



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



PIND 2024 PSR Steering Team, after planning workshop, Lagos

Monitoring & Evaluation Report

**Quarter Two:
April - June 2024**

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-owned 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
CDCs	Community Development Committees
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited

CPPs	Crop Protection Products
CRIN	Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria
CSEs	Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DoC	Day-old Chicks
DYEP	Delta Youth Employment Program
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FSPs	Farm Service Providers
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GMoU	Global Memorandum of Understanding
HCDT	Host Communities Development Trust
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IOC	International oil companies
IPDU	Integrated Peace and Development Unit
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIPs	Most Impactful Practices
MNDA	Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSD	Market Systems Development
MSP	The Warri Multi Stakeholder Platform
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDPI	Niger Delta Partnerships Initiative
NLink	Niger Delta Link
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OSPAC	Ogba/Egbema/ Ndoni security and planning advisory committee
P4P	Partners for Peace
PGPA	Policy, Governments and Public Affairs Unit, Chevron
PSPs	Poultry Service Providers
PV	Photovoltaic
PWD	Persons living with disabilities
Q1	Quarter 1
Q2	Quarter 2
Q3	Quarter 3
RDC	Regional Development Committee
SK	Sombreiro Kapital
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TV	Television
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Centers
UK	United Kingdom
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence Affecting Women and Girls
VLD	Village Level Dealers
YTD	Year to Date

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

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

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

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

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

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

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

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

Expand program 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, now HCDTs.

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: Q2 2024 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

This second quarter (April – June, 2024) report is intended to keep our donors, Board of Trustees, and partners aware of project achievements and constraints, share lessons learned, and seek deeper levels 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, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Executive Summary

This report highlights our program intervention achievements in the Niger Delta from April – June 2024 (Quarter 2, 2024), 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. Our 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

Market Systems Development:

The market system development project supports farmers and small enterprises in key sectors 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 cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs. Its outputs for Q2 2024 are summarized below:

- In Q2 2024, our activity monitoring has shown that 65 Service Providers continued to provide support services to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and Business linkages with training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and access to business information.
- Across the Niger Delta region, 36,258 direct and indirect farmers/MSMEs were reached with improved services in Q2 2024. The cumulative outreach achieved as at Q2 2024 was 49,015 farmers/MSMEs, (47% were women) against the set annual target of 85,000.
- ₦213.3million was invested by farmers/MSMEs in adopting cocoa and oil palm improved seedlings, farm technologies, and other agro-inputs. The cumulative investment by farmers/MSMEs this year was ₦468.71 million. Farmers have also invested their funds in adopting other innovations across other sectors and are being tracked/monitored to be reported in Q3 2024.
- As part of efforts to enhance the efficiency of MSMEs, fish processors, and fisherfolks in Chevron host communities, PIND, collaborated with CAD Consulting Limited and Newland Pathways Integrated to organize training sessions for MSMEs, including Point of sale (POS) businesses. The support to POS operators was necessitated by the need to comply with the CBN regulations on CAC registration. In Gbokoda, Ondo State, 107 participated (43 females). A similar session in Ode-Ugborodo, Delta State, had 115 participants (90 females). Overall, 222 MSMEs benefited from these engagements. In another set, 47 fisherfolks (33 females) were trained in Ugborodo, Delta state on better fishing practices/technologies by Marich Agro and CAD Consulting Limited.

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 a more expensive 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 clean energy developers equipped with rural enterprise adaptive solutions. This strategic approach is pivotal to the success of the Access to Energy (A2E) programming.

- Building on the momentum from the first quarter, A2E continued to expand its reach, bringing clean and reliable energy solutions to more communities, businesses, and households. The program's efforts have significantly contributed to bridging the energy access gap, fostering economic growth, and improving the quality of life of people in the region. Examples are the energy mini-grids at Bateren in Warri South-West, Umolu Ndokwa East of Delta state; as well as Araromi Obu – Odigbo and Ilugha - Ondo West in Ondo State.
- A2E facilitated community energy assessments in Esena-Ebe, Osain, and Agogboro communities. These assessments highlighted the pressing need for reliable and sustainable energy solutions, particularly in commercially viable areas that have been without reliable electricity for extended periods.
- Furthermore, A2E continued to support ecosystem partners by participating in the revalidation exercise for competency standards for training skilled technicians in the off-grid energy market, aiming to align existing standards with the evolving needs of the Nigerian renewable energy sector.

