



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



# Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Three  
July - September 2023

## 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
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
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
FMAFS	Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security
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
IP	Implementing Partners
LGA	Local Government Area
LMA	Labour Market Assessment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MFB	Micro Finance Bank
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
SHS	Solar Home System
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency
SMS	Short Message Service
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
SSPE	Small-scale processing equipment
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Centers
TWG	Technical Working Group
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
WEAI	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
YOY	Year-on-Year

## Background

Our goal at PIND is to identify, catalyze, and leverage opportunities, jobs and incomes for our target beneficiaries. In these roles, we robustly engage in identifying 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 Niger Delta states of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. To deliver on this goal, we seek 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 to reach 300,000 with 200,000 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 Q3 M&E Report

This third quarter (July – September 2023) report is intended to keep our donors, Board of Trustees, and partners aware of project achievements and constraints, share lessons learned and seek deeper level of collaborations to consolidate our impact, and advance our collective effort on business development and sustainability. Also, to showcase the nexus between our 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 our program intervention achievements in the Niger Delta from July – September 2023 (Quarter 3, 2023), and provides relevant information about program management, lessons learned, and plans for the next quarter. The report demonstrates how we are driving change to ensure broad-based economic growth in the Niger Delta. PIND's activities are designed to promote and sustain a culture of learning and adaptation, and 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.*

### 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. This is further exacerbated by the removal of subsidy on petroleum which has led to increased fuel prices and other commodities, thereby causing 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 mobilizing farmers for training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs), and may negatively affect their income too. Despite these, PIND still made significant progress in its initiatives and the achievements which are highlighted below:

#### **Market Systems Development:**

*The market system development projects support farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural 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, and inform the design and implementation of interventions that address the underlying causes, rather than symptoms, of market failure. To ensure the sustainability of our 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 Q3 are summarized below:

- With PIND's market development projects continuing to demonstrate progress towards widespread economic prosperity within the reporting period, a total of 95 service providers continued to support farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and MSMEs with training in GAP.
- In Q3, these 95 service providers reached a total of 27,574 (13,911 direct and 13,663 indirect) farmers/MSMEs with improved services. The 2023 cumulative outreach for MSD as at Q3 2023 is 49,911 (46.35% females), representing 72% of the annual 2023 target of 69,500 farmers/MSMEs.
- We recorded over 90% adoption of our improved practices across cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry, and MSMEs linkages projects. In this quarter alone, a total investment of ₦6.98billion was made by farmers/MSMEs, bringing the 2023 cumulative investments by farmers/MSMEs to ₦10.17billion, 95% of the 2023 annual target of ₦10.70billion. Farmers' investment span through technology adoption and the purchase of necessary inputs for good agronomic practices (GAP) adoption by farmers/MSMEs.
- As farmers and MSMEs adopt improved practices, their productivity and income increase, and we track and report changes here quarterly through outcome monitoring and assessments. As at Q3 2023, the estimated net additional income of such farmers and MSMEs was ₦15.93billion (representing 88% of the 2023 annual target of ₦18.14billion), which in turn has created a net additional 9,299 jobs (FTE).

#### **Access to Energy:**

*Access to energy is a fundamental requirement for human development and well-being. However, in many rural Niger Delta communities, access to electricity is still limited. A lot of the MSMEs and households around the coastal Niger Delta in particular still lack access to electricity, often relying on alternative self-generation to power economic activities. The lack of access to modern energy services has far-reaching consequences, such as reducing economic growth, and compromising welfare and safety. As part of PIND's overarching strategy to amplify its impact and extend outreach across the region, a key focus lies in collaborating with private sector developers equipped with rural enterprise adaptive solutions. This strategic approach is pivotal to the success of the Access to Energy (A2E) programming.*

- In the third quarter of 2023, we commenced implementation of a healthcare electrification partnership project where funding will prove a tested business model based on local solar energy cabins to provide reliable, affordable solar power to last mile healthcare facilities and complimentary business connections across 12 communities in the Niger Delta.

The idea of a “Healthgrid” co-developed and advanced by bechtel.org, NDPI and PIND was created and adapted as an ambitious Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA) project – to power healthcare centres 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 to support the electrification of healthcare centres in the Niger Delta through USAID’s GDA contribution. 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. Through this partnership, PIND leveraged a total of \$219,389 as grant from Abt Associates to demonstrate the adaptability of the energy cabin for dedicated healthcare electrification projects. The partnerships with private sector entities such as Solaviva, A4&T, Vectis, and BCIS Limited played a pivotal role in driving the success of these projects.

- As a result, four healthcare centers: Ogbinbiri PHC, Warri North LGA, Delta State; Koluama 2 Health Center, Southern Ijawa LGA, Bayelsa State; Fishtown Health post, Brass LGA, Bayelsa State and Odofado Health center, Ilaje LGA, Ondo State, already connected to electricity have received expansion to the minigrad supplies in the existing partner mini-grid locations in select (HCDDT) communities.
- To validate the efficacy of these private sector investments and their tangible contributions to impact and development, PIND conducted an outcome monitoring assessment in three communities—Laoso, Orisunbare, and Fagbo—in Ondo State. These communities now enjoy access to electricity through activities led by PIND partners. The assessment captured the economic and social impact of improved electricity access over a period of 6 months to 1 year, and revealed that in 2023 thus far, 877 households in these communities have realized a net cost savings totaling N34,838,288.79. Furthermore, 71 businesses in these areas have reported net annual additional income of N5,670,313.06. Overall, the financial benefits derived by energy solution users through PIND's direct and indirect efforts, as of Q3 2023, amounted to a total of N531,219,300.74. This encompasses all PIND-supported interventions and partner-led scale-up activities in the Niger Delta.

#### **Youth Employment Pathways:**

*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.*

- Within the reporting period, the 17 implementing partners and private TVET institutions reported in the previous quarter, continued to provide technical vocational skills training with the mainstreaming of soft skills to 1,650 youths. The training covers four sectors: Agriculture, ICT, Building Construction and Services including finished leather across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers states.
- Also, an outcome assessment of 729 youths who completed their soft skill training across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers states in 2023 was conducted to determine the outcomes after their trainings. The study showed that, 22% of the youths were successfully linked to jobs, while over 65% established businesses through personal equity financing creating other jobs (*through engagement of temporary paid workers, quality employment, and apprenticeships*) as well as seeing income from their businesses.
- To further support the transition of participants into entrepreneurship, the project launched a Business Start-up Challenge Fund for the youths, within the quarter, the challenge funds disbursement of ₦42 million to the 66 successful awardees was completed. The majority of the participants have received their funds to commence their businesses with initial acquisition of necessary items, materials, and consumables for their businesses.
- Having finalized the LMA study report and design of the YEP program intervention for Ondo state, Terms of Reference (ToR) was published to invite expressions of interest from competent technical vocational institutions operating in Ondo state. In response, we received a total of 38 applications. Among these, 11 applicants have been pre-qualified for further considerations.

#### **Peace Building:**

*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.*

- In the current quarter, according to P4P Peace Map, there were considerable improvements in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta during the period, compared to the second quarter of the year. These

included a decrease in political, communal and criminal violence in the region. There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence during the quarter compared to the second quarter of the year. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, lethal violence decreased by 59% from 319 fatalities in Q2 to 130 in Q3 of 2023. Conflict incidents also decreased by 35% from 170 in Q2 to 111 in Q3. Moreover, there was a decline in reported incidents of organized criminality including kidnapping for ransom and clashes between criminal gangs and security forces during the quarter compared to the second quarter of the year.

- We produced and disseminated numerous data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products to update peace and security stakeholders and facilitated several preventive interventions in the Niger Delta. These included 16 data-driven research and analytical products: 13 weekly conflict briefs, 1 quarterly (2023 Q2) conflict tracker, and a post-election policy brief.
- Analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products conducted in Q3 2023 revealed that 613 stakeholders utilized them during the review period. Specifically, some organizations provided the following feedback on the use of PIND's conflict reports. Also, 63 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened in Q3 2023, through PIND/P4P facilitated training sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. While, 313 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 25 'quality actions' to resolve these conflicts. 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 HCDTs**

*PIND secured grant funding from the Ford Foundation to explore realistic models of community development in which different actors – communities, NGOs, oil and gas companies, and government (particularly the upstream regulator, and state governments), work in concert towards a successful implementation of the PIA. This is to ensure their active involvement and to represent their interest in the implementation process. This effort now referred to as “The Bridges Project” is being implemented in five Niger Delta states Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ondo and Rivers, and comprises a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) that will coordinate proceedings, awareness creation and knowledge sessions on the PIA requirements for community stakeholders, and building the capacities of CSOs and NGOs to help in the implementation processes.*

- In Q3 2023, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform was established and inaugurated under the Bridges Project. The multi-stakeholder structure is constituted of 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. This body has met twice so far in Q3, with further meetings planned for Q4 2023. The MSP has begun deliberations on aspects of the PIA that will improve the capacity of HCDTs to enhance the livelihood and development of their communities
- Earlier in the year, we 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 and organized a second workshop with 20 participants from 10 NGOs and CSOs from Akwa Ibom and Rivers States.
- Also, PIND kicked-off the second component of the project “awareness creation”, which focuses on community stakeholders as represented in the PIA-established HCDTs. 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.

#### **Communications:**

*PIND's communication activities aim to increase its visibility by getting people to know about PIND, talk about it, and engage with it and its programs. They also aim to strengthen PIND's reputation and attract target stakeholders to support its cause, partner with it, fund its programs and replicate its proven models.*

- Within the reporting period, we intensified our communications efforts, with 443,538 people gaining new or increased awareness about us and our activities through our various platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional media. Also, we garnered 28 positive media mentions of our work and activities and attracted 23 public endorsements from stakeholders who interacted with our content

on the website, newsletters, and social media posts.

#### **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.*

- PIND's sustained effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities continued to gain traction. In 2022, we had 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. As of Q3 of 2023, the Edo State government had developed and articulated a clear process flow of the land acquisition process in the State and based on the recommendation of the access to land committee influenced by PIND, carried out a validation session on the new Agricultural Development Strategy which strengthens the states access to land intervention. 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.
- The Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levies report validation workshop took place in Q3. PIND completed a draft report on the impact of multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses in 2022 in Abia, Delta and Rivers states. PINDs Economic Development and M&E teams as well as external subject matter experts had reviewed and validated the findings of the study in Q4 of 2022. The first stakeholder validation workshop was held in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, on the 29th of September. Participants include stakeholders from government, private sector, professional bodies, media CSOs, and members of the newly constituted Federal Government taxes review committee.

#### **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 (MAP) 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).*

- In Q3 2023, we organized two virtual engagement meetings with NGOs in the region to create awareness about the selection process and also commenced shortlisting a pool of potential co-facilitators who would participate in a capacity-building program and from which co-facilitators would be engaged for the various project areas. 28 participants from 18 organizations participated in the meetings. The capacity building team also conducted a training on branding and media visibility to enhance the capacity of service providers and co-facilitators in using the media to promote and communicate their activities. The training was conducted in collaboration with PIND's communication team and 28 (10 females, 18 male) service providers and co-facilitators attended the training session.
- Also, to strengthen Chevron's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) organizations that would carry out developmental projects in the host communities in line with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), PIND has identified some indicative capacity building programs such as training on group dynamics and cohesion, multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development. A baseline analysis of the HCDTs is underway to determine the organizational their organizational capacities.

#### **Business Development**

*In line with its effort to diversify and expand its funding base, PIND continued to engage potential partners to explore new opportunities across its program areas by strengthening and facilitating internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. 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.

- The BDS Team continues to strengthen and facilitate internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. During the quarter, the BDS team organized three strategic meetings to progress PIND’s fundraising and sustainability efforts internally. These include: the BDS subcommittee meeting held July 5, 2023, Impact Investment Steering Committee Meeting which doubled as a BDS Committee meeting with a focus on the impact investing track held July 10, 2023. Following this, a two-day impact investing workshop was organized for all staff and consultants of PIND on September 6 and 7th, 2023. The impact investing workshop was an action item from the previous meeting held in the quarter and was organized to ensure a shared understanding of impact investing as an additional strategy to expand funding opportunities for PIND to ensure its sustainability. The workshop was delivered by consultants from Cross-Boundary and Total Impact, two highly rated organizations facilitating impact investing for businesses across Africa and on a global scale. The key takeaway from this workshop was a submission of an array of pathways and partners that could be selected from to design a special-purpose vehicle for the implementation of impact-investing initiative for PIND.
- To facilitate donor stewardship for increased funding, in Q3 2023, we had a robust engagement with donors through sponsorship of the 2023 Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) Global Conference as a strategic partner. The theme of the conference was “Accelerating Action: Small Business Solutions and the SDGs,” which aimed to highlight the significant progress achieved thus far and identify further requirements in supporting small and growing businesses (SGB) ecosystems to enhance their impact on the SDGs in the next seven years. The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) is a network of organizations supporting entrepreneurs globally. PIND became a member of the network in 2018.
- Also, PIND attended the policy dialogue session organized by The Nigerian Agribusiness Group (NABG). The session aimed at formulating comprehensive advocacy and partnership policy and strategy for NABG. The objectives of the session were to develop a comprehensive Advocacy and partnership Policy for NABG, identify key partnership opportunities that align with NABG's mission and goals, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to achieve impactful outcomes in the agribusiness sector. Being a key player in the policy advocacy space, PIND made useful contributions that would help NABG design its advocacy strategy.

### Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

*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.*

In Phase three, 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. As at Q3 2023, overall women mainstreaming is 44% (Economic development program 46.2% while that for peace building was 42%).

### Women Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI)

*The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) measures the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector in an effort to identify and address the constraints that hinder women’s full engagement in the agriculture sector.*

The WEAI is composed of Five Domains of Empowerment sub-index (5DE) that measure the empowerment of women in five areas. The WEAI is an aggregate index reported at the either state- or sector-level and is based on individual-level data on men and women within the same households and data on women living in households with no adult male. The 5DE sub-index assesses whether women are empowered across the five domains examined in the WEAI. Each domain is weighted equally, as are each of the indicators within a domain. The five domains, their definitions under the WEAI, the corresponding indicators, and their weights for the 5DE are:

Domain (each weighted 1/5 of 5DE sub-index)	Definition of Domain	Indicators	Weight of indicator in 5DE sub-index
Production	Sole or joint decision-making over food and cash-crop	Input in productive decisions	1/10



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

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

We have mainstreamed women in all our economic development and Peace building programs with over 46% of our beneficiaries being women in 2023, who now have access to livelihood means of empowerment. This year, we conducted an assessment of over 300 benefitting women to determine the WEAI status for 2021 and 2022 women beneficiaries of our programs.

The results showed that the overall average rating of WEAI for women participants in PIND was **64%**. The detail is as follows:

- Percentage of women with capacity to manage workload and/or has time for leisure was **76%**. Those with control over use of income was **74%**; Resources ownership, access to, and decision-making power over productive resources was **63%**;
- On Leadership, the percentage of women belonging to women's group or with ability to speak in public was **65%**. The least was in area of women providing input and/or autonomy in productive decisions with average of **37%**.
- In order to improve the WEAI of our women participants, the capacity of the service providers will be strengthened to understand the five domains of WEAI, use it to enlighten women to change behaviors for increased empowerment in the region.

## 1.2 Challenges, Mitigation, and Plans for the Next Quarter

### Challenges - Market Development Projects

- Mobilization and participation of farmers for training has been hampered by spikes in transportation costs. Due to the current increased transport fares, Service Providers spend more in training farmers. Also, the numbers of farmers turning out for training after mobilizations seems to have reduced due to high transport cost to locations of the demonstrations and trainings.
- 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. This has negatively affected the depth 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. Also built the capacity 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 reduce travels and explore other means of sharing information to farmers such as SMS, WhatsApp, etc. Service providers were also advised to collaborate more and form networks to provide increased cross-sector support to farmers.

#### Plans for Q4:

The focus will be on the following:

##### MSD

- Cassava: Continue to facilitate training on climate-smart good agricultural practices for cassava farmers, strengthen linkages across the value chain, and support farmers' access to market opportunities while also deepening activities with CSEs to expand production and reach more farmers.
- Cocoa: Work with off-takers to implement the cocoa quality improvement activities via training and demos to reach 2000 farmers and support existing and new partners to deepen productivity improvement, quality improvement, and access to high-yielding seeds interventions in the cocoa-producing states of the Niger Delta. Also, identify and onboard new FSPs and Agro-dealers to drive access to quality inputs and information.
- MSMEs: Focus mainly on supporting the 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
- BMP: Work with services providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach 5,000 oil palm farmers on BMP adoption.
- Poultry: Train and support VLDs/PSPs to expand their activities to reach out to more poultry farmers in the region.

Access to Energy: Deploy strategies to a partner developer focusing on an access to energy intervention for some peri urban businesses as part of an adaptive plan to meet the 2023 program targets for businesses connected to electricity; sign MOU's with 2 new power developers to accelerate the implementation of interventions in 2 coastal communities for solar refrigeration and a community mini grid; initiate a challenge fund for community energy installations in 2 off grid riverine communities of Delta state; and support a private sector training initiative to empower women with Green Skills relevant to the renewable energy industry around the Niger Delta region

Youth Employment Program: Finalize the selection and onboarding of new implementing partners in Ondo State, and initiate the selection and onboarding of new participants for technical and soft skills training in Ondo State; Engage with key stakeholders in target states to share the NDYEP model and provide technical assistance to facilitate its adoption and adaptation; and collaborate with partners to oversee the implementation of technical and soft skills training for youth in 5 states.

Peace Building: The peacebuilding program will supervise the production of 2 Case Studies on P4P intervention in selected states; Facilitate capacity enhancement of EWER monitors in CNL HCDDT; Jointly integrate Peacebuilding activities with Economic Development (Conflict Sensitivity); Maintain the IPDU database and website; Facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy; Facilitate P4P/ MSP activities; Produce briefs and trackers; Facilitate the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network fora; Facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states; Engage with Fund for Peace (FFP) to deliver set 5 KPIs and Operationalize PB Consultancy services to selected firms for a fee

Advocacy: The advocacy project will pay official advocacy visits/courtesy calls to newly appointed government officials; Organize dissemination forums in Asaba to share findings and recommendations of Multiple Taxation field assessments/Develop a tax matrix; Track and report stakeholders' engagements across the board; Continue to support PIND Business Development and fundraising initiatives; Drive NDLink sustainability and engagement with clients; Continue the implementation of the Bridges Project MSP; and Engage with Settlers and other stakeholders to continue to pitch and implement PIND PIA offerings

GESI: Collaborate with Niger Delta organizations to implement activities to campaign against gender-based violence through the 2023 annual 16 Days of Activism campaign and Continue to monitor implementation of PIND's GESI policy.

#### 1.3 Program Management

Held separate meetings of the following PIND sub-committees in Q3 2023: Project and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability (BDS), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and Partnerships. Key agreements reached at these sub-committee meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation were delineated and will be provided to the PIND Bboard. These meetings are key for PIND's internal governance, to ensure accountability to its board by keeping it abreast of programming and receiving feedback/inputs for optimizing program implementation.

Also, within the quarter, we continued to support the Dalberg team in facilitating the ongoing Mid-term Impact Evaluation

(covering the last seven and half years) of our programs. The evaluation is progressing as planned, with data collection 95% completed.

PIND has commenced implementation of the signed 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. In this first cycle, PIND is matching a \$219,389 grant for the implementation of this project in selected communities in the Niger Delta. During the quarter in review, N39,535,831.35 (\$87,857.403) was released for the project. currently, health centers in four communities now have access to electricity.

Also, on 18th August 2023, PIND and Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) closed out an MoU to upscale economic and social impact through funding of businesses in the Economic Development program, Access to Energy through solar mini grids to remote communities and businesses, and Access to Finance for farmers and MSMEs through its risk guarantee model, Sombreiro Kapital. This took place after agreeing and also closing out on the co-designed proposal by the two parties, the next step is to agree on the operational detail for implementation. MOFI is a federal agency mandated to secure all federal government assets and use the economic and commercial potentials of such assets to invest and optimize returns on investment for the government.

## Summary of progress against 2023 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2023 target as at Q3.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2023 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q3 2023
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>69,500</b>	<b>49,911</b>
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	27,500	23,876
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	12,000	6,181
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	15,000	8,084
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	8,000	6,288
<i>MSME development</i>	7,000	5,482
<b>Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales</b>	<b>42,977</b>	<b>27,591</b>
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	14,974	12,533
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	8,400	3,497
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	9,706	5,164
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	7,102	3,144
<i>MSME development</i>	2,795	3,253
<b>Net attributable income change [Naira value]</b>	<b>₦18.14 billion</b>	<b>₦15.92 billion</b>
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦5.95 billion	₦5.38billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.30 billion	₦1.52billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦4.85 billion	₦4.35billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦2.21 billion	₦2.11billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦2.83 billion	₦2.56billion
<b>Net attributable income change [% change]</b>	40%	<b>28%<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>New jobs facilitated</b>	<b>9,925</b>	<b>9,299</b>
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	1,700	2,650
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,200	1,138
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	895	779
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,136	2,195
<i>MSME development</i>	3,254	2,585
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	660	634 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]</b>	<b>₦10.70 billion</b>	<b>₦11.02 billion<sup>3</sup></b> <b>Equity (₦7.89billion)</b>

<sup>1</sup> YOY Percentage change in income, was 28% at the end of 2022. In Q4 2023, a new one will be calculated, however compared with the 2020 (base year, the percentage change in income is 39%.

<sup>2</sup> From the outcome monitoring, 22% of the trained youths got employment, 65% established businesses= 87% of the 729 trained as at Q1 2023

<sup>3</sup> 4.01 billion reported in Q2 was a mistake – now corrected

		<b>Debt financing (₦3.13billion)</b>
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦2.47 billion	₦3.82billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦710.85 million	₦856.46million
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦1.35 billion	₦1.38billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.67 billion	₦968.51million
<i>MSME development</i>	₦4.00 billion	₦3.13billion
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦500 million	₦854.97million
<b>States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment</b>	3	-
<b>Youths with applicable skills for employment</b>	2,229	729 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Peace Building Program Indicators</b>	<b>2023 Targets</b>	<b>Cumulative Results as at Q3 2023</b>
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	210	184
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,000	1,794
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1,310	983
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	100	85
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	2.1% <sup>5</sup>
<b>Coastal Community Development Indicators</b>	<b>2023 Targets</b>	<b>Cumulative Results as at Q3 2023</b>
<i>Access to Energy</i>		
Businesses with access to clean energy	900	137
Households with access to clean energy	1,500	2,190
People with access to energy technologies	10,500	13,267
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	₦1 billion	₦531.22million <sup>6</sup>
<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Net change in capacity index of HCDTs/other Organizations	2.4 (average score)	To be updated after the planned impact study
Organizations accessing funds/grants	7	2
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦50 million	₦165million <sup>7</sup>
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDTs and other implementing Partners).	5	6 <sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 1601 new enrollment are still undergoing their training. The 729 were those who started in 2022 and graduated in Q1 2023 - out of which 634 have means of income

<sup>5</sup> 639,839 people from the activities of the prevent council, prevent committee and farmers-herders interventions across the 9 States. This was compared with the 3 million targets set in the current strategy

<sup>6</sup> Cost savings by households and additional income of the micro-businesses who accessed clean energy supplies

<sup>7</sup> CAD consulting (₦520million) and Genius Hub(₦20million) Okerewa community trust (derived from royalties received from Indorama and other companies) to support the construction and set-up of a smart farm in Okerewa community in Eleme, Rivers state. ₦20m to support MSMEs and in developing proposals

<sup>8</sup> CARA Development Foundation, Kolping Society of Nigeria, Genius Hub, and MacJm Foundation continue to provide services using funds raised from other donors, SHERDA and CAD consulting.

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	2.74billion <sup>9</sup>
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors	₦800 million	₦1.01billion <sup>10</sup>
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦500 million	₦845,96 million <sup>11</sup>
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of progress	On the report on Multiple Taxation and Illegal levies in the Niger Delta, the first external stakeholder validation workshop took place in Port Harcourt in Q3 with over 30 participants from the government, the private sector organizations, advocacy organizations for small businesses, CSO and the media.
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of progress	<b>Edo State:</b> Following the 2022 report validation workshop, in January 2023, and at the request of the Executive Governor of Edo State, Advocacy collaborated with the Access to Land Policy Drafting Committee established in Edo State to produce a draft policy document. This document provided opportunities for key stakeholders in the agriculture sector to articulate implementable processes on how farmers in the State can gain access to arable land. This draft policy is currently awaiting the executive assent.  <b>Delta:</b> In Delta State, the Access to Land Committee has finalized its work and has enhanced and adopted the existing arable land policy and it is fully in operation. It is on this basis that the former Governor in March 2023 approved an additional 6,422 hectares for Cassava production in the State.
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful/nonviolent society.	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	After extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, particularly with the stakeholder validation sessions held in the 9 Niger Delta states, Peacebuilding with support from Advocacy has developed a draft report on the NDPRS framework. Advocacy also supported Peacebuilding to carry out a technical review of the draft Niger Delta Peace and Regional Strategy report given developing a final draft. There has been series of engagements with both state and non-state actors as a part of a systematic and multifaceted process after MNDA and PIND met with the Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS), a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff. The report of the engagements was completed in Q3 and a draft report has been produced and is currently under review by subject matter experts and the MNDA
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦1billion	₦198.39 million <sup>12</sup>
<i>Communications</i>		Cumulative Results as at Q2 2023
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	2023 Target 15	38

<sup>9</sup> Funds leveraged from 2022 implementation of projects under the Growth and Development Strategy of Cross River State, facilitated by PIND

<sup>10</sup> This amount was from NGOs from Capacity building and leveraged funds from Access to Energy

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Ford Foundation (the Bridges) HETA and FAO



Public endorsements of PIND's work	20	67
Media reports with PIND mention	200	110
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	700	872
Website new visitors	80,000	33,751
Social media reach	1.9 million	3,582,101
Mainstream media reach	3million	1,525,077
Email enquiries	800	218

## 2. Context Analysis

### 2.1.1 Socio-economic environment - A review of issues discussed in Q1 and Q2 2023

In the previous quarters, we discussed how unavailability of cash crippled several businesses in the country, inclusive of farmers and MSMEs due to poor implementation of a Cash Swap program in Nigeria, as many farmers were unable to maintain their farms due to scarcity of cash. We also explained how rising inflation and foreign exchange rate dynamics impacted negatively on the inputs purchasing capacity of farmers/MSMEs.

