



# Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter One:  
January – March 2020

## **About PIND Foundation**

PIND works closely with its local partners to provide strategic guidance to implement shared programs in the Nigeria's Niger Delta, to build peace and equitable economic development.

We believe that the path to prosperity is built on opportunity. Together with our implementing partners, we help to break the cycle of poverty and conflict by creating strong and stable communities in Nigeria's Niger Delta.

Chronic poverty and violence have held back far too many people living in the Niger Delta. Despite an abundance of natural resources, millions of people lack essentials such as clean water, electricity, education and the opportunity to build a better life. We are working to change this.

PIND harnesses the power of the private and public sectors to help alleviate poverty and instability in Nigeria's Niger Delta through collaborative, market-based solutions that are community-owned and implemented. Our work focuses on building economic opportunities, mitigating conflict and developing an environment conducive to progress and stability.

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ACCIMA	Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AGSMEIS	Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme
ATED	Appropriate Technology Enabled Technology
BRACED	Bloc of Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta States
BOI	Bank of Industry
BMP	Best Management Practices
CACS	Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CIC	Clintonel Innovation Centre
CIEPD	Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPWCI	Canaan Peace Women and Community Initiatives
DAWDRIN	Disabilities Awareness Welfare Development & Rights Initiative
DCED	Donor Committee for Enterprise Development
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DPGG	Development Partners Group on Gender
EGCDF	Egbema-Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSP	Farm Service Providers
FISON	Fisheries Society of Nigeria
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEEP	Graduate Employment Enhancement Program
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
GVE	Green Village Electricity
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IGHub	Innovation Growth Hub
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
IWD	International Women's Day
kW	Kilowatt
KIR	Keeping It Real Foundation
LGA	Local Government Area
LSETF	Lagos State Employment Trust Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MADE	Market Development Project
MDA	Ministries, Departments and agencies
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSP	Multi-stakeholder Platform
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks
NAEC	Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NDPSN	Niger Delta Peace and Security Network
NDSP	Niger Delta Support Project
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NEEWS	Nigerian Election Early Warning System

NGN	Nigerian Naira
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NIFON	Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NSRP	Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme
P4P	Partners for Peace
PIND	Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SEYP	Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons
SIWP	Strategic Implementation Work Plan
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SSPE	Small Scale Processing Equipment
STEP	Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Program
t/ha	Tonnes by Hectare
TMG	Transition Monitoring Group
TV	Television
TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training Centre
UK	United Kingdom
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USADF	United States Agency Development Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VSE	Village Stem Entrepreneur
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
YAGEP	Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme
YTD	Year to Date
ZAL	Zigha Ayibakoro Limited

## Background

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

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

PIND activities fall under two distinct but interrelated program areas:

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

An additional set of initiatives has also been designed to support, enable, measure and communicate the results and achievements of the 2 core pillars of Economic Development and Peace Building. These include:

- **Capacity Building** that builds the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations and communities.
- **Advocacy** that seeks to influence policies, practices and programs underpinned by in-depth analyses and understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- A robust **communications** and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts and learning

### STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

For the third phase, PIND Foundation aims to achieve the following targets:

1. Expand program benefits to 150,000 farmers and small-scale enterprises to increase their income by 40%.
2. Facilitate the creation of 20,000 new jobs of which 50% will be youth and other vulnerable groups.
3. Deliver economic benefits to 10,000 people in GMoU communities through job creation and income generation interventions and facilitation of clean energy.
4. Strengthen the effectiveness of 5 regional development committees as grassroots development organizations in the GMoU/coastal communities.
5. Enable active engagement of 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction and positively affect up to 3 million individuals with peace building interventions.
6. Influence US\$ 25 million spend by donors, federal and state governments in new projects that reduce conflict and poverty in the Niger Delta; and
7. Raise US\$ 6.5 million from private sector and donor community for PIND programs.

## Introduction: 2020 Q1 M&E Report

The first quarter (January – March 2020) report, is intended to serve three purposes that are linked to the needs of key stakeholders:

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

**Program Implementers:** That is, Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives (NDPI) and PIND, (including the Boards of both organizations, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) committees, Partners, and Program Managers) to keep all parties aware of project achievements and constraints, share lessons learned and seek deeper level of collaborations.

**Donor/Project Partners:** These include – United State Agency for International Development (USAID), UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), German Development Agency (GIZ) and Ford Foundation, to share successes and challenges for learning and for further collaborations.

## Executive Summary

This report covers PIND's major results and outputs from January – March 2020 (Quarter 1 of 2020). In the period under review, PIND launched a third phase of program implementation which was predicated on the gains recorded in the two previous phases (2010 – 2019). The fulcrum was on creating awareness, building knowledge, and changing attitudes, capacity, and practices in ways that will continue to positively re-orient the hopes, aspirations, and visions of the people in the region.

PIND's activities are also designed to promote and sustain a culture of learning and to continue to build a process by which evidence can play a greater role in determining policy direction and programs in economic development, peace building, advocacy, and capacity building of the civil society in the Niger Delta. Despite the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on macro-economic and socio-political environment, PIND made significant progress on its approach and initiatives during the quarter.

Highlights of PIND's achievement during the quarter included:

- PIND's economic development projects continued to gain traction and bring about plausible results. For instance, during the first quarter, 9,348 farmers and agripreneurs were reached with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies under crop and non-crops sectors, and training/demonstrations of clean energy to 285 households and businesses in the region.
- In the GMoU communities, PIND sustainably supported the installation of 29 fish smoking technologies (i.e. the chorkor oven) in Ajudaibo, Madangho, and Ogidigben, and also facilitated the deployment of three clean energy technologies comprising two walk-in solar powered refrigeration units (cold rooms) in Sangana and Fishtown communities. In addition, PIND continued to support the Warri Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) to maintain peaceful co-existence between the Ijaw and the Itsekiri ethnic groups through capacity strengthening workshops that enhanced participants' skills to ensure local ownership and continuity of peace process between these groups. Members of the Warri MSP are steered to independently plan the 'Ijaw/Itsekiri Leaders' Summit for Peace and Development' in the coming months.
- PIND continued to strive for prompt and comprehensive mutual involvement of diverse actors, including community members in peacebuilding efforts. In these efforts, 115 peace actors reported taking at least one action each to mitigate conflict in their locality. With the aim of acting even faster, more strategically and being better coordinated in the future, PIND supported the P4P Network to facilitate a workshop for 35 peace actors to acquire skills that are necessary for responding to emerging conflicts in the region.
- PIND also incentivized private investors and farmers to invest 1.039 billion Naira to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations, purchase of inputs and capital expenditure. A little above 3 percent (35.7 million Naira) were equity investments by farmers and small-scale businesses, and 97 percent of the investments (1 billion Naira) were loan financing from banks and government institutional funding assistance schemes. Through its advocacy project, PIND influenced the Abia and Edo State governments to spend a total of 40 million Naira as its counterpart contribution to the development of the states' long-term plans.
- Through its communications activities, 212,492 people and 1,340,779 persons gained awareness about PIND through the digital media platforms and mainstream media respectively, bringing the total number of persons with new or increased awareness of PIND during the quarter to 1,573,216 out of an annual target of 4,358,289. Also, PIND garnered 30 positive media mentions of its work and activities in the first quarter of 2020 (against an annual target of 150) and attracted 10 public endorsements from stakeholders who interacted with its content on the website, newsletters, and social media posts during the same period.

In addition, PIND refined its strategies to intensify program delivery in the coastal communities that would prompt replication and adoption of piloted models, as well as pursue funding diversification towards the Foundation's sustainability.

## Summary of progress against 2020 targets

The summary snapshot below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2020 target as at Q1.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2020 Targets	Achievements as at Q1
Outreach	<b>50,500</b>	<b>9,348</b>
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	4,300	1,690
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	16,200	1,532
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	10,000	1,449
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	13,000	2,326
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	6,000	1,286
<i>MSME development</i>	1,000	1,065
Change in farmers/MSME productivity or sales	<b>30,400</b>	
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	2,000	
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	14,200	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	4,000	Too early to evidence
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	6,500	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	3,000	
<i>MSME development</i>	700	
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	<b>₦ 6.3 billion</b>	
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦ 400 million	
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦ 1.6 billion	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦ 200 million	Too early to evidence
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦ 2.6 billion	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦ 1 billion	
<i>MSME development</i>	₦ 500 million	
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Too early to evidence
New jobs facilitated	<b>4,843</b>	<b>91</b>
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	750	4
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	600	0
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	400	0
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	1,000	0
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	750	0
<i>MSME development</i>	600	0
<i>Access to energy</i>	200	75
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	543	191
Value of investments by public and private sectors [Naira value]	<b>₦ 2.25 billion</b>	<b>₦ 1.039 billion</b>
		₦ 35.7 million equity
		₦ 959.3 million debt financing
<i>Aquaculture value chain</i>	₦ 200 million	₦ 50.2 million
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦ 1.5 billion	₦ 0
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦ 50 million	₦ 0
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦ 100 million	₦ 29.86 million
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦ 300 million	₦ 0
<i>MSME development</i>	₦ 100 million	₦ 959.3 million
Women's empowerment in agriculture index (WEAI)	0.2 score	Too early to evidence
Adoption of PIND's model for youth job readiness	3	0
Youths with applicable skills for employment	3,172	1,530
Change in market sector	1 case study report	Too early to evidence
Change in GMoU communities	1 case study report	Too early to evidence

Peace Building Program Indicators	2020 Targets	Achievements as at Q1
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	150	35
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	1,500	1, 551
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	700	96
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	60	10
Population that feel safe in the area they reside	2%	Too early to evidence

Coastal Community Development Indicators	2020 Targets	Achievements as at Q1
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	300	434
Households with access to clean energy	700	69
People with access to energy technologies	2,000	812
Cost savings via access to energy technologies	₦ 10 million	Too early to evidence
<i>RDC Capacity Building</i>		
Net change in capacity index of RDCs	2.4 (average score)	Intervention yet to start
Organizations accessing funds/grants	3	1
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦ 9 million	₦15.4 million
Organizations providing improved services	8	Too early to evidence

General Enabling Program Indicators	2020 Targets	Achievements as at Q1
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending	₦ 720 million	₦ 40 million
Total value of private investment	₦ 0 million	₦ 0
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors	₦ 540 million	₦ 0
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦ 60 million	₦ 0
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of progress	Too early to evidence
Level of responsiveness that facilitate access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	Too early to evidence
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful / non-violent society	Evidence of coherency and coordination of interventions	Too early to evidence
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦ 540 million	₦ 0
<i>Communications</i>		
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	15	5
Public endorsements of PIND's work	20	10
Media reports with PIND mention	150	30
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	100	14
Website new visitors	52,020	12,864
Social media reach	306,000	199,458
Mainstream media reach	4 million	1,340,779
Email enquiries	169	132

# 1. Context Analysis

## 1.1 Socio-economic environment

Efforts were already being made to bolster aggregate demand through increased government spending and tax cuts for businesses. The public budget increased from 8.83 trillion Naira (\$24.53 billion) in 2019 to 10.59 trillion Naira (\$29.42 billion) in 2020, representing 11% of the national GDP, while small businesses have been exempted from company income tax, and the tax rate for medium-sized businesses has been revised downwards from 30% to 20%. Unfortunately, the coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) crisis is causing all components of aggregate demand to fall.

The fall in household consumption in the Niger Delta, and Nigeria more broadly, will stem from 1) partial (or full) restrictions on movement, thus causing consumers to spend primarily on essential goods and services; 2) low expectations of future income, particularly by workers in the informal economy that are engaged on a short-term/contract basis, as well as the working poor in the informal economy; and 3) the erosion of wealth and expected wealth as a result of the decline in assets such as home or farm equity. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the federal government has imposed a lockdown in Lagos and Ogun States and Abuja (which had then recorded the highest number of coronavirus cases combined). Subnational governments have quickly followed suit by imposing lockdowns in their States. Nigeria has a burgeoning informal economy as well as a large informal sector, which contributes 65% of its economic output. Movement restrictions have not only reduced the consumption of nonessential commodities in general, but have affected the income-generating capacity of these groups, thus reducing their consumption expenditure.

Compromised livelihoods, especially in rural households and communities, both from agriculture, with local retail markets closing, and from households' additional income streams of remittances, urban migrant work, or other additional businesses slowing or stopping. More commercial farmers will be affected by slowing agricultural trade more broadly, particularly with less access to inputs and financing that will affect the next harvest season. In addition, the health impact cannot be overlooked or understated.

Rural households are particularly vulnerable to the health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic as they are less likely to have access to healthcare facilities with oxygen and ventilators. This is compounded by the fact that any added financial shocks of hospital admission or funeral costs for rural households can be devastating.

Decreased planting and harvesting as direct effects to rural household health and livelihoods implicitly impacting on agricultural production. Further, social distancing and border closures will impact production and transportation, while changes in spending power of consumers will impact demand. Market linkages are particularly at risk, as food systems adapt to different ways of working and demand patterns. Limited access to inputs due to decreased distribution and financing will affect yields of future harvest cycles, even after the immediate risk of the virus has passed. Transportation has already been significantly affected, which has ramifications on market linkages. By sea, less cargo is being processed due to fewer ships and decreased capacity of ports. By road, curfews and geographic restrictions (both within Nigeria and its borders) have slowed road transport. Within agricultural markets, agri-SMEs that keep agricultural markets moving are particularly at risk as credit lines slow down and operations are disrupted. Also, the restrictions on movement of people and border closures foreshadow a decline in exports. Already, countries around the world have closed their borders to nonessential traffic, and global supply chains for exports have been disrupted.

Disrupted supply of food from the affected local agricultural markets. While the federal and subnational governments continue to reassure citizens that there is sufficient food nationally, the distribution of this food is impeded by national policies designed to contain the virus. Many rural households in the Niger Delta, especially those living in or at the threshold of poverty levels, are subsistence farmers. If the virus affects their ability to farm and produce their own food, there will be a significant increase in emergency food needed from government or

other aid organizations. For commercial farmers this risk goes even further, potentially disrupting the food security of urban populations. Food security in the region is already in fine balance, and any disruption to rural livelihoods and agricultural systems can quickly create large populations of food insecure people.

Regional stability is related directly to the disruption of so many livelihoods (both rural and urban) and subsequent impacts on food security, and could quickly escalate into social and civil unrest in the Niger Delta. As families become hungrier and more people are directly impacted by Covid-19, there is a risk that people will turn to violence or other illegal activities to survive. This is particularly dangerous in areas with active extremist groups and security and fragility concerns, particularly where there are upcoming elections in Edo and Ondo States.

This has raised some concerns for PIND around huge health and safety crisis management, stretched supply chains, caused business uncertainties and closures. A scenario planning will take place in April 2020, to come up with creative and responsible ways to adapt its work and continue to deliver value to its donors and Chevron.

## 1.2 Security

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, the Governors of the South-South geopolitical region met in Asaba, Delta State and resolved to establish a regional security outfit. This follows the establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network also known as 'Amotekun' by the State Governors of the South-West region.

According to the Governors, the establishment of a regional security outfit would help address the numerous security challenges in their respective states.

Given the prevailing conflict landscape in the Niger Delta, the State governments in the South-South region need to deliver sustainable, homegrown solutions to the various forms of violent conflicts in a proactive, engaging, consultative and inclusive manner. The establishment of a regional security outfit is a step in the right direction considering that past efforts at conflict management have yielded little results.

PIND will be exploring opportunities to provide technical advice to the South-South Governors with the aim of ensuring the adoption of a comprehensive and inclusive approach along the conflict resolution spectrum in setting up the South-South Security Network. The establishment of this security outfit provides an opportunity to adopt multi-stakeholder approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Therefore, this outfit needs to drive conflict resolution efforts in the region rather than purely focusing on containing conflict or de-escalating violent situations. PIND will continue to advocate to relevant agencies to employ a combination of both a security and peacebuilding approach to the South-South Security Network.

## 2. Economic Development Program

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

The market systems development project comprises of five agricultural value chains (aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil and poultry) and three cross-cutting interventions (access to finance, access to inputs and business linkages). The project aims to identify binding constraints in the sectors and seek sustainable solutions that can increase the income of thousands of poor men and women.

The access to energy project focuses on energy efficiency and renewable including the energy cabin and solar refrigeration. While access to energy identities and promotes energy solutions, the market development project facilitates activities to provide a range of different technology solutions that contribute to improving smallholder farming.

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



### 2.1 Market Systems Development

This section shows key achievements in Quarter 1 of 2020 for all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development project.

PIND's Market Development project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors in the Niger Delta to improve their productivity, leading to an increase in income and reduction of poverty. The project utilizes the market systems development approach that relies on a sound initial analysis of market systems to pinpoint the underlying causes of market weaknesses to inform the design and implementation of interventions that address the underlying causes rather than symptoms.

