



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter One:
January - March 2025

pindfoundation.org



About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigerian non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. PIND fosters multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships at regional, national, and international levels to address the complex development challenges of the region.

Recognizing that no single entity can resolve these challenges alone, PIND collaborates with government, civil society, businesses, and international development partners to implement market-driven, community-based programs that mitigate conflicts and expand economic opportunities. This ensures that economic progress in the Niger Delta is systemic, inclusive, and sustainable.

PIND operates across all nine states in the Niger Delta – Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers, with a special focus on underserved and hard-to-reach coastal communities often overlooked in development programming.

Since 2010, PIND and its partners have contributed to peace, poverty reduction, energy access, employment generation, stability, and development in the region.

Learn more about [PINDfoundation.org](https://pindfoundation.org).

© PIND Foundation 2025

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without full attribution

Table of content

Abbreviations and acronyms	3
Background	5
Introduction: 2025 Q1 M&E Report	6
Executive Summary	7
Summary of progress against 2025 targets	13
2.0 Context Analysis	17
2.1 Socio-economic environment	17
2.2 Security	17
3.1 Strategic Objective 1	18
3.2 Strategic Objective 2	22
3.3 Strategic Objective 3	23
3.4 Strategic Objective 4	24
3.5 Strategic Objective 5	25
4.0 General Enabling Programs	28
4.1 Capacity Building	28
4.2 Advocacy	29
4.3 Communications	31
4.4 PME	32
4.5 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	32
4.6 Business Development and Sustainability	34
5.0 Challenges and Lessons Learned	35
6.0 Program Management	36
7.0 PSS	37
8.0 Looking Ahead	37
9.0 Sombreiro Kapital (SK)	39

Abbreviations and acronyms

AOIHCDT	Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe Host Community Development Trust
APNAG	Advocates of Peace, Nature and Gender Justice
A2E	Access to Energy
BATVE	Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education
BDS	Business Development & Sustainability
BoI	Bank of Industry
CDP	Community Development Plan
CNA	Comprehensive Needs Assessment
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
DARES	Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up
CPP	Crop Protection Product
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DELCOM COOP	Delta State Commercial Oil Palm Plantation Growers Cooperative Society
EOHCDT	Egbema OPUDIS Host Community Development Trust
EU	European Union
EWER	Early Warning and Early response
FCDO	UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion

FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FSP	Farm Service Provider
FMYD	Federal Ministry of Youth Development
FUPRE	Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HCDT	Host Community Development Trust
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDH	IDH Trade
Ibom-LED	Ibom Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Centre
ILO	International Labor Organization
IPDU	Integrated peace and development Unit
IWD	International Women's Day
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KEFFESO	Koluama 1, Ezetu 1, Foropa, Fish Town, Ekeni, Sangana
KSS	Knowledge Sharing Session
LMA	Labor Market Assessment
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MWI	Melville Women Initiative
NASME	Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
NDPSN	Niger Delta Peace and Security Network
NDRPS	Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NIHORT	National Institute for Horticultural Research
NPO	Nigerian Philanthropy Office
NSHP	Nigeria Solar for Health Project
NTU	NTU International
NUPRC	Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission
PB	Peacebuilding
PIA	Petroleum Industry Act
PIP	PIND Integrated Platform
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PSS	Procurement Support Services
PWD	Person with Disability
P4P	Partners for Peace
REAN	Renewable Association of Nigeria
RFP	Request for Proposal
SDN	Stakeholder Democracy Network
SFCG	Search for Common Ground)
SHF	Small Holder Farmers
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
ToT	Training of Trainers
TSPs	Technical Service Providers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
OAODF	Okiero Anthony Okoro Development Foundation
OOPC	Okomu Oil-Palm Company PLC
WACCIMA	Warri Chamber of Commerce, Industry and miles
WKHCDT	Warri Kingdom Coastal Host Community Development Trust
UK-PACT	UK Government's Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions
UHCDDT	Ugboland Host Community Development Trust
YEP	Youth Employment Partway

Background

Our goal at PIND is to identify, catalyze, and leverage opportunities, jobs, and incomes for our target beneficiaries. In these roles, we actively engage in identifying multi-stakeholder partners and act as a catalyst for establishing an enabling environment for socio-economic growth in the Niger Delta region. The goals of these partnerships are to reduce poverty, increase welfare benefits, and mitigate conflict by implementing interventions that promote stability and equitable growth in employment and income for beneficiaries across the nine target states: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers.

To achieve this goal, PIND works to understand the root causes of economic instability, conflict, and fragility to develop community-based, market-driven, and sustainable solutions.

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

- **Economic Development Program:** Focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment creation.
- **Peacebuilding Program:** Strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms to foster integrated peace and economic growth.

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

- **Capacity Building:** Strengthens the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations, and communities.
- **Advocacy:** Seeks to influence policies, practices, and programs through in-depth analysis and an understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- **Communications:** Enhances PIND's reputation and brand through clear and consistent messaging across multiple channels, highlighting its unique value proposition, transformative approaches, impact, and learning.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Independently tracks, verifies, and measures program results to ensure accountability.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of Phase IV (2025-2029), PIND aims to:

- **SO1:** Achieve better functioning market systems for agriculture and MSMEs youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy benefiting 800,000 farmers and MSMEs, 50% of whom will increase their income by 40%, and creating 150,000 new jobs 50% of which will benefit youths and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, 250 communities will be electrified.
- **SO2:** Influence \$50million in investment by donors and funders in the Niger Delta through PIND; raise a minimum of \$7.5 million in additional funds from the private sector and donor community for PIND programs, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.
- **SO3:** Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. This includes stimulating a market for carbon credits (generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.); reducing GHG emission from renewable energy, mitigating flood impacts through community plans, and supporting enterprises selling bio/organic products.)
- **SO4:** Support Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to co-invest in priority projects that improve economic and peacebuilding agendas in their communities - by enhancing their capacity to co-design and co-invest in skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation.
- **SO5:** Reduce conflict and promote peace by sustainably deploying the P4P Network; strengthening the link between peacebuilding and economic development, delivering value to Chevron, and addressing regional conflict issues.

PIND's Programs contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Programs	SDGs
Market development, Access to energy and Youth Employment Pathways	1,2,5,6,7
Peace Building Program	16
General Enabling Programs	5,10,15, 17



Introduction: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

The Monitoring and Evaluation report provides updates to donors, Board of Trustees, and partners on project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. It also aims to strengthen collaboration for greater impact and sustainability, while demonstrating how PIND's work contributes to a peaceful and stable operating environment in the Niger Delta.

The report highlights successes and challenges, fostering shared learning and encouraging further collaborations with partners including USAID, The Ford Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Master Card Foundation, and the European Union.

This quarter's report (January – March, 2025), is the first under phase IV strategic period (2025 – 2029), and it provides updates on programs performance in line with PIND's five strategic objectives. Each quarter, PIND will present consolidated progress updates across all programs and projects under these objectives.

1.0 Executive Summary

This report outlines our program interventions and achievements in the Niger Delta from January to March 2025 (Q1), providing updates on program management, key learnings, and plans for the next quarter. PIND continues to advance **broad-based economic growth, peacebuilding, and governance reforms** across the region.

Our approach prioritizes **data-driven decision-making**, ensuring **evidence-based policy direction and impactful interventions** across economic development, peacebuilding, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts.

Strategic Objective 1. Better functioning market systems

This objective focuses on improving market system in agriculture, MSMEs, youth skills development, finance, and access to renewable energy. Additionally, it aims to deepen the economic growth outcomes in the Niger Delta through improved interventions to address systemic constraints hindering business functionality and equitable delivery of business gains to the players. In Q1 2025, the Market Systems Development (MSD), Access to Energy (A2E), and Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) programs worked collaboratively with PIND's cross-cutting units (Capacity Building, Advocacy, etc.) to advance activities to benefit farmers and MSMEs.

Market System Development (MSD) Program

- Held engagement meetings to build shared understanding of the new strategic direction of Phase IV (2025 – 2029), highlight emerging service opportunities, and encourage early adaptation by service providers across multiple sectors.
- These meetings fostered collaboration, identified co-creation and co-investment service opportunities, and laid the groundwork for scalable, market-driven services.
- In total, 32 Partners and service providers participated and are currently being profiled for onboarding into phase IV activities.

Access to Energy (A2E)

As Q1 marked the start of the new strategic phase), A2E focused on planning and laying the groundwork for renewable energy expansion across the Niger Delta. While implementation will commence in coming quarters, it achieved critical preparatory milestones and established systems for successful implementation as follows:

- Secured approval for two upgrade and three new solar energy projects in Egbema-OPUDIS communities through their NUPRC-approved CDP. Implementation will begin in June 2025.
- Conducted preliminary energy audits in Ugboland communities after identifying priority sites with the HCDT.
- Positioned PIND as technical partner for two major upcoming Energy-Health nexus initiatives (NTU international and NSHP) building on its HETA project experience.
- Initiated early-stage co-creation discussions with discussions with REAN and developed a framework for a Q2 Innovation Challenge Fund to support new mini-grid solutions.
- Engaged six renewable energy developers and investors (Protergia Energy, Nline, A1 Power Technologies, PrimeVolts Solar, Kamim Technology, and Volte health systems limited) and presented PIND's models, demonstrating its effectiveness in delivering sustainable power solutions for coastal and HCDT communities. The discussions focused on sharing proven approaches and exploring collaboration opportunities to expand renewable energy access across the Niger Delta.

These initiatives target unserved coastal communities, aiming to deliver hybrid solar that enhance livelihoods, reduce generator dependence, and support healthcare infrastructure with sustainable electricity.

Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)

Identification and selection of Implementing Partners

In Q1 2025, a capacity assessment was conducted of 40 skills training organizations – potential implementing partners for PIND, to evaluate their current service delivery status, identify gaps, and determine their eligibility to participate and in the YEP program during the current phase. Preliminary insights revealed that the organizations were significantly underutilizing their existing training centers. Despite a combined maximum training capacity of 6,320 individuals, only 1,088 persons were being trained across various vocational skills—an average utilization rate of just 17%. These findings will inform the selection and onboarding of implementation partners for the YEP program in 2025.

Additionally, in Q1 2025, several engagement activities were undertaken to strengthen collaboration with state governments and other institutions as outlined below:

- Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau and the Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development (engagements to conclude in Q2 2025).
- Nigerian Philanthropy Office (NPO) to explore financing startup businesses for YEP beneficiaries through a challenge fund.
- Ibom-LED and BATVE to renew MoU signed in December 2023/January 2024.
- Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Effurun, Delta State, to conduct job readiness training for over 400 graduating students. showcasing YEP's employment and entrepreneurship pathways.

Strategic Objective 2. Influence \$50million Investment by donors/funders in the Niger Delta by PIND; Raise a minimum of \$7.5 million additional funds from private sector and donor community for PIND programs, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.

This objective focuses on mobilizing donor and private sector funding for interventions in the Niger Delta. In Q1 2025, foundational activities began across all programs to support this target. These activities will be tracked and reported in the subsequent quarters as they progress.

Strategic Objective 3: Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta.

This objective aims to build resilience in the Niger Delta by promoting carbon markets, reducing greenhouse gas emissions; mitigating flood risks, and supporting enterprises selling bio/organic products.

Access to energy

During Q1 2025, critical groundwork was laid to advance climate-resilient renewable energy solutions for the Niger Delta. While implementation of Energy Cabins and Solar Refrigeration Hubs is scheduled to commence in next quarter, foundational activities were undertaken. **For example**, at the Nigerian Academy of Science Climate Conference, PIND positioned the solar refrigeration hub as a dual-purpose climate solution—highlighting how it can reduce emissions from traditional fish smoking while also strengthening food security. This early-stage advocacy is crucial for securing stakeholder buy-in.

Market System Development Program

PIND recognizes that integrating climate adaptation and mitigation practices into agricultural input interventions is essential for building resilience in the Niger Delta. In Q1 2025, engagement was held with CHC Agritec and Selagro—specialist in organic and environmentally friendly products—with the aim of incorporating sustainable practices into PIND's input distribution model. This initiative ensures that farmers have access to climate-adaptive inputs, such as organic fertilizers and crop protection products. These inputs will enhance soil health, reduce environmental degradation, and promote sustainable farming.

Peace Building Program

PIND is currently deploying a filter for climate-related data on the Peace Map. This enhancement will showcase environmental risks and hazards (ERH) in the Niger Delta, including flooding, windstorm, gully erosion and oil spills. The integration of ERH data alongside conflict data will provide comprehensive context for guiding climate adaptation and mitigation efforts by both PIND's Peacebuilding and Economic Development programs, as well as other stakeholders in the region

Strategic Objective 4: HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities

This objective focuses on enhancing the capacity of HCDTs to co-design and co-invest in interventions that improve economic conditions and peacebuilding in their communities, through skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation in their communities.

Market Systems Development (MSD)

The MSD team met with Ugboland HCDT to explore co-investment opportunities and support the implementation of their Community Development Plan. Following the engagement, the HCDT developed a budget proposal for agri-business investment, particularly in fishing and MSME development. This proposal will be further reviewed in Q2 when the community development business (CDB) plan is expected to be approved.