Indeed, farmers, MSMEs and other stakeholders in Nigeria were exposed to risks of business failures, that requires urgent mitigation to prevent food insecurity and social menace in the country. While farmers were adjusting to the reality, on the 18 July 2023, the pump price of petrol was reviewed again from N537 per liter to N617 per liter. The removal of the petrol subsidy and the floating of the naira against the dollar again, resulted in an increase in the prices of goods and services, further deteriorating the already fragile economic conditions.

Consequently, Nigeria's annual inflation rate climbed to 25.8% in August 2023, from 24.08% in July and marking the highest rate since September 2005, reflecting the impact of the removal of fuel subsidies, the devaluation of the official exchange rate and security issues in food-producing regions. Prices accelerated for food and non-alcoholic beverages (29.1% vs 26.8% in July), transport (27.1% vs 26.3%), restaurants & hotels (22.8% vs 20.7%) and miscellaneous goods & services (21.8% vs 21.5%). On a monthly basis, the consumer price index rose 3.2%, the most in 15 years, after a 2.9% surge in July - (source: National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria).

As the harsh economy exerts pressures on purchasing capacities of farmers and MSMEs' lean resources, PIND continues to explore technical pathway to change the narrative of MSMEs/farmers. First, by continuous analysis of program's systemic constraints for in-depth diagnoses of how to support farmers/MSMEs to excel in their businesses. Second, by training and retraining of key program stakeholders such as service providers, agro-input dealers, lead farmers, and by designing business linkage programs for increased transactions amongst key players in the Niger Delta. These are expected to create serious synergies for sustained economic growth of the Niger Delta, and Nigeria in general.

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

Examples abound: On 21 July 2023 at about 7.30pm, the Director of News at the Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation was kidnapped along Slaughter/YKC road, Port Harcourt. Consultants exercised increased caution and maintain high situational awareness in Rivers State. Also, in Rivers State, on 24 August 2023 - suspected armed robbers reportedly invaded female hostels in the Rivers State University in Port Harcourt, and allegedly dispossessed students of their valuables and sexually assaulted two female students of the university at Obio/Akpor LGA, Rivers State.

On July 19, 2023, gunmen reportedly killed three persons in about two communities of Orogwe and Irete in Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State and on 31 August, 2023 - not fewer than 10 persons were reportedly killed in suspected cult-related shootings in Benin City and the Auchi area of Edo State. On 12 August, 2023 - Gunshots were reportedly fired across Bassambiri, Nembe LGA, Bayelsa State after a group of armed men in military uniform allegedly stormed the community, whisking away an unconfirmed number of persons. Similarly, On 13 August, 2023 - Continuous gunshots were reported in Opu-Nembe, Nembe LGA, Bayelsa State following the alleged invasion of the community on 12/08/23 and this incident left several persons injured, with one sustaining a bullet wound.

The primary security concern for Abuja FCT is criminal activity (including robberies and petty theft) in the city center, with likely armed criminal attacks, and abductions mainly occurring on the outskirts (Abaji, Bwari, and Gwagwalada). On first week of August, three people were abducted from the El Rufai Estate, located in the vicinity of Law School, Bwari Area Council. The victims were later released after each paying a ransom of four-million-naira with one motorcycle. On 31 Aug 2023 – gunmen abducted a female from a taxi in Lugbe, AMAC, Abuja. The assailants drove the victim to Zuma Rock in Suleja, Niger State, and stole an unspecified amount of money from her before she was released.

### 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 3, 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.*

*To ensure the sustainability of our 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. Q3 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 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 Q3 2023, 95 out of over 300 Service Providers supported by PIND through direct training and crowding-in, continued to provide support services to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and Business linkages with training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP). Unlike before, progressively, farmers/MSMEs are increasingly paying for training and other support services by Service Providers, which represents a paradigm shift and a systemic change. Highlights of the services provided by the SPs are shown below:

- **Cassava Sector:** In Q3 alone, 2,075 farmers were reached through 60 Service Providers support services. Also, a total of 13,663 indirect farmers adopted as at Q3, bringing the cumulative cassava outreach to 23,876 (56% females) farmers as Q3 2023 as against the target of 27,500. These Service Providers mobilized and provided smallholder farmers access to quality inputs and information on good agricultural practices through training and the establishment of 21 demonstration plots as embedded services.
- **Cocoa Sector:** A total of 2,134 farmers were reached through three farm Service Providers who organized training programs and on-farm demonstration activities such as spraying, pruning, harvesting and breaking/fermentation of cocoa pods. The cumulative cocoa farmers outreach as at Q3 2023 was 6,181 (25% females) as against the annual target of 12,000. Additionally, 8 Agro dealers were on-boarded and 4 lead farmers received training on the Farm service model in Ondo state.
- **Palm oil Sector:** A total of 5,046 farmers/MSMEs, participated in events through six Farm Service Providers (FSPs) and 16 lead farmers who organized 18 on-farm demonstrations in best management practices, and adoption of 519 improved harvesting and 2 processing tools. The cumulative outreach as at Q3 2023, is 8,084 (34.4% females) against the annual target of 15,000. Also, 50 Primary nursery operators sold 94,500 sprouted nuts - cumulative of 173,290) to farmers and provided farm information on best management practices of new farms from four sprouted nuts producers (Allissee, Ghana Sumatra, NIFOR, and PalmElit).
- **Poultry:** A total of 2,543 poultry farmers were reached through 19 service providers (12 PSPs & 7 VLDs) in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. Some of the farmers were supported with technical and business skills training, linkages to inputs (feed & vaccines), market, and finance. The cumulative outreach as at Q3 2023 is 6,388 (44% females) against 2023 target of 8,000 farmers.
- **MSMEs:** A total of 2,113 micro and small enterprises were reached, with the cumulative as at 2023 being 5,482 (53% female owned). They were reached through seven BSPs who provided support to enterprises on business management, business plan development, loan application, and linkages to finance. These MSMEs reached cut across various sectors of Aquaculture, poultry and livestock, agro-services, retailing, ICT, footwear, etc.

### 3.1.3. Q3 2023 Key outputs, from the activities of the Service Providers

Within the reporting period, 13,911 direct and 13,663 indirect farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services through the activities of the 95 service providers, as shown in Table 1 below. The 2023 cumulative outreach for MSD as at Q3 2023 is 49,911 (46.35% females) This outreach represents 72% of the annual 2023 target of 69,500 farmers/MSMEs, – see table 1

Table 1. MSD Q3 progress against 2023 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	PWD	Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q3	Q3	Q3 %	Q3	Q3	2023	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
<b>Number of farmers/MSMEs reached</b>	15,100	13,911	92.12%	6,448	-	69,500 (Direct + Indirect)	49,911	72%	23,133	-
<b>Number of jobs facilitated</b>	*	9,299	-	4,323	-	9,925	9,299	94%	4,323	-
<b>Value of investment leveraged</b>	*	₦6,98b	-	₦3,35b	-	₦10.70B	₦10,17b	95%	₦4,92b	-

Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	27,592	-	12,679	-	42,977	27,592	64%	12,679	-
Change in the income of farmers (direct + indirect)	*	₦15,93b	-	₦7,14b	-	₦18.14B	₦15,93b	88%	₦7,14b	-

\* 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.

### 3.1.4. Q3 2023 Key Outcome/Productivity of farmers

**Farmers/MSMEs' Investment:** A change in knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of farmers is an important outcome PIND looks out for after training activities. Routine outcome monitoring of farmers' KAP in Q3 2023, showed that farmers are happy adopting the improved farm practices and business modules learnt from service providers. In 2023, we recorded over 90% adoption across cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry, and MSMEs linkages projects. In this quarter alone, a total investment of ₦6.98billion was made by farmers/MSMEs bringing the 2023 cumulative investments by farmers/MSMEs to ₦10.17billion, 95% of the 2023 annual target of ₦10.70billion. Farmers' investment span through technology adoption and the purchase of necessary inputs for good agronomic practices (GAP) adoption by farmers/MSMEs.

**Farmers/MSMEs' increased productivity (Net attributable income):** As the farmers and MSMEs adopt improved practices, they see increased productivity and income in their businesses which is tracked and reported quarterly through outcome monitoring and assessments. As at Q3 2023, the estimated net additional income of farmers/MSMEs who adopted improved practices in their businesses was ₦15.93billion, representing 88% of the 2023 annual target of ₦18.14billion, and as well, created a net additional 9,299 jobs (FTE), through engagement of workers in their farms/businesses.

### 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 by PIND 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 entrepreneurs. 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 (NASC). 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 Q3 2023, PIND, in collaboration with Umudike Seeds completed the training of 25 CSEs and supported the CSEs in establishing multiplication plots. 17 out of the 25 CSEs trained this year have completed planting their multiplication plots.

#### 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 instance, PIND's partnership with two seed companies, Allisee Seeds and Ghana Sumatra to carry out a seed coordination workshop is yielding desired objective. The National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN) Ondo state chapter has purchased 13,000 sprouted nuts from Ghana Sumatra for 30 nursery operators in the state at a landing cost ranging between N600 and N636.60 per nut. Likewise, 13,000 sprouted nuts were purchased from Allisee at a cost of N220 per nut by the same group. Also, there is an observed improved collaboration and coordination among the seed producers and nursery operators.

Also, a total of 94,500 sprouted nuts have been purchased by 50 nursery operators operating across several states, including Akwa Ibom, Abia, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers. This accomplishment reflects PIND's commitment to enhancing the availability of improved seeds and fostering sustainable seed systems within the palm oil

industry.

### 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.

This quarter, PIND monitored the ongoing harvest of the out-grower scheme of the Ukwuoma Ndigbo farmer group. Farmers sold to Dufil covering about five hectares of the farms, and as well, as sold to the open market, whose offer is higher than Dufil to maximize returns so as to offset the loans from the bank. PIND will continue to monitor the scheme and a final report is expected in Q4

**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. During the quarter, 7 BSPs supported a total of 2113 (including 1187 women-owned and 920 youths) MSMEs with business management, business plan development, loan application, and linkages to finance through the CBN Agri-Business/Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Scheme (AGSMEIS) scheme and other MSMEs friendly loan schemes. This support culminated in a total of 143 MSMEs (100 Female) linked to loans worth N170.8m for the quarter and a cumulative of N3.1b against the N3.5b set for the year.

Also, in this quarter, PIND continued its engagements with stakeholders to facilitate linkages to market for businesses. PIND in collaboration with CAD Digital Farm Limited and other BSPs continued engagements and market linkages to bulk buyers such as SPAR, Market Square, Ponitec Markets Limited (BuyPlus), Hyper-City Market, DGIT Supermarket in Port Harcourt, and several open markets. Through these linkages, over 25 MSMEs carried out market transactions worth N253.4m for the quarter.

**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, about 120 poultry farmers were linked to De-darls farms, a large buyer of chicken, and other traditional large buyers in Delta, Rivers, Edo & Ondo state. The farmers were linked by Chukess Farms & Agro Services (PSP), Habeeb Agritech Global (VLD), Nosa-sa Global Services (PSP), and Crown AgroVet Konsult respectively.

### 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.*

In 2023, 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.

In Q3 2023, Agro traders conducted a pre-audit on off-takers with guidance and support from PIND's implementing partner, CADi, to empower off-takers with the necessary expertise and tools to meet the rigorous standards and



compliance requirements set by the Rainforest Alliance Agriculture (RA). We also organized a cocoa sustainability webinar, serving as an educational platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions concerning best practices, pertinent regulations, certification processes, and local laws within the cocoa industry.

To bolster the internal management capabilities of our off-takers, CADI also conducted an Agriculture Internal Management System (Ag. IMS) Training program for cocoa sustainability personnel representing four export companies and one cocoa processing company. This comprehensive training equipped off-takers, including Agro traders, Plantation Industries, Johnvent, and Nivik, with essential tools and knowledge necessary to streamline their operations, ensuring the efficiency of their IMS and compliance with sustainability standards.

### 3.1.8. Expansion of business development support to MSMEs, fisherfolks, and processors in CNL coastal communities.

As part of PIND's activities to improve the efficiency of MSMEs, Fish processors, and fisherfolks in the CNL host communities, PIND in collaboration with CAD Consulting Limited and Marich Agro, a service provider organized a training and business linkage forum to enlighten fisherfolks on better fishing practices/technologies and support the establishment of a linkage platform through Cooperatives. These engagements were held in Ugboegungun and Ugbolegin, in Delta State. A total of 163 participants were recorded from both activities.