To ensure the sustainability of PIND's interventions, the development activities are further anchored on a service providers' model that equips local service providers with the right skills, tools, and connections to sustainably provide viable market solutions that address the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises in the region. This approach was utilized to support poor farmers in aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil and the business linkages initiatives during the 2014–2019 strategic phase. At the end of this period, the project reached 126,827 farmers and agripreneurs, surpassing the 108,100 outreach target it set for itself during the period.

Out of this number, 64,742 farmers and agripreneurs experienced a rise in their income while 20,319 jobs were created in the process. These farmers and entrepreneurs, together with State governments, private and social investors were incentivized by PIND to invest in economic development interventions. For instance, in 2019, through its influencing work with market actors, PIND got these actors to invest an additional 4.3 billion Naira to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations and business upgrading solutions.

Following a strategic review of PIND at the end of 2019, the project reviewed its portfolio to streamline its activities to focus on growth sectors that are aligned to the commercial interest of service providers and other implementing partners so that more value can be delivered to the small-scale farmers and enterprises. PIND, thus, re-engineered its programming to focus on two broad project areas: Crops agricultural value Chain and Non-crops agricultural value chain intervention areas. These two broad portfolio categorizations would enable it to annually review its sectors of interest to identify and focus on those that offer the biggest bang for bucks for PIND, in terms of depth and scale of impact and value.

For the 2020 -2024 strategic phase, the project plans to reach 300,000 farmers and SMEs out of which 150,000 are expected to experience an increase in income. It also plans to collaborate with other projects in PIND to support 10,000 individuals in the Chevron GMoU communities to address opportunities for improved livelihoods. It would leverage its network of partners to design and pilot new interventions and also expand its existing solutions to more farmers and SMEs in the Niger Delta region.

For the period under review, a major operating environment concern for the market development project was the effect of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic as oil prices were on a steady decline with more negative reports on the Coronavirus outbreak worsening the outlook. This led to a depreciation of the domestic currency and a spike in the prices of goods and services.

The resultant effect is that inputs, particularly those imported or produced with imported raw materials, could become unaffordable to smallholder farmers, severely undermining the gains that PIND has recorded in reducing poverty in the region.

With most States in the Niger Delta currently in some degree of “lockdown,” and citizens required, or at least strongly encouraged, to stay home to avoid catching or spreading Covid-19, the economic impact of Covid-19 on the Niger Delta is likely to be acute through a sharp decline in productivity, jobs and revenues. Already, the flow of input and access to training on best practices by farmers have been disrupted by the restrictions. PIND will collaborate with its partners to explore other avenues to reach farmers during this period of uncertainty and restrictions.

During the quarter, PIND focused its work on engaging with existing and new partners (services providers, fabricators, agro-input and equipment companies, farmers’ associations, financial institutions etc.), to align interests and to kickstart new activities with emphasis on:

- increasing the network of partners to expand training on best agronomic and business practices to more farmers and enterprises;
- improving access to quality seeds to farmers and support more enterprises to address market and funding opportunities; and
- expanding the demonstration and adoption of improved technologies across the agricultural sectors.

By the end of the quarter, 9,348 new farmers and enterprises were reached directly with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies. This result represents a 125% performance against the quarter’s target of 8,200 and a 162% increase when compared with the 6,331 achieved in Q4 2019.

Regarding the performance of the other impact indicators (farmers and enterprises reporting change in productivity or sales, net attributable income change, jobs created, and investments leveraged), impact assessments to determine the results are usually conducted later in the year and are thus scheduled for Q2 and Q3 for the various sectors. However, 35.7 million Naira was recorded as investment leveraged by the project within the quarter.

Table 1 provides a summary of the market development project’s quarterly and year-to-date (YTD) performance as at the end of Q1 2020.

Table 1. Achievement against Q1 2020 and annual targets

	Target 2020	Target Q1	Achieved Q1	Performance YTD (%)
Number of farmers/small-scale businesses reached	50,500	8,200	9,348	18.5%
Number of jobs created	4,100	*	-	-
Total value of investment leveraged	NGN 2,650 million	NGN 25 million	NGN 35.7 million	1.3%
Number of farmers/small-scale enterprises with increased income	30,400	*	-	-
Change in the income of farmers	NGN 6,300 million	*	-	-

\* Impact indicators are usually tracked once or twice a year, depending on sector dynamics and through assessments or surveys. As a result, they do not have quarterly targets. There were no assessments carried out during the reporting period. A comprehensive assessment is planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.

### 2.1.1 Key Achievements: Aquaculture

In Nigeria, the total fish production is estimated at over one million metric tons with aquaculture contributing 31% (316,000 thousand metric tons) to national production.<sup>1</sup> The Niger Delta accounts for 30% of total fish production in Nigeria. Since 2012, PIND's intervention activities have targeted mainly the aquaculture sub-sector of the fisheries industry with a focus on improving the productivity of catfish farmers through the demonstration of best pond management practices and the introduction of efficient processing technologies. Informed by a value chain analysis which revealed a huge opportunity to improve the income of a large number of fish farmers through the adoption of improved practices and technologies, these interventions successfully reached 21,246 fish farmers and processors (including those from the coastal communities). At the end of the last strategic phase, about 10,897 farmers out of those reached, recorded an increase in income and over 300 improved technologies were adopted by fish processors across the region. PIND also identified and strengthened the capacity of key support market actors to sustainably support and drive the implementation of the intervention activities. These include a network of aquafarming service providers, fabricators, masons, etc.

For the current strategic phase (2020–2024), PIND would be leveraging the network of support actors it has built to expand its focus beyond aquaculture, to the entire fisheries sector.

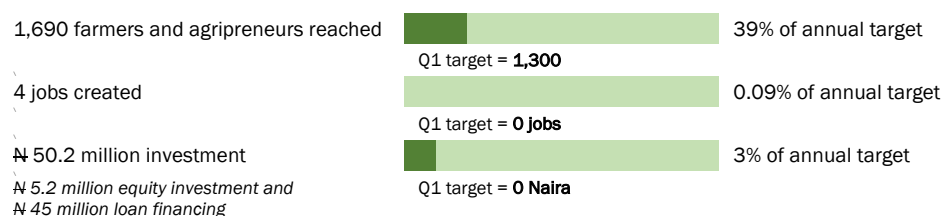
It would particularly focus on where the opportunities exist to replicate its solutions. This would enable it to deepen and broaden its impact in the region. As a result, it would explore viable opportunities to design and implement interventions targeting more community members in the coastal communities, particularly those involved in artisanal fishing and processing. Another key area of focus would be to identify and expand successful models and platforms to improve access to finance and market for both farmers and processors as these are key drivers for business expansion. While it has exited the demonstration pond intervention, it would continue to track the activities of service providers and input companies working in the space while also providing direction and guidance. Overall, for the current strategic phase, PIND plans to reach additional 25,000 participants with its solutions in the fisheries sector in the Niger Delta.

In the period under review, PIND expanded its demonstration and awareness creation activities on the improved processing technologies to reach more fish processors in the coastal communities. It also worked with the service providers to facilitate access to finance for fish farmers. Finally, it continued to oversee and track the expansion of the training on good pond management and business practices to more farmers by services providers and partner input companies.

<sup>1</sup> FAO Fishery and Aquaculture Country Profile, 2017 update.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM AQUACULTURE INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 1. Performance status of aquaculture interventions as at Q1 2020



### Expanding aquaculture services to reach new farmers and processors in the region

During the quarter, PIND continued to leverage its network of service providers to expand outreach to more fish farmers across the region. A total of 10 training activities on best fish pond management practices and business skills were carried out by seven service providers to reach 1,006 farmers (348 females) in Abia, Delta, Imo, Ondo and Rivers States. The training was aimed at building the capacity of farmers to be more efficient in their farming practices. Three of the training programs were carried out by a service provider in partnership with one of the feed companies, Grand Cereals, in Abia, Imo, and Rivers States. The farmers were exposed to best pond management practices and disease control as well as the appropriate use of inputs.

Also, to further stimulate the awareness and adoption of the chorkor ovens, PIND worked with a master mason, PPGwary and two other masons to carry out 4 demonstrations on the use and benefit of the chorkor oven in Delta (Madangho and Ogidigben) and Ondo (Araromi and Igbekebo in Ese Odo) States. The training attracted 684 participants across the two states, Delta (372) and Ondo (312).

Table 2 summarizes the total outreach recorded in the reporting period. Over 1,690 farmers and processors were reached through the above-mentioned activities carried out (Figure 1).

Table 2. Distribution of training and demonstration activities in Q1 2020

	Abia	Delta	Imo	Ondo	Rivers	Total
Number of training programs	1	5	1	4	3	14
Number of service providers	-	3	1	2	2	8
Number of farmers trained	81	141	128	322	334	1,006
Number of fish processors trained	-	372	-	312	-	684
					Total persons trained	1,690

### Increasing access to finance for fish farmers

Access to finance has been identified as one of the binding constraints facing most of the poor actors in the fisheries sector in the Niger Delta. In aquaculture, it is one of the major factors that enable the adoption of improved practices because farmers require funds to purchase quality inputs to reap the benefits of adopting best practices. In 2019, PIND supported a service provider to develop a financing model to enable farmers to access credit from financial institutions. The model involved strengthening relationships between financial institutions, input companies and farmers groups to unlock input financing to farmers that belong to a registered association. The service provider partnered with a Microfinance bank (Green Acres), four farmer groups (Alero Fish Farmers' Cooperative, Destiny Fish Farmers' Association, Faithful Fish farmers' Multipurpose Society Ugboroke and Liberty Fish Farmers' Association) and Grand Cereal, a major feed company, to pilot the model in Delta State. The relationship led to the disbursement of 34 million Naira loan for input financing to 24 farmers, and by the end of the cycle, the loans were fully repaid.

Following the successful implementation of the pilot, the bank decided to expand the loan portfolio to reach more farmers, using the same partners.

As a result, during the quarter, 30 more farmers accessed loans worth 45 million Naira from the Microfinance bank (Figure 1) with each farmer receiving between 1 and 2 million Naira. This has stimulated interest amongst other banks who have now expressed an interest to adopt the model, which evidences the crowding-in potential of the model.

Going forward, PIND would be supporting the service providers to replicate the model with other financial institutions in addition to exploring other options to facilitate access to finance for fish farmers in the region.

#### **Leveraging investment into the aquaculture sector to catalyze change**

As market actors continue to see the benefits derived from various economic activities in the sector, they make some investment to maximize such opportunities. This enables them to expand their business and increase their income. Though no target was set for this quarter, investment worth 5.2 million Naira was recorded from several market actors who are investing to expand and improve their business operations (Figure 1).

During the quarter, one of the masons who was trained by PIND on the construction of the chorkor oven expanded into brick making to improve access to bricks for the construction of the oven in Delta State. He invested a million Naira equity in the purchase of an automated brick making machine. This increased his production capacity and resulted in the engagement of four staff to support his activities.

Relatedly, additional 4.2 million Naira equity investment was leveraged in the reporting period, from fish processors who adopted the improved smoking technologies. These processors invested a total of 1.8 million Naira equity into their business – 750,000 Naira from fish farmers for the purchase of 25 chorkor ovens and another 1.05 million Naira to purchase the three smoking kilns that were adopted. Then, six hatchery operators in Delta, Ondo and Rivers States invested an average of 400,000 Naira each, bringing the total equity investment to 2.4 million Naira for feed and the daily management of their broodstock.

#### **Improving access to quality fish seeds for Niger Delta fish farmers**

The use of quality fish seeds/fingerlings is one of the major contributors to good yield and improved productivity of farmers in the aquaculture sector. Initial assessment of the Niger Delta aquaculture sector by PIND identified the lack of quality fish seed as one of the binding constraints facing the industry. PIND's productivity improvement interventions in the previous years have helped to address this constraint through the activities of the aquaculture services providers who link farmers to hatcheries with quality seeds from well-selected broodstock. However, the problem of access to good seeds has persisted. This is because there are only very few hatcheries with quality fish seeds, and over time, as a result of inbreeding, the quality of seeds from the good hatcheries declined.

To address the constraint, PIND partnered with the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON) to develop quality broodstock banks with selected hatcheries in the region. The parent stock for the project was sourced from the wild to minimize, to a large extent, gene contamination. PIND also identified and partnered with six private hatchery operators from Delta, Ondo, and Rivers States to raise broodstock banks from the pure lines produced by FISON. The developed broodstock lines are now domiciled in the facilities of the selected hatcheries and are currently being raised to maturity. Reports from the hatchery operators show that the broodstock continues to record an increased growth rate with some of the lines already attaining an average weight of 2kg within 5-6 months, at least two months earlier than the previous norm. In anticipation of the improved performance that the quality broodstocks would bring, the six hatchery operators provided the additional resources required to raise the developed broodstock to maturity, i.e. the stage they can be used for the production of fingerlings.

In the following quarter, an initial crossing would be carried out between the three developed lines of broodstock to produce the first set of fish seeds. PIND would also facilitate a linkage workshop with other hatchery operators and farmer groups to create awareness on the improved fish seed.

### Increased uptake of smoking technologies in the coastal and non-coastal communities

The chorkor oven and smoking kiln technologies were introduced by PIND as part of the effort to improve the efficiency of fish processors in the Niger Delta region. Over the years, the chorkor oven has gained wide acceptance in the riverine communities as a more effective technology for fish processing. To sustainably promote the adoption of these technologies, PIND built the capacity of masons and fabricators to enable them to produce and market these technologies commercially. PIND also worked with them and other service providers to carry out demonstrations to drive the adoption of these technologies.

As a result of the various demonstrations carried out by the service providers to promote the adoption of the ovens, 29 chorkor ovens were adopted by 25 fish processors in three GMoU communities (Madangho, Ogidigben, and Ajudaibo) in Delta State. The ovens are expected to improve the efficiency of the processors by reducing their cost on fuel (firewood).

In addition to the 29 chorkor ovens, three smoking kilns were adopted in Ondo State. This is emanating from the demonstrations and awareness creation activities carried out by PIND and DFID-funded Market Development (MADE) project in the previous years. The smoking kilns were fabricated by one of the fabricators who had participated in one of the PIND's training programs for fabricators. This brings the total number of smoking technologies adopted for the quarter to 32 as against the 50 targeted for the quarter. The elections in Bayelsa State contributed to the low adoption of the ovens as some of the ovens demanded in the State could not be constructed.

### 2.1.2 Key Achievements: Cassava

The cassava value chain interventions are designed to improve the productivity and income of actors in the cassava sector. This is achieved by incentivizing partners to invest in activities that will improve access to information and quality inputs as well as markets for cassava farmers. Since 2015, PIND has partnered with key market actors like input companies and agro-dealers to embed demonstrations and training into their marketing and sales models. These partners have continued to report increased sales turnover as a result of this collaboration.

In the last strategic phase, more than 35,000 cassava farmers participated in activities organized by these partners and over 18,000 of those farmers reported receiving increased yields and incomes in the cassava sector. Farmers' yields grew from a baseline of 8-10 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) to an average of 18 t/ha, while some States like Akwa Ibom and Delta recorded yields as high as 23 t/ha. PIND also introduced technology to aid small scale garri processing and piloted a cassava aggregation program to support linkage and access to markets for cassava farmers.

Moving forward, PIND plans to leverage the network of input companies, agro-dealers and village stem entrepreneurs (VSEs) it has strengthened to continue to drive and expand the activities to reach more farmers with information and quality agro-inputs. Since 2019, a new crop of actors known as farm services providers (FSPs) has also begun to emerge in the sector who see an incentive in providing a variety of services to farmers. These FSPs who mostly live within the farming clusters and communities provide a variety of local services to farmers across the various agricultural crop sectors including cassava, cocoa and palm oil etc. The services provided by these actors include spray services, seed multiplication, pruning services, sales of agro-input and training to farmers etc. From 2020 and beyond, PIND would be supporting the evolution of the FSP model by building the capacities of these FSPs and linking them to agro-dealers and lead input companies for increased access to input and training.

Through the support actors and partners, in the new strategic phase (2020–2024), PIND targets to reach an additional 90,000 direct and copying farmers. This will be achieved by expanding its work across the region, particularly working with input companies and agro-dealers to set up more demonstration plots to promote the adoption of good agricultural practices in more communities in the Niger Delta. PIND would also expand platforms to train and increase farmers' access to agro-inputs including stems, fertilizers, and other crop protective products as well as facilitate better access to markets for cassava farmers.