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 with the opportunities to secure sustainable jobs and enterprises. PIND's approach involves innovative and quality technical vocational training which prepares selected youth with market-relevant skills, and supports their transitioning into work or entrepreneurship.

In this quarter, the YEP training program in Ondo State continued with 344 youths (57% female, including 8 PWDs) enrolled. The cumulative number of participants in the ongoing training in Ondo State as at Q2 2024 was 775. Selection of YEP Technical Partners for 2024 training program was also completed with 19 IPs onboarded across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers States. Seven (7) of the selected organizations are women-led representing 41%. The organizations have since commenced program implementation of 20 projects across the four Niger Delta States after completing the projects' grants signing.

Also, in this quarter, the 2024 batch of the entrepreneurship development for past YEP participants have cleared 183 applications who met the start-up business applications requirements across the 4 states - Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers States.

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.

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 has focused 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.

- Communal conflict over land and boundary disputes as well as clashes between herders and farmers declined in Q2 2024. Data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map shows that communal violence reduced by 31.57% from 19 reported fatalities in Q1 to 13 fatalities in Q2 of 2024. However, general conflict issues - lethal violence, reported incidents of conflict risk and violence, organized criminality, including clashes between hoodlums and government security forces, and kidnap for ransom, criminal violence and clashes between cult gangs - showed increases across the Niger Delta in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter of the year.
- EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union-Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, "A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta" continued in Q2. The 6.5million Euros project which is implemented by consortium of partners - Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) and Academic Associates Peace Works (AAPW), and PIND, drives the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) and social cohesion component of the interventions through the Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND.

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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. Activities during the period were multifaceted including the step-down capacity strengthening on inclusive leadership and conflict transformation in 26 project communities spanning 13 LGAs within Rivers.

- 181 stakeholders utilized PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis during the in this quarter. Specifically, selected stakeholders from non-governmental organizations and academia reported utilizing PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis for various purposes.
- Also, 65 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities, while 249 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 37 ‘quality actions’ to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period.

PIA implementation support

The Ford Foundation funded project (The Bridges), 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 Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). This is to ensure the active involvement of the community stakeholders in particular and build their capacity to represent their interests adequately in the implementation process. The projects 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. PIND has positioned itself to work for the smooth take-off of the Chevron’s Host Community Development Trusts (CNL HCDTs) through capacity-building on economic development programs, and peacebuilding for the established HCDTs.

Update on Multi-stakeholder Platform: The 6th session of the Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) meeting took place in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, with 20 members in attendance. At the meeting, insights on the experiences of implementing the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) from the participating stakeholders and HCDTs were shared. These insights were intended to aid in the development of effective models for PIA implementation. The following are among the MSP success stories:

- A member of the Bridges Project Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) was appointed as the inaugural National Chairman of the Host Community Development Trust (HCDT). This achievement is attributed to the extensive knowledge and skills gained through participation in the MSP, as well as effective networking within the nationwide HCDT platform with the support of members of the MSP.
- The benefits and activities of the Bridges Project MSP have generated significant interest among HCDT networks. As a result, several HCDTs have expressed a strong desire to engage with the MSP. This interest has led to the participation of new observers from over three different HCDTs in MSP proceedings.

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 750,000 people gaining new or increased awareness about PIND and our activities from the mainstream media, and a cumulative of 5,111,970 people gained awareness through our various platforms: newsletters, social media, website, email inquiries, forums and traditional media. Also, in the quarter, we garnered 36 positive media mentions of our work and activities and attracted 114 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: 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 support institutionalizing strategies in peacebuilding efforts that will promote conflict prevention across the Niger Delta.

