



Perception Study to Evidence The Impacts of PIND's Peace building Program in the Niger Delta 2020–2021



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA (PIND)



The strategic thrust of PIND's Peacebuilding 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.

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Executive Summary

This study aimed to ascertain how PIND, through its Peacebuilding (PB) Program has impacted in contributing to a more peaceful, secure and safe environment that enables economic development in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. It also provides data for one of the key metrics of PIND's Peacebuilding Program: a measure of the "population that feel safe in the areas they reside", as a result of the peacebuilding and conflict mitigation interventions in the Niger Delta between the year 2020 and 2021.

The Niger Delta of Nigeria is highly diverse with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government areas in the country. It covers 9 out of the 36 states of Nigeria: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers. The region contains large reserves of natural resources which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. Despite the abundance of natural resources, the Niger Delta is enmeshed in economic underdevelopment, violent conflict, criminality, and general insecurity.



In view of these, PIND's Programs in the Niger Delta are designed to build sustainable peace in the Niger Delta (through its Peacebuilding Program) that contributes to economic development; and also simultaneously design and implement sustainable economic development projects (under its Economic Development Program), that also helps to sustain the peace.

Accordingly, since its inception in 2010, PIND has designed a number of peacebuilding projects and interventions to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts in the region. These projects have led to "improved peace" in the region in general and the communities in particular. The evaluation report by Initiative for Global Development (IGD, 2015, pg. 4), indicates that the "Partners for Peace (P4P) network members are responsive and mitigate conflict. The P4P is a grassroots-led, volunteer-based conflict resolution initiative initiated and supported by PIND to embark on extensive interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the region.

To achieve the aim of this study, questionnaires were developed and administered randomly to 1,170 respondents in selected communities across the 9 Niger Delta States. Furthermore, 122 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in the 9 states; 26 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted (3 per states), involving over 200 persons (139 males and 61 females). The respondents were selected randomly within purposively selected communities based on the implementation of a peacebuilding intervention by PIND in the year 2020 and 2021. The KIIs and FGDs were held with peace actors, community leaders, company executives, religious leaders, People with Disabilities (PWDs), youth leaders, women group leaders, and so on, based on their knowledge and role in peacebuilding in the communities.



In the Niger Delta, peace was defined as the absence of violent conflicts. The residents perceive safety and security as complementary terms and even use the terms interchangeably. To them safety and security have to do with the extent to which one is able to conduct business, move freely at any time of the day, without intimidation, harassment and attack. It is a measure of the level of violence and freedom to conduct business. Also, it is economic security, job security, security of lives and property with absence of physical, mental and emotional violence.

The study assessed the perception of residents on the frequency of violent conflicts before PIND's PB interventions in the communities (prior to 2020) and after the interventions (2021). The results indicated that 55.13% of participants of the study (645 persons), believed that violent conflicts occurred on a monthly basis prior to 2020, while only 5.21% (61 persons), believed that violent conflicts occurred monthly after the interventions (2021).

The total proportion of the population that feel safer in the communities they reside in the Niger Delta, as a result of PIND's interventions between 2020 and 2021 is 4.5%. Before PIND's intervention (prior to 2020), this proportion was 1.522%, thus an improvement by 2.97%. PIND therefore has improved the atmosphere of peace in the communities in the Niger Delta where it had PB interventions.

The perceived improved peace in the Niger Delta communities where PIND intervened definitely led to positive outcomes in terms of;

Increased economic activities— according to 75.30% (881 persons) of respondents, increased agricultural activities - 64.57% (755 persons), increased social cohesion - 77.52% (907 persons), increased educational activities - 66.66% (780 persons), increased intra and inter-communal cooperation - 81.97% (959 persons) and improvement in social amenities - 47.35% (554 persons). More residents were convinced that the interventions had no significant effect on social amenities.

There was a correlation between the people's perception of peace and PIND's PB outcomes in the communities where PIND intervened in the Niger Delta. The Pearson's correlation analysis revealed that there was positive correlation and significant relationship between the perception of how safe people feel and economic activities ($r = .406, p = .001$), social cohesion ($r = .401, p = .001$), educational activities ($r = .403, p = .001$), presence of social amenities ($r = .298, p = .001$) and agricultural activities ($r = .310, p = .001$).

The major activities of the PB interventions that were considered to be the most effective in creating results according to the respondents were: conflict management (and mitigation) = 56.8% (665 persons), early warning = 52.82% (618 persons), "do no harm" = 19.83% (232 persons), grievance redress mechanism = 18.21% (213 persons) and arbitration 9.06% (106 persons)

Based on the outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding program, there is relative peace and safety in the communities where interventions were carried out. People now look-up to PIND as the lead in peacebuilding and conflict management in the Niger Delta. The study however highlighted the need for more inclusive and sustainable peacebuilding programs and activities to ensure that interventions are not short-lived.

Introduction

In recent years, there have been significant changes in the conflict and security dynamics in the Niger Delta. These changes include an increase in lethal violence, driven by the outbreak of additional security issues and the emergence of new conflict actors and drivers. Conflict issues during the period under consideration (2020—2021) include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include piracy, militancy, kidnapping, gang/cult supremacy clashes, armed robbery, killings for ritualistic purposes and organ trafficking, mob violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, communal violence, land disputes, separatist agitation, targeted violence against government security facilities and personnel, extra-judicial killings, election violence and protests. Particularly, in 2021, while the nature of conflict risk and violence in the region varied, organized criminality, cult clashes, separatist agitation, and communal conflict over land and boundary disputes were the primary causes of lethal violence.



Conflict management and peacebuilding training for youth and traditional leaders of Asutan Ekpe Clan, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA, Akwa Ibom State

Based on these distortions to peace and security, PIND facilitated a number of peacebuilding interventions in several communities of the Niger Delta based on data which showed where they were most needed. Some of the interventions include: the say no to election violence campaign and anti-cultism campaign program in Sagbama, Bayelsa State, awareness campaign against gender based violence at Agbede, Etsako West LGA, Edo State, peacebuilding intervention to curb cult clashes at Umuerim, Nekede, Imo State, workshop on conflict management and peacebuilding training at Ibesikpo Asutan LGA, Akwa Ibom State, etc. ([see here](#)).

Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study was to conduct a survey to collect data and information to provide insight and understanding of PIND's contribution to the experience and perception of improved safety and security in the Niger Delta, as well as the impact of PIND's peace building interventions in target communities. This was achieved through providing answers to the following questions:



What is the percentage of the population that feels safe or safer in the area they reside as a result of PIND's PB interventions?



How has PIND contributed to conflict mitigation or reduction in the Niger Delta?



Is there any evidence of PIND's PB outcomes, based on social and economic indices?



What do residents in the Niger Delta targeted communities consider as peace, safety and security?



What worked/ did not, and why, with respect to the Peacebuilding interventions?.