In the period under review, PIND engaged with existing and potential partners to define scope and targets for collaboration in the new strategic period, as well as monitored activities organized by the market actors. PIND also finalized plans for the training of trainers' program for FSPs. This is scheduled to hold in Q2 2020. Finally, PIND also had an engagement with some partners for the increased promotion, sales and adoption of the Elephant Gari Fryer among small-scale gari processors.

- the State reaching 337 farmers [137 female]. He also plans to reach more farmers in the coming quarter through the sales of improved stems from his multiplication plot.
- In Bayelsa and some parts of Delta State, Okunwan Agro Services, another agro dealer, organized training and demonstrations on good agricultural practices, reaching 415 farmers (336 female).

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM CASSAVA INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 2. Performance status of cassava interventions as at Q1 2020



### Expanding outreach on good agronomic practices to more farmers

To guarantee improved yields and income, farmers in the cassava sector, require knowledge and adoption of good agronomic practices which will improve their productivity and income. During the quarter and ahead of the 2020 planting season, PIND commenced engagements with existing and new lead firms and agro-dealers to work with them to provide knowledge on best practices to farmers. Five agro-input firms,<sup>2</sup> 18 agro-dealers and 10 farm service providers were engaged, and they all confirmed willingness to collaborate and work with PIND in 2020 and beyond.

Subsequently, some of the partners commenced mobilization and training of farmers across various locations in the region directly reaching 1,519 farmers [1,009 female] (Figure 2):

- In Abia State, Dr. Clement Uhie of Pamason Agro Sciences, an agro-dealer based in the State, organized a training on good agricultural practices for 166 farmers [136 female].
- In Akwa Ibom State, a farm services provider, Victor Tom who was also trained as a village seed entrepreneur (VSE) in 2019, commenced training on good agricultural practices to farmers across

- In Delta State, Ben Wisdom Efe, another farm service provider (who partnered with PIND in 2019 and received training as a VSE), mobilized and trained 510 farmers [339 female] in the State.
- Whilst in Imo State, Aloama Agency, an agro dealer, trained 104 farmers [61 female] on good agriculture practices. Working with PIND since 2018, Mr. Alaoma has reached over 3,000 farmers with demonstrations, training, agrochemicals and improved stem varieties, and has also developed improved relationships with agro-input companies through PIND's facilitation.

The trained farmers are expected to start experiencing changes in yields and income from next year as they adopt the improved practices taught in the demos and training.

### Promoting the new technology to improve the efficiency of small-scale Garri processors

In 2019, PIND began a collaboration with Buro, a technology promotion company based in Ghana and Novaks System Technology, based in Lagos, Nigeria, to introduce and pilot an improved garri processing equipment, the Elephant Gari Fryer.

<sup>2</sup> The agro-input firms include Harvestfield Industries, Bayer Crop Science, SARO Agro Sciences, Springfield Agro Science, and Notore Chemical Industries.

Table 3. Distribution of new outreach activities in Q1 2020

	Abia	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Cross River	Delta	Edo	Imo	Ondo	Total
Number of plots established	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	6
Lead input company working									
Bayer Crop Science		++	++				++		
Harvestfield Industries	++			++					
Notore Industries						++			
SARO Agro Sciences								++	
Springfield					++				
Number of agro dealers working	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	5
Number of farmers reached	166	337	415	0	510	0	104	0	1,532

The Gari Fryer is made out of steel with a mounted chimney and capable of up to 89% improvement in labor productivity while also reducing exposure of garri processors, mainly women, to kitchen smoke.

With Novaks, PIND arranged to import 20 units of the elephant gari fryer for adoption by small-scale women processors in the region. During the quarter, 15 units were purchased by two partners in Rivers State and to accelerate its adoption and use by small-scale processors, PIND engaged with these partners to develop an appropriate strategy. This includes demonstration training on its use and in Q2, PIND will facilitate a linkage between the partners and women processors in Otolokpo, Delta State who have adopted and are currently using one of the pilot units earlier imported by PIND and Buro in 2019. These women will assist with training and practical demonstration on the use of the fryer.

### 2.1.3 Key Achievements: Cocoa

PIND's Cocoa value chain intervention activities focus on improving the productivity of farmers and the production of improved quality cocoa beans through the adoption of good agricultural practices and technologies. In 2019, PIND rolled out its first set of intervention activities in the sector, primarily to address the issue of low productivity and poor-quality beans. It onboarded support market actors (2 agro-input companies, 2 agro-input dealers, 2 agro equipment dealers, and 18 farm service providers) by introducing them to some productivity and quality-enhancing technologies as part of its capacity strengthening effort to get these support market actors to provide training on good agricultural practices to

farmers in Ondo State. Their activities reached a total of 7,628 farmers in 2019. In this new strategic phase (2020–2024), PIND will continue to implement and track the impact of its productivity improvement and quality enhancement interventions in the cocoa-producing states of Ondo, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Edo. To achieve this, PIND plans to carry out an assessment to track the impact of the pilot interventions that were introduced last year. Subsequently, it will expand the support market space by onboarding new partners and further strengthening the capacity of existing ones (including input companies, agro-input dealers and farm service providers) to organize training programs and demonstration activities on good agricultural practices and technology solutions for farmers.

It is expected that the intervention will help targeted farmers to adopt good farm management practices (plant spacing, pruning, etc.) and maximize the use of fertilizers and crop protection products, which should result to increased yield and productivity. From a quality enhancement perspective, PIND intends to strengthen the relationship between off-takers and farmers and leverage that to address issues of poor-quality cocoa beans. This will involve working with the off-takers to drive an incentive-based model that will stimulate changes in attitude and practices of farmers to produce improved quality cocoa beans for export.

Also, in the new strategic phase, PIND will be rolling out intervention activities to increase access to high cocoa yielding seeds and seedlings for farmers.

Findings from the cocoa value chain study conducted by PIND in 2018 show that poor access to high yielding cocoa seed varieties is a major contributor to the low yield experienced by farmers.

PIND is addressing this by working with nursery operators and seed entrepreneurs to improve their seed production capacity and their distribution network to farmers. PIND has set a target of 50,000 cocoa farmers to be reached with quality information, quality agro-inputs and efficient technologies over the next five years.

Working toward its 2020 annual target to reach 10,000 cocoa farmers with information on good practices, quality agro-inputs and efficient technologies in the cocoa producing states of the Niger Delta, PIND supported agro-dealers and farm service providers to organize training programs and demonstration activities for farmers in Ondo State.

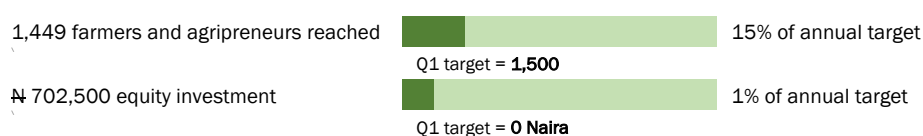
dealers in promoting the adoption of good agricultural practices and technologies among farmers. In the period under review, PIND continued to track the activities of the partners as they expand their outreach to more farmers. One agro-input dealer and five FSPs organized 23 trainings and demonstrations on good agricultural practices in different locations in Ondo State (Akure North, Ondo East, Ondo West, Idanre, Ile-Oluji, and Odigbo) to 1,449 farmers [313 females] with an average farm size of 2.75 ha (Figure 3).

### Leveraging more investments through the adoption of improved technologies

In 2019, PIND worked with agro-technology and equipment dealers to introduce and promote appropriate productivity improvement technologies (such as mechanical pruner, motorized sprayer, brush cutter) and quality

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM COCOA INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 3. Performance status of cocoa interventions as at Q1 2020



### Increasing cocoa farmers' knowledge in improved practices and quality agro-input

PIND introduced the promotion of good agricultural practices in 2019 as a strategy to improve farmers' access to information, quality inputs and technologies necessary to increase yield and productivity. PIND worked with the support market actors to pilot the training activities in Ondo State. PIND also developed the farm service providers model by identifying and training 18 service providers to provide on-farm technical training to farmers on cocoa production. The farm service providers are community or cluster-based service providers who provide services like pruning, spraying, bulk breaking, linkages, access to improved seeds, and other services to farmers at a fee. The activities of these FSPs who use training and demonstrations as part of the promotional strategy for their services, complement the work by input companies, agro-input dealers and agro-technology

enhancement technologies (fermentation boxes, and pelle bongo) among farmers. The technologies were demonstrated in cocoa-producing clusters to increase farmers' awareness and adoption of the products. Through these activities, over 30 units of these technologies were purchased by farmers, FSPs and other actors.

During the quarter, PIND continued to record more investment through the adoption of the technologies by farmers and service providers. An equity investment of 405,000 Naira was made by one of the Farm Service Providers who purchased one mechanical pruner and one motorized sprayer; while another investment of 297,500 Naira was made by farmers who purchased one brush cutter and five pelle bongos. This brings the total equity investment leveraged for the quarter to 702,500 Naira (Figure 3).

### 2.1.4 Key Achievements: Palm Oil

PIND's intervention strategy in previous strategic phases focused on stimulating adoption of processing and harvesting technologies, and introduction of improved inputs and practices for palm oil farmers. There were key documented impacts triggered by the innovations of best management practices (BMP), improved access to palm oil seedlings and improved harvesting and processing tools that resulted in economic and social benefits including increased income, employment creation, value addition, and reduced product losses.

In the current strategic phase (2020–2024), PIND will focus on expanding access to seeds/seedlings and adoption of BMP by more farmers. The BMP strategy will be two-pronged: firstly, it will seek to further improve the yield of farmers, from the current average of 10 t/ha to about 16 t/ha through support actors' scaling up of BMP promotion activities to new farmers. Secondly, PIND will onboard more implementing partners to expand the BMP intervention to reach more farmers in the region. In doing this, it will prioritize the on-boarding of new fertilizer manufacturing companies and improving the relationship between agro-dealers and input companies. For the access to improved seeds intervention, PIND would work with quality seed producing companies to increase the distribution of their seeds to reach more farmers in the region. Specifically, PIND would onboard two more seed producers and increase the network of nursery operators to reach more farmers.

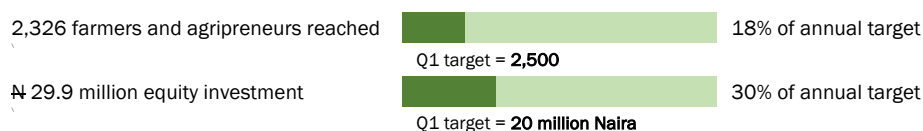
In the period under review, PIND focused mainly on building the capacity of agro extension officers and working with input companies, agro-dealers, and lead farmers to expand the demonstrations of best management practices to more farmers. It also began strengthening the coordination amongst market actors in the seed market to enable access to quality seeds for oil palm farmers. Another area of focus during the quarter was monitoring the activities of the equipment sellers and fabricators to track the adoption of the improved processing and harvesting technologies in the Niger Delta.

#### Reaching new farmers through BMP demonstrations and advisory support of the lead farmers

During the quarter, several farmers participated in training through on-farm demonstrations of the improved practices as well as advisory supports from lead farmers. Table 4 provides a breakdown of the outreach activities in the reporting period: six existing agro-dealers organized 21 BMP demonstrations that involved 1,332 farmers [468 females] in Abia, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers States. Also, 19 lead farmers provided training and advisory support to 914 [313 female] farmers on best management practices across Abia, and Imo States. One agro dealer provided capacity building on best management practices (including nursery management) to 80 agric extension officers [30 female] and nursery managers from the Delta State Ministry of Agriculture. An outreach total of 2,326 was recorded in the reporting period against an annual target of 13,000 (Figure 4).

### KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM PALM OIL INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 4. Performance status of palm oil interventions as at Q1 2020



### Crowding-in of more service providers to provide support services on BMP to farmers

Improving the productivity of palm oil farmers is one of the key objectives of PIND in the palm oil sector. Currently, seven agro-dealers and 39 lead farmers are actively carrying out demonstrations and providing advisory support to farmers on BMP. During the quarter, Laju Fav, an agro-dealer, was commissioned by Delta State Ministry of Agriculture to train 80 of its staff on best management practices including nursery management. These staff, mainly agro extension officers and nursery managers, have the responsibility of providing improved extension services to palm oil farmers in the State. PIND's productivity enhancement strategy has hitherto focused on the development of private sector extension providers. So, it is noteworthy to see that in Q1 2020, an agro-dealer is linking up with the State extension services. This has the potential of expanding the farmer outreach tremendously.

Also, Alaoma Company, another agro-dealer, onboarded two new agro-dealers in Imo state. The new agro-dealers are already beginning to mobilize farmers to participate in BMP demonstrations in the next quarter.

procure seven improved processing equipment, comprising of three small scale processing equipment (SSPE) installed in Edo (2) and Akwa Ibom (1) at the cost of 5.05 million Naira, and four high capacity mills adopted in Abia (1), Cross River (1) and Imo (2) at a combined cost of 17 million Naira. Then, 4.81 million Naira was invested by 138 farmers in Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Ondo States to purchase 261 Malaysian knives and 4 mechanical adjustable harvesters. The Malaysian knives were sold by three equipment dealers: Wilstin Ventures, Samuren Nigeria Enterprises, and Elder Sam. D Global Resources, whilst Texmaco sold the mechanical adjustable harvesters.

Lastly, an investment of six nursery operators in Ondo State invested 3 million Naira to purchase 25,000 sprouted nuts from ALLISSEE Seed Company.

### Strengthening the coordination amongst market actors to increase access to improved seeds for palm oil farmers

In 2017, PIND commenced the access to improved seeds intervention to address the issue of lack of information on the availability of

Table 4. Distribution of outreach activities in Q1 2020

	Abia	Akwa Ibom	Bayelsa	Cross River	Delta	Edo	Imo	Ondo	Rivers	Total
Number of demonstrations	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	3	21
Number of agro-dealers/ lead farmers	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	6
Number of farmers trained by agro-dealers	443	0	0	0	-	0	361	253	275	1,332
Number of lead farmers	3	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	19
Number of farmers trained by lead farmers	145	0	0	0	0	0	769	0	0	914
Number of program stakeholders participating in technical training	0	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	0	80

### Leveraging investment through the adoption of efficient technologies and quality seeds

PIND continued to track the market systems changes brought about by its interventions in the palm oil sector. As a result of the activities on improved harvesting and processing technology and access to improved seeds, the private sector, including farmers, invested 29.86 million Naira in the reporting period. Most of the investment, 22.05 million Naira was to

improved seeds for palm oil farmers. It identified the major actors in the market system for palm oil seeds and facilitated five linkage meetings to strengthen the relationships between them: local nursery operators, seed companies, lead farmers and agro-dealers. These meetings provided the space for the actors to discuss and work out opportunities and incentives for delivering quality

seed to farmers. Furthermore, PIND provided support to the seed companies to create awareness amongst the farmers on the benefit of planting improved seeds, the different prices of the seeds, and where they can be purchased. The seed producers include the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) and ALLISSEE Seed Company (both in Edo State), S-ATM (Ondo State), Ghana Sumatra (Ghana), PalmElit CIRAD (France) and SOCFIN (Cameroon).

During the period under review, PIND linked PalmElit CIRAD to 80 agro-dealers and nursery operators as part of a 'Business Finders' initiative that aims to create awareness of PalmElit CIRAD the 2 million seedlings that PalmElit CIRAD had sold to PRESCO plantation. PIND also supported PalmElit CIRAD to build business relationships with 147 nursery operators and agro-dealers who were initially trained by PIND and the MADE project. The 'Business Finders' initiative was created by PalmElit CIRAD with support from PIND as part of their marketing strategy to incentivize agro-dealers and nursery operators to continue to promote their seeds to farmers. A business finder would buy the PalmElit seedlings from PRESCO, and provide support to the interested palm oil farmers with information on how to pay for seedlings and logistics to pick up the seedlings to their farms. The Business Finder earns a sales commission on each farmer farmer's purchase.

80 of the 147 nursery operators that PalmElit contacted showed interest in working as business finder. During the quarter, business finders commenced engagements in their communities and reached 1,451 farmers<sup>3</sup> on the benefit of buying improved PalmElit seedlings from PRESCO plantation. The initiative is expected to increase the number of farmers who are aware of improved seeds and also help to provide access to improved seeds to oil palm farmers in the region. The record of oil palm farmers purchasing PalmElit Cirad seedlings from PRESCO will be submitted next quarter when the planting season starts for oil palm.

Another seed producer, ALLISSEE Seed Company, is also experiencing increased performance due to improved relationships with market actors facilitated by PIND. In 2019, PIND linked the company to an expert that helped them to upgrade and expand their heating and germination systems, to enable them to double their seed production capacity.

