



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Ayo Ademilu, chairman, Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria, speaking at the PIND-REAN Renewable Energy Access Roadshow in Warri, Delta State.

**Quarter One:
January - March 2023**

About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigerian non-profit organization working to promote peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region by forging multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the regional, national and international levels. With the humble admission that no single organization can solve the complex and interconnected development challenges in the Niger Delta, PIND works closely with numerous partners to implement collaborative market-based, community-owned programs to mitigate conflicts and boost economic opportunities for local businesses. This ensures that economic progress occurs in a systemic, inclusive, and sustainable manner.

PIND's projects span all the nine states in the region: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, 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.

Since 2010, PIND and partners have been contributing to strengthening and stabilizing the region by *reducing poverty, powering coastal communities, nurturing employment, fostering stability, and enabling development*. Learn more about [PINDfoundation.org](https://pindfoundation.org).

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Abbreviations and acronyms

ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
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
BoT	Board of Trustees
BRACED	Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta
BSPs	Business Service Providers
CAPABLE	Capacity Building for Local Empowerment
CB	Capacity Building
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CCDCs	Coastal Community Development Committees
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CUSO	Canadian University Service Overseas
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DPO	Divisional Police Officers
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EGCDF	Egbema-Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FFB	Fresh Fruit Bunches
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FISON	Fisheries Society of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIZ	German Development Agency
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
GPP	Good Poultry Practices
HCDT	Host Communities Development Trust
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IHT	Improved Harvesting Tools
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
ISOPADEC	Imo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission
KEFFES	Koluama 1 & 2, Ekeni, Fishtown, Foropa, Ezetu 1&2 and Sangana Communities
LGA	Local Government Area

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MNDA	Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSD	Market Systems Development
MSP	The Warri Multi Stakeholder Platform
NABTEB	National Business and Technical Examinations Board
NAEC	Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum
NBS	Nigerian Bureau of Statistics
NCDC	National Center for Disease Control
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NDLink	Niger Delta Link
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NEEWS	Nigerian Election Early Warning System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIFOR	Nigerian Institute for Oil-Palm Research
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NRCRI	National Root Crops Research Institute
NSRP	Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
P4P	Partners for Peace
PPCD	Participatory Partnerships for Community Development
PGPA	Policy, Governments and Public Affairs Unit, Chevron
PSPs	Poultry Service Providers
PV	Photovoltaic
PWC	PricewaterhouseCoopers
PWD	Persons living with disabilities
P&ELOA	Peace and Economic Livelihood Opportunities Assessment
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
Q3	Quarter 3
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEO	Search Engine Optimization
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
SSPE	Small-scale processing equipment
TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Centers
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VLD	Village Level Dealers
VSE	Village Stem Entrepreneur
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
YOY	Year-on-Year
YTD	Year to Date
ZAL	Zigha Ayibakuro Limited

Background

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

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

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

Additional initiatives designed to support, enable and communicate the achievements of the two program areas 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.

Together with **Monitoring and evaluation** that independently tracks, verifies and measures program results.

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

For the third phase (2020-2024), 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 45,000 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: 2023 Q1 M&E Report

This first quarter (January – March 2023) report is intended to serve three purposes which are linked to the needs of key stakeholders:

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

Program Implementers: That is, PIND and the Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives (NDPI) (including the Boards of both organizations, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), and Business Development and Sustainability 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 the Department for International Development (DFID) and German Development Agency (GIZ), 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 January – March 2023 (Quarter 1, 2023), and 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.

1.1 Achievements

Apart from business distractions caused by the national electioneering activities within the reporting period, several macro-economic situations affected the normal delivery of program activities, which included the rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics which negatively impacted inputs purchasing capacity of farmers/MSMEs; the persistence of fuel scarcity across the country also caused hardship to businesses, as well as the effect of the cash crunch occasioned by the cashless policy obstructing businesses from accessing cash for daily transactions.

These somehow slowed the activities of the service providers and farmers mobilization for training on GAP. However, PIND made significant progress in its initiatives this quarter, and the achievements are highlighted below:

Market Systems Development:

- A total of 63 service providers continued to provide supports to over 7,000 farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and MSMEs with training on good agronomic practices (GAP). Many service providers are adapting the training models creatively, expanding their services to reach more farmers in different sectors, and increasing their sales.
- With PIND's market development projects continuing to demonstrate progress towards widespread change, 7,352 farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs (45% 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 MSMEs and participating farmers to invest ₦732.91 million (₦28.01 million – equity and ₦704.9 million – debt) to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations, purchase inputs and other capital expenditures.

Access to Energy:

- PIND continued to play a significant role in driving the market for low-carbon, low-cost solutions that offer high-quality energy access to coastal communities. Two PIND mini grid project partners, A4&T and ETIN Power continued work around their ground-breaking activities by scaling up installations of commercial solar mini-grids in 5 different Niger Delta rural communities where access to electricity had been a long-standing challenge for both rural businesses and households. As a result, 13,135 people from 2,168 households and 127 businesses there accessed electricity, and added to the growing numbers within the region through PIND's efforts.

PIA implementation support for takeoff of HCDTs

- PIND continues to support the implementation of Chapter 3 of Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021 which heralded a new regime in the country's oil and gas industry as it presents opportunities to reorganize its operations and relationships. In restructuring host communities' management, the PIA mandates the creation of Host Communities Development Trusts, with the oil and gas operators, described as "Settlers", obliged to incorporate these Trusts for the benefit of their host communities and make annual contributions based on 3% of their yearly operating expenditure into a Host Communities Development Trust Fund (HCDTF). PIND and Ford Foundation, through "The Bridges Project" are working to ensure that community stakeholders maximize the benefits of the PIA in their

respective communities by coordinating efforts that help to channel PIA HCDT funds appropriately. The overall objective of this “The Bridges project” is to complement and support the outlines of the regulator's propositions and give voice to the communities. The key strategy for implementation would involve the setting-up of a collaborative multi-stakeholders platform (MSP). Besides this MSP would be awareness creation and deepening the knowledge of community stakeholders on the PIA’s technical components; and capacity building for NGOs & CSOs).

Youth Employment Pathways:

- In this quarter, 729 youths (39.3% female) whose training spilled over from 2022 Youth Employment Pathways program (YEP), have completed their technical and vocational skills training across four intervention sectors of ICT, building construction, agriculture, and services. Of these, 433(59.4%) have transitioned to income earning positions or apprenticeships (246 in apprenticeships positions, 187 have started small scale businesses/direct waged employment).

Peace Building:

- There were significant changes in the regional dynamics of conflict risks and insecurity. These changes include increased political and criminal violence in the lead up to and during the 2023 general elections as well as protests and demonstrations in the aftermath of the elections. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, conflict incidents increased by 5.6% from 341 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 360 in Q1 of 2023. Also, there was an increase in gang violence during the quarter driven mainly by battles for supremacy and territorial control among the numerous cult gangs in the region. According to data, gang violence increased by 54.5% from 11 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 17 in Q1 of 2023.
- PIND intensified its peacebuilding efforts by producing 14 data-driven research and analytical products including 12 weekly conflict briefs, an annual conflict report (2022), and a special policy brief on election violence scenario planning. Seven election-related conflict reports were produced and disseminated to local and international stakeholders during the period. Also, 325 peace actors constructively helped to resolve emerging conflicts in various communities. This led to 22 quality actions being taken to mitigate conflict in different locations across the region.
- Also, PIND promoted utilization of conflict early warning, research and data analysis products to facilitate proactive responses by peace actors including the P4P Prevent committees/Councils and community stakeholder network (CSNs) members, to the prevailing and emerging conflict risk factors and drivers of instability in the Niger Delta. As a result, there was 18.6% increase in the number of conflict early warning incident reports on the IPDU SMS-based early warning/early response (EWER) platform as 516 incidents were reported on the platform in Q1 of 2023 compared to 435 incidents reported in Q4 of 2022.

Communications:

- By intensifying PIND’s communications, 625,962 people gained new or increased awareness about PIND, through its platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional mainstream media. Also, PIND garnered 19 positive media mentions of its work and activities and attracted 14 public endorsements from stakeholders who interacted with its content on the website, newsletters, and social media posts.

Advocacy:

- To ensure access to arable land in the Niger Delta, Delta and Edo States have carried out GIS mapping of all the reserved land in their respective states and have delineated substantial amounts for agricultural purposes as an outcome of the established Arable Land Review Committee in both states, influenced by PIND in the previous quarter.
- On change in policy in related to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses, the first-level review of the report and its transmission to external subject matter experts for further review and perfection has been conducted and completed. Meanwhile, the tax matrix for Abia, Delta, and Rivers states has been updated, and already the various legal and illegal taxes are being identified and tracked through this matrix. Public dissemination forums to share data from the matrix are scheduled for Q3, 2023 in Port Harcourt and Asaba.

Capacity Building:

- In Quarter 1, 2023, PIND organized a capacity-building workshop for 30 participants from 15 NGOs and CSOs from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States. The 3-day event utilized comprehensive training modules and work sessions which were facilitated by PIND and the New Nigeria Foundation. The different sessions were interactive and provided an avenue for knowledge sharing with robust contributions from all the participants. Concerning a survey conducted at the start of the workshop, the general expectation of the participants was to gain a better understanding of the PIA and the role that NGOs can play in ensuring the active participation of community stakeholders in the implementation process. It involved training sessions on Conducting Needs Assessment, Data Analysis, Development of Community Development Plans, Conflict Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. These sessions were followed by assessment techniques that ensured knowledge retention.
- Also, PIND has identified some indicative training programs that will be useful for the HCDT leadership and management committees to enable them to take off effectively. These include training on Group dynamics and cohesion, Multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development.

1.2 Challenges, Mitigation and Plans for the Next Quarter

- Within the reporting period, farmers participating in the agricultural productivity improvement program continued to witness hikes in the costs of inputs, technologies for harvesting and processing, and overall transaction costs, due to rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics. These have impacted negatively on inputs purchasing capacity of farmers/MSMEs.
- Also, the capacity of service providers to mobilize farmers for training was impacted by the cash crunch caused by the naira redesign policy introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria. Service providers/MSMEs as farmers were unable to access enough cash to organize training and other daily transactions, leading to the reduction in the number of farmers reached in Q1 2023 as compared to Q1 2022. The 2023 election campaigns and rallies further distracted normal business processes and heightened safety concerns for farmers and MSMEs during trainings and demonstrations.
- The Peace Building interventions during the quarter centered on election violence mitigation. This included the training of monitors to report election-violence, hosting of roundtables, peace pact signings, etc. While these were successful, the postponement of the elections affected timeframe for implementation of some of the activities.

Mitigation:

- Rising cost of inputs: To reduce the effect of rising cost of inputs, PIND facilitated stronger collaboration between farmers and agro-inputs dealers to encourage bulk purchases, and reduce the effect of frequent changes in the prices of agro-inputs. This was through capacity building of various service providers to understand how to link agro-input dealers with larger input companies to provide inputs at subsidize rate, so that farmers/MSMEs would reduce their costs of production.
- Cash crunch: PIND promoted the use of online means of cash transactions amongst the support actors, and farmers/MSMEs, where possible, to ease business transactions.
- Shift in the election timetable: The Peace building realigned election violence mitigation activities with the new election timetable, and used the shifted period to plan other activities for the post-election period.