Capacity Building (CB)

Tailored training on sustainable project management was delivered to four Chevron Nigeria Limited HCDTs—Warri

Kingdom Coastal, Egbema-OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland. The training aimed to enhance the capabilities of the HCDT members, particularly the Board of Trustees (BOT), Advisory Committee (AC), and Management Committee (MC), in planning, execution, and monitoring community projects

Access to Energy (A2E)

There is a significant advancement in the collaboration with the HCDTs to expand renewable energy access focusing on building strong foundations for upcoming project implementation, with which to provide continuous technical support tailored to each HCDT's specific needs and timelines:

- **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT:** With PIND's technical support, the HCDT secured Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) approval for its Community Development Plan (CDP), which includes two upgrades and three new solar energy projects scheduled to commence in June 2025. This approval represents a critical step toward influencing the HCDT spend and co-investing on energy projects.
- **Ugboland HCDT:** Progressed was made in Identifying electrification priorities; Initiating comprehensive energy audits (currently underway); and planning project timelines and budgets.
- **KEFESSO HCDT** –Preliminary collaboration was established with this non-CNL HCDT PIND's Advocacy and BDS teams introduced the renewable energy model and prepared the ground for a potential kingdom-wide electrification initiative

Youth Employment Pathway

This quarter, two existing implementing partners, **Amy6015 Global Enterprise and, Micafotoy Technologies Ltd** – trained 78 Youths in **Ugboland HCDT** (Ondo State) in areas such as fashion, catering, solar and electrical installation, welding, plumbing, and soft skills. Of the 78 participants (54 males, 24 females) 31(22 females and 9 males) have already been linked to waged employment and other income-generating opportunities. These youths are expected to either establish enterprises or secure further employment.

Peace Building Activities in the HCDTs

A refresher training for **Early Warning and Early Response (EWER)** monitors was conducted in February 2025. Five participants each from **Omadino, Opuama, Ogulagha, Gbokoda, and Obotobo** which are **CNL HCDTs** were trained to enhance their conflict detection, reporting, and resolution capabilities. The training promoted peer learning and collaboration, strengthening their roles as frontline peace actors in the region.

Strategic Objective 5: Reduce conflict and promote peace – This objective focuses on ensuring the sustainable deployment of Partners for Peace (P4P) Network; integrating Peacebuilding with economic development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict dynamics. HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities.

Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q1 2025

The region experienced relative peace and stability in the first quarter of 2025, marked by a noticeable decline in incidents of lethal violence compared to the previous quarter. Data from the period indicates a 15% decrease in reported fatalities—from 173 in Q4 2024 to 147 in Q1 2025. This improvement reflects in the effectiveness of ongoing peacebuilding efforts, although some violence and insecurity persisted in various parts of the region.

Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding

In Q1 2025, the IPDU produced and disseminated numerous conflict early warning products to update peace and security stakeholders and facilitate targeted peacebuilding and conflict management interventions in the region. During this period, the IPDU disseminated 3 relevant conflict early warning alerts to 50 response actors, including the P4P Prevent Committees, Prevent Councils, and the EU-Niger Delta Project Consortium partners. Others are 11 data-driven research and analytical products, comprising 10 weekly conflict briefs and 1 annual (2024) Niger Delta Conflict Report. These products highlighted key risks such as organized criminal violence, cult/gang violence, communal tensions, violence against women and girls, ritual killings, mob violence, political tensions, and outbreak of infectious diseases in the region.

Utilization of EWER Platform

Conflict alerts, updates, and analytical reports generated via the SMS-based EWER platform were widely utilized by peace actors including Prevent Councils, P4P Network, and EU-Niger Delta Project Consortium Partners to support peacebuilding initiatives and strengthen community-level mitigation and response efforts across the Niger Delta. These products informed decision-making, intervention planning, and stakeholder engagements aimed at mitigating conflict risks.

Sustainable and effective deployment of P4P Network

The P4P Network continued to independently implement peace promoting interventions across the Niger Delta. In February, the Akwa Ibom State Chapter implemented projects aimed at fostering peace and economic empowerment in the Itiam and Mbiabong communities, in collaboration with the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace. A key activity during the reporting period was a workshop focused on interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding.

Linkage between Peace Building and Economic Development

During the reporting period, the connection between peacebuilding initiatives with economic development goals materialized through the continued collaboration between PIND and Okomu Oil Palm Company (OOPC). Both programs worked together to implement a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) in Okomu Oil Palm Company neighboring communities in Edo State.

This strategic engagement laid a strong foundation for peacebuilding, economic development, and stakeholder collaboration by addressing conflict triggers, identifying socio-economic gaps, and exploring opportunities for sustainable development in OOPC's host communities.

Strengthening Regional Ecosystem players

In preparation for the launch of the Niger Delta Regional Peace Strategy (NDRPS) which aims to include a wider range of peacebuilding stakeholders, PIND expanded its community-based peacebuilding efforts. In Q1 2025, three Prevent Councils were inaugurated in Abia, Edo and Ondo States to strengthen the capacity of traditional rulers and other key peace and security stakeholders. 60 Council members (20 from each state) were equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent, mitigate and resolve communal conflicts— especially those related to land and boundary disputes, thereby enhancing community resilience.

General Enabling programs

Advocacy

Strategic/Demand-Driven Support: In Q1 of 2025, PINDs' Advocacy achieved the following:

- Established formal strategic partnerships with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development to support the adoption of PINDs' Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) model and the Regional Peacebuilding Strategy.
- Developed 3 critical issue papers to address regional challenges providing a strong foundation for future programmatic interventions.
- Inaugurated a Technical Working Group to sustain advocacy efforts aimed at eliminating multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses in the Niger Delta.
- Supported the implementation of the Delta State land policy,
- Facilitated Host Community Development Trusts engagement in PIND's Access to Energy host community outreach.

Influencing and Tracking Policies: As part of its interventions to address the challenges of multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses in the Niger Delta, PIND inaugurated a Technical Working Group (TWG) in Q1 2025. The group is tasked with tracking, engaging, and advocating for tax reforms across the region.

Promotion of PIND's Models to Government & Private Sector

- **Federal Minister of Youth Development:** – A formal partnership was established between PIND and Federal Ministry of Youth Development and an MoU was developed to enable the adoption of the YEP model across Niger Delta states.
- **Bayelsa State:** Secured collaboration with Bayelsa State's Ministry of Youth Development, contributed to the review and validation of its draft youth policy, and positioned the YEP initiative to carry a Labor Market Assessment as a framework for future implementation.
- **Ministry of Regional Development:** identified pathways for implementing the NDRPS despite administrative and institutional changes in the Ministry; ensuring continuity of peacebuilding efforts under new ministerial frameworks.
- **TWG on Multiple Taxation** - Formed Technical Working Group with regional stakeholders, established Steering Committee with a one-year mandate; and began developing a comprehensive regional advocacy plan for tax reforms.

- **Delta State** - tracked implementation progress of agricultural/access to land policy; and gathered updates on Delta State land bank for smallholder farmers.
- **HCDT Engagements** - Introduced PIND's development models and services to Ugboland HCDT (a Chevron Nigeria Limited host community), encouraged adoption to enhance community impact and PIA implementation, built the capacity of CSOs through the Bridges Project, and developed a framework for mapping existing HCDTs and forming State Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs).

KM-COMMUNICATIONS

During the reporting period, Knowledge Management & Communications (KM-Comms) activities strengthened brand consistency across internal and external communications, boosted visibility of PIND's interventions through targeted media engagement and digital storytelling and provided quarterly digest to the PIND BOT. KM-Comms also advanced the redesign and updates of the new website (currently on track) and activated NDLink's transition, improving internal clarity on platform ownership and reporting process.

2025 PIND's IWD Event Summary

International Women's Day (IWD), observed annually on March 8th, celebrates women's achievements and advocates for gender equality. The 2025 UN theme, *"For ALL women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment"*, underscores the urgency to eliminate barriers to progress, overcome discrimination and violence, and advance the rights of women globally. As part of its commitment to fostering inclusive development, PIND celebrates IWD annually.

PIND's 2025 IWD activities focused on equipping women with technical skills for economic independence and building leadership capacity. These initiatives align with strategic goals of PIND's Economic Development Program (specifically the YEP Project) and Peacebuilding Program. The subtheme for 2025 was: *"Towards Beijing+30: Sustaining Women Empowerment for Livelihoods and Leadership."*

Business Development and Sustainability (BDS)

In 2025, BDS aims to raise \$1.5 million in alignment with its goal to diversify and expand its funding base. In Q1, the unit

- Developed and submitted four grant project proposals.
- Strengthening internal collaboration and coordinating around fundraising.
- Created the 2025 BDS Fundraising Tracker and Proposal Dashboard to monitor existing and prospective partners.
- Launched a proposal dashboard to manage and update submitted proposals.
- Having signed an agreement with Okomu Oil-Palm Company Plc, in December 2024, to conduct a quick community needs assessment (CNA), a technical committee between PIND and Okomu was set up to facilitate its execution. In Q1 2025, the CNA was conducted in 18 communities of the company in Edo State, and N3,575,200 was received from Okomu. Also, additional N192,000,000.00 from the EU-funded Project.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs:

Political Environment: On March 18, 2025, the President declared a state of emergency in Rivers State, suspending the Governor, Deputy Governor, and all elected members of the State House of Assembly. A sole administrator was appointed to manage the state's affairs. This development presents potential risks to ongoing and planned program activities, particularly those involving partnerships with service providers and implementing partners in Rivers State. PIND will develop and maintain a flexible contingency plan for cross-border engagements and explore virtual support options where appropriate.

Partners alignment with the revised strategy for MSD/YEP Phase IV program:

- **Market Systems Development (MSD):** Although initial engagements with service providers were successful in introducing the new strategic direction, full alignment remains a work in progress. This transition may temporarily affect the adoption and scaling of cross-sector service opportunities. PIND will continue to promote the cross-cutting approach to encourage faster partner alignment.
- **Youth Employment Pathways (YEP):** Some implementing partners are slowly adapting to the changes in YEP's strategy particularly the shift from directly implementing technical and vocational skills training to supporting

commercially driven training for TVETs by facilitating youth participation through scholarships and facility support grants. PIND will conduct both group and one-on-one clarification sessions with affected partners to enhance understanding, promote effectiveness, and foster continuous development of the TVET.

- **HCDTs: Delay in Community Development Plan (CDP) Addenda Approvals by NUPRC:** A significant bottleneck affecting project implementation by HCDTs' is the delay in approval of the CDP addenda by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). This delay is slowing momentum and impeding the translation of capacity-building gains into tangible outcomes. The Capacity Building (CB) and *Advocacy units may consider facilitating high-level policy dialogues, potentially support in collaboration with Chevron and the HCDTs to encourage expedited approvals.*
- **A2E: Loss of Critical Funding:** PIND's implementing partners Oghosa Energy and Vectics won a \$250,000 USAID grant to scale operations across cluster communities. However, the abrupt suspension of USAID support has rendered the funds inaccessible, delaying implementation and risking community trust.

PIND is assisting these partners in securing alternative funding, including ongoing discussions with GET.Invest, exploring low-interest financing through Infracredit, and identifying climate-focused funding aligned with the energy-health nexus.

A2E: Community Distrust Due to Empty Promises: Several developers have signed PPAs with communities to secure funding, but failed to deliver, leading to skepticism and eroding community trust. To address this, PIND is enforcing stricter developer vetting, requiring proof of technical and financial capacity before introducing developers to communities; defining penalties for default; and creating transparent community feedback mechanisms to report non-performing developers. These measures aim to restore credibility and ensure only committed developers gain access to communities. While these challenges tested our adaptability this quarter, the solutions we've put in place not only address immediate problems but also strengthen our long-term resilience against similar issues.

- **A2E: Developer Complacency:** Some partners are reluctant to scale beyond single project engagement. PIND is addressing this by facilitating regular engagement sessions to highlight growth opportunities and connect developers with relevant funding.
- **Advocacy: Policy/Government changes:** The reorganization of the Ministry of Niger Delta affairs led to uncertainty regarding the launch and implementation of the NDRPS. Other challenges arose due to the declaration of state of emergency in Rivers State, leading to changes in the composition of political appointees, affected engagement with key government stakeholders. PIND is leveraging its network of policy champions to engages new appointees and continue advancing advocacy goals.
- **PB: Persistent Insecurity:** Insecurity remains a critical challenge across the Niger Delta, with incidents ranging from armed robbery and kidnapping to intercommunal clashes and piracy. These security threats hinder investment, limit social interaction, and create an environment of fear, especially among youth seeking legitimate economic opportunities. This significantly limits activities in states like Abia and Imo. PIND will implement the new PB strategy to address these challenges and improve the peace outlook.

Lessons learned:

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs: The dry season (January-March) limited agricultural activity, which in turn created ample opportunity for strategic engagement. This window was effectively utilized for planning and conducting partner engagement meetings across all the thematic areas.

HCDTs Strategic Communications - Engagements with HCDTs revealed that effective communications and internal coordination among their key structures— Board of Trustees (BOT) Management Committee (MC), and advisory Committee (AC) are still evolving. As a result, it is essential to update the capacity-building curriculum to include modules on effective internal communications and coordination across these bodies.

A2E: Two key insights from Q1 2025 that will inform our future strategy:

- **Funding Linkages Require Constant Nurturing** - The sudden suspension of USAID funding highlighted the vulnerability of relying on single funding sources. Going forward, partners will continue to maintain diversified funding pipelines. PIND will support this by facilitating ongoing access to both local and international financing opportunities, ensuring that partners have fallback options.
- **Early HCDT Engagement is Crucial** – Providing technical assistance to the HCDTs early in the project lifecycle – during needs assessment, CDP validation, budgeting and planning phases, helps align priorities, reduces last-minute hurdle, and improves implementation outcomes.

- **Funding Instability:** Reductions in international aid such as recent U.S. policy shifts, underscore the need to explore alternative funding mechanisms. PIND is now supporting partners to access low-interest debt funds, climate financing and other diversified sources to ensure continuity of donor-dependent projects.