Also, following the linkages to off-takers for fisherfolks in Awoye, a CNL community in Ilaje, Ondo State, PIND in collaboration with CAD Consulting Limited and Mr. Ilawole Odunwale, a service provider continued to facilitate market linkages for fisherfolks and processors and tracked the transactions from those linkages. So far, these fisherfolks have been linked to market opportunities through off-takers and made sales in excess of N15m

### 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.*

#### 3.2.1 Q3 2023 Key Achievements in YEP

Update on ongoing Training: In Q3, the YEP program continued to be implemented in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers and Delta states with 1,650<sup>13</sup> (740 females) youths participating. The number of youths that continue to seek labor opportunities continues to increase with over 4,600 applications received for enrollment in the project this year. The training is being conducted in four sectors (Agriculture, ICT, Building Construction and Services including finished leather).

Number of youths with applicable skills plus those accessing income opportunities: the number of youths who have completed their training in 2023 is 729 (Males: 442, Females: 287 \*PWD: 9\*) youths graduating from either Agriculture, ICT/Renewable Energy, Building Construction or the Services sector- see table 2. This excludes the 1,650 who are currently in training, expecting to graduate some of them before the end of 2023.

Within the quarter, an outcome assessment of the 729 trained youths was conducted to determine the outcomes of the benefitting youths after their trainings. The study showed that 22% of the youths were successfully linked to jobs, while over 65% established businesses using their own equity financing, especially in ICT, agriculture, Fashion and finished

<sup>13</sup> 1601 was reported in Q2. 49 others (30 females and 19 males) were added in Q3, totaling 1,650 currently in training.

leather goods. Also, the analysis showed that those who have businesses have created jobs through engagement of temporary paid workers, quality employment, and apprenticeships. The youth entrepreneurs have also begun to see income in their businesses.

Table 2. YEP progress against 2023 annual targets

YEP Indicators	Target	Achieved	Performance (%)	Target	Achieved YTD	Performance (%)	Female	PWD
	32 2023 Targets	Q3 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	634 <sup>14</sup>	87%	257 (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	<sup>15</sup>	0%	NA	NA

### 3.2.2 Update on the Implementing Partners (IPs) 3<sup>rd</sup> year Service Delivery

Within the reporting period, the 17 implementing partners and private TVET institutions reported in the previous quarter, continued to provide technical vocational skills training with the mainstreaming of soft skills to 1,650 youths. The breakdown of the implementing partners (IPs) per sector are as follows: Agriculture (4), Building construction (3), ICT (5), and Services (6) – see table below.

### 3.2.3 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, the challenge funds disbursement of ₦42 million to the 66 successful awardees was completed. The majority of the participants have received their funds to commence their businesses with initial acquisition of necessary items, materials, and consumables for their businesses. The team is actively collaborating with these participants and their respective partners to compile receipts and images of the items purchased to date. Additionally, we are closely monitoring the progress of these businesses operated by the participants and offering guidance whenever required.

### 3.2.4 State governments' adoption of YEP

At the completion of the Niger Delta Youth Employment Program (NDYEP) piloted in Abia, Akwa Ibom and Rivers States, in 2019 and reaching over 4000 youths, the YEP team embarked on several promotional activities to States to woo them to adopt or adapt the YEP model in their States being proven to be a more sustainable approach. For this phase, 2020 – 2024, a target of five States was set, which however is yet to be achieved. Some positive outcomes toward adaptation in Abia and Akwa Ibom have emerged and are currently being followed-up to determine the next line of actions/supports to the states.

Identification and Selection of potential Implementing Partners for Ondo State: Having finalized the LMA study report and design of the YEP program intervention for Ondo state, a Terms of Reference (ToR) was published to invite expressions of interest from competent technical vocational institutions operating in Ondo state. In response, we

<sup>14</sup> From the assessment carried in Q3 2023, 22% of the trained youths were linked to jobs, and 65% established businesses – i.e., 87% of the 729 trained as at Q3 2023 had livelihood means.

<sup>15</sup> Several outcomes have been identified in Abia, Akwa Ibom and are being verified for either adaptation or adoption, and will be reported in Q4 2023

received a total of 38 applications. Among these, only 11 applicants who submitted the mandatory documents were pre-qualified for further consideration. These 11 applicants underwent a technical assessment in accordance with PIND's guidelines. Currently, capacity assessment is being completed for 8 organizations, and the final selection will be based on this assessment. The successful applicants will be granted resources for training and post-training support to benefit the youth population in Ondo State.

### 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).*

In the third quarter of 2023, PIND's Access to Energy (A2E) program continued to play a pivotal role in advancing transformative energy solutions, particularly in the context of the Niger Delta. Notably, there has been a discernible surge in the adoption of diverse solar-powered electricity technologies and business models at both community and enterprise levels. PIND, as a key player in the development ecosystem, has been actively engaged in promoting the uptake of solar energy within this dynamic landscape, and the commitment to programming interventions for the Niger Delta off-grid energy space has resulted in tangible impacts during the reporting period.

This is the quarter that PIND's A2E response demonstrated innovative programming where improved healthcare services notably emerged as additional benefits driven by communal electricity goods and services. This was possible despite the absence of a dedicated healthcare pillar. The commercially attuned A2E interventions not only facilitated access to energy solutions but also had crosscutting benefits for the socio-economic development of communities.

PIND's Access to Energy (A2E) program reached a total of 230 individuals through a strategic combination of demonstrations, workshops, community engagements, and new electricity connections. The initiatives embedded particularly translated into noteworthy benefits for individuals, households, and businesses in last-mile communities. This outreach underscores PIND's unrelenting commitment to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life in the Niger Delta.

### 3.3.1 Increasing income and productivity through partner-led scale up activities

As part of PIND's overarching strategy to amplify its impact and extend outreach across the region, a key focus lies in collaborating with private sector developers equipped with rural enterprise adaptive solutions. This strategy prioritizes entities with a regional presence, substantial operational capacity coupled with an in-depth understanding of local markets and partnerships.

This strategic approach is pivotal to the success of the Access to Energy (A2E) programming. To validate the efficacy of these private sector investments and their tangible contributions to impact and development, PIND conducted an outcome monitoring assessment in three communities—Laoso, Orisunbare, and Fagbo—in Ondo State. These communities now enjoy access to electricity through activities led by PIND partners.

The assessment captured the economic and social impact of improved electricity access over a period of 6 months to 1 year, and revealed that in 2023, 877 households in these communities have realized a net cost savings totaling N34,838,288.79, while 71 businesses there have equally reported savings amounting to N5,670,313.06.

Beyond the quantitative metrics in this compelling results, anecdotal references also reflect broader qualitative improvements in the well-being of the communities. Users express enhanced welfare sentiments, particularly regarding children who are described as very happy. Testimonials include statements such as "I can now charge my phone," and "It helps me to read at night,". Additionally, the absence of the need to buy batteries and the convenience of charging appliances at home are highlighted. Overall, the financial benefits derived by energy solution users through PIND's direct and indirect efforts, as of Q3 2023, amounted to a total of N531,219,300.74. This encompasses all PIND-supported interventions and partner-led scale-up activities in the Niger Delta. Notably, this performance surpasses the figures from the same period last year, reflecting the wider adoption of the business model through PIND's partner-led initiatives.

### 3.3.2 Driving “Energy-for-Enterprise” models through Healthcare facilities electrification collaboration

PIND commenced implementation of a watershed healthcare electrification partnership project hinged on a tested business model based on local solar energy cabins that provide reliable, affordable solar power to last mile healthcare facilities and complimentary business connections to communities across 12 communities in the Niger Delta.

Through this partnership, PIND leveraged a total of \$219,389 as grant from USAID through its consultants, Abt Associates. The strategic objective of the project is to showcase the adaptability of the energy cabin for dedicated healthcare electrification initiatives. This involved interventions in existing partner mini-grid locations in select communities to boost supply around base mini grid locations, and as a result the following healthcare centers within these HCDT communities received the following interventions

<b>Ogbinbiri, PHC, Warri North LGA, Delta State</b>	4kW from a 10kW expansion of the existing minigrid to extend and connect the healthcare center
Koluama 2 Health Center, Southern Ijaw LGA, Bayelsa State	5kW from a 10kW retrofitted and expanded generation of the cold station hub to extend and connect the healthcare centre
Fishtown Health post, Brass LGA. Bayelsa State	3kW from a 10kW retrofitted and expanded generation of the cold station hub to extend and connect the healthcare center
Odogado Health center, Ilaje LGA. Ondo State	5kW from a 10kW expansion of the existing minigrid to extend and connect the healthcare center

These interventions not only powered healthcare facilities but also delivered additional connections to households and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the respective communities. The partnerships with private sector entities such as Solaviva, A4&T, Vectis, and BCIS Limited played a pivotal role in driving the success of these projects. While PIND has no program pillar in healthcare, the incentive for communities to benefit from enterprise-driven power projects that would power businesses, households and importantly a community healthcare center lies at the heart of the collaboration under the HETA project.

In the same quarter, PIND entered into partnerships with 3 new energy developers (OGB Energy Limited, Consistent Energy Limited and Ashdam Solar) to develop sites at Ojumole, Odun Igo, Tisun, and Jirinwo in Ondo state, as well as Deghele, Obaghoru, and Awamba communities in Wari North LGA of Delta state. This effort is part of wider program activities to steer access to energy solutions in unserved and under-served coastal communities.

### 3.3.2 PIND facilitates Business to Consumer B2C activities for early-stage investors

The solar Home system (SHS) are a range of quick deployment access to energy technologies that are deemed to bridge the gap between productive use and welfare needs – a typical scenario common to the rural areas. It extends the power availability period (hours) while doing so at a reduced cost and impact to the environment, and has therefore become an increasingly popular solution for many off-grid communities. PIND as a development ecosystem actor understands the need for messaging that will promote adoption and constantly has its fingers on the pulse of the off-grid energy space to prevent the market distortions that can slow down adoption particularly in the Niger Delta. As such, PIND organizes routine demonstrations and workshops that are geared towards supporting market actors and consumers for efficient transformational transactions.

One such activity to enhance adoption and the subsequent benefits of electricity access is a SHS demonstration that was carried out with Spark limited to address some of the supply gaps. PIND supported Spark Energy limited to mobilise and engage the Ekpene Ukim community - an agricultural cluster in Akwa Ibom state towards a demonstration of Solar Home Systems (SHS) capable of meeting immediate and basic energy needs at the household and micro enterprise levels. PIND also supported Disa Energy limited, to hold a community engagement exercise in Naifor Island (Warri Corner), Warri, Delta State. This is part of engagement to attract Disa energy – an early-stage power enterprise to invest in an offgrid community. Overall, PIND had 106 participants attending demonstrations, workshops and various model expansion activities to increase awareness on emerging community adoption practices for clean energy solutions.

### 3.4.0 SOMBREIRO KAPITAL (SK)

*Over the years, poor or no access to finance has consistently hampered the productivity of businesses in the Niger Delta. This is due to systemic constraints (existing laws, infrastructural deficit, and knowledge gap), which influence the demand and supply of financial services. To address these constraints, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) was incorporated to facilitate lending to businesses by issuing credit guarantees to partner Commercial banks to de-risk lending, thereby unlocking the flow of finance to intended beneficiaries.*

#### SK Mandate:

At Sombreiro Kapital, we innovatively develop and integrate target focal crops/livestock value chain in addition to the issuance of partial credit risk guarantee to partner financial institutions, as a de-risking mechanism against credit risk default by small holder Farmers (SHFs) and SMEs thus, incentivizing and stimulating financial institutions and unlocking the flow of funds along the value chains.

In 2023, the institution's target is to facilitate loans to businesses in the selected value chains of aquaculture, poultry, cocoa, oil palm, and cassava across the focal states of Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Imo, and Ondo through risk sharing with partner commercial banks. From Q1 – Q2, 2023, SK's efforts were geared towards its sustainability plan that would deliver profitable financial returns to Small Holder Farmers/MSMEs and create positive value for stakeholders. SK prioritized remedial asset management to safeguard the company's core capital. Similarly, due diligence was actualized for over 100 farmers in cooperatives, associations, and agro companies for possible loan advancement and credit guarantee cover with partner banks in the preceding quarter.

To ensure smallholder farmers have uninterrupted access to low-cost finance, within the quarter, SK took steps to enhance relationships with partner banks such as Unity Bank and Sterling Bank Plc, proffering new products for Smallholder farmers and MSMEs. Business development for new lending partners culminated in several meetings with various financial institutions, including NIRSAL PLC and NIRSAL MFB

#### Financial audit of SK; 2019 to December 31, 2022

The financial audit of SK from inception (2019) to December 31, 2022, has been conducted and has been presented to the Board.