In Q2 2023, PIND will focus on the following:

- Support existing and new partners to expand and deepen quality and productivity improvement of agricultural interventions across PIND interventions.
- Develop a climate-smart GAP manual, and engage with at least one off-taker to reach cocoa farmers across Edo, Ondo, Cross River, and Abia states.

- Implement activities with Agri Care STD PLUS Limited, a lead veterinary firm to expand and deepen the VLD model; conduct an assessment on PSPs to better understand how the Master PSPs are able to link the major input suppliers and end markets to the smallholder farmers; Support newly on-boarded PSPs to reach out to poultry farmers with climate-smart good poultry practices and linkages to quality inputs, markets and finance.
- Accelerate new partnerships through the initiation of a challenge fund for 3 off grid community energy installations in 3 riverine communities of Delta state, and have an MoU with Abt Associates as part of the Health Electrification (HETA) alliance and co create an initial Niger Delta pilot project.
- Rollout 2023 YEP (Commencement of Technical Vocational & Soft Skills Training) – onboard selected implementing partners into the project and commence a new batch of technical and soft skills training for target beneficiaries in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Delta states.
- Implement the YEP Start-up Business Challenge Fund – conclude the pitching process for shortlisted Delta Year 1 participants and document the business challenge fund beneficiaries (in preparation of grants disbursement).
- Produce two case studies on P4P intervention in selected states; facilitate the post-election phase activities of the 2023 Nonviolence Election Mitigation Project; facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy; and the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network fora; as well as the Prevent Council operationalization in selected states.
- Finalize the advocacy project on the Multiple Taxation field assessment reports - including the validation of findings, dissemination forums in Port Harcourt and Asaba to share findings and recommendations of Multiple Taxation field assessments; Commence committee activities on access to land in both Delta and Ondo State; Begin Stakeholders engagement process in the Niger Delta States in support of the activities of the Technical Working Group towards the finalization of the action plan on regional peacebuilding in the Niger Delta

1.3 Program Management

In Q1 2023, PIND held separate meetings of its project and programs, audit and compliance subcommittees on March 14th, 2023. Key agreements reached at these meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation were provided to the PIND Board. These meetings are key for PIND’s internal governance, to keep the Board abreast of development, receive feedback/inputs for optimizing program implementation, and ensure PIND’s accountability to its board.

Summary of progress against 2023 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2023 target as at Q1.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q1 2023
Outreach	69,500	7,352
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	27,500	2,224
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	12,000	1,495
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	15,000	1,144
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	8,000	1,228
<i>MSME development</i>	7,000	1,261
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	42,977	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	14,974	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	8,400	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	9,706	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	7,102	
<i>MSME development</i>	2,795	
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦18.14 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦5.95 billion	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.30 billion	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦4.85 billion	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦2.21 billion	
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.83 billion	
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Results will be reported in Q3
New jobs facilitated	9,925	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	1,700	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,200	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	895	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,136	
<i>MSME development</i>	3,254	
<i>Access to energy</i>	80	
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	660	
Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]	₦10.70 billion	₦1.55 billion Equity (₦28.006 million) Debt financing (₦704.900 million)
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦2.47 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦710.85 million	₦0.369 million
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦1.35 billion	₦27.64 million
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.67 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>MSME development</i>	₦4.00 billion	₦704.90 million
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦500 million	₦815.4 million ¹
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	-
Youths with applicable skills for employment	1,500	729
Peace Building Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q1 2023
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	210	47
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,000	658
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1,310	325
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	100	22
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	Results will be reported in Q3

¹ PIND's lead partner A4&T scaled up their work in Ondo state to two more communities in Ondo State, while ETIN Power (earlier reported in Q4 2022) continued work around their ground-breaking activities by scaling energy access to two more communities in Edo state, investing ₦815,433,388.

Coastal Community Development Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q1 2023
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	900	127
Households with access to clean energy	1,500	2,168
People with access to energy technologies	10,500	13,135
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	₦1 billion	Results will be reported in Q3²
<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Net change in capacity index of HCDDTs/other Organizations	2.4 (average score)	To be updated after the planned impact study
Organizations accessing funds/grants	7	-
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦50 million	₦0
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDDTs and other implementing Partners).	5	4 ³
General Enabling Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q1 2023
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by governments and other institutions	₦500 million	₦0
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors	₦800 million	₦0
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦500 million	₦815,43 million
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of progress	Report on the multiple taxation and its transmission to external subject matter experts for further review and perfection is completed. Also, tax matrix for Abia, Delta, and Rivers states has been updated.
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	In this quarter, Delta and Edo States have carried out GIS mapping of all the reserved land in their respective states and have delineated substantial amounts for agricultural purposes. This was an outcome of the Arable Land Review Committee in both states, PIND influenced in the previous quarter.
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful/ non-violent society.	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	PIND, in collaboration with the MNDA inaugurated a technical working group (TWG) towards designing and developing a regional peacebuilding strategy for the Niger Delta region in the previous quarter. The TWG for Niger Delta Regional Peace building Strategy (NDRPS) is currently working towards designing and developing a regional peacebuilding strategy for the Niger Delta region.
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦1billion	₦68.85million
<i>Communications</i>		
	2023 Target	Cumulative Results as at Q1 2023
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	15	6
Public endorsements of PIND's work	20	14
Media reports with PIND mention	200	19
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	700	9
Website new visitors	80,000	7,268
Social media reach	1.9 million	250,085
Mainstream media reach	3million	625,962
Email enquiries	800	34

² This includes benefits accruing to users connected in the preceding year.

³ CARA Development Foundation, Kolping Society of Nigeria, Genius Hub, and MacJim Foundation continue to provide services using funds raised from other donors.

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-economic environment

Several issues hampered economic growth in the first half of 2023.

Cash crunch (Naira Scarcity – due to poor implementation of Cash Swap program)

In Nigeria as in many developing countries, cash is the main mode of payment thus making the economy heavily cash-based. Cashless policy was introduced in Nigeria by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in December 2011 and was partially implemented in some selected states – Lagos, Rivers, Kano and the FCT, until 2022. Under the policy, online transaction was promoted to be adopted, as well as allowing physical cash transactions simultaneously. But in 2022, the policy was fully implemented, with the plan to compel everyone to use online cash transactions. To enforce the cashless policy, the CBN put in place strategy to withdraw cash from the public through introduction of new N200, N500, and N1000 notes with the intention of phasing out the old ones by December 15 2022.

A cash-swap program was put in place to exchange the old Naira notes with the new Naira notes through banks and other physical arrangements by the CBN. Due to poor management of the cash-swap program, commercial banks that were to provide the new Naira notes in exchange with the old ones could not access cash to give out to their customers. The unavailability of cash crippled several businesses in the country, inclusive of farmers and MSMEs, as almost all the old notes were mopped up by the CBN, and the new notes were scarce. There had been a nationwide scarcity of both the newly designed naira notes and the old notes thereby leaving citizens stranded. This situation had led to protests in some parts of the country – Oyo, Ondo, and Delta State.

The sectors most impacted by the scarcity of cash were micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) – several businesses closed, and Poultry, which recorded heavy losses from the spoilage of their products such as eggs due to low demand, as several people could not find cash for their daily purchases. Many poultry farmers were unable to maintain their farms due to scarcity of cash for feeds, inputs and other farm operating costs, and could not sell the ones in stock.

Rise in Inflation

Rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics also impacted negatively on the inputs purchasing capacity of farmers/MSMEs. The National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, had declared that as at March 2022, the rate was 16.54 percent, and rose to 21.92 percent in March 2023, year-on-year (YOY) increase of 5.38 percent. Similarly, in March 2023, \$1 USD was exchanged for ₦459 as against ₦416 in March 2022, an increase of 0.1 percent YOY, affecting the cost of feeds and other transactions.

2023 Elections

Also, within the reporting period, the national electioneering activities across rural and urban areas disrupted some activities of some service providers who faced challenges rolling out GAP training of farmers for the quarter due to safety concerns of participants during electioneering campaigns periods.

The effect of the hostile macroeconomic viewpoints above were however lessened through several training programs by PIND, which have help to build the resilience of both service providers and participating farmers/MSMEs.

2.2 Security

Within the reporting period, the security situation in the Niger Delta remained concerning which led to serious cautions exhibited by PIND Foundation. The insecurity situation persisted as violent crimes perpetrated by different threat actors across the nine states of the Niger Delta region continued. While the security situation across different states may record occasional periodic declines in incident frequency and casualties, it however does not necessarily mean a decline in the general threat level. Therefore, there was increased vigilance and precautions at all times and particularly during land travels.

For example, on 07 February 2023, gunmen attacked the residence of the spokesperson for the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) in Umukegwu Akokwa, Ideato North LGA, Imo State. One person (the brother of the spokesperson) was abducted and the residence was vandalized. Also, on 9 February 2023, the convoy of the Director General of Atiku Campaign in Rivers State – Senator Abiye Dokubo, was attacked with gunfire around Amadiama Roundabout, Port Harcourt.

The general elections of 2023 heightened risk of electoral-related violence shortly before, during, and immediately after the elections. To minimize visibility and exposure to risk factors, program staff and partners were sensitive to the emerging threat of election-related violence and curtailed movements in the build up to and during the election period,

and maintained increased security vigilance in all the operations, particularly during the last days before, during elections, and immediately after the announcement of election results. Also, fuel scarcity contributed to the insecurity situations as it continued across the country with long queues in many of the petrol stations while some private marketers have adjusted their pump prices above the government-approved rates.

3. Economic Development Program

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

The market systems development project portfolio is made up of five agricultural value chains (aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry) and three cross-cutting interventions (access to finance, access to inputs, and business linkages). The project aims to identify binding constraints in the sectors and seek sustainable solutions that can increase the income of thousands of poor men and women. Note: *Impact indicators for the project are typically tracked once or twice a year, to give sufficient time for the adoption of the new practices which would enable effective monitoring. As a result, no targets were set, and no results expected for the quarter under review.

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

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



3.1 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements for all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development (MSD) project in Quarter 1, 2023.

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 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 (see figure1), 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. This approach is used to support poor farmers in aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs. These 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.

