



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Two:
April - June 2023

Mary Ann Metuh during the YEP Leather work training in Abia State.

About PIND Foundation

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

PIND's projects span all the nine states in the region: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers, with special focus on the underserved and hard to reach coastal communities of the region that are most forgotten in development programming.

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

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
AGSMEIS	Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme
BASIC II	Building an Economically Sustainable, Integrated Cassava Seed System II Project
BMP	Best Management Practices
BMO	Business Management Organizations
BoT	Board of Trustees
BRACED	Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta
BSPs	Business Service Providers
CAPABLE	Capacity Building for Local Empowerment
CB	Capacity Building
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CCDCs	Coastal Community Development Committees
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
Covid-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CUSO	Canadian University Service Overseas
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DPO	Divisional Police Officers
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EGCDF	Egbema-Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
FFB	Fresh Fruit Bunches
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FISON	Fisheries Society of Nigeria
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GIZ	German Development Agency
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
GPP	Good Poultry Practices
HCDT	Host Communities Development Trust
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IHT	Improved Harvesting Tools
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
LGA	Local Government Area
LMA	Labour Market Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

For the third phase (2020-2024), PIND Foundation aims to achieve the following targets:

Expand program benefits to 150,000 farmers and small-scale enterprises to increase their income by 40%. Facilitate the creation of 45,000 new jobs of which 50% will be youth and other vulnerable groups.

Deliver economic benefits to 10,000 people in GMoU communities through job creation and income generation interventions and facilitation of clean energy.

Strengthen the effectiveness of 5 regional development committees as grassroots development organizations in the GMoU/coastal communities.

Enable active engagement of 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation and reduction and positively affect up to 3 million individuals with peace building interventions.

Influence US\$ 25 million spend by donors, federal and state governments in new projects that reduce conflict and poverty in the Niger Delta; and

Raise US\$ 6.5 million from private sector and donor community for PIND programs.

Introduction: 2023 Q2 M&E Report

This second quarter (April – June 2023) report is intended to keep PIND’s donors, Board of Trustees, and partners aware of project achievements and constraints, share lessons learned and seek deeper level of collaborations to consolidate PIND’s impact, and advance our collective effort on business development and sustainability. Also, to showcase the nexus between PIND’s impact and a peaceful and more stable operating environment in the Niger Delta

Through this, we intend to share successes and challenges for learning and for further collaborations with our Partners. These include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Ford Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Executive Summary

This report highlights the achievements of PIND's program interventions in the Niger Delta from April – June 2023 (Quarter 2, 2023), and provides relevant information about program management, lessons learned, and plans for the next quarter. The report demonstrates how PIND is driving change to ensure broad-based economic growth in the Niger Delta. PIND's activities are designed to promote and sustain a culture of learning and adaptation, to build a process where evidence plays a significant role in determining policy direction and interventions in economic development, peace building, advocacy, and capacity building of both government institutions and civil society in the Niger Delta.

1.1 Achievements

Several macroeconomic issues within the quarter reduced the ease of program delivery of service providers and the participation of farmers and MSMEs. Such issues and their attendant indices include rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics which negatively impacted inputs purchasing capacity of farmers and MSMEs; while the removal of fuel subsidy which led to increased fuel price and other commodities has caused unprecedented hardship to farmers and MSMEs within the region, and the country in general. These, to a large extent, reduced the activities of the service providers and farmers mobilization for training on Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), and may negatively affect their income too. However, PIND made significant progress in its initiatives this quarter, and the achievements are highlighted below:

Market Systems Development:

The market system development projects support 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, of market failure. 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 is used to support poor farmers in aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs. Its outputs for Q2 are summarized below:

- With PIND's market development projects continuing to demonstrate progress towards widespread economic prosperity within the reporting period, a total of 137 service providers continued to provide support to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and MSMEs with training on GAP. The business of service provision is paying off for the providers with more farmers recognizing and patronizing them, creating impetus for innovations and expansion into new sectors by the service providers.
- In Q2, a total of 14,985 farmers were reached with information and knowledge on best practices and efficient technologies in the crop and non-crops sectors; 42% of them being women. This outreach represents 99.24% of Q2 2023 target of 15,100 farmers/MSMEs, and 41% against the annual direct target of 54,500; and 32.13%, when compared with both direct and indirect target of 69,500.
- PIND incentivized MSMEs and participating farmers to invest ₦2.46 billion to implement good agricultural practices, technological innovations, purchase inputs and other capital expenditures. Of this figure, ₦30.20 million was equity and ₦2.43 billion was debt.

Access to Energy:

- PIND continued to play a significant role in driving the market for low-carbon, low-cost solutions that offer high-quality energy access to coastal communities. Its Access to Energy (A2E) project in the Niger Delta recorded significant milestones through groundwork preparation for the much-anticipated Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA) that it is a part of. PIND secured and signed a funding partnership that would leverage over \$200,000 to support community energy projects that will also enable community healthcare centers to have steady electricity for critical care needs. In addition, PIND's support of activities around power project origination led to its signing of four new power purchase agreements with (Oju Imole, Orotu & Igo) and (Dinkoru) in Ondo and Delta states respectively, mainly last mile coastal communities over the next two quarters.

Youth Employment Pathways:

- After the completion of the 2022 batch of training where 729 youths graduated last quarter, the YEP program continued in Q2 in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Delta states with about 1,601 (710 female) youths undergoing soft skill training in four sectors: Agriculture, ICT, Building Construction and Services including finished leather.

- Following applications by 178 youths for short-term funds to enable them kick-start new enterprises in Delta State, the applications were assessed through a competitive process, and 66 youth candidates emerged successful for the grants. 60 of them as individual businesses and 2 as group enterprises of 3 persons each. An award ceremony was held to officially launch and disburse the Challenge Fund to 66 successful candidates.
- Furthermore, a validation workshop of the Ondo State Labor Market Assessment (LMA) study, which was launched to address the problem of unemployment in the state, was held and final report produced and disseminated. After the field exercise in Q1, a validation workshop was held in June 2023 to share economic data and findings from the labor market studies with key government and private stakeholders to ascertain its validity and draw inputs for the revision and finalization of the LMA report. Participants at the workshop were drawn from Ondo State government ministries, Chambers of Commerce and organized private sector, Non-governmental Organizations, and Ilaje Regional Development Council (IRDC).

Peace Building:

- In the current quarter, there were considerable improvements in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta during the period compared to the first quarter of the year. These included a decrease in political, communal and criminal violence in the region. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, lethal violence decreased by 72% from 278 fatalities in Q1 to 77 in Q2 of 2023. Conflict incidents also decreased by 70% from 228 in Q1 to 63 in Q2. Criminality including kidnaping for ransom was the major driver of lethal violence in the region during the quarter. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, there was a decrease in reported incidents of criminal and communal violence during the quarter; communal conflicts including clashes between herders and farmers decreased by 81% from 16 reported incidents in Q1 to 3 incidents in Q2 of 2023; criminal violence including kidnaping for ransom and clashes between hoodlums and government security forces decreased by 54% from 89 reported incidents in Q1, to 41 incidents in Q2 of 2023.
- Within the reporting period, PIND produced and disseminated 14 data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products - including a quarterly conflict tracker to update peace and security stakeholders, 13 weekly conflict briefs, and facilitated several preventive interventions in the Niger Delta. Also, 345 peace actors constructively helped to resolve emerging conflicts in various communities. This led to 38 quality actions being taken to mitigate conflict in different locations across the region.
- PIND also promoted utilization of conflict early warning, research and data analysis products to facilitate proactive responses by peace actors including the P4P Prevent Committees/Councils and Community Stakeholder Networks (CSNs) members, to the prevailing and emerging conflict risk factors and drivers of instability in the Niger Delta.

PIA implementation support for takeoff of HCDDTs

- In Q1, PIND had kicked off the civil society capacity building component of The Bridges project and had a workshop for 30 participants from 15 NGOs and CSOs from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo State. In Q2, it organized a second workshop with 20 participants from 10 NGOs and CSOs from Akwa Ibom and Rivers States.
- In Q2, PIND also kicked-off the second component of the project which focuses on community stakeholders as represented in the PIA-established HCDDTs. PIA Awareness Creation and Sensitization sessions took place in four states including: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states with over 500 participants attending (target was 100 per state). The Awareness creation workshops were facilitated in partnership with organizations such as the Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ), Enterprise for Development International (EFDI), and New Nigeria Foundation (NNF). The primary objective of these workshops is to educate and sensitize key community stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities and expectations under the PIA.
- Lastly, PIND began the process of setting up the third component of The Bridges project: a Multi-Stakeholder Platform that would be made up of 30 carefully-selected experts and critical stakeholders representing the HCDDTs (communities), settlers (oil and gas companies), civil society, and government. They will work towards a common goal of identifying and promoting models and approaches that ensure that community stakeholders maximize the benefits of the PIA in their respective communities by coordinating efforts that help to channel PIA HCDDT funds appropriately.

Communications:

- Within the reporting period, PIND intensified her communications and 455,577 people gained new or increased awareness about PIND, through its platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional mainstream media. Also, PIND garnered 63 positive media mentions of its work and activities and attracted 20 public endorsements from stakeholders who interacted with its content on the website,

newsletters, and social media posts.

Advocacy:

- PIND's effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities is paying off. PIND influenced the establishment of an Arable Land Committee in Delta and Edo states. As a result of this intervention, and as a first step, both states have carried out GIS mapping of all the reserved land in their respective states and have delineated substantial amounts for agricultural purposes. For instance, in Edo State, as a result of the extensive engagements carried out in 2022, Government is now keen to develop and articulate a clear process flow of the land acquisition process in the State. In 2023, this process is being jointly developed by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Environment and the Physical Planning and Forestry departments.
- To ensure access to arable land in the Niger Delta, Edo State GIS department is working with the communities to map and layout their communities' land to enable the government to provide a short-term certificate of occupancy in line with the lease holding agreed upon by the communities. Also, the Delta State government has adopted the recommendations of the Arable Land Committee whose formation was facilitated by PIND to open up more agricultural land for oil palm and cassava farmers in the state.

Capacity Building:

- As one of PIND's key enablers, the Capacity Building program is designed and positioned to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of government, civil society, and business associations/service providers; "for effective socio-economic engagement, inclusive governance for growth, and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta". It directly contributes to both PIND's long-term objective and overall goal.
- The Program was designed to focus on two major areas, the first being to strengthen the capacity of local development organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the market systems approach through the Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) project. The second area of focus for the project is to strengthen Chevron's host community development organizations (previously referred to as Regional Development Councils [RDCs]) that carry out developmental projects in the host communities in line with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).
- This year, PIND has identified some indicative training programs that will be useful for the HCDDT leadership and management committees to enable them to take off effectively. These include training in Group dynamics and cohesion, Multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development. PIND will also support the Policy Government & Public Affairs (PGPA) unit of Chevron that is responsible for managing the Chevron HCDDT relations to conduct other pieces of training when they are identified. However, due to the delay in setting up the HCDDTs, none of the planned training as at Q2 2023 has taken place.
- This quarter, the Capacity building program carried out a capacity gap analysis of PIND's co-facilitators and developed a capacity building plan to support MSD co-facilitators to effectively function as sector managers as PIND pilots the cross-cutting intervention approach. The program also developed a road map and action plan to expand the pool of co-facilitators within the next twelve months while implementing a graduation plan for older co-facilitators. Implementation of these activities is expected to commence in Q3

1.2 Challenges, Mitigation, and Plans for the Next Quarter

Challenges

- Within the reporting period, there was reduced purchasing capacity for agricultural inputs by farmers and MSMEs participating in the agricultural productivity improvement program, stemming from continued hikes in the costs of inputs, technologies for harvesting and processing, and overall transaction costs due to rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics.
- As farmers and MSMEs were recovering from the cash crunch that they had experienced in Q1 2023, resulting from the Central Bank of Nigeria's naira redesign policy, the removal of fuel subsidy in Q2 further led to increases in the costs of agro inputs beyond the reach of them. This has also negatively affected the rate of adoption of various innovations within the quarter. The low turnover experienced by the agro-dealers is also a disincentive to them.

Mitigation:

- Rising cost of inputs: To reduce the effect of rising costs of inputs, PIND facilitated stronger collaborations between farmers and agro-inputs dealers to encourage bulk purchases, and hedge against subsequent and frequent price changes; and capacity building of various service providers to understand how to link agro-input

dealers with larger input companies to provide inputs at subsidized rates and lower costs of production.

