



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Three:
July - September 2024

About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigerian non-profit organization promoting peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. PIND achieves this by building multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the regional, national and international levels. Acknowledging that no single organization can solve the complex and interconnected development challenges in the Niger Delta, PIND collaborates with numerous partners to implement market-based, community-based programs to mitigate conflicts and enhance economic opportunities for local businesses. This ensures sustainable, inclusive, and systemic economic progress.

PIND's projects span all 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 often overlooked in development programs.

Since 2010, PIND and its partners have worked to strengthen and stabilize the Niger Delta by reducing poverty, empowering coastal communities, creating employment, fostering stability, and enabling development. Learn more about [PINDfoundation.org](https://pindfoundation.org).

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
BATVE	Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education
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
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
HCDT	Host Communities Development Trust
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IOC	International Oil Companies
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MNDD	Ministry of Niger Delta Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSD	Market Systems Development
MSP	The Warri Multi-Stakeholder Platform
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NDLink	Niger Delta Link
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OSPAC	Ogba/Egbema/ Ndoni Security and Planning Advisory Committee
P4P	Partners for Peace
PGPA	Policy, Governments and Public Affairs Unit, Chevron
PSPs	Poultry Service Providers
PV	Photovoltaic
PWD	Persons Living with Disabilities
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
Q3	Quarter 3
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Centers
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VLD	Village Level Dealers
YTD	Year to Date

Background

PIND's mission is to identify, catalyze and leverage opportunities, jobs and incomes for its target beneficiaries. We engage multi-stakeholder partners, acting as catalysts to create an enabling environment for socio-economic growth in the Niger Delta. The goals of these partnerships are to reduce poverty, improve welfare and mitigate conflict, leading to stable and equitable increases in employment and income for beneficiaries across the nine target states.

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

1. **Economic Development:** focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and job creation.
2. **Peacebuilding:** Strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms to enable integrated peace and economic growth

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

- **Capacity Building:** Enhances service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society and communities.
- **Advocacy:** Influences policies and programs through in-depth analysis of systemic growth constraints in the Niger Delta.
- **Communications and Outreach:** Strengthens PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging across multiple channels about its transformative approaches and impacts.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Tracks and verifies program results independently to ensure measurable impact.

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

For the third phase of its strategic plan (2020-2024), PIND Foundation aims to achieve the following:

- **Expand program reach:** Impact 300,000 individuals, with 200,000 farmers and small-scale enterprises increasing their income by 40%. Facilitate the creation of 45,000 new jobs, with 50% targeting youth and other vulnerable groups.
- **Economic benefits in GMoU communities:** Deliver economic benefits to 10,000 individuals through job creation, income-generating interventions, and clean energy facilitation in GMoU and coastal communities.
- **Strengthen grassroots development:** Enhance the capacity of five regional development committees, now HCDTs, as effective grassroots development organizations in GMoU and coastal communities.
- **Peacebuilding impact:** Engage 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction efforts, positively influencing up to 3 million people through peacebuilding interventions.
- **Leverage external funding:** Influence US\$25 million in new project funding from donors and federal/state governments, focusing on reducing conflict and poverty in the Niger Delta.
- **Raise program funds:** Secure US\$6.5 million in funding from the private sector and donor community to support PIND's programs.

Introduction: Q3 2024 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

This report for the third quarter (July – September 2024) keeps our donors, Board of Trustees, and partners updated on project achievements and challenges, and lessons learned. It aims to encourage deeper collaboration, consolidate impact, and further efforts in business development and sustainability. It also highlights the connection between PIND’s impact and a more peaceful, stable operating environment in the Niger Delta.

Through this report, we share successes and challenges to foster learning and strengthen partnerships with key collaborators such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Ford Foundation, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Executive Summary

This report highlights PIND’s program achievements in the Niger Delta from July to September 2024 (Quarter 3). It includes information on program management, lessons learned, and plans for the next quarter. The report demonstrates how we are driving change to ensure broad-based economic growth in the Niger Delta. Our interventions aim to drive broad-based economic growth by fostering a culture of learning and adaptation, where evidence plays a key role in determining policy direction in economic development, peacebuilding, advocacy, and capacity building.

Achievements

Market Systems Development:

The market system development project supports farmers and small enterprises in key sectors to improve productivity, increase income and reduce poverty. The project uses a market systems development approach, which begins with a thorough analysis of market systems to identify the root causes of weaknesses. This informs the design and implementation of interventions that address the underlying issues, rather than just the symptoms of market failure. To ensure the sustainability of these interventions, activities are anchored on a service providers’ model. This equips local service providers with the skills, tools, and connections needed to offer viable market solutions that address the root causes of underperformance among farmers and enterprises in the region. This model is applied to support farmers working in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSMEs.

Key achievements in Q3 2024:

- **Service Provision:** Over 280 Service Providers continued delivering support services to farmers and MSMEs across the Niger Delta, offering training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and access to business information.
- **Outreach:** A total of 40,265 direct and indirect farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services during Q3 2024. Cumulative outreach as of Q3 2024 reached 72,290 farmers/MSMEs, representing 85% of the annual target of 85,000, of which 34,171 (47.27%) were female.
- **Investment Growth:** Farmers and MSMEs increased their investments as a result of adopting improved practices. A key outcome of training activities is a change in knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) among farmers and MSMEs. Monitoring in Q3 2024 showed that farmers were adopting improved farm practices and business models at a rate of over 88%. During Q3 alone, ₦14.32 billion was invested by farmers and MSMEs, bringing the cumulative investment for 2024 to ₦14.79 billion, or 107.3% of the 2024 annual target of ₦13.78 billion. These investments covered technology adoption, inputs for GAP, and other business improvements.
- **Productivity and Income Gains:** Farmers and MSMEs who adopted improved practices experienced increased productivity and income, tracked and reported in the third quarter of each year. By Q3 2024, the estimated net additional income for those adopting improved practices was ₦26.89 billion, representing 127.1% of the annual target of ₦21.15 billion. This also resulted in the creation of 15,449 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs.
- **Support for Fisherfolk and MSMEs:** PIND trained 245 fisherfolk (90 males, 155 females) from Chevron host communities in Ondo and Delta states on improved fishing practices and technologies aimed at enhancing productivity and sustainability. This training, facilitated by Newland Pathway Integrated Consult and Marich Agro Allied Services, was followed by linkages to broader markets and financing opportunities. Five improved fishing and processing technologies were adopted in Ugborodo and Ogheye Eghoroke communities in Delta State

Youth Employment Pathways:

The Youth Employment Program (YEP) aims to map the ecosystem of skills development, analyze employment creation opportunities, and develop models of youth job readiness. These efforts target disadvantaged youth in the Niger Delta, providing them with enterprise opportunities. PIND's approach includes market-relevant technical vocational training, which prepares youth for employment or entrepreneurship.

Key achievements in Q3 2024:

- **Training Implementation:** All 21 implementing partners began project implementation across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta, and Rivers States. A total of 1,007 youths (602 males, 405 females, including 14 persons with disabilities) were enrolled in training, focusing on agriculture, ICT, building construction, and services. The cumulative number of youths undergoing skills training reached 1,782 by Q3 2024. A dedicated training program for youths from Ugboland HCDD communities was launched at the GTC in Okitipupa.
- **Skills Completion:** In Q3, 369 youths completed skills training, bringing the annual cumulative total to 418 (35%) against the 2024 target of 1,200. Additionally, 1,374 youths remain enrolled in training, with completion expected between Q4 2024 and Q1 2025. By Q3 2024, 352 graduates (84%) had secured livelihoods.
- **Post-Training Support:** Out of the 369 youths who completed training, 75% (279) received post-training support, including internships, apprenticeships, employment linkages, or venture creation. Agriculture and construction sectors showed more success in venture creation compared to ICT and services. The program continues to emphasize optimizing post-training support for the youths.
- **Entrepreneurship Development:** Out of 183 youths cleared for the 2024 grant process, 112 were successful across agriculture (40), building construction (31), ICT (7), and services (34). Grant agreements have been distributed, and an official launch ceremony is scheduled for October 2024, followed by disbursements.

Access to Energy:

Access to energy is crucial for human development and well-being. However, many rural Niger Delta communities, lack access to electricity, particularly in coastal areas where self-generation is more expensive. The lack of modern energy services impedes economic growth and compromises welfare and safety. PIND's Access to Energy (A2E) program collaborates with private sector clean energy developers to provide adaptive rural energy solutions. This strategic approach is vital to the success of the A2E program.

Key achievements in Q3 2024:

- **Community Engagement:** The A2E program engaged with the Egbema OPUDIS HCDD, leading to the inclusion of energy projects in the Kingdom's five-year development plan. Energy assessments were conducted in 13 new communities, identifying critical energy needs and partnering with private sector actors to support clean energy initiatives.
- **Energy Connections:** A total of 6,660 households (5,344) and businesses (1,316) were connected to clean electricity and other energy solutions such as solar refrigerators by Q3 2024. This effort leveraged ₦3.6 billion in investment from private energy providers and generated ₦3.3 billion in financial benefits for businesses and households.
- **Positive Impact:** Outcome assessments for key projects, including the Energy Cabin in Adagbarasa and the Solar Refrigeration Hub in Akinsolu, showed significant financial benefits and job creation, reinforcing the program's positive impact on community development.

Peace Building:

The primary goal of PIND's peace building program is to achieve regional and lasting peace in the Niger Delta. To achieve this, PIND is fostering sustainable peace partnerships, encouraging collaboration and cooperation amongst peace actors, supporting economic development, and strengthening indigenous peace structures. PIND is also building interfaces with larger state-level or regional peace efforts to create an environment conducive to broad-based economic development.

The Peace Building Program consists of two interrelated projects:

1. **Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU):** This unit undertakes research and provides training to local and international stakeholders to implement innovative pilot projects that can make a meaningful difference on the ground. The IPDU responds swiftly to changing dynamics, promoting collaboration and synergy among local, regional, and

national actors. It also helps develop early warning and response mechanisms to address conflicts, with a particular focus on gender and youth.

- Partners for Peace (P4P) Network:** *The P4P Network is PIND’s strategy to build social infrastructure and peace capital across the Niger Delta. Over the past five years, PIND has established a network of self-identified peace agents who leverage grassroots networking to promote peace in the region. By utilizing conflict analysis and early warning systems, P4P supports existing peace initiatives and creates new ones to address conflict risk factors. The network has chapters and subchapters in all nine states and 119 local government areas (LGAs) of the Niger Delta.*

In the current strategic phase (2020-2024), the Peace Network has focused on strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that foster a more peaceful, integrated, and enabling environment for economic growth and development in the region.