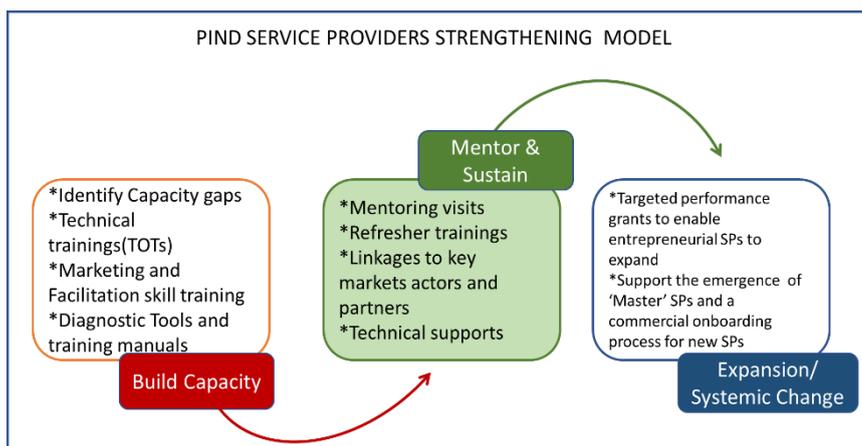


Figure 1 PIND service providers business model to support farmers/MSMEs

The Project's focus for 2023 was to further strengthen the adaptation strategies such as training, field demonstrations, information sharing, etc., developed by its network of market actors to increase its reach to 69,500 additional farmers and SMEs, out of which about 43,000 are expected to increase their incomes. In Q1 2023, the Market Systems Development (MSD) Project continued its work with service providers and other key market actors (fabricators, agricultural-input and equipment companies, farmers' associations, financial institutions, etc.) to improve the performance of farmers to achieve the following objectives:

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

3.2 Key market system changes through services provision

So far, over 300 services providers have been reached through PIND direct training and crowding-in effect, who are providing services in the Niger Delta. In Q1 2023, a total of 63 service providers continued to provide support to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, palm oil, Poultry and MSMEs with training in good agronomic practices (GAP). Many service providers are adapting to suit their sectors expanding their services to reach more farmers in different sectors, and increasing their sales. Highlights of the services provided by the SPs are shown below:

- **Cassava Sector:** 14⁴ service providers (agro-dealers, farm service providers and cassava stem entrepreneurs) mobilized and provided smallholder farmers access to quality inputs and information on good agricultural practices through training and the establishment of demonstration plots as embedded services.
- **Cocoa Sector:** Eight farm service providers and one exporter extended their support and activities to more farmers in Delta, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Ondo States with training programs, on-farm demonstration activities, and provision of farm services.
- **Palm oil Sector:** Two Farm Service Providers (FSPs) and five lead farmers had on-farm demonstrations on best management practices to 991 oil palm farmers in Delta, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Ondo States. Also, 15 Primary nursery operators sold 5,500 sprouted nuts to farmers and provided farm information on best management practices of new farms⁵.
- **Poultry:** 11 service providers (11 PSPs & 3 VLD) provided GAP training to poultry farmers in Abia, Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, Edo, Rivers, and Cross Rivers states. Some of the farmers were supported with technical and business skills training, linkages to inputs (feed & vaccines), market, and finance.
- **MSMEs:** 7 BSPs provided supports to enterprises on businesses management, business plan development, loan application, and linkages to finance through the CBN Agri- Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS) scheme and other MSMEs friendly loan schemes.

⁴ The states are: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross river, Delta, Edo and Ondo

⁵ 991 farmers plus 151 IHT sold and 2 SSPE totaling 1,144 farmers reported in Q1 2023

3.3 Q1 2023 Key outputs/outcomes from the activities of the Service Providers

Within the reporting period, 7,352 farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services through the activities of the 63 service providers, 3,327 (46% female farmers) as shown in Table 1 below⁶. This outreach represents 89.9% of Q1 2023 target of 8,200 farmers/MSMEs, and 10.6% against the annual target of 69,500. – see table 1.

Table 1. MSD Q1 progress against 2023 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	PWD	Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q1	Q1	Q1 %	Q1	Q1	2023	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached	8,200	7,352	89.7%	3327	0	69,500	7,352	10.6%	3,327	0
Number of jobs facilitated	*	*	-			9,925	*	*	*	*
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦732,91m	-			₦10.70 B	₦732,91m	6.7%		
Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	*	-			42,977	*	*	*	*
Change in the income of farmers (direct and indirect)	*	*	-			₦18.14 B	*	*	*	*

* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, depending on sector dynamics and through assessments or surveys. As a result, they do not have quarterly targets. Outcome and impact indicators will be measured and reported in Q3.

The initial activity monitoring has shown that farmers have commenced adoption of the improved farm practices and business modules with the investment of ₦732,906,000 in their farms and businesses. The investments by farmers and MSMEs are expected to improve the productivity and income of farmers/MSMEs. The following provide details of farmers/MSMEs investment on their businesses in Q1 2023.

- Eight trained nursery operators purchased 1,229 improved cocoa seeds/pods from CRIN in Ondo (513), Edo (466), and Abia states (250) at a total cost of ₦369,000 for the 1229 improved seeds. These will be sold to farmers for planting.
- 325 improved harvesting tools were purchased by 151 Edo and Delta States, while 1 large palm plantation purchased 175 IHT, totaling ₦4,462,000.
- Two high capacity oil palm processing mills were procured and installed by 2 Millers in Edo State for ₦20,000,000.
- ₦3, 175, 000 was also invested in the purchase of 8,500 sprouted nuts by 15 nursery operators in Ondo, Edo, Delta, and Rivers states.
- A loan of ₦704,900,000 was facilitated for 521 MSMEs (266 Female) under the CBN AGSMEIS scheme after receiving training on business skill by BSPs.

3.4 Building partnerships to enhance access to improved seeds in the Niger Delta

Lack of farmers access to improved seeds and other inputs were identified as the core constraints militating against agricultural growth in the Niger Delta region. With farmers' access to quality seeds, productivity will be enhanced. For example, access to improved cassava stems, improved variety of oil palm/cocoa seedlings, improved fish-seeds, and improved day-old chicks, would contribute significantly to farmers' productivity in the areas PIND is intervening. This section explains PIND's facilitations and collaborations with other key partners to mitigate the farmers' risk attributed to poor access to seeds.

Improving farmers' access to quality cassava stems through CSEs:

The strategy was to support these cassava stem entrepreneurs (CSEs) with inputs for cultivation of at least one hectare of land using improved stems, and facilitate the certification of their multiplication plot by the National Seed Council (NASC). PIND is collaborating with Umudike Seeds (a private company established by the National Root Crop Research Institute, (NRCRI), to implement this strategy. This strategy is being implemented in Delta, Abia and Akwa Ibom states

⁶ Cassava - 2,224 new cassava farmers, 1081- 48.6% females, Cocoa - A total of 1,495 farmers were reached, 518 – 34.7% females, Palm oil - A total of 991 farmers participated in the event. 358 – 36.2%, Poultry - A total of 1,228 poultry farmers were reached, 633-51.6% females, MSMSs - A total of 1,261 micro and small enterprises were reached, 737 – 58.5% female owned.

and in this quarter, nine CSEs in Abia were trained with the support of NASC and Umudike Seeds after site inspections were conducted to verify their land size and suitability for the intervention. PIND is also actively engaging previously trained CSEs to continue step down training on GAP to farmers and four of them trained a total of 285 farmers in Abia state during Q1 2023. As the cassava planting season begins in most states of the region in April, the CSEs are positioning to sell improved stems to farmers. This will be tracked and reported in Q2 2023.

Improving farmers' access to quality cocoa seedlings:

In this quarter, PIND continued its engagement with CRIN for the scale up of the model it jointly developed and piloted with the institute. Similarly, 8 of the nursery operators trained previously purchased 1,229 improved cocoa seeds/pods from CRIN in Ondo (513), Edo (466), and Abia states (250).

Improving farmers' access to quality oil palm seedlings:

In Q1 2023, PIND partnered with two seed companies Alisee and Ghana Sumatra to carry out a seed coordination workshop in Port Harcourt, Rivers state. The major objective of the workshop was to scale-up the activities of the seed companies in the Niger Delta and improve the collaboration and coordination amongst the seed producers and nursery operators. A total of 16 nursery operators were in attendance across Abia, Imo, Rivers, and Akwa Ibom states. At the end of Q1 2023, over 5,500 sprouted nuts were purchased by 15 nursery operators across Ondo, Edo, Delta, and Rivers states.

3.5 Building partnerships to enhance access to finance and markets in the Niger Delta

PIND continues to actively explore opportunities to enhance market access for smallholder farmers, particularly through collaborations and partnerships.

Access to finance and markets through the cassava out-grower scheme: PIND is collaborating with large processors, due to high unmet local demand for cassava roots for industrial processing. In 2022, PIND facilitated a partnership between Dufil Prima Foods and Ukwuoma Ndi Igbo Multipurpose Cooperative society, a farmer group, for the supply of TME 419 cassava roots to Dufil's starch processing plant in Edo State. The plant currently has a daily utilization capacity of 350 tons, but only 20% of this can be met by Dufil's own farm. To address this, PIND supported the farmer group in accessing a loan facility through Sombreiro Kapital to cultivate 33 hectares of land for supplying cassava roots to Dufil

Dufil has also indicated interest in signing offtake agreements with more farmers/farmer groups and this quarter, to concentrate effort on identifying interested farmer groups and monitoring the progress on the Ukwuoma cooperative farm. Harvesting is expected to commence in quarter 2 when about 5 hectares of the farm will be ready for harvest.

Linkages to finance/market for MSMEs:

As part of its objectives to support MSMEs to access finance for business expansion, PIND supported BSPs to provide advisory and financial linkages to a number of MSMEs. These MSMEs were supported with business skill training and linkages to loans under the CBN AGSMEIS scheme. This support which commenced in 2022 culminated in a total of 521 MSMEs (266 Female) being linked to financial institutions to access loans worth N704.9m in Q1 2023.

Also, PIND made significant progress in strengthening its relationships with stakeholders to foster linkages between supported businesses and markets. Working in partnership with CAD Digital Farm Limited, PIND has continued to facilitate engagements and market linkages between MSMEs and major bulk buyers such as SPAR, Market Square, Ponitec Markets Limited (Buy Plus), and Hyper-City Market, (a new prominent buyer located in Port Harcourt, Rivers State). As a result of these efforts, 17 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) successfully conducted sales transactions totaling N7.4 million during this quarter.

Facilitating linkages to market and finance for poultry farmers:

As poultry farmers strive to adopt and implement good poultry practices to enhance productivity and expand their businesses, the demand for reliable and stable markets to sell their products becomes crucial. In the quarter under review, PIND, in collaboration with Creative Empire, a poultry service provider, and Calachina Processing Factory, a large chicken processor, organized a market linkage workshop for poultry farmers in Cross River State. This initiative successfully connected 25 poultry farmers with the large buyer, creating opportunities for increased sales and revenue generation. Additionally, in line with PIND's commitment to facilitating access to finance for smallholder farmers, Ibiptam Enterprise supported 68 poultry farmers with their loan applications to the NIRSAL microfinance bank.