- Rising cost of Transport: Service providers were advised to explore other means of sharing information to farmers such as SMS, WhatsApp, etc., and reduce travels. Service providers were also advised to collaborate more and form networks to provide increased cross-sector support to farmers.

Plans for Q3:

The focus will be on the following:

- Carry out farmers' outcome monitoring to determine adoption levels and impact of the various activities in the sector. Also continue to facilitate training on climate-smart good agricultural practices for farmers, while supporting farmers with linkages to market opportunities.
- Create scale around demonstration training and quality improvement activities to accommodate planned onboarding of more FSPs, agro-dealers and input companies, and make them more attractive to existing and potential off takers.
- Support service providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach 3, 000 farmers in the Niger Delta. Also, carry out promotional activities on the benefits of improved seeds; and a workshop to improve collaboration and coordination in the seed industry.
- Conduct Climate Smart Agriculture training workshops for Poultry Service Providers and Village Level dealers; continue to support new and existing PSPs to reach out to poultry farmers with climate-smart good poultry practices and linkages to quality inputs, markets, and finance
- Support the certification of Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) to provide services to MSMEs, facilitate linkages to market and finance for MSMEs, and continue the expansion of support to MSMEs, fisher-folks, and processors in the Chevron host communities.
- Commence implementation of the Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA) project with a view to completing the first 12 sites by Q4 of 2023; sign MOUs with newly-identified power developers to accelerate the implementation of interventions in 4 coastal communities; undertake demonstration activities on SHS for a series of underserved communities in other states beside Delta, Ondo and Bayelsa to increase the program footprint and impact; fast-track project impact assessments to establish the number of jobs created and financial benefits to A2E beneficiaries; and initiate a challenge fund for community energy installations in 2 off-grid riverine communities of Delta state
- Design YEP program intervention for Ondo state, using the recommendations from the assessment done. In addition, put out a call for selection and onboarding of implementing partners for Ondo state; conduct a regional roundtable with NG Government stakeholders to share the YEP model and monitor activities of technical/soft skills training for 1,601 youths in 4 states.
- Facilitate the Post-election phase of 2023 Non-violence Election Mitigation Project; jointly integrate Peacebuilding activities with Economic Development (Conflict Sensitivity, facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy, and; facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states

1.3 Program Management

Within the quarter, PIND kicked off its midterm impact evaluation process for its programs, awarded to Dalberg Consulting, covering the last seven and a half years of sustained program implementation in the Niger Delta. Following the receipt of the inception report that explains the evaluation design, methodology, data collection, and reporting, in the next quarter, Dalberg will proceed to the next stages of this process: data collection and analysis.

Summary of progress against 2023 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2023 target as at Q2.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2023
Outreach	69,500	22,337
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	27,500	8,138
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	12,000	4,047
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	15,000	3,038
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	8,000	3,745
<i>MSME development</i>	7,000	3,369
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	42,977	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	14,974	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	8,400	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	9,706	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	7,102	
<i>MSME development</i>	2,795	
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦18.14 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦5.95 billion	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.30 billion	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦4.85 billion	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦2.21 billion	
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.83 billion	
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Results will be reported in Q3
New jobs facilitated	9,925	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	1,700	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,200	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	895	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,136	
<i>MSME development</i>	3,254	
<i>Access to energy</i>	80	187
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	660	
Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]	₦10.70 billion	₦4.01 billion Equity (₦873.64 million) Debt financing (₦3.134 billion)
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦2.47 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦710.85 million	₦2.77 million ¹
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦1.35 billion	₦55.44 million
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.67 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>MSME development</i>	₦4.00 billion	₦3.134 billion
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦500 million	₦815.4 million ²
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	-
Youths with applicable skills for employment	2,229	729 ³

Peace Building Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2023
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	210	121
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,000	1,181
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1,310	670
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	100	60
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	Results will be reported in Q3

¹ Leveraged funds for cocoa and palm oil sectors were from technology adoption. Equity fund leveraged from farmers will be reported in Q3

² PIND's lead partner A4&T scaled up their work in Ondo state to two more communities in Ondo State, while ETIN Power (earlier reported in Q4 2022) continued work around their ground-breaking activities by scaling energy access to two more communities in Edo state, investing ₦815,433,388.

³ 1601 new enrollment are still undergoing their training. The 729 were those who started in 2022 and graduated in Q1 2023, out of which 187 have means of income

Coastal Community Development Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2023
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	900	127
Households with access to clean energy	1,500	2,168
People with access to energy technologies	10,500	13,135
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	₦1 billion	Results will be reported in Q3 ⁴
<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Net change in capacity index of HCDDTs/other Organizations	2.4 (average score)	To be updated after the planned impact study
Organizations accessing funds/grants	7	-
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦50 million	₦0
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDDTs and other implementing Partners).	5	4 ⁵

General Enabling Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2023
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by governments and other institutions	₦500 million	To be reported in Q3 after verification
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors	₦800 million	To be reported in Q3 after verification
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦500 million	₦815,43 million ⁶
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of progress	Various legal and illegal taxes are being identified and tracked using the developed matrix for Abia, Delta, and Rivers States. In Q3, data from matrix will be used to engage the state governments to influence policy solutions to the challenges of multiple taxation and illegal levies that are stifling the growth, profitability and sustenance of small businesses in the region.
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	PIND's effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities is paying off. PIND influenced the establishment of an Arable Land Committee in Delta and Edo states. As a result, in Edo State, the GIS department is working with the communities to map and layout their communities' land to enable the government to provide a short-term certificate of occupancy in line with the lease holding agreed upon by the communities. Also, in Delta State, the Delta State government has adopted the recommendations of the Arable Land Committee to open up more agricultural land for oil palm and cassava farmers in the state.
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful/ nonviolent society.	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	Multiple taxation/levies impose undue burden on businesses and constrain their survivability. PIND has since been working with regulators to sensitize them to the scale of the issue, risk to businesses and work together to provide solution. In the period covering this report PIND has facilitated a stakeholder engagement with both state and non-state actors through interviews, town hall meetings and citizenry engagement through the media through collaboration with the Technical

⁴ This includes benefits accruing to users connected in the preceding year.

⁵ CARA Development Foundation, Kolping Society of Nigeria, Genius Hub, and MacJim Foundation continue to provide services using funds raised from other donors.

⁶ Scale ups and installation of commercial solar mini-grids in 5 different Niger Delta rural communities - Evbuwa; Iguemokhua; 1Orisunbare; Oloruntedo; Fagbo in Edo and Ondo State.

		working Group (TWG) of the Niger Delta Regional Peace building Strategy (NDRPS) and Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS)- a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff. The report of the engagements is expected to be included in the draft framework in Q3.
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND’s programs	₦1billion	₦158.85 million ⁷
<i>Communications</i>		Cumulative Results as at
	2023 Target	Q2 2023
Forums to share PIND’s work and lessons from implementation	15	26
Public endorsements of PIND’s work	20	44
Media reports with PIND mention	200	79
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	700	476
Website new visitors	80,000	15,264
Social media reach	1.9 million	706,716
Mainstream media reach	3million	1,081,539
Email enquiries	800	111

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-economic environment

Building Farmers/MSMEs’ and other stakeholders’ resilience against adverse macroeconomic conditions.

In Q2 2023, farmers and MSMEs in the Niger Delta and other parts of Nigeria continued to suffer from the risks posed by the negative effects of the adverse macroeconomic conditions. In the face of the current economic reality, farmers, MSMEs and other stakeholders in the Niger Delta are exposed to high risk of business failures, which would further increase food insecurity and social menace in the region.

The conspicuous macroeconomic issues in this quarter include the soaring inflation rate of 22.79% in June 2023, a rise by 0.57% against the 22.22% recorded in April 2023 - exerting pressures on purchasing capacities of farmers and MSMEs’ lean resources. Coupled with high foreign exchange rates (which have increased the prices of agro-inputs and transaction costs of farmers/MSMEs), and the removal of fuel subsidy, an unprecedented economic somersault for the poor has somewhat been triggered, with adverse effects.

Within the reporting period, as a pro-poor Foundation, PIND carried out a review of its economic development and peace building programs to understand how the current changes in the macroeconomic windows are shaping the industries where it works, probe the systems and their market- driven solutions to realize desired growth potentials. As a result, the Market Development Program is changing its strategies to reach more players through cross-cutting value deliveries in more sectors beginning from Q3 2023. The focus of its interventions will shift from being sector-driven to cross-cutting functionalities such as enhancing access to agro-inputs, access to technical information, access to improved technologies, access to finance, and markets. This is aimed at expanding farmers and MSMEs’ access to improved business models and support functions that would build their resilience to the ever-changing macroeconomic indices. This will stimulate healthy competitions amongst key players and aid the creation of more robust systems which are able to rebound from the continuous, and frustrating macroeconomic shocks in Nigeria, and probably a panacea for the regional food security and growth process.

2.2 Security

Within the reporting period, the security situation in the Niger Delta remained concerning. The insecurity situation persisted as violent crimes perpetrated by different criminals across the nine states of the Niger Delta region continued. While the security situation across different states may record occasional periodic declines in incident frequency and casualties, it however does not necessarily mean a decline in the general threat level. Therefore, there was increased

⁷ \$15mn is under way from the Mastercard Foundation, and \$219,389 from USAID/ Power Africa on the Health and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA).is also underway.

vigilance and precautions at all times and particularly during land travels.

Examples abound: On Sunday, April 30, 2023, a human rights Lawyer was kidnapped around 7pm from his office near Warri Main Market, Delta State. The victim was taken away to an unknown location and was later released in the early hours of Monday, May 1, 2023. Also, two priests were kidnapped by gunmen while in transit in the Ughelli area of Delta state on April 29, 2023. The victims were released on May 4, 2023. Operatives of the Delta State Police Command on April 24, 2023, intercepted a kidnap gang and rescued two victims along Agbarho-Ughelli Road in Udu Local Government Area of the state. The kidnappers reportedly escaped while one locally-made gun and ammunition were recovered from them. A motorist was also kidnapped around Ozoro town in Delta State on May 6, 2023. The victim was whisked away to an unknown destination in his car.

On 03 May, armed men abducted an unspecified number of people from three vehicles along the Afuze – Auchu Road, Owan East LGA, Edo State. The security situation in the northern part of Edo State (from Irrua LGA, Auchu up to Okpella) remains fluid as periods of relative calm can be quickly followed by days of extreme violence such as bank robbery, armed robbery, and kidnap for ransom.

On June 19 2023, about 4 incidents of abduction/kidnap for ransom were recorded in Abuja FCT. The incidents involved the abduction of an executive officer of a logistics company, a manager of a bakery, a manager of an oil dump company, and a construction worker; all from their respective residences in the Mashafa area of Mpape, Bwari Area Council of FCT.

3. Economic Development Program

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

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

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

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



3.1.1 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements of all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development (MSD) project in Quarter 2, 2023.

PIND's Market Systems Development project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors in the Niger Delta, aiming to improve productivity, increase income levels, and reduce poverty in the region. The project focuses on addressing underlying causes of market under-performance through interventions informed by market structure analysis to pinpoint the underlying causes of the market under-performance that inform the design and implementation of interventions that address those underlying causes rather than symptoms.

This project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors in the Niger Delta to improve their productivity, leading to an increase in income and reduction of poverty. 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.

3.1.2. Refresher training for Business Service Providers to consolidate delivery

Over the years, PIND has facilitated various capacity-building programs for BSPs to strengthen their capacity to support MSMEs. This quarter, PIND facilitated a refresher training for 9 existing BSPs on business diagnostics to enable them to design development plans for MSMEs to consolidate their service delivery to farmers in the region. The team also carried out a knowledge-sharing session for 25 BSPs to share experiences and learning, aimed at stimulating B2B interactions.

To further strengthen and expand the capacity of BSPs, PIND also engaged and signed an MOU with the Enterprise Development Center (EDC) of the Pan Atlantic University, a body certified by the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN), to carry out a certification training for BSPs in the Niger Delta which is scheduled for next quarter. This will equip the BSPs to support and certify enterprises in the region for increased business and financial opportunities.

In this quarter, we exemplify a story of an entrepreneurial Service Provider, who benefitted from the training of the Market Development Program, and is creating waves in Cross River State.