Key achievements in Q3 2024 include:

- **Conflict Early Warning:** PIND produced and disseminated 14 data-driven research and analytical products, including 13 weekly conflict briefs and one quarterly conflict report (Q3 2024). These products were shared with local, national, and international peace actors to update them on the security situation, offer conflict mapping and analysis, and share best practices for conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. The reports covered key conflict issues in the Niger Delta, such as organized crime, gang violence, communal conflict, mob violence, and human rights abuses, including sexual violence.
- **Improved Security Situation:** The Niger Delta experienced improved peace and security in Q3 2024. Data from PIND’s P4P Peace Map indicated a 31% reduction in lethal violence, from 217 fatalities in Q2 to 149 in Q3. Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom, decreased by 52.44%, while armed clashes between government security forces and criminal gangs or separatist militias fell by 4.7%. Additionally, cult gang clashes dropped by 34%, and communal conflicts over land and boundary disputes decreased by 90.91%, with only four fatalities reported in Q3 compared to 44 in Q2.
- **EU-PIND Project:** The European Union-Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project, titled “A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence,” continued its implementation in Q3. PIND, along with consortium partners Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), and Academic Associates Peace Works (AAPW), led the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) and social cohesion components of the interventions. Key activities included capacity-building training for 382 youths (243 males, 139 females, including 7 persons with disabilities) across 26 communities in 13 LGAs in Rivers State. In Bayelsa State, PIND facilitated a social cohesion activity for youths, community members, and security actors, engaging 385 participants from 16 communities across 8 LGAs. In Delta State, PIND supported SFCG in organizing Local Peace Architecture (LPA) meetings, bringing stakeholders together to identify conflict hotspots, discuss concerns, and develop action plans.

PIND also coordinated meetings of the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) in Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, and Ondo States to enhance peace and security management in the region. Established in 2017, the NDPSN mobilizes and coordinates actors involved in peace, security, and development in the Niger Delta.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** In Q3, 1,429 stakeholders utilized PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis. This included non-governmental organizations and academic institutions, which reported using the data for various purposes. Additionally, 129 stakeholders who received capacity-building training from PIND and P4P applied their acquired skills to promote peace and address conflict in their communities. Furthermore, 380 P4P members successfully resolved emerging conflicts through 38 ‘quality actions’ in different communities across the Niger Delta

PIA implementation support

*PIND’s Ford Foundation funded project, **The Bridges**, explores realistic models of community development focusing on the collaborative efforts of communities, NGOs, oil and gas companies, and government agencies, in the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). The project, implemented in five Niger Delta states (Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ondo and Rivers) involves a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) that coordinates awareness creation, knowledge sessions and =capacity building for civil society organizations (CSOs) and NGOs to support PIA implementation.*

PIND has positioned itself to support the successful launch of Chevron’s Host Community Development Trusts (CNL HCDTs) through capacity-building programs in economic development and peacebuilding.

- **PIA Bridges Project Implementation:** A major event in Q3 was the convening of stakeholders involved in PIA implementation. Attendees included representatives from the Ford Foundation, the House Committee on Host Communities, the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and several civil society organizations. The event focused on reviewing MSP findings and gathering feedback on the way forward for successful PIA implementation. A key endorsement of MSP findings came from Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, Chairman of the House Committee on HCDS who confirmed that these insights would inform the strategic plan for monitoring PIA implementation.

Communications:

PIND's communication activities aim to increase its visibility, strengthen its reputation, and engage stakeholders to support, partner with, fund, and replicate its programs.

Key achievements in Q3 2024 include:

- **Reach:** A total of 423,639 people gained new or increased awareness of PIND and its activities through mainstream media. Across PIND's platforms—including newsletters, social media, the website, email inquiries, forums, and traditional media—a cumulative audience of 729,267 people was reached.
- **Media Engagement:** PIND garnered 15 positive media mentions and attracted 104 public endorsements from stakeholders who engaged with its website, newsletters, and social media content.

Advocacy:

PIND's advocacy efforts remained focused on three key areas: Influencing spending and funding from governments, donors, and private sector organizations for new projects in the Niger Delta; addressing access to arable land for smallholder farmers, mitigating constraints on small businesses caused by multi-taxation and illegal levies.

PIND's advocacy continued to influence public spending, building on successes from previous quarters. PIND has focused efforts on ensuring that spending on development funding is sustained. In Q3 2024, we engaged with land access committees in Edo and Ondo States to finalize draft policies, ready for executive assent. Additionally, our advocacy on illegal levies and tax multiplicity for small businesses gained traction as the Federal Government's fiscal reform committee aligned with PIND's recommendations, issuing a draft report.

Key achievements in Q3 2024 include:

Equitable access to land by smallholder farmers: PIND collaborated with arable land committees in three Niger Delta states to improve land access for smallholder farmers. In Edo State, we supported efforts to harmonize arable land programs with the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investment (FRILIA), with the final policy awaiting the Governor's assent. In Ondo State, PIND helped align the Agricultural Policy with the Access to Land draft for executive approval. In Delta State, collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture ensured the effective implementation of land policies guiding agricultural interventions.

Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention: A significant milestone in tax reform was achieved in Q3 2024, with PIND, as part of a consortium, submitting a communique to the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee (PFPTRC). PIND memorandum PIND's memorandum contributed to the final draft of the National Fiscal Policy (2024), advancing Nigeria's tax reform. Key changes include addressing inefficiencies in the current tax system, promoting digitization, harmonizing taxes, and introducing tax exemptions for small businesses.

Capacity Building:

PIND's Capacity Building program aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of government, civil society, business associations and service providers for effective socio-economic engagement and inclusive governance in the Niger Delta. This initiative contributes directly to PIND's long-term goals of peace and economic growth. The Program focuses on two major areas, which are: Strengthening local organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the Market Systems Development (MSD) approach through the Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) project and Supporting Chevron's host community development trusts (HCDS) under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Capacity-Building for the Four Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) Host Community Development Trusts (HCDS): In Q3, PIND provided training and mentorship to four HCDS: Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema-Opudis, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland, on Procurement Management and Leadership. This training enhanced their capacity to manage procurement processes, ensure data integrity, and comply with PIA-specific regulations. A total of 34 participants, including 8 women, benefited from the training.

The Leadership training was aimed at enhancing governance, documentation, and group dynamics for the HCDDT leadership boards, ensuring they are better equipped to drive sustainable community development. A total of 34 participants, including 5 women, attended the training.

Baseline Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for Four HCDDTs Completed: PIND finalized baseline Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) for the four registered HCDDTs established by CNL. The fourth was the OCA baseline for the Warri Kingdom Coastal HCDDT in Delta State, one of the four HCDDTs established by CNL, covering 13 domains: leadership, project and financial management, human resource management, fundraising and mobilization, peacebuilding, gender, community and external stakeholder engagement, and advocacy.

Organizations accessing grants and those providing services: In Q3, CARA Development Foundation, supported by PIND, leveraged its skills in Market Systems Development Approach (MSD), Monitoring and Evaluation and proposal writing, to secure N5.47 million in funding for a USAID project (SCALE) aimed at improving public accountability and sustainable service delivery. Similarly, the Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI) has continued to build capacity for local organizations, supporting HCDDTs and driving economic growth across the Niger Delta. DICI has supported two additional HCDDTs, bringing the total to four that were established by IOCs, to develop capacity-building plans and train them in various areas of organizational development.

Business Development

PIND continues to explore new opportunities by engaging potential partners and deepening internal coordination across program areas. This business development effort has resulted in significant milestones, with prospective funds amounting to \$6.9 million in advanced stages by Q3 2024. These funds include ongoing projects with Mastercard Foundation and Serendib Capital, as well as EU-funded expansions and exploratory partnerships with the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas company.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

PIND's commitment to gender equality and social inclusion underpins its efforts 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 the 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, and reflect equitable participation and access to benefits.

PIND has a strategic target of enabling at least 81,000 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 Q3 2024, the total outreach who participated in various economic development interventions was 41,272, out of which 20,374 (49%) were males and 20,898 (51%) were females. We recorded 14 PWD who got enrolled in YEP training. The cumulative number of participants from the Economic Development program was 74,072, out of which, 34,935 (47.16%) were females.

Similarly, a total of 473 women (39% of the total beneficiaries); 745 men (61% of the total beneficiaries); 548 youths (45% of the total beneficiaries) participated in various peacebuilding interventions: conflict mitigation, forums on peace and stability, skills enhancements, and mentorships, for the advancement of sustainable peace in the region. In summary, the organization-wise gender mainstreaming as of Q3 2024 was 35,372 (47%) from a total of 75,254 surpassing the 2024 annual target of 40%.

1.1 Challenges/Mitigation Challenges

Market Development and Peace Building Programs: There was heightened security concern during the just concluded governorship and LG chairmen's elections in Edo and Ondo within the quarter, which disrupted normal field activities as movements were restricted during the midterm election. The uncertainty and risk of violence during these periods affected the mobilization and participation of smallholder farmers in training and outreach efforts. Also, soaring production costs driven by the high cost of agricultural input (especially feed), the escalating cost of transport, and high energy expenses continued to affect the productivity of smallholder farmers due to a reduced purchasing power and reduction in the depth of adoption of improved practices. PIND continues to strengthen the Service Providers with modern information to provide needed support to the farmers/MSMEs to adopt coping strategies in their businesses.

Youth Employment Pathways Program:

- Misinformation from Ondo HCDT community stakeholders: Many nominated individuals from the communities mistakenly believed they were entitled to transport, accommodation, and feeding allowances. This misunderstanding became a significant issue during the orientation exercise, particularly on the second day, when participants expressed their agitation. Their concerns attracted the attention of the executives from the PIA, who clarified the situation and offered an additional N1,000 per day to support transportation for the nominated participants from Ilaje.
- Expectations of financial entitlements in training being done for HCDT youths: As nominees from community organizations, participants felt entitled to certain monetary benefits. This perception contributed to their agitation, particularly as the nomination process did not prioritize younger adults under 30 years of age.
- Rising transportation costs: The recent increase in fuel prices has resulted in higher transportation expenses across states, leading some participants to drop out due to their inability to afford commuting. Those who continue to attend have expressed significant financial strain in commuting to training.

