficiaries each in the ICT and finished leather sectors also received grants, while three beneficiaries each in the renewable energy and construction sectors were also awarded grants. These start-up businesses are functioning in the 3 states. This grant disbursement is the final activity for the NDYEP.

A total of 69 grant awards were disbursed, ranging from N500,000 to over N2,000,000; and totaling N49,699,896. Abia State received 19 grants, Akwa Ibom State got 13 grants, while 37 grants went to Rivers State. In terms of gender ratio for the grant’s beneficiaries; 53% of grant beneficiaries were women, who received 56% of the total grants disbursed. Also, there were four persons living with disability who were beneficiaries of the challenge fund.

Table 7a: NDYEP Grants: Type of Awardees.

Type	Grants	Amount (N)	Beneficiaries
Groups	8	12,870,400	25
Individuals	61	36,829,496	61
Total	69	49,699,896	86

Table 7b: State Distribution of NDYEP Grants

States	Grants	Amount (N)	Beneficiaries
Abia	19	18,431,720	34
Akwa Ibom	13	9,150,000	13
Rivers	37	22,118,176	39

2.5 Access to Energy

Achieving sustainable, systemic change in the energy sector requires innovative technologies. This section highlights what was achieved in the Access to Energy project in Q2 2021.

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).

Sharing models for scaling PIND's Access to Energy business models

To increase stakeholders and industry collaboration and participation in PIND's drive to scale up access to energy in the coastal region, 18 people participated in various PIND-supported demonstrations and workshops on Access-to-Energy technologies in Q2 2021. These include the leadership of Irradiance limited – a private sector solar power company, as well as members of the Akinsolu community leadership, who were all sensitised through a model sharing exercise that will increase their awareness of the profitability and viability of PIND's access to energy models.

Partnering new Private Sector power developers to scale up PIND's Energy Cabin business model

In Q2 2021, PIND partnered with two renewable energy firms to scale up the commercial access-to-energy model to more coastal communities. Solaviva Limited is one of the power developers that attended PIND's access to energy model sharing workshop in 2020. The Company expressed interest in investing in the Niger Delta via renewable energy projects, including solar refrigeration and mini grids. In Q2 2021, through PIND's facilitation, the company signed a Power purchase agreement with Akinsolu community in the Ilaje LGA of Ondo State. This partnership will see Solaviva provide solar refrigeration services to a cluster of fisherfolks in the community and at the same time supply power to households and businesses. Also, in the quarter under review, PIND facilitated the signing of a power purchase agreement between Infranergy and the leadership of the Opia community in Warri North LGA of Delta State. InfraNergy is an energy development company that seeks to maximize social impact in energy underserved communities in the coastal areas. They have partnered with PIND to explore the development of a mini grid and allied smaller energy provision services in the coastal areas. This partnership will see the deployment of a solar powered mini grid in Opia community that will give 65 households and businesses access to power in the outset, and another 35 connections before the end of the year.

Leveraging funds in the Energy sector

Within the reporting period, N17.8 million was leveraged through private sector investment into the construction of a mini grid in Opia community, Warri North LGA of Delta State.

3. 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:



3.1 Peace Building

This section shows key achievements in Quarter 2 of 2021 by the Peace Building program.

Between 2015 and 2019, almost every State in the Niger Delta had multiple and overlapping conflict drivers within its territory. To address this situation, PIND embarked on extensive interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the region. PIND's role and in its support for grassroots-led conflict resolution initiatives show examples of both the scope and the limits of long-term peacebuilding projects.

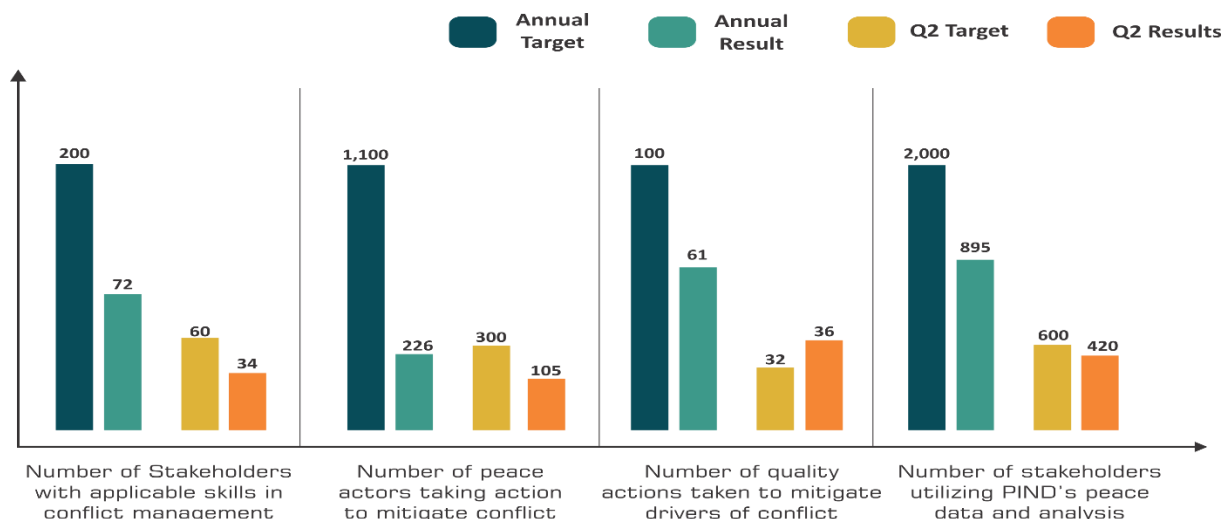
Having recognized the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict in the region as early as 2012, PIND adopted a plan of action that aimed to keep the level of violence as low as possible, particularly in key communities of interest, while 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).¹¹

In 2021, the objective of PIND’s peacebuilding program was to prevent violent conflicts wherever

possible, and where this is not possible, to demonstrate ways of reducing violence and to support long-term grassroots-based mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution.