3.6 Building partnerships to enhance the quality of Cocoa beans in the Niger Delta

The Nigerian Cocoa industry is associated with producing poor-quality cocoa beans due to poor practices by farmers at the production and post-harvest stages of cocoa beans production. This is because there are no clear incentives for farmers to improve their practices and produce good quality beans for the market. PIND designed an incentive-based intervention to give premiums to farmers who produce good quality cocoa beans through partnership with Subjugate Nigeria Limited and Nivik Investment Limited, who worked with farmers to adopt improved practices. Already, out of 5,000 farmers reached by NIVIK in 2022, a total of 163,000 kg (163 tons) of high-quality cocoa beans have been procured from 1,800 farmers so far, with premium prices paid per kilogram to the farmers.

The incentive-based model for quality improvement was designed by PIND in 2020 to stimulate actors (farmers and off-takers) to begin to address the issues associated with poor-quality cocoa beans. This model mirrors the cocoa certification program and it is built around the offer of premium price as an incentive to farmers for producing good quality cocoa beans. The model guarantees a 1% to 1.5% premium on each kilogram of good-quality cocoa beans produced by the farmers. This ensures a win-win business relationship between the farmer and the buyer. Since 2020, PIND has partnered with four off-takers (Subjugate Nigeria Ltd, Nivik Investment, Abbico Ltd, and Sunbeth Global) who signed on to the Rainforest Alliance Certification program, to support farmers to adopt improved production and post-harvest practices that ensure quality cocoa beans production. These activities have reached over 3,500 farmers in Ondo and Edo states.

In 2021, PIND in partnership with Nivik Investment, an exporter based in Ondo state supported 1,502 (including 317 females) farmers to implement the pilot quality improvement model. The model involves three innovations: promotion and adoption of good agricultural practices; promotion and adoption of modern production and post-harvest technologies; and pesticide residue management to reduce the amount of residual pesticides on cocoa beans. The adoption of these combined procedures and innovations would increase the quality of beans that the buyer/off-taker will purchase and pay a premium (usually 1% - 2% or \$70 per ton) on the prevailing market price. This will increase the income of the farmers, as well as reduce the additional cost of further processing usually incurred by exporters to improve cocoa beans quality.

In the quarter under review PIND has supported more partners such as Johnvents Limited, Oluji Cocoa Powder Limited, and Sunbeth Limited in the development of strategy to enhance cocoa beans quality in the region. Implementing the strategies will benefit more farmers beginning from Q2 2023.

3.7 Skills Development for Youth Employment (YEP)

The aims of the Youth Employment Program (YEP) are to map the ecosystem of skills development, analyze opportunities for employment creation and develop models of youth job readiness or workforce development that provide disadvantaged young men and women in the Niger Delta opportunities to secure sustainable jobs and enterprises. PIND's approach involves innovative and quality technical occupational training which prepares selected youth with market-relevant skills and supports their transitioning into work or entrepreneurship.

In 2018, with funding from the Ford Foundation, PIND started the implementation of the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) Project in 3 states Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers. The pilot project provided market-driven vocational skills training for 4,355 youths in economic growth sectors such as Agriculture, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Building Construction with most of them linked to employment opportunities. With the completion of the Ford Foundation's funded pilot phase, the NDYEP scaled up in the pilot states and in Delta state with funding from Chevron Corporation. The scale up project is being conducted replicating the NDYEP model providing technical skills training and linkage to jobs or enterprise development in the same sectors with the inclusion of Finished Leather and Services sectors. 19 implementing partners and private TVET institutions are currently providing technical vocational skills training with the mainstreaming of soft skills to over 2,000 youths.

3.7.1 Key Achievements in YEP

The remaining 11 projects in Abia, Rivers and Delta states were completed with 729 (Males: 442, Females: 287 *PWD: 9*) youths graduating from either Agriculture, ICT/Renewable Energy, Building Construction or the Services sector. The 246 (113 females) who have completed their skill training have started internship/apprenticeship placements, while 187 (76 females) have also accessed income-earning opportunities (jobs and self-started enterprises).

Table 2. YEP progress against 2023 annual targets

YEP Indicators	Target	Achieved	Performance (%)	Target	Achieved YTD	Performance (%)	Female	PWD
	Q1 2023 Targets	Q1 2023	Q1%	2023	2023	2023(%)	2023	2023
Number of youths with applicable skills (Completed)	*	729	*	1,400 (HCDT 100)	729	52%	287 (39.3%)	9
Number of youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities	*	187	*	660	187	28.3%	76 (40.6%)	0
Number of job-to-job internship, apprenticeship placements	*	246	*	800	246	30.8%	113 (46%)	0
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	*	0	*	3	0	0%	NA	NA

3.7.2 Update on the implementing partners service delivery/3rd year implementation plan

All the 11 pending technical and vocational trainings (1 project in Abia, 9 in Delta, and 1 in Rivers) from July 2022 were completed in this quarter. In summary, the 25 implementing partners have completed all the 25 projects earmarked for this batch. The implementing partners are from Aquaculture, Construction, ICT/Renewable energy and finished leather.

To kick-start the third year of implementation, Terms of Reference (ToR) were published to solicit interest from competent technical vocational institutions operating in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States. 80 applications were received, including applications from old implementing partners. From the 80 applications, only 30 who submitted mandatory documents were pre-qualified and subjected to a technical assessment based on PIND's guidelines. These included applications from 17 old partners and 13 fresh applicants. After capacity check (mostly for new implementing partners) and budget negotiations were done for all successful and shortlisted applications, 18 YEP projects were selected and recommended for implementation in 2023 across 4 Niger Delta States. Seven (7) of the shortlisted organizations are led by women representing 41%. Two (2) credible new organizations are shortlisted for this year. Qualified applicants will be offered grants for training and post-training support to youths in the program states – See Annex for the list of the implementing partners (IPs)

3.7.3 Update on start-up business challenge fund plans.

To further support the transition of participants into entrepreneurship, the project launched a Start-up Business Challenge Fund. Target beneficiaries are youth trained under the Delta State component of the Youth Employment Pathways that graduated in the first year of implementation; in March 2022. These past trainees completed vocational training in the four sectors; integrated agriculture, ICT, building construction, and services (including finished leather and renewable energy).

174 business applications were received following the advert. The applications were sorted according to sectors, checked against the database, and a shortlist was drawn up based on the most viable start-up businesses. The applications were also checked to ensure that the proposed indicative budgets are reasonable and implementable. 61 shortlisted applicants (23 Males and 38 Females) were split into two categories (according to their business locations – Warri and Asaba) for a pitching session. The business pitching sessions will be completed and a final recommended start-up business presented for approval in April 2023.

Immediate outcomes of the YEP

In Q1 2023, the initial field observations and feedbacks from the 187 youths who have completed their training show positive outcomes with several of them already having livelihood activities. Few ones are explained below:

- In construction, Konwea Osy Solomon, "30 years, Male", from Azure Gold Ltd., *Asaba*, got a job to produce 5 tables and shelves for a restaurant. He was paid N135,000 for the job, while Aziogbe Bright, "28 years, Male", from Azure Gold Ltd., also in *Asaba*, got a job to produce 10 drums of acrylic paint. He made N40,000 as profit for the job. Similarly, Nwanne Isioma, "30 years, Female", also of Azure Gold Ltd., now produces paint for a construction services partner in Delta state who provides her and her team with customized containers.
- In services sector, some have also started earning some income as follows:
 - i) Okolo Charles, "20 years, Male", who learnt Photography from Coriftech is currently earning between N50,000 to N100,000 monthly working remotely for Delta State Broadcasting (DBS) service.
 - ii) Mabradu Oghenetaji, "27 years, Male", who trained in Photography with FotoAfrik set up his own

- Photography studio in Ekpan, Delta state after the training, through self-financing.
 - iii) Arugba Iyomih Providence, “25 years, Male”, from FotoAfrik now does Youtube Videography Recording for people and has opened his office along Airport road, Warri.
- o Under ICT/Renewable Energy, Suberu Praise Ewere, “19 years Male”, from Innovation Growth hub is currently a freelancer and has worked on different graphic design projects including 8 individual logs, flyers, poster and social media designs; and Umeh Sopuruchukwu Caleb, “28 years Male”, who was trained in Aba by Clintonel Foundation on Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) now has a start-up called “Alpha” and is currently working on a prototype (electronic lamp mosquito killer).

3.8 Access to Energy

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

In Q1 2023, PIND’s Access to energy (A2E) program carried out some community engagements activities to promote access to energy models to business owners and individuals in addition to PIND partners’ power installations in various Niger Delta communities reaching over 13,000 persons with access to clean energy.

PIND partners scaling-up productive use of clean energy across the Niger Delta

Two PIND mini grid project partners addressed the problem of energy access through scale ups and installation of commercial solar mini-grids in 5 different Niger Delta rural communities where access to electricity had been a long-standing challenge. PIND’s lead partner, A4&T scaled up their work in Ondo state to three more communities in Ondo State, while ETIN Power (earlier reported in Q4 2022) continued work around their ground-breaking activities by scaling energy access to two more communities in Edo state. The two communities located in Edo State are agricultural communities. These scale ups demonstrate the innovative capabilities of the energy cabin model and the much-evolved adaptations from the first ever energy cabin piloted in 2019.

PIND’s work in A2E supports diverse innovation around the rural energy markets in the Niger Delta where there is a likelihood for profitability to the mini grid developers as well as the communities, such as adapting the fishing community’s energy mini-grid model to suit upland farming communities. Through these private-sector led initiatives, a total of N815,433,388 flowed into the Niger Delta as investments in community power projects, and over 13,000 persons in the Niger Delta are estimated to have gained access to electricity through these projects. Being typical Niger Delta communities steeped in agricultural activities, the installation of the mini-grids is envisaged to have a transformative effect on the rural businesses, which previously relied on expensive and unreliable petrol generators, but are now able to access a more reliable and affordable energy source for longer hours and increase their productivity.

In total, 127 businesses gained access to electricity across 5 communities (12 in Evbuwa; 9 in Iguemokhua; 14 in Orisunbare; 22 in Oloruntedo; 70 in Fagbo) while a total of 2,168 households were connected to electricity (112 in Evbuwa; 62 in Iguemokhua; 386 in Orisunbare; 378 in Oloruntedo; 1230 in Fagbo).

This development has afforded some local residents the opportunity to learn some technical skills and get employed in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the mini-grids, which ultimately contributed to the local economy. It also afforded households an opportunity to create economic activities that will increase income generation, improve livelihoods, and enhance socio-economic development through micro enterprises that would benefit from basic access to electricity.

Increasing information and outreach to support the scale up of Solar Mini-grid Projects in the Niger Delta

Despite the potential for mini grids to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy to rural communities that are not connected to the national grid, their deployment in rural areas faces several challenges, such as limited awareness among the local communities, insufficient financing, and regulatory barriers. Ultimately, Information and outreach are

essential for supporting the development of solar mini-grid projects in the Niger Delta coastal areas. PIND understands that building awareness and support among local communities, mobilizing resources and partnerships, and advocating for supportive policies, can help to overcome the barriers that hinder the deployment of mini-grids.

To address these barriers and support the development and scale of projects particularly in the Niger Delta, PIND signed a MOU with the Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN) to pull resources together and jointly influence more offgrid power projects in the Niger Delta.