These lessons reinforce the notion that in rural energy access work, success is as dependent on solid preparatory work as it is on technical execution.

KM-COMMS: Cross-functional collaboration is key: Early coordination with PM&E and program teams was instrumental finalizing the Annual Report concept smoothly and on time. This approach will be replicated across other publication efforts to improve quality, reduce turnaround time, and ensure alignment across departments.

1.1 Summary of progress against 2025 targets

Table 1: The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2025 target as at Q1.

Strategic Objective 1: Better functioning market systems: for agricultural and MSME, youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy.			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q1
1. Number of targeted service providers reached and providing services across sectors (MSD), TVET centers/IPs (YEP) and energy providers (A2E)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	50	32
	Access to Energy (A2E)	10	6
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	15	To be measured in Q2
2. Equity Investments leveraged from the implementing partners as a result of successful adoption and adaptation programs in MSD, YEP and A2E (NGN)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD) (NGN)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E) (NGN)	2.5billion	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) (NGN)	50million	To be measured in Q3
3. Service providers experiencing increased productivity/income - Service providers, reached through project facilitation, who experienced increased productivity/income			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	30	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	10	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	15	To be measured in Q3
4. Net jobs created by the Partners' businesses (Energy providers/IPs/Other partners)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	**1	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
5. Percentage change in income of Partners (MSD/A2E/YEP)		10%	To be measured in Q3
6. Number of targeted farmers and enterprises reached with improved products and services, introduced through project facilitation.		100,000	To be measured in Q2
7. Farmers/businesses who experienced increased productivity/income in MSD/YEP; Realize a financial benefit as a result of access to clean energy (A2E)			

¹ ** Target for this is awaiting result of an ongoing analysis. This will be determined in Q2 2025

	Market System Development Program (MSD)	56,000	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	1,000	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	5,000	To be measured in Q3
8. Naira value of investment by farmers adopting/adapting the cross-cutting services and innovations (MSD); by new enterprises established under YEP; and Businesses accessing clean energy (A2E)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
9. Number of Jobs created by farmers who access partners' services; Number of jobs created by Businesses established in YEP; number of jobs created by Businesses who access clean energy under A2E. (This is distinct from the SPs contribution to jobs)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	13,750	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	1,000	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	5,000	To be measured in Q3
10. Net attributable income change [Naira value] - Aggregated change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) - MSD/YEP			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
11. Percentage change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) -MSD/YEP (%)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	15%	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
12. Change in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.			
	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) - Market System Development Program (MSD)	65%	To be measured in Q3
13	Number of households with access to energy solutions by the energy providers in the coastal/HCDTs and neighboring communities	4,000	To be measured in Q3
14	Number of businesses with access to energy solutions by the energy providers, promoting tested energy models around the productive use of energy for economic development of the coastal/HCDTs and neighboring communities	1,000	To be measured in Q3
15	Number of persons with access to clean energy.	24,000	To be measured in Q3
16	Number of youths with applicable skills from supported TVET centers/IPs (private and public) implementing innovative youth skills development model in the ND (completed training)	5,000	To be measured in Q3
17	Number of youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities after graduating from YEP program	5,000	To be measured in Q3
18	Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds	65	To be measured in Q3

19	Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions (NGN) - Businesses and Households (A2E) (NGN)	1billion	To be measured in Q3
Strategic Objective 2: Investment by donors/funders influenced by PIND in Niger Delta (\$50million)			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q1
20.	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by partners (Energy providers/IPs and other SPs) from external donors/funders - (50 million USD)	\$10million	To be measured in Q3
	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by Energy providers from external donors/funders - (USD)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by YEP IPs from external donors/funders - (USD)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Net Amount of funds raised/technical assistance from funders, donors, and private institutions by the CSOs/NGOs for local service provision (HCDTs + others) - (USD)	**	To be measured in Q3
21. Naira value of the demonstrable changes as a result of PIND-influenced Development Models, policies and initiatives in EDP and PB. (NGN) <i>Demonstrable changes (infrastructural and non-infrastructural projects) as a result of the implementation of: Long-term Development Plans (LTDP), Access to land Policy, NDRPS, policy on double taxation etc. by public and private institutions.</i>			
	Advocacy (Naira value - NGN)	100billion	To be measured in Q3
22. BDS Funds raised for PIND managed activities (Raise additional funds from private sector and donor community for PIND programs. A minimum of \$7.5 million raised for PIND, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding) - USD			
	BDS - Grants/Technical Services - (USD)	\$1.5million	To be measured in Q3
23.	Number of firm commitments by state governments institutions and other development agencies to replicate key aspects of PIND's youth employment pathways approaches, per year and cumulatively (YEP)	4	To be measured in Q3
24.	Number of state and non-state actors that adopt or adapt the model for youth job readiness, workforce development and entrepreneurship that is developed, tested, validated, and/or refined by PIND.	20	To be measured in Q3
Strategic Objective 3: Integration of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. (Pilot)			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q1
25.	Quantity of Co2 equivalent emissions reduced (metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) emissions) - <i>This is the cumulative amount of CO2 displaced from the deployment of renewable energy technologies for community and cluster businesses energy solutions</i>	20,000	To be measured in Q3
	A2E - Volume of reduction of GHG Emission from renewable energy	**	To be measured in Q3
	A2E - Value of carbon credit generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.) MSD, A2E in (NGN)	**	To be measured in Q3
	A2E- Sales of bio/organic products/ (NGN)	**	To be measured in Q3
26.	Number of MSMEs adopting climate smart technologies	2,000	To be measured in Q3
Strategic Objective 4: HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities: Enhance the capacity of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), to co-design and co-invest in interventions to stimulate skills development, linkages to markets, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation in their communities. Integration of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta.			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q1
27.	Capacity Building - Networks and organizations in the HCDTs showing net change in capacity index to enhance implementation of PIA.	4	To be measured in Q3

28. Capacity Building - Net change in capacity index of the HCDTs and others (OCA baseline of 0.5): Observable increase in the capacity of government and corporate partners to respond effectively to conflict dynamics, as evidenced by quarterly assessments and regional security reports.		1	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
29. Number of organizations, associations and networks accessing funds/grants with PIND assistance.		5	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
30. Capacity Building - Organizations providing improved services to the HCDTs		5	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
31. Capacity Building - Total amount of funds raised/technical assistance from funders, donors, and private institutions by the CSOs/NGOs for local service provision at the HCDTs (NGN) - to be reported as part of the \$50million target		200million	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
32. Number of targeted farmers and enterprises reached in the CNL HCDTs with improved products and services, introduced through project facilitation per year and cumulatively. This includes Youths with applicable skills in the CNL HCDTs			
	MSD - Targeted farmers and enterprises reached in the CNL HCDTs	1,000	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	YEP - Youths with applicable skills in the CNL HCDTs	500	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
33. Number of CNL HCDTs persons benefitting from Capacity Building (EDP and PB)		400	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
34. Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds in the HCDTs		20	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
35. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions in the HCDTs		10	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
36. CNL HCDTs with effective PB committee, and showing reduction in conflict risks		1	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
37. Rate of utilization of conflict data and insights by HCDTs , evidenced by policy or operational adjustments to increase adoption of community-specific, conflict-sensitive practices within HCDTs, shown by a reduction in local conflicts and enhanced community safety measures.		1	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
Strategic Objective 5: Reducing conflict and promoting peace: <i>Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding; ensuring a sustainable and effective deployment of P4P Network; cultivating linkage between Peace Building and Economic Development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict issues.</i>			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q1
38. Percentage of population reporting improved safety among local residents in the Niger - Delta - evidenced by persons reporting improved safety in their communities due to enhanced community-level engagement and resilience reflected in an increasing number of trained peace actors and community members adopting constructive conflict resolution techniques		10%	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
39. Strategic alignment activities (workshops, consultations, and roundtables) conducted with government and corporate stakeholders to enhanced strategic alignment of government and corporate peacebuilding frameworks (e.g., NDRPS and Chevron HCDTs) with local needs, demonstrated integration conflict sensitive data and inclusive approaches.		15	4
40. Autonomous peacebuilding project execution by P4P, evidenced by the submission of independent project proposals, signed agreement and successful management of grants.		9	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
41. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions.		20	<i>To be measured in Q2</i>
42. Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis - Utilization rate of EWER data and alerts by stakeholders, evidenced by subscribers.		100	22
43. Quarterly update from P4P detailing progress on independent projects activities, and regular peace outlook updates showing:		4	1
	i) New P4P members registered recorded/trained quarterly documented in the P4P quarterly reports		<i>To be measured in Q2</i>

ii) Quality actions taken by the P4P members reported quarterly in P4Pnetwork quarterly report		<i>To be measured in Q2</i>
44. Stakeholders incorporating conflict analysis insights into planning or interventions. (Greater adoption of peacebuilding strategies by local and international stakeholders informed by data and research products, evidenced by stakeholder feedback and application in policy or interventions)	5	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
45. Briefs/Trackers and Research Products published	36	11
46. Integrated plans and implementation strategy developed across peacebuilding and economic development teams, yielding joint interventions that are reported to enhance both stability and economic growth in targeted regions.	4	<i>1 (CNA for OOPC)</i>
47. Documented cases of improved economic stability linked to peacebuilding interventions, tracked semi-annually.	2	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
48. New business investments attracted to the ND due to increased safety.	20	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>

2. Context Analysis

Socio-Economic and Political Environment in Q1 2025

At the beginning of 2025, the socio-economic and political environment in the Niger Delta remained largely unchanged from the previous quarter. Poverty levels remained high, driven by economic constraints and persistent conflicts across the region. Several macroeconomic challenges continue to exert pressure on farmers and businesses including:

- **High Inflation Rates:** According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria's headline inflation rate stood at 24.23% in Q1 2025, down from 37% in Q4 2024. While this reflects some improvement, inflation remains high and continues to erode the purchasing power of farmers and MSMEs, increase input costs, and deepened poverty cycles in the Niger Delta.
- **Fuel Subsidy Removal & Rising Costs:** The removal of the fuel subsidy led to continuous increases in input prices and transaction costs for farmers and MSMEs, adversely affecting businesses and economic activities across the region.
- **Foreign Exchange Volatility:** Despite a temporary strengthening of the Naira in Q4 2024, the gains were not sustained. The continued volatility has increased agro-input costs and elevated transaction expenses for businesses.
- **Political Instability:** The declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State, which led to the suspension of the executive governor and the legislative arm, created significant uncertainty and potential security threats, affecting normal business operations in parts of the State.
- **Insecurity:** Security concerns remained a key challenge at both national and regional levels. These concerns have restricted mobility, disrupting supply chains, and heightening economic uncertainty for farmers and MSMEs.

2.1 Security

Kidnapping—both targeted or opportunistic, continues to be a significant threat across Nigeria, primarily driven by economic gains regardless of the victim's profile. In 2024, at least 2,694 kidnap incidents were reported, affecting no fewer than 14,784 kidnap victims nationwide. Although Q1 2025 recorded some improvements in peace and security across the Niger Delta, violent crimes persisted across the nine states of the region.

Notable Security Incidents in Q1 2025:

- **Ondo State (January 6, 2025 at 12:40 hrs.):** Increased tensions were reported in Igboroko and Ehinogbe communities, Owo town, Owo LGA, due to violent clashes between cult groups *Aye, the Eiye and the KK*.
- **Rivers State (January 15, 2025):**
- An armed robbery incident in Elejor, Onne (Eleme LGA) resulted in the fatal shooting of a Navy officer.
- **Federal Capital Territory (January 21, 2025 at 03:00 hrs.):**
- Armed robbers attacked a residential compound in AMAC, Abuja. An INGO employee and his neighbors were robbed of their valuables.

3. Key Programs Objectives and Achievements

This section outlines key achievements for Q1 2025 across programs in line with the strategic objectives.

3.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 (SO1)

Achieve better functioning market systems for agriculture and MSME, youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy that benefit 800,000 farmers and MSMEs, 50% of whom increase their income by 40%, the creation of 150,000 new jobs of which 50% will be youths and other vulnerable groups, and 250 communities electrified.

This objective aims to deepen the economic growth outcomes in the Niger Delta by addressing systemic constraints that hinder business operations and equitable distribution of economic benefits. In Q1 2025, the Market Systems Development (MSD), Access to Energy (A2E), and Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) programs collaborated with cross-cutting units of the Foundation such as Capacity Building and Advocacy to advance interventions for farmers and MSMEs. The details are provided in the following sections.

3.1.1 Market Systems Development (MSD) – SO1

The MSD program supports farmers and small enterprises across key agricultural value chains in the Niger Delta to boost productivity, increase income and reduce poverty. The program employs a market systems development approach, beginning with in-depth market analysis to uncover root causes of dysfunction and design interventions that address underlying market failures rather than surface-level symptoms.

In Phases I, II, and III (2010 – 2024), PIND implemented a sector-based interventions across five agricultural value chains: aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry, including business linkages. The program identified binding constraints within these value chains and developed sustainable solutions that increased the income of thousands of poor men and women. To ensure sustainability, PIND adopted a Service Providers' model, equipping local Service Providers with the skills, tools, and networks needed to offer viable market solutions that addressed the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises. Over 12 years, the MSD program reached approximately 450,000 farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across these value chains.

Based on insights from project implementation experience, technical review sessions, the 2023 Impact Evaluation study, and the 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR), PIND has shifted from a commodity-focused to a cross-cutting intervention approach. This transition is designed to amplify benefits across multiple value chains and strengthen the Service Providers' model for more transformative and scalable impact.