During the quarter, the company sold 25,000 sprouted nuts to 6 nursery operators in Abia (5 operators) and Ondo (1 operator) States.

### 2.1.5 Key Achievements: Poultry

PIND's poultry value chain project emerged out of the Business Linkages program following findings from PIND's assessment and the results from MADE's poultry project in the Niger Delta that showed the sector presenting a viable opportunity to improve the income of the poor in the Niger Delta. In the last strategic phase, the poultry component of the Business Linkages programming focused mainly on supporting small-scale investors in the poultry space to set up chicken processing plants and working with them to create opportunities for farmers to access the market through the development of an out-growers' scheme. Furthermore, in 2018 PIND introduced the poultry services element aimed at strengthening the market for the supply of information on good poultry practices to farmers. This provided the out-grower farmers with the knowledge to improve their competitiveness so that they can sell to different market segments, including the life-bird market.

In the next five years, PIND's strategic thrust for its poultry value chain project is in two strands:

- deepen and broaden the market system for the supply of information to farmers on good poultry practices by identifying and capacitating more poultry services providers to provide trainings to farmers sustainably. Good poultry practices help to reduce the cost of production and mortality, leading to an increase in profitability and income for the farmers.
- improve the access and availability of quality vaccines to poultry farmers in the region. Assessments by PIND and the MADE project show that lack of access to quality vaccine is one of the major factors responsible for the high level of mortality amongst smallholder poultry farmers in the region. To address this, PIND plans to work with vaccine and drug manufacturing companies in Nigeria

<sup>3</sup> The 1,451 farmers included farmers that participated in BMP demonstrations thus this number is not counted in the outreach.

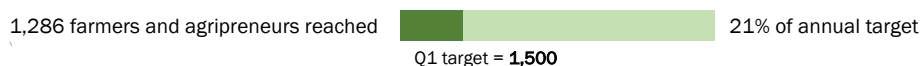
to improve the availability of their drugs to smallholder farmers in the Niger Delta. PIND will also work with input companies to strengthen and expand the village vaccinator's model introduced by MADE in 2017. PIND has targeted to reach over 30,000 poultry farmers over the next five years with knowledge on good poultry practices and access to quality vaccines.

In the reporting period, PIND continued to track and refine the poultry services model and also began to identify vaccine and drug manufacturing companies it would partner to drive the access to quality vaccine intervention and the village vaccinators' model.

- In Akwa Ibom, Dr. Ben Yusuf, a poultry service provider, trained 44 poultry farmers [including 15 female] on good poultry practices and business skills.
- In Bayelsa State, Kindom Obuza, a poultry service provider, exposed and trained 4 [with 1 female] youth corp members on opportunities in the poultry sector. The youth corps members were provided with technical and business management skills training using the NAEC curriculum.
- In Cross River State, Bassy Jacobs, another poultry service provider, trained 91 poultry farmers [58 female] on good poultry practices and business skills.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM POULTRY INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 5. Performance status of poultry interventions as at Q1 2020



### Expanding outreach to more poultry farmers through access to technical and business information

PIND extended support to trained poultry service providers to reach out to farmers. Working with input companies and master service providers, these poultry service providers trained 1,286 farmers [including 511 female] on technical and business skills required to improve their farming practices. They also facilitated access to finance, market and business support to both farmers and chicken processors in the region.

The activities carried out in Q1 are summarized as follows:

- In Abia State, Disabilities Awareness Welfare Development and Rights Initiative (DAWDRIN) trained 95 poultry farmers [including 77 female] on good poultry practices and business skills using the Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC). Some of the farmers were also supported with their loan applications for the CBN Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme (CACS).
- In Delta State, Chuvaak Nigeria Limited also trained another 332 poultry farmers [107 female] in good poultry practices and business skills using the NAEC curriculum. In the same vein, Peter Micheal, a master service provider, trained 14 poultry farmers [7 female] and linked them to Green Acers Microfinance Bank to access loans, while Mr. Musa Obohor, one of the village level dealers supported by the MADE project, reached 188 poultry farmers [74 female] with vaccines for their birds.
- In Delta and Edo States, Green Shield Integrated Technology Limited, a master service provider, trained 48 poultry farmers [including 10 female] on good poultry practices. The farmers were also profiled for loan applications with the CBN Anchor Borrowers' Programme.
- In Edo State, Chuvaak Nigeria Limited, a poultry service provider, in collaboration with

Edo State Social Investment Program, trained 51 N-Power<sup>4</sup> agro beneficiaries [including 15 female]. They were exposed to good poultry practices and business skills.

- In Ondo State, The Arkshore Konsult Limited, a master service provider, trained 198 poultry farmers [60 female] on good poultry practices and business skills.
- In Rivers state, CAD Consulting, a master service provider, trained 136 poultry farmers [46 female] on good poultry practices and business skills. The farmers were also supported with their CBN agric loan applications. More so, 210 poultry farmers who were trained last year in Rivers and Abia States accessed 252 Million Naira worth of loan from the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme. The applications for the loans were submitted in 2019, however, they were approved and disbursed in this reporting period. Also, in Rivers State, Princewill Nzeota, a poultry service provider trained 140 [75 females] poultry farmers on good poultry practices and business skills. The farmers were also supported with their CBN agric loan applications.

achievement of PIND’s 2020–2024 strategic goals if managed separately. This led to the re-design of the MSME development and linkages project which now focuses on playing a catalytic role in engendering a sustainable training program for business service providers in the Niger Delta. It would also support the identification and promotion of platforms to disseminate business information and linkages to support the growth of small enterprises in the region

During the last strategic phase, the project identified and equipped local business development providers with skills and tools to support the growth of small enterprises in the region by providing quality value-added services. These business development providers were also supported to facilitate market and finance linkages between small enterprises and large buyers and funding institutions in Nigeria. By the end of 2019, the project had supported over 6000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to access 2 billion Naira in loans and generate 8.9 billion Naira in income, creating over 7,000 jobs in the process.

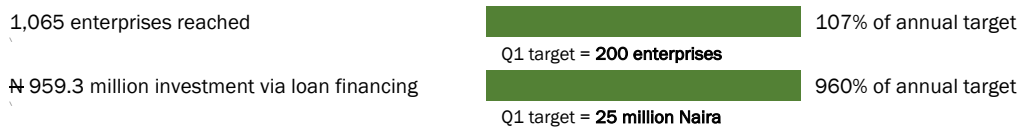
### 2.1.6 MSME Development and Linkages

Similar to the poultry value chain project described above, the MSME development and linkages project developed from the Business Linkages project which was implemented by PIND in the 2014–2019 strategic phase. PIND’s market development portfolio review in 2019 justified the need to decouple the business linkages project which had two components (i.e. MSME development and linkages and the poultry linkages project) as each can contribute significantly to the

During the quarter in review, PIND supported the business service providers to facilitate access to finance for MSMEs through the Central Bank of Nigeria Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS). The scheme is an initiative to support the Federal Government efforts and policy measures for the promotion of agricultural businesses and small and medium enterprises as vehicles for sustainable economic development and employment generation.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM MSME DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 6. Performance status of MSME development as at Q1 2020



<sup>4</sup> N-Power is a youth empowerment scheme sponsored by the Federal Government of Nigeria, designed for Nigerian citizens between the ages of 18 and 35. The modular programs under N-Power will ensure that each participant will learn and practice most of what is necessary to find or create work.

### Reaching more MSMEs through access to business information and finance

Business service providers provide a variety of services to MSMEs to improve their competitiveness and growth. The variety of services includes but not limited to business management training, business diagnostics and upgrading, business plan development, marketing strategy development and linkages to finance and market. During the quarter, four business service providers trained and supported a total of 1,065 MSMEs [including 634 women-owned] (Figure 6) to access the CBN AGSMEIS funding window. These capacity building activities involved classroom training, business plan development, and the preparation of loan applications.

The detailed breakdown of the activities carried out by these partners in Q1 included:

- In Abia State, Wider Perspectives Limited, collaborated with the Abia Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ACCIMA) and NIRSAL Microfinance Bank to train and support 18 MSMEs [3 female] to access the CBN funding window for small enterprises. Two companies that were supported in the previous quarter accessed 11.3 million Naira worth of loans during the quarter.
- In Bayelsa State, Zigha Ayibakoro Limited (ZAL), a business service provider in collaboration with NIRSAL Microfinance Bank trained 267 enterprises [including 164 women-owned] on accessing the CBN SME fund. They also facilitated and submitted the loan applications for the enterprises to CBN for approvals. Also, about 30 MSMEs were supported by ZAL to access 30 million Naira worth of loan from the CBN AGSMEIS facility. The applications for the loans which were submitted in 2018 were approved and disbursed in this reporting period.
- In Rivers State, CAD consulting, a master business service provider, in collaboration with the CBN and NIRSAL Microfinance Bank, provided training on accessing the CBN SME fund to 706 MSMEs [including 420 women-owned]. They also facilitated and submitted the loan applications for the MSMEs to CBN for approvals. Furthermore, 765 MSMEs were supported by CAD consulting to access 918 million Naira worth of loan in Abia and Rivers States from the CBN AGSMEIS facility.

The loan applications submitted in 2019 were approved and disbursed in the reporting period. In the same vein, Princewill Nzeota, a business service provider, provided training to 74 SMEs [44 women-owned] to access new market and funding opportunities.

Overall, the total value of loans facilitated during the quarter is put at 959.3 million Naira, far exceeding the annual target of 100 million Naira (Figure 6). There were a lot of loan applications that were submitted in 2019 and 2018 that only got approved this quarter, giving rise to the wide disparity between the target and achievement for the quarter.

## 2.2 Skills Development for Youth Employment

This section shows key achievements in Quarter 1 of 2020 for the initiative implemented under the Skills Development for Youth Employment project.

With funding support from Ford Foundation, the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) project is designed to analyze opportunities for employment creation and develop models of youth job-readiness or workforce development in key growth sectors in Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers States. The second year of the 2-year pilot intervention started in July 2019 with a target to train and equip 3,000 youth in the three project states with market relevant technical and soft skills.

The initial pilot year equipped 1,468 youth in the target States with market-relevant technical and soft skills in ICT, construction and agriculture. This included youth who had no prior livelihood skills. 645 of youths who completed the various training programs have either transitioned into waged employment (392 youth) or initiated a small enterprise or start-up (253 youth) in 2019. Following a deliberate effort to stem employment inequality by PIND, young women and youth living with disabilities who are traditionally excluded in most programs totaled 488 and 65 of the trained youth respectively while 229 of those already in job placements or start-ups were young women.

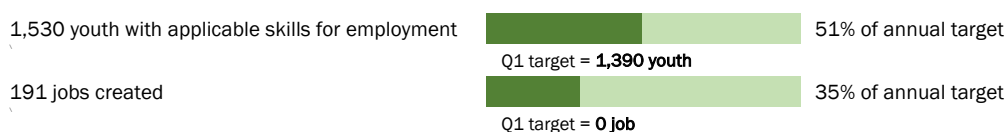
Unlike traditional skills acquisition programs that do not pay attention to what happens post-training, NDYEP provided the 253 young entrepreneurs among the trainees with business advisory services, market linkages and access to finance both as investment or working capital for growth expansion that would enable them to graduate into a new class of job creators themselves.

Building on the implementation models, lessons and results from the first year, PIND awarded grants to 16 eligible partner organizations to provide demand-led training and post-training support for work and job creation to an additional 1,390 youth in the three pilot States. PIND will also provide technical support to other Niger delta state governments to encourage adoption of demand-led approaches to youth employment programming.

although some technical trainings were carried out before the enforced restrictions were announced. The aquaculture training covered topics such as good agricultural and farm practices, spawning and stocking of fingerlings, pond management and post-harvest handling amongst others. It also involved business and entrepreneurship training using the Nigerian Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC). One of the implementing partners, Ibiteinye Integrated Farms included fish feed production into the training module in the reporting period. Whilst Develop You Foundation completed the CBN/BOI Farmers' Enterprise training and supported program participants to register on the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) web portal to access enterprise loans after the training.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM NDYEP PROJECT Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 7. Performance status of NDYEP project as at Q1 2020



### Training selected youths on technical skills

Working through its 16 implementing partners, PIND continued to advance technical and behavioral skills training in aquaculture, building construction and ICT for a total of 1,713 youth participants across the target states of Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers. Of the 1,713 enrolled and accessing learning opportunities under NDYEP during the quarter, 1,530 youth [545 female] have so far completed the skills training. With 36% female participation and 9% involvement of persons living with disabilities (PWD), there is a modest improvement on the inclusion of young women and PWD when compared to 1<sup>st</sup> year of implementation.

During the quarter, the project modified sub-grants for enrolment of additional program participants which will expand outreach to over 3,000 youth, however, actual training implementation was put on hold due to the Covid-19 induced pandemic lockdown in Nigeria

Another implementing partner, Ibom Integrated Farms provided 65 small size fish tarpaulin ponds<sup>5</sup> to its training participants for practical learning and demonstration.

There was increased integration of some of the formal technical vocational education training centres (TVET) in delivery of construction skills training in the project states. The construction skills trainings were conducted through TVET centres as follows:

- In Abia State, Kiara de Luke Academy trained 100 youths in masonry, carpentry, electrical installation and plumbing. All 100 trainees have completed classroom/practical training and have moved into apprenticeship.
- In Akwa Ibom, Azure-Gold, an implementing partner, worked with the Government Technical College at Abak to directly deliver

<sup>5</sup> Each pond can hold up to 100 fishes.

technical training to more rural and marginalized youth outside the State capital.

- In Rivers State, Aspirants Consult and MRE Consortium (led by Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre) collaborated with the Port Harcourt Technical Vocation Centre and University of Port Harcourt respectively.

During the quarter, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with RIVTAF<sup>6</sup> Nigeria to allow 103 youth to be attached to RivTAF's subcontractors in a structured apprenticeship. Another MoU has been developed and is being finalized with Green Village Electricity (GVE) for training and apprenticeship of 100 youth in solar panel installations and maintenance with opportunities for engagement post training. Most of the building construction trainees transitioned into apprenticeship with various building sites and companies for practical and field experience.

Accounting for 37% of all participants trained, the grantees implementing the ICT program completed all training scheduled for the quarter and some post-training linkage of program participants to internship positions and jobs. In Abia State, Clintonel Innovation Centre (CIC) trained 125 youth in computer-aided design, computer-aided modeling and renewable energy. Some of the trainees have commenced their apprenticeship program. Another grantee, Innovation Growth Hub (IGHub) trained 137 youth, which brings the total number of trainees in Abia State to 262.

In Akwa Ibom State, 49 youth trained by Start Innovation Hub were linked to internships / apprenticeships while 17 trainees were linked to work opportunities. Another 21 trainees are incubating their own businesses. However, in Rivers State, while Keeping It Real Foundation (KIR) was able to complete training sessions and helped some of the trainees to start their apprenticeship, Cinfores, another grantee, had to suspend its training program for 100 youth due to the Covid-19 situation. Also, Meranos, another grantee, was unable to get the trainees to take the certification exams after completion of CompTIA A+ training.

Furthermore, recommendations of the 2019 mid-term review of the project steered PIND to harmonize and update the soft skills training manual. The behavioral training has been mainstreamed with the delivery of technical vocational training and all 16 implementing partners nominated two trainers from their organizations for the training of trainers who will deliver the training directly and not through a third party. There is a shared reflection among technical training providers that embedding and spacing the soft skills training between technical vocational training will have positive effect in shaping attitude and behavior of the youth participants.

Overall, 191 youth (Figure 7) were assisted to either gain waged employment or start off their own business in Q1. This excludes those that transitioned into an internship or apprenticeship program during the period.

#### Sharing lessons with Niger Delta State governments to inspire adoption of NDYEP models

Learning forums were conducted across the region Niger Delta states (excluding Bayelsa and Imo). With over 130 representatives from 54 ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in attendance, the forums provided an opportunity to showcase the NDYEP model and framework and lessons from the project. There were discussions around States' youth-focused programs and youth employment plans; possible areas of alignment with NDYEP model and possible forms of technical support that the various States might require to adopt or adapt NDYEP's framework and practices.

The forums noted a need to engage with the State governors to ensure commitment of resources that will fast-track the adoption of the project's practices. Consequently, once conducive, PIND will engage the governors of selected States in addition to the regional youth employment summit and follow-up learning and exchange visits with state governments already planned for the next quarter.

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<sup>6</sup> A public private partnership to develop mass housing for middle to high income earner in the Rivers State. The project will consist of the development, building and management of middle high income housing communities as well as the development and delivery of infrastructures such as shopping centres, sports centre, recreation centre, 9 hole golf course, central water sewage and power supply.