Access to Energy: The second quarter of 2024 presented several challenges for the A2E program:

- The ongoing inequity faced by start-up companies reflects global patterns and indicates investors' cautious stance following months of deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, including increased interest rates and fluctuating foreign exchange rates. In light of this, partner power developers are focusing their strategies on solid credit risk management and strong unit economics to remain viable.
- Adverse weather conditions, including flooding, impacted the energy assessments during the quarter. These unfavorable conditions limited access to some communities and hindered the team's ability to collect critical data on energy needs.
- Communal conflicts around Deghele hindered the team's access to the community for the outcome assessment.

Advocacy: The continued surge in petrol prices, the overall increase in food and service costs, the continuous rise in inflation, and the deteriorating state of the Niger Delta's road network have greatly amplified travel challenges and related risks across the region. These factors have negatively affected the efficiency, effectiveness, reach, and overall impact of project and program implementations in the area.

Communications: News about PIND on social and mainstream media has vied for visibility with trending news such as fluctuating petroleum prices, protests against economic hardship, and widespread violence, particularly in the Niger Delta.

Lessons learned:

YEP:

- The partnership with the Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education (BATVE) has consistently demonstrated its value, particularly in facilitating vocational training for the youth from the Ondo HCDT community. Training sessions are being held at GTC Okitipupa, a technical vocational education and training (TVET) center operated under the auspices of BATVE. This collaboration not only provides access to quality training facilities but also enhances the overall effectiveness of the program, ensuring that participants receive the necessary skills and support to thrive in their chosen fields.
- Hosting the training in a separate community from the HCDT has helped to mitigate the risk of riots or violent outbursts from agitations that occurred during the orientation exercise.
- The orientation venue (GTC Okitipupa) is a conducive environment to learn, and both the principal and host trainers were very receptive, fostering a positive atmosphere for the participants.

Program Management

Governance and Accountability: Separate meetings of the following PIND's sub-committees were held in Q3 2024: Project and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability (BDS), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and Partnership sub-committee. Key agreements reached at these sub-committee meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation were delineated and will be 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.

Within the quarter, PIND concentrated efforts on utilizing the feedback from the 2024 PSR and various consultations with wide stakeholders to commence the development of the 2025 – 2029 (Phase IV) strategy. Phase IV strategy development workshop was facilitated which brought together PIND team members, and partners to draft a strategic direction and objectives to be achieved over the next 5 years. This draft strategy will be concluded in Q4 2024.

Organizational Sustainability:

Phase IV strategy development: With the completion of the PSR processes, phase IV strategy development continued in Q3 2024 to produce a consolidated strategy for 2025 – 2029.

Ford Foundation - The Bridges Project: A major PIA Bridges Project event hosted by PIND in Q3 was the convening of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). The convening focused on deliberations of the MSP findings and insights with participants looking back and providing feedback on the way forward for successful PIA implementation. A notable endorsement of MSP findings was by Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, the Chairman House Committee on Host Communities, who confirmed that these insights would inform his committee’s strategic plan for monitoring the effective implementation of the PIA.

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union- Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, “A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta” continued in Q3 2024.

FAO FOLUR project: The Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States), which was officially launched at the State level has continued implementation in this quarter with the training of trainers on best agroforestry practices, agro-diversification practices for cocoa and oil palm farmers, and financial literacy training to support farmers on how to access funds from select financial institutions like commercial, microfinance, and development banks.

Summary of progress against 2024 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND’s 2024 target as of Q3.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as of Q3 2024
Outreach	85,000	72,290
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	36,500 (15,603 direct)	33,686 ¹
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	14,000	10,716
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	17,000	14,548
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	9,500	7,082
<i>MSME development</i>	8,000	6,258
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	38,645	31,542
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	15,145	11,408
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	6,000	4,707
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	7,000	6,919
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	6,000	4,816
<i>MSME development</i>	4,500	3,692
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦21.12 billion	₦26.89billion
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦6.55 billion	₦12.53billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.22 billion	₦2.80billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦5.53 billion	₦4.68billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦3.48 billion	₦3.34billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.34 billion	₦3.54billion
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	27%²
New jobs facilitated	12,709	15,802
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	3,200	6,594
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,669	1,237
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	1,518	2,261

¹ These are both direct and Indirect farmers for Q1 and Q2

² Percentage income increase between 2023 and 2024 was 27%. Percentage income increase between 2020 and 2024 was 135%

<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,948	2,116
<i>MSME development</i>	3,374	3,241
<i>Access to energy</i>	98	-
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	800	352
Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]	₦13.77 billion	₦18.39billion Equity (₦17.15billion) Debt financing (₦1.24million)
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦4.51 billion	₦7.06billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦1.26 billion	₦3.07billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦2.40 billion	₦2.32billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.30 billion	₦1.11billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.19 billion	₦1.24billion
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦1.11 billion	₦3.61billion
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	³
Youths with applicable skills for employment	1,200	419
Peace Building Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as of Q3 2024
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	215	213
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,449	2,514
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1,284	955
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	108	105
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	4.66% ⁴
Coastal Community Development Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as of Q3 2024
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	1,419	1,316
Households with access to clean energy	2,612	5,344
People with access to energy technologies	15,976	33,415
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	₦1.68 billion	₦3.33billion ⁵
<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Organizations accessing funds/grants	9	3
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦168 million	₦415.40million ⁶
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDTs and other implementing Partners).	7	6 ⁷
General Enabling Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as of Q3 2024
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by governments and other institutions	₦1.0 billion	₦ ⁸
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors (CB+A2E)	₦1.28 billion ⁹	₦4.025 billion
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦1.11 billion	₦3.61 billion

³ Adaptation of the YEP model is reported in Rivers and Akwa Ibom

⁴ 1.7% from individual peace actors conflict resolutions at family, group and communities; 2.96% from conflicts resolved by P4P prevent committee, prevent councils, and deployment of small grant for community conflict resolutions

⁵ Estimates for 9 months (January – September, 2024) accessing clean energy from 11,990 households and Businesses in 40 communities

⁶ Antof Rural Resource Development Centre, which received capacity-building training from PIND in resource mobilization, financial management, and proposal writing, etc. accessed a total of 410 million Naira this year. Women United for Economic Empowerment successfully leveraged over 300,000 USD (N390M) for various projects and consultancy services.

⁷ These organizations include Working Fingers International formerly known as Divine Support Initiative in Asaba, Delta state, Better Living Foundation in Akure, Ondo state, and Ududu Development and Peace Initiative in Rivers State

⁹ Funds raised by the CSOs under Capacity Building(₦168million) and Investment leveraged under A2E ₦1.11billion

Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of Progress	In Q3 2024, PIND continued to collate and update policy changes relating to Multiple Taxation and illegal levies nationally. PIND advocacy efforts regarding illegal levies and the multiplicity of taxes on small businesses gained traction in Q3 with the Federal government committee on fiscal reform producing its draft report with recommendations aligning with PIND requests in this.
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of Progress	PIND continued its collaboration with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo states. As part of efforts to increase access to arable land for smallholder farmers. In Q3 2024, PIND engaged with the access to land committees in Edo and Ondo States to finalize draft policy documents in readiness for executive assent.
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful/non-violent society.	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	Collaboration with Peacebuilding on the NDRPS has been sustained in Q3 with the preparations to launch a final draft of the Regional Peacebuilding Strategy document. The report is now ready for presentation to the MNDD for launching and implementation by the Federal Government.
Business Development		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦1.37 billion	-
Communications		Cumulative Results as of Q3 2024
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	47	27
Public endorsements of PIND's work	131	285
Media reports with PIND mention	146	209
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	899	1,111
Website new visitors	42,104	61,040
Social media reach	4,510,530	6,712,383
Mainstream media reach	1,703,808	1,489,033
Email enquiries	308	425

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-Economic Environment – PIND's Efforts to Build Resilience for Farmers and MSMEs Amid Harsh Economic Conditions

Fifteen years ago, systemic economic constraints, such as the absence of support functions and access to improved services or business models, hindered the productivity of farmers and MSMEs. Additionally, a lack of sustainable incentives discouraged service providers from delivering vital services. Over the years, PIND has addressed these systemic issues by introducing innovative Service Providers (SPs) models, positioning SPs as key drivers of innovations across multiple economic sectors.

Currently, Nigerian farmers and business owners are facing severe economic challenges due to various unfavorable factors, including rising inflation, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, and the impact of the fuel subsidy removal, which has increased the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and transaction costs for farmers and MSMEs. Insecurity has further affected livelihoods. These macroeconomic challenges threaten the growth potential of SP-driven business models for farmers and MSMEs, weakening key market players, reducing productivity, and diminishing purchasing power. Many businesses are at risk of exiting the market.

In response, PIND has recognized the need to promote inclusivity among market players by transitioning from sector-based interventions to a cross-cutting approach. This shift aims to deliver broader systemic changes and foster economic growth. Under the former sector-based approach, PIND addressed constraints in sectors like aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSMEs by building resilience through training and supporting SPs to deliver improved services to farmers and MSMEs.

To further enhance market actors' resilience, PIND has initiated a cross-cutting program delivery approach that expands access to agricultural inputs (e.g., fertilizers, crop protection products, feed, vaccines), seeds, technical services, business development services, finance, industrial markets, and agricultural technology. This approach will go beyond the limitations of the sector-based model and be implemented in Phase IV of PIND's strategy. SPs will gain the capacity to extend their services across various value chains in the region.

2.1 Security

While the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta improved in Q3 2024, several violent crimes occurred across the nine states of the region.

For instance, on July 9, 2024, at approximately 1900hrs, gunmen abducted six passengers between Akunu in Akoko North-East LGA, Ondo State, and Ayere in Ijumu LGA, Kogi State. Security forces, supported by Amotekun operatives, trailed the gunmen and rescued two victims. Increased caution is advised in Ondo State. On August 14, 2024, a violent clash occurred between the "Maphite" and "Vikings" cult gangs in Uduere community, Ughelli North LGA, Delta State, and on August 20, 2024, another clash between "Maphite" and "Eiye" cult gangs took place in Okpara Inland, Ethiope East LGA, Delta State, resulting in one person being injured.

Kidnapping for ransom remains a security concern across Nigeria, and no part of the country is immune to this menace. Existing and emerging criminal groups conduct kidnappings for financial or ideological reasons, even in areas previously considered low-risk. Given the current economic conditions, the threat of kidnapping is likely to remain high or escalate unless the government implements effective measures.

In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), criminal activity (including robberies and petty theft) in the city center and armed attacks and abductions on the outskirts (Abaji, Bwari, and Gwagwalada) are primary security concerns. The threat of kidnapping/abduction persists across all six area councils of the FCT. "One chance" incidents, where criminals pose as taxi drivers to rob passengers, remain prevalent in the AMAC metropolis, while recent abductions indicate that perpetrators are now targeting victims at their homes, including in previously perceived safe areas.