Poultry Service Providers Removing Farmers' Constraints

Among several other service providers supported by PIND Foundation in the Niger Delta, Mr. Bassey Jacob of Creative Empire Limited, Cross River State, is an entrepreneurial Poultry Service Provider (PSP), who was providing advisory services to about 30 poultry farmers within his vicinity for over a decade. His advisory services to farmers were not structured enough to define a strategy to deliver a sustained and sufficient income for his household.

In 2016, he heard of a training program for business service providers by PIND Foundation under its Market Systems Development Program. The training was to equip service providers with the knowledge of how to support farmers and MSMEs with access to information on good poultry practices, and linkages to finance. Due to his passion for his job, he applied and was enrolled for the training by PIND which equipped him with technical know-how of poultry services and business skills of the Nigeria Agricultural Enterprise Curriculum (NAEC). This showed him how to be a commercial trainer, how to strengthen his relationships with various entities such as input companies, financial institutions, etc.

After receiving the technical and business training from PIND, Mr. Bassey repositioned his company – Creative Empire Ltd., and changed his strategy of service deliveries by mobilizing and training more poultry farmers in good poultry practices, and facilitating linkages to quality inputs and markets for farmers both within and beyond their locality. His training became popular and gained traction as the participating farmers started experiencing increased productivity – mortality rate reduction, birds weight gain within shorter duration, access to credit, finance and markets by the farmers through Bassey's linkage referrals, etc. His annual outreach soared from 30 in 2016 to over 2000 in 2022, and an increase in the company income by over 500%. Additionally, he has expanded his team, from 2 to 5 staff members, with 2 full-time and 3 temporary employees dedicated to supporting training and linkages activities.

Bassey Jacob's relationship with input providers in the poultry sector has flourished since working with PIND. Before the collaboration, he was not associated with any input companies but now works with 2 input companies, 2 large buyers, and a microfinance bank to facilitate access to finance for farmers.

Reflecting on the benefits of partnering with PIND, Bassey acknowledges that it has significantly boosted his visibility and credibility. Being associated with a well-known and reputable brand like PIND has instilled greater trust in his training and services to people. Looking ahead, Bassey's vision is to further expand its reach to additional 200 poultry farmers in 2023.



Mr. Bassey Jacob (CEO, Creative Empire and Mrs. Uwamere Edeghor (Poultry Farmer); Mrs. Uwamere Edeghor poultry farm located in

Sharing story of one of his clients, Edeghor Mr. Bassey appears to be fulfilled in the success recorded by Mrs. Uwamere Edeghor in Cross River State. In February 2018, Mrs. Uwamere Edeghor and her family relocated to Ekorinim 1, Calabar, Cross River State. Their new home included an unfinished room with an open exterior. She saw an opportunity and decided to raise chickens in the room starting with 15 birds, and the venture proved successful. Encouraged by the positive outcome, she decided to expand her operation and increased her stock to 50 birds. However, this expansion came with challenges, and she faced a high mortality rate of about 40%. Faced with these difficulties and her desire to explore alternative income opportunities, Mrs. Edeghor decided to enhance her knowledge of poultry production. She enrolled in a training program offered by Bassey's "Creative Empire, which significantly improved her knowledge of poultry practices. She then restocked 50 birds and an impressive 97% of them survived. This success led her to restock

continuously, gradually increasing her capacity. She went from 50 birds to 100, then 150 birds as her stocking capacity grew. Two years later, she acquired land and built a new structure, registering her business as “Fresh Stream Farms”. Over the last two years, her stocking capacity has skyrocketed from 15 birds to 500 birds per cycle. Several farmers like her have benefitted from Mr. Bassey.

3.1.3. Q2 2023 Key market system changes through services provision

Solving farmers and MSMEs’ lack of access to business services and other support functions is key to boosting productivity. The focus for 2023 was to further strengthen the adaptation strategies such as training, field demonstrations, information sharing, etc. developed by PIND’s supported network of market actors, to increase its reach to 69,500 additional farmers and SMEs, out of which about 43,000 are expected to increase their incomes.

In Q2 2023, out of over 300 Service Providers reached by PIND through direct training and crowding-in, over 137 service providers continued to provide support services to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and Business linkages with training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP). Progressively, farmers/MSMEs are paying for the training and other support services provided by Service Providers, unlike before, which represents a paradigm shift and a systemic change. Highlights of the services provided by the SPs are shown below:

- **Cassava Sector:** A total of 5,914 farmers were reached through 78 Service Providers (agro-dealers, farm service providers and cassava stem entrepreneurs); of this number, 3,216, that is 54.4% are females. These Service Providers were mobilized, and provided smallholder farmers access to quality inputs and information on good agricultural practices through training and the establishment of 26 demonstration plots as embedded services.
- **Cocoa Sector:** A total of 2,552 farmers were reached, through three farm Service Providers and one exporter; of this number, 402, that is 15.8% are females. The SPs extended their support and activities to more farmers in Delta, Abia, Cross River, Edo, and Ondo states with training programs, on-farm demonstration activities, and provision of farm services.
- **Palm oil Sector:** A total of 1,894 farmers/MSMEs, of which, 651, that is 34.4% females, participated in events through four Farm Service Providers (FSPs) and nine lead farmers who organized on-farm demonstrations in best management practices to 1,776 oil palm farmers in Abia, Edo, and Akwa Ibom States. Also, 15 Primary nursery operators sold 78,790 sprouted nuts to farmers and provided farm information on best management practices of new farms.
- **Poultry:** A total of 2,517 poultry farmers, of which 1,026 are females, that is 41%, were reached through 19 service providers (15 PSPs & 4 VLDs) provided GAP training to poultry farmers in Abia, Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, Edo, Rivers, and Cross Rivers states. Some of the farmers were supported with technical and business skills training, linkages to inputs (feed & vaccines), market, and finance.
- **MSMEs:** A total of 2,108 micro and small enterprises were reached, of which 972, (46.1%) are female owned. They were reached through 9 BSPs who provided support to enterprises on business management, business plan development, loan application, and linkages to finance. These MSMEs reached cuts across various sectors Aquaculture, poultry and livestock, agro-services, retailing, ICT, footwear, etc.

3.1.4. Q2 2023 Key outputs/outcomes from the activities of the Service Providers

Within the reporting period, a total 14,985 farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services through the activities of the 137 service providers, 6,267 (42% female farmers) as shown in Table 1 below. This outreach represents 99.24% of Q2 2023 target of 15,100 farmers/MSMEs, and 41% against the annual direct target of 54,500; and 32.13%, when compared with both direct and indirect target of 69,500– see table 1

Table 1. MSD Q2 progress against 2023 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	PWD	Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q2	Q2	Q2 %	Q2	Q2	2023	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached	15,100	14,985	99.24%	6,267	0	69,500 (Direct + Indirect)	22,337	32.13%	9,594	0
						54,500 Direct		41%		
Number of jobs facilitated	*	*				9,925	*	*	*	*
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦732,91 m	-			₦10.70B	₦2.46B	22.9%		

Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	*	-			42,977	*	*	*	*
Change in the income of farmers (direct + indirect)	*	*	-			₦18.14B	*	*	*	*

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

Routine activities monitoring showed that farmers are happy adopting the improved farm practices and business modules they were trained in. In this quarter alone, a total investment of ₦2,459,704,000 was recorded implementing the farms and businesses innovations. The investments by farmers and MSMEs are expected to improve the productivity and income of farmers/MSMEs. The following provide details of farmers/MSMEs investment on their businesses in Q2 2023.

- Adoption of 60 units of rechargeable knapsack sprayers by three off-takers in Ondo (Nivik, John Vent, and Plantation Industries) with ₦2,400,000, to consolidate GAP adoption.
- Adoption of 117 improved harvesting technologies by oil palm farmers: 27 IHT in Cross River State and 40 IHT in Edo State. In Akwa Ibom State, 50 IHT were purchased by 50 farmers, totaling ₦1,521,000, to improve harvesting of more fresh fruit bunches .
- Acquisition of one High-Capacity Mill in Imo state fabricated by Ejike Metal Works, Akokwa at ₦10,500,000, to improve palm oil extraction in the region.
- Purchase of 35,500 sprouted nuts from Allissee, 39,790 sprouted nuts from NIFOR, and 3,500 sprouted nuts from PalmElit by 15 nursery operators in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Imo, Edo, Ondo, and Rivers states totaling 78,290.
- A loan of ₦2,429,500,000 was facilitated for 915 MSMEs (292 Female) under the CBN AGSMEIS scheme after receiving training on business skill by BSPs, to boost business expansion.

These adoptions, observed across the various stakeholders, show a strong pathway to sustainability of market system development approach promoted by PIND Foundation in the Niger Delta region.

3.1.5. Building partnerships to enhance access to improved seeds in the Niger Delta

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

Cassava: Improving farmers' access to quality cassava stems through CSEs:

For rapid transformation of the cassava sector in the Niger Delta, PIND has redefined the role of cassava stem dealers. The strategy was to support these Cassava Stem Entrepreneurs (CSEs) with inputs for cultivation of at least one hectare of land using improved stems, and facilitate the certification of their multiplication plot by the National Seed Council (NAS). PIND has collaborated with Umudike Seeds, a private company established by the National Root Crop Research Institute, (NRCR), to implement this strategy. This strategy is being implemented in Delta, Abia and Akwa Ibom states and in Q2 2023, PIND completed the training of 25 CSEs and together with Umudike Seeds monitored land preparation and other pre-activities ahead of the establishment of multiplication plots by the CSEs in Q3. As of Q2 2023 some of the CSEs have sold over 3,500 bundles of improved stem to over 1,000 farmers across the three states.

Cocoa: Improving farmers' access to quality cocoa seedlings:

In this quarter, PIND in collaboration with CRIN trained and onboarded a new set of nursery operators from across the region. A total of 11 new seed entrepreneurs, with the spread at Abia - 3, Ondo - 5, Edo - 3, underwent training on Cocoa Nursery Management at the Owena Sub-station of CRIN in Akure, Ondo State. The training equipped the seed entrepreneurs with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively manage cocoa nurseries and produce high-quality seedlings. This would facilitate increased production, distribution, and adoption of improved cocoa seedlings.

PIND also collaborated with CRIN to develop a business model/case for cocoa nursery entrepreneurs showing the profitability of investing in improved seed productions, to woo more PNOs into the industry. The outcome monitoring in Q2 revealed that over 48,000 hybrid seedlings have been produced by these entrepreneurial primary nursery operators.

Oil Palm: Improving farmers' access to quality oil palm seedlings:

To mitigate the effect of aging oil palm trees and sustain availability of fresh fruit bunches in the region, PIND is prioritizing

partnerships in the palm oil sector to scale up the activities of improved seed producers. For example, in the last three months, Alisee and Ghana Sumatra were hosted to a workshop to sensitize them into an increased collaboration and coordination of the seed producers and nursery operators in the region. This is expected to encourage cutting down of so many aged trees and replacing them with improved seedlings. However, the outcome monitoring, has revealed that within the reporting period, 78,790 sprouted nuts were purchased by 15 nursery operators across Ondo, Rivers, Abia, Imo, Edo, and Akwa Ibom states, bringing this year's total to 84,290 improved oil-palm seeds.

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

PIND continues to actively explore opportunities to enhance market access for smallholder farmers, particularly through collaborations and partnerships. In this quarter, we bring you a cross-cutting view of these partnership initiatives in the Market System Development projects below:

Cassava: Access to finance and markets through the cassava out-grower scheme: PIND recognizes the potential to enhance market access for smallholder farmers, particularly by collaborating with large processors, as the local demand for cassava roots in industrial processing remains largely unmet. In 2022, PIND successfully linked Dufil Prima Foods with a farmer group called Ukwuoma Ndigbo FMCS in Imo State. The purpose was to supply TME 419 cassava roots to Dufil's starch processing plant located in Edo State. Currently, the plant has a daily utilization capacity of 350 tons, with only 20% of this capacity being fulfilled by Dufil's farm. PIND facilitated loans through a credit guarantee provided by Sombreiro Kapital to the farmer group to enable the cultivation of 22ha of farmland. The harvest will be monitored and reported in Q3.

In another instance, PIND conducted an assessment of the Women Agro Link Foundation, WALIF women group, comprising women farmers in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa-Ibom State. The purpose was to evaluate their eligibility for a loan facilitated by Sombreiro Capital to establish an out-grower scheme. The land size measured for the WALIF women group was 138.11 hectares. The cooperative has a membership spread across various states, with approximately 150 members within ABAK. During the assessment, the registration certificate of the cooperative was also reviewed. In the coming.