During this current phase (2025 – 2029), PIND aims to develop well-functioning, resilient market systems in the Niger Delta that respond to farmers' needs to increase productivity, link to markets, and increase incomes. The program will engage and support at least 400 new and existing service providers/market actors to reach 800,000 farmers with improved business models, building on successes of the past 12 years. The goal is to create additional 110,000 new jobs over the next five years (2025-2029) and support climate adaptation by farmers through the promotion of green, climate-smart business model innovations.

The MSD thematic areas for this phase are as follows:

- **Access to Agricultural Inputs (Fertilizers, CPPs, Feed, Vaccines, etc.)** - Strengthening and incentivizing lead firms and agro-dealers to drive innovations that improve access to quality inputs and knowledge on good agronomic practices.
- **Access to Seeds** - Promoting the use of quality seeds across various value chains by identifying and addressing constraints to their availability and use across value chains
- **Access to Technical Services** - Incentivizing and Strengthening service providers to lead innovations in good agronomic practices and farm services.
- **Access to Business Development Services and Finance** -
- Enhancing the delivery of business support services and financial access through BDS providers in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital and a planned SPV for impact investing.
- **Access to Industrial Market and Agricultural Technology** - Improving access to markets and climate-friendly agricultural technologies by Incentivizing large buyers and equipment manufacturers to promote quality, processing, and storage innovations.

Key MSD Achievements in Q1 2025:

i) Identification and Engagement of Potential Partners

In 2025, MSD initiated the identification and engagement of entrepreneurial partners/service providers with the goal of enabling them to deliver cross-cutting services to farmers and MSMEs using PIND's improved models. The partners are being supported to build cross-sectoral knowledge, adopt business attitudes and practices by training and supporting farmers/MSMEs across the five themes, mention above.

In Q1 2025, engagement meetings were held to build shared understanding, introduce the new direction, highlight emerging opportunities within the broader service landscape, and stimulate interest among service providers in adapting their services across multiple commodities and sectors. These engagements focused on fostering collaboration, identifying opportunities for co-creation and co-investment, and laying the groundwork for expanding scalable, market-driven services.

32 Partners and service providers participated in these meetings including:

- **Access to Technical and Business Services** - Engagements were held with Extension Africa, CAD Consulting Ltd, Afrotropic Farming and Agro Services Ltd, and the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT). These discussions focused on focused on integrating digital extension tools and research-backed advisory services into wider interventions.
- **Access to Seeds** - Strategic engagement meetings were held with partners such as East-West Seed, Umudike Seed, Afritropic, Harvestfield Industries Limited, NIHORT, and Saro Agrosiences Limited. The focus was on expanding access to climate-smart seed varieties, strengthening distribution systems, and engaging smallholder farmers. Existing nursery operators in cocoa, oil palm, and cassava were also contacted in preparation for the planting season.
- **Access to input** –Preliminary discussions with key input firms, including Harvest Field, Saro Agrisciences, CHC Agritec, and Selagro limited were held to explore potential partnerships in distributing fertilizers, CPPs, organic inputs, and feed. Deal notes are being drafted to formalize collaborations.
- **Access to Industrial Market and Technology** - Engagements were held with Seven (7) stakeholders and prospective partners including TA commodities, Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), PULA, ILO-ACCEL AFRICA, Cold hubs, and the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment. These engagements led to the development of a Terms of Reference (ToR) for piloting a market access or aggregation model across identified commodities.

ii) **Partners' Outputs:** All service providers and other partners identified and engaged in Q1 are currently undergoing profiling. Activities will commence in Q2 2025 and which will be reported Accordingly.

iii) Cross Program Synergy and third-party Projects:

During the quarter, MSD supported implementation of the YCAP MasterCard Project and collaborated with other programs to complete the community needs assessment for Okomu Oil Palm Company (OPC) in Edo state. The results from the assessment will guide intervention activities that will be implemented in the coming quarters.

3.1.2 Access to energy (A2E) – SO1

Many coastal rural communities in the Niger Delta suffer from poor electrification, with little to no access to regular electricity for basic household needs and economic activities. Given the high costs and difficult terrain, connection to the national grid in these areas remains unlikely in the near future. Since 2018, PIND has sought to close this gap by delivering alternative and affordable off-grid energy solutions. These interventions address not only basic energy needs (lighting and cooking) but also power microenterprises] like barber shops, beauty salons, and other small businesses.

During the Phase III, PIND's A2E built on legacy programming to establish key partnerships between communities, energy developers, and the donor community. This ecosystem supported innovative and sustainable business models that

expanded energy access to underserved, last-mile coastal communities in the Niger Delta. These efforts led to tangible improvements in healthcare, education, digital connectivity, and other critical welfare services—while also advancing climate goals through decarbonized energy pathways that align with broader sustainable development objectives.

Strategy for Phase IV (2025–2029):

In this new strategic Phase (2025 – 2029), the A2E program will scale up the gains from Phase III by expanding an inclusive, decentralized renewable energy (DRE) ecosystem to unserved coastal and non-coastal communities across the Niger Delta. This phase takes a holistic approach to improving energy access by engaging a wide range of actors across the renewable energy value chain. The goal is to support productive and essential energy use in agriculture, healthcare, and small enterprises, ultimately improving livelihoods and quality of life.

This phase will enhance market conditions for distributed renewable energy models through:

- **Capacity Building:** Training new energy developers to meet the specific needs of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) and neighboring communities;
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Working with government agencies like the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), and financial institutions, and carbon market players to fund and scale healthcare and community electrification projects.
- **Advocacy and Market Stimulation:** Collaborating with PIND’s advocacy unit to address regulatory and investment barriers, promote energy productivity for agriculture and enterprise, and unlock carbon finance opportunities by engaging carbon credit brokers to stimulate market opportunities for renewables, creating scalable models and investment potential for low-carbon growth.

Additionally, A2E will directly contribute to climate-resilient development by expanding access to electricity for agricultural productivity, community well-being; and decarbonization through renewable energy solutions.,

Through broad stakeholder engagement and scalable models, A2E will continue to drive socio-economic transformation across the region.

Key A2E Achievements in Q1 2025:

As the first quarter of the new strategic phase (2025 – 2029), activities focused on planning and laying the groundwork for renewable energy expansion across the Niger Delta. While implementation will commence in coming quarters, we achieved critical preparatory milestones and established systems for successful implementation as follows:

- Secured approval for two upgrades and three new solar energy projects in Egbema-OPUDIS communities through their NUPRC-approved CDP, implementation begins in June 2025.
- Conducted preliminary energy audits in Ugboland HCDT communities after identifying electrification priorities.
- Positioned A2E as a technical partner in two upcoming Energy-Health initiatives (NTU international and NSHP), leveraging PIND’s HETA project experience.
- Initiated early discussions with REAN for co-creation opportunities and developed a framework for an innovation challenge fund in Q2 to support mini-grid solutions.

i) Direct engagement with energy providers

This quarter, PIND connected with several renewable energy developers - *Protergia Energy, Nline, A1 Power Technologies, PrimeVolts Solar, and Kamim Technology, Volte health systems limited*; and investors through targeted meetings. These engagements, introduced PIND’s proven models, explored collaboration opportunities, and promoted implementation in hard-to-reach coastal and HCDT communities to expand renewable energy access across the Niger Delta.

The developers we are currently handholding will deliver renewable energy solutions to three key groups in the Niger Delta’s most remote coastal communities. All targeted locations are unserved coastal communities where energy access will transform both livelihoods and social services as follows:

- **Fishing communities** currently lacking electricity, —targeted for hybrid solar solutions to address both household and economic needs.
- **Last-mile Chevron host communities**, to reduce reliance on diesel generators **Local health facilities**, which will benefit from subsidized energy supply for vaccine storage and medical equipment.

ii) Conference participation and model sharing

We actively promoted our renewable energy solutions at key industry events: Through these strategic engagements,

we're building a strong network of energy partners to expand clean energy access in last-mile coastal communities across the Niger Delta.

- At the Nigerian Academy of Science Climate Conference, PIND showcased how our Energy Cabin and solar refrigeration hubs create both community impact and commercial viability, making a compelling case for developer participation.
- During the SEforALL-WHO Powering Healthcare Conference in Nairobi, PIND's attracted health-energy developers by presenting success stories from our HETA project implementation.
- At the REAN Just Energy Transition Conference, PIND presented its A2E framework to encourage adoption by renewable energy stakeholders.

iii) Partners' Outputs

Our Q1 engagements have transformed how energy providers view renewable solutions for coastal communities. Developers have progressed from initial interest to active preparation, demonstrating growing confidence in the A2E model's viability. Protergia Energy has committed to deploying the model across multiple communities and formally requested PIND's support for community identification and technical expertise. Other partners including A1 Power Technologies and Kamim Technology are preparing to deploy a hybrid model that combines Energy Cabins with solar refrigeration hubs. This approach builds on proven successes in delivering both energy access and productive cooling services to fishing communities.

All partners are currently in the final planning stages before launching community engagement activities. PIND is providing technical assistance in site selection, project designs, and implementation planning. These preparations also focus on integrating productive use applications to maximize both community impact and project sustainability.

3.1.3 Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) – SO1

The YEP program aims to strengthen youth skills development ecosystem by identifying job creation opportunities, supporting technical and vocational training centers (TVET), and fostering sustainable, market-driven training models. The program targets disadvantaged young men and women in the Niger Delta and equips them with technical and soft skills to access employment or launch businesses.

During Phase III (2020-2024), the private TVET centers adopted and commercialized YEP's training models. Now, in Phase IV (2025-2029), the focus is on supporting TVETs to scale their operations, enhancing the effectiveness of training programs, and ensuring sustainability by deepening partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders. This strategy outlines below the key intervention areas that will drive the program forward, ensuring a greater impact on youth employability and entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta:

- Develop an infrastructure of private sector-led TVET and training firms who will invest in developing commercially driven training for youth skills development to meet market demand: *The YEP model will be scaled by strengthening both existing and new skills development structures.*
- Increase the efficiency of YEP funding to fund more skills training to underserved youths (Leverage YEP resources to deliver skills training to underserved youths): *A demand-driven approach to skills development in the Niger Delta will be promoted*
- Promote adoption and adaptation of the YEP model and framework by States and other Institutions to improve employability, program delivery, and sustenance: *This initiative will involve providing technical assistance and fostering collaborations with government departments, agencies, and institutions focused on Youth Employment Pathways program.*
- Facilitate Chevron HCDTs and fence line communities to actively invest through the YEP model to drive skills development for community Youths for livelihood opportunities (Employment/Business Venture).
- Increased integration with PIND ED sectors: *This strategy focuses on identifying critical skills across other PIND Economic Development units and developing targeted training programs by YEP partners in collaboration with key components such as MSD, A2E and the Peacebuilding program.*

Key Youth Employment Pathways Achievements in Q1 2025:

i) Identification and selection of implementing partners for YEP

In 2025, YEP plans to identify, select and upgrade (build the capacity) of private training centers to strengthen existing and new skill development structures/IPs to scale YEP Model, provide a wider range of skills development services and improved skills service delivery in the ND.

In Q1 2025, a capacity assessment of 40 skills training organizations – *potential implementing partners for PIND*, was conducted to determine their current service delivery status and gaps with respect to their potential and eligibility to participate and partner with the YEP program in the current phase. The preliminary insights from the assessment were that the training organizations are underutilizing the capacity that exists in their training centers, with only about an average of 17% capacity utilized - a combined maximum training capacity of 6,320 persons, but only 1,088 persons' capacity is being utilized in various vocational skills. The findings would be used to determine IPs selection and onboarding for YEP program in 2025.

ii) **Promote Youths development in States**

Promoting YEP model and framework across states and other institutions, is a key milestone for YEP. In Q1 2025, several engagement activities toward working with states and other institutions were carried out as follows:

- Met with the Delta State Job and Wealth Creation Bureau; and the Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development, and would be completed in Q2 2025.
- Engaged with the Nigerian Philanthropy Office (NPO) to promote financing of startup businesses for YEP beneficiaries using a challenge fund.
- Set up a process for review and renewal of the existing MoU with Ibom-LED and BATVE that was signed in December 2023 and January 2024 for sustained partnership.
- Collaborated with the Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Effurun, Delta State, to conduct job readiness orientation to graduating students. The objective of the exercise was to increase young professionals' awareness of the demand-driven career options required in today's job market. The exercise showcased the YEP model and job readiness approaches, and employability opportunities for over 400 graduates.

iii) **Partners' Outcomes (legacy from previous engagement)**

The outcome monitoring in quarter 1 of 2025, shows that 3 partner organizations, Amy6015 Global Enterprise, Micafotoy Technologies Ltd, and Ibom-LED independently completed technical and vocational skills training of 138 youths across two sectors - building and construction in Ondo and Akwa Ibom States. The training was completed using the NDYEP framework, which includes soft skills, job readiness, entrepreneurship, peace, and conflict sensitivity modules and without involvement of YPE team.

3.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 (SO2)

Influence \$50million Investment by donors/funders in the Niger Delta by PIND; Raise a minimum of \$7.5 million additional funds from private sector and donor community for PIND programs, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.

This objective is to influence investments into the Niger Delta from external donors and funders to deepen the economic growth outcomes in the region through improved interventions to address systemic constraints hindering business functionality and equitable delivery of business gains to market players. PIND's effort toward attracting more investment into the Niger Delta will be deployed through the Economic Development (ED), and Peace Building (PB) Programs. This is distinct from the equity investments leveraged through Service Providers, Implementing Partners and Energy Providers' business expansions which would be tracked under SO1

Additionally, new funds from private sector and donor community would be raised for PIND programs through the activities of PIND's Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) unit. A minimum of \$7.5 million would be raised for PIND, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.