Figure 7. Performance status of Peace Building program for Q2 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 precisely where PIND’s peace efforts come into play: 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.

In Q2 2021, 34 peace actors whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training¹² sessions and workshops (Figure 8), applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. These actors applied their skills in several ways, including providing further training to others, engaging in conflict mitigation efforts in their

communities and engaging in peacebuilding awareness campaigns against electoral violence.

Also, 105 peace actors constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 36 ‘quality actions’¹³ to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period. The following are some examples of the ways the peace actors applied their skills to promote peace and tackle conflict:

- Uzezi Agbor, in Delta State assisted communities in Bende Local Government Area to set up early warning and reporting systems to facilitate the reporting of conflict and security issues in their communities to security agencies and other civil societies for needed interventions.

¹¹ PIND Impact Assessment: promoting peace in the Niger Delta 2012- 2018.

¹² The 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.

¹³ 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)

- John Ileri in Ondo State intervened in a community conflict in Ilaje and an issue related to the change of leadership within a youth association was resolved.
- In Bayelsa, Faith Omukoro resolved a long-standing market union conflict that had taken ethnic dimension and potential involvement of cult groups.

Table 8 presents some of the interventions carried out by various peace actors during the quarter towards creating a long-term peaceful environment.

An analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products revealed that 420 stakeholders utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis during Q2 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 Programme (NSRP), Council of Foreign Relations, Nigeria Watch, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), and Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD).

As of June 30, 2021, PIND had coded, formatted, and uploaded 22,510 conflict-related incidents in the Niger Delta, since 2009. Data from the [Peace Map](#) is regularly aggregated and presented in various forms for use including: annual, quarterly, and weekly conflict tracker; which are used by the P4P chapters Prevent committees, the Peace and Security Network and other diverse stakeholders in their conflict assessment and mitigation planning and implementation. In Q2 2021, PIND developed and published 12 Niger Delta Weekly Updates and one Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Tracker. Click on this [LINK](#) to access PIND's Niger Delta Weekly Update. Or send an email to trackers@pindfoundation.org to subscribe.

Table 8. Summary of selected interventions carried out by peace actors in Q2 2021 by location, type and results.

Peace actor/Location	Type of conflict issue	Outcome of interventions
Tina Anya <i>Imo State</i>	Community and Interfamily Conflict	Successfully intervened in a conflict in Mbano where a woman was murdered and her head severed. With the knowledge she got from several Conflict Management Training, worked with her team of intervenors to engage the different families and relevant stakeholders to calm the situation down which contributed to the prevention of a reprisal attack in the community of Mbano.
Judith Akiri <i>Delta State</i>	Political Conflict	Within the quarter, she boldly applied the knowledge she got from the Nonviolence Election training to mitigate a disagreement between politicians of two different political parties and gang groups in Uzere Ward II, Isoko South LGA of the State. Her actions helped in resolving their differences which averted destruction of lives that would have followed if the issue was not settled in time.
Monica Nwachukwu: <i>Imo State</i>	Family Agricultural Land Conflict	She participated in several P4P conflict management training sessions. In April, 2021 she was able to mediate and resolve land disputes in favour of women in her community. From her narrative, for several years, women in Umudioka, Orlu LGA have been involved in land disputes with family members on when to commence planting of crops during every farming season. She was able to convince family members to allow women to plant their crops whenever they are ready.
Abbey Oluwaseun <i>Ondo State</i>	Community conflict	He participated in conflict management training, after which he intervened in a communal conflict between Ese-Udu and Irele communities by convening a stakeholder meeting with the disputing parties. After several dialogue meetings, the community conflict was successfully resolved.
Etetim Asukwo <i>Akwa Ibom State</i>	Boundary conflict	Etetim Asukwo, in Akwa Ibom State attended a Conflict management training in the state. With the knowledge acquired, he mobilized leaders in the community and resolved a long-term land boundary dispute in Afaha Nsit, Etinan LGA.
Nkue Lucky: <i>Rivers State</i>	Community conflict	He received volunteerism and leadership training. He puts the knowledge acquired during the COVID-19 pandemic as he volunteered and sensitized people on conflict issues and nonviolence during distribution of relief materials. As a result, he was appointed by the government to be in charge of distribution of relief materials "palliatives" in his community Kpitep, Tai LGA. He successfully distributed relief materials without any hitches.

3.2 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.

Mitigating Communal Tension in Oil Field Communities in Warri Southwest Council, Delta State: The role of the Warri MSP.

An oil spill was reported in late March, 2021 in the vicinity of the operations of Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL); in its Abiteye, Makaraba and Utonana fields axis, in Warri Southwest Local Government Area of Delta State. Consistent with regulatory requirements, a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV,) made up of representatives of the communities, CNL and the regulators; was required to investigate and determine the source, cause and impact of the oil spill on the environment and/or people close to the communities.