As part of its effort to expose relevant governments to effective models and sustainable approaches to youth employment programming, PIND also presented the NDYEP model and results at the first Employment Summit organized by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) held on 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Lagos.

### Starting NDYEP in Delta State

Building on previous agreements with the Delta State government to adopt NDYEP practices, PIND met with the Delta State Job Creation Agency to firm up areas of collaboration and technical support to the Graduate Employment Enhancement Program (GEEP). A draft plan to support implementation of job readiness program was developed jointly with the agency and will involve technical assistance to the agency to strengthen its employability skills training program and leveraging the NDYEP soft skills training. Other support being considered include:

- Capacity building for resource persons, trainers, and TVETs;
- Enhancement of the entrepreneurship business management training to support a third-party competency assessment for trainees by recognized certification bodies; and
- Tailored support to other programs of the agency, including the Skills Training and Entrepreneurship Program (STEP) and the Youth Agricultural Entrepreneurs Programme (YAGEP). Implementation will start in the next quarter when the Covid-19-related restrictions ease.

To kick-start the Delta State version of the Youth Employment Pathways project, a labor market assessment is planned for the next quarter, contingent on Covid-19 conditions. The assessment will guide on the main training activities that will be undertaken.

### Emerging opportunities in other sectors

Following the call for proposals, nine proposals were received from prospective partners interested in design and delivery of technical training programs in the finished leather sector especially in Abia State. The project estimates that 2-3 sub-grants will be issued to train and support about 150-200 youth in this sector and support linkages to job opportunities. Actual commencement of technical training might be delayed due to the current Covid-19 lockdown in the State.

## 2.3 Access to Energy

Achieving sustainable, systemic change in the energy sector requires innovating on technologies. This section highlights what was achieved in the Access to Energy project in Q1 2020.

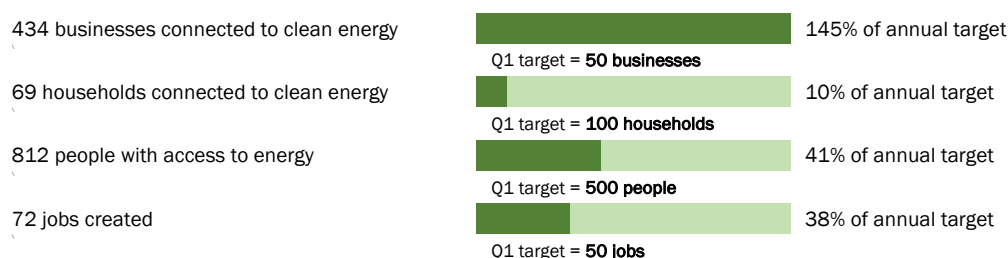
PIND has been exploring new pathways to bringing off-grid renewable energy to non-electrified rural communities and replacing isolated diesel generators with clean technology solutions. Early in 2019, PIND collaborated with a renewable energy power company, A4&T Power Solutions Limited to deploy a 15-kilowatt solar energy mini-grid in Gbagira community, a fishing settlement in Ilaje local government area of Ondo State. The energy cabin served 16 small-scale enterprises, 9 households, a medical clinic and 2 fish smoking kitchens benefiting more than 20 women fish smokers.

By the fourth quarter, the mini grid showed a positive impact on the local economy as businesses operating in the coastal areas connected to the electricity source increased their turnover by over 40%. Within nine months of using the energy cabin, 17 businesses earned a net income of 1.18 million Naira at an average of 131,000 Naira per business per month and economic activities increased based on the additional consumption of electricity. 10 businesses saved 366,300 Naira from fuel purchase which added to their income, showing the role of energy as an economic enabler. As a follow on to this energy access model, PIND facilitated power purchase exclusivity agreement between eight coastal communities in Bayelsa and Delta States and two different energy service providers to scale up the model and enable more communities to access affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy.

With a high deficiency of access to basic electricity around many rural Niger Delta communities, especially the coastal communities, PIND reconfigured its investment from a broadly-focused appropriate technology enabled technology (ATED) project to one that is enfolded

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM ACCESS TO ENERGY PROJECT Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 8. Performance status of Access to Energy project as at Q1 2020



in clean energy solutions that would boost the growth of productive enterprises and households in the Delta region. In the current strategic phase (2020–2024), PIND will be accelerating community-centered initiatives such as solar and environmentally friendly energy cabins and solar-powered cold rooms. These initiatives have just one purpose – to improve energy access to the poorest populations and businesses that operate in under-served or off-grid communities in the Niger Delta. The competitive advantage of the innovative technology solutions that PIND will promoting is that they will require little or no individual investments in bulk assets such as generators or refrigerators and will be operated through service models that ensure profitability and a quick return on investment for the investors.

### Stimulating socio-economic activities through access to clean energy

For many coastal communities, there is a market demand for electricity and refrigeration. This is driven by concerns around food security and development of agriculture and local economies. In Q1, 434 businesses and 69 households (Figure 8) in Ogheye (a coastal community in Delta State) and Ugbo Nla (another coastal community in Ondo State) were connected to the energy cabin.

During the quarter, 812 people gained access to energy technologies (Figure 8). Through 11 cooperatives that comprise 380 small-scale enterprises, 142 people in Sangana community and 238 people in Fishtown community, both in Bayelsa State, were able to utilize

the communal solar-powered cold rooms remodeled by Vectis Business Options Limited. PIND facilitated the partnership between Vectis and the communities to restore and manage the rural cold room infrastructure in these communities. Table 6 presents the cooperatives in Fishtown and Sangana communities.

The deployment of blast refrigeration in the two communities represents a new technological approach to post-harvest preservation for the many fisherfolks and citizens. The pay-as-you go business model guarantees access to rentable space for fishermen and sellers through a pro-poor model, thereby reducing the likelihood of post-harvest losses due to lack of electricity, refrigerating equipment or both. The 16 cubic meter cold room is capable of refrigerating 8 metric tonnes of fish daily, which provides access to the 380 fisherfolks that have signed on to use the facility. In addition, between 200 kg and 800 kg of food, meat and drinks are being refrigerated daily in the cold room, giving the fishermen association, small-scale businesses, and other members of the communities improved access to affordable refrigeration services.

Similarly, an estimated 414 persons (Figure 8) from 46 households in Ugbo Nla community and 23 households in Ogheye community of Delta State gained access to electricity from a 31.5kW and 20kW energy cabins set up in each of these communities respectively.

Table 5. Membership distribution of cooperatives in Fishtown and Sangana communities, Bayelsa State.

<b>Fishtown</b>		Membership
1.	Ebitimi (Fishtown Brass) FADAMA 3 Deep Sea Fishing Cooperative Society Limited	20
2.	Kon Ake Fishing (Fishtown Brass) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	21
3.	Sea Feed Fishing (Fishtown Brass) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	28
4.	Fish Town FADAMA Community Cooperative Association	32
5.	Helping Hand (Fishtown) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society Limited	20
6.	Numosco Fishing (Fishtown) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	23
7.	Unity Fishing (Fishtown Brass) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	26
8.	Odisco Fishing (Fishtown) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	22
9.	Ngoibi Fishing (Fishtown) FADAMA 3 Cooperative Society	21
10.	Satisco (Fishtown Brass) FADAMA 3 Deep Sea Fishing Cooperative Society Nigeria Limited	25
<b>Sangana</b>		Membership
11.	United Fishing Union of Sangana	142

### Raising awareness of the energy access workshops

PIND held 2 demonstrations on the adoption of solar refrigeration technologies in Fishtown and Sangana communities. 150 persons at Fishtown community, and another 105 persons in Sangana community attended these demonstrations. In addition, 18 renewable energy developers, and other allied organizations attended a sharing workshop in Warri, Delta State where the opportunities in renewable energy market in the coastal communities and the model that PIND has developed were presented.

Within the reporting period, PIND also carried out community energy needs assessment in 3 GMoU communities: Opia, Ikenyan and Eghoro.

The assessments were carried out to support potential interventions and pilots around new business models for community access-to-energy projects and interventions.

### Ensuring job creation through energy access

To scale up activities implemented in 2019 by A4&T Power Solutions Limited to improve energy access to Ogheye and Ugbo Nla coastal communities, 12 persons were trained to maintain the solar-powered mini-grids and cold rooms constructed in the communities.

### 3. Peace Building Program

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

The peace building program comprises of two interrelated and inter-dependent projects: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) and Partners for Peace (P4P) Network. The IPDU focuses on undertaking research and providing trainings to local and international stakeholders to implement innovative pilot projects that show promise of making a difference on the ground. Responding quickly in a targeted manner to rapidly changing dynamics, IPDU promotes collaboration and synergy amongst the existing local, regional, and national efforts of actors in both public and private sectors to address conflict early warning and response, with a focus on gender and youth.

The P4P Network is PIND's strategy towards establishing social infrastructure and capital across all nine States of the Niger Delta. In the last five years, PIND has established a network of self-identified agents of peace that have deployed the power of grassroots networking towards building peace in the region. Through the instrumentality of conflict analyses and early warning, P4P identifies, and supports existing initiatives, and creates new ones to address the conflict risk factors. The P4P Network currently has chapters and sub-chapters in all the 9 States and 119 LGAs of the Niger Delta.

In the current strategic phase, the Peace Network will focus on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that promotes more enabling, integrated and peaceable environment conducive for economic growth and development in the region.

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



#### 3.1 Peace Building

This section shows key achievements in Quarter 1 of 2020 by the Peace Building program.

Between 2015 and 2019, almost every State in the Niger Delta had multiple and overlapping conflict drivers within its territory. To address this situation, PIND has been taking increasing responsibility for conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the region. PIND's role and in its support for grassroots-led conflict resolution initiatives

shows examples of both the scope and the limits of long-term peacebuilding projects.

Having recognized the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict in the region as early as 2012, PIND adopted a plan of action that aimed to keep the level of violence as low as possible, particularly in key communities of interest, while also building the social infrastructure and social capital of peace actors across the region for long term sustainable peace.

This ushered in a paradigm shift reflecting a different way of working on problems of militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).<sup>7</sup>

In 2019, the P4P Network’s presence was felt in all nine States and in 119 out of 185 local government areas in the Niger Delta. 2,047 new members including traditional rulers, government officials, civil society actors, youth leaders, women leaders and others joined, bringing the total membership strength of the peace Network to 9,610 from 7,563 in 2018. During the period, PIND trained over 6,000 peace actors in various capacity building workshops.

Informed by a total of 98 conflict trackers produced during the year from the Peace Map data, these peace actors carried out interventions that mitigated and resolved 126 conflicts in several communities in 2019 alone, and engaged in mass media campaigns that reached over 11 million persons with peace messages aimed at motivating them to take a stand for peace. About 110 of the interventions were carried out to mitigate and reduce violence in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States during Nigeria’s 2019 general elections, which assisted in reducing the political and electoral violence incidents and fatalities that occurred in these States.

In 2020, the objective of PIND’s peacebuilding program is to prevent violent conflicts wherever possible, and where this is not possible, to demonstrate ways of reducing violence and to support long-term grassroots-based mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution.

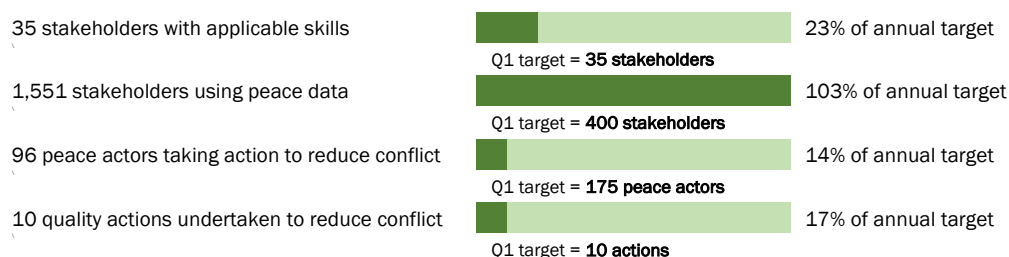
### Inspiring peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace

Although PIND trained 36 persons on conflict management this quarter, it was too early to ascertain how the participants involved were applying the skills acquired to promote peace in their communities. Instead, PIND undertook a survey of selected program participants to understand how the peace actors trained between 2018 and 2019 are applying skills acquired from PIND/P4P facilitated trainings and what characteristics contribute to the development of their competencies.

All 35 peace actors surveyed reported that they applied improved skills to promote peace in their communities (Figure 9) in the reporting period. They also attested to the fact that the training they had received has helped them to improve their skills as peace actors and built their confidence in better handling of conflict-related issues and standing out in their communities as peace actors.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 9. Performance status of Peace Building program as at Q1 2020



<sup>7</sup> PIND Impact Assessment: promoting peace in the Niger Delta 2012- 2018.

Some others mentioned how the knowledge gained has helped them to tackle their personal life matters, manage finances better and to deliver training to other people. For example, **Dr Jeffery Wilkie**, the co-chairman of the Warri Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP), who participated in the Warri MSP training on conflict management explained:

*"Because of the capacity we have built so far through the Warri MSP, which is a brainchild of PIND, we have been able to get experience and build capacity which we are applying in circumstances that unfold between the Ijaw and the Itsekiri in the 3 Warri LGAs (Warri North, Warri South and Warri South-West). We got to a point when we needed to change the name of the location of a drilling facility from Gbokoda West to a neutral name. Today, that name Gbokoda West has been changed to Saturn-1 which is neutral and very acceptable to the Itsekiri and the Ijaw and the job is going on well. The Ijaw are employed and so are the Itsekiri and they are living in peace, unlike before when such issue would have easily led to a crisis and people would start killing each other. We have been able to move from that old pattern to living together."*

Another participant of the Warri MSP on conflict management, **Chief Mike Odeli** recounted:

*"One important thing I learnt from the MSP training is to keep the situation from getting even worse and preventing it from ultimately escalating into a violent crisis. [...] Since then, I offer my support anywhere I can. As a member of the Warri MSP, I was able to apply the skills acquired from the MSP training to douse tensions between Okere-Urhobo and Okere-Itsekiri communities [in Warri, Delta State]. I brought the stakeholders together to address the issue and focus on dialogue. Luckily, I was able to douse the tensions and get them to a place of agreement."*

The 35 peace actors all agreed that their understanding of conflict resolution has greatly changed via their participation in the PIND facilitated trainings. Most of them shared how they are acting as brokers between communities and groups to help solve specific local problems and disputes. This in part reflects the shared viewpoint of the peace actors that conflicts are an integral part of co-existence in all societies and are as unavoidable as they are essential for social change.

According to **Rebecca Sunday**, a mentorship training participant:

*"They [conflicts] reflect differences in values, clashes of interests, and the ensuing tensions between the various different groupings. It is not the conflicts per se which are the problem, but the manner in which they are resolved. [...] I didn't know anything about conflict management but ever since I started attending the training, I now step up to get involved in conflict situations. In my community, (Ossah, Umuahia North LGA, Abia State), there was a boundary dispute and with the knowledge acquired from the P4P training on conflict management, I mitigated this conflict."*

In 2018, PIND had facilitated the Warri MSP to establish a multi-ethnic platform that promotes peaceful co-existence of the Ijaw and the Itsekiri in three local government areas of Delta State. In February 2020, PIND carried out a careful evaluation of the MSP and its principles to get the perspective of its members on whether the MSP has been impactful. The narrative of **Ambassador Meshack Ubabiri**, the co-chairman of the Warri MSP, provided a frank assessment of the MSP:

*"When we started Warri MSP initially, people were not aware of our existence until the commencement of townhall meetings which publicized Warri MSP. It was at this juncture that people started calling us for issues. One of such was the communal issues within the Ijaw and Itsekiri axes. The approach we adopted was that we involved heads of both parties, consulting them separately, and later we brought them together to see reasons to live together in peace and it worked. [...] The most valuable thing I learnt was the need to dig into the root causes of conflicts before attempting to resolve them. Again, the Warri MSP does not give a ruling when attempting to resolve conflicts, because ruling sometime can trigger conflicts rather than engendering peace. Court may not be the best place to handle conflict because there is no win-win situation where people continue to exist happily without problems and biases. Dialogue is the best way of resolving conflict than going to court."*

## Utilizing data and resources to address conflict

As at the end of March 2020, PIND continued to expand its database. From 2009 till date, it has coded, formatted, and uploaded 16,500 incidents in the Niger Delta alone, making it the most comprehensive, publicly available dataset on conflict risk in Nigeria. The PIND Peace Map is currently integrated with various data sources which include West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Funds for Peace's UNLock, Transition Monitoring Group's (TMG) Quick Count of the Nigerian Election Early Warning System (NEEWS2015), Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP), Council of Foreign Relations, Nigeria Watch, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), and Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD). Each of these organizations gathers data on conflict drivers and fatalities and focuses on different issues, locations, and time periods. Integrating all of these data sources on a single platform allows PIND to cross-validate and triangulate information to better identify hotspots and trends that allow peace agents to target their efforts in addressing conflicts.