#### SK Partnerships/Sustainability

In the period under review, SK team approached NIRSAL MFB and NIRSAL Plc for possible collaboration with SK. Both parties are currently aligning the MoU for the collaboration. Upon successful onboarding, the number of partner/collaborating financial institutions (FIs) would increase to four (4). To ensure sustainability, the following measures have been put in focus:

- Supporting stand-alone self-help groups to formalize as a Cooperative society group through registration with the relevant government agency (ies). This will give them legal status, making them attractive for financing. The preceding would also facilitate ease of investigations of the impact of the intermediation scheme: accountability vis a vis impact outcome; as well as helping establish a group leadership structure to ease project monitoring and reporting channels.
- Capacity building on risk management and loan monitoring for SPs. The SPs will, in turn, carry out a step-down training in each project location for a monthly consideration to be agreed upon by management. Since the SPs will be on retainers, they will also support the monitoring of projects.
- Funding is channeled through major players and off-takers with the financial capacity to offtake. Still, it must have a pool of smallholder farmers as a base for local impact in line with SK's strategic objectives. This will also ensure ownership of credit, which is a credit default risk mitigation strategy, minimizing capital erosion.
- Access to finance by input providers with internal financing arrangement with a group of farmers or SMEs, the preceding being the basis for SK financing intermediation role.
- Reduce risk exposure by partnership with other developmental companies for risk syndication.

### 3.5.0 Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS) – Q4 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 Lean<sup>16</sup> 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.

#### Key Achievements Delta and Cross River States - FY23 Q4

- The Extension Activity engaged with 340 MSMEs in Cross River and Delta states who have received various technical support and commercializing most impactful practices to smallholder farmers to enable them to increase their productivity and income.
- Partnered with 184 MSMEs who are organized in 20 cohorts – a structure that enables them to learn, share and cross-fertilize ideas to grow their business for sustainability.
- Worked with 132,413 smallholder farmers who are strongly connected to the 94 MSMEs commercializing most impactful practices as their client/customer base. The MSME-farmers tie has facilitated access and availability of agricultural inputs and extension services to smallholder farmers.
- Facilitated USD159,924 in the form of input credit to smallholder farmers from MSMEs, B2B linkages and financial institutions (640 SHF and 10 MSMEs). The input credit model has helped to bridge the gap in financial credit from financial institutions.
- Leveraged USD 278,408 from MSMEs who reinvested their resources to grow and expand their business.
- Facilitated 135 new jobs created by MSMEs comprising 101 males and 34 females.
- Concluded plans to inaugurate a community of practice by November 2023 to drive the scaling and sustainability of the success of Extension Activity in Delta and Cross River States.

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

In the period under review, the Extension Activity prioritized capacity building of the MSMEs as incentives, to support them in growing their businesses, scale their farmers outreach and efficiently deliver extension services to smallholder farmers in their network. Among the training curriculum are, financial literacy, group dynamics and principles of demand stimulation, marketing & networking, production of black soldier fly larvae and duckweeds as complementary fish feeds in aquaculture, and water quality management in aquaculture, to enable them provide inputs and extension services to smallholder farmers. Additionally, the Activity facilitated business linkages between MSMEs resulting in increased business opportunities. The Extension Activity continued to work with partner firms in commercializing 36 Most Impactful Practices (MIPs) identified and validated across the five target value chains it is intervening representing 100% achievement on the Life of Activity (LoA) target. Table 4 shows the list of relevant MIPs promoted in Cross River and Delta States. The MIPs are derived through a validation analysis estimating the probable return on investment (ROI) for smallholder farmers (SHFs) applying these practices. The commercialization of MIPs by partner firms enhances their outreach and business performance as it increases the profitability of their clients. As shown in Table 5 below, a total of 186 MSMEs are partnering with Extension Activity through their cohort structure and providing services to promote private sector extension in Cross River and Delta states. Of the 186 MSMEs, 94 MSMEs are commercializing the MIPs and providing extensions services to 132,413 SHFs.

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

S/n	MIP	Crop
1	Stocking of Juveniles	Aquaculture
2	Complementary Feeding with Maggots in aquaculture	Aquaculture

<sup>16</sup> 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.



3	Complementary Feeding with Duckweed in aquaculture	Aquaculture
4	Commercial Juvenile Catfish production financing model	Aquaculture
5	Use of Improved Seeds	Maize/Rice
6	Optimum Herbicide utilization for weed management	Maize/Rice
7	Optimum Fertilizer Use	Maize/Rice
8	Fall Army Worm Control & Management	Maize
9	Mechanized land preparation	Maize
10	Mechanized Land Prep with small equipment (Power Tillers)	Rice
11	Mechanized threshing	Rice
12	Rice Advice App integration	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
<b>MSMEs in cohorts</b>	113	18	4	227	40	9	340	58	13
<b>MSMEs supported</b>	55	8	-	131	18	5	186	26	5
<b>MSMEs deploying MIPs</b>	33	5	1	61	9	2	94	14	3

#### Specific performance on components and subcomponents in FY23 - Business Development Support

The Extension Activity continued providing support to MSMEs to implement their work plans to enable them to achieve their set seasonal objectives. The Extension Activity is currently working partnering with 186 MSMEs in 20 cohorts who are promoting the use of those MIPs at the SHFs level to enable them to increase their productivity and income. For sustainability, these MSMEs have been formed into groups of similar business interest called cohorts. 55 of these cohorts are in Cross River and 131 are in Delta state. The MSMEs in the aquaculture cohorts in Calabar, Warri South, Kwale and Uvwie focus on promoting the use of Juveniles to reduce mortality rates from 30% to 3% and increase yearly production cycles. In addition, mixing BSF larvae and duckweed with fish feed reduces the cost of feed by 30%-35%, making feed more accessible to resource limited fish farmers while Cohort members in the rice and maize value chain are promoting the use of improved seeds, optimal use of fertilizer, optimum use of herbicides for weed management, mechanized threshing and land preparation in Ogoja, Bekwarra, Aniocha North, Isoko North, Ughelli North areas of Cross River and Delta states. In the year under review, a total of 48,179 smallholder farmers were reached through the various strategies developed in FY23 to increase outreach to SHFs, including: MIPs commercialization 8,262, biofertilizer products demonstration 2,655, digital suite of apps 7778, MSMEs led demand stimulations 21770, and ADP led video enabled extension messaging 7714.

#### MSME Capacity Building

All the MSMEs in cohort have received at least two training each on the MIPs, business development, financial literacy, bookkeeping, ICT, gender mainstreaming and healthy nutrition, water quality management, disease management, black soldier fly larvae production as well as duckweed culturing and use as complementary feed for fish. In order to mitigate the rising costs of feed for aquaculture farmers the MSMEs and ADP EAs were trained on duckweed and Black Soldier Fly in fish production. 130 participants comprising of 34 females, 86males and 10 youths participated. Duckweed and BSFL serves as complementary feed to reduce the high cost of fish feed in fish production. MSMEs have begun to commercialize the MIPs to fish farmers to support and eliminate barrier in the use of juvenile in catfish production.

#### Access to finance and Investment Leveraged

To overcome the barriers often faced by farmers in obtaining credit finance from financial institutions the Extension

Activity devised two innovative financing models namely: input financing, in which credit is provided in-kind as against cash to farmers savings group. This led to the formation of a group consisting of 20 MSMEs drawn from each of four cohorts in Delta state to pilot the scheme, with each MSME contributing at least (USD 6.5) as monthly subscription, with a view to accessing 300% of his or her cumulative subscription as soft loan. During the year, the Extension Activity engaged an investment firm, Welcome to Africa, W2A to assist two MSMEs in the Delta state Atavistic Ventures and V.F Fish Production Farm to raise capital to finance acquisition of a water treatment plant, for Atavistic Farm to the tune of USD 91,000) million and table size fish production unit for V.F Fish Production to the tune of N50 million (USD 65,000). The W2A team visited the two MSMEs in Ughelli, Ughelli North Local Government Area and Ozoro in Isoko North Local Government Area, to assess them and prepare for disbursement. The Extension Activity facilitated NGN 7,080,000 in input financing with AgriLife organic Bio-solution for over 20 farmers in Cross River State to support MIP adoption. Considering the reluctance of formal financial institutions to finance smallholder farmers operations, the Extension Activity is promoting alternative input credit financing with input firms and community based financial service providers to promote the use of profitability enhancing MIPs.

The Activity, through the private sector led extension and advisory services has helped to influence behavioral change occasioned by good practices, (MIPs) that has been adopted by MSMEs, which has greatly transformed their business approach, linkages, and outputs. This has led to increased investments, especially in facilities expansion and upgrades in some farms. In the year 2023, 22 MSMEs in cross River and Delta states reported investment of N112,861,225 (USD 180,875) on facility acquisition and expansion, and agro inputs purchased and equipment acquisition to meet the rising need of SHFs within their network and promote the use of profitability enhancing MIPs.

#### Integration of ICT into Public Extension:

The Extension Activity uses ICT to assist MSMEs in the promotion of MIPs and to support farmers in the adoption of improved practices. Essentially, ICT strengthens the linkage between MSMEs and farmers to increase use of validated MIPs for improved returns. During the reporting period, the Extension Activity worked with the two State Ministry of Agriculture through its Agricultural Development Programme to integrate video extension as a tool to scale the adoption of MIPs by smallholder farmers. Video extension is one of the solutions promoted by the Extension Activity to enable a paradigm shift in the manner ADPs presently deliver extension services and provide an efficient solution to “lightening the load” of ADPs considering the current low extension agent to farmer ratio of 1:10,000. In collaboration with the state ADPs, the Extension Activity rolled out a Digital Enabled Extension Training and trained 90 ADP extension agents (EAs) and 29 MSMEs (65 ADPs Cross River and 24 MSME in Cross River, 25 ADP and 5 MSMEs in Delta) respectively on video extension production and delivery, with 22% women and youth representation. Following the training, eight videos were jointly produced between the EAs and MSMEs in the local language, which are now being disseminated by MSMEs to smallholder farmers through WhatsApp platforms and demand stimulation events. The videos include improved nutritional practices, improved rice and maize seed, juveniles for catfish production, and mechanization. Through ICT, the Extension Activity has enabled ADP and MSMEs to forge a synergy to jointly engage in community extension delivery and share common challenges to more farmers with extension messaging. As a result of this collaboration, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (FMAFS) decided to integrate video extension into the government extension manual. The Activity has leveraged the services of the state ADP video extension team to scale video extension production skills and video extension messaging disseminations to at least 7714 smallholder farmers in Delta and Cross River States.

Extension Activity introduced the use of a suite of mobile App software applications for precision extension service delivery to smallholder farmers in Cross River and Delta State. Training was conducted for the A-list MSMEs and state data interns to strengthen them to effectively step down the trainings to 11 EAs who will reach out to smallholder farmers. The MSME through the EAs deploys the use of digital application suites such as Field Area Measurement, Rice App and Plantix to promote the adoption of technological solutions by farmers in areas of land measurement and crop disease management, The EAs measures the farmland, provides the area of the farm to the farmer, and advises the farmer on the amount and cost of inputs needed to cultivate the farmland, as well as the expected yield. It enabled them to plan and budget for their farming operations and this attitudinal change is spreading rapidly in the farming communities especially in Cross River State while the Plantix App on the other hand has also proved uniquely beneficial to SHFs to diagnose diseases on their crops and possibly proffer solution targeting women SHFs because it provides them a quick access to information that may not have been previously available due to social restrictions. Monitoring of the EAs to capture and track the farmer who received extension messaging through these digital platforms and the outcome of the adoption was fully tracked. So far, the EAs have reached a total of 7,778 SHFs.

[Continued at ANNEX 2](#)

## 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.

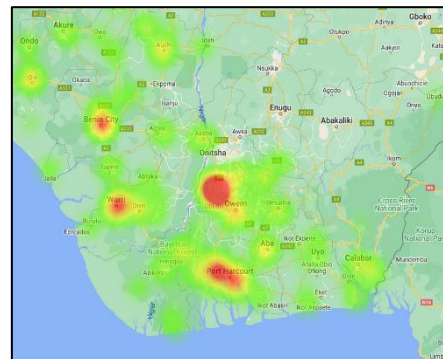
PIND's Peace Building Program contributes to this global Sustainable Development Goal:



This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q3, 2023.

### 4.1 Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q3 2023

In the current quarter, there were considerable improvements in the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta, compared to the second quarter of the year. There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence during the quarter compared to the second quarter of the year. According to data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map, lethal violence decreased by 59% from 319 fatalities in Q2 to 130 in Q3 of 2023. Conflict incidents also decreased by 35% from 170 in Q2 to 111 in Q3. Moreover, there was a decline in reported incidents of organized criminality including kidnap for ransom and clashes between criminal gangs and security forces during the quarter compared to the second quarter of the year. Lethal violence associated with criminality decreased by 61% from 220 fatalities in Q2 to 85 fatalities in Q3. Clashes between cult gangs reduced by 63% from 27 reported incidents in Q2 to 10 in Q3, as well as a 69% decrease in related fatalities from 83 in Q2 to 26 in Q3 of 2023.



Niger Delta Conflict Fatalities Heat Map, Q3 2023

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 Q3 2023.

In Q3 of 2023, PIND produced and disseminated numerous data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products to update peace and security stakeholders and facilitated several preventive interventions in the Niger Delta. PIND produced 16 data-driven research and analytical products including 13 weekly conflict briefs, 1 quarterly (2023 Q2) conflict tracker, and a post-election policy brief. 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, mob violence, and human rights including sexual violence during the period.