As part of the collaboration, PIND and REAN organised a Niger Delta themed roadshow to jointly promote access to energy through renewable energy use, and support the scale up of PIND's access to energy model across the Niger Delta, as reflected on the cover page. This involved two events targeting solar photovoltaic (PV) installers, trainers and small business solutions providers in Delta and Rivers states. It also had participation from institutional enablers such as government, financiers and donor agencies, and PIND utilised the opportunity to share its energy access business model that has worked in the Niger Delta. During this roadshow and related events, 97 persons gained access to PIND information (16 Females and 81 Males)

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

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

The Extension Activity uses Lean⁷ 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.

PIND and AEAS interventions in the Niger Delta - Cross River State and Delta State Update

For the period under review, the Extension Activity continued to work with partner firms in commercializing and scaling up 33 Most Impactful Practices (MIPs) identified and validated across the five target value chains where it is intervening. Table 1 shows the list of relevant MIPs promoted in Cross River and Delta States. Partner firms have continued to commercialize MIPs having seen the benefits they bring in increasing their farmers outreach and enhancing their business performance, as well as increasing the profitability of their clients. As shown in Table 2 below, a total of 65 MSMEs were supported this quarter and are receiving services to promote private sector extension in Cross River and Delta states. Out of the 65 MSMEs, 26 are commercializing the MIPs and providing extensions services to 1,141 Small-scale household farmers (SHFs).

Table 3. List of MIPs promoted in Cross River and Delta State

S/n	MIP	Crop
1	Stocking of Juveniles	Aquaculture
2	Complementary Feeding with Maggots and Duckweed in aquaculture	Aquaculture
3	Use of Improved Seeds	Maize/Rice
4	Optimum Herbicide utilization for weed management	Maize/Rice
5	Optimum Fertilizer Use	Maize/Rice
6	Fall Army Worm Control & Management	Maize
7	Mechanized land preparation	Maize

⁷ Lean is a process-driven analytical and management set of principles and tools the Activity will use to develop a deep understanding of the existing production systems to identify the most promising opportunities and the most important constraints to improve efficiency and increase return on investment for farmers. Lean principles emerged from the Toyota Production System, known for efficiency and high net margins within its industry, and have been applied in agriculture as well as other sectors and industries in the recent decades.

8	Mechanized Land Prep with small equipment (Power Tillers)	Lowland Rice
9	Mechanized threshing	Rice

1. Access to Finance

The Extension Activity facilitates access to finance to generate credit that assists MSMEs in the commercialization of MIPs and to support farmers in the adoption of improved practices, three MSMEs (Success farms, Erolllex, and Bacoco) accessed finance from Ekondo Micro Finance bank to the tune of \$6,536 for business expansion. The MSMEs have paid back successfully and are due for another facility.

The Activity also trained 29 MSMEs on Financial Literacy. The training featured basic financial management and documentation, as well as exposed MSMEs to available commercial financing products, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) development finance interventions and the eligibility criteria for accessing the financing products. The training also featured the village savings mobilization model, which is widely accepted as a strategy to build cash security and unlock access to finance for smallholder farmers. Action plans were prepared for MSMEs to try this model amongst themselves before replicating to smallholder farmers within their clusters. In this model, the farmers savings and loans group will assist farmers in different locations to meet, save together and take small loans from those savings. In Ogoja, 3 of our MSMEs are currently practicing this model. The Extension Activity will support them to build up a stronger structure to enable them to transcend to community-based financial service providers (BFSP) in the next six months as the cohort members agreed to hold a meeting immediately to set up the groups. In Delta State, a credit financing pipeline of \$21,786 is being facilitated for 10 MSMEs with our partner micro finance institution, Sombreiro Kapital. The MSMEs are currently undergoing profiling and due diligence.

2. MSME Engagement and Partnerships

The Extension Activity is currently collaborating with AgriLife Bio-product Solution to train MSMEs under the improved seeds cohort in Ogoja on how to use their product. Following the partnership, five MSMEs will be supported with input credit for farmers within their network. Profiling of farmers is currently on-going and training on the organic product use will commence immediately. To explore the opportunity of replicating the use of parasitoid to control the ravaging Fall Army Worm in maize production in states, the Extension Activity is partnering with Crops Innovation Lab (CETC IL) to mitigate Fall Army Worm. In Cross River State, two maize farms in Odukpani were captured to inspect the level of damage caused by fall army worms on maize plants using Nuru App.

Also, to support hatchery cohorts to have alternative means of feeding to reduce the 70% cost incurred in buying conventional feeds for juvenile production, Extension Activity in collaboration with New Generation Nigeria and ADPs in Cross River and Delta states trained MSMEs on black soldier fly larvae production (BSF). This will also help combat the increasing cost of feeds. Trained MSMEs have begun trials on the production of BSF from eggs obtained from New Generation Nigeria. They have also set out plans to train smallholder farmers within their network on black soldier fly production exposing them to the nutritional benefits and cost effectiveness. Theo Farms (MSME) is already enjoying higher productivity after starting BSF production. In February 2023, he produced 300 kg of BSF larva with sales of N120,000 (USD 260) within the period. The farm also experienced a reduction in the rate of changing pond water because BSF does not pollute the water like pelletized fish feed. The farm is currently building the capacity of four new trainees on BSF production and plans to further train 50 local fish farmers. As a result of this, Delta ADP has set up their first ever BSF larvae production unit.

Table 4. Number of MSMEs in Cross River and Delta states

State	Cross River			Delta			Aggregate		
	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned
MSMEs in cohorts	55	7	-	159	23	5	214	30	4
MSMEs supported	34	5	-	31	4	2	65	9	2
MSMEs deploying MIPs	4	-	-	22	2	-	26	2	-

Table 5. Number of farmers accessing MIPs/Intervention

MIP/Intervention	Cross River			Delta		
	Total	Female	Youth	Total	Female	Youth
Use of Juveniles	-	-	-	207	64	35
Extension messaging	273	96	75	-	-	-
ICT Video Enabled Extension	594	398	59	-	-	-

Table 4 and 5 above shows the numbers of farmers accessing inputs, products and services by interventions or most impactful practices (MIPs) promoted.

3. ICT Support- Video Extension

As a follow up to the Extension Activity's mandate to support the adoption of MIPs using ICT-enabled extension services platforms to reach value chain stakeholders, the Extension Activity continued to collaborate with the Cross River State Agricultural Development Program and Delta State Agricultural Development Program to develop, review, and disseminate extension videos demonstrating the value and practice of MIPs. To this light, the Cross-River ADP and Delta ADP in partnership with the Extension Activity conducted a training and a refresher training on ICT- video enabled dissemination in both states. In all, 50 extension agents were trained in Cross River and 34 in Delta State.

Output Level Results

Table 6 below shows the results (outputs) from interventions implemented during the period. It lists 5 performance indicators that are applicable to the status of implementation in the two states. The table also includes a column with the performance of the overall Extension Activity portfolio for internal benchmarking.

Table 6 below shows the results (outputs) from interventions implemented during the period.

Performance Indicator	Cross River	Delta	Aggregate (Cross River and Delta)	Overall portfolio
Number of private sector firms providing new or improved extension and advisory services as a result of USG assistance (outcome; custom)	4	22	26	70
Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs (EG 3-2)	2329	606	2935	23,331
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	\$6,754	-	\$6,754	\$50,425
Total number of clients benefitting from financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors (EG. 4.2-1)	18	-	18	205
Value of new USG commitment and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security (EG.3.1-14)	-	3,956	3,956	\$ 836,380

4. Peace Building Program

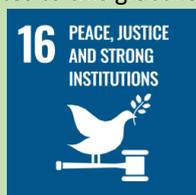
The strategic thrust of the peace building program is to achieve regional and lasting peace in the Niger Delta. To achieve this, PIND is creating sustainable peace partnerships, encouraging collaboration and cooperation amongst peace actors, providing support for economic development, and strengthening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

The peace building program consists of two interrelated and interdependent projects: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) and Partners for Peace (P4P) Network. The IPDU focuses on undertaking research and providing training to local and international stakeholders to implement innovative pilot projects that show promise of making a difference on the ground. Responding quickly in a targeted manner to rapidly changing dynamics, the IPDU promotes collaboration and synergy amongst existing local, regional, and national efforts of actors in both public and private sectors to develop/depoly 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 (202-2024), the Peace Network is focusing 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:



This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q1,2023.

4.1 Peace Building

In Q1 of 2023, the Niger Delta peace landscape witnessed increased political and criminal violence in the lead up to and during the 2023 general elections as well as protests and demonstrations in the aftermath of the elections. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, conflict incidents increased by 5.6% from 341 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 360 in Q1 of 2023. However, conflict fatalities decreased by 38.2% from 338 reported fatalities in Q4 of 2022 to 209 in Q1 of 2023. According to data, criminality and election violence were the major drivers of lethal violence in the region during the quarter. Out of the 360 conflict incidents reported during the quarter, 134 were related to political and election violence. Moreover, election violence caused 40 fatalities in the Niger Delta in Q1 of 2023. In addition, there was an increase in gang violence during the quarter driven mainly by battles for supremacy and territorial control among the numerous cult gangs in the region. Data indicates that clashes between cult gangs intensify during every election cycle in the Niger Delta. According to data, gang violence increased by 54.5% from 11 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 17 in Q1 of 2023.

However, PIND continued to aim high in achieving its objective of actively engaging 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction in the current strategic phase (2020 – 2024). PIND is relentlessly undertaking interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta region as part of the plan of action aimed at keeping 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. PIND's peace building strategy recognizes the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict; adopting innovative approaches to work on problems of militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)⁸.

Peace building highlights of activities in Q1 2023.

Within the reporting period, peace actors leveraged local capacity for peacebuilding to deploy multi-stakeholder conflict early warning systems to track, identify, and proactively respond to the numerous drivers of conflict and instability including election violence during the period.

During the quarter, there was an increase of about 19% in the number of conflict early warning incidents reports on the IPDU SMS based early warning/early response (EWER) platform as 516 incidents were reported on the platform in Q1 of 2023 compared to 435 incidents reported in the preceding quarter. As such, PIND utilized conflict early warning, research and data analysis products to facilitate proactive responses by peace actors (including the P4P Prevent committees/Councils and community stakeholder network (CSNs) members) to prevailing and emerging conflict risk factors and drivers of instability in the Niger Delta. PIND produced 14 data-driven research and analytical products including 12 weekly conflict briefs, an annual conflict report (2022), and a special policy brief on election violence scenario planning. Seven election related conflict reports were produced and disseminated to local and international stakeholders during the period.

PIND continued to expand its strategic response to current conflict trends and patterns which require a more concentrated operational-level support that can respond quickly in a targeted manner to rapidly changing dynamics on the ground with these activities: collaborative election violence prevention and mitigation project; herders/ farmers conflict mitigation interventions; and the Prevent Council interventions on land and boundary disputes in Akwa, Ibom, Cross River and Delta states.