Data and Methods

The study adopted a mixed research method. Qualitative, quantitative and spatial data were collected and analyzed. In order to better understand what the peacebuilding interventions have achieved in terms of activities, outputs and outcomes, a desk review of various extant evaluation reports was done.



Data collection

- ✔ A total of 1,170 persons completed questionnaires in 9 states (an average of 119 persons per State, 40 per Senatorial District, 14 per community and 3 communities in each Senatorial District). The communities that had benefited from PIND's peacebuilding interventions were purposively selected. In each State, two enumerators administered the questionnaires using KoboToolbox.
- ✔ A total of 123 persons (91 males and 32 females: 15 per state, and 5 per Senatorial District), were interviewed. The category of stakeholders interviewed included peace actors, community leaders, company executives, religious leaders, People Living with Disabilities (PWDs), youth group leaders, women group leaders, and so on. A KII guide was developed to facilitate the interview of critical stakeholders that provided in-depth information about the activities of the peacebuilding interventions and how they impacted the communities in terms of "greater peace".
- ✔ FGD checklists were produced for FGDs with male and female members of the communities and a total of 200 persons (139 male and 61 female) participated in 26 separate FGDs held in all the 9 Niger Delta states. The KIIs and FGDs provided contextual background to situate the findings from the questionnaire analysis which provided quantitative information as to the extent of impact created by the interventions in creating "improved peaceful environment" in the Niger Delta. See survey tool used and the number of respondents for each survey tool per state in [this link](#).



Training of enumerators

The enumerators participated in a one-day online training on the use of the data collection instruments/tools; and to explain to them the scope of work, the method and the resources provided to undertake the assignment.



Analysis and presentation

Numerical data collected from the field was analyzed using KoboToolbox, Microsoft Excel and the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) while qualitative data collected from the KIIs and the FGDs were analyzed using the content analysis to understand the whys and to what extent changes were taking place. Summaries of responses from the FGDs are contained in the Annex ([see here](#))

To provide empirical findings, the study hypothesized that there is no significant relationship between the results (outcomes) of PIND's peacebuilding interventions and how safe people feel in the communities where PIND intervened in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. The hypothesis was tested using the Pearson's product moment correlation (Pearson's correlation). The dependent and independent variables adopted for the hypothesis include:

Y = Perception of how safe people feel in the communities where PIND intervened in the Niger Delta

X1 = Result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions on economic activities in the community

X2 = Result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions on social cohesion in the community

X3 = Result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions on the presence of social amenities in the community

X4 = Result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions on agricultural activities in the community

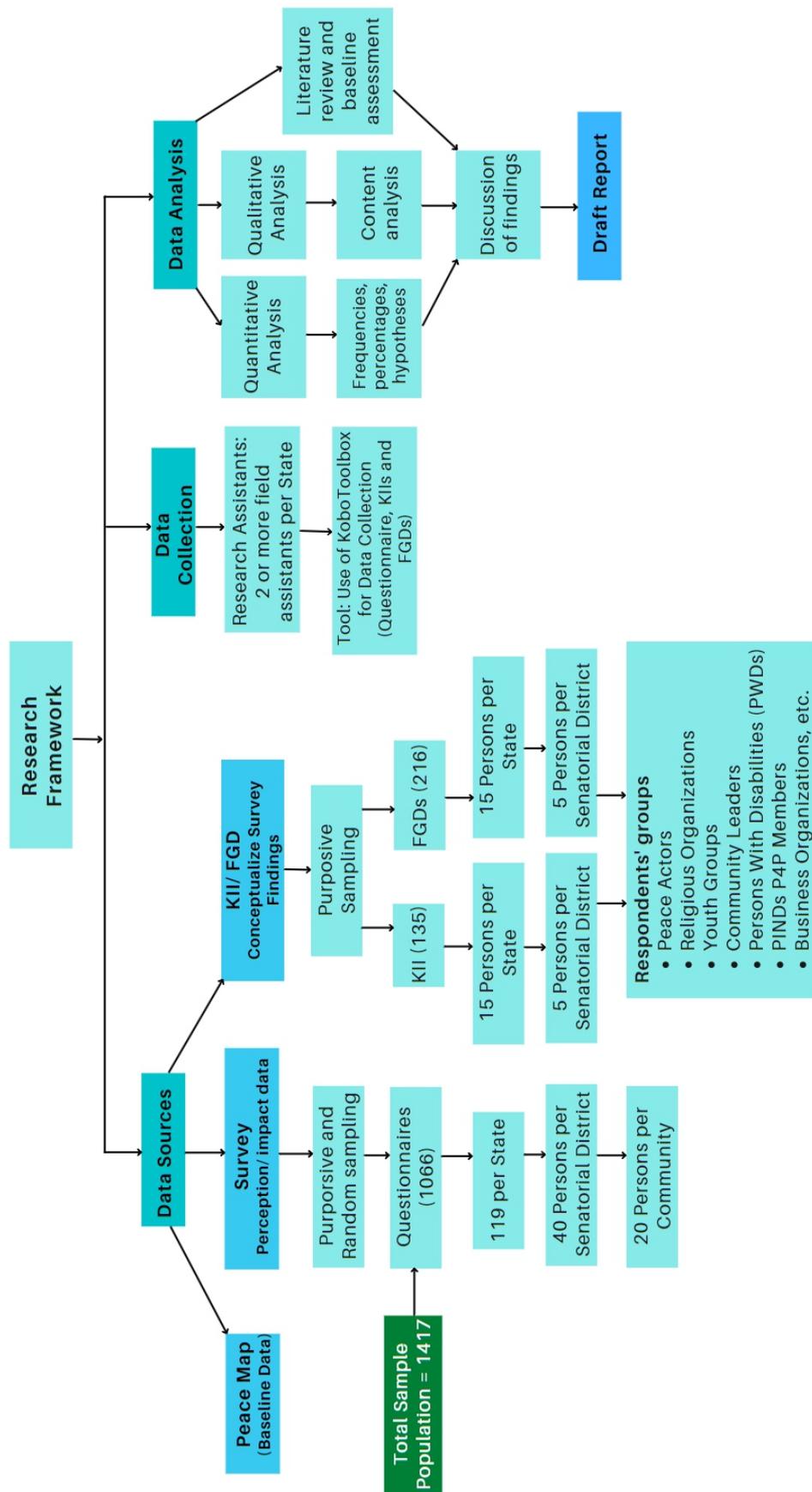
X5 = Result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions on educational activities in the community

Sampling Techniques

To determine the study population, the population of Niger Delta communities that have benefitted from PINDs peacebuilding interventions between 2020-2021 were considered. The National Population Commission (NPC) 1991 data was used and projected to 2021 using the population growth rate of 2.54% per year (World Bank, 2015). The 1991 NPC census figures were used because it was given at localities level which was necessary for this study and which the 2006 census report was deficient of.