In the second quarter of 2024, our advocacy initiatives were characterized by forging strategic partnerships, employing

innovative engagement strategies, and maintaining a strong commitment to advancing sustainable development goals in the Niger Delta region. Engagements with State governments focused on collaborating with civil servants while also engaging influential political leaders such as Commissioners and Special Advisers. This two-prong approach has helped in the achievement of the expected results relating to our government engagement objectives, with an emphasis on influencing government spending and investment in the development activities in the region. This is evident in the results from the engagements with Cross River and Abia states. The following explain key highlights:

- **Equitable Access to Land by small holder farmers:** PIND continued its collaboration with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo states by assisting in finalizing policy and legislative processes relating to access to land for smallholder farmers in Q2 2024. PIND is supporting the articulation and review of draft policies and legislation in collaboration with the respective States' arable land committees and the Ministries of Justice to develop a draft policy document. These policies have been useful in supporting the implementation of projects with access to arable land-related activities such as the FAO FOLUR-IP project. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization awarded PIND a \$153,000 grant for the implementation of components of the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States). In the previous quarter, an inception workshop was held to present the project to the public, familiarize with the consortium partners and technical details of the project, and discuss the commitments and operational strategies for delivery.
- **Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention:** In Q2 2024, PIND continued to collate and update policy changes relating to Multiple Taxation and illegal levies nationally. There has been significant progress made in responding to PIND advocacy efforts in this regard. Some of the expected results from this intervention such as the development of a documentary, the printing and dissemination of the field assessment on the effect of multiple taxation and illegal levies and the convening have progressed in Q2, with the commencement of production of the report underway and other interventions at final stages. Engagements with partners such as the Tax Justice and Governance platform continued in quarter 2 with agreements on establishing a body of business membership organizations (BMOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to help intensify the advocacy for tax policy reform in the focal Niger Delta States and to support the implementation of PINDs advocacy efforts towards these policy reforms

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 of peace and economic growth of the Niger Delta. The Program focuses on two major areas, the first being to strengthen the capacity of local development organizations in the Niger Delta to adopt the market systems approach through the Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) project. The second area of focus is to strengthen Chevron's host community development trust organizations (previously referred to as Regional Development Councils [RDCs]) that carry out developmental projects in the host communities in line with Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Baseline Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for three HCDTs Completed: During this quarter, the Capacity Building program carried out two baseline Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) in addition to Ugboland, done in the previous quarter, completing for three out of four CNL HCDTs. The communities are Egbema Opudis and Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe HCDTs in Delta state. The HCDTs were assessed across 13 domains which include leadership, project and financial management, human resource management, fundraising and mobilization, peacebuilding, Gender, Community and External stakeholders' engagement and Advocacy. The baseline OCA was aimed at systematically assess the HCDT's current capabilities, identify organizational capacity gaps to ensure that the leadership and administration of the HCDT possess the necessary technical and institutional capabilities for efficient operations in alignment with the PIA Act.

Also, during this quarter, a Validation Workshop was held for the three of the Chevron-established HCDTs; Ugboland, Egbema-OPUDIS, and Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, to ascertain the accuracy and validity of the data collected during the baseline OCA, ensuring that it accurately reflects the current organizational capacities and needs of the HCDT. The process actively involved the HCDT members in discussing the assessment findings, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the improvement process, and collaboratively identifying and prioritizing key areas for capacity development. Emanating from the validation workshop, a Capacity Development Action Plan which outlines specific/actionable steps that will be taken to address the identified gaps, was also developed for the HCDTs to support its growth and enhance the overall organizational capacity of the HCDTs.

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 **Working Fingers International** formerly known as Divine Support Initiative in Asaba, Delta state, **Better Living Foundation** in Akure, Ondo state, and **Ududu Development and Peace Initiative** in Rivers State. Two other organizations, **Women United for Economic Empowerment** and **Antof Rural Resource Development Centre**, which received capacity-building training from PIND in resource mobilization, financial management, and proposal writing accessed a total of 410 million Naira, tracked in Q2 2024.

Business Development

In line with its efforts 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.

The second quarter of 2024 saw several discussions with donors to deepen partnerships and collaborations. A key example was the discussion between Bank of Industry (BOI) and PIND for a possible intervention on Access to Renewable Energy in the Niger Delta. The BDS Team continued to hold internal collaboration meetings with the program teams to ensure seamless delivery of projects PIND has committed to, as well as progressing funding landscape analysis.