Also, government's funds spent on projects emanating from PIND-influenced development models, policies and initiatives, (e.g. Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS), Access to Land Policy, State long-term development plans, etc.), and resulting in demonstrable changes will be tracked and reported, annually.

Q1 2025 Strategic Objective 2 (SO2) Key Achievements:

The foundational activities aligned with this strategic objective commenced in Q1 2025, across all programs. These will be tracked and reported in subsequent quarters.

3.3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 (SO3)

Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. This objective is to stimulate market for carbon credits (value generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.); reduce GHG emission through renewable energy; develop community mitigation plans for the negative impacts of flooding, and engage enterprises selling bio/organic products.

PIND is progressing on climate resilience through its A2E efforts, which have deployed solar energy solutions with a combined installed capacity of 1,836.99 kWp during the 2020- 2024 strategic phase. These systems generated a remarkable 242,482,680 kWh of clean energy, offsetting 91,537.21 metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) emissions. By displacing emissions from conventional energy sources, these projects aligned with global climate action goals while simultaneously bolstering local economies in the Niger Delta. PIND will expand effort to report CO2 displaced through the deployment of renewable energy technologies for community and cluster businesses energy solutions in the current phase.

The Market System Development program will highlight key components of the climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta through the promotion and adoption of efficient climate-smart agro-allied practices and technologies.

Example include tracking and reporting the climate benefits of Chokor oven and Smoking Kilns adoption compared to traditional drum methods calculating CO equivalence saved through the deployment of solar solutions for fish drying instead of using drums and fire wood; and supporting, mitigation plans for flood impact through community-based initiatives, including replanting in plantation crop areas.

Q1 2025 Strategic Objective 3 (SO3) Key Achievements:

i) Access to energy

During this first quarter, we laid critical groundwork to advance climate-resilient renewable energy solutions for the Niger Delta. While the implementation of the Cabins and Solar Refrigeration Hubs will commence in next quarter, foundational activities included:

- Participation in the Nigerian Academy of Science Climate Conference, where the solar refrigeration hub was positioned as a dual climate solution—reducing emissions from traditional fish smoking and enhancing food security. This early-stage advocacy is crucial for building stakeholder buy-in.
- Engagement at the G.E.T Invest Nigeria launch, where we presented our coastal energy solutions as viable climate investments to potential funders and developers. These early engagements helped build awareness of climate benefits, identify financing opportunities, and establish the deployment of partnerships.

ii) Market System Development Program

PIND recognizes that integrating climate adaptation and mitigation practices into agricultural input interventions is essential for building resilience in the Niger Delta. A key strategic focus this quarter was engaging organizations aligned with the climate resilience objectives to establish partnerships that promote climate-smart practices and technologies in the region.

In Q1 2025, PIND had engagement meetings with **CHC Agritec and Selagro** (*specialist in organic and environmentally friendly products*) with the goal of incorporating sustainable practices into PIND input distribution model. This will ensure that farmers have access to inputs such as organic fertilizers and environmentally safe crop protection products. These practices enhance soil health, reduce environmental degradation, and promote sustainable farming practices.

iii) Peace Building Program

Deployment of a climate-related data filter is ongoing on the Peace Map. This filtered data will showcase environmental risks and hazards (ERH) data of the Niger Delta—including flooding, windstorm, gully erosion and oil spillage. The ERH data will complement conflict data already on the Peace Map and provide essential context to guide climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives implemented by the Peacebuilding and Economic Development programs, as well as external stakeholders in the region.

3.4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 (SO4)

HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities: This objective supports HCDTs to co-invest in their priority projects, improving economic and peace outcomes through enhanced capacity to co-design and implement interventions that stimulate skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation in their communities.

PIND's value proposition to Chevron will be optimized under this objective when CNL HCDTs, networks and organizations show measurable improvement in their capacity to advance economic and peace agendas. This includes the development and application of policies and frameworks that foster an enabling environment for sustainable development, and clear evidence of co-investment in priority projects.

To deliver this objective, all PIND program areas are deliberately aligned. Economic and Peacebuilding projects will be co-designed and co-invested in to advance economic and peace goals in the HCDT communities.; and, CSOs, NGOs, Private sectors players will play key roles in shaping of the HCDTs development agendas across all of PIND's programming.

Q1 2025 Strategic Objective 4 (SO4) Key Achievements

Market Systems Development (MSD): During the quarter, the MSD team participated in an engagement meeting with Ugboland HCDT to identify areas of co-investment and support in implementing their community development plans. Following this engagement, the HCDT developed a budget for proposed agribusiness investment focused on fishing and MSME development. This plan will be further reviewed and finalized in the next quarter when the community development business (CDB) plan is approved.

Capacity Building (CB): In Q1 2025, the CB team successfully conducted tailored sustainable project management training for four Chevron Nigeria Limited Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs): Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema-OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland. The training strengthened the capacities of the Board of Trustees (BOT), Advisory Committee (AC), and Management Committee (MC), in sustainable project planning, execution, and monitoring. The event also showcased PIND's development models, and involved the **Advocacy, Youth YEP, Business Development, Access to Energy (A2E), and Peacebuilding units**, who introduced PIND's vision and service offerings and proposed the adoption of PIND's proven development models to enhance community impact.

Access to Energy: This quarter, there was significant advancement in collaboration with HCDTs to expand renewable energy access:

- **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT:** We provided hands-on support as the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) approved their community development plan (CDP), which includes two upgrades and three new solar energy projects scheduled to commence implementation in June 2025. This milestone is critical for influencing the HCDT spending and co-investing in energy projects.
- **Ugboland HCDT:** PIND's new engagement with Ugboland HCDT progressed through several preparatory stages, including Identifying priority communities for electrification; Initiating comprehensive energy audits (currently underway); and Planning for project planning and budgeting.
- **KEFESSO HCDT** - We established preliminary collaboration with this non-CNL HCDT, alongside Advocacy and BDS teams This included laying groundwork for future partnership, introducing PIND's renewable energy model, and preparing for potential kingdom-wide electrification projects.

All engagements this quarter focused on building strong foundations for upcoming project implementation and providing continuous technical support tailored to each HCDT's specific needs and timelines.

Youth Employment Pathways (YEP): This quarter, two existing implementing partners, Amy6015 Global Enterprise and, Micafotoy Technologies Ltd, trained of 78 youths in Ugboland HCDT in Ondo State. The training covered fashion, catering, solar installation, electrical installation, welding, plumbing, and soft skills. Among the 78 trained youths (54 males and 24 females), 31, (22 females and 9 males), have been linked to waged employment and other income-generating opportunities. These youths are expected to either establish their own enterprises or gain formal employment.

Peace Building Activities in the HCDTs:

To improve the enabling environment for HCDTs co-investments, a refresher training for Early Warning and Early

Response (EWER) was conducted in February 2025 for five participants each from Omadino, Opuama, Ogulagha, Gbokoda, and Obotobo — CNL host communities. The training enhanced participants' ability to identify early signs of conflict, report incidents promptly, and apply non-adversarial resolution strategies. It also enabled peer learning, experience sharing, and collaboration, reinforcing their role as frontline peace actors in the region.

PIND facilitated a series of intercommunal dialogues across 14 conflict-prone communities in Bayelsa and Delta states. Omadino community, a CNL HCDT, in Warri South LGA, Delta State, benefited from this intercommunal dialogue aimed at addressing key conflict drivers, including land disputes, drug abuse, and illiteracy. The session provided a safe space for community members to express concerns, share perspectives, and co-create a joint action plan under the Intercommunal Peace Initiative.

The dialogues led to a locally-driven peace initiative in which Omadino and Otegele communities designed and implement a joint campaign against drug and substance abuse. As part of this efforts, they agreed to –install a community awareness billboard to reinforce anti-drug messaging. The Initiative was formally launched on March 11, 2025, at Omadino community hall, with 20 participants from each community in attendance, and a commitment to share the message across wider communities in the region.

3.5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 (SO5)

Reduce conflict and promote peace - ensuring a sustainable and effective deployment of the P4P Network; cultivating linkages between Peacebuilding and Economic Development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict issues. HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities.

Building on over a decade of achievements, the Peace Building Program aims to more centrally position PIND as a strategic enabler of sustainable peace and development in the region. In Phase IV (2024-2029), the Peace Building Program will bridge communities, government, and corporate stakeholders, empowering the P4P Network to independently manage peacebuilding initiatives in a way that aligns with broader development strategies. By linking peacebuilding with economic growth initiatives, PIND will promote a holistic model that leverages economic stability as a foundation for long-term peace, positioning itself as a catalyst for enduring stability and prosperity in the region through then following approaches:

- **Research:** With its cutting-edge early warning and early response system, PIND is positioned as an essential resource for community, government, and private sector stakeholders seeking timely, high-quality insights on conflict dynamics in the Niger Delta. This strategic role is supported by innovative tools and products, enabling stakeholders to make informed, proactive decisions that align with the broader peace and development agenda.
- **Community Empowerment:** The P4P Network will transition to full independence, positioning itself as a capable grantee of PIND and other potential donors. Expanding on over a decade of grassroots peacebuilding across the nine states and 119 LGAs of the Niger Delta, P4P will restructure program delivery to autonomously initiate and manage peacebuilding activities, fostering an integrated, stable environment for economic growth. To support this transition, PIND will reimagine its role as a donor—drafting targeted RFPs and templates, providing constructive feedback on proposals, and facilitating After Action Reviews—to enhance P4P's capacity, sustainability, and impact in the region.
- **Government and Corporate Frameworks:** PIND will strengthen collaboration with government and corporate stakeholders to align peacebuilding frameworks with local needs, driving regional stability and creating pathways for the replication and scaling of successful peacebuilding interventions. By partnering with the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) and supporting the Petroleum Industry Act's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDT), PIND will provide community-specific conflict data and insights, empowering stakeholders to adopt conflict-sensitive practices that can be replicated across diverse contexts. Through collaborative workshops and consultations, PIND will ensure that peacebuilding outcomes are integrated into strategic planning processes, enabling interventions that are data-driven, adaptable, and designed for broader impact across the Niger Delta.
- **Linking PB with ED:** Finally, PIND will focus on integrating peacebuilding with economic development to foster long-term stability and prosperity across the Niger Delta. By aligning peacebuilding initiatives with economic goals, PIND will implement joint planning frameworks and conduct conflict-sensitive assessments in economically active regions. These efforts will ensure that economic interventions are designed to minimize conflict risks and support sustainable livelihoods. Through this integrated approach, PIND aims to create

multiplier effects where economic stability reinforces peace, resulting in safer, more resilient communities that attract investment and promote regional growth.

3.5 Q1 2025 Strategic Objective 5 (SO5) Key Achievements:

Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q1 2025: The Niger Delta experienced relative peace and stability in the first quarter of 2025, marked by a noticeable decline in incidents of lethal violence compared to the previous quarter. Data from the period indicates a 15% decrease in reported fatalities, with the number of deaths dropping from 173 in Q4 2024 to 147 in Q1 2025. This reduction in fatalities reflects progress in ongoing peacebuilding and conflict management efforts across the region. However, despite this progress, incidents of violence and insecurity persisted in various parts of the region during the period.

Analysis of conflict trends for the period revealed that the primary drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta were criminal violence (including kidnapping for ransom), communal conflict, and clashes between rival cult gangs. Criminal violence, particularly kidnapping for ransom and clashes between criminal groups and security forces, remained a major security concern across all nine states of the region. Communal conflicts, often driven by disputes over land ownership, boundary disagreements, resource control, and inter-communal tensions, also contributed significantly to incidents of violence during the period. In addition, cult and gang violence, especially violent clashes between rival cult groups, continued to fuel insecurity, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas of the region.

The highest fatalities resulting from criminal violence during the quarter were recorded in Delta, Ondo, Edo, Rivers, and Imo States. These states emerged as major hotspots for criminality and violence, largely due to the prevalence of kidnapping gangs, clashes between criminal gangs and government security operatives, and cult-related violence. While criminal violence remained widespread across the region, data indicates a 21% decrease in related fatalities, dropping from 119 in Q4 2024 to 94 in Q1 2025.

Despite this decline, kidnapping for ransom and armed clashes between criminal gangs and government security forces continued to fuel insecurity during the period. Clashes between criminal gangs and security forces accounted for about 40 fatalities in Q1 2025, representing a 55% decrease from 87 fatalities recorded in Q4 2024. However, these clashes remained a significant source of lethal violence, particularly in hotspot states such as Delta, Rivers, Ondo, Edo, and Imo.

3.5.2 Peacebuilding highlights of activities in Q1 2025

Nonetheless, PIND is relentlessly undertaking interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta region as part of the plan of action aimed at keeping the level of violence low, particularly in key communities of interest. PIND continued to leverage on its PB social infrastructure and social capital of peace actors across the region for long-term sustainable peace. PIND's peacebuilding strategy recognizes the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict; adopting innovative approaches to work on problems of militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). The following provides details of the activities carried out in Q1 2025.

i) Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding

In Q1 of 2025, the IPDU produced and disseminated numerous data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products to inform peace and security stakeholders and facilitate targeted peacebuilding and conflict management interventions in the region. During this period, the IPDU disseminated 3 conflict early warning alerts to 50 response actors, including the P4P Prevent Committees, Prevent Councils, and the EU-Niger Delta Project Consortium partners.