The sample size for the quantitative data (questionnaire) was a representative sample of the real population. To determine the sample size, the projected population of communities that have benefitted from PIND's peacebuilding interventions is given as 2,178,276 was adopted as the study population ([See Annex H here](#)). This population is 5.2 percent of 41,500,000 million which is given as the projected population of the Niger Delta in 2015 based on the 1991 NPC census data (Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group, 2022). The sample size for this study was derived through generalizations from the sample population based on statistical probability as indicated by Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2007) and buttressed by Smith (2000). As established, the choice of sample is determined by 2 major factors. The confidence needed in the data, that is the level of certainty that the characteristic of the data collected would represent the characteristics of the total population and the tolerable margin of error, that is the accuracy required for any estimates made.

Notably, in Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2007), the sample size at 95 percent confidence level varies based on the population and margin of error. At a 5 percent margin of error, a population of 100,000 – 1,000,000 persons means a sample size of 384 and when a 3 percent margin of error is adopted, the sample size for a population more than 1,000,000 would remain at 1066. To this end, since the study population is 2,168,722 (> 1,000,000), a sample size of 1066 is hence most suitable for effective sampling to be accomplished. From the foregoing, at least 1066 samples were drawn from the total population of the area. Annex H shows the 1991 population of each State and the and projected 2021 population of communities where the survey was carried out.



Results and Discussions

PIND's Contribution to Conflict Mitigation or Reduction

Awareness of peacebuilding activities or interventions carried out by PIND in the communities

Most of the respondents were aware of the interventions and activities of PIND in their communities. Some of the respondents however were not familiar with any PIND's interventions, such as at Ethiopie East LGA of Delta State. The questionnaire respondents highlighted the awareness of peacebuilding activities or interventions carried out by PIND in the communities. A total of 83.85% of the respondents said they were aware of the PB interventions that was carried out by PIND in the communities. This is key to the success of any PB intervention because it is only the people that were sensitized and participated in the activities that bring about the required changes.

Reduction of violence in the communities as a result of PIND's interventions

According to the FGD participants, PIND's peacebuilding interventions have helped to reduce violent conflicts in the communities where they were implemented. Some of the participants however felt that the interventions were short-lived and therefore the benefits were also short-lived, especially where the trainings and the skilled learnt were not transferred to others. Also, they needed someone or some people with the skills to continue the Town hall meetings and other campaigns to make the peace sustainable. The following are instances where PIND's PB interventions helped reduce/mitigate conflicts in communities:



The FGD participants in Isieke Community in Umuahia North LGA, Abia State noted that

“prior to the PB sensitization campaign carried out about three years ago in Isieke community, during the yearly New Yam Festival, people used to carry machetes and guns to celebrate the “Eri Ji”, resulting in fights that led to injuries and deaths. This was brought to a halt after sensitizations and Town Hall meetings with the different Traditional Rulers (Eze’s), their subjects and some stake holders in Ibeku Community, which led to a complete violent free celebration in subsequent years. This has continued for more than two years”



In Akanu Community in Ohafia LGA of Abia State, FGD participants also highlighted that

“PIND taught them how to mitigate conflict before it got out of hand and now the village heads take on the responsibility to mitigate conflicts”. According to an FGD participant “we now know that what is important is not who is wrong but how they can settle disputes and make peace”. Overall, participants felt that the peacebuilding interventions were very successful; for example, His Royal Majesty Ezogo of Akanu Ohafia in Abia State stated during the FGD that “in my own opinion, yes, like before now we use to take laws/ matters into our hands. But now we have learnt that conflict is not bad but the way you handle it matters. So, we call affected parties to hear each person’s grievances. Most at times, you notice that the parties begin to understand themselves and reach a compromise”.



In Igueben Community in Edo State, the FGD participants noted that

“The P4P’s intervention helped reduce violent conflicts in the communities that is why the Palace has been so involved with the interventions”. They appreciated the way the representative of P4P was helping to mitigate conflicts and this caught their attention so the Palace got involved. There were also clashes between farmers and herders, and they said “the P4P’s interventions helped them understand how to go about resolving this conflict, and with this knowledge, they were able to meet with the head of the Fulani herders which led to a resolution of the conflict and reduction in the destruction of crops”.



“The interventions have helped reduce cultism, electoral violence in Oredo and the interventions” - Osaruyi Wellington from Orhionmwon Community.

Also, Aliyu Erabor of Ivbiaro Community in Edo State stated that: *“the early warning training worked for us because for the first time in the past two years, we have had a peaceful cashew season. We’ve not heard of any family clashes over farm land because all the parties are living amicably”.*

PIND also helped to solve intra communal conflicts between two warring factions in Ovum Community in Yenagoa City, Bayelsa State. PIND was the first organization that was able to bring both community factions (the one that supported the late Paramount Ruler and his Deputy, and the other faction that were opposed to the late Paramount Ruler’s faction) together and sensitized them about the need to resolve the protracted conflict, make peace, and resolve the problem peacefully in Ovum Community.



The FGD participants noted that *“this intervention really helped the community because, after the program both factions started talking to each other and began to forgive and tolerate each other in public. Consequently, since then, there has been relative peace in Ovum community. Before PIND came to Ovum and carried out that intervention, both factions were very antagonistic to each other. This situation was what caused insecurity in Ovum Community and rendered the entire community unsafe for both indigenes, strangers and visitors. So, the intervention was very timely and effective because Ovum is now experiencing relative peace because of PIND’s intervention”.*



An example of putting into practice the methods taught to the communities by PIND was portrayed by the story of a woman called Mercy Agwu, from Akanu Community in Ohafia LGA of Abia State. According to her, *“there was a farm border disagreement she had with a fellow woman married into the same compound which would have led to serious problems”.* She said that *“I applied the sensitization and conflict management methods taught by PIND to me and other members of the community, by asking an intermediary to help resolve the matter which they did and it was resolved without fighting”.*

Although much successes have been reported by the groups, a few of them however complained that in some areas, there have been disappointments. According to FGD participants from Fish Town Community, in Brass LGA of Bayelsa State, the interventions have not succeeded in addressing violent conflicts such as sea piracy, kidnapping and drugs abuse, and their people are not changing their attitudes. So, they think this program is not helping them in addressing their conflicts.

This may be due to the present economic hardship that has forced some residents to take up arms to provide a living for themselves through sea piracy, oil bunkering and artisanal refining of petroleum products. Any intervention that will get them off the creeks and high seas would have to address the underlying economic issues that compel them to criminality to earn a living.

Quantitative data based on the questionnaires show that 76.58% of the respondents indicated that the interventions were effective in reducing conflicts in the communities where the interventions took place.

Reduction in gender-based violence (GBV) as a result of PIND's interventions

The respondents considered GBV as a violent conflict. Top on list of gender-based violence/conflicts identified during the survey include rape and sexual molestation, domestic violence and abuse and forcefully disinheriting women after the deaths of their husbands by in-laws, and physically abusing them.