Peace Walk in Bayelsa State on the World Peace Day

Within the period, PIND sustained its strategic response to current conflict trends and patterns by continuing its key activities - the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) framework development; the Prevent Council interventions; the post-election collaborative election interventions and the Warri Multi Stakeholders Platform (MSP), Delta State. As part of its strategic approach of promoting peaceful co-existence among the two major ethnic groups (Ijaw and Itsekiri) and other inhabitants, PIND commenced two Interventions in Omadino and Ogbe-Ijoh communities separately in the Warri Kingdom. Moreover, the P4P Network played critical roles in mobilizing peace actors and various stakeholders to commemorate the 2023 International Peace Day.

**2023 Post-Election Activities:** The post-election phase of the PIND’s *Collaborative Election Violence Prevention and Mitigation Project* is a continuation of the series of activities to complete the three phases of comprehensive non-violence election intervention spanning nine months (December 2022- August, 2023). The three implementing partners - Center for Peace and Environmental Justice (CEPEJ), Community Initiative for Enhanced Peace and Development (CIEPD), and Youth for Change & Social Life Development Foundation (YOFCI) worked in 24 hotspots across eight Local Government Areas (LGA) each of Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers states. The central focus of the last laps of activities in the post-election phase were appraisal of the electioneering process by stakeholders for improvement in the future elections, and rebuilding of relationship disrupted during the elections. Community inhabitants were also sensitized as they prepare for local government elections in various states. The need to seek redress of outcomes of results through non-violent means were also emphasized.



Participants in Omadino and Ogbe-Ijoh Capacity Building Sessions

**Warri Multi Stakeholders Platform:** The broad objective of the two interventions in Omadino and Ogbe-Ijoh communities is to enhance the capacity of the youth leadership in these communities on conflict management, good governance, leadership and peacebuilding in order to address leadership tussle and promote peaceful coexistence. The rationale of the interventions are to amongst others, develop and disseminate new narratives that would counter the negative stories and distortion of the guidelines to ascend leadership positions; design a veritable mechanism that would strengthen the community leadership ascension process; conduct skillful grassroots leadership training for current and potential youth leaders in Omadino and Ogbe-Ijoh Communities on good governance; and develop and institutionalize inclusive youth council election process that is acceptable and sustainable.



### 4.3.0 Key/immediate peace building outcomes in Q3 2023

Analysis of the utilization of PIND’s data products revealed that 613 stakeholders<sup>17</sup> utilized PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis during the review period. Specifically, some organizations provided the following feedback on the use of PIND’s conflict reports.

Humanitarian Care for Displaced Persons, Lagos State	Knowledge and Care Providers, Ondo State
We have used PIND’s policy briefs, Peace Map and quarterly conflict trackers in 2023. These products provided good evidence-based data for peace building initiatives and advocacy and have helped us to analyze conflicts across the region.	We use the Policy briefs, Peace Map, Quarterly conflict trackers, Weekly conflict updates and Annual Conflict Report for advocacy, conflict analysis, proposals, early warning, early response and security awareness. Data from the tracker provides justification for our interventions.

Also, 63 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training<sup>18</sup> sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities. While, 313 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 25 ‘quality actions’<sup>19</sup> to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period.

### 4.3.1 Quality and comprehensive policies and strategies that promote a peaceful non-violent society.

After extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders, particularly with the stakeholder validation sessions held in the nine Niger Delta states, Peacebuilding with support from Advocacy has developed a draft report on the NDPRS framework. Advocacy also supported Peacebuilding to carry out a technical review of the draft Niger Delta Peace and Regional Strategy report given developing a final draft. In Q1, 2023, the MNDA and PIND met with the Civilian Special Tactical Services (CSTS), a security intervention organization recommended by the Chief of Defense Staff. PIND will leverage the network, experience and expertise of the CSTS, especially as it relates to civil-security relationships. In Q2, Advocacy collaborated with the TWG and CSTS to facilitate stakeholder engagements in the nine Niger Delta states. This series of engagements included both state and non-state actors as a part of a systematic and multifaceted process. It included data collection through interviews and town hall meetings, and citizenry engagement through the media. The process also leveraged existing community structures that support peacebuilding. The report of the engagements was completed in Q3 and a draft report has been produced and is currently under review by subject matter experts and the MNDA.

### 4.3.2 Behavior changes by peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace in Q3 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. 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 skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q3, are given in table 6

Table 6 Summary of selected interventions carried out by some stakeholders and peace actors in Q3 2023

A member of Prevent Council Promotes Social Cohesion benefitting over 23,000 people in Mkpani Community, Cross River State, Nigeria	Facilitating Community Development Project through Dialogue in Umuakpaeme Item Community, Abia State
<p>His Royal Highness, Obol Lopon Sunday Okoi, a member of the Cross-River State Prevent Council (inaugurated in 2022 by PIND), participated in one of the peace building trainings on conflict sensitivity, stakeholder relationship management, and alternative dispute resolution. He became a change agent and peace champion thereafter, seeking to build stronger social cohesion in his community, Mkpani.</p> <p>Mkpani community with a population of about 23,000 people (<i>Projected from 1991 NBS</i>)</p>	<p><b>Egwuonwu</b>, a Peace Actor who was trained on conflict prevention and resolution in 2023, intervened in a communal land dispute. According to him the dispute would have hindered the building of school in the Umuakpaeme Item community, Bende LGA, in July 2023. The conflict was about the location earmarked to construct a new school proposed by the Senator representing the Senatorial</p>

<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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).

*Census Data*) is one of the communities in Yakurr Local Government Area, Cross River State, that has experienced both intra-communal and inter-communal crises over the past two decades. The community comprises of Afaben, Aduma, Ajere, Lebang, Lokpoi and Ebilebit villages. In 2019, the Nigerian Army took over Mkpani community following violence and killings over a leadership tussle – contending for the position of ‘Obol Lupon of Mkpani’ (Overall head of all the communities) between Obol Lupon Sunday Okoi and Chief Dan Ubi, Clan Head of Aduma village. No fewer than five persons were reportedly killed and many houses destroyed over the chieftaincy struggle.

This internal crisis affected socio-economic activities as livelihoods activities were affected, mutual trust was eroded and the people lived in fear. The annual New Yam Festival that was jointly celebrated by all the villages that constitute Mkpani community could not hold peaceably following the clashes. There were occasions where youths from Aduma village disrupted previous festivals with gun shots. Obol Lupon Sunday Okoi became worried over the affairs of his community and decided to apply the peace building skills he had acquired from the Prevent Council training. He cascaded the information he received to the council of chiefs in his community, coopting them to be ambassadors of peace. Specifically, during the preparations for the 2023 New Yam Festival popularly known as ‘Leboku’, he preached peace, engaged the youths of the two communities in dialogues and negotiations for peaceful co-existence. These pleased all the communities’ stakeholders, who mobilized for peace, and this year for the first time after three years, all the villages celebrated the New Yam Festival, without any crisis in August 2023. He appreciates the inauguration of the prevent council in the state.

District. Through his intervention, a land was allocated and the construction of the new school commenced. According to him, he adopted the advocacy, cost benefit analysis and dialogue principles of conflict management to persuade his extended family members to donate land for the construction of the school.

**Resolving Election Related Conflict in Yenagoa Tricycle Drivers Union, Bayelsa State**

Vincent was trained on how to manage conflicts in 2023. He intervened in a conflict that would have occurred during the elections into various positions in Yenagoa Keke Drivers Union, Bayelsa State, in August 2023. Two persons considered to be heavyweights contested for the position of Chairmanship and mobilized their supporters to disrupt the election to their advantage at the expense of the association and entire commuters in Yenagoa. Vincent intervened by explaining the negative consequences of their planned actions and how it will affect socio-economic activities in the State. He held several dialogues with each of the contenders before the election and at the end, one person accepted to step down for the other. Tension was doused and the election was conducted peacefully.

## 5. General Enabling Program

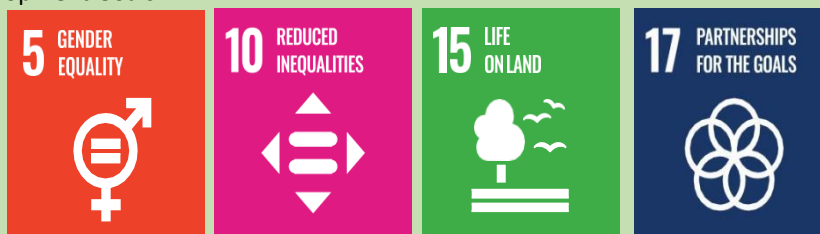
PIND’s interventions fall under two distinct but interrelated program areas: (1) an Economic Development program focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment generation; and (2) a Peace Building program that strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms for enabling 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 3 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 Host Communities Development Trusts (HCDTs) 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 defunct Chevron GMoU and Regional Development Committees (RDCs), including supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the 2018 Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) conducted on the defunct 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.

In Q3 2023, we organized two virtual engagement meetings with NGOs in the region to create awareness about the selection process and also commenced shortlisting a pool of potential co-facilitators who would participate in a capacity-building program and from which co-facilitators would be engaged for the various project areas. 28 participants from 18 organizations participated in the meetings. The capacity building team also conducted a training on branding and media visibility to enhance the capacity of service providers and co-facilitators in using the media to promote and communicate their activities. The training was conducted in collaboration with PIND's communication team and 28 (10 females, 18 male) service providers and co-facilitators attended the training session.

Also, to strengthen Chevron's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) organizations that would carry out developmental projects in the host communities in line with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), PIND has identified some indicative capacity building programs such as training on group dynamics and cohesion, multi-stakeholder Management, and Sustainable Community Project Development. A baseline analysis of the HCDTs is underway to determine the organizational their organizational capacities.

### 5.1.1 Organizations accessing funds and grants

Two organizations supported by PIND with capacity building accessed a total of 165m this year. These organizations include CAD Consulting, and Genius Hub. CAD Consulting leveraged an investment fund of N520m from the Okerewa Community Trust (derived from royalties received from Indorama and other companies) to support the construction and set-up of a smart farm in Okerewa community in Eleme, Rivers state. The smart farm, which is aimed at building the skills and promoting economic development and improved livelihood of members of the community is 70% complete and would consist of crop/livestock production units, processing unit, cold storage, water factory etc. Genius hub has applied the skills from the proposal training conducted by PIND in developing proposals and have attracted N20m to support MSMEs and in developing proposals.

### 5.1.2 Organizations providing services

Three organizations that have been supported through PIND's CAPACITY building activities in the past continued to provide various forms of services, applying skills and learnings gained from the support. These organizations include SHERDA, CAD consulting and Genius Hub. SHERDA continued to provide conflict sensitivity training to organizations leveraging on the funds received from NLNG in 2021. CAD consulting has provided several services and training including supporting businesses to develop bankable business plans and company diagnostics using the picking sound company tools for 50 businesses. It also trained 190 members including youths of Okerewa community in Rivers to gain skills in the agriculture sector and be involved in the smart farm to be set up in Okerewa community. Genius hub has organized step down training on proposal writing for 8 participants. In addition to the 4 organizations reported in previous quarter, the total organizations providing services comes to 7<sup>20</sup>, against the target of 10 set for the year.

### 5.1.3 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 Q3, the Multi-Stakeholder Platform was established and inaugurated under the Bridges Project. The multi-stakeholder structure is constituted of 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. This body has met twice so far in Q3, with further meetings planned for Q4 2023. The MSP has begun deliberations on aspects of the PIA that will improve the capacity of HCDTs to enhance the livelihood and development of their communities



Cross-session of members of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform

The establishment of the MSP was sequel to the capacity-building workshop for 30 participants from 15 NGOs and CSOs from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States and awareness creation/sensitization sessions in four states including; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states with over 500 participants to support the taking off of the Host Community Development Trusts (HCDT). The objectives were to enable NGOs and ACSOs 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 as well as educating and sensitizing key community stakeholders about their roles and responsibilities and expectations under the PIA.

### 5.2.0 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.*

#### 5.2.1 Equitable access to land by smallholder farmers.

PIND's sustained effort to influence state governments to establish a more sustainable policy framework to better manage land for agricultural activities continued to gain traction. 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. As of Q3 of 2023, the Edo State government had developed and articulated a clear process flow of the land acquisition process in the State and based on the recommendation of the access to land committee influenced by PIND, carried out a validation session on the new Agricultural Development Strategy which strengthens the states access to land intervention. In Delta State, the Government has adopted the recommendations of the Arable Land Committee to

<sup>20</sup> CAD was reported in Q2, so the total organizations providing services with the region in 2023 is 6

open up more agricultural land for oil palm and cassava farmers in the State. Advocacy will utilize these experiences and learning to support the FAO FOLUR and Mastercard CAP agricultural projects.

### 5.2.2 Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention

The Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levies report validation workshop took place in Q3. PIND completed a draft report on the impact of multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses in 2022 in Abia, Delta and Rivers states. PINDs Economic Development and M&E teams as well as external subject matter experts had reviewed and validated the findings of the study in Q4 of 2022. The first stakeholder validation workshop was held in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Participants include stakeholders from government, private sector, professional bodies, media CSOs, and members of the newly constituted Federal Government taxes review committee. Some of the additional recommendations from the workshop include; Adequate harmonization of taxes to reduce wastages and maximize resource gathering; The need to classify the MSME based on business size and an enabling and sustainable federal framework; and enlightenment and sensitization of the populace on government-approved taxes and advocacy for the establishment of incident reporting centers to address the sufferings of the people, etc.