The IPDU also produced 11 data-driven research and analytical products, comprising 10 weekly conflict briefs and the 2024 Niger Delta Conflict Report. These reports highlighted trends and risks and such as organized criminal violence, cult/gang violence, communal tensions, violence against women and girls, ritual killings, mob violence, political tensions, and outbreak of infectious diseases in the region. These research products were shared with various stakeholders, including local peace actors, civil society organizations (CSOs), government security agencies, and development actors at the local, national, and international levels. The goal was to create situational awareness, update stakeholders, support situation analysis, and guide conflict

management interventions to address the root causes of the conflict and insecurity in the region.

Data from IPDU's SMS-based EWER platform, guided the actions of Prevent Councils, P4P Network, and EU-Niger Delta Project Consortium Partners, informing intervention design, community engagement, and risk mitigation strategies across the region.

ii) Sustainable and effective deployment of P4P Network

In Q1 2025, the P4P Network continued to carry out independent peacebuilding interventions across the Niger Delta. In February 2025, the Akwa Ibom State Chapter in collaboration with the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, implemented projects to promote peace and economic empowerment in the Itiam and Mbiabong communities. The chapter also organized a workshop focused on interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding. Additionally, they provided vulnerable community members with essential tools such as sewing machines, wheelbarrows, and grinding engines to foster economic stability and social harmony.

In Abia State, the Peace Clubs' initiatives are using health and sports as powerful tools for positive change. At Girls' Secondary School, Uzuakoli, the Peace Club organized a fitness road walk combined with an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, and sought support of local traditional leaders to promote peace and health initiatives. Similarly, the Peace Club of Uzuakoli Boys' Secondary School led a road walk advocating for the use of sports to deter anti-social behavior, partnering with a State Constituency Member to amplify their message. In addition, the Bende Subchapter of Abia P4P conducted health-focused advocacy campaigns at the local Primary Health Centre, raising awareness about malaria and HIV/AIDS. This initiative offered free malaria testing and medications to community members, reinforcing the connection between public health and peace. Collectively, these efforts highlight the diverse and impactful ways in which P4P is fostering peace and community resilience across the Niger Delta.



Figure 1. Itiam and Mbiabong beneficiaries of tools for economic activities

iii) Linkage between Peace Building and Economic Development

During the reporting period, the linkage between peacebuilding initiatives with economic development goals was exemplified through the ongoing collaboration between PIND and Okomu Oil Palm Company (OOPC). This collaboration involved the implementation of a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) neighboring communities of OOPC in Edo State. This engagement is a strategic foundation for peacebuilding, economic development, and stakeholder collaboration by managing and transforming conflict triggers, addressing socio-economic gaps, and identifying sustainable development opportunities for in OOPC host communities.

The CNA, conducted from March 9–27, 2025, sought to provide a holistic understanding of the socio-political dynamics influencing peace and development within the communities of Odighi, Odiguetue, Owan, Agbanikaka, Umokpe, Orhua, Irhue, Ekpan, Oke, Uhiere, Safarogbo, Gbelebu, Madagbayo, Ofunama, Inikorogha, Gbole-Uba, Udo, and Okomu. The findings from key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and surveys revealed a strong community interest in peacebuilding and inclusive development.

This process enabled PIND and OOPC to identify and align on strategic interventions that leverage PIND's proven tools and frameworks—such as the Market Systems Development (MSD) model, Access to Energy (A2E), Youth Employment Pathways (YEP), access to finance, the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems, and the Partners for Peace (P4P) network. These platforms will inform and guide future targeted programs designed to promote social cohesion,



Figure 2. Focus Group Discussion in one of the Okomu OPC communities

reduce conflict, and foster sustainable development.

iv) Strengthening Regional Ecosystem players

In preparation for the launch of the Niger Delta Regional Peace Strategy (NDRPS) which will incorporate broader peacebuilding stakeholders, PIND continued to expand its community-based peacebuilding. In Q1 2025, three Prevent Councils were inaugurated in Abia, Edo and Ondo States to strengthen the capacity of traditional rulers and other key peace and security actors who made up the Prevent Councils.

Each Prevent Council—comprising 20 members per state—was selected from conflict-prone communities and local government areas. These councils were trained in early conflict identification, mediation techniques, and collaborative resolution methods to enhance community resilience, particularly around land and boundary disputes. Their establishment marks a significant step in institutionalizing community-led peace mechanisms and expanding the regional ecosystem for sustainable peacebuilding



L-R: Abia, Edo and Ondo Prevent Council Members

4. General Enabling Programs Delivery and Achievements

This section presents key achievements in Q1 2025 for initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

1. PIND's work is anchored on two interrelated pillars: (1) Economic Development program, focused on
2. on enabling pro-poor market development and job creation.

; and (2) Peace Building program, centered on strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms to promote sustainable peace and economic growth.

To support, enable, measure the outcomes of these pillars, PIND implements several cross-cutting initiatives:

- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the capabilities of Business Membership Organizations (BMOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and local communities, for sustainable development.
- **Advocacy:** influencing public policies, practices, and programs, using in-depth analysis in addressing systemic constraints to regional growth through evidence-based engagements.
- **Communications:**
- Ensuring consistent, high-impact messaging that amplifies PIND's models, results, and learning.
- **Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E):** Tracking and assessing performance and ensuring data-driven decision-making across all program areas.

4.1 Capacity Building

As a key enabler of PIND's 2025 – 2029 strategy, the Capacity Building program is designed to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of Chevron Host Community Development Trusts HCDTs, private institutions, government institutions, civil society, including business associations and services providers, for effective socio-economic engagement, inclusive governance for growth and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta. This program directly

contributes to PIND's long-term development objectives.

The program focuses on two major areas:

1. **Strengthening HCDTs:** Support Chevron HCDT (which replaced the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021) to effectively implement peacebuilding and economic development interventions.
2. **Empowering Local Institutions:** Enhancing the institutional capacity of local BMOs, organizations, and implementing partners, to drive sustainable economic growth in the region.

Key Achievements – Q1 2025:

From March 26–28, 2025 the Capacity Building (CB) team delivered a tailored training on sustainable project management for four Chevron Nigeria Limited HCDTs: *Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema-OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland*. The –targeted the Board of Trustees (BOT), Advisory Committee (AC), and Management Committee (MC), equipping them with skills in: Project Cycle Management, Managing for Development Results (MfDR), Results-based Measurement, Theory of Change, Stakeholder Analysis, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Project Management tools and techniques. These components are critical to ensuring that projects are designed and delivered in ways that generate long-term impact and promote sustainability.

The training significantly improved participants' understanding of sustainable project management principles, enabling them better identify, design, implement, and monitor sustainable and inclusive development projects in their communities. Follow-up support is planned to help each HCDTs develop practical guidelines for project management and implementation.

4.2 Advocacy

The goal for Advocacy in the next five years (2025 – 2029) is to leverage value from already built models and structures to support program areas in cross-cutting operations and open up opportunities for investments across the Economic Development and Peacebuilding programs. Its support shall be at strategic levels and deliberate to elicit measurable impacts and will be implemented through the following approaches:

- **Strategic/Demand-Driven Support:** Leverage value from already built structures to support program areas in cross-cutting operations and open up opportunities for Impact Investment. Engaging strategic partnerships and handholding programs on demand.
- **Supporting Program Integration:** Provide strategic support to Economic Development, A2E, MSD and Peacebuilding programs, focusing on the nexus between the two areas. Advocacy efforts will facilitate intentional collaboration between these program pillars, enabling partnerships with government institutions, donor organizations, and the private sector. The goal is to drive the implementation of strategic initiatives and influence key engagements that promote both economic development and peacebuilding.
- **Promotion of PIND Models:** Be intentional in building strategic partnerships within the private and public sectors to promote PIND development models across the Niger Delta.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** Deliberately seek collaboration with other organizations on globally relevant advocacy issues that will bring value to PIND by influencing policy on its focus areas amplifying its role as an advocate for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region.
- **Deliver value to Chevron:** Enhance PIND's support for Chevron HCDTs by sharing valuable lessons and experiences from other HCDTs in the PIA implantation process and ensuring that these will positively impact community relations in the Chevron HCDTs.
- **Nexus with other Programs:** Advocacy will deliberately implant itself at the activity design stages of the economic development and peacebuilding efforts (e.g., continued interventions related to access to land, influencing government spending and tracking development projects to support the MSD and general programs. (MSD, General Program); Advocacy efforts will influence government policies and programs and market PIND's models to support YEP, A2E, and MSD and broaden the HCDT work in the PIA ecosystem through strategic support to capacity-building and peacebuilding programs. (Capacity Building, Peace Building).

Q1 2025 Advocacy Key Activities:

Strategic/Demand-Driven Support: In Q1 of 2025, PINDs' Advocacy key accomplishments included formal strategic partnerships with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development to promote the adoption of PINDs' Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) model and the Regional Peacebuilding Strategy. In addition, a solid foundation for strengthening PIND's programmatic interventions was laid through the development of Three (3) critical issue papers addressing regional challenges PIND also inaugurated a Technical Working Group to sustain advocacy for the removal of multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses in the Niger Delta, supported the implementation of the Delta State land policy, and coordinated and supported Host Community Development Trusts in engaging with PIND's access to energy host community outreach.

Influencing and Tracking Policies

As part of PIND's ongoing interventions to address the challenges of multiple taxation and illegal levies affecting small businesses in the Niger Delta, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was inaugurated in Q1 2025. It is tasked with tracking, engaging, and advocating for tax reforms across the region. The TWG, a direct outcome of the 2024 Regional Convening on Tax Reforms in the Niger Delta and comprises key regional stakeholders involved in tax policy and reform in the Niger Delta comprises key regional stakeholders involved in tax policy and reform. Its membership includes PIND's Economic Development Manager and Advocacy Manager, alongside representatives from relevant sectors and institutions. To ensure effective coordination and strategic direction, the TWG established a Steering Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, and Technical Adviser. This committee has one year to drive and ensure the implementation of the TWG's objectives, including the development of a comprehensive advocacy plan to guide engagements and tax reform efforts across the Niger Delta.

Additionally, PIND participated in the public presentation and launch of the DELCOM COOP/Delta State oil Palm Plantation Development Landbank and Agricultural data, providing updates of the Delta state land bank for smallholder farmers. This activity created an opportunity to get updates on the extent of implementation of the agricultural/access to land policy and support for smallholder farmers. This supported Y-CAP's access-to -and requirements.

Promotion of PIND's Models to Government & Private Sector: The Advocacy team attended several meetings to promote its models to government and the private sector players.

- Meeting with the Federal Minister of Youth Development and Draft MOU: PIND met with Federal Minister for Youth Development in response to the Ministry's request to collaborate on implementing youth employment programs in the Niger Delta. The engagement provided an opportunity to present PIND's Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) model, its impacts, and successes. The highlight of this collaboration was a draft MoU shared for review, creating a pathway for the adoption of YEP model across Niger Delta states.
- Meeting & validation session of Bayelsa State Youth Policies. PIND engaged with the Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development to collaborate on YEP's initiatives. PIND reviewed the Bayelsa State draft Youth Policy and supported the policy validation process alongside other key stakeholders. The finalized policy will serve as a framework for implementing the YEP model in the State, including a planned Labor Market Assessment
- Meeting with the Ministry of regional development on NDRPS: PIND engaged with representatives from the restructured Ministry of Regional Development (formerly Ministry of Niger Delta Development), to address delays in launching the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS). Productive discussions identifying viable implementation pathways aligned with the ministry's new agenda. This would ensure the continuation of peacebuilding initiatives under new ministerial frameworks.

Advocacy Collaborations with PIND's Program Areas:

- **Support to GESI roundtable:** Advocacy collaborated with PIND's GESI Program during 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) celebrations, mapping stakeholders and enhancing participation. Contributions from stakeholders and insights shared increased participants' awareness of women's empowerment resources, including vocational training, legal aid, and grants, improving linkages and support for women's leadership and entrepreneurship. **Issue Papers for Targeted Support to support NDRPS, Access to Quality seeds, and others:** In Q1 2025, Advocacy facilitated strategic engagements with Peacebuilding and Economic Development teams to address constraints or lack of policy framework potentially limiting activity implementation. Issue papers were developed on topics such as the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) implementation; investment in quality seed production, while addressing certification gaps; and legislative reforms to strengthen Agricultural Development Programs (ADPs) across the Niger Delta.

Key Advocacy Outputs in Q1 2025

- **Federal Minister of Youth Development** - Formalized partnership and draft MoU created a pathway for adoption of the YEP model across Niger Delta states.
- Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development - secured collaboration with Facilitated YEP model adoption; contributed to the Bayelsa State youth policy validation; positioned YEP for a Labor Market Assessment.
- **Ministry of Regional Development** - identified pathways for NDRPS implementation despite administrative and institutional changes in the Ministry; ensured the continuation of peacebuilding initiatives under new ministerial frameworks.
- **Support to GESI** - enhanced stakeholder engagement and linkages for women's empowerment through the IWD 2025 event;
- **Issue Papers** - Created strategic documents for NDRPS advancement; developed frameworks to influence policies to enhance the quality of domestic seed production, and formulated approaches for strengthening Agricultural Development Programs through legislative reforms.
- **Inauguration of TWG on Multiple Taxation** - Formed Technical Working Group Steering Committee; initiated development of a comprehensive regional advocacy plan for tax reforms.
- **Delta State**: Tracked implementation of agricultural/access-to-land policy; and gathered updates on status of Delta State land bank for smallholder farmers.
- **HCDT Engagements** - Introduced PIND's models and services to Ugboland HCDT; proposed adoption of PIND development models to enhance community impact and successful implementation of the PIA; build the capacity of CSOs to enhance the implementation of the PIA through the Bridges Project; and created a framework for mapping compositions of existing HCDTs and setting up State MSPs

4.3 Knowledge Management /Communications

The KM-COMMS Strategic Plan for 2025–2029 aims to amplify PIND's impact, strengthen partnerships, and ensure long-term organizational sustainability through targeted interventions and measurable outcomes in the following key areas:

- **Scale up successful models**: PIND will focus on increasing media visibility and enhancing communication tools. Annual tailored media engagements will be held in Abuja and Lagos, targeting 50 key national and regional media outlets. A global outreach campaign will also be activated to secure features on leading international platforms such as BBC and Reuters. A comprehensive audit of PIND's communication assets will ensure alignment with its mission and vision, while a redesigned website will offer improved user experience and serve as a dynamic platform for storytelling. These efforts aim to establish at least 25 strategic media partnerships, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and attract international collaborations and funding—ultimately broadening PIND's reach and visibility.