For example, on September 22, 2024, armed men abducted a person in Asokoro Extension, behind Guzape, AMAC, Abuja. On the same day, gunmen attacked Muslim worshippers at Tipper Garage, Mpape, Bwari Area Council, killing an imam, wounding one person, and abducting another. Additionally, on August 20, 2024, at around 14:30hrs, armed robbers dressed in police uniforms attacked an INGO employee on the Gwarinpa-Kubwa Expressway in AMAC, Abuja, stealing his bag containing a laptop and other valuables.

3. Economic Development Program

The Economic Development Program consists of three projects: Market Systems Development, Access to Energy, and the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP). The overarching goal of the program is poverty reduction through increased income and gainful employment for men and women. This is achieved by facilitating interventions that lead to sustainable outcomes.

The **Market Systems Development** project portfolio includes four agricultural value chains – cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry and an MSMEs development program. These are supported by three cross-cutting interventions: access to finance, access to inputs, and business linkages. The aim is to identify and address the binding constraints in each sector and implement sustainable solutions that can raise the incomes of thousands of poor men and women.

Note: Impact indicators for these projects are typically tracked once or twice a year, to allow for the adoption of new practices and enable effective monitoring. As such, no targets were set for this quarter.

The **Access to Energy** project focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, such as energy cabins and solar refrigeration. While Access to Energy identifies and tests technological solutions, the Market Systems development project works to develop the market systems that facilitate the uptake and adoption of these technologies.

The **Youth Employment Pathways** project originally featured the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) initiative funded by the Ford Foundation and implemented from 2018 to 2021 in Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers States. This initiative focused on sectors such as agriculture, construction, finished leather goods and ICT, following PIND's economic development strategy, which emphasizes sustainable interventions that result in full-time employment for youths. After a successful pilot, the NDYEP model was scaled up to Ondo and Delta States under the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project, which commenced in January 2021 with funding from Chevron Corporation. PIND's Economic Development Program contributes to several global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



3.1.0 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements of the **Market Systems Development (MSD)** project in Q3 2024.

The MSD project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors across the Niger Delta to boost productivity, leading to increased income and poverty reduction. The project uses a market systems development approach that begins with a thorough analysis of market systems to identify the root causes of weaknesses.

*This informs the design and implementation of interventions that address these underlying issues, ensuring long-term impact. The interventions are anchored on a **Service Providers (SPs) model**, which equips local SPs with the skills, tools, and connections needed to deliver sustainable solutions that address the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises. This approach supports farmers working in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSMEs, which represent the most viable agricultural value chains in the Niger Delta.*

The MSD program continued to deepen its activities in these sectors across the region, maintaining service delivery through a network of service providers and key market actors (including fabricators, agricultural input and equipment companies, farmers' associations, and financial institutions). Activities during this period included training in best agronomic and business practices, technology demonstrations, and facilitating farmers' access to quality seeds and finance through PIND's **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), Sombreiro Kapital**.

3.1.1 Q3 2024 Key Achievements

More Farmers/MSMEs reached through extension of improved services



Figure 1: certification visit by National Seed Council (NASC) officials to Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs)

- Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSE) Certification:**
 In partnership with Umudike Seeds, the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC), and the Kolping Society of Nigeria, PIND certified 25 Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) to expand the adoption of improved cassava stems. PIND facilitated visits by NASC officials to certify multiplication plots, followed by a CSE Certification workshop where certificates were awarded upon payment of government fees.
- Expanded Service Delivery to Farmers/MSMEs:**
 In Q3 2024, over 280 entrepreneurial Service Providers delivered support services to farmers/MSMEs in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSME linkages, including training on Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) across the region. For example, farmers received training on improved pruning, spraying, and fertilizer application for oil palm, and proper land preparation, herbicides, and improved stem use for cassava. Poultry farmers were supported with advice on biosecurity, clean water, and the use of concentrates and vaccines.
- Cumulative Outreach:**
 A total of 40,265 farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services in Q3 2024. By the end of the quarter, cumulative outreach had reached 72,290, representing 85% of the annual target of 85,000, with 47.27% of participants being female.
- Increased Investment:**
 A key outcome of the interventions is a change in knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) among farmers and MSMEs. Routine monitoring in Q3 2024 showed that 88% of participants adopted improved business modules and practices in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSME linkages. In Q3 alone, ₦14.32 billion was invested by farmers and MSMEs, bringing the total cumulative investment for 2024 to ₦14.79 billion—107.3% of the annual target of ₦13.78 billion. Investments spanned technology adoption and input purchases for good agronomic practices (GAP) and business adaptations.
- Productivity and Income Growth:**
 As farmers and MSMEs adopt improved practices, their productivity and income increase, which is tracked and reported in the third quarter each year. By Q3 2024, the estimated net additional income of participants was ₦26.89 billion, representing 127.1% of the annual target of ₦21.15 billion. This increase in income also created 15,449 net additional full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs through the hiring of labor for farms and businesses.

Table 1. MSD Q3 progress against 2024 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	PWD	Annual Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q3	Q3	Q3 %	Q3	Q3	2024	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached (Direct + Indirect)	15,100	12,319	81.5%	6,120	0	85,000	72,290	47.27%	34,171 (direct & Indirect)	-
Number of jobs facilitated	*	9,299	*	*	-	13,000	15,449	118.8%	7,503	-
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦14.32b	-	-	-	₦13.78b	₦14.79b	107.3%	₦6.75b	-
Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	31,542	-	-	-	38,645	31,542	81.6%	14,589	-
Change in the income of farmers (direct + indirect)	*	₦26.89b	-	-	-	₦21.15b	₦26.89b	127.1%	₦13.96b	-

* 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.

Q3 2024 – Plausible outcomes and productivity experienced by farmers

- **Increased Investment through Adoption of Improved Practices:** A significant outcome of the training activities is the change in knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) among farmers and MSMEs. Routine outcome monitoring in Q3 2024 revealed that over 88% of farmers and MSMEs adopted the improved farm practices and business modules introduced by service providers across cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSME linkages projects. In this quarter alone, ₦14.32 billion was invested by farmers and MSMEs, bringing the cumulative 2024 investment to ₦14.79 billion, which is 107.3% of the 2024 annual investment target of ₦13.78 billion. These investments were directed toward technology adoption, the purchase of essential inputs for good agronomic practices (GAP), and other business adaptations. – see table 1
- **Increased Productivity and Additional Income:** As farmers and MSMEs adopt improved practices, they experience increases in productivity and income which are tracked and reported annually. By Q3 2024, the estimated net additional income of farmers and MSMEs who adopted these practices reached ₦26.89 billion, representing 127.1% of the 2024 annual target of ₦21.15 billion. This activity also created 15,449 net additional full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs through the engagement of paid labor in farms and businesses. – see table 1.

Businesses, Fisherfolks, and Processors supported in CNL coastal communities

As part of PIND's efforts to enhance the efficiency of MSMEs in the CNL host communities, PIND collaborated with Newland Pathways, and engaged 12 MSMEs in the Awoye community of Ondo State. These businesses received one-on-one consultations, where their operations were assessed, and tailored business development services were provided. The support ranged from best business practice advice to guidance on formalizing business operations and accessing crucial business information.

Additionally, 245 fisherfolks (90 males, 155 females) from CNL host communities in Ondo (Awoye) and Delta states (Ogheye Dimigo, Ogheye Eghoroke, and Orere Zion) were trained on improved fishing practices and technologies aimed at enhancing productivity and sustainability. The training was facilitated by Newland Pathway Integrated Consult (90 participants) and Marich Agro Allied Services (155 participants).

Following the training, PIND helped link fisherfolk to broader markets and financing opportunities, facilitating the adoption of five new technologies (three for fishing and two for processing) in Ugborodo and Ogheye Eghoroke communities in Delta State.

Building on the previous quarter's training, PIND continued to facilitate access to finance for MSMEs and fisherfolks/processors. In this quarter, 80 MSMEs from the Utosan Enefe Business Women MPC and God's Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs in Ode Ugborodo were linked to loans worth N20 million from Unity Bank, in collaboration with Sombeiro Kapital. These loans were used to procure additional goods, expand businesses, and increase incomes.

698 Micro Businesses Linked to Finance and Markets

During Q3 2024, PIND partners, Business Service Providers (BSPs), facilitated loans worth ₦1.21 billion for 698 micro businesses (341 of which were female-owned) through the Bank of Industry and other financial institutions. Additionally, PIND collaborated with CAD Digital Farm Limited, Flourishing Fields Agribusiness, CAD Consulting Limited, and other BSPs to establish market linkages with prominent bulk buyers. These efforts resulted in transactions worth ₦290.53 million for 21 businesses this quarter.

MSD Finalizing Scoping Assessments and Design of Cross-Cutting Interventions

In Q3 2024, PIND launched a market scoping assessment to identify specific intervention areas for cross-cutting themes. The assessment was completed, collated, and analyzed during the quarter. Preliminary findings identified constraints, opportunities, and potential interventions for the next phase. Moving forward, a validation workshop and stakeholder engagement sessions will be held to ensure alignment and collaboration, setting the stage for effective implementation.

The Market System Development program is transforming from a sector-based approach to cross-cutting portfolios. While the previous approach focused on interventions in aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs linkages, the cross-cutting approach (2025–2029) will cover broader areas, including access to agricultural inputs (fertilizers, CPPs, feed, vaccines, seeds), technical services, business development services, finance, and industrial market access.

3.2.0 Skills Development for Youth Employment (YEP)

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

In 2018, with funding from the Ford Foundation, PIND implemented the **Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP)** project in Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers States. The project trained 4,355 youths in sectors such as agriculture, ICT, construction, and finished leather goods, with most participants linked to employment opportunities. Upon completion of the pilot, the project was scaled up in Delta and Ondo States with funding from Chevron Corporation. The expanded project provides technical skills training and job or enterprise development linkages, with additional sectors like finished leather and services.

3.2.1 Q3 2024 Key Achievements

Facilitating Training and Job/Enterprise Linkage: In Q3, all 21 implementing partners began delivering training across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta, and Rivers States, with 1,007 youths (602 males, 405 females, including 14 persons with disabilities) enrolled in agriculture, ICT, building construction, and services. The cumulative number of youths undergoing training by Q3 2024 was 1,782. A dedicated training program for youths from Ugboland HCDD communities also commenced at the Government Technical College (GTC) in Okitipupa, Ondo State.