However, there was tension between the Itsekiris and Ijaws, regarding the composition of the team and the communities to visit, as one ethnic group did not want members of the other ethnic group to be part of the committee/ community visited. Messages from both groups both in print and social media, threatened the fragile peace between the two ethnic groups who have a long history and are still experiencing lingering effects of violent conflicts from the early 2000s; where lives were lost, and property destroyed. The Warri MSP stepped in to mediate in the conflict.

To douse tension, prevent escalation of conflict and promote peaceful coexistence, The Warri MSP initiated multiple interventions to curb the impending intercommunal crisis and promote peaceful coexistence between the concerned Ijaw and Itsekiri communities. Three key objectives were set: mitigate and prevent the escalation of the conflict; proactively identify and eliminate the triggers of such conflicts in a manner that prevents future reoccurrence; and ensure that sustainable peace returns within the shortest possible time.

A tripartite approach was adopted by the Warri MSP: mapping and physical engagement of relevant stakeholders, phone calls and physical meetings; as well as the issuance of press releases and radio awareness talk shows on the need for peaceful coexistence and the protection of oil installations against vandalism. Over four meetings took place in Warri between April and June 2021. Some personalities in these meetings included representatives from within and outside the spill locations. From the Itsekiri side, they included Dr Jeffery Wilkie, MSP; Mr Dennis Umewe, Chairman, Obaghoro Community; Taye Alakowe, Youth Secretary, Gbokoda Community; Shagari Jemine, Youth Secretary Aja-Amita Community; and Austin Dorsu, Chairman, Olero Youth Forum. From the Ijaw communities, Chief Sheriff Mulade, MSP; Pedro Bekenawei, Chairman, Kokodiagbene youth; Chief Emmanuel Ekpeticu, the Amadiwei of Kokodiagbene Community; Mr Superb Aduromokumor, former Youth President of Kokodiagbene; Boanage Solomon Eris, Chairman-Benikrukru youth; Capt Wilson Bubor, chairman-Makaraba community; and Mr Kingsley Oturubo, former Chairman- Okerenkoko Federated Community.

Relevant stakeholders (traditional rulers, youth leaders, religious leaders, women groups, government officials) were identified and engaged through phone calls and physical visits; resulting in reduced tension amongst the two ethnic groups.

Also, on April 26, 2021, the MSP issued a press release enjoining host communities to be calm and give peace a chance; to enable relevant authorities particularly the Delta State government and CNL, to take steps to address the issue. In the press release, the executive chairman of MSP said, "if both Chevron and the Delta State government do the needful it will help to avert crisis and therefore save the country's economy from disruption".

The radio awareness talk shows featured Influential people from both ethnic on awareness/sensitization campaigns which generated interest of both ethnic groups. They spanned five (5) episodes:

- The role of communities in protecting and preserving the environment from Vandals on June 28, 2021;

- The role of security agencies to protect the environment on June 30 ,2021;
- The role of IOCs on environmental protection and early response to issues that affect the companies and host communities on July 6,2021;
- The role of environmental regulatory agencies such as National oil spill detection and response agency (NOSDRA), Ministry of environment to protect the environment on July 13,2021; and
- Public contributions to peaceful coexistence and the sustainability of the environment on July 20, 2021 all aired on aired on Crown FM 89;9 Warri.

Though the oil spill issue is still being investigated, the MSP’s interventions have contributed to the return of relative peace in the communities and between the two ethnic groups, with several groups- traditional leaders, youth associations, women, government officials; commending the MSP for their role in intervening in the crisis.

4. 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 1 of 2021 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

4.1 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.

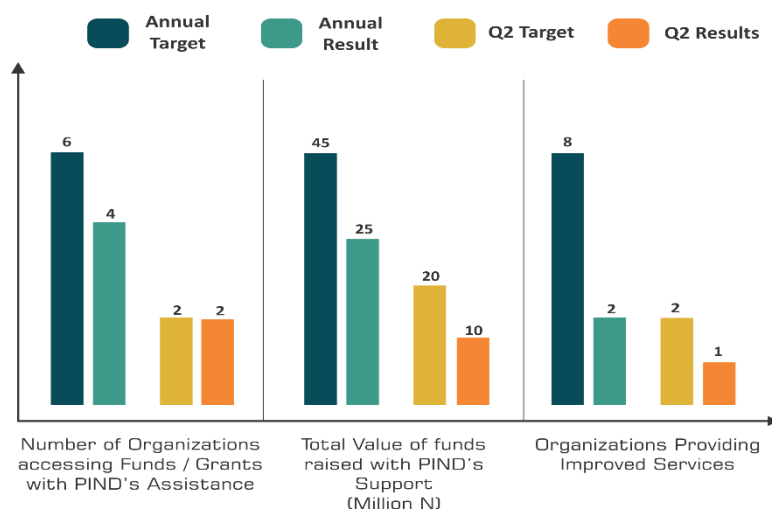
Work under this project in Q2 2021 focused on supporting PIND market advisors in the design of mentorship strategy for co-facilitators to enhance their implementation of market systems interventions in the region. The mentorship strategy for co-facilitators will ensure that these organizations continue to receive needed technical support and guidance in the implementation of several interventions across the region.

Also, within the quarter, CB participated with other PIND groups to carry out a scoping study of selected

GMOU communities following the Peace and Economic Opportunities livelihood Assessment (P&ELOA) and the design of proposed

interventions. This culminated in the development of a draft intervention justification document (IJ) for proposed interventions in the GMOU communities based on the P&ELOA findings.