MSMEs/Business Linkages: Linkages to finance/market for MSMEs:

As part of its objectives to support MSMEs to access finance for business expansion, PIND supported BSPs to provide advisory and financial linkages to a number of MSMEs. These MSMEs were supported with business skill training and linkages to loans under the CBN AGSMEIS scheme. This support which commenced in 2022 culminated in a total of 2,108 MSMEs (972 Female) being linked to financial institutions to access loans worth N2.4 billion in Q2 2023.

Also, within the reporting period, PIND deepened its engagements with stakeholders to facilitate linkages to market for businesses. PIND in collaboration with CAD Digital Farm Limited continued engagements and market linkages to bulk buyers such as SPAR, Market Square, Ponitec Markets Limited (BuyPlus), Hyper-City Market, and DGIT Supermarket in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. Through these linkages, over 32 MSMEs carried out market transactions on various services and products such as quail eggs and other poultry and livestock products, fish, vegetables etc worth N259m for the quarter. Within the quarter, the team commenced engagements with the Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) in Ondo State to build the capacity of MSMEs and facilitate the sales and exportation of quality-assured produce/products for MSMEs in the state.

Poultry: Facilitating linkages to market and finance for poultry farmers:

As poultry farmers strive to adopt and implement good poultry practices to enhance productivity and expand their businesses, the demand for reliable and stable markets to sell their products becomes crucial. In the quarter under review, PIND facilitated linkage between Thrive Agric (large processor) and Poultry Service Providers in Edo, Delta, and Ondo states, to enable poultry farmers to have access to *Market Platform* of the *Thrive Agric* company through the poultry service providers. Specifically, for Delta State, Chukess Farms and Agro Consult in partnership with Thrive Agric and Genesis Fast Food, organized a market linkages workshop for poultry farmers in Delta State, where 45 poultry farmers got linked to large buyers through the workshop.

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

The Nigerian cocoa industry has been associated with producing low-quality cocoa beans due to subpar practices by farmers during production and post-harvest stages. The lack of clear incentives for farmers to enhance their practices and produce high-quality beans further exacerbates this issue. In 2020, PIND introduced an incentive-based model in

collaboration with off-takers to address the challenges surrounding poor-quality cocoa beans. This model incorporates incentives such as higher prices or premiums for farmers who produce superior-quality cocoa beans. The pilot phase of this intervention involved reaching out to over 1,000 farmers in Ondo State, in partnership with Subjugate Nigeria Limited and Nivik Investment Limited. After conducting an assessment of the pilot, PIND initiated engagements with additional cocoa processors and exporters in 2022 to replicate the successful model and expand its impact.

This year, the intervention focuses on partnering and providing support to at least two cocoa off-takers to network new farmers into their sustainability program otherwise called quality improvement program, and invest in improving the capacity of their network of service providers.

During this quarter, 3 off-takers, John Vent industries, Nivik Ltd and Plantation Industries were actively engaged and several activities were conducted in collaboration with PIND. John Vent took proactive steps in conducting community mapping and selection as part of its preparations for farm mapping and risk assessment. Community mapping and selection help identify specific areas where farmers have shown interest in adopting the Rainforest Alliance (RA) standard. PIND also supported the registration of 8 cocoa producer cooperatives with Plantation Industries and grouped its farmers into clusters. Through the cooperative, farmers will receive support and training and can collectively adopt and comply with the sustainable practices outlined by the Fair Trade and RA standard while Plantation Industries will establish a more traceable supply chain.

In quarter 3, training in Sustainable Cocoa Management Systems will take place to provide off-takers (Exporters, Processors, and Cooperatives) with essential knowledge and information about agricultural (cocoa) management systems. Although planned activities for the quarter were delayed due to the increased price of cocoa and the general inflation which posed a disincentive to exporters to invest in quality improvement activities, it is expected that activities will ramp up in Q3.

3.1.8. MSMEs, fisher-folks, and Processors in CNL coastal communities adopt more Chorkor Ovens

As part of activities to improve the efficiency of MSMEs, fish processors, and fisher-folks in the CNL host communities, PIND in collaboration with Marich Agro, a business service provider organized a practical demonstration of the chorkor oven as a better technology for fish processing compared to the local drums used by local fish processors. The demonstration was held in the Obaghoro community in Delta State. Following the demonstration, PIND facilitated the adoption of 5 chorkor ovens in the community. A training on sustainable fishing practices was also organized for fisher folks in the community and a total of 205 participants were recorded from both activities.

Also, following the business linkages workshop carried out in the previous quarter at Awoye, a CNL community in Ondo State, PIND continued to facilitate market linkages for fisher-folks and processors and tracked the transactions from those linkages. These fisherfolk who have been linked to the market through off-takers have made sales in excess of N15m so far.

3.2.0 Skills Development for Youth Employment (YEP)

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

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

3.2.2 Q2 2023 Key Achievements in YEP

In Q2, the YEP program is currently being implemented in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Delta states with about 1,601 (710

females) youths participating. The number of youths that continue to seek labor opportunities continue to increase with over 4,600 applications received for enrollment on the project within the quarter this year. The training is being conducted in four sectors (Agriculture, ICT, Building Construction and Services including finished leather).

Also, within the reporting period, an award ceremony was held to officially launch and disburse ₦42 million Challenge Fund to 66 successful candidates. Furthermore, a validation workshop of the Ondo State Labour Market Assessment (LMA) study, which was launched to address the problem of unemployment in the state, was held and the final report produced and disseminated. After the field exercise in Q1, a validation workshop was held in June 2023 to share economic data and findings from the labor market studies with key government and private stakeholders to ascertain its validity and draw inputs for the revision and finalization of the LMA report. Participants at the workshop were drawn from Ondo State government ministries, Chambers of Commerce and organized private sector, Non-governmental Organizations, and Ilaje Regional Development Council (IRDC).

Number of youths with applicable skills plus those accessing income opportunities: the number of youths under these remains the same as reported in the previous quarter. The remaining 11 projects in Abia, Rivers and Delta states were completed with 729 (Males: 442, Females: 287 *PWD: 9*) youths graduating from either Agriculture, ICT/Renewable Energy, Building Construction or the Services sector. The 246 (113 females) who have completed their skill training have started internship/apprenticeship placements, while 187 (76 females) have also accessed income-earning opportunities (jobs and self-started enterprises) – see table 2 below.

Table 2. YEP progress against 2023 annual targets

YEP Indicators	Target	Achieved	Performance (%)	Target	Achieved YTD	Performance (%)	Female	PWD
	Q2 2023 Targets	Q2 2023	Q1%	2023	2023	2023(%)	2023	2023
Number of youths with applicable skills (Completed)	*	0	*	2,229 (HCDT 100)	729	33%	287 (39.3%)	9
Number of youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities	*	0	*	660	187	28.3%	76 (40.6%)	0
Number of job-to-job internship, apprenticeship placements	*	0	*	800	246	30.8%	113 (46%)	0
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	*	0	*	3	0	0%	NA	NA

3.2.3 Update on the Implementing Partners (IPs) 3rd year Service Delivery

In this quarter, 17 implementing partners and private TVET institutions are currently providing technical vocational skills training with the mainstreaming of soft skills to 1,601 youths (including one partner implementing in 2 sectors). The number of youths that continue to seek labor opportunities continue to increase with over 4,600 applications received for enrollment on the project within the quarter this year. The breakdown of the IPs per sector are as follows: Agriculture (4), Building construction (3), ICT (5), and Services (6) – see table below.

Table 3. Distribution of the 2023 YEP IPs per state and sectors

State	Partner	Sector	State	Partner	Sector		
Abia	The Footwear Academy	Services	Rivers	Doctor Fish Agric Consult	Agriculture		
	Ibiteinye Integrated Farms Ltd	Agriculture		Aqua Green Integrated Farm Support Imitative	Agriculture		
	Innovation Growth Hub	ICT		Develop U Foundation	Agriculture		
	Kiara de-Luke Academy (old partner but implementing in a new sector)	Services		Azure Gold Ltd.	Building Construction		
Akwa Ibom	Kiara De Luke Academy	Building Construction		Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre	Building Construction		
	Micafotoy Tech. Ltd.	ICT		Meranos Ltd.	ICT		
	FotoAfrik International	Services		Teadro Info. Tech. Centre	ICT		
Delta	Corifotech Solutions Ltd.	Services		Gender disaggregation of the trainees			
	Astevern Renewable Energy & Efficiency Academy Ltd.	Services		Sectors	Male	Female	PWD
	AMY 6015 Global Enterprise	Services		Integrated Agriculture	217	195	6
	Nerdzfactory Ltd.	ICT	Building Construction	176	48	5	
			ICT	317	245	4	
			Services	81	222	6	
			TOTAL	891	710	21	

3.2.4 Update on start-up business challenge fund plans

To further support the transition of participants into entrepreneurship, the project launched a Business Start-up Challenge Fund for youths trained under the Youth Employment Pathways, in Delta State who graduated in the first year of implementation in March 2022 after completing vocational training in the four sectors of integrated agriculture, ICT, building construction, and services, including finished leather and renewable energy. Within the quarter, PIND completed the process of the challenge funds for new business start-ups with the award ceremony held in June, and two Delta State government representatives graced the occasion. A total of 66 youths was successful (60 individual business applications and 2 group enterprises of 3 persons each) - Agriculture (15), Building Construction (12), ICT (7), Services inclusive of renewable energy (32). The disbursement of the ₦42 million has commenced and would continue from June to September 2023.

3.2.5 State governments' adoption of YEP

Validation workshop of the Ondo State Labor Market Assessment: The LMA study conducted between November 2022 and March 2023 presented the outcome of an assessment of the labor market to identify pathways for youth employment in Ondo state. After the field exercise in Q1, a validation workshop was held in June 2023 to share economic data and findings from the labor market studies with key government and private stakeholders to ascertain its validity and draw inputs for the revision and finalization of the LMA report. Participants at the workshop were drawn from Ondo State government ministries, Chambers of Commerce and organized private sector, Non-governmental Organizations, and Ilaje Regional Development Council (IRDC).

Key information presented at the workshop included the drivers and barriers to job creation in Ondo State, types of jobs and skills available in the state, technical vocational skills training infrastructures, and past enrollment of trainees. Challenges facing the coastal communities were also highlighted. The output of the validation workshop (recommendations and factors for consideration) will aid the Project team in the design and implementation of skills for employment program in Ondo State that is scheduled for the third quarter of 2023.

3.3.0 Access to Energy

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

PIND's Access to Energy (A2E) programming in the Niger Delta recorded significant milestones in Q2 2023 through groundwork preparation for the much-anticipated Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications (HETA) collaboration with other development partners. PIND secured and signed a funding partnership that would leverage up to \$219,000 to support community energy projects that will also enable community healthcare centers to have round the clock electricity for critical care needs. In addition, PIND supported activities around power project origination and this led to the signing of 4 new power purchase agreements to power mainly last mile coastal communities over the next two quarters.

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

PIND's collaboration with the Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN) continued into Q2 2023 with additional states in the Niger Delta (Ondo and Edo) covered through the renewable energy access roadshow. The series of events convened solar pv installers, subnational government institutions, trainers, donor agencies and small business solutions providers in Ondo and Edo states; with a view to sharing PIND's knowledge around models that are suitable for the Niger Delta electricity markets, especially around rural and peri-urban communities.

PIND also carried out assessments, stakeholder engagement and technology demonstrations across four new communities; three in Ondo state which are Oju, Imole, Orotu & Igo and one in Dinkoru, Delta state. This was done to understand the energy needs of the communities and the specific peculiarities around their communal energy behavior. This exercise is critical to the commercial success of any mini grids, as insufficient understanding of the dynamics around community energy use can become a barrier to profitability for private sector power developers' investing in many rural communities. However, through PIND facilitation and engagement with community leaders, youth representatives,

female representatives and businesses across these riverine communities, the private sector partners were able to see the incentives and have subsequently signed Power Purchase agreements with the four communities.