Sectors	Male	Female	PWD
Integrated Agriculture	62	49	1
Building Construction	82	6	0
ICT	287	189	7
Services	171	161	6
TOTAL	602	405	14

Table 2: Youths in training (by sector)

Training Update for Ondo HCDD Youths:

Due to low participation from CNL youths in a recent training in Ondo State—primarily due to logistical challenges with TVET centers—a supplemental program was launched specifically for Ugboland HCDD youths. The program aims to train 90 youths in key skills within the services and building construction sectors. A two-day orientation was held on August 29–30, 2024, at GTC Okitipupa, a government TVET center, reinforcing PIND's partnership with Ondo BATVE. The training is led by AMY6015 and Micafotoy Tech and commenced in September 2024. The program is 70% practical and field-based to enhance participants' occupational skills.

Number of Youths with Applicable Skills: In Q3, 369 youths completed skills training, bringing the annual cumulative number to 419 (35% of the 2024 target of 1,200). A total of 1,374 youths remain enrolled, with completion expected between Q4 2024 and Q1 2025. As of Q3, 352 youths (84% of graduates) had secured livelihood opportunities.

Partners	Sectors	Completed
Greenshield	Agriculture	123
Solar World	Services (Solar)	62
AMY6015	Services (Fashion/Catering)	64
Micafotoy Tech	ICT / Building Construction	120
	Total	369

Table 3: Youths with applicable skills in Q3 2024

- Post-training Support:** Implementing partners have improved post-training supports with 75% (279) of graduates receiving internships, apprenticeships, or linkages to employment and venture creation. Agriculture and Construction favored venture creation more than ICT and services. YEP continues to emphasize optimizing post-training support for youths.

Update on 2024 YEP Assessment: Results of the assessment carried out in 2024, on the youths with applicable skills shows that 84% of those who have completed the YEP program have access to livelihood activities – 46% employed while 38% established private businesses. The post-training dynamics have changed slightly when compared to 2022, when we had 87% access to livelihoods opportunities. However, 46% access to employment was an improvement over the 22% seen in 2022. Also, the percentage of youths establishing enterprises dropped in 2024 to 38% as against 65% recorded in 2022.

3.2.2 Update on start-up business challenge fund plans

2024 Batch of Entrepreneurship Development plan: Out of 183 youth applicants for short-term grants, 112 were selected for funding across agriculture (40), building construction (31), ICT (7), and services (34) sectors. Grant agreements have been signed, and instructions for requesting funds have been issued. The official grant launch ceremony is scheduled for October 2024, with disbursements to follow. All payments are expected to be completed by the end of Q4 2024.

3.3.0 Access to Energy

Coastal rural communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria face poor rural electrification, with many lacking access to reliable electricity for powering basic economic activities and household needs. This lack of energy supply reduces economic activity. The prospects for connecting these communities to the national grid in the near future are low due to the high costs and challenging terrains. Since 2018, PIND has been addressing this gap by offering alternative and affordable off-grid solutions, that target not only basic energy needs (lighting and cooking), but also productive uses of energy at both household and rural enterprise levels (e.g., barber shops and beauty salons).

In Q3 2024, the Access to Energy program achieved significant milestones in expanding clean energy solutions across the Niger Delta. A key highlight was the successful engagement with the Egbema OPUDIS HCDT, leading to the inclusion of energy projects in the Kingdom's five-year development plan. Through stakeholder engagements and energy assessments in several communities, critical energy needs were identified, setting the stage for future interventions.

The program also conducted energy assessments in 13 new communities, partnering with private sector actors interested in supporting clean energy initiatives.

Summary of A2E performance as of Q3 2024

Outcome assessments for key projects, including the Energy Cabin in Adagbarasa and the Solar Refrigeration Hub in Akinsolu, revealed substantial financial benefits and job creation, reinforcing the program's positive impact on community development. These activities reflect A2E's ongoing efforts to drive sustainable energy access, improve livelihoods, and foster economic growth in the Niger Delta. The collaborative approach adopted in Q3—involving close cooperation with communities, private partners, and development organizations, has proven to be an effective strategy for achieving sustainable development outcomes in the region – see table below for summary of the A2E performance as of Q3 2024.

Table 4 2024 summary of A2E as of Q3 2024

Access to energy quantitative Results as at 2024							
S/N	Indicators	Strategis targets	2024 Targets	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	2024 Total
1	Number of Businesses with Access to Clean Energy	3,500.00	1,419	1,286	30	-	1,316
2	Number of Households with Access to clean Energy	4,500.00	2,612	5,084	260	-	5,344
3	People with access to Energy Technologies	30,150.00	15,976	31,790	1,625	-	33,415
4	Financial Benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	2,500,000,000.00	1,681,874,481	-	-	3,329,212,162	3,329,212,162
5	Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and provate Sector	1,500,000,000.00	1,114,732,031.35	3,453,292,000	151,930,543	-	3,605,222,543
6	Number of jobs created	1,000	98	-	6	-	6

Engagements with Egbema OPUDIS HCDT and Integration of Energy Projects into Kingdom Development Plan

One of the key activities in this quarter was the ongoing engagement with the Egbema OPUDIS Host Communities Development Trust (HCDT), specifically in relation to their acceptance of the Energy Cabin model. The Egbema OPUDIS HCDT BoT's decision to include energy projects in their five-year development plan underscores the significance of these engagements. This process began with a model-sharing presentation facilitated by PIND to the Egbema OPUDIS HCDT Board of Trustees, during which various energy solutions and interventions were discussed. Following this, stakeholder engagements and energy assessments were conducted in eight communities within the Egbema Kingdom under the Polobubo and Opuama bloc, facilitated by Evarite Foundation and PIND-A2E. During the engagements, a total of 91 community stakeholders, including youth and women, expressed strong interest in the energy projects proposed by PIND. These sessions revealed an overwhelming demand for clean energy solutions, and the resulting assessments identified pressing energy needs in each community.

Subsequent to these assessments, PIND facilitated a detailed presentation from BCIS to the Egbema OPUDIS HCDT BoTs. The purpose of this meeting was to present a proposed upgrade to the Energy Cabin model for existing communities within the kingdom and to discuss new potential solutions for communities that had just been assessed. This engagement fostered a productive dialogue between community stakeholders, PIND, and the private sector, laying a solid foundation for future energy projects in the kingdom. The Egbema OPUDIS HCDT's inclusion of these energy solutions in their broader development plan indicates a high level of community buy-in, which is critical for the long-term success of the strategic partnership with the HCDTs.

Energy Assessments in New Communities

Thirteen new communities were selected for clean energy solutions, with energy assessments conducted in partnership with private sector actors. The communities assessed include Orere, Opuede, Opuedebubo, Big Warri, Agoduga, Burutu, Belief-Gbene, Atesuo, Ebiama, Arigbagha, Kekere, Uyabibekoregba, and Ikpotogbene. These assessments evaluated energy needs, readiness, and the potential for solar energy solutions in each community. The findings showed a consistent demand for reliable electricity and significant opportunities for solar power to meet these needs. In addition to fulfilling basic energy requirements, the assessments identified high potential for productive use of solar energy in agriculture and small-scale trade. Private sector partners involved in these assessments expressed confidence in the viability of investing in clean energy solutions in rural and underserved areas, with several partners committing to supporting energy projects in the assessed communities.

3.4.0 Sombreiro Kapital (SK)

For years, poor access to finance has hampered the productivity of businesses in the Niger Delta, primarily due to systemic constraints such as existing laws, infrastructural deficit, and knowledge gap that impacts the demand and supply of financial services. To address these challenges, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) was incorporated in 2020 to facilitate lending to businesses by issuing credit guarantees to partner commercial banks. The de-risking mechanism encourages banks to extend credit, unlocking the flow of finance to targeted beneficiaries.

SK Mandate:

Sombreiro Kapital focuses on developing and integrating value chains for target crops and livestock while issuing partial credit risk guarantees to partner financial institutions. This de-risking mechanism mitigates credit default risks for smallholder farmers (SHFs) and SMEs, thereby incentivizing financial institutions to extend funding across these value chains.

For 2024, SK set a target to facilitate loans worth ₦100 million to 300 businesses within selected value chains, including poultry, cocoa, oil palm, cassava, and MSMEs (with a focus on aquaculture) in Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Imo, and Ondo states. This is being achieved through financial linkages, interest subsidies, and risk-sharing mechanisms. In promoting gender parity, SK aims to ensure that 40% of beneficiaries are women. SK plans to support women's groups, cooperatives, and businesses with substantial female participation.

Key Q3 2024 Achievements

Building on progress from prior quarters, SK continued its mandate to increase financial inclusion in the Niger Delta, focusing on addressing sector-specific and systemic barriers that hinder financial flows to the agricultural value chain.

In Q3 2024, SK facilitated the disbursement and rollover of loans amounting to ₦80 million to 240 smallholder farmers (SHFs) across oil palm, fisheries, poultry, and aquaculture value chains, with a female-to-male ratio of 41%. The program maintained a 9% single-digit interest rate on loans, with a low default rate of 5%. By the end of Q3 2024, SK had disbursed ₦184.78 million to 834 beneficiaries.

SK's visibility and reach within the agricultural ecosystem continued to expand, with more value chain actors submitting funding requests through SK. During the quarter, new loan requests totaled ₦24.8 billion, in addition to the ₦1.5 billion received in prior quarters. SK collaborated with PAMelit representatives in Nigeria to identify viable agribusinesses with a strong base of smallholder farmers, suitable for impact investment in the Niger Delta. Furthermore, SK broke new ground by partnering with other entities to identify businesses deserving of concessionary finance. The total outstanding funding requests beyond SK's guarantee capital reached ₦26.3 billion.

Table 5: Q3 2024 Sombreiro Kapital 2024 performance

2024 Sombreiro Kapital (SK) performance									
Indicators	Target	Q1 2024		Q2 2024		Q3 2024		As at Q3 2024	
		Q1 Result	No of females	Q2 Result	No of females	Q3 Result	No of females	Q1- Q3 Result	No of Female
No of farmers supported to receive loans by SK (units)	300	342	140	252	153	240		834	293
Volume of loans facilitated (₦)	100,000,000	71,783,080		25,000,000		88,000,000		184,783,080	
Default rate CRG on loans facilitated	5%	0%		0%		0%		0%	
New Investment leveraged into SK (₦)	40,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
No of farmers receiving loans from commercial Banks post SK Support (every 2 years)	NA	300	NA	-	NA	100		400	

4.0 Peace Building Program

The strategic focus of PIND’s peacebuilding program is to achieve lasting peace in the Niger Delta by fostering sustainable partnerships, encouraging collaboration among peace actors, supporting economic development, and strengthening local peace structures. The program also creates and builds interfaces with larger state-level or regional peace efforts, facilitating an environment conducive to broad-based economic growth.