Figure 8. Performance status of Capacity Building project for Q2 2021



Attracting more funds to the Niger Delta for community development

As a follow up to the PIND facilitated 4-day virtual training course on resource mobilization and proposal writing where 45 individuals from twelve organizations participated in 2020, monitoring of the participating organizations continued in this quarter. One of the organizations, 'Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons (SEYP)', adapted the concepts and ethics of resource mobilization, resource mapping, donor relations, proposal writing, and grant documentation, learned, and secured a grant of N10 million to train 150 Women and youths in Auchi-Edo state, on the production and sales of Adire, Batik, and Kapala materials. The training will take place in Q3 2021.

Also, another participating organization, CARA development foundation was able to attract funding of N150,000 as a fee, from the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) to support a local organization to develop its advocacy strategy. The two above are distinct from the ongoing skills acquisition training in Yenagoa, Bayelsa state through a grant given to the Family Welfare Foundation benefitting 18 persons (10 females). This brings the funds attracted to the region in this quarter to N10.15 million, and a cumulative of N25.6 Million in 2021.

4.2 Advocacy

Facilitating the development of well-structured and articulate 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 Q2, 2021, PIND building on the success of the first quarter, commenced the study/assessment of multiple taxations and illegal levies in the Niger Delta. With the Abia State Long-Term Development plan completed, PIND continued to play an oversight function in the State by advising on the implementation of the plan. PIND, at the invitation of the Abia State Government, participated in the 2021 Aba Business and Leadership Summit and shared a paper on how to situate the summit in the Trade & Investment Section of the State Long-Term plan. Similarly, the Edo State Long-Term Development plan has also been finalized and will be launched and formally presented to the Executive Governor by PIND in the next quarter. Although the off-cycle gubernatorial elections along with the change in political office holders had stalled the progress of the plan, with consistent work from PIND's Advocacy team, the planning project has now been brought to a successful end.

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

To expand program benefits to 150,000 farmers to increase their income 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. To fully understand the cause for inadequate access to land, PIND undertook a field assessment of the effects and causes of inadequate access to arable land for smallholder farmers in Delta, Edo, and Ondo States. The findings and recommendations from the study were disseminated at a high-level roundtable event in Q1, 2021, with senior government officials across the three focal States, agriculture business membership organizations, traditional leaders, legal and civil society organizations, in attendance.

The roundtable session aimed to interrogate the recommendations from the study and develop an implementable action plan. In Q2, PIND commenced the dissemination and promotion of the assessment report on the assessment via the PIND and NDLink websites. An intervention concept note is being developed for an approach that will provide the best potential for achieving the desired results of increasing access to land for agriculture.

The proposed intervention ideas are around identifying and partnering with other advocacy

organizations that are affected by the issues to drive engagement with both government and the council of traditional rulers. These Advocacy organizations are expected to work with the land bank committees in the focal states to profile arable land and prepare them for agriculture investment. Currently, there are continuing and sustained interests by private sector investors and global development aid organizations in the agriculture sector, for agriculture investment in the Niger Delta. There are also increasing opportunities to expand the production of some agricultural commodities like cassava, oil palm, and cocoa with comparative advantage in the Niger Delta.

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

One of the objectives of PIND is to strengthen the capacity of Business Membership Organizations working with the Economic Development Program, to advocate for the development and implementation of policies that can address illegal levies in PIND's program locations, to enable them to maximize profit, expand their markets and increase contribution to GDP. To achieve this, a study to understand the underlying issues relating to multiple taxations and their effects on small business enterprises with specific focus to Abia, Delta, and the Rivers States and with particular focus the PINDs agriculture value chain sectors, has commenced. Over twenty pieces of literature have been reviewed so far while primary data collection is underway.

Long-Term Planning

Abia State Long-Term Development Plan:

In Q2, the Abia State long-term development plan was officially commissioned by the Abia State governor (represented by the deputy governor) in an event that would mark the beginning of strategic governance in the State. So far, 350 copies of the plan have been distributed to the ministries, departments, agencies in the State, as well as organized private sector organizations that supported the development of the plan. PIND has developed an implementation tracking template to enable the monitoring, influencing, and evaluation of the policies, programs, and activities that may be derived from the plan.

Also, in Q2, PIND, at the invitation of the Abia State Governor, his Excellency Okezie Ikpeazu, participated in the 2021 Aba Business and Leadership Summit, themed, 'Transferring Tested

and Proven Business Models to the Next Generation', and shared a paper on how to situate the summit in the Trade & Investment Section of the State Long-Term plan. In the paper PIND advised the State government to drive initiatives that will unleash the potentials of MSMEs to foster

the growth and development of the State.

The summit which took place in Aba, Abia State from Wednesday, May 26 to Thursday, May 27, 2021, had over 300 physical attendees (in addition to virtual participants), including Peter Obi (former Governor of Anambra State), Prof Pat Utomi (Professor, Lagos Business School), Chief Cosmos Maduka (President, Coscharis Group), and Hon Bart Nnaji (Former Minister of Science and Technology).

Edo State Long-Term Development Plan:

Edo State's long-term development plan was finalized this quarter. The Edo State Long-Term Development Plan (2021 – 2050) outlines a development path for the State over the next 30-years. The Plan addresses poverty and sustainability issues by focusing on the critical development considerations of livelihood, private sector development, business environment competitiveness, human capital, and infrastructure development. The motivation is to leverage the rich capabilities of the State's demography in entrenching an inclusive, people-centric and private sector-led economy with a high ranking in the country and beyond.