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.

PIND has a strategic target of enabling at least 81,000 women (40% of the overall target) over five years (2020-2024) to increase their incomes, thereby positioning women’s economic empowerment at the core of its economic development implementation activities. In Q2 2024, the total outreach who participated in various economic development interventions was 14,530, out of which 7,876 (55%) were males and 6,498 (45%) were females. We recorded 8 PWD who got enrolled in YEP training.

Similarly, a total of 276 women (37% of the total beneficiaries); 478 men (63% of the total beneficiaries); 291 youths (39% of the total beneficiaries) 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.

In summary, the organization-wise gender mainstreaming as at Q2 2024 was 24,057 (47.60%) from a total of 50,544 surpassing its 2024 annual target of 40%, while persons with disabilities (PWDs) were 8.

1.2 Challenges/Mitigation

Challenges

Market Development and Peace Building Programs: Soaring production costs driven by the high cost of input (especially feed), insecurity, and high energy expenses are negatively affecting the productivity of smallholder farmers. Also, escalating costs of transportation, agricultural inputs, and high cost of other transactions is exacerbated by rising fuel prices limiting movements and travel within the region. PIND continues to strengthen the Service Providers with modern information to provide needed support to the farmers/MSMEs to adopt coping strategies in their businesses.

Youth Employment Pathways Program: Many youths residing in semi-rural areas faced difficulties in participating in training due high cost of transportation. Options such as virtual training, staying with friends or relatives in urban centers where training centers are located or seeking external support are being explored.

Access to Energy: The second quarter of 2024 presented several challenges for the A2E program:

- Firstly, exchange rate volatility, significantly impacted the cost structure of the Solar PV renewable energy sector. This fluctuation made it more expensive and difficult for private investors to secure the necessary funding and resources. Leading power developers to prioritize robust credit risk management and strong unit economics over rapid growth to stay afloat.

- Secondly, security concerns, limited travels to some coastal communities¹ and hindered the A2E team's ability to visit these areas and obtain firsthand energy and status information.
- Thirdly, some community stakeholders were not willing to pay for electricity, holding on to the mindset that electricity should be free for their communities. This reluctance to invest in paid electricity solutions posed a significant barrier to implementing sustainable clean energy projects in these communities. PIND continues to provide necessary support to the energy providers to enhance their community orientations efforts toward educating the communities on electricity consumptions, costs and sustainability.

Peace Building: Violent protests caused by political tensions in Rivers State, and communal violence in Edo state slowed down some PB activities. As the situation returns to normal, PB will continue with its activities.

Program Management

Governance and Accountability:

PIND 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR).

- Within the quarter, PIND completed its 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR), to inform strategic direction and identify opportunities for continued development with respect to its partnership-based approach to corporate social enterprise.
- Specifically, the PSR reviewed PIND's development strategies and approaches to improve effectiveness; explored how partners (i.e. funders, beneficiaries, implementers and Government) view the foundation;
- Examined links between partner goals and interests; and assessed PIND's impact and influence, how it could achieve lasting benefits, and how to ensure its operations are sustainable. The findings and recommendations of the PSR have been produced and shared with the Boards of PIND/NDPI foundation and its deployment in the development of strategic plan has begun.

Organizational Sustainability:

Phase IV strategy development: With the completion of the PSR processes, phase IV strategy development commenced with the engagement of a consultant to produce a consolidated strategy for 2025 – 2029. Findings from the PSR and Impact Evaluation reports would be used to achieve this.

Ford Foundation - The Bridges Project: The activities of The Bridges Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) continued with its 6th meeting which took place in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, with 20 members in attendance. Insights on the experiences of implementing the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) from the participating stakeholders and HCDDTs were shared. These insights were intended to aid in the development of effective models for PIA implementation.

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union- Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, "A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta" continued in Q2.

FAO FOLUR project: The Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States), which was officially launched at the State level has commenced implementation in this quarter with engagements in 16 local government areas in Cross River and Ondo State. The goal of this aspect of the project is to influence customary land titling for smallholder farmers.