3.3.2 PIND signs MOU with Abt Associates on powering community healthcare facilities in the Niger Delta

In 2021, PIND started discussions with USAID Power Africa to explore possible areas of collaboration around energy projects – particularly Renewable energy. This led to an ideation process and a series of networking and high-level discussions with diverse groups of stakeholders looking at different ways to support economic recovery from COVID-19 through power initiatives. PIND shared its business model behind the Energy Cabin as a way to guarantee technical and financial sustainability for the project, and this was adopted by the team. The idea of a “Healthgrid” co-developed and advanced by bechtel.org, NDPI and PIND was created at the time and this has now been adapted as an ambitious Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA) project – to power healthcare centers in Africa. PIND is part of that alliance which is led by USAID and Abt associates, and partook in a co-creation process for a Niger Delta kick off of the project.

Essentially, PIND’s involvement is looking to support the electrification of healthcare centers in the Niger Delta through USAID’s GDA contribution. An MOU to this effect was signed in Q2 2023. Although PIND has no program pillar in healthcare, there is an incentive for last-mile Niger Delta communities to benefit from enterprise-driven power projects that would power businesses, households and one or two healthcare centers.

3.4.0 Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS) - Q3 FY23

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

The Extension Activity uses Lean⁸ production principles and tools to develop a deep understanding of the existing production systems to identify the most promising opportunities (also known as most impactful practices- MIPs) and the most important constraints to improve efficiency and increase return on investment for farmers. The Extension Activity leverages MSMEs as change agents around the identified on-farm opportunities. These MSMEs are strategically placed intermediaries for upstream and downstream movement of inputs and commodities through the market system; and their businesses depend on and can grow with the enhanced competitiveness and profitability of their core customers, the smallholder producers.

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

For the period under review, the Extension Activity continued to strengthen, engage and collaborate with partner firms and government agencies in commercializing and scaling up the 35 Most Impactful Practices (MIPs) identified and validated across the five target value chains it is intervening. Table 4 shows the list of 12 relevant MIPs promoted in Cross River and Delta states. Partner firms have continued to commercialize MIPs with respective extension messages, having seen the accruing benefits including expanded farmer networks and enhanced business performance, as well as increased profitability for their clients. As seen in Table 5 below, a total of 64 MSMEs were supported by the Extension Activity this quarter, receiving services to promote private sector extension service delivery in Cross River and Delta states. Out of the 199 MSMEs partnered with, 20 MSMEs commercialized the MIPs this quarter and provided services to 4,554 farmers.

⁸ Lean is a process-driven analytical and management set of principles and tools the Activity will use to develop a deep understanding of the existing production systems to identify the most promising opportunities and the most important constraints to improve efficiency and increase return on investment for farmers. Lean principles emerged from the Toyota Production System, known for efficiency and high net margins within its industry, and have been applied in agriculture as well as other sectors and industries in the recent decades.

Table 4. List of MIPs promoted in Cross River and Delta State

S/n	MIP	Crop
1	Use of Juveniles	Aquaculture
2	Complementary Feeding with Maggots in aquaculture	Aquaculture
3	Complementary Feeding with Duckweed in aquaculture	Aquaculture
4	Use of Improved Seeds	Maize/Rice
5	Optimum and responsible use of Herbicide in weed management	Maize/Rice
6	Optimum Fertilizer Use	Maize/Rice
7	Fall Army Worm Control & Management	Maize
8	Mechanized land preparation	Maize
9	Mechanized Land Preparation with small equipment (Power Tillers)	Lowland Rice
10	Mechanized threshing	Rice
11	Farmers Group Savings and Loans (FGSL)	Aquaculture/Maize/Rice
12	Demand Stimulation	Aquaculture/Maize/Rice

Table 5: Number of MSMEs in Cross River and Delta states

State	Cross River			Delta			Aggregate		
	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned	Total	Female-owned	Youth-owned
MSMEs in cohorts	55	7	-	144	18	5	199	25	5
MSMEs supported	12	3	-	52	16	3	64	19	3
MSMEs deploying MIPs	4	1	-	16	2	1	20	3	1

The interventions delivered to the smallholder farmers through the MSMEs including complementary capacity building in this reporting period included extension messaging (through demand stimulation and video-enabled channels), financial literacy training, complementary feeding with duckweed and black soldier fly larvae in aquaculture production, use of juveniles, use of improved seeds, optimum fertilizer use, and mechanized land preparation. The number of farmers that received extension messages and applied most impactful practices are shown below:

Table 6: Number of farmers accessing MIPs/Intervention

MIP/Intervention	Cross River			Delta			Gross Total
	Total	Female	Youth	Total	Female	Youth	
ICT-Video enabled extension	3,435	1,090	291	-	-	-	3,435
Extension messaging through demand stimulation.	302	100	55	124	74	16	424
Use of improved seeds (Rice and Maize)	300	71	2	3	2	1	303
Use of juveniles	-	-	-	207	58	23	207
Optimum fertilizer use	20	7	-	8	1	2	28
Complementary feeding with duckweed and black soldier fly larvae	-	-	-	27	7	3	27
Financial literacy training	-	-	-	16	5	4	16
Mechanized land preparation	-	-	-	6	-	-	6

MSME Engagement and Partnerships

The Extension Activity strengthened MSMEs through training activities in financial literacy and management and black soldier fly (BSF) larvae production as complementary fish feed. The objective of the financial literacy and management training is to improve the credit worthiness of partner MSMEs to access finance required for developing their businesses. The production of black soldier fly larvae helps in complementing the volume of feed thus alleviating the effect of continuous rising costs of conventional fish feed thereby enhancing the income of fish farmers.

To deepen the understanding of the benefits and methods of demand stimulation in expanding their customer base, the Extension Activity trained A-list MSMEs on strategies for effective demand stimulation. By improving their capacity, MSMEs are expected to provide extension services on the most impactful practices to more farmers and to adopt better business attitudes and skills to scale their enterprises and incomes.

In Cross River State, following the collaboration with New Generation Nutrition, two MSMEs stepped-down the BSF larvae production training to farmers, exposing farmers to the nutritional benefits and cost effectiveness of BSF larvae in aquaculture production. In Delta State meanwhile, two MSMEs have invested a total sum of NGN 1.02 million (\$ 2,196.38) in constructing BSF production facilities to increase access and availability of BSF larvae to farmers.

In Cross River State, the partnership of the Extension Activity with AgriLife Bio-product Solutions, which started in the preceding reporting quarter to demonstrate the benefits of biofertilizer products with offer of input credit estimated at N2,680,000 (Two million, six hundred and eighty thousand naira) to 20 participating farmers from AgriLife. MOUs have been signed with the farmers who are expected to pay back after harvest in a period of four to five months after planting. This input credit disbursement was facilitated by Abamgbe Steady Agro Enterprise, a partner MSME.

Access to Finance

A total of 220 farmers received agricultural input credit worth NGN 7.08 million (\$15,385.14) facilitated by two MSMEs supported by the Extension Activity in Cross River State. AgriLife Bio-product Solutions provided agricultural inputs for 20 farmers, while Cadre Harmonies in collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Cross River State Agricultural Development Program (CRADP) provided agricultural input for 200 farmers. A business-to-business collaboration between five MSMEs in Delta State resulted in a transaction value at NGN 502,000 (\$1,091.62) disbursed as credit in-kind as feed and Broodstock to be repaid in cash after sales.

Farmers savings and loans groups (FSLG) aimed to encourage farmers to save into a pool, from which they can take loans at a later time for their agricultural enterprises have been established in both states facilitated by MSMEs working with the Extension Activity. In Cross River State, three MSMEs have established finished leather goods with their clients as subscribing members. In Delta State however, a cohort of MSMEs established a savings and loans group that became operational in May 2023 with the 12 pioneering members subscribing a minimum of NGN 5,000 monthly. These were initiated and facilitated by the Extension Activity.

For potential deals, the Extension Activity's access to finance specialist is providing support, including document preparation and liaison with creditors, to seven MSMEs in both states to access loans of about NGN 220 million (\$478,260.87) from the Bank of Industry (BOI) and Welcome to Africa (W2A) for the purpose of business expansion.

ICT Support

The Extension Activity through collaboration with the Cross-River State Agricultural Development Program (CRADP) have continued to develop, review, and disseminate extension videos demonstrating the value and practice of MIPs. Following a refresher training last quarter for 46 extension agents in Central and Northern Cross River, dissemination of eight MIP videos progressed with a total of 3,435 farmers reached in both zones. The video-enabled extension messaging campaign was carried out with MSMEs that deal in improved seeds.

Output Level Results

Table 7: below shows the results (outputs) from interventions implemented during the period. It lists five performance indicators that are applicable to the status of implementation in the two states. The table also includes a column with the performance of the overall Extension Activity portfolio for internal benchmarking.

Table 7: Output indicators for Cross River and Delta states

Performance Indicator	Cross River	Delta	Aggregate (Cross River + Delta)	Overall portfolio
Number of private sector firms providing new or improved extension and advisory services as a result of USG assistance (outcome; custom)	4	16	20	58
Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs (EG 3-2)	4,072	482	4,554	22,762
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	\$15,385.14	\$1,091.62	\$16,476.75	\$2,521,769.28
Total number of clients benefitting from financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors (EG. 4.2-1)	220	4	224	746
Value of new USG commitment and private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security (EG.3.1-14)	\$20,289.63	\$2,196.38	\$22,486.01	\$2,757,013.23

4.0 Peace Building Program

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

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

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

In the current strategic phase (2020-2024), the Peace Network is focusing on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that promote a more enabling, integrated, and peaceable environment conducive for economic growth and development in the region.

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



This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q2,2023.

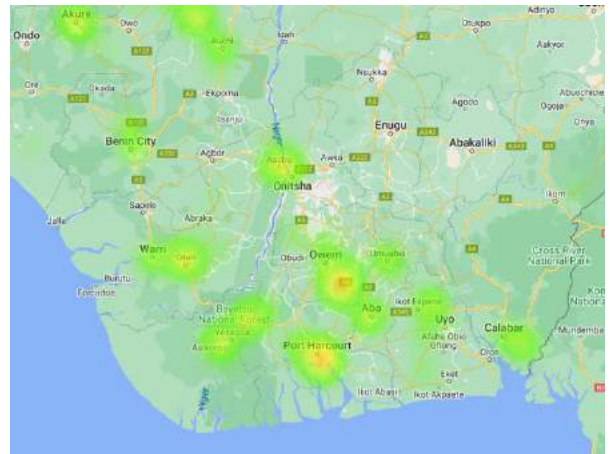
4.1 Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q2 2023

In the current quarter, there were considerable improvements in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta, compared to the first quarter of the year. These included a decrease in political, communal and criminal violence in the region. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, lethal violence decreased by 72% from 278 fatalities in Q1 to 77 in Q2 of 2023; Conflict incidents also decreased by 70% from 228 in Q1 to 63 in Q2.

Criminality including kidnaping for ransom was the major driver of lethal violence in the region during the quarter. Criminal violence caused more than 70 fatalities in the Niger Delta during the period. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, there was a decrease in reported incidents of criminal violence during the quarter; criminal violence including kidnaping for ransom and clashes between hoodlums and government security forces decreased by 54% from 89 reported incidents in Q1 to 41 incidents in Q2 of 2023. Communal conflicts including clashes between herders and farmers decreased by 81% from 16 reported incidents in Q1 to 3 incidents in Q2 of 2023. Gang violence was also prevalent during the quarter, and it was driven mainly by battles for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs in the

region. According to data, clashes between cult gangs caused over 20 fatalities in the region during the quarter.

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



4.2 Peacebuilding highlights of activities in Q2 2023.

Within the reporting period, PIND produced and disseminated 14 data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products - including 13 weekly conflict briefs and a quarterly conflict tracker to update peace and security stakeholders and facilitated several preventive interventions in the Niger Delta. These research and data products were disseminated to local, national and international peace actors to create situational awareness, stakeholder's update, conflict mapping/analysis, and to share information, knowledge and best practices on conflict mitigation and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta. These conflict reports spotlighted key thematic conflict issues in the region including organized criminality, gang violence, communal conflict, human rights, and natural disasters during the period.

Also, within the reporting period, peace actors leveraged local capacity for peacebuilding to deploy conflict early warning systems to track, identify, and proactively respond to the numerous drivers of conflict and instability. Peace and security stakeholders including members of the P4P network, Prevent Council and the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) also leveraged PIND's conflict early warning/early response (EWER) infrastructure and research/data products to execute various interventions to mitigate the numerous drivers and triggers of lethal violence and insecurity in the region. Peace actors including members of the Prevent Councils mediated and resolved 38 communal conflicts during the period. Three key activities are outstanding this quarter: Prevent Council interventions in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Delta states; Town Hall meetings in the nine states to enrich the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) framework, and 2023 General Election Debriefing Session in River States.