Data from the [Peace Map](#) is regularly aggregated and presented in the form of weekly, quarterly, and annual conflict trackers (see screenshots), which are used by the P4P chapters, Prevent committees, the Peace and Security Network and other diverse stakeholders in their conflict assessment and mitigation planning and implementation. An analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products revealed that 1,551 stakeholders utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis (Figure 9). The top four users are civil society organizations, international non-government organizations, academic and research institutions, and security agencies. Similarly, the top four uses for these products are for conflict analysis, as a tool for advocacy, for planning and decision making and for purposes of early warning and early response. The top users of PIND's products are located in the United States, United Kingdom and Nigeria.

Click on this [LINK](#) to access PIND's Niger Delta Weekly Update. Or send an email to [trackers@pindfoundation.org](mailto:trackers@pindfoundation.org) to subscribe.

### Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2019

**Executive Summary**

There were a number of changes in the Niger Delta peace and conflict landscape in 2019. A variety of interrelated and often overlapping conflict risk factors contributed to the changing conflict and security dynamics during the period. These conflict risk factors included historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian). This report examines the trends and patterns of conflict risk and violence, and identifies key interrelated drivers and pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), CIEPD (<http://ciepd.org>), PIND's early warning system, and others.

According to data ([www.pindreports.org](http://www.pindreports.org)), there was an increase in conflict risk and violence in the Niger Delta in 2019, compared to the trend in 2018. Organized criminality, cut-throat, political tensions, and disputes and communal clashes were the primary causes of inter violence during the period. Gang and political violence increased while communal violence decreased during the year.

Other key conflict and security issues in 2019 include robbery, rival cut clashes, kidnapping, piracy, counter-insurgency operations, extra-judicial killings, ethno-religious agitation, mass violence, killing for ritualistic purposes, human trafficking, political tensions, violent protests, as well as domestic and sexual violence.

Gang violence, militancy/counter-insurgency operations, and communal conflict were the most salient types of violence in 2019, as measured by fatalities per incident. According to data (see second graph on page 4), on average, every incident of gang violence and militancy/counter-insurgency resulted in at least three fatalities. This was closely followed by inter-communal conflict with an average of 1.7 fatalities per incident.

Overall, the most reported incidents of violence tended to be primarily (including piracy, extortions, robberies, and killing for ritualistic purposes), with 644 fatalities in 2019 incidents. This was followed by gang/ritualistic supremacy claims with 272 fatalities in 78 reported incidents. Gang violence was reported in 61 of the areas in the region, but it was more prevalent in Rivers, Edo and Delta.

Communal/ethnic tensions was the most highest conflict issue in the region during the year, resulting in 287 fatalities in 77 reported incidents. These incidents included mass disputes, human/ herder conflicts, and ethnic/religious agitation.

Political and election violence was caused over 100 fatalities during the period, especially in Rivers, Delta, and Bayelsa states. In the run-up to, and during the 2019 general elections, political tension was observed in the Niger Delta. In February, for instance, 76 fatalities were reported in the region during the general election.

The regions of conflict in the region remained largely unchanged in 2019, compared to 2018. According to data ([www.pindreports.org](http://www.pindreports.org)), the most violent states during the period, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities, were Rivers, Delta, Edo, and Cross River, respectively.

The most violent local government was (LGA) in 2019 were those (Ikeri), Osofo (Osso), Osofo/ Ajayi (Ikeri), Ikeriye (Bayelsa), Okpanai (Cross River), Mba (Akwa Ibom), Senuke (Imo), Etiope East (Delta), Port Harcourt (Rivers), and Oyoja (Ikeri), respectively.

### Niger Delta Weekly: Highlighting the Evolving Threat of Kidnapping

March 8-14, 2020

**Description**

Kidnapping for ransom has emerged as one of the greatest threats to human security in the Niger Delta, especially in Rivers, Delta, Edo, Akwa and Bayelsa states. From abduction of expatriate oil workers by ethno-religious agitators to draw international attention to environmental and developmental issues in the Niger Delta, the phenomenon has evolved into a protracted security threat and a fast-growing criminal enterprise in the region. It is increasingly changing in nature and expanding in scope, including mass kidnappings. Kidnapping for ransom has become a frequent occurrence and everyone is at the risk of being abducted. According to data (see map below), over 300 kidnapping incidents have been reported in the Niger Delta since 2009. On March 5, 2020, for instance, an 80-year-old mother of a local government chairman was reportedly kidnapped in Agulona/Ekpanama community in Ikeriye, the Bayelsa state capital. The kidnappers reportedly attacked the residence of the victim, shot sporadically to scare away residents, abducted the octogenarian into a vehicle, and later escaped into the creek in a speedboat.

**Why It Matters**

The current trend of kidnapping for ransom is alarming as everyone is at the risk of being abducted. It is currently the greatest security risk facing individuals, families, businesses and organizations operating in the Niger Delta. The prevalence of kidnapping for ransom therefore constitutes far-reaching repercussions in the Niger Delta.

**Social:** The danger of kidnapping is not only in the case of the ransom, but also the threat it poses to one's life. Sometimes victims are abducted, assaulted or killed. The fear of being kidnapped for ransom creates anxiety among residents and this can lead to high level of mistrust among residents, and contribute to general insecurity.

**Economic:** Kidnapping increases the cost of doing business which could be the cost of paying ransom to the cost of security measures taken. Some businesses have relocated from the Niger Delta because of insecurity. The prevailing risk of kidnapping could force more businesses to relocate outside the Niger Delta. This can exacerbate unemployment and undermine economic development of the region.

**Political:** The prevalence of kidnappings for ransom could be assumed by residents as symptomatic of the inability of the government to protect lives of citizens. As a result, residents may lose confidence in the capacity of public agencies to provide public safety and security. Because of a lack of confidence in the capacity of the government security agencies, families and relatives of victims sometimes negotiate and pay ransom to kidnapers without involving the security agencies, and thereby incentivize more kidnappings.

**Heat Map of Kidnapping Incidents in the Niger Delta, Nigeria**



**Heat Map shows concentration of reported kidnapping incidents in the Niger Delta from January 2009 to December 2018. Source: All data sources formatted on the PIND Peace Map [www.pindreports.org](http://www.pindreports.org).**

**Prognosis**

The dynamics of crime in the Niger Delta indicates a causal link between kidnapping, economic challenges, and insecurity. Kidnapping is increasingly changing in nature and expanding in scope. The situation could worsen with the proliferation of kidnapping syndicates. If the underlying socio-economic drivers are not addressed, the proposed regional security units by the South-South governors could not have come as a better time. The proposed security units should be structured to effectively tackle the threat of kidnapping.

**Contact Us**  
Inquirer: Afonso Super Odionoso, Research Coordinator  
Telephone: 0817240395  
Email: [afonso@pindfoundation.org](mailto:afonso@pindfoundation.org)

**Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System**  
Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system. Text report to 080 9990 2222  
Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.

### Interventions undertaken to engender peace

In highlighting the main patterns and trends observed, conflict trackers also detail specific incidents at the local government level as more peace actors are utilizing these trackers to inform local actions. In the period under review, 96 peace actors reported that they took at least one action to mitigate conflict in their locality (Figure 9). The range of actions taken by these peace actors are varied in scope. In some instances, peace actors have taken action to mitigate conflict in local schools, in workplaces, churches, and communities.

Well-adapted to local conditions, in touch with local communities and equipped with good connections to the local political elites, the peace actors are creating important domestic social capital and ownership for the peacebuilding process. During the quarter, 10 quality actions (Figure 9) were taken by peace and security actors to mitigate the drivers of conflict in accordance to a set of identified criteria. These criteria include:

- The intervention or action was carried out with consultation with key stakeholders (including women, youth, vulnerable groups, and relevant parties to the conflict);
- Intervention focuses on an identified risk;
- The intervention or action contributes to the reduction of risk and/or mitigates group-based violence;
- The Intervention positively affects a significant number of people (based on the context and nature of the problem); and
- Impact of the action/intervention was long lasting (based on the context and nature of the problem).

The 10 actions met at least 3 of the 5 listed criteria. Table 6 provides a summary of 10 interventions.

These peace actors had been beneficiaries of PIND's conflict management training in their various States and have utilized the skills from that training to make an impact in their communities. For example, in Abia State, James Ukagwu intervened in a land boundary dispute that caused serious conflict in his community. After participation in a PIND mentorship workshop in 2018, he worked with the community leader – who is also a member of the P4P Network, and other respected community members to take necessary steps in resolving the land dispute and to restore peace. He has also extended his conflict resolution skills to Akwa Ibom State to resolve another land dispute and a farmer/herder's conflict that would be erupted into violence by accelerating consultations with interested parties and frequent townhall meetings.

Also, in Abia State, despite being a Northerner, Adam Ibrahim intervened in a situation where a herder had his arm amputated as a result of a clash that occurred when the herder entered a resident farmers' land. This usually get escalated into a large-scale conflict if Adam had not mediated. Adam also took part in the P4P Prevent Team refresher training.

These peace actors and many others are transforming a conflict situation into one in which local actors create and maintain sustainable and peaceful social relationships as well as viable political and social structures capable of addressing the root causes and mediating social conflict, furthering sustainable development and creating a long-term peace environment, thereby inhibiting the reoccurrence of violence at a later stage.

Table 6. Summary of interventions carried out by peace actors in Q1 2020 by location, type and results.

<b>Peace actor</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of conflict issue</b>	<b>Outcome of interventions</b>
Ukagwu James	Abia State	Communal conflict	Successfully intervened in a land dispute in his community
Azubike Peter	Abia State	Cult/gang violence	Mentors and rehabilitate youths that are addicted to drugs and are members of cults
Adamu Ibrahim	Abia State	Farmer/herder conflict	Successfully resolved a situation where a herder's hand was amputated for encroaching on a farmer's land
Meshack Ubabiri	Delta State	Inter-ethnic conflict	He is playing a key role in a peace and reconciliation committee set up by his local government chairman
Oku Obinna	Abia State	Interpersonal conflict	After attending a conflict management training, he retrained his staff and set up a dispute resolution mechanism
Nwogwugwu Hyacinth	Abia State	Communal conflict	Successfully intervened in a conflict in Isiala Ngwa. He was able to get the stakeholders to sign a peace agreement.
Unyime Ekpodia	Akwa Ibom State	Gang/cult violence	Successfully intervened in a cult issue that arose at the University of Technical College.
Adikwu Favour	Abia State	Interpersonal conflict	Successfully intervened in an interpersonal dispute in her community
Anyanwu Aloysius	Imo State	Communal conflict	Successfully mitigated in a land dispute in his community
Chioma Delphine	Imo State	Interpersonal conflict	Successfully mitigated in an interpersonal conflict in her place of work

## 4. General Enabling Program

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

An additional set of initiatives have also been designed to support, enable, measure and communicate the results and achievements of the 2 core pillars of Economic Development and Peace Building. These include:

- A capacity building that will build the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations and communities.
- Advocacy that seeks to influence of policies, practices and programs underpinned by in-depth analyses and understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- A robust communications and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts and learning.

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



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 1 of 2020 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

### 4.1 Capacity Building

Between 2012 and 2019, the PIND's capacity building program primarily focused on providing organizational development and institutional strengthening support to a wide range of organizations: government agencies, civil society organizations, business membership organizations and community-based service providers. During this period, PIND enhanced their capabilities to engage and deliver on their goals of increasing opportunities to diversify resources in addressing the needs of Niger Delta communities in an accountable, inclusive and sustainable way.

Following a re-alignment of PIND's strategic focus at the end of 2019, the capacity building program was repurposed to advance the capacity strengthening efforts of the economic development and peace building programs. First, it would continue to strengthen institutional, organizational, and technical capacity of local development organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the market systems approach. A critical outcome of the 2019 strategic planning process was the validation of PIND's adoption of market systems development (M4P)<sup>8</sup> approach to economic development by different stakeholders.

<sup>8</sup> M4P is an overarching approach to development that provides agencies and governments with the direction required to achieve large-scale sustainable change by focusing on underlying constraints that prevent the poor from participating effectively in markets.

Second, it would continue to strengthen capacities of stakeholders in the peacebuilding stratum on conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution to fortify peaceful environment for expansion of economic growth and development in the region. Different stakeholders in the region admit and endorse peaceful environment as a requisite to development.

Work under this project will also focus on strengthening of the institutions that support the Chevron Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) and the regional development committees (RDCs) to play a leadership role in advancing targeted initiatives that will improve the livelihood of people living in the Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) fenceline communities.

### Assisting local organizations to access more funds

As part of the mentoring program for local organizations willing to adopt the market system approach, PIND and the MADE project in 2019, selected 13 NGOs and assigned them to mentors. The mentorship process commenced with an assessment of the organization to identify issues that limit their ability to implement donor-funded projects using the market systems approach. The mentors then developed and implemented bespoke improvement plans for each organization.

The 10 NGOs that completed the mentoring program and submitted their proposals to PIND were invited to pitch their project for funding. The project review panel selected the top five proposals based on their understanding of the market systems approach and the feasibility and scalability of the proposed project. In Q1, PIND shared the strategic objectives of each of the market development sectors with the top 5 NGOs to deliver an implementation strategy to meet the targets.

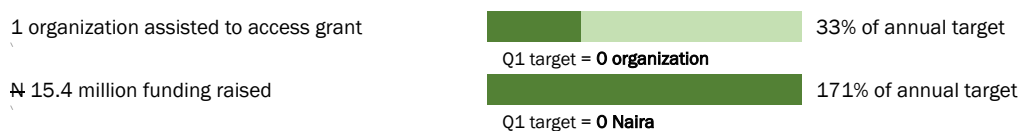
Following their presentation, four organizations were considered for grants to expand intervention in aquaculture, cassava and poultry sectors. These organizations will also get further mentorship from PIND market development subject matter experts.

During the assessment, it was discovered that the chief executive of an organization, Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons (SEYP), that participated in the earlier mentorship program singlehandedly developed the materials submitted for the program despite having five employees and several volunteers. The assessment also revealed some structural issues and talent mismatches within the organization. Subsequently, a capacity upgrade plan was designed for the organization. Through the mentorship program, the organization's capacity was built in project management and proposal development, and the chief executive was guided to restructure the organizational processes i.e. people and culture, financial management system and results management processes.

After the mentoring program, SEYP applied for a grant from the Swiss Embassy to implement an economic empowerment project for returnees in Edo State. In an interview with the chief executive, she explained that her team prepared the proposal documents following the standards taught in the mentoring process. This helped them to meet the requirements for the donor project. In the period under review, SEYP received a grant of €45,000 (15,413,850 Naira)<sup>9</sup> from the Swiss Embassy (Figure 10). And as a result of the increased activities brought about by the grant, the organization increased the number of their employees from 5 to 18.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 10. Performance status of Capacity Building project as at Q1 2020



<sup>9</sup> The exchange rate used was NGN 342.53 (as at 16 January 2020 when the grant was approved).

## 4.2 Advocacy

Encouraging the development of well-structured and articulate State long-term development plans and influencing policies are examples of ways to facilitate sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. This was the principal focus of the advocacy project in the last strategic phase. PIND supported Cross Rivers State to develop its 30-year growth and development strategy from 2016 until 2019 when the strategy was launched by the State government. Currently, PIND is supporting Abia and Edo State governments to develop their long-term plans. This process is taking into account, the dynamics that are unfolding in respect of policy focus in the sector plans in light of the Covid-19 responses by the State governments. The plans are on track to be finalized in 2020.

Furthermore, as part of support to State governments, PIND continued to provide technical support to Delta, Edo, and Ondo States to produce five-year agriculture policies aimed at addressing hunger and malnutrition, poverty, water and energy use, climate change, and unsustainable production and consumption. The policies will help regulate agriculture, increase the productivity of land already under cultivation, improve agriculture's water use efficiency, and enhance the protection of animals, thus lowering global greenhouse gas emissions, reducing deforestation, and conserving natural resources. By end of 2019, these policies were at various stages of completion for onward transmission to the respective State Governors for approval.

At the core of PIND's approach is the promotion of partnership and collaboration among development actors to increase development resources in the Niger Delta, improve coordination and boost program impact and sustainability. In 2019, PIND was able to influence over \$21 million (i.e. >7.6 billion Naira) into the region from different donor agencies, including DFID, USAID and Ford Foundation.