¹ due to heightened security tension around Bomadi, Ughelli and Forcados waterways following an ambush on JTF personnel at Okuoma Community resulting in significant military casualties. Military authorities have commenced massive operations in Bomadi/Ughelli areas and Forcados waterways in search of fleeing perpetrators and this could expand to other coastal communities away from the incident area. This has resulted in a large concentration of military personnel at Bomadi and Ughelli along the East – West Road which could impact traffic flow.

Summary of progress against 2024 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2024 target as at Q2.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2024
Outreach	85,000	49,015
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	36,500 (15,603 direct)	24,282 ²
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	14,000	5,331
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	17,000	10,190 ³
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	9,500	5,227
<i>MSME development</i>	8,000	3,985
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	38,645	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	15,145	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	6,000	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	7,000	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	6,000	
<i>MSME development</i>	4,500	
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦21.12 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦6.55 billion	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.22 billion	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦5.53 billion	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦3.48 billion	
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.34 billion	
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	Results will be reported in Q3
New jobs facilitated	12,709	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	3,200	
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,669	
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	1,518	
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,948	
<i>MSME development</i>	3,374	
<i>Access to energy</i>	98	
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	800	
Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]	₦13.77 billion	₦4.07 billion Equity (₦4.05 billion) Debt financing (₦25.60 million)
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦4.51 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦1.26 billion	₦58.06 million ⁴
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦2.40 billion	₦385.05 million
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.30 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.19 billion	₦25.60 million
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦1.11 billion	₦3.61 billion ⁵
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	-
Youths with applicable skills for employment	1,200	74
Peace Building Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2024
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	215	84
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,449	1,085
Peace actors taking action to mitigate conflict	1,284	575
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	108	67
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	Results will be reported in Q3

² These are both direct and Indirect farmers for Q1 and Q2

³ 5,082 Indirect farmers who adopted IHT in Q1 and Q2 were estimated

⁴ Investment on improved seedlings, and technology in cocoa in Q1 and Q2 2024

⁵ **Leveraged funds in Q1:** N12,689,500 investments from OGB Energy into a 15kWp mini-grid in Bateren, Delta State; N2,808,375,000 from A4&T into a 480kWp mini grid at Araromi Obu; N335,587,500 into a 48kWp mini grid at Ilugha and N296,640,000 into a 48kWp mini grid at Epe communities, Ondo State. **Leveraged funds in Q2:** NGN 151,930,543 by YEAC into an Energy Cabin project in Umuolu Community, Delta State. This 82 kWp energy cabin, built on a 200 sqm plot of gifted land,

Coastal Community Development Indicators		2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2024
<i>Access to Energy</i>			
Businesses with access to clean energy		1,419	1,316
Households with access to clean energy		2,612	5,344
People with access to energy technologies		15,976	33,415
Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions		₦1.68 billion	Results will be reported in Q3⁶
<i>Capacity Building</i>			
Net change in capacity index of HCDDTs/other Organizations		2.0 (average score)	To be updated after the planned impact study
Organizations accessing funds/grants		9	2
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support		₦168 million	₦410million ⁷
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDDTs and other implementing Partners).		7	3 ⁸
General Enabling Program Indicators		2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2024
<i>Advocacy</i>			
Total value of public spending by governments and other institutions		₦1.0 billion	Results will be reported in Q3
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors		₦1.28 billion ⁹	-
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors		₦1.11 billion	₦3.61 billion
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of Progress	In Q2 2024, PIND continued to collate and update policy changes relating to Multiple Taxation and illegal levies nationally. Engagements with partners such as the Tax Justice and Governance platform continued in quarter 2 with agreements on establishing a body of BMOs and CSOs to help intensify the advocacy for tax policy reform in the focal Niger Delta States and to support the implementation of PINDs advocacy efforts towards these policy reforms.	
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of Progress	PIND continued its collaboration with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo states by assisting in finalizing policy and legislative processes relating to access to land for smallholder farmers in Q2 2024. PIND is supporting the articulation and review of draft policies and legislation in collaboration with the respective States' arable land committees and the Ministries of Justice to develop a draft policy document.	
Change in policies and strategies conducive for building peaceful/non-violent society.	Evidence of coherence and coordination of interventions	Collaboration with Peacebuilding on the NDRPS has been sustained in Q2 with the validation workshop and the production of a final draft of the document. The report is now ready for presentation to the Ministry of Niger Delta Development (MNDD) for subsequent lurching by the Federal Government.	
<i>Business Development</i>			
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs		₦1.37 billion	₦0
<i>Communications</i>		2024 Target	Cumulative Results as at Q2 2024
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation		47	16
Public endorsements of PIND's work		131	181
Media reports with PIND mention		146	112