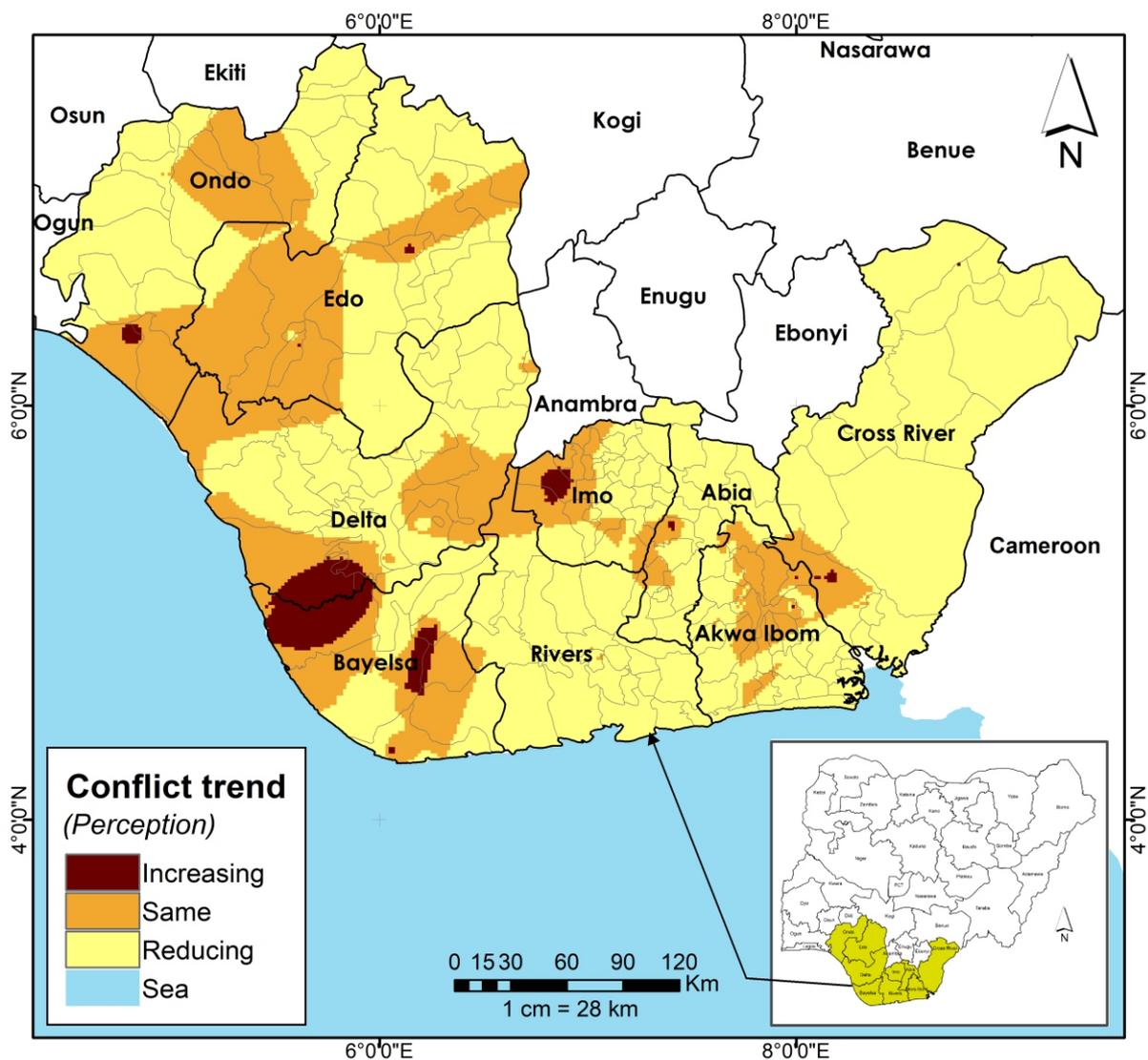


The FGD participants noted some of PIND's interventions have helped to reduce GBV through changing the mind set of people, especially men, about the negative perception of women and the need to avoid domestic violence and ill treatment of women. For example, Madam Rosemary from Uromi in Edo State said that *"the evident outcome of PIND's intervention is in the ability of women to speak out when they suffer any form of violence and no longer cover child defilement cases"*. However, some respondents claimed that no GBV prevention intervention took place in their areas and so there was no impact in their communities. This highlights a gap that should be filled.

Trend of the occurrence of violent conflicts in the communities (2020—2021)

Based on data from the Peace Map, PIND's [2019](#) and [2020](#) annual conflict report shows that gang violence, militancy/counter-insurgency operations, violent protests and communal conflict were the most lethal kinds of violence during the period. Communal conflict particularly increased in 2019 and 2020. According to the [2021](#) annual conflict report, criminality and separatist agitation were the leading causes of conflict fatalities during the year. In contrast, the data showed that there was a reduction in communal conflict and gang violence, which were leading causes, during the period.

This study indicates that incidents and frequency of violent conflicts in the communities are on the decline. From the survey, 59.74% averred that the trend is decreasing, 20.6% believed it is the same and 18.63% think it is increasing. The inset map shows the spatial distribution of the resident's perception of conflict trend in the Niger Delta. While most residents feel the trend is reducing, some in Ilaje LGA in Ondo, Esan West LGA in Edo, Burutu in Delta State and Ekeremor LGAs in Bayelsa, Odukpani LGA in Cross River State and Oguta LGA in Imo State however believe the trend of conflict is increasing in their community. This spatial assessment shows areas where future peacebuilding interventions can be targeted at.



Spatial distribution of the resident's perception of conflict trend in the Niger Delta



As a response to this conflicts, in Sangana Community in Bayelsa, Francis Isaiah, one of the FGD participants said, “yes we did learn about conflict resolution at Konghor. We conflict with our neighbouring community called Gbomotoru, concerning boundary adjustments. Since the training from P4P, which one of our Chiefs attended, he informed all the people who are in authority on the matter they wrote a letter to our neighbours, and they fixed a date they went there and settled this matter and since then till date the matter has been resolved”.



In the same Sangana Community, a respondents noted that conflicts have decreased as a result of PIND interventions, citing the major violent conflict they often had - the issue of changing of the community youth leadership body through the youth elections that holds on December 27th every year. “During the elections, the community used to experience different forms of violence which often leads to injury. But since 2019, after PIND trained them on peace building and conflict management, there have been peaceful youth elections because they learned that nothing good comes out of violent conflicts”

Identified causes of the increase in the incidence of conflicts in the communities

includes cult rivalries/supremacy, the use of hard drugs, disputes over fishing areas, land disputes, unemployment, boundary adjustment issues, chieftaincy and kingship tussles and election violence

Alternatively, PIND’s peacebuilding interventions (according to 61% of the responses), community efforts and good leadership style led to a decrease in the incidents of conflicts.