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4.2.1 Cross River State Prevent Council

The Cross River State Prevent Council in collaboration with Cross River State Traditional Rulers Council (CRSTRC), intervened in the communal conflict between Qua Town and New Netim communities in Odukpani Local Government Area (LGA). The eminent personalities visited the affected communities and carried out on the spot assessment and mapped out sustainable ways of mitigating the agelong violent conflict and set modalities for resolving the disputes. Courtesy of their intervention, the tension was doused and an alleged planned attack by one of the disputing parties was suspended. The Prevent Council and the CRSTRC members acknowledged that their intervention was made possible through PIND's mentorship. They also stated that the intervention availed the disputing communities' elders and youths to meet and dialog for the first time in seven years.

4.2.2 2023 Post-Election Debriefing Session

In continuation of the post-election phase of PIND's 2023 General Election Violence Prevention and Mitigation Project, Community Initiatives for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD), one of the



The Prevent Council and Cross River State Traditional Rulers Council mediation meeting



Participants at the 2023 General Election Debriefing Session in Port Harcourt, Rivers

implementing organizations in Rivers State, held a debriefing session where various stakeholders freely discussed achievements and challenges during the 2023 Presidential and Governorship Elections in Rivers State as well as improvements needed for peaceful elections in the future. Participants in the event included Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN), Traditional Rulers, Security Agencies comprising of Police, Civil Defence, Army, and Department of State Security), Person living with Disabilities (PWD), Media outfits, Election Monitors, Communities Stakeholders Network (CSN), and several Civil Society Organizations (CSO).

4.2.3 Post-Election Roundtable: Opportunities for Peacebuilding

As part of the series of activities to evaluate the conduct of the 2023 General Elections, PIND organized a Post-election Roundtable in collaboration with its technical partners - Fund for Peace (FFP). The Nigeria Working Group (NWG), Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP), and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) were other collaborators that held the in-person session in Washington DC, United States. More than 80 participants representing foundations, U.S government agencies, Nigerian civil society, academia, multilateral organizations, and development organizations discussed the outcome of the 2023 General Election in comparison with 2015 and 2019 elections in relation to election-related violence. Discussants agreed that despite significant socio-economic stress, high electoral stakes, cash crunch, and many challenges in the process and credibility of the election itself, the 2023 election was less violent compared to the other two elections. Furthermore, discussants emphasized that to sustain the peaceful momentum in electioneering process in the future or even surpass, adherence to electoral laws, increasing advocacy and sensitization, deployment of technology, galvanizing the participation of all stakeholders based on principle of inclusivity, should be promoted which will engender greater opportunities for peacebuilding in the country.

4.3.0 Key/immediate peace building outcomes in Q2 2023

Within the reporting period, analysis of the utilization of PIND’s data products revealed that 523 stakeholders⁹ utilized PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis during the review period exceeding the target of 500 stakeholders for the quarter, and achieving 58% of the 2023 target. Also, 74 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training¹⁰ sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. While, 345 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 38 ‘quality actions’¹¹ to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period.

4.3.1 Behavior changes by peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace in Q2 2023

PIND’s peace efforts are geared towards preventing violence as a means of resolving conflicts, reducing fragility as a breeding ground for violence, and creating opportunities for long-term development. As conflicts are a natural part of social processes of change for sustainable development, PIND is relentlessly promoting a culture of peace by providing relevant data for early response and facilitating collaborative efforts for implementing conflict management and peace building interventions to peace actors/monitors, peace champions and other stakeholders. Also, through its Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) and the Partners for Peace (P4P) network, PIND has continued to facilitate training and workshops to enhance capacities of peace actors to constructively mitigate conflict. Some examples of the way these peace actors have applied the skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q2, are given in Table 7

Table 8 Summary of selected interventions carried out by some stakeholders and peace actors in Q2 2023

Business conflict resolved among fish farmers in Delta State	Community crises between indigene and non-indigenes in Yenagoa prevented
<p>Onaiwu is a fish farmer who owns a fish pond at Alero Fish Farm, Warri South, Delta State, who participated in the PB conflict mitigation training in 2023. Being a peace champion in her business cluster, in June 2023, she applied the conflict mitigation skills acquired from PIND to resolve a quarrel between colleague fish farmers. The conflict was over a leaked fishpond which allegedly destroyed another person’s fishpond due to flooding, which resulted in a quarrel between both.</p> <p>Onaiwu observed that the conflict would degenerate if not resolved, therefore, intervened by calming the rivals down, facilitated the</p>	<p>Precious is a youth leader, under the Bayelsa Youth Association who was trained on conflict management. In May 2023, he intervened in a community conflict between indigene and non-indigenes in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The issue was on the selection of participants to attend a training on grassroots mobilization organized by the office of the Senior Special Adviser to the Governor. As planned, the training was for all inhabitants of Yenagoa who met the set criteria. However, the head of the selection committee introduced indigenes and non-indigenes dichotomy and said it will only be for indigenes which resulted in disagreement by inhabitants. Precious intervened and talked to them about the need to carry everyone along so as to foster a peaceful</p>

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

¹⁰ Training areas: capacity to provide further training to others; engage in conflict mitigation efforts in their communities; write proposals to receive funding for their organizations; enable them to become better leaders in their communities; report conflict issues to the PIND/SMS platform; engage in peacebuilding awareness campaigns against electoral violence; empowerment to make a difference as regards conflict issues in the community; and ability to analyze conflict trends and patterns.

¹¹ Actions have to meet at least three of five criteria to be considered as ‘Quality actions’. 1. All key stakeholders consulted. 2. Intervention focuses on identified risk. 3. Intervention contributes to risk reduction/ mitigation of group-based violence. 4 Intervention affects a significant number of people positively. 5 Impact of the intervention is long lasting (based on the context and nature of the problem).

repair of the damaged fishpond, through co-opting of other women's support, which further united the cluster and boosted their businesses through collaborations.	livelihood. After his intervention, they listened and agreed to select everyone that met set criteria irrespective of place of origin. His intervention further unites inhabitants of the city.
Family conflict over land ownership in Ondo State, resolved	Preventing Conflicts for Sustained Farming Activities in Cross River State
Stephen is a peace actor in Jugbere community, Owo LGA, Ondo State . In June 2023, he resolved land disputes between two extended families in the Idasen community. The land dispute was reported to the Community Head who delegated the matter to Stephen as he is recognized in the community as a skilled mediator. Based on knowledge of several training gathered from series of peacebuilding training organized by PIND, mediated on the conflict with the representatives of the families in dispute. An agreement was reached and he sent the report to the community head for final decision.	Asuquo , a member of the Cross-River State Prevent Council, deployed knowledge gained from the Council's training sessions to manage community conflict over farm land access. Usually, during farming season, struggle for farm space dominates as a driver of conflicts among the fishermen and farmers from Oku Iboku in Akwa Ibom State and Ikot Offiong in Odukpani LGA, Cross River State. Within the quarter, a conflict resurfaced over ownership tussle between the communities and in April 2023, Mr. Asuquo intervened by working with two youths from his community to stop the rivalry. He advised the youths against physical attack of the neighboring community over the disputed farming or fishing space. His advice was respected by both communities and peace was restored, enabling this year's farming activities to thrive.

Regional framework for peace in the Niger Delta.

PIND continues to work with the MNDA to support the work of the TWG that was constituted in 2022 to lead the development of a regional framework for peace in the Niger Delta. In this quarter, PIND facilitated a stakeholder engagement with both state and non-state actors through interviews, town hall meetings in all the 9 States and citizenry engagement through the media through collaboration with the Technical working Group (TWG) of the Niger Delta Regional Peace building Strategy (NDRPS) and Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS)- a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff.

Based on the scope of activities towards the design and development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) for the Niger Delta region, a town hall meeting was held in each of the 9 States. The essence of the wide range engagement was to get stakeholders' views on what constitutes peace, safety and security in their communities with the primary aim of enriching the NDRPS document. The objectives of the activity aligned with the MNDA goal of designing and implementing a peacebuilding framework/strategic document that is not just security-focused but also serves the needs of the people through effective conflict prevention, mitigation, resolution, and management through multi-stakeholder and inclusive approaches.

Participants were drawn from wide spectrum of stakeholders ranging from the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), Traditional institution, Community leaders (youth leaders, opinion leaders, women leaders), People With Disability (PWDs), Faith-based organizations(FBO), Local government representatives, Security agencies, Organized private sector (Unions, Chambers of Commerce, Artisan Groups), the academia, Ethnic Based Association, the media, Boat Riders, Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), technicians, Keke and Okada Repairers Association (KORA) etc



Town Hall meeting participants in Akwa Ibom State



Town Hall meeting participants in Cross River State.

5. General Enabling Program

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

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

Capacity building that will build the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations and communities.

Advocacy that seeks to influence policies, practices and programs underpinned by in-depth analyses and understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.

A robust communications and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts, and learning. PIND's General Enabling Program contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 2 of 2023 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

5.1 Capacity Building

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

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

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

RDCs including those in Video production and photography, Sustainable Project Management, and on gender equality and social inclusion.

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

PIND has identified some indicative offerings that will be useful for the HCDT leadership and management committees to enable them to take off effectively. These include training in Group dynamics and cohesion, Multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development. However, due to the delays in setting up the HCDTs none of these planned activities has taken place as at Q2 2023 but expected to commence in Q3.

This quarter, the Capacity building program carried out a capacity gap analysis of PINDs co-facilitators and developed a capacity building plan to support MSD co-facilitators to effectively function as sector managers as PIND pilots the cross-cutting intervention approach. The program also developed a road map and action plan to expand the pool of co-facilitators within the next twelve months while implementing a graduation plan for older co-facilitators. Implementation of these activities is expected to commence in Q3.

5.2 Petroleum Industry Acts: The BRIDGES Project

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

In the previous quarter, PIND organized a capacity-building workshop for 30 participants from 15 NGOs and CSOs from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States to support the taking off of the Host Community Development Trusts (HCDT). This was to enable them to gain a better understanding of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) and their roles in ensuring the active participation of community stakeholders in the implementation process. In this quarter, a second workshop was held with 20 participants from 10 NGOs and CSOs from Akwa Ibom and Rivers states. This was facilitated by PIND and the New Nigeria Foundation.



Cross Section of Participants in Bayelsa

Capacity building of the CSOs/NGOs, providing community stakeholders with pertinent awareness and education on the provisions and requirements of the PIA, and a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) are the three components of the Bridges Project.

In Q2, PIND carried out Awareness Creation and Sensitization sessions in four states including; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states with over 500 participants. The Awareness creation workshops were facilitated in partnership with organizations such as the Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ), Enterprise for Development International (EFDI), and New Nigeria Foundation (NNF). The primary objective of these workshops is to educate and sensitize key community stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities and expectations under the PIA.

Also, PIND began the process of setting up a Multi-Stakeholder Platform. The multi-stakeholder platform would be made up of 30 carefully-selected experts and critical stakeholders representing the communities, settlers, civil society, and government. They will work towards a common goal of ensuring that community stakeholders maximize the benefits of the PIA in their respective communities by coordinating efforts that help to channel PIA HCDT funds appropriately.

5.3 Advocacy

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

In the Second Quarter of 2023, PINDs' online advocacy platform, NDLINK (www.ndlink.org), consolidated on the gains of Q1 and experienced continued growth. NDLINK's result for the 3 target indicators showed that there were 7,837 downloads of development resources; 7,093 people became aware of development programs implemented in the Niger Delta via NDLINK and 36 people gave comments or feedback on issues catalyzed by PIND NDLINK platform which showed improvement from the results of the last quarter. The installation of improved web analytic & reporting software, site optimization and the inclusion of push notifications have improved engagements on the Web platform. This period also marked a successful external collaboration on the platform to mark World Environment Day 2023.

5.3.1 Equitable access to land by smallholder farmers

PIND's effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities is paying off. PIND influenced the establishment of an Arable Land Committee in Delta and Edo states. As a result of this intervention, and as a first step, both states have carried out GIS mapping of all the reserved land in their respective states and have delineated substantial amounts for agricultural purposes. For instance, in Edo State, as a result of the extensive engagements carried out in 2022, Government is now keen to develop and articulate a clear process flow of the land acquisition process in the State. In 2023, this process is being jointly developed by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Environment and the Physical Planning and Forestry departments.