The herders/farmers conflict mitigation interventions continued from where they stopped in Q4 2022. The success story of the intervention is the adoption of the election violence prevention and mitigation project by both farmers and herders in communities where the projects were implemented by the following lead organizations: One Love Community Development and Promotion of Peace Initiative (OLCDPPI); Melville Women Initiative (MWI); Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE); and Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ) in Delta, Ondo and Cross River states. This indicates the local ownership and sustainability strategy of the intervention.



Governorship candidates signing a peace pact in Akwa Ibom State

Key/immediate peace building outcomes in Q1 2023.

Within the reporting period, analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products revealed that 658 stakeholders⁹ utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis during the review period exceeding the target of 500 stakeholders for the quarter, and achieving 33% of the 2023 target. Also, 47 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training¹⁰ sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. While, 325 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 22 'quality actions'¹¹ to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period.

Niger Delta peace outlook in Q1 2023

There were significant changes in the regional dynamics of conflict risks and insecurity. These changes include increased political and criminal violence in the lead up to and during the 2023 general elections as well as protests and demonstrations in a few area aftermaths of the elections. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, conflict

⁸ PIND Impact Assessment: promoting peace in the Niger Delta 2012- 2018.

⁹ Local/international organizations and individuals who used conflict tracker as a source of security information to support their program planning and works in the Niger Delta region.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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).

incidents increased by 5.6% from 341 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 360 in Q1 of 2023. Also, there was an increase in gang violence during the quarter driven mainly by battles for supremacy and territorial control among the numerous cult gangs in the region. Data indicates that clashes between cult gangs intensify during every election cycle in the Niger Delta. According to data, gang violence increased by 54.5% from 11 incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 17 in Q1 of 2023.

According to the peace map, criminality and election violence were the major drivers of lethal violence in the region during the quarter. Out of the 360 conflict incidents reported during the quarter, 134 were related to political and election violence. However, conflict fatalities decreased by 38.2% from 338 reported fatalities in Q4 of 2022 to 209, out of which 40 fatalities were related to the elections alone in Q1 2023 within the Niger Delta region.

In spite of the recorded election violence and cult clashes during the quarter, there was a significant improvement in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, there was a decrease in reported incidents of communal conflict and violent separatist agitation in the region, just as communal conflict, including clashes between herders and farmers, decreased by 27.3% from 11 reported incidents in Q4 of 2022 to 8 incidents in Q1 of 2023. Separatist agitation including targeted killings and clashes between separatist militias and government security forces decreased by 33.3% from 12 reported incidents in the previous quarter to 8.

Stimulating peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace.

PIND's peace efforts are geared towards preventing violence as a means of resolving conflicts, reducing fragility as a breeding ground for violence, and creating opportunities for long-term development. As conflicts are a natural part of social processes of change for sustainable development, PIND is relentlessly promoting a culture of peace by providing relevant data for early response and facilitating collaborative efforts for implementing conflict management and peace building interventions to peace actors/monitors, peace champions and other stakeholders. Also, through its Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) and the Partners for Peace (P4P) network, PIND has continued to facilitate training and workshops to enhance capacities of peace actors to constructively mitigate conflict. Some examples of the way these peace actors have applied the skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q1, are given in Table 7

Table 7. Summary of selected interventions carried out by some stakeholders and peace actors in Q1 2023

Domestic Violence Intervention in Cross River State	Resolving Land Dispute between Akwa Ibom and Cross River Communities
<p>Doris has been one of the key participants in PIND's facilitated Niger Delta Peace and Security Network in Cross River State. In January 2023, she witnessed a man beating his wife with a cutlass in Atamunu axis of Calabar South Local Government Area. She immediately intervened as other onlookers were scared of stopping him. Doris threatened to invite the police and spoke to him about the dangers of violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Chief Okokon is the village head of Afia Isong, a community close to Edem Inyang village in Itu local government area of Akwa Ibom State. As PIND's facilitated prevent council member, he initiated peace talks between the leaders of Edem Inyang village and Obodio village in Eki West clan in Odukpani LGA of Cross River State. The land dispute had lasted for more than 10 years and in 2022 Obodio youths chased Edem Inyang women out of the disputed farmland and two people killed. After the prevent council inauguration in 2022, he advised the chiefs to withdraw the case from the police and a joint committee was set-up to commence peace talks. Currently, the committee has drafted a memorandum of understanding and a surveyor has been engaged to demarcate the boundary. According to Chief Okokon, Edem Inyang village women are now freely farming on the disputed land while the matter is being resolved.</p>
Elections Crisis Intervention at Michael Okpara University, Abia State	Election/cult Violence Intervention in Bayelsa State
<p>Juliet, a P4P member and one of PIND's peace champions, intervened in a students' departmental elections crisis at Michael Okpara University, Abia State, in February 2023. A female student who had completed her tenure as the Vice president of the Department wanted to impose herself on the students by insisting on contesting again. This caused tension and riots among students. To resolve the issue, Juliet called the lady, spoke to her and made reference to the departmental constitution while persuading her to not contest again. This conversation yielded much results as she withdrew from contesting and there was calm in the institution. The election was conducted and new executives elected.</p>	<p>August is a P4P member from Odi community, Kolokuma-Opokuma LGA, Bayelsa State who attended PIND's conflict analysis training in 2020. He intervened in a cult menace in Odi community, where their activities were on the rise due to the tense February 2023 general elections. August and some other stakeholders mapped and identified the leaders of various cult groups in the community. He spoke to them in various groups before gathering them together in February to speak to them on the need to shun violence prior, during and after the period and even went as far as making them to sign a peace accord. Odi community recorded little or no violent incident due to this signing of peace accord even after the election.</p>

Regional framework for peace in the Niger Delta.

Within the reporting period, PIND continued to work with the MNDA to support the work of the TWG that was constituted in 2022 to lead the development of a regional framework for peace in the Niger Delta. In this regard, on Thursday, February 3rd, 2023, the MNDA and PIND met with the Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS), this is a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff. PIND will leverage the network, experience and expertise of the CSTS, especially as it relates to civil-security relationships. The TWG is also expected to collaborate with CSTS in the development of the NDRPS.

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

PIND is facilitating the engagements of stakeholders in the communities and local, state and federal government levels to ensure adequate buy-in to the process of developing a framework that shall be accepted by all stakeholders. Between the 30th of November and the 1st of December 2022, PIND, in collaboration with the MNDA inaugurated the technical working group (TWG) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, in a ceremony that also included the first capacity-building session for the members of the group. The TWG is currently working towards designing and developing a regional peacebuilding strategy for the Niger Delta region. On Thursday, February 3rd, 2023, the MNDA and PIND met with the Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS), this is a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff. PIND will leverage the network, experience and expertise of the CSTS, especially as it relates to civil-security relationships. The TWG is also expected to collaborate with CSTS in the development of the NDRPS. To develop the NDRPS and framework, a series of engagements with both state and non-state actors are planned as part of a systematic and multifaceted process.

5. General Enabling Program

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

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

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 Sustainable Development Goals:



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 1 of 2023 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

5.1 Capacity Building

As one of PIND's key enablers, the Capacity Building program is designed and positioned to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of government, civil society, and business associations/service providers, "for effective socio-economic engagement, inclusive governance for growth, and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta". It directly contributes to both PIND's long-term objective and overall goal.

The Program was designed to focus on two major areas, the first being to strengthen the capacity of local development organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the market systems approach through the Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) project. M4P is an overarching approach to development that provides agencies and governments with the direction required to achieve large-scale sustainable change by focusing on underlying constraints that prevent the poor from participating effectively in markets. As part of its continued support to CAPABLE organizations this year, PIND is providing direct mentorship to selected organizations to implement projects using the market systems approach, and handholding on proposal writing and fund mobilization to diversify their funding base.

The second area of focus for the project is to strengthen the institutions that support the Chevron Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) community engagement process and enable them to carry out developmental projects that improve the livelihood of people living in the communities. Between 2020 and 2021, PIND carried out a series of activities aimed at strengthening the institutions that support the Chevron GMOU and Regional Development Committees (RDCs), including supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the 2018 Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) conducted on the RDCs. These include coaching, mentoring and training conducted for various committees of the RDCs including those in Video production and photography, Sustainable Project Management, and on gender equality and social inclusion.

This year, PIND's focus is on supporting CNL's transition from RDCs to HCDTs by developing appropriate Capacity building activities to support the various structures of the HCDTs including the Board, Advisory, and management committees. Chevron, in compliance with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021, is establishing Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to drive community development projects in their host communities. This legally backed structure is replacing Chevron's Regional Development Councils (RDCs) which were previously saddled with this responsibility. PIND is expected to support the HCDT organizational capacity for effective operations as it did with the RDCs as part of its ongoing collaboration with CNL through its PGPA unit.

PIND has identified some indicative training programs that will be useful for the HCDT leadership and management committees to enable them to take off effectively. These include training on Group dynamics and cohesion, Multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development, PIND will also support the Policy Government & Public Affairs (PGPA) unit of Chevron that is responsible for managing the Chevron HCDT relations to conduct other pieces of training when they are identified. However, due to the delay in setting up the HCDT none of the planned training for Q1 2023 has taken place.

Petroleum Industry Acts: The BRIDGES Project

In Quarter 1, 2023, PIND organized a capacity-building workshop for 30 participants from 15 NGOs and CSOs from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States. The workshop is one of three components of the Bridges Project which also include an Awareness Creation workshop for the members of the HCDTs and will involve 100 participants per state in the five focal states adopted by the project, and the setting up of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform. The multi-stakeholder platform would be made up of 30 carefully-selected experts and critical stakeholders representing the communities, settlers, civil society, and government. They will work towards a common goal of ensuring that community stakeholders maximize the benefits of the PIA in their respective communities by coordinating efforts that help to channel PIA HCDT funds appropriately.



Cross Section of Facilitators and Participants – The Bridges Projects Workshop

The 3-day event utilized comprehensive training modules and work sessions which were facilitated by PIND and the New Nigeria Foundation. The different sessions were interactive and provided an avenue for knowledge sharing with robust contributions from all the participants. Concerning a survey conducted at the start of the workshop, the general expectation of the participants was to gain a better understanding of the PIA and the role that NGOs can play in ensuring the active participation of community stakeholders in the implementation process. It involved training sessions on Conducting Needs Assessment, Data Analysis, Development of Community Development Plans, Conflict Management and Monitoring and Evaluation. These sessions were followed by assessment techniques that ensured knowledge retention.

The Bridges Project is a collaborative effort by the Ford Foundation and The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) in exploring realistic models of community development in which different actors - companies, communities, NGOs, government, and others - can come together to build a sustainable model of development in the communities where extractive activities occur.

Organizations providing services:

CARA Development Foundation, Kolping Society of Nigeria, Genius Hub, and MacJim Foundation continue to provide services using funds raised from other donors. Kolping supported the impact evaluation for an intervention that deployed ICT for farmers in Abia state while CARA continued its advocacy activities for an increase in budgetary allocation to agriculture in three states in the southeast which include two in the Niger Delta. Also, MacJim and Genius Hub are still providing environmental awareness and skills training respectively which they commenced in the previous quarters.