Frequency of Violent Conflicts in the Communities

Data from the survey indicated that prior to PIND’s interventions, 55.13% of the respondents said that violence occurred monthly and 11.2% noted it occurred annually. Most of the respondents said that after 2020, most of the violence occurred annually and no longer monthly. So, 53.5% now say the violence occurs annually and only 4.36% say violence occurs monthly in communities. The verdict is that the monthly occurrence of violence in most communities has reduced as they happen less frequently.

Evidence of PIND’s peacebuilding outcomes

Effects or outcomes of PIND’s Peacebuilding intervention on economic activities in the communities

The survey revealed that economic activities have picked up in the communities as a result of improved security and peace triggered by PIND’s peacebuilding interventions. Some of these communities were involved in inter community land clashes, others were faced with farmers/herders’ conflicts, cult-related violence, or political violence which led to business closures and human displacements. The restoration of peace and security in some of the communities created avenue for farmers to return to their farms, shop owners to reopen their shops and do business even at night.

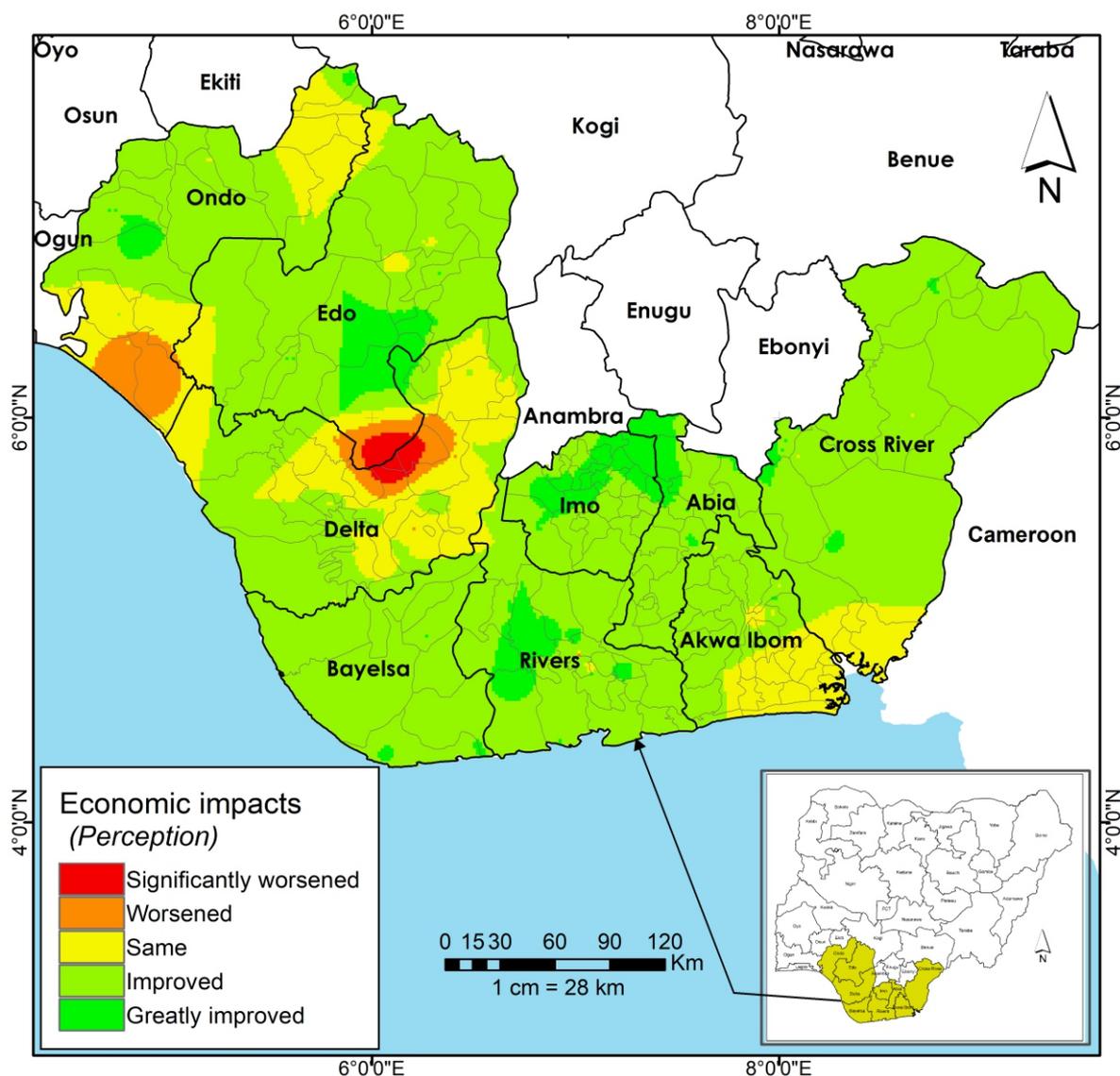


Akintimehin Peter from Okitipupa in Ondo State, stated that *“it (the newly found peace), encouraged the business sector and enables the people to go about their various businesses without fear of harassment or disruption by any groups”*.

Also, Mrs. Mary Eje, a Women Leader from Ukelle in Cross River North, stated emphatically that *“...after the town hall meeting and peace forum organized by PIND, we have experienced growth in our farming activities, compared to when herders’ cattle used to graze on our farm lands. Besides, our farmers no longer abandon their farms for fear of being attacked by herders. So, with peaceful co-existence between our people and our Fulani brothers, our socio-economic lives have greatly improved.”*

Based on the survey (see table below), 75.30% of the respondents noted that economic activities in their communities thrive better compared with the situation prior to PIND’s intervention. The map inset shows the spatial distribution of the resident’s perception on the impacts of PIND's peacebuilding activities on economic activities in their community. Only a cluster of residents in Ethiope East, Ukwuani and Ughelli North of Delta State and Orhionmwon LGA in Edo State perceive those economic activities have significantly worsened.

Value	Frequency	%
Improved	526	44.96
Greatly improved	355	30.34
Same	243	20.77
Worsened	28	2.39
Significantly worsened	7	0.6