These funds were used for expanding economic activities in the region. Between 2016 and 2019, PIND had influenced government spending to the tune of 494 million Naira in Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Ondo State. These were as a result of new initiatives by the government in supporting agricultural activities, Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs).

### Influencing public spending in the Niger Delta

PIND continued to provide technical support to Abia and Edo States to develop their long-term plans that are integrated with sectorial and aggregate medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEF). The long-term development plans will guide the States' development efforts in a more holistic manner as opposed to the ad-hoc plans that are usually politically tenure-based. The essence of these plans is to ensure that all segments of the society benefit from the fruits of economic growth in the States through efficiency and equity. Further, it would facilitate an enabling environment for private sector initiatives to thrive as well as consolidate all other development efforts at a larger scale in both States.

PIND privately and publicly engaged the speakers of both Abia and Edo State House of Assemblies and other members of the State legislature to elicit their support and ensure that the final plans are institutionalized and protected by the State laws. So far, the Governors of both States have constituted working groups to provide technical input and visioning groups to ensure oversight of the project in the respective States.

During the quarter, PIND influenced the government of both States to support the long-term development planning with 40 million Naira (i.e. 20 million Naira from each state) (Figure 11). As at the time of writing this report, the funds have been released to the Abia State Planning Commission and the Edo State Ministry of Planning.

## KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM ADVOCACY PROJECT Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 11. Performance status of Advocacy project as at Q1 2020



**Influencing financial and technical assistance commitment from donors and the private sector**

In the period under review, PIND’s advocacy work fostered strategic partnerships and collaborations to build synergies for social and economic development in the Niger Delta. As a follow up to the 2 million Naira contribution from the European Union Niger Delta Support Project (NDSP4) in 2019, PIND re-engaged the NDSP4 for additional funding support for development of the long-term plans in Abia and Edo States.

Also, PIND engaged the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to commit some funding to support agriculture and industrial development in at least three states in the Niger Delta. UNIDO has recently secured a pool of funds to implement projects in the Niger Delta and had contacted PIND as a credible partner to provide technical advice on their planning and implementation process.

**Influencing policies and strategies that promote a peaceful non-violent society**

Historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to the changing conflict and security dynamics in the region. According to available data, there was an increase in conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta between 2018 and 2019, mainly driven by organized criminality, cult clashes, political tensions, gang, and political violence.

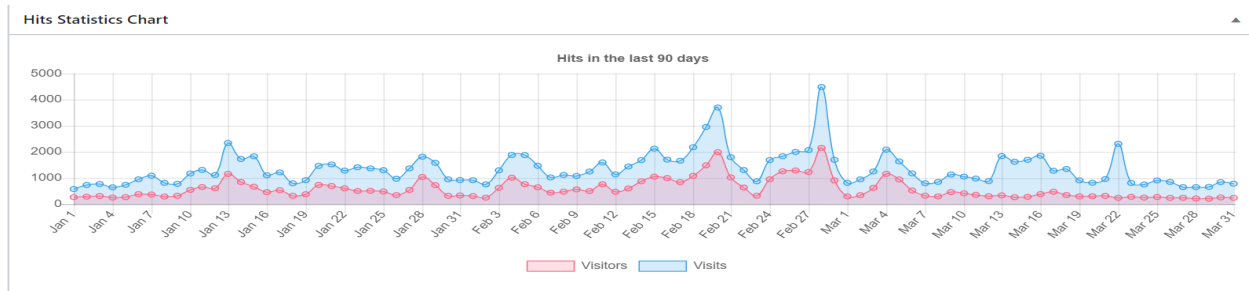
Against the backdrop of their historical experience, and recognizing the reciprocal effects between peace and development, the Governors of the South-South States have rekindled the revival of the moribund South-South regional integration bloc of Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta States (BRACED) to task it to prepare modalities for setting up a region-wide security infrastructure.

This is precisely where PIND’s peace building efforts come into play: to prevent violence as a means of resolving conflicts, to reduce fragility as a breeding ground for violence, and to create opportunities for long-term development. In Q1, PIND began the preliminary planning of a Peace Lab, somewhat a roundtable that will bring state and non-state actors together to discuss the form this security infrastructure should take as well secure buy-in of key stakeholders. The proposed Peace Lab is planned to take place in Q2, as South-South States transit out of strict lockdown prompted by Covid-19 pandemic.

**Stimulating conversations on emergent development issues**

PIND has continued to collaborate with various organizations to ensure that through its advocacy platform, NDLINK, delivers timely development information, emerging trends and issues within the development sector, as well as commentary and analysis from leading voices in development practice. Different organizations utilized the NDLINK platform to disseminate various development information, and as a result 175,211 visits were recorded in Q1. For instance, the Africa Polling Institute (API) connected and informed development and sustainability professionals on results of its ‘Canada Rush’ study which highlights motivations for Nigerians who are leaving the shores of the country. Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI) shared exclusive updates on the ongoing cleanup of Bodo community of Ogoniland; and New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) joined the advocacy campaign launched on the platform that emphasizes what the country loses economically due to illegal crude refining. Figure 12 presents NDLINK hits statistics chart.

Figure 12. NDLINK Q1 website analytics (visit in blue and unique visitors in red)



### 4.3 Communications

Findings from the 2019 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR) noted that PIND has low publicity and visibility of its programs and accomplishments. Stakeholders strongly believed that strategic communications and visibility are essential and recommended that the communication of achievements and program results be upscaled to raise visibility and enhance the reputation of the Foundation. Raising visibility means getting people to know about PIND, talk about PIND, and engage with PIND so its reputation can become stronger to attract target stakeholders to support PIND’s cause, partner with PIND, fund PIND’s programs and replicate PIND’s proven models.

In response to this, PIND’s strategic communication objective in the new phase is to increase the level of awareness of PIND and its programs among traditional donors, federal and state governments, private sector investors, the media and PIND internal stakeholders, and enhance its reputation and credibility as a thought leader, go-to organization, catalyst, and convener. This positioning is expected to, in turn, help PIND to influence spend in new projects that reduce conflict and poverty in the Niger Delta as well as to raise funds for its programs and organizational sustainability.

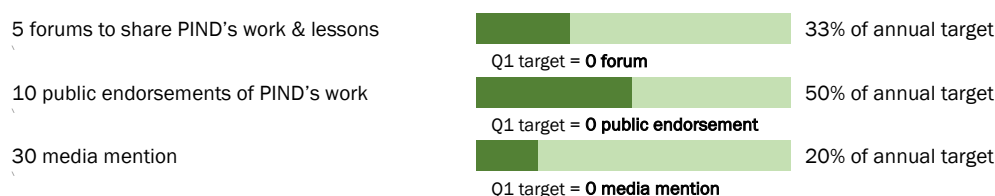
During the period under review, PIND’s communications deployed a number of tactics and strategies to reach more target stakeholders and the public with information that markets and builds social engagements with the PIND brand using traditional

mainstream media, digital media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, website and newsletters) and events. These strategies include:

- Attending events to get participants to subscribe to PIND’s social media platforms, website, and newsletters;
- Connecting with latest trends and issues from an angle that is relevant to PIND and that is safe for the brand such as the content on the novel coronavirus pandemic;
- Using weekly and monthly analytics on audience preferences, timing and actions inform communication activities on digital media;
- Helping to amplify the content of related groups/organizations and using that as a means of getting them to know and follow PIND;
- Creating innovative content types such as polls to spur deeper engagement and conversations and designs that are attractive to audiences;
- Using social media tools to find every user who is posting about PIND and responding to them in a personalized manner that humanizes the brand;
- Doing regular promotions of the platforms and the posts.

### KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS – SUMMARY FROM ADVOCACY PROJECT Q1 DASHBOARD

Figure 13. Performance status of Communications activities as at Q1 2020



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

During the quarter, communications messaging focused on amplifying key PIND news such as the announcement of the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) certification of PIND and the feature of PIND on the International Labour Organization's (ILO) case study on models of decent work; the dissemination of select knowledge products from the Foundation such as the 2019 Annual Conflict Report, the PIND Early Warning & Early Response User Handbook, the NDYEP practice papers and video, and the weekly Conflict Reports; and providing media, audio-visual and branding support to PIND external knowledge sharing forums and events.

Through PIND's communications activities, 212,492 people and 1,340,779 persons gained awareness about PIND through the digital media platforms and mainstream media respectively (Figure 13), bringing the total number of persons with new or increased awareness of PIND during the quarter to 1,573,216. Against an annual target of 150, PIND garnered 30 positive media mentions of its work and activities in the first quarter of 2020 and attracted 10 public endorsements (Figure 13) from stakeholders who interacted with its content on the website, newsletters, and social media posts during the same period. With the advent of the novel coronavirus pandemic during the quarter, PIND further adapted its messaging to support the effort of global and local health agencies to stop the spread of the virus and safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Due to the incidence of the coronavirus attack, the PIND media grant intervention aimed at showcasing its results and proven models in partnership with select media grantees that was scheduled to start in March had to be put on hold. This was to avoid wasted message exposure via the media which would defeat the objectives of the intervention. Instead, from mid-March, PIND focused on providing real-time and authentic messages from relevant authorities to PIND target audiences. In line with PIND's belief that well-informed stakeholders are more likely to make the right decisions and take the right actions as regards the coronavirus situation, and to position PIND further as an organization that prioritizes health and safety and a partner of choice, PIND launched the [Covid-19 Niger Delta Update](#) on the Foundation's website on March 21, 2020 to provide specific information about the pandemic in the Niger Delta which is PIND's area of intervention.

### Social Media:

With a total of 284 posts across LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube in the quarter, PIND reached 199,458 persons who viewed the posts on social media, contributing to the annual target of reaching 306,000 persons with PIND information. Additionally, 7,442 of the persons reached engaged or interacted with the social media content by liking, commenting, sharing or referring friends, colleagues or organizations to content posted on the PIND social media platforms. Also, the number of people following PIND on social media grew to 53,474 from a baseline of 52,716 in 2019.

Table 7. Audience reach for PIND social media platforms in Q1 2020.

Social Media Platform	Reach Statistics
Twitter	159,800
Facebook	21,055
LinkedIn	13,623
Instagram	4,002
YouTube	978

PIND’s social media posts attracted both local and international referrals during the quarter. An example is a referral tweet from Chris Dao (@ChrisVDao) a data enthusiast based in the United States of America in response to PIND’s showcase of the NDYEP model video in the reporting quarter:

*“@EY\_Alliances @EY\_Africa @EY\_UKAC - Think you'd enjoy @PINDFoundation's #NDYEP model. It shares #values with "EY Africa 2030" driving #Inclusive #Sustainable #Growth.”*

Likewise, Nathaniel D.F Allen (@NateDFAllen), an Associate Professor working with the African Centre based in the United States shared PIND’s tweet on the 2019 Annual Conflict report via Twitter in a tweet to his followers:

*“ICYMI: In 2019, deaths from violent attacks nearly doubled in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, from 546 in 2018 to 1,013, as per this very helpful @PINDFoundation report.”*

#### Newsletters:

Understanding that PIND’s target audiences are not all always on social media, and have different communications preferences or habits, PIND produced

three focused newsletters during the quarter namely the promotion of PIND’s the DCED certification, the release of PIND’s 2019 Annual Conflict Report and the PIND early warning platforms and systems manual, all to position PIND as a credible organization. PIND did a targeted dissemination of the newsletters to specific stakeholder groups including local and international donor organizations, the private sector, governments, the media, local civil society organizations and Niger Delta actors and PIND staff who are its brand champions.

The newsletter disseminations reached a total of 1,850 persons within the target groups. 38 of the newsletter recipients constituted new subscribers gained within the quarter through PIND stakeholder events and website outreach, inching towards the annual target of 100 new subscribers by the end of 2020. According to MailChimp, the average newsletter opening rate for non-profits is 25%. Across all the stakeholder group recipients, PIND’s newsletters attained a combined average opening rate of 29.7%. Aside from the private sector that attained a lower than average opening rate of 22.8%, all other critical stakeholder groups individually achieved above industry standard opening rate for non-profits.

Table 8. Opening rate for PIND Newsletter across select target stakeholders against an average industry opening rate of 25% in Q1 2020.

Stakeholder Category	Opening Rate
International organizations	27.1%
Local civil society organizations	32.3%
Private sector organizations	22.8%
Government institutions	29.4%
Academic and research institutions	48.6%
Media	43.3%
PIND workforce	63.1%
<b>Average opening rate</b>	<b>38.0%</b>

#### PIND Website:

During the quarter in review, PIND produced and posted 34 new website content and repurposed 23 old content to align with the tactics of using more innovative and creative content style to attract more people to the website. This attracted 12,864 new visitors to the PIND website during the quarter, who became aware of PIND, contributing to the target of 52,020 new visitors by year end. Aside from the new or unique visitors, an addition of 36,948 persons visited

the website repeatedly from January to March to increase their awareness of PIND.

These visits to the website and to PIND’s social media platforms spurred 132 email enquiries to PIND ranging from partnership exploration, invitation to events/forums, request for business/product linkages, data or support from PIND. This meant 132 out of the annual target of 169 email enquiries was achieved in Q1

### Mainstream Media:

Some PIND target stakeholders are avid consumers of traditional media content, such as government agencies who regularly monitor the media for news that can help influence their decision and policymaking and image. In the reporting period, PIND broadcast key information and news from five PIND stakeholder events/forums (Figure 13) through mainstream media comprising of TV and print, in addition to branding, photography and live-sound support provided for the events. These events and forums include:

- The Lagos State Employment Trust Fund Summit (LESTF) in Lagos State
- The 2020 International Women’s Day Roundtable in Warri, Delta State
- Roundtable on the Strategic Implementation Work Plan (SIWP)
- Warri Multi Stakeholders’ Platform Townhall in Koko, Delta State
- Warri Multi Stakeholders’ Platform Workshop in Benin, Edo State

Furthermore, PIND disseminated the PIND 2019 Annual Conflict Report widely in the media. PIND’s effort to amplify PIND information and brand through mainstream media earned the Foundation 30 positive media mentions (out of a target of 150) showcasing its work and activities in 20 national print dailies, 2 regional dailies, 1 regional television and 8 online news blogs with global reach.

Against an annual target of reaching 4,000,000 individuals, PIND reached an average of 1,340,779 individual across different stakeholder groups through mainstream media in the reporting quarter, using the audience base data from the PIND 2015 media consumption research.

During the quarter, PIND brokered broadcast and publishing deals with three regional TV and three radio stations, and one national newspaper to promote solution journalism in the Niger Delta. This is part of the second round of PIND’s media grant intervention aimed at partnering with media to showcase the Foundation’s work, models, lessons and approaches for replication as a means of increasing awareness about PIND, growing its influencing identity and attracting funding for its program. The media programs and publications are expected to kick off in the second quarter and will contribute to increasing the number of positive media mentions of PIND that will attract further media endorsements in the year as the journalists learn more about the Foundation in the course of the programming.

Table 9. PIND’s website performance in Q1 2020.

Visits	Total Unique (new) Visitors	Number of new contents posted	Number of new contents refreshed	Total Repeat Visits
January	4,118	13	8	13,614
February	4,025	8	9	11,724
March	4,721	13	6	11,610
Total	12,864	34	23	36,948

### Public endorsements of PIND

The concerted efforts to amplify PIND and its program activities across various digital and mainstream media platforms in the reporting quarter led to 12 public endorsements of PIND's work and priorities from persons who consumed PIND's communications outputs through its platforms. For example, in a LinkedIn post, **Damilola Asaleye**, the Founder and Executive Director of Girls and Women Technological Organization and Co-Founder, Ashdam Solar Company Limited, commended PIND's work:

*"I am highly impressed on the quality of the energy efficiency of the #PINDFoundation office building; from the cooking gas used at the kitchen being fully generated from the toilet human wastes to the optimum use of daylighting to reduce electricity bills, to the use of 90% laterite bricks for good house insulation and much more."*

Following the facilitation of her attendance by PIND Communications, **Lillian Okonkwo**, the Chairperson of the Rivers State Chapter, Nigerian Association of Women Journalists acknowledged PIND in her speech at PIND's 2020 International Women's Day:

*"I can confidently testify that PIND has worked tirelessly towards achieving the 12 critical areas of concern of Beijing conference which is meant to achieve gender equality, parity, and equity. And this can be seen in PIND's work in the area of women in agriculture, health, environment, media, rights of women, violence against women and girls."*

## 4.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND's commitment to gender and social inclusion delineates efforts the organization is making to achieve greater gender equality as a key pathway toward lasting poverty reduction and shared security and prosperity in the Niger Delta. By many measures, the last strategic phase marks a watershed period in PIND's efforts to advance gender equity in its programming. With the adoption of a new

strategic plan, PIND is committed to a renewed and more ambitious development in the Niger Delta.