### 5.2.3 NDLink

In Q3 of 2023, there were notable milestones recorded in PINDs’ online advocacy platform, NDLink ([www.ndlink.org](http://www.ndlink.org)), The results and learning of Q1 & Q2 2023 were sustained. Within the period, there was successful collaboration with the GESI unit and external collaborators to mark International Youth Day. NDlink continued to share and develop reports useful to internal and external stakeholders. Notable amongst these reports is a widely referenced article developed by NDLink’s editorial team which highlighted the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency’s (NIHSA’s) Annual flooding outlook for 2023 with a special feature disaggregating the data to the Niger Delta region. NDLink’s result for the three target indicators showed that there were 6,802 downloads of development resources; 4,514 people became aware of development programs implemented in the Niger Delta via NDLink and 51 people gave comments or feedback on issues catalyzed by PIND NDLink platform.

## 5.3 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 Q3 2023, PIND participated in or hosted 12 forums where it shared its models for socio-economic development in the Niger Delta, evidence of its work, and lessons learned to 986 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 Annex 1.

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 352 posts (conveying its key messages) across social media platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The social media posts reached 2,875,385 individuals and 871,455 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	2,010,782
2	Instagram	822,610
3	LinkedIn	14,099
4	Twitter	23,457
5	YouTube	4,437

### 1. Newsletter

PIND produced and disseminated five newsletters to recipients in target stakeholder groups during the quarter in review, reaching 2,669 people. We had 396 new subscribers this quarter, thanks to an aggressive effort to engage attendees of PIND’s events through email subscriptions. There was an average open rate of 24.3%. (The opening rate is the percentage of subscribers who opened the newsletter from the email inbox).

### 2. PIND Website

In Q3, 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 7. PIND’s website performance summary in Q3 2023.

Website Performance Summary for Q3 2023
37,147 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time.
1,406 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND;
57% were male, and 43% were female users reached by the website
26 new content about PIND, and partners shared
46,476 new views of posted content. PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND
62,879 total page views of posted content, and PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND
43% of visitors searched directly to access the website
23,808 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.

### 3. Email Enquiries

PIND received 105 email inquiries in Q3. 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.

### 4. 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. However, PIND reaches these stakeholders through different mainstream/traditional media: print and broadcast. In Q3, PIND had 10 media mentions for the quarter and reached **443,538** individuals via mainstream media.

### 6 Public Endorsements of PIND

PIND received 23 public endorsements, appreciating, acknowledging, or commending the Foundation's work in the region. These endorsements are public statements by key stakeholders: government, partners, the media, project participants, and the general public.

*Example, from Barry Wonder | Business & Life coach (Instagram, Sept 11, 2023), he has this to say: “Am elated notifying the public about the successful grant agreement with @pindfoundation this support will be instrumental in helping us streamline more Business Development support services to MSME's in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria with emphasis in Delta, Port-Harcourt and Bayelsa states. We thank the great management team and board at Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta - PIND for the support and opportunity granted us to do more in the Niger Delta Region.”* Also, from Momoh Yusuf Mustapha (Facebook, July 7, 2023), he said: “Thank you, PIND, for all that you're doing in the region to better the life of the communities & bringing “lasting” peace to our people.”

## 5.4 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 Q3 2023, 28,130 males and 24,160 females (46.2% 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 313 persons 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. Of the number, 131 (42%) were women, and 182 (56%) were men. While youths and persons with disabilities (PWDs) were 118 (38%) and 5 (0.02%) respectively.

## Women Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI)

The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) measures the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in the agriculture sector in an effort to identify and address the constraints that hinder women’s full engagement in the agriculture sector.

The WEAI is composed of Five Domains of Empowerment sub-index (5DE) that measures the empowerment of women in five areas. The WEAI is an aggregate index reported at the either state- or sector-level and is based on individual-level data on men and women within the same households and data on women living in households with no adult male. The 5DE sub-index assesses whether women are empowered across the five domains examined in the WEAI. Each domain is weighted equally, as are each of the indicators within a domain. The five domains, their definitions under the WEAI, the corresponding indicators, and their weights for the 5DE are:

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

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

This year, a baseline assessment was carried out to determine the agency status of WEAI of 2021 and 2022 women beneficiaries of PIND programs. The study showed that the average rating of WEAI of PIND benefitting women is 64% as against the global standard rating of 80%. They performed optimally fair in the control over use of income with an average of over 70%, while the least was in area of women providing input and/or autonomy in productive decisions with average of 37%. Percentage of women having access to resources, participating in leaderships and managing time for both production and leisure also fell below standard.

## 5.5 Business Development

*In line with its effort to diversify and expand its funding base, PIND continued to engage potential partners to explore new*



opportunities across its program areas by strengthening and facilitating internal collaboration and coordination to deepen business development efforts. 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.

#### **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. During the quarter, the BDS team organized three strategic meetings to progress PIND's fundraising and sustainability efforts internally. These include: the BDS subcommittee meeting held July 5, 2023, Impact Investment Steering Committee Meeting which doubled as a BDS Committee meeting with a focus on the impact investing track held July 10, 2023. Following this, a two-day impact investing workshop was organized for all staff and consultants of PIND on September 6 and 7th, 2023. The impact investing workshop was an action item from the previous meeting held in the quarter and was organized to ensure a shared understanding of impact investing as an additional strategy to expand funding opportunities for PIND to ensure its sustainability. The workshop was delivered by consultants from Cross-Boundary and Total Impact, two highly rated organizations facilitating impact investing for businesses across Africa and on a global scale. The key takeaway from this workshop was a submission of an array of pathways and partners that could be selected from to design a special-purpose vehicle for the implementation of impact-investing initiative for PIND.

#### **Facilitation of Donor Stewardship for Increased Funding**

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

- Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) Global Conference: – The Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) is a network of organizations supporting entrepreneurs globally. PIND became a member of the network in 2018 and since then has enjoyed the membership benefits of attending local and international conferences, supporting impact assessment, access to the member portal attending networking events, and supporting awareness campaigns of development initiatives. In addition to this, consistent engagement with the network provides an opportunity to be part of the network leadership. PIND sponsored the 2023 ANDE Global Conference as a strategic partner. The theme of the conference was “Accelerating Action: Small Business Solutions and the SDGs,” which aimed to highlight the significant progress achieved thus far and identify further requirements in supporting small and growing businesses (SGB) ecosystems to enhance their impact on the SDGs in the next seven years.
- Also, PIND attended the policy dialogue session organized by The Nigerian Agribusiness Group (NABG). The session aimed at formulating comprehensive advocacy and partnership policy and strategy for NABG. The objectives of the session were to develop a comprehensive Advocacy and partnership Policy for NABG, identify key partnership opportunities that align with NABG's mission and goals, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to achieve impactful outcomes in the agribusiness sector. Being a key player in the policy advocacy space, PIND made useful contributions that would help NABG design its advocacy strategy.
- Cross River International Cooperation and Investment Summit 2023: PIND attended the Cross-River State Investment Summit at the invitation of the State Governor, Mr. Bassey Otu. The event held on 30th and 31st August, 2023 in Calabar. Leveraging on past collaboration with the State, PIND's presence at the summit helps to deepen the relationship, and create opportunities for PIND to influence aspects of the socio-economic direction of the State.

## **6 Challenges and Lessons Learned**

### **Challenges**

#### **Market Development Program:**

- Mobilization and participation of farmers for training has become very difficult due to high cost of transportation. Due to the current increased on transport fares, Service Providers currently spend more to mobilize farmers for training, and the number of farmers turning out for training after mobilizations seems to have reduced.
- 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. This has negatively affected the depth 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:

- Impact of Subsidy Removal: The recent economic changes in Nigeria have had adverse effects on both the participants and the implementing partners. The removal of subsidies has resulted in significantly higher costs for training materials, farm inputs, production materials, and training resources. Additionally, there has been a surge in salary demands from the staff of implementing partners. Some partners are grappling with inadequate training materials for practical demonstrations due to the general price hikes on materials and other associated costs.
- Rural youth face challenges in participating due to accommodation constraints in urban training locations.

**Access to Energy:** There have been insufficient connections recorded for energizing businesses largely due to the low matrix of businesses to households in the mostly rural communities where new access to electricity have been established. This is posing a challenge towards meeting year 2023 operation plan targets.

#### Advocacy:

- Government funding of its development projects is affected by a lack of adequate resources. Most of the states are currently deficit-financing their budgeted activities. Also, changes in policies occasioned by the changes in administration at all levels are creating uncertainty in the policy direction of government and the private sector. These dynamics affect PIND's government engagement activities given that many advocacy support border-on policy initiatives.
- Security remains a serious concern in the Niger Delta. This has some impact on field engagements which is the core of PIND's Advocacy work. However, the challenge with adopting virtual meetings, especially for government partners at the state level is that many of them don't have the technical ability to smoothly run a virtual meeting hence stalling or slowing down the implementation pace. The sudden increases in the cost of living will limit the effectiveness, efficiency, scope, and impact of the implementation of projects and programs in the region. The sustained inflationary pressure will affect the delivery of interventions in the region.

#### Lessons Learned

##### Market Development Program:

To help reduce transport fare and enhance farmers' mobilization/training, Service providers have improved on their mobilization/training strategy from purely physical to a combination of virtual and physical – through phone calls, small messages, and working more with farmers associations to reach more.

**Peace Building:** The adaption of a hybrid format for the facilitation of the Q3 Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) meeting increased the success achieved. The meeting was successfully held during the same week in Bayelsa, Abia, Rivers, Imo and Abia states and can be replicated and scaled to achieve much more impact.

**YEP:** To alleviate the impact of soaring transportation costs on participants, partners have adjusted training schedules by reducing the number of training days while extending learning hours; some partners have implemented a hybrid training approach, which has proven effective in overcoming logistical challenges.

**Advocacy:** On the issue of NDLINK's sustainability, it is important to develop multiple pathways to fund generation as this ensures multiple streams of income for NDLINK. The Advocacy team also learned that the civil society networks across the Niger Delta region provide a good client base for NDLINK and there's a need to target them with products and services that enhance their work. The need for regular maintenance of the website is imperative. To ensure that the platform continues to meet its deliverables, there should be an adherence to the robust content and engagement strategy.

## Program Management

**Governance and Accountability:** Separate meetings of the following PIND's sub-committees were held in Q3 2023: Project and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability (BDS), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and partnership sub-committee. Key agreements reached at these sub-committee meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation were delineated and will be provided to the PIND board. These meetings are key for PIND's internal governance, to keep the board abreast of PIND programming and receive feedback/inputs for optimizing program implementation, as well as to ensure PIND's accountability to its board.

Also, within the quarter, PIND continued to support the Dalberg team in facilitating the ongoing Mid-term Impact Evaluation, covering 7.5 years. The evaluation is progressing as planned, with data collection at 95% completion, and is working toward delivering the evaluation report by October ending.

**Organizational Sustainability:** In line with its effort to diversify and expand its income, PIND has commenced implementation of the signed 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. PIND is matching a \$219,389 grant for the implementation of this project in selected communities in the Niger Delta. During the quarter in review, N39,535,831.35 35 (\$87,857.403) was released for the project. currently, health centers in four communities now have access to electricity. Also, on 18th August 2023, PIND and MOFI closed out an MoU to collaborate on a 4billion naira collaborative project to impact fund PIND’s interventions across programs in 3 categories. This took place after agreeing and also closing out on the co-designed proposal by the two parties, the next step is to agree on the operational detail for implementation.

**Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:** 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. The team completed trainings on Flood Safety, and capacity building of PIND support staff. Processed utility bills, managed communication equipment and relationships with stakeholders/vendors, vehicle maintenance and repairs, and general equipment/facility management. Managed events and workshops within and outside PIND’s premises, conducted onboarding of new staff and graduate trainees. In summary, the Safety and security management components were carried out satisfactorily.

#### 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. 193 contracts/grants worth ₦976.99 million were awarded in Q3 2023. There was more use of Grant Agreement as contracting instruments compared to the others in Q3. instruments (Table 10).

Table 8. Contracts awarded in Q3 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	0	173.16 million				
Services Order	21	157.37 million	5	34.70 million	1	0.54 Million
Purchase Order	2	28.52 million	-	-	2	3.19 Million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	8	341.47 million	3	2.82 million	1	1.3 Million
MOU	9	276.47 million	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>976.99 million</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>37.52 million</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.03 million</b>

## 7 Looking Ahead

### Priority actions for next quarter

In Q4 2023, the **market development project** will undertake the following activities:

- **Cassava:** Continue to facilitate training on climate-smart good agricultural practices for cassava farmers, strengthen linkages across the value chain, and support farmers' access to market opportunities while also deepening activities with CSEs to expand production and reach more farmers.
- **Cocoa:** Work with off-takers to implement the cocoa quality improvement activities via training and demos to reach 2000 farmers and support existing and new partners to deepen productivity improvement, quality improvement, and access to high-yielding seeds interventions in the cocoa-producing states of the Niger Delta. Also, it intends to carry out the identification and onboarding of new FSPs and Agro-dealers to drive access to quality inputs and information.
- **MSMEs:** Focus mainly on supporting 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
- **Palm oil BMP:** Work with services providers, agro-dealers, and input companies to reach 5, 000 oil palm farmers on BMP adoption.
- **Poultry:** Train and support VLDs/PSPs to expand their activities to reach out to more poultry farmers in the region.