Also, the Edo GIS department is working with the communities to map and layout their communities' land to enable the government to provide a short-term certificate of occupancy in line with the lease holding agreed upon by the communities. Currently, PIND is taking concerted efforts to ensure that these happen. Relating to this, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Government Organizations are required to stand as a witness in the land agreement processes among the community, government, and investors. This is to ensure that there is transparency in the process and that no party is being misled into making illegal commitments.

In Delta State, the Government has adopted the recommendations of the Arable Land Committee to open up more agricultural land for oil palm and cassava farmers in the state. Advocacy is now utilizing these experiences and learning to support the FAO FOLUR and Mastercard CAP agricultural projects

5.3.2 Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention

In 2022, PIND completed the draft assessment report on the impact of multiple taxations and illegal levies on small businesses in Abia, Delta, and Rivers States. PIND has learned that out of the 82 business sector respondents, up to 90% decried the effects of multiple taxes and illegal levies on their businesses. The first-level review of the report within PIND by the Economic Development and M&E teams and transmission of the report to external subject matter experts for further review and perfection has been conducted and completed. The last round of internal validation has been done with selected members of the PIND leadership. Also, in Q2 2023, work progressed on updating the tax matrix for the intervention states, Abia, Delta, and Rivers States, and already the various legal and illegal taxes are being identified and tracked through this matrix. As part of the planned activities of the intervention, PIND shall engage with the respective governments and share the data from this matrix in a bid to influence policy solutions to the challenge of multiple taxation and illegal levies that are stifling the growth, profitability and sustenance of small businesses in the region.

Public dissemination forums are scheduled for Q3, 2023 in Port Harcourt and Asaba respectively. These forums will bring together business service providers, business owners, government tax officials, the media, and civil society to discuss the findings and recommendations of the field assessment in a bid to design workable solutions that address this issue in the Niger Delta at large, starting with the focal intervention states.

5.4 Communications

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

Sharing Knowledge on PIND's Development Models

In Q2 2023, PIND participated in and/or hosted 20 forums where it shared its models for socio-economic development in the Niger Delta, evidence of its work, and lessons learned to 1,448 target stakeholders of the Foundation. These forums seek to stimulate increased visibility, promote the Foundation's business development objectives, possible replication of the Foundation's development models, and foster opportunities for new partnerships. Full details of these forums can be found in the Annex. PIND also showcased all programs and activities of the quarter on social media. Highlights of the quarter were the YEP Grant Signing Ceremony and Access to Energy Roadshow. These events gathered significant online engagement, with audience members applauding PIND's effort to raise awareness of renewable energy and support young entrepreneurs with grants to start their businesses.

1. Social Media

PIND shared 345 posts (conveying its key messages) across social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The social media posts reached 456,631 individuals and 228,582 of the people engaged by liking, commenting, sharing, or link-clicking, demonstrating increased visibility and interest among stakeholders in PIND's work.

S/N	Social Media Platform	Number of Persons Reached
1	Facebook	252,959
2	Instagram	169,203
3	LinkedIn	11,762
4	Twitter	19,729
5	YouTube	2,978

2. Newsletter

PIND produced and disseminated two newsletters to recipients in target stakeholder groups during the quarter in review, reaching 2,377 people. We had 467 new subscribers, thanks to a robust effort to engage attendees of PIND's events through email subscriptions. There was an average open rate of 30.5%. (The opening rate is the percentage of subscribers who opened the newsletter from the email inbox).

3. PIND Website

In Q2, we actively posted content on the PIND website and strategically used social media to drive traffic to the web posts. This attracted 7,996 individuals to PIND's website for the first time, exposing them to PIND's work, results, and models.

Table 9. PIND's website performance summary in Q2 2023.

Website Performance Summary for Q2 2023
7,996 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time.
10,202 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND
58.9% were male and 41.1% were female users reached by the website
27 new content about PIND and partners shared
12,233 new views of posted content, and PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND
21,967 total page views of posted content, and PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND
80% of visitors searched directly to access the website
19,176 downloads of PIND's knowledge products to learn more, making PIND a thought-leader
The website had most of the new and repeat visitors attracted from high donor countries like the USA, United Kingdom, South Africa, Kenya, France, Netherlands, China, India, Canada and our Nigerian audience.

4. Email Enquiries

PIND received 77 email inquiries in Q2. Most of these inquiries sought information on partnerships or collaborations, job opportunities, questions by farmers about our MSD Programs, and invitations for PIND to share knowledge at academic research, case study on PIND, and access to PIND- promoted technologies and services, among others. Inquiries also included more information on our YEP Program.

5. Mainstream Media

Some of PIND's target stakeholders are individuals with little digital media presence or activities. These stakeholders are usually not subscribed to our digital platforms and reached through the traditional media: print and broadcast.

In Q2, PIND had 63 mainstream media mentions (surpassing our target of 60 for the quarter), and of these, 17 were earned - media mentions not facilitated by PIND. An example of an earned media mention was a special access to energy feature in **The Cable** titled How low-carbon, cost-effective energy is empowering coastal communities in Niger Delta written by Yekeen Akinwale, the winner of the PIND Prize for Niger Delta Reporting at the 2022 edition of the Diamond Awards for Media Excellence (DAME).

In Q2, we reached 1,081,539 individuals via mainstream media.

6. Public Endorsement of PIND

PIND received 30 public endorsements, appreciating, acknowledging, or commending it for its work. These endorsements are public statements by key stakeholders: government, partners, the media, project participants, and the general public. One example is a social media post from Seleowe Moses, on June 21, who said *“Peace is priceless, and terror is nonsense, I am very proud of being a peace builder as a member of P4P network Bayelsa State, and to be honest, PIND is really doing great things in the Niger Delta”*. His comment was on a post about the Regional Niger Delta Peace building Strategy Town Hall meetings.

a beneficiary of the YEP Program on Facebook “I am proud to state that I am one of the beneficiaries of this great foundation. Thank you #Pind for the opportunity you granted me

5.5 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND’s commitment to gender and social inclusion underpins its efforts to achieve greater gender equality as a key pathway towards sustainable poverty reduction and shared security and prosperity in the Niger Delta. At the center of PIND’s 2020–2024 strategic plan is the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of poor women and girls, persons with disabilities and the most vulnerable population. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming as a cross cutting theme, is embedded within PIND’s programs and projects to ensure that its activities are inclusive, reflect equitable participation and access to benefits.

Organizational Gender mainstreaming summary

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

In Q2 2023, 9,609 males and 6,977 females (42% of the total beneficiaries) benefitted from various economic development interventions, with an aim to increase their incomes and improve their livelihoods. Similarly, a total of 301 women (39% of the total beneficiaries), 465 (61%) men, 136 (19%) youths and 14 (2%) persons with disabilities (PWDs) participated in various peacebuilding interventions including: conflict mitigation, forums on peace and stability, skills enhancements, and mentorships, for the advancement of sustainable peace in the region.

5.6 Business Development

The collective effort on business development and sustainability has yielded significant milestones since the fourth quarter of 2022. Following the establishment of the business development committee and subcommittee, PIND has witnessed an unprecedented level of internal cooperation both at the board, management, and technical levels to sustain its drive for increased funding for the implementation of development interventions in line with its vision. Through these joint efforts, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization awarded PIND a \$153,000 grant for the implementation of components of the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States).

The second quarter of 2023 saw robust engagement with donors, deepening of partnerships, and several collaboration opportunities. In Q2, PIND signed an MoU with USAID/ Power Africa on the Health and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA). The Health Electrification and Telecommunication Alliance (HETA) is a five-year cooperative agreement that will invest USAID resources to leverage more than \$150 million of additional private sector resources to install reliable, renewable power and provide mobile network and Internet access for at least 10,000 health facilities across sub-Saharan Africa.

The second quarter of 2023 saw robust engagement with donors, deepening of partnerships, and several collaboration opportunities. Key outputs and outcomes are listed below:

- **Cassava Agripreneur Program:** In Q2, PIND and two other entities, IDH: Sustainable Trade Initiatives and Psaltry International worked in a consortium to co-create a proposed cassava program. The proposal was recently finalized and submitted to the donor for final review and approval.
- **USAID/ Power Africa on the Health and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA):** Also, within the quarter, PIND signed an MoU with USAID/ Power Africa on the Health and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA). The Health Electrification and Telecommunication Alliance (HETA) is a five-year cooperative agreement that will invest USAID resources to leverage more than \$150 million of additional private sector resources to install reliable, renewable power and provide mobile network and Internet access for at least 10,000 health facilities across sub-

Saharan Africa. USAID Power Africa called for new business approaches/collaborations based on the latest clean energy technology. In Nigeria, this project is being managed by an alliance that PIND is a part of. PIND is helping the Alliance to achieve its mission to catalyze public-private partnerships to co-invest and collaboratively develop sustainable business models that increase access to reliable, renewable energy and mobile/internet connections for health facilities in the Niger Delta. PIND has proposed to match an initial grant of \$219,389 from USAID to galvanize a public-private partnership for the implementation of an access-to-energy project in communities in the region

Internal collaboration to coordinate Business Development Processes and Outcomes:

The BDS Team continues to strengthen and facilitate internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. This is seen in the role BDS plays in providing support on the impact investment initiative, and coordinating the Executive Steering Committee meetings, organizing BDS subcommittee meetings.

6 Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Market Development Program:

- Within the reporting period, there was reduced purchasing capacity for agricultural inputs by farmers and MSMEs participating in the agricultural productivity improvement program, stemming from continued hikes in the costs of inputs, technologies for harvesting and processing, and overall transaction costs due to rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics.
- As farmers and MSMEs were recovering from the cash crunch that they had experienced in Q1 2023, resulting from the Central Bank of Nigeria's naira redesign policy, the removal of fuel subsidy in Q2 further led to increases in the costs of agro inputs beyond the reach of them. This has also negatively affected the rate of adoption of various innovations within the quarter. The low turnover experienced by the agro-dealers is also a disincentive to them.

Youth Employment Pathways Program:

- Low Number of PWDs – implementing partners have still found it difficult to source for PWDs from some of their organized groups. These organization coordinators have expressed the difficulty the PWDs will face in attending training sessions, especially with the increase in transportation costs.
- Rural youth face challenges in participating due to accommodation constraints in urban training locations.

Advocacy:

Given that many Advocacy support border-on policy initiatives, there is a growing concern about the lack of political will to support these policy initiatives due to the uncertainties and lack of policy continuity that trail change in government. In States where elections were conducted in 2023, there are situations where sitting political officeholders have resigned their position in pursuit of other political interests or even the dissolution of the entire cabinet by Governors. This has muted engagements with government officials in most of the States. Whilst these impacts and slows down advocacy work, to mitigate this we have deepened relationships and engagement efforts with career civil servants who retain their positions much longer and are custodians of the MDAs.

Lessons Learned

Market Development Program:

Cassava out-grower scheme has been shown to provide coordination and efficiency amongst members in the value chain. This is evidenced in an out growers' scheme for farmers to produce cassava roots for Indorama, where Indorama provides input, with the farmers providing labor and are already attracting and stimulating farmers' participation in training activities.

YEP: The physical interview process and the 2-day orientation exercise conducted for new participants played a pivotal role in the program's success as it helped determine commitment to the rigorous six-month training. Also, the entrepreneurship training conducted before the challenge fund helped some participants think out of the box, starting their businesses without PIND's support and the successes and testimonies of previous participants contributed to the increased awareness of the program.

Program Management

Governance and Accountability: Within the quarter, PIND kicked off its midterm impact evaluation process of its programs covering 7.5 years of sustained program implementation in the Niger Delta, awarded to Dalberg Consulting firm. The inception report that explains the evaluation design, methodology, data collection, and reporting has been received. Dalberg will proceed to the next stages of this process in the next quarter which will involve data collection and analysis from several categories of PIND stakeholders.

The collective effort on business development and sustainability continues to yield significant milestones. Following the establishment of the business development committee and subcommittee, PIND has witnessed an unprecedented level of internal cooperation both at the board, management, and technical levels to sustain its drive for increased funding for the implementation of development interventions in line with its vision. Through these joint efforts, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization awarded PIND a \$153,000 grant for the implementation of components of the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States).

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Organizational Sustainability: PIND continued to invest resources to promote wellbeing and safeguard employees' lives. This quarter, Operations provided optimal and seamless services to consultants and stakeholders which invariably contributed to the overall quality and value addition to PIND's operations.

