

OVERVIEW

The Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project began in 2018 to develop models of youth training in which marginalized young people are trained in market-relevant skills and subsequently supported into sustainable jobs or enterprise (SDG 8). Between 2018 and 2021, 4,355 youths were trained and equipped with in-demand vocational skills in three states: Rivers, Abia and Akwa Ibom under the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) project. Following the success of the project in these pilot states, it was extended to Delta State.

OBJECTIVES

- **Conduct research** that enables a better understanding of the dynamics of the labor market systems in the Niger Delta region.
- **Develop model pathways** for long-term sustainable jobs, self-employment, or entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta
- **Deliver more effective skills-based training**, which enables a closer link between the demand for jobs, income-generating opportunities, and the region's labor supply
- **Provide vocational training** to over 4,000 youth, including youngwomen and youth with disabilities, and equip them with sector-specific technical and soft skills in key economic sectors
- **Disseminate key findings and learnings** to the Niger Delta state governments and provide technical support to adopt the model for subsequent youth employment and skills development programs

APPROACH

- Strengthen the ecosystem of skills development actors, in-demand technical-vocational skills training, labor market analysis for opportunities in job creation, and enterprise development
- Invest resources in innovative and qualitative training that prepares youths with market-relevant skills and support their transition into waged employment or entrepreneurship

PIND'S INVESTMENT

PIND leveraged USD 2 million from the Ford Foundation for YEP pilot phase (2018-2020). We are wholly funding YEP in Delta State with USD 5million (2021-2024).

PRODUCTS & SERVICES DEVELOPED

- **Labour Market Assessment Report:** for Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta & Rivers States
- **Rapid Assessment Report:** for finished leather sector in Abia State.
- **Youth Skills Training Practice Papers:** in aquaculture, ICT (information and communication technology), building construction and finished leather sectors

STRATEGIC TARGETS

- 3,000 youth enrolled in YEP
- 2,000 youth trained in applicable skills for employment and entrepreneurial startups
- 2,000 youth accessing employment
- 40% gender target

OPPORTUNITIES

- Soft skills training curriculum and manual (including conflict sensitivity and peace building)
- Improve building construction skills training curriculum

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Held a regional roundtable on youth employment programs; and a job readiness workshop for 100 youths in Delta State
- Improved the capacity of 18 partner organizations in technical vocational and soft skills training
- Developed standardized curricula with support from the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB) in building construction.
- 4,407 youth in sector specific skills including ICT, building construction, finished leader and aquaculture
- 4,355 youth participated in the NDYEP technical vocational training program; 36 percent were women, and 4.4 percent were persons with disabilities
- **613 youth participants in DYEP underwent technical skills training in vocations within ICT, building construction, agriculture and services**
- 1,736 youth linked to various waged employment and entrepreneurship opportunities
- 597 (23 percent) youth have been linked to waged employment
- 1,139 (43 percent) youth started business enterprises
- 902 (34 percent) youth placed on internship positions
- 69 start-up businesses founded by 86 vulnerable youth beneficiaries who received business start-up grants to start enterprises in different sectors

PARTNERS INCLUDE DELTA STATE JOB CREATION BUREAU, FORD FOUNDATION, RIVTAV CONSTRUCTION COMPANY