The State is not unmindful of the increasing challenge of weak institutional capacity including policy uncertainties which has impeded the growth and development of most sovereign and sub-national entities over the years. The focus of the Edo Plan is to instigate a step change in stakeholders' response to governance and institution strengthening, in a manner that immediately addresses the challenges of the future. The Edo at 2050 Plan, therefore, adopts a bottom-up, top-down approach, such that it positions the citizens at the fore of development, socio-economic empowerment through an intentional commitment to functional learning, social inclusion, vocational skills development, security, and safety, including entrenchment of a system that enables maximization of potentials; through the provision of incentives for hard work, new learning, diligence, and results. In the next quarter, this plan would be formally presented to the executive governor of the State, launched and mass-produced.

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

In February 2020, six South-South Governors met in Port Harcourt and directed the BRACED Commission to put in place measures to establish a

security outfit for the South-South. Since then, PIND has engaged with the Commission through its Director-General. In Q2 PIND continued its engagements with the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and the BRACED Commission committee assigned by the Niger Delta Governors, to design the Peace and Security Framework for the region. PIND has continued to generate conversation around the Policy Brief on Security Framework published on NDLink, which has now reached over 4,242 people online. After the framework document is reviewed, it will be submitted to the South-South governors for approval.

NDLink

Following the Federal Government’s ban of Twitter in Nigeria, NDLink struggled for a few days to reconnect with its audience – which was primarily on Twitter with over 5,000 followers. To remedy the situation, the platform began to grow its

audience on other social media platforms recording strong results as follows:

- [On Facebook](#), NDLink’s page now has 4,164 followers
- [On Instagram](#), NDLink currently has 2,406 followers
- [On LinkedIn](#), NDLink currently has 765 followers

This mission of creating a new crop of engaged followers on other platforms besides Twitter made it possible for NDLink to still meet three of its quarterly targets. 62 comments were recorded on posts made by NDLink during the period as against a target of 50 and 2,182 downloads were made on weekly conflict reports, documents submitted by development partners, and other PIND resources on the NDLink website.

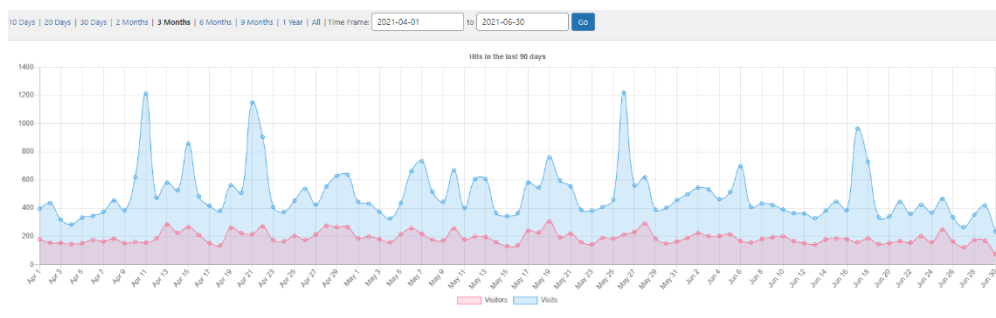


Figure 9: Analytics showing trend in visits to the NDLink website in Q2 2021

Compared to Q1 2021, where NDLink received about 243,000 visits, in Q2 345,812 visits were recorded on the NDLink website over the 90 days in review, and this improvement was mostly driven through a new series launched on NDLink called ‘A Day in the Life of a Niger Deltan’. The goal of the series, is to advance new narratives for the region by showcasing the everyday lives of Niger Deltans who are doing exceptional things. So far, the weekly series has featured 6 young people from Abia, Akwa Ibom, Edo, and the Rivers States, and in Q3 efforts will be made to promote a lot more stories from the region’s youth.

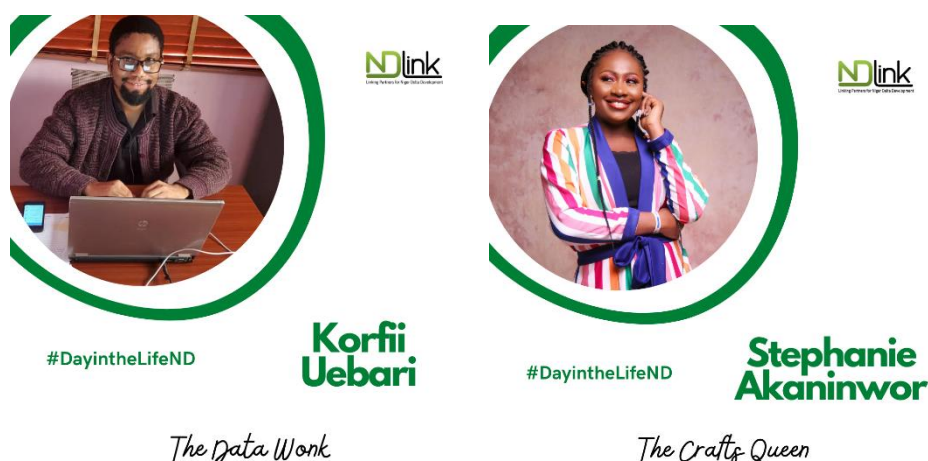


Figure 10: Social Media banners from 2 recent Episodes of 'Day in the Life of a Niger Deltan' series

4.3 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 so, 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.