The **access to energy project** will deploy strategies to partner with developers focusing on an access to energy intervention for some peri urban businesses as part of an adaptive plan to meet the 2023 program targets for businesses connected to electricity; sign MOU's with 2 new power developers to accelerate the implementation of interventions in 2 coastal communities for solar refrigeration and a community mini grid; initiate a challenge fund for community energy installations in 2 off grid riverine communities of Delta state; and support a private sector training initiative to empower women with Green Skills relevant to the renewable energy industry around the Niger Delta region

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

- **Ondo State Implementation:** Finalize the selection and onboarding of new implementing partners in Ondo State, and initiate the selection and onboarding of new participants for technical and soft skills training in Ondo State.
- **Government engagement for the adoption of the NDYEP model and framework:** Engage with key stakeholders in target states to share the NDYEP model and provide technical assistance to facilitate its adoption and adaptation.
- **Technical Vocational & Soft Skills Training:** Collaborate with partners to oversee the implementation of technical and soft skills training for youth in 5 states.
- **YEP Practice Paper (Services):** Work with a consultant to commence work on drafting a practice paper for the services sector.
- **Entrepreneurship Training:** Work with a consultant to deliver online entrepreneurship training to selected past trainees across 4 states (Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta).

The **peacebuilding program** will supervise the production of 2 Case Studies on P4P intervention in selected states; Facilitate capacity enhancement of EWER monitors in CNL HCDDT; Jointly integrate Peacebuilding activities with Economic Development (Conflict Sensitivity); Maintain the IPDU database and website; Facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy; Facilitate P4P/ MSP activities; Produce briefs and trackers; Facilitate the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network fora; Facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states; Engage with Fund for Peace (FFP) to deliver set 5 KPIs and Operationalize PB Consultancy services to selected firms for a fee

The **advocacy project** will pay official advocacy visits/courtesy calls to newly appointed government officials; Organize dissemination forums in Asaba to share findings and recommendations of Multiple Taxation field assessments/Develop a tax matrix; Track and report stakeholders' engagements across the board; Continue to support PIND Business Development and fundraising initiatives; Drive NDLink sustainability and engagement with clients; Continue the implementation of the Bridges Project MSP; and Engage with Settlers and other stakeholders to continue to pitch and implement PIND PIA offerings.

**GESI** will: Collaborate with Niger Delta organizations to implement activities to campaign against gender-based violence through the 2023 annual 16 Days of Activism campaign and Continue to monitor implementation of PIND's GESI policy.

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## ANNEX 1

### Communications – number of forums within Q3 to stimulate increased visibility of PIND

#### Communications

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:

**Bridges Project: Awareness Creation Sessions:** PIND in collaboration with Ford Foundation organized an Awareness Creation Session for Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) on July 4, 9 and 19, 2023 in Delta and Ondo States. The event had in attendance 156 stakeholders from the Oil and Gas, and government sectors and focused on providing insights to improve Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) knowledge of the provisions of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA)

**Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Policy Dialogue:** PIND was invited to speak on Pooling resources together to improve the impact of development interventions in the Niger Delta with 150 stakeholders from the public, private and development sectors. The event which aimed to deepen partnerships with development partners and the private sector to close the gaps in sustainable development in the Niger Delta region was organized by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) on July 6, 2023 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

**Young Professionals (YP) Asaba:** As part of PIND’s continued investment in the Niger Delta youth development sector, PIND in collaboration with Beyond Regular hosted a One-day Career Mentorship Event for young professionals in Port Harcourt on July 15, 2023. It notably presented a keynote address by the Executive Director titled What Else Can I Do? The Value in Being Multi-Skilled focused on tips on how to gain a competitive edge in the jobs market through having multiple skills. The event has about 200 young professionals and 30 industry leaders.

**Stakeholder Forum on Nigeria Conflict Data Ecosystem:** PIND shared its Peacebuilding Strategy around conflict data ecosystem framework with 50 stakeholders from international NGOs, Academia, Peacebuilding stakeholders (National and International) on July 19, 2023. The event which was organized by the Natural Resource Institute, University of Greenwich took place at Nigerian Airforce (NAF) Conference Centre, Abuja.

**Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) Meeting:** PIND organized the NDPSN workshop to improve coordination among organizations in the Niger Delta working on peace, security and development. The event had in attendance 125 representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Abia (Umuahia), Bayelsa (Yenagoa), Cross River (Calabar), Imo (Owerri) and Rivers (Port Harcourt) States and took place at Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, Imo, and Rivers States from August 30 - 31, 2023.

**Fund for Peace (FFP) and PIND Human Rights & Business Roundtable:** PIND’s Executive Director was a panelist at the Fund for Peace (FFP) and PIND Human Rights & Business Roundtable (ZOOM) where he presented on PIND’s model for peacebuilding can safeguard and enhance investment opportunities in the Niger Delta. The event which took place on August 31, 2023 was organized by PIND in collaboration with Fund for Peace (FFP) with the theme “The Importance of Peacebuilding for Investment & Inclusive Development” and had in attendance 90 attendees from the NGO, Donor, and Government Sectors.

**Climate Smart Agriculture Workshop for Poultry Service Providers (PSPs):** PIND organized a workshop for 19 poultry stakeholders in Port Harcourt, Rivers State from September 6 - 7, 2023. The event provided a platform for PIND to share strategies on how Poultry Service Providers (PSPs) can improve adoption of climate smart agriculture for poultry farmers.

**Round-Table Dialogue on Kidnapping Incidents:** PIND’s Partners for Peace (P4P) organized a roundtable discussion held in Delta State on September 7, 2023 to sensitize key stakeholders such as community leaders, youth and women group, religious leaders and security agents (from Abraka, and Obiaruku communities in Ethiope East and Ukwuani LGAs of Delta State) on violent criminality including mass kidnapping that is persisting within the state. The event had 50 participants in attendance.

**The Bridges project Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP):** PIND in collaboration with Ford Foundation facilitated the inauguration of a multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) under the Ford Foundation-funded Bridges Project comprising of 30 carefully-selected experts and critical stakeholders representing host communities, settlers, civil society, and government to provide good examples of models that can help the Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) operate successfully. The inauguration meeting took place on August 11, 2023 while the second MSP meeting took place on September 13, 2023 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

**Technical Training for Village Level Dealers (VLDs):** PIND in Partnership with FDH Vet Agro Nigeria Limited (Vaccine Suppliers) organized a workshop for 16 poultry Village Level Dealers (VLDs) in Akure, Ondo State from September 13 - 14, 2023. The event provided a platform for PIND to share strategies on how VLDs can increase access to quality vaccines for smallholder poultry farmers and those in hard to reach locations.

**International Day of Peace - Press Statement and a webinar in commemoration of the International Day of Peace:** PIND organized a virtual conference in honor of the 2023 International Day of Peace on September 21, 2023. The event had 40 participants in attendance and focused on providing highlights on PIND’s commitment to peace building within the Niger Delta.

**Cocoa Sustainability Webinar:** PIND in partnership with Conservation Alliance Development Initiative (CADI) and Bureau Veritas organized a webinar on cocoa sustainability on September 28, 2023. The event brought together 30 cocoa farmers and cooperatives, cocoa processors and exporters, regulatory bodies and industry associations, traders, buyers, and stakeholders in the cocoa value chain to explore the challenges and opportunities in ensuring high-quality cocoa production and its impact on the global market.

Communications supported these Forums with a range of services, including speeches/talking points development, press releases, social and mainstream media publication or broadcast, photography, videography and video production, live streaming, branding, and other forms of corporate communication support.

## ANNEX 2 Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS) – Q4 FY23

### Partnerships/Collaboration

The Extension Activity and CRADP in partnership with FMARD through 2 consultants in the State, DILLESAMA AND CO LTD and FADZA MULTI-CONCEPT LTD conducted a training on climate resilient practices in rice production, during this training 4 MIP videos were dissemination, it was an interactive session, questions came up and were quickly addressed by CRADP. Inputs delivery followed immediately, and 200 smallholder farmers in Cross River south benefited. Each farmer received a bag of fertilizer, herbicides, and pesticides worth 12,000 and in-cash of NGN10,000 making a total of NGN 4,400,000 for both inputs and cash for 200 SHFs. To strengthen the collaboration between the Extension Activity and the State Government, the team from the Extension Activity in company of the management of Delta State ADP, in the month of June 2023, visited the then Acting Commissioner and Permanent Secretary of the State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MANR to update him and his team, comprising all the Directors of the MANR, on the activities of the Extension Activity and areas of collaboration with the ADP. The visit offered the Extension Activity the opportunity to extract tacit commitment of the State Government to strengthen the relationship between the private and public extension service providers, deepen the collaborations and sustain the deployment of the MIPs. 10 Pico projectors, pre-loaded with MIPs extension videos were donated by the Extension Activity to assist the State through the ADPs to facilitate the video-enabled extension service delivery with a SHFs outreach target of 30,000 by the end of 2024. Thus far the ADP has reached 694 SHFs with video extension messages based on the MIPs being promoted by the Activity.

The Activity in the State took steps to strengthen mutually benefitting collaboration with a number of public and private organizations, including Delta Agricultural and Rural Development Agency DARDA, New Generation Nutrition, Life-ND, PfD, USAID Ag Invest, Sombreiro Kapital, WIA-N, Polaris Bank, and four biofertilizer firms: Agrilife, Selema Apex 10, Cofarms, Fahdelia, which facilitated the Extension Activity biofertilizer products demonstration that reached out to 932 SHFs. In order to bring wider solutions to MSME and SHFs the Extension Activity in the State is partnering with other stake holders in both the public and private sector, including the State MANR, research institutions, universities, banking and non-banking financial institutions, farmers associations and development partners in the food system to organize a community of practice, a forum which will provide tailor made agricultural solutions to help farmers overcome their challenges increase productivity and income. This forum will be inaugurated by the Hon. Commissioner, Delta State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources in the month of October 2023.

### Cross-cutting Issues (Gender/and Youth Integration)

To increase women's SHFs participation in the Extension Activity and address the constraints women and youth face in the production and marketing of MIPs services and products, the gender component of the Extension Activity has adapted a gender intervention strategy using women farmers' organization/cooperatives as a channel to increase the meaningful participation of women SHFs thus, increasing their access to affordable financial products and their access and adoption to MIPs. An online training session was organized to orient the Extension Agents on the tools and methodology for the assessment of the cooperatives, a capacity gap assessment of these cooperatives was conducted for 10 women cooperatives in Cross River state. This data analysis and classification of the cooperatives into strong, moderate, and weak will assist the Extension Activity propose strategic capacity development responses to address key weakness for the women cooperative by next FY24, Q1. The Extension Activity also encouraged MSMEs in Delta state to focus on youths and women in their recruitment and provide apprenticeship training and mentorship to them. A total of 13 youths and women were employed by six (6) MSMEs as full-time jobs, and another 2 were engaged as apprentice by Festokenn Fish Republik. 2 women owned MSMEs, Eunice Agha, and Owenz Ogo Fidelia were engaged as leader of their respective cohorts: Ndokwa West Hatchers Cohort and Asaba/Ibusa/Ogwashiuku Improved Seeds Cohort.

### Output Level Results

Table 6 below shows the results (outputs) from interventions implemented during the reporting period. It lists 5 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 below shows the numbers of farmers accessing inputs, products and services by interventions or most impactful practices (MIPs) promoted.

Table 6: outputs

Performance Indicator	Cross River	Delta	Aggregate (C. 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)	33	61	94	282
Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs (EG 3-2)	36,907	11,872	48,779	465,675
Value of agriculture-related financing accessed as a result of USG assistance (EG.3.2-27)	\$22,043	\$1,091	23,134	\$ 9,978,569
Total number of clients benefitting from financial services provided through USG-assisted financial intermediaries, including non-financial institutions or actors (EG. 4.2-1)	236	4	240	23,450
Increased number of new jobs, especially for youth and women, resulting from technical supports to private service providers (outcome; RFP Section C.7)	15	13	28	129

Table 7: Number of farmers accessing MIPs/Intervention

MIP/Intervention	Cross River	Delta	Gross Total
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	Total	Female	Youth	Total	Female	Youth	
Use of Juveniles	-	-	-	761	186	111	-
Optimum Fertilizer Use (Rice)	20	7	-	-	-	-	20
Use of improved seeds (Rice)	194	57	1	-	-	-	194
Optimum Herbicide utilization for weed management (Maize)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Optimum Fertilizer Use (Maize)	388	210	43	2	1	-	388
Use of improved seeds (Maize)	231	167	1	73	25	1	231
Extension messaging	3461	1857	308	1849	948	74	3461





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