The peacebuilding program consists of two interconnected projects: **The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU)** and **Partners for Peace (P4P) Network**. The IPDU conducts research and provides training to local and international stakeholders to implement innovative pilot projects with the potential to make tangible impacts. The IPDU promotes collaboration among actors in the public and private sectors to develop early warning and response mechanisms for conflict resolution, with a particular focus on gender and youth.

The **P4P Network** is PIND’s strategy to establish social infrastructure and capital across all nine states of the Niger Delta. Over the last five years, PIND has built a network of a network of grassroots peace agents who leverage local connections to promote peace in the region. Using conflict analysis and early warning tools, P4P supports existing initiatives and creates new ones to address conflict risk factors. The P4P Network currently operates chapters and subchapters in all 119 Local Government Areas across the nine states of the Niger Delta.

In the current strategic phase (2020-2024), the Peace Network has focused on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that foster an environment conducive to economic growth and development in the region.

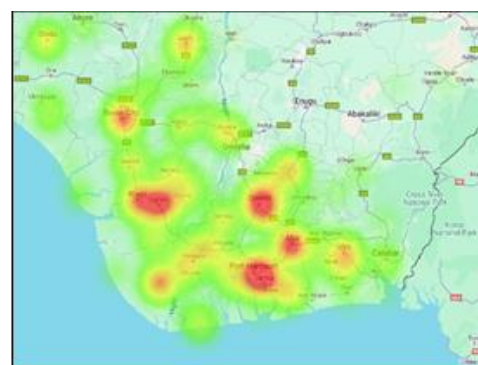
PIND’s Peace Building Program contributes to this global Sustainable Development Goal:



This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q3,2024.

4.1 Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q3 2024

The Niger Delta remained relatively stable and peaceful in Q3 2024, with improvement in the overall peace and security situation. According to data uploaded to PIND’s **P4P Peace Map**, lethal violence decreased by 31% from 217 fatalities in Q2 to 149 in Q3. Criminal violence, including kidnapping for ransom dropped significantly, with fatalities falling by 52.44% from 82 in Q2 to 39 in Q3. Armed clashes between security forces and criminal gangs, as well as separatist militias, decreased by 4.7%, with fatalities dropping from 42 in Q2 to 40 in Q3. Cult gang violence also decreased by 34%, with fatalities falling from 50 to 33. Communal conflict, including disputes over land and boundaries, as well as clashes between herders and farmers, saw a dramatic 90.91% reduction, from 44 fatalities in Q2 to 4 in Q3.



Niger Delta Conflict Fatalities Heat Map, Q3 2024

Conflict risks and lethal violence during the quarter were primarily driven by organized criminality, including kidnapping, mob violence, arms proliferation, and armed clashes between hoodlums and government security forces. Criminal violence was prevalent in Delta, Imo and Edo States, where organized crimes, including kidnapping and clashes with security forces, led to over 140 fatalities. Other key issues included cult gang violence, separatist agitation, riots, protests, and natural disasters like flooding and fire outbreaks. Cult and gang-related violence, in particular, led to over 35 fatalities in Edo, Delta, and Rivers states.

4.2 Peacebuilding highlights of activities in Q3 2024:

PIND continued to build the social infrastructure and social capital of peace actors across the Niger Delta, aiming for long-term, sustainable peace. PIND's peacebuilding strategy embraces an integrated and comprehensive approach to addressing the complex causes of conflict, adopting innovative methods to tackle militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal conflict, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

In Q3, PIND produced and disseminated numerous data-driven conflict early warning products to update peace and security stakeholders. PIND delivered 14 research and analytical products, including 13 weekly conflict briefs and 1 quarterly conflict report (Q3 2024). These reports were shared with local, national, and international peace actors to raise situational awareness, map conflict hotspots, and share best practices on conflict mitigation and peacebuilding. The reports highlighted key issues such as organized criminality, gang violence, communal conflict, mob violence, and human rights violations, including sexual violence.

The **P4P leadership** including the Central Working Committee (CWC), Program Manager, State Coordinators, State Secretaries, and members of the National Secretariat, met in Q3 to finalize strategies for the 2024 intervention programs. P4P launched small grants to support 9 Community-based Organizations (CBOs) tasked with implementing peacebuilding interventions in their respective communities. These grants aim to leverage the CBOs' expertise and networks to foster peaceful livelihoods and mitigate conflicts.

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union-Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project, titled *A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta*, continued in Q3 2024. This €6.5 million project, implemented by a consortium of partners—Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN)—focuses on Early Warning Early Response (EWER) and social cohesion interventions, with PIND leading these components through the Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU).

Several key activities were carried out, including step-down capacity-strengthening training on conflict transformation and non-adversarial engagement for 382 youths (243 males, 139 females, and 7 persons with disabilities) across 26 project communities in 13 LGAs in Rivers State. In Bayelsa State, PIND facilitated social cohesion activities involving 385 participants (274 males and 111 females) from 16 project communities across 8 LGAs, engaging youths, community members, and government security actors. Additionally, in Delta State, PIND supported SFCG in facilitating **Local Peace Architecture (LPA)** meetings, which brought together stakeholders to identify conflict hotspots, discuss community concerns, and develop actionable plans to address these challenges.



PIND facilitating Step-down Training on Conflict Transformation and Non-Adversarial Engagement for Community Youths in Rivers

Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) Meeting

In Q3, PIND coordinated meetings of the **Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN)** in Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, and Ondo states to strengthen peace and security management across the region. Established by PIND in 2017, the NDPSN mobilizes and coordinates various actors involved in peace, security, and development in the Niger Delta. A total of 100 participants, including representatives from the government (police, NSCDC, military), local NGOs, CBOs, traditional and religious institutions, and informal sector actors, attended these meetings.

Follow-up feedback indicated that stakeholders were incorporating the value gained from these meetings, particularly the peacebuilding training, into their activities and programs. Some participants were also applying their newly acquired skills to resolve local conflicts. Highlighting the NDPSN's success and sustainability, a step-down training was conducted for the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in Ondo State, at their request, following the Q3 meeting. The NDPSN facilitated training for 50 NIS officers on conflict sensitivity, conflict management, and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which was successfully executed.

Prevent Council Facilitation and Consolidation in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta States

Between 2022 and 2023, PIND established Prevent Councils in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta to explore how local institutions and stakeholders including traditional rulers and community leaders, can be leveraged for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation at the community, local and state levels. A key lesson from the Prevent Councils is that traditional leaders have strong incentives to manage peace and security at the grassroots level, as it is part of their cultural heritage.

Engagement with traditional leaders has improved communication among stakeholders and led to more targeted responses for preventing violent conflict. Building on the lessons learned from previous interventions and considering

current conflict trends, PIND consolidated its efforts in August–September 2024 to continue facilitating Prevent Councils in these states (post-pilot). Activities included preliminary visits to communities with a history of communal conflict and violence, securing stakeholder buy-in, and conducting a two-day capacity-strengthening exercise.

4.3 Key peace building outcomes in Q2 2024

An Analysis of the use of PIND’s data products during the review period revealed that 1,429 stakeholders utilized PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis. Additionally, 129 stakeholders who had been trained through PIND/P4P-facilitated sessions applied the skills they acquired to promote peace and address conflict in their communities. Furthermore, 380 P4P peace actors used 38 ‘quality actions’ to resolve emerging conflicts across various communities in the Niger Delta during the reporting period.

4.4 Behavior changes by peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace in Q3 2024.

PIND’s peacebuilding efforts are aimed at preventing violence, reducing fragility, and creating opportunities for long-term development. PIND continues to promote a culture of peace through early response data, collaborative conflict management efforts, and capacity-building workshops. Through the IPDU and P4P Network, PIND has facilitated training to enhance the ability of peace actors to address conflicts constructively.

Some examples of the way these peace actors have applied skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q3, are given in table 6

Table 6. Summary of selected interventions carried out by some stakeholders and peace actors in Q3 2024

Resolving Land Dispute in Akwa Ibom
<p>Pastor Attai, who attended the early warning and early response training in 2024, resolved an age-long boundary dispute between the church he was transferred to at Ikot Akpabio in Etinan LGA. When he came in as the new pastor in July 2024, the disputing family called him to their home and tabled the same issue to him. The former pastor had planted crops beyond their boundary and refused to adhere to the boundary delineated. Pastor Attai pleaded with them to allow the crops for the period they need to be harvested and after that, the crops would be shifted out of their boundary. His actions resolved the issues.</p>
Addressing Host Community and Oil Company Conflict
<p>Dinah, a peace actor from Esit Eket, Akwa Ibom State, successfully resolved a conflict between Frontier Oil/Savana Energy Company and its host community in August 2024. The community members had complained that the company's activities had caused significant damage to their farmlands, making it difficult for them to farm, and that oil spillages were killing their fish. As tensions escalated, the community was preparing to protest and block company operations. However, Dinah organized a focus group discussion, raised awareness, and facilitated dialogue. As a result, the community halted their plans for violent protest and instead sent a formal letter to the company’s headquarters in Abuja, which led the company to address their concerns.</p>

5. General Enabling Program

PIND's interventions fall under two core program areas: (1) Economic Development, which generates opportunities for pro-poor market development and job creation; and (2) Peace Building, which strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms for integrated peace and economic growth. Support programs, such as planning, monitoring, and capacity building, enable PIND to track progress, build capacities, and advocate for systemic changes in the Niger Delta.

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



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 3 of 2024 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 to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of government bodies, civil society organizations, and business associations/service providers.

Its aim is to promote effective socio-economic engagement, inclusive governance for growth, and peaceful coexistence in the Niger Delta. This program directly contributes to both PIND's long-term objectives and overall goals.

The program focuses on two major areas:

- 1. Strengthening Local Development Organizations:** PIND works to empower 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 a comprehensive approach to development that addresses underlying market constraints, preventing the poor from participating effectively. This year, PIND provided direct mentorship to selected organizations to implement projects using the market systems approach, and offered guidance on proposal writing and fund mobilization to diversify their funding base.
- 2. Supporting Chevron's GMoU Communities:** The second focus is strengthening institutions supporting Chevron's Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMoU) community engagement process, helping them carry out developmental projects that improve livelihoods. Between 2020 and 2021, PIND supported Chevron's transition from Regional Development Committees (RDCs) to Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), in compliance with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021. PIND continues to provide capacity-building support for the various structures of HCDTs, including the Board, Advisory, and Management Committees, ensuring effective operations.