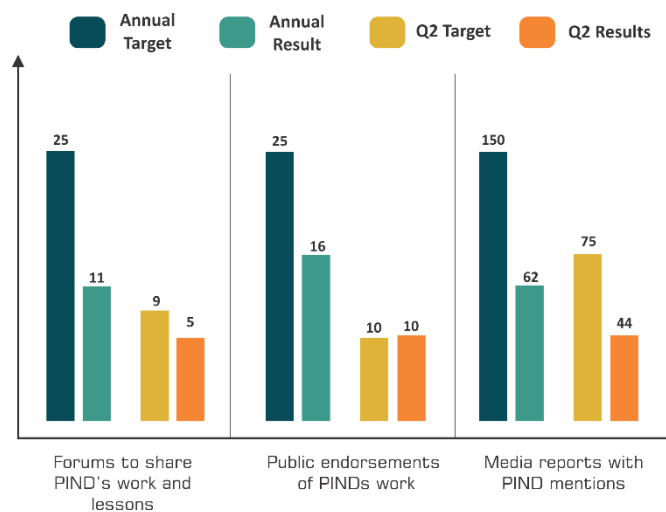
Although the continued vaccination of people against COVID-19, within the region and the Nation at large, has sustained the return to normalcy in socioeconomic activities in the second quarter of the year 2021, PIND continued its social responsibility of reporting incidents of COVID-19 within the region. 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.

Some of the knowledge products, organizational updates, and social issues actively promoted during the quarter include: 2020 PIND annual report; Niger Delta Weekly Conflict Updates; PIND's Market Resilience report, Access to Agricultural Land report and communique; The Abia State 30-Year Long Term Plan (2020-2050), PIND 2021 Q1 Progress Report, Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Tracker - Q1 2021, NDYEP Model Framework and Final Evaluation Report and the Delta State Labour Market Assessment Report.

These products earned 1,538 downloads from the PIND website. Some visitors found content from the website quite useful and engaging that they visited multiple times, leading to 21,920 repeat visitors to the website during the second quarter of the year.

Figure 11. Performance status of Communications activities for Q2 2021



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

Through PIND's communications efforts, an additional 724,180 and 4,669,846 persons gained awareness about PIND through the Foundation's digital media platforms and mainstream media respectively, during the reporting quarter, bringing the total number of persons with new or increased awareness about PIND to 5,394,026 persons in Q2 and a cumulative figure of 6,894,741 persons reached via these platforms within the first half of the year. Thus, already 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 140 new content about PIND and related topics across PIND's social media platforms: LinkedIn, Twitter¹⁴, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These posts reached 712,508 people who viewed them and became either more aware of, or newly aware of PIND, its programs, and its activities. In total 1,250,005 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 23,985 engagements in the reporting period,

compared to 18,617 attained in Q1. These increased engagements increases 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 (3) newsletters to recipients in target stakeholder groups during the quarter in review, reaching 1,922 persons. The knowledge resources disseminated include the 2020 PIND Annual Report, PIND Q1 Progress report, and the NDYEP knowledge resources. These newsletters garnered opening rates of 37%, 28.7%, and 27% respectively; well over the standard industry rate of 23.1%. The opening rate is the number of people who open the newsletter versus the number of total recipients. Each newsletter also earned click-through rates of 5.2%, 2.5%, and 1.7% compared to the industry standard of 2.66% for non-profits. Click-through rates inform how many times viewers of the newsletter clicked on links contained within it. These knowledge resources disseminated as newsletters attracted 55 new subscribers to PIND's mailing list within the quarter. To actively drive subscriptions to the PIND newsletters, the Unit facilitated a campaign across social media to engage individuals subscribe to and receive information shared by PIND through newsletters. This helped to increase people's engagement with the newsletters, and contributed to 945 referrals to the PIND website; thus providing people with access to more information about the PIND brand.

Audience analysis of stakeholder recipients of PIND's newsletters revealed that 44% of PIND

¹⁴ This was before the ban on Twitter, which came into effect on June 5, 2021.

stakeholders engage with PIND's newsletters. Some of these stakeholders include implementing partners, Local CSO/BMOs & others, Private sector & investors, Media, Local/International Donor & Development stakeholders, Gender and Vulnerable Group Stakeholders, State and Federal Government Agencies, PIND BoT, and PIND staff.

3. PIND Website

Website tactics continued for the Quarter, including search engine optimization, cross-posting and promoting content across social media and the strategic repurposing of and dissemination of PIND and partners' knowledge resources available for

downloads, keeping stakeholders updated with PIND news and information in real-time and on improving search engine optimization (SEO) and referrals to the website.

Website tactics for the Quarter focused on making relevant PIND and partners' knowledge resources available for downloads; making them more accessible by breaking down the resources into bit-sizes for easier reading; keeping stakeholders updated with PIND news and information in real-time; improving search engine optimization (SEO), and referrals to the website through the newsletters and social media platforms.

Table 9. PIND's website performance summary in Q2 2021.

9,721 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time
21,920 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND
39 new content about PIND and partners shared
1,538 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 **29** email inquiries in Q2, and 345 enquiries so far in 2021. Some of the email enquiries PIND received in Q2 were requests for information, data, or participation to speak at forums, from members of the academia, researchers, and development organizations among others. One thing they had in common was the reason they (the enquirers) cited for contacting PIND: 'because of PIND's "expertise" in matters relating to economic development and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta'. 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

During the second quarter of the year, PIND leveraged the vast reach of 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 **39** media publications, which led to **44** positive media mentions of PIND in Q2, 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. Most of the earned media publications reported activities from PINDs programs; Advocacy, Peace Building, Economic Development (Agriculture), Access to Energy, and NDYEP.