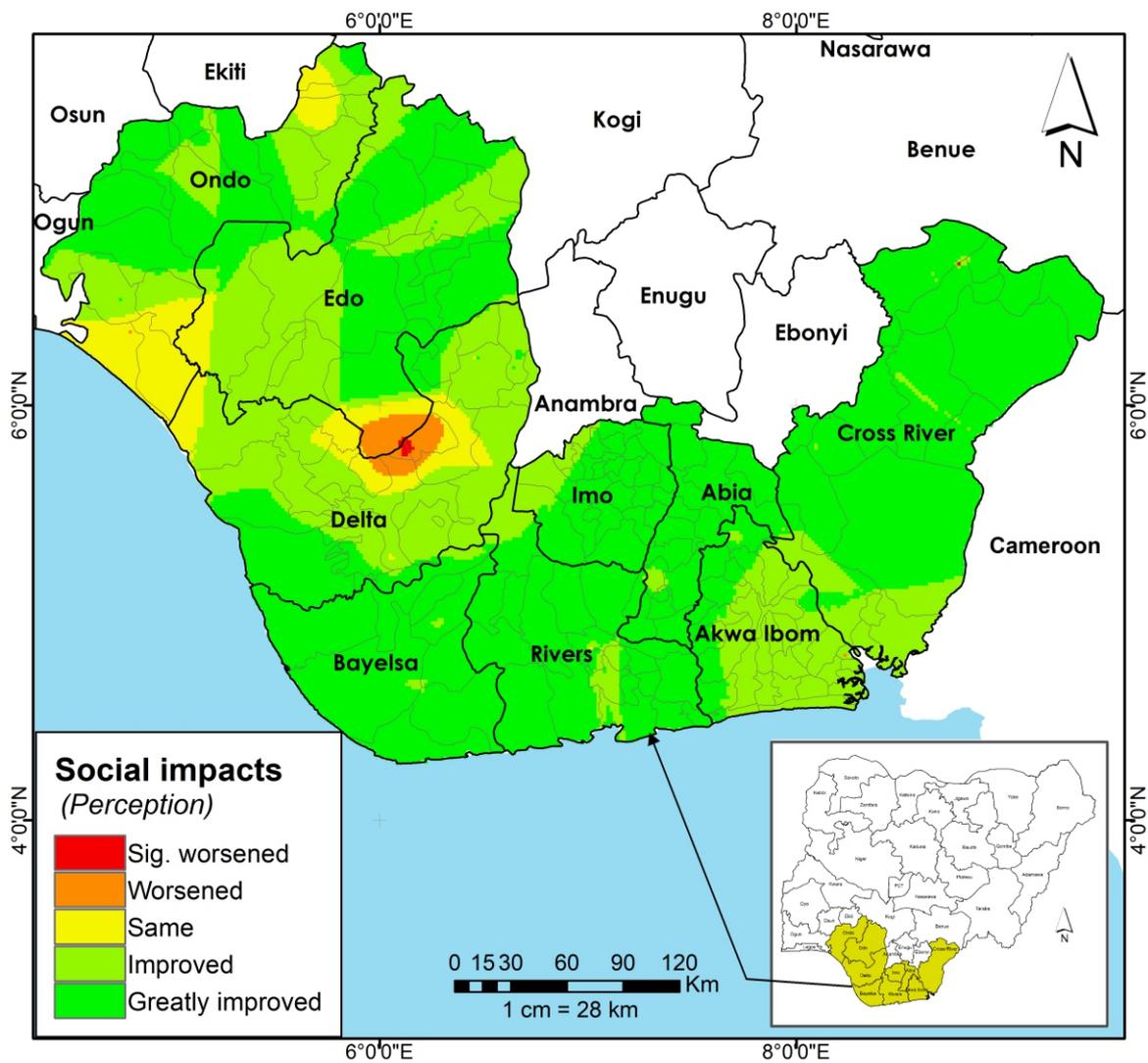
Spatial distribution of the resident's perception of peacebuilding intervention impacts on economic activities

Effects or outcomes of PIND's Peacebuilding intervention on social cohesions in the communities

According to the FGD participants, PIND's peacebuilding interventions actually improved the level of social cohesion in the communities as it is now a lot easier for residents to approach their neighbors to complain of any wrong done to them without the fear of aggravating the situation. This they could do directly or through an intermediary. Social can be said to have improved in most of the communities because; social life has become more stable, social events have resumed, people now hold gatherings such as marriages and burials without fear of sporadic gun shots, and for communities that were divided, conflict resolution has made it possible for them to resolve their differences and work together for the good of the entire community.

The survey further revealed that 77.52% of the respondents are convinced that social cohesion improved or greatly improved in their communities as a result of PIND's peacebuilding interventions (see table below). The inset map shows the spatial distribution of the resident's perception on the outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding activities on social cohesion in their communities. As shown on the map, only a small cluster of residents in Orhionmwon in Edo State and Ethiopie East and Ukwuani LGAs in Delta State perceive that social cohesion have significantly worsened.

Value	Frequency	%
Improved	543	46.41
Greatly improved	364	31.11
Same	225	19.23
Worsened	13	1.11
Significantly worsened	6	0.51



Spatial distribution of the resident's perception of peacebuilding intervention impacts on social cohesion

Effects or outcomes of PIND's Peacebuilding intervention on educational activities in the communities

The majority opinion in the focus groups was that in communities that had intra and inter communal crisis, it was risky for children to go to school, therefore education was negatively affected. With the restoration of peace brought about by the interventions implemented, educational activities resumed. However, a few persons said this does not apply to their own communities as educational activities were not negatively impacted during the pre-PIND intervention period. The survey showed that 66.66% of the respondents believed that educational activities have improved or greatly improved, 29.32% felt that things have not changed at all and 2.91% noted that it has worsened significantly worsened.



Chief Agim Peter Ushie from Yala LGA in Cross River North stated that *“...during the farmer/herders’ conflict, schools are always shut down. So, after PIND’s intervention, there has been steady progress in the operations of our schools”*

Effects or outcomes of PIND's Peacebuilding intervention on social amenities in the communities

Most of the communities said there has not been any changes in the number and state of amenities as a result of the peacebuilding interventions. Social amenities have either been destroyed or neglected during conflicts. For example, in Itu LGA of Akwa Ibom State, some social amenities have been in states of disrepair due to the communal fighting and the Oku Ibo Paper Mill Company was destroyed due to the inter communal conflicts. An exception however is the example from Akanu Community in Ohafia LGA, Abia State where there are new social projects in the community due to the prevailing peace in the community. The respondents noted that the application of the peacebuilding knowledge gained supported them to resolve the long standing Ezeship (kingship) tussle. This subsequently resulted to the building and launching of an Ultra-modern town hall on the 26th of December 2021.

The survey revealed that the peacebuilding interventions have not significantly improved the social amenities in communities. A total of 47.35% respondents noted that nothing has changed in terms of social amenities, before and after the interventions. Just 28.29% said things have improved and 15.81% think things have worsened or significantly worsened.

So only 36.25% (417 persons) were convinced that social amenities improved or significantly improved. The others (63.75%) believed that things worsened, worsened significantly or did not change at all.

Effects or outcomes of PIND's Peacebuilding intervention on agricultural activities in the communities

Some groups explained that some conflicts such as the farmers/herders’ conflict reduced access to their farms, thus negatively influencing agricultural activities. This is also true for communities with boundary disputes resulting in killings and other sorts of violence. The resolution of the crisis in some of the communities led to increased access to the farms and people were able to return to the communities to process their produce. The survey revealed that 64.57% of the respondents were convinced that agricultural activities improved as a result of the peacebuilding interventions; 29.83% noted that nothing changed, 4.19% were of the opinion that agricultural activities got worse.