⁶ This includes benefits accruing to users connected in the preceding year.

⁷ Antof Rural Resource Development Centre, which received capacity-building training from PIND in resource mobilization, financial management, and proposal writing, etc. accessed a total of 410 million Naira this year. . Women United for Economic Empowerment successfully leveraged over 300,000 USD (390M) for various projects and consultancy services. Antof Rural Resource Development

⁸ These organizations include Working Fingers International formerly known as Divine Support Initiative in Asaba, Delta state, Better Living Foundation in Akure, Ondo state, and Ududu Development and Peace Initiative in Rivers State

⁹ Funds raised by the CSOs under Capacity Building(₦168million) and Investment leveraged under A2E ₦1.11billion

Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	899	962
Website new visitors	42,104	47,428
Social media reach	4,510,530	6,420,630
Mainstream media reach	1,703,808	1,065,394
Email enquiries	308	311

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-economic environment

Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levies on Small Businesses/farmers

The “half year 2024 Nigerian Economic and Financial Market Review and Outlook for H2 2024” report released on Wednesday July 10th, attributes a significant drop in the purchasing power of MSMEs/farmers due to high inflation rates, which have maintained an upward trend in 2024, up by 26 basis points to 34.19 per cent (22.8% in June 2023), harsh business environments, currency devaluation, and “Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levies on Small Businesses/farmers”.. So many businesses are shrinking across Nigeria as they grapple with astronomic rise in the cost of production and operations, and other unfavorable microeconomic factors. - <https://www.cnbcafrica.com/media/6355292152112/>.

While taxes serve as crucial revenue sources for governments to foster economic development and deliver social services, small businesses grapple with the adverse impact of taxes and levies on their ability to maintain operations and scale their businesses. MSMEs face highly discriminatory tax rates, multiple levies, complex tax regulations, and a need for proper enlightenment or education about tax-related issues. They are also challenged by government macroeconomic policies and government regulations, which adversely affect their operations. All of these eat deeply into their revenue, impeding their growth and survival.

While federal, state, and local governments strive to stabilize general price levels and enhance employment prospects by fostering the establishment of small-scale enterprises, the imposition of new taxes and levies and the escalation of existing ones significantly hinder business activities. In an environment where trade taxes, levies, surcharges, and various other fees contribute to the operational and transactional costs of businesses, the arbitrary implementation of these fiscal measures amplifies uncertainty for enterprises in the Niger Delta. It exacerbates the overall cost of doing business. However, there are reasons to be sympathetic to the local government's indiscriminate illegal charges.

PIND has been prominent in this space toward influencing government policies through its advocacies. It has continued to garner public opinion on the matter and assure inclusivity. In 2021, PIND conducted a survey and organized interactive discussion programs on the issues on popular radio stations in the target states. PIND has been featured on television programs and interviews to further discuss these issues.

PIND is collaborating with other organizations such as the Tax Justice Platform, BMOs and CSOs in pushing for legislative review and are currently receiving attention and influencing changes at states and federal levels. The Presidential Committee on Tax Reforms and Fiscal Policy on Tuesday, October 24, said its target is to cut down the long list of officially collectible taxes and levies, which currently exceeds 60, into a much more manageable single-digit number. <https://thenationonlineng.net/tax-reforms-fg-plans-streamlining-over-200-taxes-to-less-than-10/> He added that Nigeria is currently at a critical phase of revising its laws and regulations on taxation, he disclosed that the committee had engaged with the Senate and the House of Representatives with the objective of addressing all necessary reforms. PIND plans to further advance targeted advocacy on this issue with the State governments and agencies that are responsible for tax administration and collection.