As such, **4,669,846** individuals were reached via the mainstream media with key messages about PIND, its program and project activities in Q2, with a cumulative figure of 5,610,925 people reached in 2021 so far, exceeding its annual target of **5,000,000**.

6. Public Endorsement of PIND

During the first quarter of the year, the value of PIND’s work was evidenced through public endorsements, as the Foundation earned 10 public endorsements of PIND’s work and results in the Niger Delta. Cumulatively the foundation has received 16 public endorsements of its work so far in 2021, against an annual target of 25. The endorsements came from PIND project participants, validating the impact of PIND’s work in the region and strengthening its position as the go-to organization for socio-economic development in the Niger Delta.

One such public endorsement is a Twitter post by @bestyjioke a content creator, and data analyst; “Glad for the opportunity this project offered me. Thank you @PINDFoundation @FordFoundation @theighubafrika for being instrumental to my growth and that of others in the Niger Delta.”

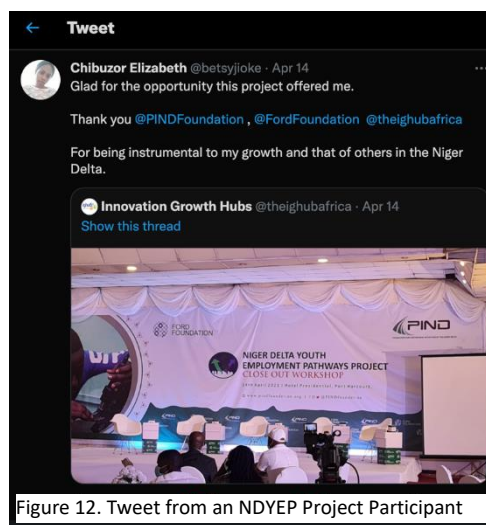


Figure 12. Tweet from an NDYEP Project Participant

Another example of a public endorsement of PIND’s work is from a newspaper news report published by the Nigerian Tribune which quotes Sam Hart; Director-General, Abia State Marketing, and Quality Management Agency; at the NDYEP close-out ceremony: "PIND, you are intentional, you are

practical, and your works speak for themselves. Because of the work you do, Abia State is more serious, better positioned, and more attractive to development partners who are looking for serious partners to work with".

4.4 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.

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, and positions 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 Q2 2021, 12,918 males and 8,066 females (38% of the total beneficiaries) were beneficiaries of 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 and capacity building events targeted at improving their knowledge and practices with an aim to increase their incomes and improves their livelihoods. Similarly, 192 males and 78 females (41% 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 intervention in the next quarter.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

1. Rising inflation has led to an increase in the cost of agro-inputs and technologies. Feedback from farmers in the Cocoa and Aquaculture value chains revealed that rising costs of inputs have increased farmers production costs and led to a reduction in the adoption of the practices and technologies being promoted by PIND and its partners. PIND in turn has ramped up its activities to sensitize farmers on the benefits of good agronomic practices, so that more farmers can learn and understand how to reduce their production costs, by adopting improved practices to increase their productivity. Also, PIND is also facilitating engagements between farmers and Sombreiro Kapital to enable farmers to obtain input credit at favorable terms and conditions.
2. Input companies have reduced their investment in/spend on promotional activities/sensitization for smallholder cocoa farmers. A lot of input companies now focus on volume or impact sales that guarantee a higher volume of sales at a lower cost. To mitigate this, PIND will leverage its relationship with off-takers to extend GAP training to the farmers within the off-takers network.
3. The Federal Government's Twitter ban is a major constraint for engaging PIND's stakeholders in the digital space. Twitter is a global community with a significantly high engagement rate when compared with other social media platforms. Twitter is one of PIND's strategic communication tool and as such, the ban has affected the Foundation's ability to reach and interact with stakeholders in that digital space. To address this, PIND is working with its sister organisation, NDPI located in Washington DC, USA, to push content about PIND, its programs, projects, results, and approaches; via NDPI's twitter platform; thus keeping PIND in the conversation within the Twitter digital space.
4. Intervention monitoring of the solar refrigeration pilots in Sangana and Fishtown communities showed that there were some technology challenges with the cold-rooms in both communities. The moribund cold rooms in these communities had been refurbished and retrofitted for use with Solar energy in 2020. However, a technical assessment by the business service provider (Vectis) in 2021 revealed that due to the age of the cold-rooms, it was impossible to sustain the desired freezing temperatures, required for preservation. As a temporary measure therefore, the solar business service provider introduced several smaller freezers units, with a total capacity of 1,650L¹⁵, and powered by solar energy, to address this challenge and absorb the demand for blast refrigeration services in these communities. This innovation has started to yield results, with 252 fish traders across both communities already utilizing the refrigeration services. This indicates that local adaptability of interventions is sometimes necessary for sustainability and business continuity.
5. The access to energy project is experiencing slower turnaround times for the completion of the RDC solar mini grid projects by PIND nominated vendors, largely due to delayed payments. Also, the delayed funding of the EA2P by the prospective donor, with Q4 2021 becoming the estimated earliest funding window, has affected the interest of some stakeholders, who have indicated that

¹⁵ Although the temporary refrigeration capacity in both communities is 28% of capacity of the cold rooms (6,000L), it meets the current demand for refrigeration (in terms of the

quantity of products being preserved in the freezers) in the communities.

they might pull out of the collaboration because of the delays.