Effects or outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding intervention on inter and intra communal cooperation

The FGD participants noted that inter and intra community relationships have improved. For example, at Isieke, a community in Abia State, Chief Felix Okakwu a Bank Manager in the area said that *“there has been a great improvement in their inter and intra communal cooperation in Isieke community as the neighbouring communities can now come to our events without fear of harassment, they can do business with us and inter marriage between communities have increased. Prior to this there was intra communal conflict between rival cults in Isieke which affected business and social activities in the community”*.

According to the survey, 81.97% of the respondents noted that inter-communal cooperation improved in their communities. This is likely because most of the peacebuilding interventions focused on improving social cohesion within and between communities

Relationship between community perception of peace, safety, security and the outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding activities

The Pearson product-moment correlation was run to determine the relationship between the outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding interventions and how safe people feel in the communities where PIND's PB interventions took place in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. The output of the analysis as presented below shows there was positive correlation and significant relationship between the perception of how safe people feel and economic activities ($r = .406, p = .001 < 0.05$), social cohesion ($r = .401, p = .001 < 0.05$), educational activities ($r = .403, p = .001 < 0.05$), presence of social amenities ($r = .298, p = .001 < 0.05$) and agricultural activities ($r = .310, p = .001 < 0.05$). This provides sufficient evidence to accept the alternate hypothesis that there is significant relationship between the outcomes of PIND's peacebuilding interventions and how safe people feel in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. The result from this correlation analysis implies that the peacebuilding interventions in the communities have significantly and positively influenced the residents' perception of safety in the region.

		Economic activities	Social cohesion (living in harmony in the community)	Educational activities	Presence of social amenities	Agricultural activities
Perception of how safe people feel	Pearson Correlation	.406**	.401**	.403**	.298**	.310**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.001	.001	.001	.001
	N	1151	1144	1149	1148	1145

● What Residents in the Communities Consider as Peace, Safety and Security

Definition of peace, safety and security

According to the respondents, *“peace means a situation where there is a total absence of violence and conflicts and when every where is calm in the community”*. Its also means *“when people live together without violence in a community and with other communities”*. For security, they described it as *“when one feels safe from harm or when one's life is not under threat”*.

The participants also believed that security means the protection of lives and properties in the community. In line with this, a respondent said *“I feel secured because there is no fear of destruction of lives and property from any body or organization in Sangana”*. Others defined safety as *“the absence of all forms of danger to human lives. A resident noted that “I feel safe because there is peace in their community- no sleepless nights from incessant attacks by neighboring communities”*.

Level of Peace, Security and Safety

Based on what the respondents stated, most of the communities are more peaceful today than they were prior to the interventions. They claimed that people were ignorant about the meaning of peace and how to achieve it in their communities but since PIND carried out the interventions, they now know what peace is all about and there are changes in the character of people because of their understanding of peace. So many people in the communities are now peace makers and peace teachers.

Based on the data analyzed, respondents agree that the definition of peace, security and safety has to do with: Absence of violent crimes like kidnapping, rape, murder, armed robbery, good relations with neighbours, ability to go out at night, thriving businesses, no abuse by security and government officials, equitable distribution of resources and absence of domestic violence.

Population that feels safe or safer in the area they reside

Level of Safety Prior to the PIND's interventions (before 2020)

Based on the data collected and analyzed, 29.74% of the respondents felt unsafe before the peacebuilding interventions. A total of 28.72% of the respondents felt very unsafe, only 22.39% said they felt safe, while 10.68% were unsure whether they were safe or not. Another 7.18% of the respondents said they were very safe, implying that at least 29.57% felt very unsafe or unsafe before PIND's intervention.

Considering the study population (2,178,276), an estimate of the population that felt safe in their communities before the year 2020 is 479,220 and very safe, 152,479. The sum of people that felt safer (safe and very safe) in their communities is thus 631,699. Further, based on the total population of the Niger Delta (41,500,000), the proportion of population that felt safer in their communities prior to 2020, as a result of PIND's intervention amounts to 1.522%.

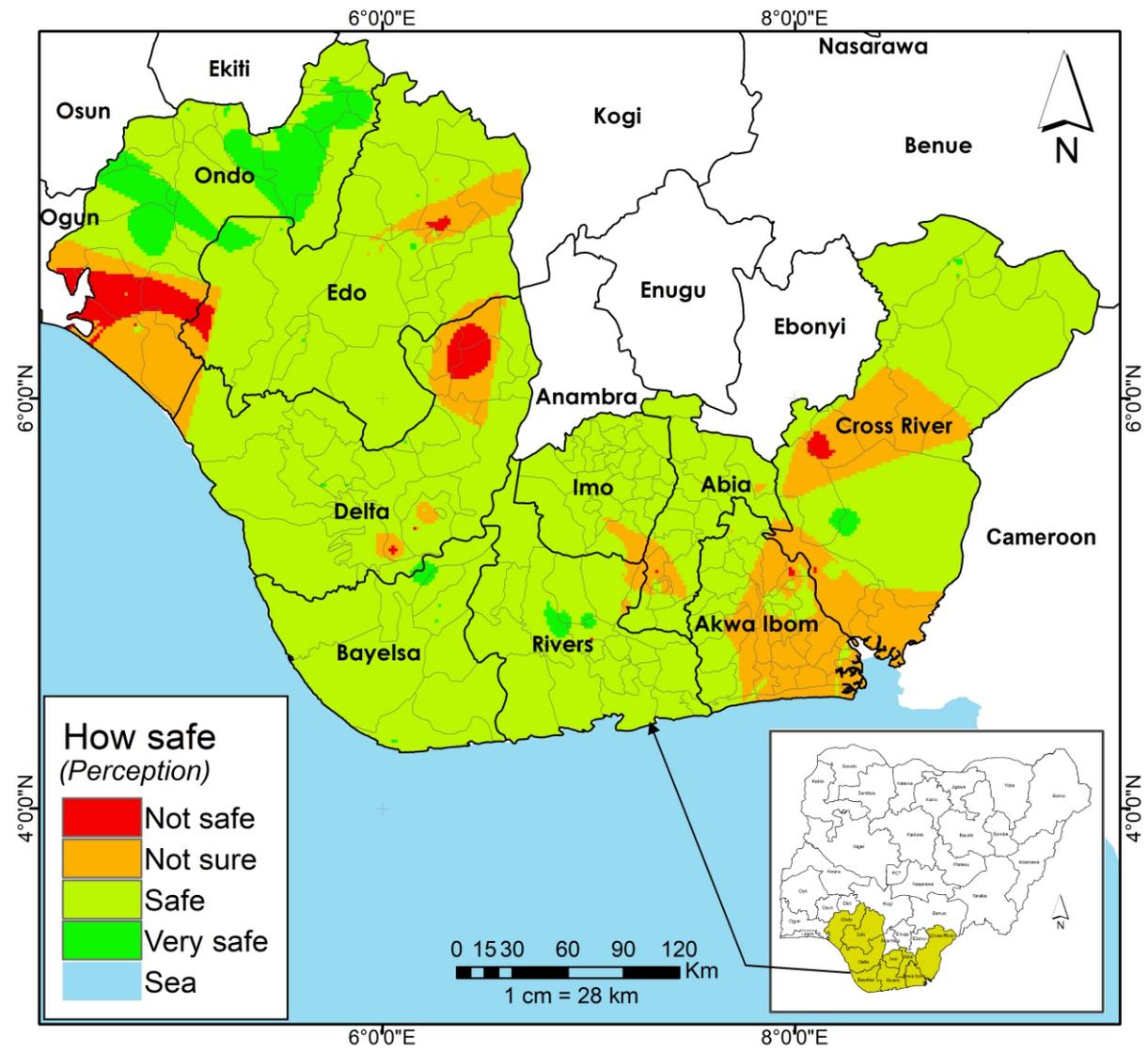
Level of Safety after PIND's interventions (2020—2021)