Baseline Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for Four HCDTs Completed

This quarter, PIND completed baseline Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) for the four registered HCDTs established by Chevron Nigeria Limited, including the Warri Kingdom Coastal HCDT in Delta State. The assessment covered leadership, project and financial management, human resources, fundraising, peacebuilding, gender, community engagement, and advocacy.

Following the OCA, a validation workshop was held to ensure the accuracy of the data collected and to foster HCDT members' ownership of the improvement process. This led to the development of a **Capacity Development Action Plan**, which outlined actionable steps to address identified gaps, thereby enhancing the overall capacity of the HCDTs.

Capacity-Building Initiatives:

Two tailored capacity-building programs were implemented based on the OCA findings, aimed at strengthening the HCDTs' structures and operational effectiveness. Additionally, PIND organized a **Market Systems Development (MSD) Refresher Training** for partners, co-facilitators, and peace actors. This training enhanced their capacity to analyze and influence market dynamics, driving sustainable, inclusive, and market-driven solutions that benefit all market actors, ultimately fostering a resilient and self-sustaining economy in the Niger Delta.

Grant and Service Access for Partner Organizations:

CARA Development Foundation, supported by PIND, applied the skills gained through PIND's capacity-building initiatives to secure a USAID-funded project (SCALE), raising N5,474,004 to improve public accountability and service delivery. Similarly, the **Development Initiative for Community Impact (DICI)** has been instrumental in strengthening the capacity of local organizations, including supporting two additional HCDDTs, bringing the total to four. These initiatives have helped drive economic growth in the region.

Capacity-Building for the Four CNL HCDDTs

This quarter, PIND provided training and mentorship to the **Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulaghabe, and Ugboland HCDDTs** on **Procurement Management/Best Practices** and **Leadership**. The training equipped participants with essential skills to manage procurement processes efficiently, maintain data integrity, and ensure compliance with PIA-specific regulations. A total of 34 participants, including 8 females, attended the training.

The leadership training focused on board members, management, and advisory committee members, enhancing their governance, reporting, group dynamics, and NGO management skills. This training is expected to improve the HCDDTs' ability to drive sustainable community development and enhance the livelihoods of beneficiaries.

5.2 Advocacy

PIND's advocacy efforts in Q3 2024 continued to focus on three key areas: influencing spending and funding from government, donors, and the private sector organizations on new projects in the Niger Delta; addressing challenges related to inadequate access to arable land for smallholder farmers; and tackling the constraints imposed on small businesses by multi-taxation and illegal levies. Additionally, PIND supported efforts to institutionalize peacebuilding strategies that promote conflict prevention across the region.

Building on successes from Q1 and Q2, PIND worked to ensure sustained development funding, particularly to enhance smallholder farmers' access to arable land. In Q3, PIND engaged with land access committees in Edo and Ondo States, finalizing draft policy documents in preparation for executive approval. PIND's advocacy on illegal levies and multi-taxation also gained momentum, as the Federal Government's Fiscal Reform Committee incorporated PIND's recommendations into its draft report.

PIA Bridges Project Progress in Q3 2024:

The PIA Bridges Project achieved a key milestone by convening a forum to share findings and lessons from Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) deliberations. This forum provided valuable insights and evidence to support advocacy for legislative amendments to the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). Participants included representatives from regulatory bodies, settlers, Host Community Development Trust (HCDDT) Boards, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and the government. The forum fostered critical dialogue, and Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, Chairman of the House Committee on HCDDTs, endorsed the MSP findings as essential for guiding the committee's strategic plan to monitor PIA implementation.

Equitable Access to Land for Smallholder Farmers.

PIND collaborated with arable land committees in three Niger Delta states to improve land access for smallholder farmers. In Edo State, we supported efforts to harmonize arable land programs with the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investment (FRILIA), with the final policy awaiting the Governor's assent. In Ondo State, PIND helped align the Agricultural Policy with the Access to Land draft for executive approval. In Delta State, collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture ensured the effective implementation of land policies guiding agricultural interventions.

Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention

PIND achieved significant progress in tax policy reform in Q3 2024. As part of a consortium that included the Tax Justice Group, PIND submitted a communique from its roundtable discussions to the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee (PFPTRC). This culminated in the drafting of the **National Fiscal Policy**, aligning with PIND's objectives. Key reforms include promoting tax digitization, harmonization, and building capacity within the taxation system, while offering tax exemptions to small businesses. These recommendations were part of PIND's formal submission to the PFPTRC.

Economic Stimulus Bill

On September 23, 2024, the **Federal Executive Council** approved the **Economic Stabilization Bills**, which incorporated the PFPTRC's tax reform recommendations. These bills aim to create a more enabling environment for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by overhauling existing tax policies. The bills' transmission to the National Assembly marks a significant milestone in PIND's advocacy for tax reforms critical to the socio-economic development of the Niger Delta.

PIA “Bridges Project” Implementation of the Components

In Q3, PIND hosted a major event under the **PIA Bridges Project**, which brought together key stakeholders involved in the Petroleum Industry Act’s implementation. Attendees included representatives from the Ford Foundation, Host Community Development Trusts, the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), and several civil society organizations. Discussions focused on insights from MSP findings and their application to the strategic monitoring of the PIA’s implementation. A key endorsement came from Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, Chairman of the House Committee on HCDS, confirming that MSP insights would inform the committee’s strategic plan for PIA oversight.

NDLink

NDLink continues to play a crucial role in disseminating development information in the Niger Delta. In Q3 it attracted 28,000 new visitors, and secured 243 new alert subscriptions. NDLink exceeded its targets, with 5,604 downloads of development resources (target: 3,000) and 28,033 engagements with its content (target: 2,500). The platform’s impact is evident through collaboration requests and an increase in direct Google searches. User feedback showed high satisfaction, with 74% of users likely to recommend the platform.

5.3 Communications

PIND’s communication efforts focus on increasing visibility, boosting engagement, and strengthening its brand to attract partnerships and promote the adoption of PIND’s sustainable development models.

In Q3 2024, PIND leveraged both digital and mainstream media to increase awareness of its programs, including the **Bridges Project HCDS PIA**, the **Lagos State Employment Summit 3.0**, and various workshops and training sessions. These efforts garnered significant online engagement, showcasing PIND’s impact in the Niger Delta.

Sharing Knowledge of PIND’s Development Models

In Q3, PIND participated in 11 forums, sharing its socio-economic development models with 1,168 target stakeholders. These forums aimed to increase visibility, promote business development objectives, and foster new partnerships.

Social media:

PIND’s participation in the **Lagos State Employment Summit 3.0** and other events led to 442 social media posts, reaching 291,753 people (149% of the yearly target), and generating 8,495 engagements. Video views totaled 10,301, and YouTube subscribers increased by 2%.

Table 7: Summary of the social media posts during the period in Q3 2024

S/N	Social Media Platform	Number of Persons Reached
1	Facebook	207,167
2	Instagram	16,767
3	LinkedIn	52,523
4	Twitter	12,185
5	YouTube	3,111

Newsletter: PIND sent seven newsletters to 3,671 subscribers, gaining 149 new subscribers. The average open rate was 18%, with key stakeholder groups actively engaging with PIND’s newsletters.

Website PIND posted 46 pieces of content to its website in Q3, attracting 13,612 new visitors and 18,899 returning visitors. Downloads of PIND’s knowledge products reached 20,161, reinforcing its role as a thought leader in development issues.

5.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND remains committed to gender equality and social inclusion as key drivers for sustainable poverty reduction and shared security and prosperity in the Niger Delta. Central to PIND’s 2020–2024 strategic plan is the goal of achieving gender equality and empowering poor women, girls, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) is embedded within PIND’s programs and projects, ensuring inclusive activities, equitable participation, and access to benefits for all stakeholders.

Organizational Gender Mainstreaming Summary

PIND has set a strategic target to enable at least 81,000 women (40% of the overall target) to increase their incomes, positioning women’s economic empowerment as a core component of its economic development activities. In Q3 2024, the total number of participants in various economic development interventions was 41,272, comprising 20,374 males (49%) and 20,898 females (51%). Additionally, 14 persons with disabilities (PWDs) were enrolled in the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) training. The cumulative number of participants in the Economic Development program reached 74,072, of which 34,935 (47.16%) were females.

		Outreach - Gender Summary Q3 2024				
		Total	female	% females	males	males %
MSD	Cassava	33,686	19,347	57%	14,339	42.6%
	Cocoa	10,716	1,957	18%	5,277	49.2%
	Palm oil	14,548	6,525	45%	8,023	55.1%
	Poultry	7,082	3,690	52%	3,392	47.9%
	MSMEs	6,258	2,651	42%	3,607	57.6%
	Total	72,290	34,171	47.27%	34,637	47.9%
YEP	YEP	1,782	764	43%	1,018	57.1%
EDP	YEP+MDP	74,072	34,935	47.16%	39,137	52.8%
PB	PB training	754	276	37%	486	64%
Overall average		74,826	35,211			47.06%
PWD (YEP)			14			
PWD (PB)			0			

In peacebuilding efforts, a total of 473 women (39% of total beneficiaries), 745 men (61% of total beneficiaries), and 548 youths (45% of total beneficiaries) participated in interventions such as conflict mitigation, forums on peace and stability, skills enhancement, and mentorship programs aimed at fostering sustainable peace in the region. Overall, the organization-wide gender mainstreaming efforts by Q3 2024 reached 35,372 females (47%) out of a total of 75,254 participants, surpassing the 2024 annual target of 40%. The number of PWD participants enrolled in YEP remained at 14.

5.5 Business Development

In its effort to diversify and expand its funding base, PIND continued to engage potential partners across its program areas to explore new opportunities. The organization has strengthened internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts, yielding significant milestones since Q4 2022.

By the end of Q3 2024, prospective and pipeline funds totaling approximately \$6.9 million were in advanced stages of negotiation. These included ongoing engagements with Mastercard Foundation for the Youth Agripreneur Project, Serendib Capital for a proposed mangrove restoration project, and an expansion of the EU-funded Community-Centered Approach for Transforming Violence and Criminality in the Niger Delta. Additional engagements include finalizing an MoU with BOI and Okomu Oil PLC, as well as exploratory discussions with the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Company for another mangrove restoration project. PIND also signed an MoU with the Nigeria Office for Philanthropy and Impact Investing.