Lessons Learned

1. In Cocoa, implementing the quality improvement model with partners who have secured international purchase contracts and are implementing a certification program, is crucial for the success of interventions, aimed at promoting the production of good quality cocoa beans. The sector team found that interventions with off-takers who were willing, but did not have purchase contracts with international buyers, were unsuccessful. This was buttressed by the success of PIND's partnership with Subjugate Nigeria Limited, a partner who has international purchase agreements, for its cocoa pilot intervention. Going forward, PIND will identify, engage with and only partner with off-takers that meet

these criteria, to scale up the quality improvement intervention in the cocoa sector.

2. Diversification of NDLINK's digital portfolio is key to sustaining its audience and reach, especially as the world enters into a period of harsh internet governance with several social media bans recorded across Africa. It is therefore important to invest in the growth of NDLINK's accounts on all social media platforms, to increase PIND's general reach and audience.
3. The early warning and reporting training is proving useful, as nearly all P4P members who have attended the training said that they have reported conflict and security incidents to security institutions. This is indicative of growing trust of and potential collaboration, between security agencies and civil society organizations, as well as the citizenry in the Niger Delta.

6. Program Management

Organizational Sustainability

PIND finalized discussions with DMG Events, an international exhibitions and publishing company, with headquarters in Dubai, UAE, to train 50 retailers in renewable energy, in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States. As part of their corporate social responsibility and as a way of giving back to communities they work in Nigeria, the company approached PIND to build the capacity of business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs, in the renewable energy sector. The project is conceptualized as a six-month initiative to equip beneficiaries with business skills and provide hands-on practical training on solar panel installation and maintenance. DMG is sponsoring the project with the sum N14 million.

Following a request for PIND to design a sustainable approach for job creation and entrepreneurship, for 500 ex-militants, PIND submitted a proposal to the presidential amnesty programme, a government agency that focuses on rehabilitating and providing economic opportunities for ex-agitators within the Niger Delta. With a budget of N400million, the target intervention states are Abia, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states.

The Executive Director of PIND, Dr. Dara Akala chaired an international event organized by the African Philanthropy Forum, on June 29, 2021. The event was themed; “leveraging community foundations for local impact”. PIND leveraged the event to showcase its work in the Niger Delta to an audience across various countries in Africa.

Measuring change, learning, and generating knowledge

In Q2, 2021, PIND commenced an independent review of the MSD portfolio of projects, to determine the areas (sectors/interventions) that have a high likelihood of producing sustainable impact, vis a vis PIND’s investments. The review is intended to highlight areas where PIND can repurpose its resources to achieve more ‘bang for its buck’.

PIND also participated in the gLOCAL evaluation week, a knowledge sharing event which took place concurrently in various countries around the world, with the aim of sharing local and global M&E knowledge. PIND was one of the panelists in the Nigerian event to share their knowledge on the Participatory Stakeholders Evaluation approach.

During the quarter, PIND also participated in the national validation workshop organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, for the Food Systems, Land use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP). PIND is part of the consortium of partners for the delivery of the program, which is aimed at promoting integrated landscape management and sustainable food systems in Ondo and Cross-River State; with Cocoa and Palm-Oil as the focal sectors. The purpose of the workshop was to validate the project document. The final document has been submitted to GEF (Global Environment Facility) for approval and fund disbursement in time for the project kick-off scheduled for January 2022.



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. This quarter, 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, to safeguard staff lives and well-being.

Consequently, no accidents or travel-associated incidents were recorded during the quarter.

7. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Q2 2021, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- facilitate the installation of chorkor ovens requested by stakeholder, facilitate capacity building and linkages for fisher folks in the riverine communities and track the adoption of fish seeds and assess the impact of its use on farmers.
- deepen the productivity improvement and quality improvement interventions in the cocoa-producing states of the Niger Delta and conduct outcome monitoring activities to identify changes happening at the farmer level .
- support Business Service Providers to provide business development services to MSMEs and organize linkages/investment forums, in collaboration with chambers of commerce, institutional buyers, government, and other stakeholders.
- conduct a stakeholder’s workshop with relevant palm oil actors in the seed industry, on strategies to improve the viability of their businesses. Commence field activities with a newly on-boarded seed producer.
- facilitate loans to 175 farmers in the Niger Delta. Grow the initial seed fund to expand Sombreiro Kapital’s operations.
- Under the **access to energy program**, PIND will implement one Chevron Access to Energy Grant in one EGCDF nominated community in Delta state. It will also facilitate the deployment of one solar refrigeration unit in one Ilaje RDC 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 continue to build the institutional capacity of the P4P Network; supervise implementation of the OSF project, training of KEFFES and Dodo River RDCs on Conflict Management and EWER and produce conflict briefs and trackers. In addition, the program will supervise the implementation of small grant interventions in coastal communities in Delta State, as well as ensure the integration of peacebuilding and economic development activities/interventions.
- The new **Delta Youth Employment Program** will select implementing partners, commence sector specific technical and vocational skills training for 540 youths, organize mindset orientation and job readiness workshops for selected youths across the GMOU areas and other parts of Delta State and continue to conduct learning forums for the adoption of NDYEP model and framework.
- Finally, the **advocacy project** will present and publicly launch the Edo State Long-Term Development Plan, establish an access to Land Technical Policy Committee, conduct a field assessment of the effect of Multiple Taxation and Illegal levies on small businesses in the Niger Delta and continue engagements with Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and BRACED Commission on the South-South Security Framework.



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