Similarly, adequate logistics arrangements were made for the smooth execution of operations and projects. PIP was optimized to enhance IT management. In addition, the team successfully completed the training on incident /emergency/crisis management, capacity building of PIND support staff, processing of utility bills, management of communication equipment and relationship with stakeholders/vendors, vehicle maintenance and repairs, managed events and workshops within and outside PIND's premises, onboarding of new staff and general equipment and facilities management.

Project support services:

PIND's procurement and contract administration services ensured that procedures, processes, protocols, and systems were utilized in line with PIND's policies and procedures. 154 contracts/grants worth ₦719.93 million were awarded in Q2 2023. There was more use of Grant Agreement as contracting instruments compared to the others in Q2. instruments (Table 10).

Table 10. Contracts awarded in Q2 2023 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number processed	Total Amount committed till date	Total Value Committed by Gender (NGN)			
			Female	Value Committed	Female Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed
Professional Services Contract	12	173.16 million			4	74.06 million
Services Order	16	96.18 million	4	47.50 million	3	5.67 Million
Purchase Order	11	27.67 million	-	-	6	12.57 Million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	111	322.18 million	37	23.64 million	14	117.72 Million
MOU	4	100.74 million	-	-	1	-
Total	154	719.93 million	41	71.14 million	28	210.02 million

7 Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Q3 2023, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- Carry out farmers outcome monitoring to determine adoption level and impact of the various activities in the sector. It will also continue to facilitate training on climate-smart good agricultural practices for farmers; while supporting farmers with linkages to market opportunities.
- Create scale around demos training and quality improvement activities to accommodate our planned onboarding of more FSPs, agro-dealers and input companies and make them more attractive to existing and potential off takers.
- Support service providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach 3, 000 farmers in the Niger Delta. Also, it intends to carry out promotional activities on the benefits of improved seeds; and a workshop to improve collaboration and coordination in the seed industry.
- Conduct Climate Smart Agriculture training workshop for Poultry Service Providers and Village Level dealers; continue to support new and existing PSPs to reach out to poultry farmers with climate-smart good poultry practices and linkages to quality inputs, markets, and finance
- Support the certification of Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) to provide business development services to MSMEs, facilitate linkages to market and finance for MSMEs and continue the expansion of support to MSME, fisher-folks, and processors in the Chevron host communities.

The **access to energy project** will commence implementation of the HETA electrification project with a view to completing the 12 sites by Q4 2023; sign MOU's with newly identified power developers to accelerate the implementation of interventions in 4 coastal communities; demonstration activities on Solar Home System (SHS) for a series of underserved ND communities outside Delta, Ondo and Bayelsa states to increase the program footprint and impact; fast track project impact assessments to establish the number of jobs created and financial benefits to A2E beneficiaries; and initiate a challenge fund for community energy installations in 2 off grid riverine communities of Delta.

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

- Labor Market Assessment for Ondo State: Work with the consultant to finalize the Ondo State LMA report and design YEP program intervention for Ondo state. In addition, put out a call for selection and onboarding of implementing partners for Ondo state.
- Government engagement for the adoption of NDYEP model and framework: Conduct a regional roundtable with NG Government stakeholders to share the NDYEP model.
- Technical Vocational & Soft Skills Training: Work with partners to monitor activities of technical/soft skills training for 1601 youths in 4 states.
- YEP Practice Paper (Services): Work with a consultant to commence activities on the draft of a practice paper for the services sector.

In following quarter, **peacebuilding program** will facilitate the Post-election phase of 2023 Non-violence Election Mitigation Project; jointly integrate Peacebuilding activities with Economic Development (Conflict Sensitivity, facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy, and; facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states

The **advocacy project** will organize dissemination forums in Port Harcourt and Asaba to share findings and recommendations of Multiple Taxation field assessments; Finalize committee activities on access to land in both Edo and Ondo State; Track and report stakeholders' engagements across the board; Continue to support PIND Business Development and fundraising initiatives; Intensify NDLink sustainability drive and engagement with clients; Continue the implementation of all the components of the Bridges Project and Engage with Settlers and other stakeholders to continue to pitch and implement PIND PIA offerings.

GESI will implement activities to commemorate the 2023 International Youth Day Celebration; Organize Q3 GESI committee meeting and continue to monitor implementation of PIND's GESI policy

ANNEX

Communications – number of forums within Q2 to stimulate increased visibility of PIND

These forums as detailed below seek to stimulate increased visibility, promote the Foundation’s business development objectives, possible replication of the Foundation’s development models, and foster opportunities for new partnerships:

1. **Class Teaching at American University - Washington DC:** As part of its Thought Leadership efforts, PIND in collaboration with NDPI facilitated a virtual class teaching at the American University, Washington DC on April 17, 2023. The session was held for 16 Master of Business Administration (MBA) students and members of the faculty at the University where PIND provided details of its model and highlights of its strategies in managing ground risks within the Niger Delta region.
2. **USAID/Palladium SCALE Webinar Series:** PIND’s Executive Director was a co-presenter at the April edition of the USAID/Palladium SCALE Webinar Series (ZOOM) where he presented on PIND’s model for partnership and collaborations and its experience conducting economic development and peacebuilding interventions in the Niger Delta.. The theme was ‘*Managing Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Collaboration in Implementing Development Projects: The PIND Experience*’ and had in attendance 104 attendees from the NGO, Donor, and Government Sectors.
3. **Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF 2023):** PIND was invited to speak on PIND’s value proposition as it relates to the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) at the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF 2023) organized by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) on May 19, 2023. The event took place in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and had in attendance 200 participants from the Oil and Gas industry and organized private sector.
4. **Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) Business Challenge Fund Award Ceremony:** PIND organized an award ceremony for 62 beneficiaries of the YEP Business Challenge Fund on June 13, 2023. The event also provided a platform for PIND to showcase its work in the promotion of youth employment in the Niger Delta region while highlighting its achievements in skills development for youth employment. 102 attendees at the event spanned across the government sector, technical and vocational boards, NGOs and entrepreneurs.
5. **Bridges Project: Capacity Building Session for CSOs in Akwa Ibom and Rivers State:** PIND in collaboration with Ford Foundation organized a Capacity Building Session for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from April 12 - 13, 2023 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The event had in attendance 22 stakeholders from the Oil and Gas, and government sectors and focused on providing insight on PIND’s work around the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) while the Bridges Project Implementation strategy was also shared.
6. **State Government Engagement / Visit to Delta State:** PIND as part of influencing government programs and interventions, visited the Delta State Government from June 6 - 9, 2023 where highlights of PIND’s profile, programmatic focus and interventions were shared with the new officials of the Delta State government. Progress was also shared on the level of implementation of Agricultural, and Access to Land policies. The event had 15 attendees spanning across key representatives from various state ministries, departments and agencies.
7. **Bridges Project: Awareness Creation Session (Bayelsa):** PIND in collaboration with Ford Foundation organized an Awareness Creation session for key stakeholders in the oil and gas sector in Bayelsa state on June 13, 2023. The event presented an opportunity for PIND to highlight PIND’s programmatic focus and provide additional insight on the Bridges Project Intervention to 80 attendees spanning across the Bayelsa state government and ministries, department and agencies (MDAs).
8. **Bridges Project: Awareness Creation Session (Rivers):** PIND in collaboration with Ford Foundation organized an Awareness Creation session for key stakeholders in the oil and gas sector in Rivers state on June 20, 2023. The event presented an opportunity for PIND to highlight PIND’s programmatic focus and provide additional insight on the Bridges Project Intervention to 140 attendees spanning across the Rivers state government and ministries, department and agencies (MDAs).
9. **NDLink World Environment Day Conference on Plastic Pollution:** PIND organized a virtual conference in honor of the 2023 World Environment Day on June 5, 2023. The event had 54 participants in attendance and focused on providing highlights on PIND’s Access to Energy (A2E) interventions and its contribution to promoting a better ecosystem.
10. **Stakeholders Validation Workshop - Ondo State Labour Market Assessment:** PIND as part of expanding the reach of its Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project organized a Stakeholders Validation Workshop on June 27, 2023 in Akure, Ondo state where it shared outcomes of the YEP programme in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers states and presented findings from initial activities conducted in the Labour Market Assessment study done in Ondo State. 31 participants from the government sector and Technical and Vocational centers were in attendance.
11. **Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) - Rivers / Bayelsa & Cross River States:** PIND organized a strategy workshop on the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) on May 15 - 20, 2023 in Rivers, Bayelsa and Cross River States. The event provided a platform for PIND to share details on its Peacebuilding interventions and its contributions to the development of the NDRPS. It had a total of 131 attendees from the state government and relevant departments and agencies in the selected states.
12. **Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) - Akwa Ibom State:** PIND organized a strategy workshop on the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) on May 15 - 20, 2023 in Akwa Ibom state. The event provided a platform for PIND to share details on its Peacebuilding interventions and its contributions to the development of the NDRPS. It had a total of 50 attendees from the state government and relevant departments and agencies.
13. **Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) - Delta / Ondo & Edo States:** PIND organized a strategy workshop on the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) on May 15 - 20, 2023 in Delta / Ondo & Edo States. The event provided a platform for PIND to share details on its Peacebuilding interventions and its contributions to the development of the NDRPS. It had a total of 130 attendees from the state government and relevant departments and agencies in the selected states.
14. **Climate-Smart Best Management Practice Workshop:** PIND organized a workshop for 26 palm oil stakeholders (FSPs, Nursery operators, Input companies and BMOs) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State from June 15 - 16, 2023. The event provided a platform for PIND to share knowledge of climate smart agriculture and its benefits for palm oil stakeholders.
15. **Post-election Virtual Roundtable Discussion:** PIND in collaboration with Fund for Peace (FFP) organized a virtual roundtable discussion on ZOOM to explore new opportunities for Peacebuilding in Nigeria after the 2023 Election, focusing on Niger Delta. The event took place on June 21, 2023 and had in attendance 60 attendees from international NGOs, CSOs and development partners. During the roundtable, stakeholders shared lessons learned from the 2023 general election, discussed best practices, and called on peace and development actors to plan for the upcoming off-cycle elections in Bayelsa and Imo states.
16. **Peacebuilding Advocacy to End Violence in Public Secondary Schools in Rivers State:** PIND in collaboration with the Center for Conflict and Gender Studies, University of Port Harcourt organized a workshop for students in public secondary schools in Port Harcourt, Rivers state on June 23, 2023. The advocacy exercise had 40 attendees and aimed to sustain peace for improved learning in public schools and secure commitments and actions by stakeholders to eradicate all forms of violence in public schools in Rivers State.

17. **Poultry linkage Workshop:** PIND supported Chukess Farms & Agro Consult in organizing a workshop for 72 poultry stakeholders in Asaba, Delta State on May 26, 2023. The event provided a platform for poultry stakeholders to interact and network with one another. Farmers were also linked to large buyers and input companies.
18. **Sensitization Workshop on Dangers of Consumption of Illegal Substances and Drug Abuse in Ughelli North LGA Delta State:** PIND shared a paper titled - "*Moral and Value Decadence; the need for Value Re-orientation*" at a sensitization workshop organized by the Conflict Prevent Council, Delta State, Delta Police Command, NDLEA Delta Command and Human Rights Protection Congress, Delta State. The event took place in Ughelli North LGA, Delta State on June 7, 2023 and had in attendance 70 participants from various youth groups and CSOs.
19. **European Union (EU) Niger Delta Proposal Design Workshop with AA peaceworks (AAPW) and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) on the proposed EU project:** PIND in collaboration with the Search for Common Ground organized a proposal design workshop to discuss on the proposed EU project tagged - "*A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta*". The workshop provided a platform for PIND to share details of its Peacebuilding interventions in mitigating youth-related criminality and promoting community stakeholder engagement in Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers States. The workshop took place on May 11 -12, 2023 at PIND Economic Development Centre, Port Harcourt and had in attendance 12 International NGOs and development partners.
20. **Post-Election Violence Advocacy/Sensitization Workshop:** PIND in collaboration with Youth for Change Initiative (YOFCI) shared its findings and post 2023 elections outcomes through a radio program (XL 106.9FM) in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on April 26, 2023. The workshop is part of multi-stakeholder interventions to mitigate and prevent post elections related violence in the 2023 general election cycle in the Niger Delta and had 105 audience tuned in for the session.



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