2.1 Security

While the overall peace and security situation in the Niger Delta in Q2 2024 continued to show an improvement, several violent crimes were observed across the nine states of the Niger Delta region. For example, on 30 May 24, IPOB members attacked a military checkpoint at Obikabia Junction in Obingwa LGA, which is adjoining Aba metropolis and killed five soldiers during their May 30 Biafra Day celebrations. In response to the incident, security forces have deployed reinforcements and blocked roads in key areas of Aba North Local Government, extending into some villages in the

Obingwa area.

Cult gang-related violent activities have intensified across the southern west and south-south regions. Edo State is particularly experiencing noticeable increase in the frequency and reporting of cult gang-related violence, mainly due to the upcoming gubernatorial election in the state taking place in September 2024. The cult gang clashes, and criminal activities being recorded in the southern states are primarily related to power struggles and domination of criminal activities including the control and the supply of drugs, with many cult gangs having links and support from political actors.

The threat of kidnap for ransom remains a security concern for all persons in Nigeria, irrespective of the risk assessment in their areas of operations or residences – no part of Nigeria is currently immune to the menace. This existing and emerging groups conduct kidnap operations even in low-risk areas for financial or ideological (as with insurgents) reasons. With the current economic conditions, it is assessed that the threat will either remain high or escalate unless the government is able to put in place effective curbing measures.

In FCT, the primary security concern 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). Similarly, the threat of kidnap/abduction persists across the six area councils of the FCT. While “one chance” incidents in the AMAC metropolis remain prevalent along the roads, the new abductions pattern indicates the targeting of victims at their residences (including areas hitherto perceived to be relatively safe) and this remains a security concern.

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 four agricultural value chains (cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry) and an MSMEs development program with 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 projects 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 such as..... 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:



3.1.0 Market Systems Development

This section highlights key achievements of all initiatives implemented under the Market Systems Development (MSD) project in Quarter 2, 2024.

This project supports farmers and small enterprises in key agricultural sectors in the Niger Delta to improve their productivity, leading to an increase in income and reduction of poverty. The project utilizes the market systems development approach that relies on sound initial analysis of market systems to pinpoint the underlying causes of market weaknesses, to inform the design and implementation of interventions that address the underlying causes, rather than symptoms, of market failure. To ensure the sustainability of PIND's interventions, the development activities are further anchored on a service providers' model that equips local service providers with the right skills, tools, and connections to sustainably provide viable market solutions that address the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises. This approach is used to support poor farmers in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs. These sectors represent the most viable agricultural value chains in the Niger Delta.

3.1.1 Q2 2024 Key Achievements

o More Farmers/MSMEs reached through extension of improved services

Solving farmers and MSMEs' lack of access to business services and other support functions is key to boosting productivity. The focus for 2024 market system development activities has been to continue to strengthen adaptation strategies such as training, field demonstrations, information sharing, etc. developed by PIND's supported network of market actors to increase reach to 85,000 additional farmers and SMEs, out of which about 38,645 are expected to increase their incomes.

In this quarter, over 65 Service Providers supported by PIND, provided support services to farmers/MSMEs in Cassava, Cocoa, Palm oil, Poultry and Business linkages with training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) across the region. Example of services include training on improved pruning of oil palm trees, spraying and proper fertilizer applications. Cassava farmers continue to adopt proper land preparations, herbicides, improved cassava stems and proper fertilizer applications.



Figure 1: A demonstration of oil palm tree pruning by a service provider

Also, within the quarter, monitoring shows increased adoption of improved practices by poultry farmers through the support of the Poultry Service Providers (PSPs) across the region such as vaccination of birds, provision of clean water round the clock, giving of concentrates, and ensuring biosecurity.

In summary, 14,186 farmers/MSMEs representing 83.4% of Q2 target were directly reached with improved services out of which 6,295 (44.3%) were female farmers. The cumulative outreach comprising indirect participant as at Q2 2024 was 49,190 which is 57.8% against the annual target of 85,000. – see table 1¹⁰.