Execution of Third-Party Projects:

- **FAO FOLUR Project:** In Q3, the Business Development Services (BDS) team supported the FAO FOLUR program by facilitating three training sessions, covering best agroforestry practices, agro-diversification for cocoa and oil palm farmers, and financial literacy to help farmers access funding from financial institutions. Plans are underway to host a consultative forum on customary land titling in Cross River and Ondo States, leveraging provisions in the 1978 Land Use Act.
- **A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta:** The BDS team continues to support the peacebuilding efforts of the EU-funded project, coordinated with Search for Common Ground (SFCG). Despite logistical challenges, the project has made progress, including producing monthly conflict bulletins, establishing community peace architecture, and organizing inter-communal solidarity activities to strengthen relations between communities and security agencies.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Market Development and Peace Building Programs:

Heightened security concerns during the governorship and local government elections in Edo and Ondo States disrupted field activities, limiting the mobility and participation of smallholder farmers in training and outreach programs. Additionally, soaring production costs driven by high input prices, transport expenses, and energy costs reduced the purchasing power of smallholder farmers and hindered the adoption of improved practices. To address this, PIND is strengthening the support network of service providers to help farmers and MSMEs develop coping strategies.

The requirement of 5 hectares of land for participation as Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) remains a barrier due to limited land access. PIND recommends lowering the land requirement to 0.5 hectares, with the potential to expand as operations develop, to encourage greater participation.

Youth Employment Pathways Program:

- **Misinformation from Ondo HCDT stakeholders:** Many participants mistakenly believed they were entitled to transport, accommodation, and feeding allowances, leading to agitation during the orientation. This was addressed by PIA executives, who provided an additional N1,000 per day for transport costs.
- **Expectations of financial entitlements:** Participants felt entitled to monetary benefits due to their nomination through community organizations. This issue was exacerbated by the lack of prioritization for younger adults under 30 years old.
- **Rising transportation costs:** Higher fuel prices led to increased transportation expenses, with some participants dropping out due to financial strain. Those remaining expressed difficulty in affording commuting costs

Access to Energy: The second quarter of 2024 presented several challenges for the A2E program:

- The ongoing inequity faced by start-up companies reflects global patterns and indicates investors' cautious stance following months of deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, including increased interest rates and fluctuating foreign exchange rates. In light of this, partner power developers are focusing their strategies on solid credit risk management and strong unit economics to remain viable.
- Adverse weather conditions, including flooding, impacted the energy assessments during the quarter. These unfavorable conditions limited access to some communities and hindered the team's ability to collect critical data on energy needs.
- Communal conflicts around Deghele hindered the team's access to the community for the outcome assessment.

Advocacy: Rising petrol prices, inflation, and deteriorating infrastructure continue to hinder project implementation across the Niger Delta, amplifying travel-related risks.

Communications: News about PIND's activities struggled to gain visibility amid trending stories on fluctuating fuel prices, economic protests, and widespread violence in the Niger Delta.

Lessons learned:

YEP:

- The partnership with BATVE has consistently demonstrated its value, particularly in facilitating vocational training for the youth from the Ondo HCDT community. Training sessions are being held at GTC Okitipupa, a technical vocational education and training (TVET) center operated under the auspices of Ondo BATVE. This collaboration not only provides access to quality training facilities but also enhances the overall effectiveness of the program, ensuring that participants receive the necessary skills and support to thrive in their chosen fields.
- Hosting the training in a separate community from the HCDT has helped to mitigate the risk of riots or violent outbursts from agitations that occurred during the orientation exercise.
- The orientation venue (GTC Okitipupa) is a conducive environment to learn, and both the principal and host trainers were very receptive, fostering a positive atmosphere for the participants.

7. Program Management

Governance and Accountability

In Q3 2024, PIND held separate meetings for its sub-committees on Projects and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and Partnerships. These meetings are vital for PIND's internal governance and accountability, enabling feedback from the board to optimize program implementation.

Organizational Sustainability:

Phase IV strategy development: With the completion of the PSR processes, phase IV strategy development continued with the strategy consultant producing a consolidated strategy for 2025 – 2029.

Ford Foundation - The Bridges Project: A major PIA Bridges Project event hosted by PIND in Q3 was the convening of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). The convening focused on deliberations of the MSP findings and insights with participants looking back and providing feedback on the way forward for successful PIA implementation. A notable endorsement of MSP findings was by Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, who confirmed that these insights would inform his committee's strategic plan for monitoring the effective implementation of the PIA.

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union- Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, “A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta” continued in Q3 2024.

FAO FOLUR project: The Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States), which was officially launched at the State level has continued implementation in this quarter with the training of trainers on best agroforestry practices, agro-diversification practices for cocoa and oil palm farmers, and financial literacy training to support farmers on how to access funds from select financial institutions like commercial, microfinance, and development banks

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:

PIND continued to invest resources to promote wellbeing and safeguard employees’ lives. In Q3 2024, Operations provided optimal and seamless services to consultants and stakeholders which invariably contributed to the overall quality and value addition to PIND’s operations. In addition to seamless logistics support for the smooth execution of operations and project implementation, the PIND Integrated Platform (PIP) was constantly being reviewed and updates done to enhance IT management. In summary, the security, health and safety management components were carried out satisfactorily. Similarly, adequate logistics arrangements were made for the smooth execution of operations and projects. PIP was optimized to enhance IT management. Processing of utility bills, management of communication equipment and relationship with stakeholders/vendors, vehicle maintenance and repairs, managed events and workshops within and outside PIND’s premises, onboarding of new staff and general equipment and facilities management was also facilitated.

Project Support Services (PSS):

PIND’s procurement and contract administration ensured that procedures were followed in line with organizational policies. In Q3 2024, PIND awarded 160 contracts worth NGN 334.59 million. The Grant Agreement instrument was most frequently used due to the issuance of grants for the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) program.

Table 9. Contracts awarded in Q3 2024 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number (Q3)	Number Processed to date (Jan-Dec 2024)	Value Committed(Q3) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-Dec 2024) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q3)							
					Male	Value Committed (NGN)	Female	Value Committed (NGN)	Female-Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed (NGN)	Male-Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed (NGN)
Professional Services Contract	1	10	2.4 m	145.53m	-	-	1	2.4 m	-	-	-	-
Services Order	26	51	74.42m	276.76m	9	26.77m	1	1.75m	2	2.74 m	13	41.18m
Purchase Order	5	13	14.03m	55.78m	-	-	-	-	2	412.5 thousand	3	13.62m
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	124	164	124.80m	411.04m	62	45.50m	55	35.73m	1	12.75 m	6	33.25m
MOU	4	4	118.94m	118.94 m	-	-	-	-	1	9.45 m	3	109.50m
Total	160	242	334.59m	1.07b	71	63.66m	57	38m	6	25.36m	25	370.69m

8. Looking Ahead

Priority Actions for Q4 2024

In Q4 2024, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- **Cassava:**
 - Facilitate the update of the training manual on climate-smart agricultural practices for farmers.
 - Complete the onboarding and training of Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) to establish multiplication plots across the region.
 - Expand activities with CSEs to increase production, reach more farmers, and strengthen value chain linkages, while supporting farmers' access to market opportunities.
 - Organize a validation workshop and stakeholder engagement to present the findings of the Access to Inputs Cross-Cutting Thematic Area Study conducted in Q3.

- **Cocoa:**
 - Continue implementing the FAO-FOLUR project.
 - Build the capacity of service providers using the climate-smart cocoa manual.
 - Train nursery operators in collaboration with the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN).
- **MSMEs:**
 - Onboard new Business Development Service Providers.
 - Continue providing business development services to MSMEs and facilitate linkages to finance and markets.
 - Reach fisherfolk and processors within Host Community Development Trust (HCDT) communities with improved processing technologies and fishing practices, supporting the adoption of these technologies and access to finance and markets.
- **Palm Oil Best Management Practices (BMP):**
 - Collaborate with service providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach 10,000 farmers in the Niger Delta to address the deficit from Q3.
 - Organize stakeholder meetings to enhance collaboration and coordination within the sector.
- **Poultry:**
 - Train new Village Level Dealers (VLDs) in partnership with Farm Support Nigeria Limited.
 - Support VLDs in organizing farmers.
 - Continue supporting Private Sector Partners (PSPs) in expanding their outreach to new poultry farmers in the region.
 - Organize knowledge-sharing and market linkages workshops.
- **Cross-Cutting:**
 - Complete the design of cross-cutting interventions and finalize the intervention control framework in preparation for full implementation in Q1 2025.

The **Access to Energy** project will:

- Advance new partnerships by initiating a challenge fund for five off-grid community energy installations in five riverine communities in Delta State.
- Facilitate the signing of Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) with three new developers to expedite the deployment of interventions in four coastal communities, focusing on solar refrigeration and the Energy Cabin.

Youth Employment Pathways Project (YEP)

YEP will focus on the following:

- Collaborate with partners and the Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education (BATVE) to continue delivering technical and soft skills training for youth from HCDT communities in Ondo State.
- Monitor ongoing technical and soft skills training for beneficiaries in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta States.
- Disburse grants to 112 beneficiaries of the 2024 Challenge Fund.
- Launch the 2024 Challenge Fund.
- Organize a Learning Forum with implementing partners.

Peacebuilding Program

The Peacebuilding Program will:

- Oversee the execution of the EU/Search for Common Ground (SFCG)-funded project in selected states.
- Establish a Peace Club in Bayelsa State and strengthen efforts to mitigate youth restiveness in the Niger Delta.
- Facilitate Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) training in HCDT communities.
- Integrate peacebuilding activities with economic development initiatives, focusing on conflict sensitivity.
- Conduct quarterly maintenance of the peacebuilding database and website.
- Produce key publications, including the PB Annual Intervention Catalogue, Herders-Farmers Intervention Compendium, and factsheets.
- Facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy.
- Organize P4P and Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) activities, and produce peacebuilding briefs and trackers.
- Support the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) forums

Advocacy Program

The Advocacy Program will:

- Provide ongoing advocacy support for upcoming programs and projects.
- Review the implementation of PIND-supported programs and projects in relevant states.
- Finalize the Edo and Ondo access to land interventions and push for executive assent to the policies.
- Expand advocacy engagements with states and other relevant agencies and organizations.
- Continue the next phase of the multiple taxation intervention and work with the communications team on a documentary covering multiple taxation and illegal levies.
- Track and report on stakeholder engagements across program areas and maintain the engagement tracker.
- Drive NDLINK sustainability and engage with clients.
- Implement Petroleum Industry Act (PIA)-related interventions.
- Provide advocacy support for the FAO FOLUR project and peacebuilding initiatives related to the NDPRS.



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