Strengthen capacity building for Host Communities Development Trusts (HCDTs): IND will produce six targeted Public Service Announcements (PSAs) focused on peacebuilding, gender inclusion, and conflict resolution for grassroots audiences. These will be supported by digital campaigns and monthly press releases showcasing both ongoing and future initiatives. The objective is to deepen support for peacebuilding, reduce local conflicts, and achieve at least a 30% increase in stakeholder engagement across traditional and digital media platforms.

Q1 2025 KM – COMMS Key Activities:

In Q1 2025, the KM-COMMS unit made significant strides in positioning PIND as a thought leader and results-driven organization through integrated storytelling, strategic visibility, stakeholder engagement, and internal knowledge-sharing. Key activities included:

- **Successfully supported high-visibility events including:**
 - The inauguration of the Multiple Taxation Technical Working Group
 - EWER monitors training
 - EU-funded Intercommunal Transformative Dialogue
 - Inauguration of Prevent Councils in Edo, Ondo, and Abia
 - 2025 International Women's Day celebration
 - KEFFESO HCDT Stakeholder Forum in Bayelsa
- Finalized and distributed the Q1 2025 *Quarterly Digest* to the Board of Trustees and other key stakeholders
- Completed the design and layout of the 2024 *Annual Report*, and finalized the Q2 editorial calendar
- Finalized 2025 Learning & Development (L&D) course selections and approvals based on a strategic, needs-driven framework

- Successfully conducted a transparent intern recruitment and onboarding process, aligning placements with unit needs
- Initiated updates to key knowledge and marketing materials (e.g., Factsheets, Policy Briefs, Annual Conflict Report)

KM–COMMS Outputs in Q1 2025

During the reporting period, KM–COMMS activities achieved the following:

- Strengthened brand consistency across all communication channels
- Improved visibility of PIND’s work through strategic media coverage and digital storytelling
- Advanced the new website redesign (currently on track)
- Activated the NDLink transition process, improving internal clarity on platform ownership and content flow

These outputs underscore PIND’s growing influence as a thought leader and credible development actor in the Niger Delta.

4.4 Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E)

This unit tracks and assesses progress toward organizational goals, ensuring that interventions are data-driven and outcomes-focused. It will focus on the following:

- Sustain the use of planning frameworks that articulate priorities based on analysis and alignment with Phase IV (2025 - 2029).
- Enhance systems and processes for managing data and informing program decisions.
- Manage the processes of measuring change and evidencing project impact (Baseline establishment, Activity and outcome monitoring, data quality assurance, Assessments, Progress reports).
- Ensure adherence to the internal governance for program management and promote participation and accountability.

Q1 2025 Planning ME Key Achievements

Within the reporting period, the planning monitoring and Evaluation team provided overarching support in the following ways:

- Harmonized phase IV strategy with implementation frameworks across all programs
- Developed program indicators at both strategic and program levels and aligned them with programs implementation Theory of Change.
- Completed 2025 Costed Operating Plan and performance monitoring plans to support oversight functions.
- Quality-assured programs activities, and their outputs for Q1 2025, and produce Q1 2025 M & E progress report
- Supported internal governance for program management and provided relevant inputs to the Board.

4.5 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND’s commitment to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) remains central to its mission of promoting sustainable poverty reduction, shared security, and prosperity in the Niger Delta. The 2025–2029 strategic plan prioritized gender equality, aiming to empower women, girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and vulnerable populations. PIND implements its GESI through mainstreaming, tracking the Women’s Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI) and GESI international public events (*Inattentive Women Day (IWD)*, *International Youths Day (IYD)*, and *16 Days of Activism and participating in international public events (International Women’s Day [IWD], International Youth Day (IYD), and 16 Days of Activism)*).

GESI Mainstreaming

PIND’s GESI policy requires mainstreaming across all its program, with outputs disaggregated and reported.

PIND has set a strategic target for at least 40% of its overall program beneficiaries to be women who experience increased income, positioning women’s economic empowerment as a core focus of its Economic Development programs.

Women Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI):

PIND tracks changes in women empowerment in agricultural index (WEAI) due to livelihood access to economic programs benefits by women. The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) measures the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector in an effort to identify and address the constraints that hinder women’s full

engagement in the agriculture sector. The WEAI is composed of Five Domains of Empowerment sub-index (5DE) that measures the empowerment of women in five areas. The WEAI is an aggregate index reported at the either state- or sector-level and is based on individual-level data on men and women within the same households and data on women living in households with no adult male.

The 5DE sub-index assesses whether women are empowered across the five domains examined in the WEAI. Each domain is weighted equally, as are each of the indicators within a domain. The five domains, their definitions under the WEAI, the corresponding indicators, and their weights for the 5DE are:

Domain (each weighted 1/5 of 5DE sub-index)	Definition of Domain	Indicators	Weight of indicator in 5DE sub-index
Production	Sole or joint decision-making over food and cash-crop farming, livestock, fisheries as well as autonomy in agricultural production.	Input in productive decisions	1/10
		Autonomy in production	1/10
Resources	Ownership, access to, and decision-making power over productive resources such as land, livestock, agricultural equipment, consumer durables, and credit.	Ownership of assets	1/15
		Purchase, sale or transfer of assets	1/15
		Access to and decisions on credit	1/15
Income	Sole or joint control over income and expenditures.	Control over use of income	1/5
Leadership	Membership in economic or social groups and comfort in speaking in public.	Group member	1/10
		Speaking in public	1/10
Time	Allocation of time to productive and domestic tasks and satisfaction with the available time for leisure activities.	Workload	1/10
		Leisure	1/10

The 5DE is a measure of empowerment rather than disempowerment. A woman is defined as empowered in the 5DE if she reaches the threshold of empowerment in 80 percent or more of the weighted indicators. For disempowered women, the 5DE also shows the percentage of indicators in which those women meet the threshold of empowerment. The 5DE contributes 90 percent of the weight to the WEAI.

Public GESI Events

PIND also commemorates globally recognized platforms celebrating women and youths annually, such as International Women Day (IWD), 16 Days of Activism, and International Youths Days (IYD) aligning their global themes with PIND's programs to benefit stakeholders in the region. These events aim to generate lasting outcomes beyond the celebrations.

Q1 2025 GESI Key Achievements:

GESI Mainstreaming: During the quarter, most of the economic development and peace building programs activities were foundational for engagement of the program partners into the new strategy. Partners' outcomes will be tracked and disaggregated for women participations in Q2 for all participants of our programs.

2025 PIND's IWD Event Summary

International Women's Day (IWD), held annually on March 8th, celebrates women's achievements and advocates for gender equality. The 2025 UN theme, *"For ALL women and girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment,"* emphasized the urgency to eliminate barriers to progress.

PIND's subtheme for 2025 was *"Towards Beijing+30: Sustaining Women Empowerment for Livelihoods and Leadership."* A one-day workshop equipped women with vocational skills for economic independence, and strengthened leadership capacities for peacebuilding and agency roles.

Participants included 26 women and girls from Abia, Delta, and Rivers states, representatives from the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Ministries of Women Affairs, SMEDAN, NASME, and academia. Key outcomes included commitments from participants to improve their leadership skills and acquire or enhance vocational training. PIND will continue monitoring the outcomes of this workshop in subsequent quarters.

4.6 Business Development and Sustainability (BDS)

In the current strategic phase (2025 – 2029) the primary objective for Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) unit is to raise \$7.5 million to expand, deepen, and sustain PIND's program activities through strong collaboration with other PIND programs through the following approaches:

- **Grants:** Identify and apply for solicited, unsolicited, sole grants, co-funded, and consortium grants. targeting small to medium-sized project-specific funding opportunities.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provide Technical Assistance services to development organizations, private sector actors, and government institutions to deliver specific program interventions across A2E, YEP, PB, and MSD program areas.
- **HCDT Funds:** Support host communities and institutions (Settlers, Commission, and donors) in the PIA HCDT sector. This includes consultancy services to registered HCDTs
- **Impact Investment:** leverage blended finance models combining grant funding with impact investment, focusing on capacity building for SPV pipeline companies capable of generating both financial and social returns.

Through internal collaboration and coordination, BDS will explore donor cultivation and stewardship of third-party-funded projects by identifying channels, platforms, and networks where funders interact and share strategies and initiatives. This includes subscriptions to philanthropic and impact investment networks, nonprofit associations, and the use of donor mapping and engagement tools and systems. Also, through a third-Party funder engagement, it will regularly engage with donor partners to ensure clear communications in established feedback mechanisms and protocols.

Q1 2025 BDS Key Achievements:

In 2025, BDS aims to raise \$1.5 million. In alignment with its strategic objective to diversify and expand its funding base, four grant project proposals were developed and submitted in Q1, 2025 to the following organizations:

- **CitiFoundation:** aimed at expanding PIND's YEP program into Imo State under the 2025 Citi Foundation Global Innovation Challenge
- **International Labor Organization (ILO)** to design innovative financial solutions to improve livelihoods of 2,500 smallholder cocoa farmers while combating child labor in Ondo, Cross Rivers, and Osun states.
- **FCDO/UK-PACT – MediGrid on Clean Energy Transition:** MediGrid is a transformative healthcare electrification strengthening initiative designed to scale and expand access to solar-powered electricity for underserved primary and secondary healthcare centers in the Niger Delta.
- **Nexans Foundation** This project is an innovative solar health electrification project that uses "Power Enterprise Models" to electrify 30 community healthcare facilities and 30 surrounding communities in Cross Rivers State.

In Q1 2025, BDS focused on strengthening internal collaboration and coordinating efforts to deepen business development initiatives and developed the 2025 BDS Fundraising Tracker and Proposal Dashboard to track existing and new partners, while the proposal dashboard is used to track and update grant proposals submitted.

BDS participated in several activities including: Chevron Carbon Markets 101 awareness session, Okomu Oil-Palm technical/steering committee meetings, Mastercard YCAP stakeholder's meeting; and a webinar on 2025 Global Funding Trend focusing on key donors such as USAID, FCDO, EU, GIZ, etc.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs:

- **Political Environment:** On March 18, 2025, the President declared a state of emergency in Rivers State, leading to the suspension of the Governor, Deputy Governor, and all elected members of the State House of Assembly. A sole administrator was appointed to oversee the state's affairs. This political change poses potential risks to ongoing and planned program activities, particularly those involving partnerships and engagements with service providers and implementing partners in Rivers State. *PIND will maintain a flexible contingency plan for cross-border engagements and consider virtual support options where feasible.*
- **Partners alignment with the revised strategy for MSD/YEP Phase IV program:**
MSD: While initial engagements with service providers successfully introduced the new strategic direction, full alignment among the partners is still evolving. This transition period may temporarily affect the pace of adopting and scaling cross-sectoral service opportunities. *PIND will continue to promote its cross-cutting approach to facilitate easier adoption by partners.*
YEP: Implementing Partners are still adjusting to the new YEP strategies, from direct implementation of technical and vocational training to supporting commercially- driven TVETs training through scholarships and facility support grants. *Clarifying sessions will be held, both collectively and individually with implementing partners concerned to promote understanding, effectiveness and efficiency, and foster continuous development of the TVET.*
- **HCDTs: Pending Approval of Community Development Plan (CDP) Addenda by NUPRC:** A critical institutional bottleneck hindering HCDTs' from commencing project implementation is the delay in approving CDP addenda by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC). This delay is dampening the momentum built through capacity-building interventions and limiting the translation of newly acquired skills and knowledge into tangible outcomes. *The Capacity Building (CB) team, in collaboration with Advocacy, may initiate high-level policy dialogues or advocacy support with Chevron and the HCDTs to engage the NUPRC to expedite the approval processes.*
- **A2E: Sudden Loss of Critical Funding:** PIND's implementing partners Oghosa Energy and Vectics won a \$250,000 USAID grant to scale operations to cluster communities. However, the unexpected suspension of USAID funding prevented access to these funds, delaying implementation and undermining community trust. *PIND is actively helping partners pivot to alternative funding sources, including discussions with GET.Invest; exploring low-interest debt financing through Infracredit, and identifying climate-focused funding aligned with the energy-health nexus.* This diversified approach ensures partners can still scale their operations, just through different financial pathways.
- **A2E: Empty Promises Undermining Community Trust:** Several developers signed PPAs with communities solely to qualify for funding, with no intention to implement projects. This has made communities skeptical of all energy initiatives, damaging the credibility of legitimate projects. *PIND now requires proof of technical/financial capacity before introducing developers to communities; enforces consequences for developers who break commitments; and created transparent community feedback channels to report non-performing developers.* *These measures aim to restore trust and ensure only credible developers engage with communities.* While these challenges tested our adaptability this quarter, the solutions we've put in place not only address immediate problems but also strengthen our long-term resilience against similar issues.
- **A2E: Developer Complacency:** Some partners remain reluctant to scale beyond single projects. PIND is addressing this through regular engagement sessions, highlighting growth opportunities and connecting developers to available funding.
- **Advocacy: Policy/Government changes:** The reconstitution of the Ministry of Niger Delta affairs created uncertainty around launching and implementation of the NDRPS. Similarly, changes in government in Edo State and the state of emergency declared in Rivers State, disrupted ongoing engagements. *PIND is leveraging its network of champions to engage new stakeholders to advance its objectives.*
- **PB: Persistent Insecurity:** The region continues to face insecurity including armed robbery, kidnapping, communal clashes and piracy. These threats deter investment and limit social interaction, and create an environment of fear, especially among youth seeking to engage in legitimate economic activities. States like Abia and Imo are heavily affected. *PIND will implement its new PB strategy to improve peace outlook in the Niger Delta.*

Lessons learned:

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs

The dry season (January—March), which limited agricultural activity, provided sufficient time for planning several engagement meetings with the potential partners across all the cross-cutting themes.