As at the time of the survey (December 2021), 52.56% of the respondents said they feel safe in the communities. Another 32.99% of the respondents now feel very safe in their communities, while 9.23% were not sure if they were safe or not. Also, 2.99% of the respondents said they do not feel safe and 1.37% said they feel very unsafe in their communities (Table 19). This implies that 86.8% of the respondents feel safer in their communities as a result of PIND's interventions.

Based on the survey, [Annex H](#) shows the number of people that feel safe in the communities that have benefited from PIND's peacebuilding interventions between 2020 and 2021. Further, considering the study population (2,178,276), an estimate of the people that feel safe in their community is 1,132,703 and very safe, 740,613. The sum of people that feel safer (safe and very safe) in their communities is thus 1,873,316. In addition, based on the total population of the Niger Delta (41,500,000), the total proportion of population that feel safer in their communities as a result of PIND's intervention thus amounts to 4.5%.

Further, the figure below shows the spatial distribution of the resident's perception of how safe they feel in the area they reside. As presented in Table 19 above, while a significant percentage of the respondents feel safe, there were clusters of residents who do not feel safe such as some residents in Ondo State (Ilaje, Okitipukpa, Irele and Odigbo LGAs), Edo State (Ovia South West, Etsako West LGAs), Delta State (Aniocha South and North, Ika North East, Isoko South and Ughelli North), Abia State (Osisioma Ngwa LGA), Akwa Ibom State (Itu LGA) and Cross River State (Odukpani and Yakurr LGAs).

On the other hand, resident's perception of safety improved and some felt very safe in Cross River (Biase, Ogoja and Akamkpa LGAs), Rivers State (Emohua, Ikwerre, Obi/ Akpor LGAs), Bayelsa State (Yenagoa, Sagbama, Kolokuma/ Opokuma LGAs), Delta State (Uvwie, Ethiope East LGAs), Edo State (Esan West, Owan East, Ovia South West and East LGAs) and Ondo State (Odigbo, Ondo West, Ondo East, Akure North and South, Idanre, Owo, Ose, Akoko North East, South East and South West LGAs).



Effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Interventions and the Areas that Require Improvements

While 70% of the respondents averred that the interventions worked well and achieved their objectives, 85.73% of them noted however that there is a need to improve on the interventions for more impactful outcomes. The participants identified the following areas in the table below for potential improvements.

Value	Frequency	%
Incorporating youth empowerment (employment) in interventions	155	14.26
Providing infrastructure/social amenities	20	1.70
Addressing cultism activities	10	0.90
More awareness and family strengthening	2	0.17
Sustaining the interventions (constant interventions)	3	0.26
Increased Early Warning and Early Response system activities	2	0.17
Support for education and agricultural activities	4	0.34
Increased sensitization through the use of radio jingles	1	0.09
Creating more awareness of the need for peaceful coexistence and peacebuilding be included into the school curriculum at all levels	3	0.27

The respondents highlighted that the interventions of PIND worked to a large extent with apparent outcomes in terms of peace, safety, security and also in terms of economic development. However, there are areas that the FGD participants identified as most effective and they include:

- ✔ Community town hall meetings during which people were sensitized on the need for peace and conflict resolution methods. People were allowed to air their views and this helped resolved problems. PIND should continue this as it has been stopped
- ✔ The early response system helped nip potential violent conflicts from erupting into violence. This should as well be continued and expanded to cover more communities
- ✔ There is the need to continue sub-chapter training which helped to train people at the grassroots who are still working as peace actors in the communities. This is good for sustainability.

The data from the questionnaire respondents collaborated those of the FGDs and KIIs. From the data, conflict mitigation was the activity that participants adjudged the most useful as it is ranked first with 56.84% of respondents saying it worked, followed by the early warning system with 52.82% and “Do no Harm” adjudged the 3rd with 19.83%.

Conclusion

This study concludes that PIND's peacebuilding interventions have been very successful in reducing and mitigating conflicts in all states in the Niger Delta. The interventions in the communities were impactful in improving the outcomes of economic, agricultural and educational activities, as well as improving social cohesion and within and between communities. Amongst others, this is evidenced from the finding that the total proportion of the population that feel safer in the communities they reside in the Niger Delta, as a result of PIND's interventions between 2020 and 2021 has increased by 2.97%.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, this study recommends that:

1. There is a need to extend some of the peacebuilding interventions and provide a sustainability plan to cater for new dimensions and occurrence of violence. A strategy should be put in place such that the communities will take ownership of the activities after the interventions.
2. There should be increased sensitization and awareness campaigns in all the communities on the importance of peace. Community leaders, women and youths should be trained regularly on how to foster and sustain peace.
3. PIND should partner/ collaborate/ incorporate the International Oil Companies (IOCs) in their peacebuilding processes and activities. This is necessary as the IOCs need peace to operate in the region and replicate prosperity to the people, thus they should become active partners in the already robust peacebuilding activities of PIND.
4. PIND should collocate its peacebuilding and economic development programs, such as designing business development trainings to support the peacebuilding interventions or providing low interest loans to peace actors that are in-business.
5. Peacebuilding interventions should be extended to other communities and areas that have not been reached in the Niger Delta so as to ensure a holistically peaceful Niger Delta.
6. Because conflicts are dynamic, there is a need for frequent impact assessments to fully understand the trend of conflicts, its impacts on the people and the outcomes of peacebuilding programs that were implemented. This assessments will guide the design of future programs. It will show where there are gaps and help with comparisons of the nature of peace in communities where interventions were implemented or not.
7. There is a need to redesign and re-execute peacebuilding interventions in communities with new drivers and dimensions of conflicts, where violence prevails notwithstanding previous interventions. According to the findings, some of the areas include Ilaje LGA in Ondo, Esan West LGA in Edo, Burutu in Delta State and Ekeremor LGAs in Bayelsa, Odukpani LGA in Cross River State and Oguta LGA in Imo State.



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The annexes in [this link](#) presents the data of peacebuilding interventions that were executed at various communities, the list of communities and Local Government Areas (LGAs) where respondents were selected from, responses from KIIs and FGDs, and the table of resident's perception of safety based on PIND's PB interventions

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