5.2 Advocacy

PIND's advocacy focus continued to be on three key work areas: to influence spending and funding from government, donors, and the private sector organizations on new projects in the Niger Delta; address issues of inadequate access to arable land for smallholder farmers, and constraints on small businesses brought about by multi-taxation and illegal levies; and to support institutionalizing strategies in peacebuilding efforts that will promote conflict prevention across the Niger Delta.

In the first Quarter of 2023, PINDs' online advocacy platform, NDLink (www.ndlink.org) was prominent during the 2023 general election. It developed and shared content to improve voter education, boost voter engagement and promote peaceful and progressive participation in the 2023 General elections. It also partnered with the Peacebuilding team in conducting a special feature interview with the Peacebuilding team members in which PIND's various interventions towards a non-violent election were highlighted and discussed.

Equitable access to land by smallholder farmers.

PIND's effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities is paying off. PIND influenced the establishment of an Arable Land Committee in Delta and Edo States. As a result of this intervention, and as a first step, both states have carried out GIS mapping of all the reserved land in their respective states and have delineated substantial amounts for agricultural purposes. For instance, in Edo State, as a result of the extensive engagements carried out in 2022, Government is now keen to develop and articulate a clear process flow of the land acquisition process in the State. In 2023, this process is being jointly developed by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Environment and the physical planning and Forestry departments. Also, the Edo GIS department is working with the communities to map and layout their communities' land to enable the government to provide a short-term certificate of occupancy in line with the lease holding agreed upon by the communities. Currently, PIND is taking concerted efforts to ensure that these happen. Relating to this, Civil society organizations and non-government organizations are required to stand as a witness in the land agreement processes among the community, government, and investors. This is to ensure that there is transparency in the process and that no party is being misled into making illegal commitments.

Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention

In 2022, PIND completed the draft assessment report on the impact of multiple taxations and illegal levies on small businesses in Abia, Delta, and Rivers states. PIND has learned that out of the 82 business sector respondents, up to 90% decried the effects of multiple taxes and illegal levies on their businesses.

In Q1 2023, the first-level review of the above report within PIND by the Economic Development and M&E teams and

transmission of the report to external subject matter experts for further review and perfection has been conducted and completed. The last round of internal validation will now be held within the PIND leadership. Also, in Q1 2023, work progressed on updating the tax matrix for the intervention states, Abia, Delta, and Rivers states, and already the various legal and illegal taxes are being identified and tracked through this matrix. As part of the planned activities of the intervention, PIND shall engage with the respective governments and share the data from this matrix in a bid to influence policy solutions to the challenge of multiple taxation and illegal levies that are stifling the growth, profitability and sustenance of small businesses in the region. Public dissemination forums are scheduled for Q3, 2023 in Port Harcourt and Asaba. These forums will bring together business service providers, business owners, government tax officials, media, and civil society to discuss the findings and recommendations of the field assessment in a bid to design workable solutions that address this issue in the Niger Delta at large, starting with the focus intervention states.

5.3 Communications

PIND's communication activities focus on boosting visibility and engagement and strengthening the brand to attract partnerships and encourage the adoption of PIND's models of sustainable development.

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

In the first quarter of the year, the discourse in the digital media space was dominated by the 2023 general elections, insecurity, and mass emigration of Nigeria's skilled workforce. PIND keyed into the trending conversations by promoting the Peacebuilding program's contributions to ensure peaceful elections in the Niger Delta. At the same time, we continued using relatable human and data stories to promote PIND's activities and highlight our partnerships. We joined the world in commemorating the 2023 International Women's Day in March with a video and social media posts.

We increased our media reach by covering events such as the PIND and Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN) Renewable Energy Access Roadshow in Warri and Port Harcourt – *see details under access to energy*. Another significant event was The Bridges Project Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs and CBOs on the Implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act. Finally, PIND was part of several forums where we shared our work and lessons from the implementation of our models.

1. Social Media

PIND shared 166 posts (conveying its key messages) across social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The social media posts reached 250,085 individuals and 6,081 of the people engaged by liking, commenting, sharing, or link clicking demonstrating increased visibility and interest among stakeholders in PIND's work. One highlight of the quarter was the commemoration of International Women's Day 2023 with the global theme 'DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality'. This event was sub-themed by PIND as 'Embrace Equity through Technology and Innovation', which was marked by showcasing innovative technologies that PIND has introduced to increase productivity among female stakeholders and partners over the years

2. Newsletter

PIND produced and disseminated two newsletters to recipients in target stakeholder groups during the quarter in review, reaching 2,270 people. 9 new subscribers were also added to its mailing list during the quarter. There was an average open rate of 30%, which surpassed last quarter's average of 28.6%. (The opening rate is the percentage of subscribers who opened the newsletter from the email inbox).

3. PIND Website

In Q1, we actively posted content on the PIND website and strategically used social media to drive traffic to the web posts. This attracted 10,168 individuals to PIND's website for the first time, exposing them to PIND's work, results, and models.

Table 8. PIND's website performance summary in Q1 2023.

Website Performance Summary for Q1 2023
10,168 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time.
7,485 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND;
21 new content about PIND and partners shared
5,571 views of posted content, and PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND
82% of visitors searched directly to access the website
8,514 downloads of PIND's knowledge products to learn more, making PIND a thought-leader
The website had most of the new and repeat visitors attracted from high donor countries like the USA, United Kingdom, Philippines, Germany, China, India, Canada and our Nigerian audience.

4. Email Enquiries

PIND received 34 email inquiries in Q1. Most of these inquiries sought information on partnerships or collaborations, job opportunities, questions by farmers about our MSD Programs, and invitations for PIND to share knowledge at academic research, case study on PIND, and access to PIND- promoted technologies and services, among others. Inquiries also

included more information on our YEP Program.

5. Mainstream Media

In Q1, PIND had 19 mainstream media mentions. Of this number, three were earned - media mentions not facilitated by PIND but had a statement of the Foundation due to its work. An example of an earned media mention was a report on a peace-pact signing by five gubernatorial candidates in Akwa Ibom, an event co-facilitated by PIND. Another was PIND Foundation: Electoral violence could trigger politically motivated killings in Rivers, published by the Cable Newspaper on February 6, which quoted an analysis on the political climate in the Niger Delta as reported in the IDPU's Niger Delta Weekly Update. Overall, we reached 51,407,749 individuals via mainstream media.

6. Public Endorsement of PIND

PIND received 15 public endorsements, appreciating, acknowledging, or commending the Foundation for its work in the region. These endorsements are public statements by key stakeholders: government, partners, the media, project participants, and the general public.

5.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND's commitment to gender and social inclusion underpins efforts that 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. At the center of PIND's 2020–2024 strategic plan is the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of poor women and girls, persons with disabilities and most vulnerable population. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming as a cross cutting theme, is embedded within PIND's programs and projects to ensure that its activities are inclusive, reflect equitable participation and access to benefits.

Organizational Gender mainstreaming summary

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

In Q1 2023, 4,467 males and 3,614 females (47.7% of the total beneficiaries) benefitted from various economic development interventions, with an aim to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. Similarly, a total of 421 women (43% of the total beneficiaries), 569 (57%) men, and 355 (36%) youths 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.

2023 International Women's Day Celebration

Every March 8 is set aside globally for the celebration of women's achievements and PIND joins the global community to conduct specialized events to celebrate women and girls in its projects across the Niger Delta region. The UN theme for for 2023 is '**digital innovation and technology for gender equality**' while the global theme is 'embrace equity'. This year, PIND combined both themes to work with the sub-theme "**embrace equity in technology and innovation**". The themes recognize and celebrate women and girls who are championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. The highlight for this year's IWD celebration was a one-day 'sensitization on innovations and technological advancement for women empowerment'. The event was used as a medium to educate women and youths on adopting innovative mechanisms and improved technology in their businesses for growth and empowerment. The objectives were to: sensitize women, girls and PWDs, on the need to adopt improved technology for business growth.

The event had a total of 101 participants including nine (9) males and six PWDs (6) and were made up of PIND's existing and potential beneficiaries from its projects from Bayelsa, Delta, Edo and Ondo states respectively including its riverine communities. Some of the technologies showcased were the Chokor oven, smoking kiln, bio-sand filter, bio-digester and improved harvesting technology, and others. The participants were excited about their exposure in this year's events, and are poised to imbibe technology and innovations in their businesses and households.



Cross section of the 2023 IWD celebration at PIND, Warri EDC, Delta State

5.5 Business Development

In line with its effort to diversify and expand its funding base, PIND continued to engage potential partners to explore new opportunities across its program areas by strengthening and facilitating internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. This year started on a high note for PIND with the signing of a \$153,000 grant agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). PIND also had positive engagements with potential donors. During the quarter, meetings of the BDS subcommittee and committee held. Both meetings focused on the updated BDS strategy, update on the fundraising tracker and introduction to impact investment. The first quarter of 2023 saw robust engagement with donors, deepening of partnerships and several collaboration opportunities.

Key outputs and outcomes are listed below:

- **FAO FOLUR:** During the quarter in review, PIND signed a \$153,000 grant agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The aim of this grant is for PIND to implement three components of the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Programme (FOLUR-IP) in two States (Cross River and Ondo State) in Nigeria. The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) is a \$345 million, seven-year initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility and led by the World Bank. Seeking to transform food and land use systems, the program consists of a global knowledge platform and 27 country projects. Country-level work will focus on accelerating action in landscapes and along value chains for eight major commodities, including livestock, cocoa, coffee, maize, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat. This project is being implemented by the FAO in Nigeria. In Nigeria, the project seeks to address three components: Component 1: Development of integrated landscape management (ILM) systems; Component 2: Promoting sustainable and inclusive cocoa and palm oil value chains; Component 3: Conservation and restoration of degraded forest ecosystems in both States.
- **Internal collaboration to coordinate Business Development Processes and Outcomes:** PIND continues to strengthen and facilitate internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. In Q1 2023, BDS subcommittee and committee meetings were organized. The purpose of the meetings was to present the finalized BDS strategy, introduce the Impact Investment initiative as a sustainability strategy and seek insights and support from the Committee members (comprising PIND and NDPI Trustees).

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Market Development Program:

Within the reporting period, the capacity of service providers to mobilize farmers for training was impacted by the cash crunch caused by the naira redesign policy introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria. Service providers/MSMEs and farmers were unable to access enough cash to organize training and other daily transactions, leading to the reduction in the number of farmers reached in Q1 2023 as compared to Q1 2022. The cash crunch also affected sales of poultry products, as farmers face challenges in affording the high prices of inputs such as Day-Old Chicks (DoCs) and Feeds. The scarcity of cash has led to a decrease in business transactions and patronage from customers.

Access to Energy: Election and transition activities was pronounced in most parts of the country including the Niger Delta during Q1, and this affected the speed of program implementation and delivery over the first quarter of the year.