HCDTs Strategic Communications - Engagements with the HCDTs revealed that effective communications and internal coordination among the different organs of the Trusts (BOT, MC, and AC) are still evolving. There is a need to revise the capacity-building curriculum to include training on effective communications for the various organs of the Trusts.

A2E: Two critical insights emerged from Q1 that will shape our future approach:

- **Funding Linkages Require Constant Nurturing** - The sudden loss of USAID funding underscored the need for diversified, year-round funding pipelines. PIND will proactively connect partners to both local and international financing options to ensure fallback opportunities.
- **Early HCDT Engagement is Crucial** – Providing early technical assistance during HCDT needs assessment, CDP validation, budgeting and planning phases improves alignment and prevents delays.
- **Funding Instability:** changes in international aid policies (e.g., U.S. funding cuts) pose risks to donor-dependent projects. PIND is steering partners toward low-interest debt funds and climate financing alternatives.

These lessons reaffirm that successful rural energy access requires thorough groundwork as on technical execution.

KM-COMMS: Cross-functional collaboration is key: Early coordination with PM&E and program teams on deadlines enabled smooth delivery of the Annual Report concept. This approach will be adopted for other publications.

6. Program Management

Governance and Accountability: PIND held sub-committees in Q1 2025, including Project and Programs; Audit and Compliance; Business Development and Sustainability (BDS); Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI); and Advocacy and Partnership sub-committees. These meetings are crucial for PIND's internal governance and accountability, ensuring the Board remains informed about programming and provides feedback to optimize implementation. Outcomes of these meetings, along with M&E updates were shared with PIND's Board. The team also coordinated the development of the PIND-NDPI Grant Request for phase IV (2025-2029) and the 2025 operating plans and targets, both approved during the Q1 Board meetings. The implementation of the Phase IV (2025 – 2029) began with roll out of 2025 milestones.

Organizational Sustainability:

In line with its effort to diversify and expand its income, PIND submitted four grant proposals in Q1 2025 and launched the \$6.249 million Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP project in Edo and Delta States. Additionally, a partnership agreement was signed with Okomu Oil Palm Company to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) in its host communities in Edo State. This CNA will inform interventions aimed at managing conflict and promoting sustainable development using PIND's models and infrastructure.

The EU-funded project - *Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta* remained on track.

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:

PIND continued investing in employee well-being and workplace safety. In Q1 2025, the Operations unit provided seamless services to consultants and stakeholders, enabling effective project delivery.

Key achievements included:

- Enhanced IT management through continuous review and updates of PIND's Integrated Platform (PIP).
- Optimal logistics support for project implementation and operations.
- Timely processing of utility bills, communication systems maintenance, stakeholder/vendor relations, and vehicle maintenance.
- Successful facilitation of internal and external events
- Onboarding of new staff and effective asset and facilities management.

7. Project Support Services (PSS):

The PSS department continued to implementing policies and procedures to ensure transparency and compliance in PIND's procurement and grant processes.

Key Q1 2025 Achievements:

- Completed the review and update of the Procurement, Contracts & Grants Manual, officially approved on 25 March 2025, and scheduled for launch on April 1, 2025.
- Successfully launched the 2025 annual vendor pre-qualification exercise on March 28, 2025, to build a database of tax-compliant vendors, consultants, and service providers.
- Completed the compilation and gender disaggregation of contract award data from the previous strategic phase.

PIND's procurement and contract administration ensured strict adherence to internal policies and procedures.

- A total of 37 contracts were awarded In Q1 2025: 8 professional service contracts, 26 service orders, and 3 purchase orders.
- These contracts totaled ₦2.12billion. The table below presents contract and grant awards in Q1 2025, disaggregated by contract type and gender

Table 2. Contracts awarded in Q4 2024 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number (Q4)	Number Processed to date (Jan-Dec 2024)	Value Committed(Q4) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-Dec 2024) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q4)							
					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	8	8	1.87 billion	1.88 billion	-	-	1	8.97 million	4	1.86 million	3	14.60 million
Services Order	26	26	226,08 million	226,08 million	8	59.27 million	4	52.17 million	2	6.53 million	12	108.11 million
Purchase Order	3	3	11.22 million	11.22 million	-	-	-	-	2	7.85 million	1	3.37 million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	37	37	2.12billion	2.12billion	8	59.27 million	5	61.14 million	8	1.87 billion	16	126.08 million

8. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

The **Market System Development program** will among others activities, prioritize the following areas for the next quarter.

Access to Technical Services:

- Organize a technical Training of trainers (ToT) for Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Finalize and activate formal partnerships with selected partners, including digital firms and
- Influence the establishment of activity cohorts by partners.

Assess to inputs:

- Sign Memoranda of Agreement with the engaged firms to formalize partnerships and prepare for implementation;
- Engage a firm to develop an input distribution model
- Continue stakeholder engagements, particularly with input firms, agro-dealers, and Financial Service Providers (FSPs), to establish and strengthen linkages that will support the implementation of the input distribution model.
- Conduct an assessment of viable agricultural value chains within CNL HCDT communities to identify the most promising value chains and their corresponding input needs.

Access to Seeds:

- Partner with seed companies to train 20 seed entrepreneurs, enhancing their capacity to promote and distribute quality seed.
- Collaborate with seed entrepreneurs to train seed entrepreneurs on improved handling and storage

techniques to ensure seed quality and distribution.

- Support seed actors (seed companies, community seed entrepreneurs: CSEs, agro dealers etc.) to implement the seed distribution and promotion models through demonstrations and awareness workshops for the identified variety of seeds.

Access to Market and technology:

- Develop and pilot an aggregation model in at least two commodities to guarantee market access and premium pricing for smallholder farmers;
- Engage TA Commodities, an aggregator to strengthen market linkages in Edo and Delta States through structured supply orders and quality incentives in oil palm and vegetable value chains.
- Develop a technology package in collaboration with technology manufacturers/providers, promoters, and technology brokers to stimulate awareness and adoption of appropriate agricultural technologies by smallholder farmers.

The Access to Energy project' priority areas for next quarter are as follows

- Conduct a knowledge/model-sharing workshops for renewable energy investors and stakeholders to promote scale-up of the Energy Cabin model.
- Engage two new ecosystem actors /energy developers to expand energy access to HCDT communities.
- Install three energy cabins as additional demonstration to promote adoption and scale
- Implement challenge funds to support the development and deployment of renewable energy mini grid models in the Niger Delta.

In Q2 2025, the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project will:

- Facilitate technical and vocational skills training for youth in the Niger Delta through scholarship support to selected commercially driven TVET (both existing and new
- Strengthen of TVET capacity to sustainably deliver high-quality technical and vocational skills training to a broader youth population in the Niger Delta
- Deliver online entrepreneurship training for past YEP and Challenge fund beneficiaries to boost youth employability and enterprise productivity.

The peacebuilding program will:

- Host a roundtable on the impact of Communal Conflicts on Agricultural Investments in the Niger Delta.
- Organize conflict early warning workshops for peace monitors and peace champions including CNL HCDT peace monitors.
- Publish and promote a Peace and Conflict Risk Assessment Report for CNL and CNL HCDTs and
- Facilitate integrated Peacebuilding and Economic Development Interventions, including Okomu Oil Palm Company PB/ED Project.

The Advocacy unit will:

- Facilitate the signing of an MoU between PIND and the Federal Ministry of Youth Development.
- Engage the Delta State Government and Ministry of Agriculture to track implementation of the Access to Land Policy and introduce the YCAP project.
- Engage the Edo State Government to present and launch the Agricultural/Access to Land Policy and introduce the YCAP project
- Engage the Akwa Ibom State Government on the state's Long Term Development plan.
- Review the MSD issue paper and plan engagement strategies

The Capacity Building's priority for next quarter will be to:

- Conduct mentoring and handholding sessions for the CNL HCDTs on developing sustainable project management guidelines.
- Collaborate with the MSD team to identify organizations (cohorts, farmer clusters/groups, BMOs, other partner organizations, etc.) for targeted capacity strengthening under the cross-cutting initiatives.
- Support HCDTs in implementing training program identified in their capacity-building development plan, with funding from the HCDTs

9.0 Sombreiro Kapital (SK)

Sombreiro Kapital Ltd/Gte (SK) incorporated on July 27, 2018, was established to drive innovation in Agricultural Value Chain financing and MSMEs support in the renewable energy sector. Over the years SK has demonstrated various models to increase access to finance for target sectors and businesses in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria to stimulate the flow of finance (both on the demand/supply of capital) into Agric businesses focusing on smallholders' inclusivity. With a capital base of ₦100 million, SK focuses on increasing financial inclusion for smallholder farmers and MSMEs in the Niger Delta. By reinvesting interest earned, SK lowers the cost of capital through blended finance and serves as a testing ground for innovative financing models.

SK has implemented activities to prove models which address information asymmetries between banks and borrowers (typically lead firms), and between lead firms and their clients (SHF) which can inform the broader sector. The overarching approach includes:

- Promote innovative financing models for SMEs, agriculture and renewable energy;
 - De-risk lending through issuance of credit guarantees, encouraging financial institutions to improve flow of finance and grow their portfolios in targeted sectors as information asymmetries decline;
 - Offer blended loans at 9% interest with default rates below 5%
 - Provide technical assistance in loan administration and implement SK's risk management mechanism for partners investments to SHFs/MSME;
 - Facilitate Linkages funders and MSMEs/lead firms.
 - Ensure stakeholder engagement; capacity building and technical support for partner banks and beneficiaries
 - SK focal agricultural value chains have been Cassava, Oil Palm, Cocoa, Aquaculture and Poultry. Our milestone achievements include, though not limited to the following:
 - Tested and implemented seven financing models with Sterling Bank Plc and Unity Bank Plc, including Anchor /Aggregation model in Oil Palm Value Chain, Input finance model in Aquaculture/poultry value chains, output marketing in fishery in Coastal communities and Asset Finance.
 - Mobilized ₦590 million in loans from a seed capital of ₦100 million since 2020, benefiting 2,113 farmers across Cocoa, Oil Palm, Poultry, Aquaculture/Fishery, and Cassava value chains.
 - Maintained 3% default rate in the phase with no material erosion on seed capital.
 - Increased seed capital from N100 million to N112million as reflected in SK Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31/12/2023.
 - Proven ability to attract counterpart resources, demonstrating the need to increase capital to maintain competitiveness (initial \$200,000 now worth ~\$62,500 due to FX devaluation).
-
- In Phase IV (2025 – 2029), SK plans to:
 - Influence financial institutions to tailor products for PINDs target beneficiaries in the Niger Delta, develop and implement innovative financial products for PIND's Economic Development programs (MSD, YEP, and A2E).
 - Increase its capital to leverage more loans to its target beneficiaries, seeking new capital injection from PIND and external investors, including HCDTs.
 - Test new financing models aligned with market and regulatory dynamics of the operating environment in target ED programs
 - Expand financial services into Coastal communities and HCDT ecosystems by developing bespoke funding strategy with the HCDTs.

In 2025, the main focus for SK is to:

- **Develop and test innovative financial products for PIND ED programs (MSD, YEP, A2E)** by recruiting and onboarding new financial institutions/partners for SK.
- **Integrate PIND technical Service Providers** and other economic actors into SK activities to develop pipeline and take financing opportunities to banks and for follow up loan monitoring and remediation, and also, amplifying successful Models through written case studies, workshops and events.
- **Attract More Capital into the SK** to increase volume of Loans to MSMEs/Farmers and implement Loan products for HCDT communities - a funding strategy with the HCDTs.

Key Sombreiro Kapital (SK) Achievements in Q1 2025:

In Q1 2025, SK focused on consolidating the foundational synergies with PIND's Access to Finance strategy for phase IV. A major highlight was its collaboration with the Market Systems Development (MSD) team to organize a strategic

workshop aimed at familiarizing Business Service Providers (BSPs) with SK's operational priorities and encouraging their expression of interest to participate in the initiative.

During the quarter SK held preliminary engagement meetings with business networks such as the West Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WACCIMA) to facilitate access to finance for MSMEs and nano-scale operators. These efforts particularly targeted opportunities within the Federal Government's ₦75 billion credit facility for MSMEs. Notably, PIND beneficiaries have been successfully integrated into the scheme through a partnership with Business Service Provider, Dorbudee Consulting.

Additionally, SK made significant progress in laying the groundwork for an investment pipeline of enterprises that are bankable and impact-ready. This pipeline is being developed in preparation for an upcoming impact investment vehicle focused on catalyzing economic growth in the Niger Delta.

Looking ahead, SK will advance the implementation of its 2025 milestones in Q2, aligning with the delivery frameworks of PIND's economic development programs.



© PIND Foundation 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without full attribution

For more information visit www.pindfoundation.org