This plan, with a deadline of 2024, emphasizes inclusion not just as an end in and of itself but as critical to development effectiveness. At the center of PIND's 2020–2024 strategic plan is the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of poor women and girls, persons with disabilities and most vulnerable population.

### Marking the International Women's Day

The International Women's Day (IWD), annually marked on March 8th, is a worldwide event that celebrates women's achievement while calling for gender equality. The theme of this year's IWD, tagged '[I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights](#)' aims to take stock of progress twenty-five years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action — a progressive roadmap for gender equality — and bridge the gaps that remain through bold, decisive actions.

Staying true to its proud history of advocating for gender-equal Niger Delta and in observance of the 2020 IWD, PIND organized a conference that brought together sixty-nine individuals pushing to realize women's rights through tangible actions — from grassroots awareness raising to highly visible campaigns with impact. Participants had the opportunity to hear from progressive speakers, followed by lively and informative panel session celebrating women's journeys and successes stimulated by PIND gender mainstreaming activities in its economic development and peacebuilding programs. The conference identified and documented challenges hindering gender equality and social inclusion in the Niger Delta and reached a consensus on trackable solutions.

Also, the conference highlighted opportunities for women to explore, which include:

Cocoa sector	Processing, packaging and marketing of cocoa produce; and Being an aggregator.
Cassava sector	Garri processing and packaging; Stem production; Fufu, starch and bread making; Production of flour, tapioca, ethanol, sweetener, degradable products for drug industries, and animal feeds.
Palm oil sector	Renting and management of plantations; Selling of fresh fruit bunches; Promotion of improved processing technology.
Poultry sector	Vaccination of birds; Providing extension services; and Meat and egg aggregation.
MSME development	Becoming a business service provider who renders services to small-scale businesses to improve their standards of doing business, and help them improve their performance, access capital, gain linkages and tap into emerging opportunities.
Peace building	Belonging in the P4P Network or the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN); Becoming an early warning and early response agent; Facilitating negotiation and mediation within homes, organizations, and communities.

### Steering women's economic opportunities and access to finance

Women in Niger Delta confront specific constraints to their expanded engagement in economic opportunities, including lack of access to assets and land, particularly in cultural environments where access to the primary means of production is dependent on relationships with men, and lack of access to credit and financing facilities. As part of its inclusivity approach, PIND increased economic possibilities for women during the quarter by empowering 3,590 women (nearly 40% of 9,084 farmers, agripreneurs and youth reached with several green growth,<sup>10</sup> climate-smart agriculture and youth employment focused interventions) to access jobs and economic opportunities. PIND, in partnership with its development stakeholders, made important strides in contributing to gender equality by providing training and business service support to women and women-owned enterprises that would improve their productivity and income. An impact evaluation is planned in subsequent quarters to examine the impact of PIND's support on women's employment and productivity and on women-owned firm output.

SMEs with full or partial female ownership represent only 38 percent or less of formal SMEs in emerging markets<sup>11</sup> and face many limitations – they are more likely than male-owned SMEs to be smaller, informal, and home based. Women entrepreneurs often have more restricted access to finance and sometimes

borrow with less favorable terms than men, such as higher interest rates and shorter time frames. Given the relative size and structure of women-owned SMEs, they are also often excluded or marginalized from the credit infrastructure of the country, further inhibiting their ability to borrow or even enter the market. In the reporting period, PIND brought the access to capital and financial services one step closer to 634 women-owned SMEs (almost 60% of the 1,065 SMEs supported). PIND ensured that the business service providers deliberately offer a more focused approach to reaching the women's market. While supporting the women-owned SMEs to apply for loan assistance from different financing schemes, these service providers also facilitated access to saving accounts to improve the welfare of self-employed female entrepreneurs and helped them with financial literacy necessary for strategic decision making regarding their business and personal finance.

### Building women's capacity in conflict management

Under the peacebuilding program, 42% of women participated in various capacity building workshops in project management, conflict resolution and early warning reporting, conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding where their capacities were enhanced.

<sup>10</sup> Green economy is viewed generally as those occupations or skills that help societies move toward a less carbon-intensive economy and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These will include industries such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other services contributing to climate mitigation, as well as those contributing to adaptation and climate resilience.

<sup>11</sup> Women-Owned SMEs: A Business Opportunity for Financial Institutions, A Market and Credit Gap Assessment and IFC's Portfolio Gender Baseline, 2014.



For example, 50% of women attended the conflict resolution and early warning reporting training for market actors. These women made strong contribution and also expressed interest to adopt and put to practice what they learnt during the training. One of the participants, Christy Iwezor of Canaan Peace Women and Community Initiatives (CPWCI), a non-governmental organization in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, shared a testimony on how she deployed knowledge gathered from a previous conflict mitigation related training in 2019 to resolve existing conflict in her community. According to her, the knowledge of negative and positive strands of conflict gathered and the need to understand issues from broader perspectives made it possible to successfully resolved the pending conflict.

#### Forging partnerships and collaborations in support of a truly equal society

For several years PIND has collaborative partnership with relevant networks and coalitions such as the Development Partners Group on Gender (DPGG). As a well-recognized member of DPGG in the promotion and protection of women's rights in Nigeria. In this capacity, PIND participated in DPGG meetings held during the reporting period and helped in shaping the DPGG's agenda in supporting the apex gender machinery (Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development) and other initiatives towards promoting, protecting and advancing the rights of women and girls in the country.

## 5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

### Challenges

Bayelsa State elections slowed down the progress of adopting the chorkor oven in most coastal communities in the State as these could not be set up due to the volatile environment created by the elections.

The high cost of transport was a major disincentive for the purchase of quality seeds by palm oil farmers during the quarter. Farmers willing to buy the PalmElit seedlings from PRESCO plantation were averse to the additional cost of transportation, pushing the overall cost for the seedlings unaffordable for a lot of smallholder farmers. This significantly slowed down the pace at which farmers placed orders for the seedlings. PIND is currently working with the business finders and the seed producer to explore different ways of getting the seeds to the farmers at a much cheaper cost.

The other challenge experienced during the quarter was the associated risks and high cost of bridging the last mile to market i.e. remote locations. Most of the high-volume cocoa production clusters are located in forested areas with poor access roads and other social infrastructure. Ofosu is one of the many cocoa-producing communities that can be classified as very hard to reach, it is a farm settlement in a remote community in Akure North, Ondo State (almost 2-hours' drive from Idanre) and with over 3,000 cocoa farmers. Due to this difficulty, the farmers hardly have access to training programs on improved practices and technologies. In coming months, PIND will be engaging with the State government to prioritize the access roads to this community.

The social restrictions that the government has imposed across the country as part of efforts to address the Covid-19 pandemic could lead to limited field activities as more people implement precautionary measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic. Many field-related activities have been suspended or postponed due to the strict lockdown, especially the testing and commissioning of the energy cabin in Ogheye, Delta State, the Ijaw-Itsekiri leaders' summit and the trainings for regional development committees and P4P Network chapters.

Poor coordination of government officials slowed down the process of Edo State long term plan development process. Having experienced how limited or no handover of the retired permanent secretary formerly in charge of the planning process can cause interruption, PIND guided the decentralization of chain of authority to effectively manage the long-term plan development process and avoid any communication gap.

Inability to accurately report PIND's actual mainstream media reach: The media audience measurement survey conducted by PIND in 2015 has become outdated as new media outfits have emerged since then and online media has also become a prominent means of mass communication which was not the case when the report was developed in 2015. With a reduced budget, it difficult to fund media surveys or purchase media data from media research firms. As a means to report data that is available as well as to avoid over-counting or under-counting, PIND uses the number of reach for broadcast and print media stations whose audience reach was available as contained in the 2015 media report. The average of the available data is obtained to take cognizance the accuracy of the central tendency. However, this approach will lead to an under-reporting of our media reach and make the data an estimate at its best.

### Lessons Learned

Market-driven approaches with a private-sector orientation bring more sustainable benefits than conservation- or supply-driven approaches, and effective, visible demonstration plots promote the adoption of better techniques. But farmers require hard and compelling evidence that investments in sound management practices and innovative agricultural technology solutions can reduce their risks and improve their livelihoods before changing their behavior.

A lack of contact between groups (ethnic clan, religious, among others) can lead to negative stereotypes or bias capable of exacerbating conflict.

Thus, opportunities, spaces and processes, such as the Warri MSP that brings groups or individuals together, can increase understanding of others and build or improves social cohesion.

A media report disseminating the 2019 PIND Annual Conflict Report attracted a rebuttal from the Rivers State Government accusing PIND and Chevron of undermining the efforts of the Government's administration. The main takeaway from this is that releasing PIND reports that contain potentially *sensitive* information or data about States or even stakeholders at large, can trigger *negative* backlash or push back from the States in a bid to redeem their reputation.

The Covid-19 crisis is providing opportunities to transform traditional approaches to development. For instance, the involvement of the private sector, academia, and local partners in promoting sustainable investments in community-level preparedness and service delivery is building the resilience needed to respond to and prevent future crises.

## 6. Program Management

### Governance and Accountability

With the approval of the new strategic plan in November 2019, PIND went through an annual planning process that aligns to the new strategy. The Foundation's operating plan and budget for the year was finalized during the quarter and is ready for the board's approval at its next meeting in April.

This quarter PIND saw exciting organizational changes as part of the transition to a new strategic phase, representing the next step in its evolution and rooting the Foundation more deeply with the visions it aims to achieve. These changes started to lay the ground for the Foundation to achieve greater financial sustainability, increased agility, impact and connectedness, and, above all, to meet its ambitions.

PIND took part in the M&E Committee meeting of NDPI on 27 February 2020 and also the NDPI Directors meeting 03 March 2020. Key outcome from the board meeting is the approval of 7 Phase 3 grants for PIND and the approval of the Energy cabin grant from Chevron.

During the quarter, PIND held its own M&E Committee meeting on 12 March 2020 and prepared for the Board of Trustees' meeting which was postponed till April because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, 2 new trustees were formally invited to join the PIND Board of Trustees to replace those whose tenure expired in 2019. The new trustees are: Mrs Ibiye Ekong and Dr (Mrs) Timiebi Koripamo-Agary.

The erstwhile NDPI Executive Director, Johanna Nesseseth, was replaced by Nadeem Anwar in March 2020. This was sequel to the appointment of Johanna as the new Manager for Issues Management at Chevron Corporation in Washington DC. PIND took part in ensuring a smooth transition between the two Executive Directors, especially to build knowledge and awareness of Nadeem on PIND Foundation – its people, systems and procedures, governance and field programs and partners.

### Organizational Sustainability

In line with the priority of raising \$6.5 million for PIND's programs from other funding sources, diversifying and expanding its income through fundraising investments was a major focus for PIND during the quarter and will continue to be in the coming years. PIND explored the possibilities of expanding PIND's presence in new markets to ensure that any potential expansion in the future is strategic and impactful.

PIND made progress in addressing the Foundation's financial sustainability by leveraging high-profile events to promote PIND's work and connect with potential partners. During the quarter, PIND participated at a Job Creation Summit in Lagos, hosted by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund. The forum was attended by over 200 participants, who were representatives of donor agencies, private sector companies and government agencies. On the panel was PIND's Deputy Executive Director who gave detailed information about PIND and our work on youth employment.



Other panellists were top representatives from German Development Agency (GIZ), United States Agency Development Fund (USADF), British High Commission's Prosperity Fund and International Labour Organization (ILO).

PIND's participation at the summit led to partnership re-engagement with the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria under N-Power, who have expressed willingness to partner with PIND in expanding the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) to other states beyond Abia, Akwa Ibom and Abia.

In addition, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)<sup>12</sup> approached PIND to explore partnership opportunities on its Nigerian component of Sharing the Power, a project aimed at testing community-led approaches to mini-grid development in the Niger Delta. The organization is willing to commit up to \$200,000 to cover for the development costs and capital expenditure of the mini grid. Due to international travel restrictions amid the Covid-19 crisis, RMI was unable to visit Nigeria in March 2020 to kick-off the planned project. However, PIND received the draft memorandum of understanding to pilot the project in Ondo State.

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<sup>12</sup> RMI is an independent non-profit founded in 1982 to transform global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure low-carbon future. It engages businesses, communities, institutions, and entrepreneurs to accelerate the adoption of market-based solutions that cost-effectively shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewable.

## 8. Looking Ahead

### Priority actions for next quarter

In Q2, the **market development project** will be working with the service providers, agro-dealers, input companies, fabricators and agro-equipment dealers to further upscale demonstrations on improved technologies and training activities on improved practices in all the sectors – with the aim of reaching another 18,500 farmers and MSMEs directly distributed as follows:

Aquaculture	- 1,000 farmers and agripreneurs
Cassava	- 5,000 farmers and agripreneurs
Cocoa	- 4,000 farmers and agripreneurs
Palm Oil	- 6,721 farmers and agripreneurs
Poultry	- 1,500 farmers and agripreneurs
MSME Development	- 250 enterprises

PIND will be engaging a short-term consultant for the Sombreiro Kapital to implement pilot transactions across selected sectors to enable farmers and small-scale enterprises in the aquaculture, palm oil and poultry sectors to access finance for the purchase of inputs. In the crop sector, PIND will conduct assessments to track market system changes across the various sectors and also organize technical and business skills training for farm service providers and to entrench the farm service providers' model across cassava, cocoa and palm oil sectors.

In addition, PIND will carry out an assessment on livelihood and impact of conflict in coastal and GMoU communities to determine the most suitable and feasible interventions to expand or introduce in those communities.

For its **access to energy project**, PIND plans to scale up the energy cabin model in two more GMoU communities, scale up solar powered refrigeration and pilot solar powered home system in a GMoU community. In addition, 80 community energy stewards to support implementation will be trained, and implementation of access to energy scale up grant in three RDCs will also commenced.

Given the current Covid-19 situation and the disruption caused on program implementation, PIND will be requesting for a no cost extension of the **NDYEP project** from an end date of 30<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Based on this, and as soon as the movement restrictions are lifted, PIND will

- modify existing grants to take on a new cohort of program participants to increase outreach to at least 3,000 youth;
- finalize the MOU with Green Village Electricity for training 100 youth in renewable energy;
- implement the MOU with RivTAF Nigeria to provide apprenticeship and potential work opportunity for 103 trainees;
- carry out labor market assessment to inform the implementation of NDYEP project in Delta State, and complete due diligence of short-listed organizations that applied for grant to implement the leather sector programming, including selection and training of program participants;
- provide technical support on reinventing the GEEP program of the Delta Wealth Creation Agency; and
- facilitate exchange visits between Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and Delta State Wealth Creation Agency for an enhanced understanding and adoption of NDYEP approach.

Under the **peace building program**, PIND will be establishing EWER system in two RDCs; continue to build institutional capacity of the P4P Network, including carry out P4P audit and maintenance of database and website; conduct the Ijaw–Itsekiri leaders' summit; and also produce conflict briefs and trackers.

The priorities for **capacity building project** will include strengthening the capacity of the GMoU institutions, facilitating a training on sustainable project management for members of the project review committees (PRCs); and support the RDCs to develop and adopt gender strategies relevant for inclusive programming; whilst for the **advocacy project**, PIND will focus primarily on:

- carry out a rapid assessment on access to arable land for smallholder farmers,
- support donor coordination efforts,
- finalize the Delta State agriculture policy,
- organize a roundtable to address emerging peace and security issues to influence the establishing of a security outfit in the South-South region,
- organize a roundtable on youth unemployment in the Niger Delta; and
- continue to provide technical support for the long-term planning process in Abia and Edo States.

With a growing recognition that development work is complex and difficult to define in terms of outputs and results. Following much debate, PIND began to work towards a more balanced approach to results management and learning, firmly grounded in its identity, vision, mission, values, approach, understanding of structural causes of the problems it addresses, and its theory of change.

This more balanced results management approach is also intended to be effective at demonstrating and communicating its impact while fulfilling its multiple accountabilities, learning lessons and generating knowledge to improve its work.

To this end, PIND will, in Q2, execute the following:

- implement and monitor 2020 media grants,
- implement ‘access to improved seedlings’ media campaign,
- Develop 2019 annual report,
- Develop success story materials for communication use, including production of success story/ testimonials videos and brand videos to support PIND digital media work from activities in Q1,
- facilitate knowledge sharing sessions for internal learning,
- curate PIND’s digital media platforms; and
- Develop PIND weekly reports to Chevron Nigeria Limited.



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 [www.pindfoundation.org](http://www.pindfoundation.org)