Youth Employment Pathways Program:

- The poor national economy and high inflation rate exacerbated the cost of training materials, consumables and certification exams, like National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) registration and other projects running costs is causing a significant hardship for both implementing partners and trainees.
- Low PWD participation due to the absence of desired incentives in the program: Implementing partners found it a bit more difficult this time around to source for PWDs from some of their organized groups. These organization coordinators expressed displeasure about how the past phase did little to financially support successful PWD participants in starting their enterprises despite their unique conditions. They also made a comparison with other program providers who always provide post-training financial support to their members. Some PWDs who were interested were overaged and could not be selected.

Lessons Learned

1. Market Development Program:

Global policies are stimulating growth in the national market, such as the EU policy mandating adherence to best practices for cocoa bean exports. As a result, off-takers and exporters are now more inclined to train farmers on best practices and purchase cocoa beans from them at a premium. Partners are willing to invest in collaborative initiatives

when they see a clear business opportunity. For example, within the reporting period, two seed producers (Alisee and Ghana Sumatra), collaborated with PIND to share cost to host a seed coordination workshop bringing together different nursery operators in the region to address opportunities in the palm oil seed sector.

2. **Peace Building:** Collaboration with partners enhances outcomes of peace building interventions. Within the reporting period, the peace building team collaborated with three civil society organizations in an intervention to mitigate election related violence in Delta, Akwa Ibom and Rivers states. The three partner CSOs co-sponsored the interventions right from pre-election through to the post-election activities, and were very successful and impactful. The success of the program shows that collaborations and costs sharing improves peace building outcomes of interventions.

7. Program Management

Governance and Accountability: Separate meetings of PIND’s project and programs, and audit and compliance subcommittees were held on March 14th, 2023. Key agreements reached at these meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation were provided to the PIND board. These meetings are key for PIND’s internal governance, to keep the board abreast of PIND programming and receive feedback/inputs for optimizing program implementation, as well as to ensure PIND’s accountability to its board. A key outcome of the board meeting was the approval of PINDs year 2023 annual plan for its programs and projects, and approval of the annual targets/ milestones for the projects based on the strategic plan for phase 3

Organizational Sustainability: In line with its effort to diversify and expand its income, in Q1,2023, PIND in addition to the ongoing Bridges Project from the Ford Foundation, signed a \$153,000 grant agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Also, PIND had positive engagements with some potential partners and donors.

Project support services: PIND’s procurement and contract administration services ensured that procedures, processes, protocols, and systems were utilized in line with PIND’s policies and procedures. 36 contracts worth ₦218.92 million were awarded between January and March 2023. Grant Agreements and service orders were the prevalent contracting instruments (Table 9).

Table 9. Contracts awarded in Q1 2023 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number processed	Total Amount committed till date	Total Value Committed by Gender (NGN)			
			Female	Value Committed	Female Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed
Professional Services Contract	8	120.77 million			4	74.06 Million
Services Order	8	55.15 million	2	15.70 Million	-	-
Purchase Order	5	16.29 million	-	-	3	3.58 Million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	15	26.71 million	-	-	2	4.55 Million
MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	36	218.92 million	2	15.70 Million	9	82.19 Million

8. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Q2 2023, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- **Cassava:** Complete the training and commencement of planting by the 25 CSEs across six states of the Niger Delta region for the scale-up intervention. Prioritize the assessment of the commercial extension services model across the region and continue to support market actors conducting GAP training and demo plot establishment. The harvesting and sale of the mature cassava roots on the Ukwuoma farm will take place alongside deeper engagement with the identified farmer group interested in an offtake agreement with Dufil with the objective of having a signed agreement by the end of Quarter 2.

- **Cocoa:** Develop a climate-smart GAP manual, commence engagement with at least one off-taker to reach over 4,000 new cocoa farmers in Edo, Ondo, Cross River, and Abia states.
- **Palm Oil:** Facilitate the work of the services providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach over 3,000 new farmers in the region. Also, carry out promotional activities on the benefits of improved seeds, and workshop meetings to improve collaboration and coordination in the seed industry.
- **Poultry:** Commence implementation activities with Agri Care STD PLUS Limited, a lead veterinary firm to expand and deepen the VLD model; assess PSPs to better understand how the Master PSPs are able to link the major input suppliers and end markets to the smallholder farmers. Support newly on-boarded PSPs to reach out to poultry farmers with climate-smart good poultry practices and linkages to quality inputs, markets and finance.
- **MSMEs:** Support the certification of Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) to provide business development services to MSMEs, facilitate linkages to market and finance for MSMEs and continue the expansion of support to MSME, fisher-folks, and processors in the Chevron host communities.

The **access to energy project** will accelerate new partnerships through the initiation of a challenge fund for 3 off grid community energy installations in 3 riverine communities of Delta state, and have an MoU with Abt associate as part of the Health Electrification (HETA) alliance and co create an initial Niger Delta pilot project.

The **Youth Employment Pathways Project** will do the following:

- **Labor Market Assessment for Ondo State** – Conclude this process in Q2. The upcoming activities for this process are the validation workshop with key state stakeholders, production of a final LMA report and design of Ondo state programme intervention.
- **2023 rollout of YEP (Commencement of Technical Vocational & Soft Skills Training)** – Onboard selected implementing partners into the project who will then commence a new batch of technical and soft skills training for target beneficiaries in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Delta states.
- **YEP Start-up Business Challenge Fund** - Conclude the pitching process for shortlisted Year 1 participants in Delta State in April and commence documentation for the business challenge fund beneficiaries (in preparation of grants disbursement) within Q2.
- **Government engagement for the adoption of NDYEP model and framework** - Follow up with Rivers State Ministry of Youth Development towards committing resources for skills training for youth employment, and organize workshops with state government representatives of Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers state to discuss about the model and learn about existing youth employment interventions in these respective states.

The **peacebuilding program** will prioritize:

- Completion of Small grant interventions on Herders/ Farmers Conflicts and the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy.
- It will also operationalize prevent Council in selected states and engage with Fund for Peace (FFP) to deliver set of 5 KPIs.

The **advocacy project** has the following priorities:

- Finalize the Multiple Taxation field assessment reports – including approval by PIND leadership and the validation process;
- Organize dissemination forums in Port Harcourt and Asaba to share findings and recommendations of Multiple Taxation field assessments; and commerce committee activities on access to land in both Delta and Ondo states;

ANNEX

Economic Development						
Sector	Details of Key Achievements					
MSD	Summary of the Service Providers in Q1 2023					
	Summary of the service providers providing services to farmers/MSMEs in Q1 -2023					
	States	Cassava	Cocoa	Palm oil	Poultry	MSMEs
	Abia	Four CSEs in Abia namely Emma Ndukwe, Philip Ajomiwe, Ndudim Ikelua and Peter Nwazue conducted GAP training			Anumudu Asochukwu (PSP) Chinedu Uduanusu (PSP) Timark (PSP)	Wider Perspective
	Akwa Ibom	In Akwa Ibom, Xavier Okpu (FSP) conducted GAP training in Ika LGA, Edem Bassey trained in Uyo LGA and Victor Tom trained in Uyo and Ukanafun LGAs.	Victor Tom reached 7 farmers in Akwa Ibom state	2 Lead farmers (James Jackson and Ekpo Udo) of the Oil Palm Growers Association of Nigeria (OPGAN)	Christian Kasim a village-level dealer John Paul a village-level dealer	
	Bayelsa	Bari Endurance in the Bumoundigbenei, Yenaka and Polaku community community			Ibiputam Enterprise (PSP)	Cad Consulting Limited & Ibiputem Enterprises.
	Cross River	Ugo Michaelin in Odipuole community, Woleche-ebo and Wanikade communities in Yala LGA while Edem Bassey trained in Ofat Obubra LGA.	John Kalu reached 33 farmers in Abia State while Solomon Agbor reached 96 farmers in Cross River State		Creative Empire, a poultry service provider	
	Delta	Bari Endurance with the support of two lead farmers trained farmers in Umuosimili and Ola-Osissa communities of Ndokwa East LGA respectively.	Ben wisdom reached 59 farmers across Delta states	Ben Wisdom Efe - Farm service provider	Chuvaak Agro Services Jane (A poultry service provider) Doctor. Fish Agric Consult, a master service provider,	Life edge Consulting
	Edo	Clement Obayuwana (FSP) conducted GAP training in Orhionmwon LGA	Ehimika Emmanuel reached 124 farmers in Edo states	Edafe Lucky -lead farmer Erasmus Chukunda - FSP	Citron Spring (A service provider)	CAD Consulting Limited & Citron Spring
	Imo				Chinedu Uduanusu Sanpec Info Tech a village-level dealer Ngozi Beulah, a poultry service provider	
	Ondo		Ibikunle Muiyiwa, Akinmade Anthony, Bobade Adebayo and Raphael Adebayo reached 1,473 farmers in Ondo state	Two lead farmers (Akinyle Anthony and Adekunle Felix) of OPGAN		CAD Consulting Limited & Mr. Ifawole
	Rivers	Adebayo Bobade conducted GAP training in Lokowo, Yasere Olegede, and Olupona communities. Okuna Vincent (FSP) trained farmers in Akure and Ogbesa communities in Akure North LGA. Aliu Precious in Kajola community while Emmanuel Yisa trained farmers in Ilado-Odudu, Igoba, Owode and Aroromi communities in Akure North LGA.			Ibiputam Enterprise (A poultry service provider) Farmers Business School, (A poultry service provider)	Ibiputem Enterprises and CAD consulting- in partnership with Ambience of Hope Exceptional Foundation in Rivers state
YEP	List of the shortlisted implementing partners for 3rd year of implementation					
	States	Old Partner Organizations	Sector	Proposed No. of Trainees		
	Abia	The Footwear Academy	Services	100		
	Delta	FotoAfrik International	Services	80		
	Delta	Corifotech Solutions Ltd.	Services	70		
	Delta	Asteven Renewable Energy & Efficiency Academy Ltd.	Services	80		
	Delta	AMY 6015 Global Enterprise	Services	70		
	Rivers	Doctor Fish Agric Consult	Agriculture	70		
	Rivers	Aqua Green Integrated Farm Support Imitative	Agriculture	140		
	Rivers	Develop U Foundation	Agriculture	90		
	Abia	Ibiteinye Integrated Farms Ltd.	Agriculture	60		
	Akwa Ibom	Kiara De Luke Academy	Building Construction	70		
	Rivers	Azure Gold Ltd.	Building Construction	80		
	Rivers	Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre	Building Construction	70		
	Abia	Innovation Growth Hub	ICT	140		
	Delta	Nerdzfactory Ltd.	ICT	80		
	Rivers	Meranos Ltd.	ICT	100		
		New Organizations				
Rivers	Teadro Info. Tech. Centre	ICT	70			
Akwa Ibom	Micafotoy Tech. Ltd.	ICT	80			
Abia	Kiara de-Luke Academy (old partner but implementing in a new sector)	Services	60			
			1510			



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