Table 1. MSD Q2 progress against 2024 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	P W D	Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q2	Q2	Q2 %	Q2	Q2	2024	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached (Direct + Indirect)	17,000 (direct)	14,186 (direct)	83%	6,295	0	85,000	49,190 (direct & Indirect)	57.8%	23,422 (direct & Indirect)	0
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦213.3 m ¹¹	-			N12.67 billion	₦468.71 m	3.7%**		

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

o Investment by Farmers on adoption of improved practices.

As farmers and MSMEs adopt improved practices, they continued to invest in their businesses. Within the reporting period PIND recorded investment of over ₦213 million from adoption of 151,909 improved oil palm seedlings as well as in purchase of improved farm technologies.¹² For example, 22,000 Allisee Seedlings and Sprouted Nuts were adopted at Oghara, 125,000 PalmElit seedlings were adopted by Ellah Lakes Oil Palm Farm Iguelaba in Orhionwhon LGA of Edo State, and Babatunde Lawal Farms in Ondo State. Also, 3,372 PalmElit Sprouted Nuts, 1,537 NIFOR EWS Sprouted Nuts in Edo State and 9,000 cocoa seedlings were produced across the ND by the trained Primary Nursery Operators. In summary, PIND leveraged ₦468.7 million from the adoption of seeds and improved farm tools from January to June 2024.

¹⁰ Q2 2024 breakdown of the outreach: Cassava 20,471 – (3,481 direct cassava farmers + 16,990 indirect estimate), 2,203 - 63% females, Cocoa - A total of 3,155 farmers were reached, 774 – 24% females, Palm oil - A total of 1,974 farmers/MSMEs participated in the event. 823 – 42%, Poultry - A total of 3,095 poultry farmers were reached, 1,783 -58% females, MSMSs - A total of 2,481 micro and small enterprises were reached, 712– 29% female owned.

¹¹ N178,798,000 leveraged on improved harvesting tools and improved oil palm seedlings + N 25,600,000 debt financing by MSMEs

¹² 1 Mechanical Pruner, tillers, earth augers, 10 motorized knapsack sprayers by Agronadol in Edo State

○ **Farmers' access to quality cassava stems through CSEs soars.**

PIND's collaboration with the National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) and the BASICS II project, Umudike, represents a significant advancement in fortifying the cassava seed system within the region. Through this partnership, our focus extends to supporting 25 Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) by leveraging the expertise and infrastructure provided by Umudike Seeds. Another set of 18 CSEs is set for onboarding and seamless integration into the program. This includes comprehensive training, resource allocation, and the cultivation of sustainable partnerships to empower these entrepreneurs in driving cassava seed multiplication and productivity enhancement within their communities



Figure 2: Mfon Moses Umanah (FSP) with the support of the lead farmers conducted GAP training at Ikot Akpan Ntuen, Ukanafun LGA, Akwa-Ibom State on the 18/05/2024

During this quarter, CSEs in Abia State conducted step-down training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for other farmers, a crucial element of our strategy to enhance cassava seed cultivation. These CSEs collectively reached 404 farmers (237 males and 167 females), providing them with essential knowledge and skills. A significant milestone was achieved as the 25 CSE farms reached the stage warranting a visit from the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) as part of the CSE certification process and in line with PIND's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Umudike Seeds. The outcomes from the visit will be reported in Q3

○ **Support to MSMEs, Fisherfolks, and Processors in CNL Coastal Communities.**

As part of PIND's efforts to enhance the efficiency of MSMEs, fish processors, and fisherfolks in CNL host communities, PIND, in collaboration with CAD Consulting Limited and Newland Pathways Integrated, organized training sessions for MSMEs, including Point of sale (POS) businesses. The training focused on best business practices, business formalization, and establishing linkages. Additionally, follow-ups were conducted to assist MSMEs with business registration, and a WhatsApp group was created to facilitate post-engagement communication. The support to POS operators was necessitated to help them comply with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) regulations on CAC registration.



Figure 3: Participants at the business training for SMEs in Gbokoda, Ondo State

The training in Gbokoda, Ondo State, saw 107 participants (64 males, 43 females). A similar session in Ode-Ugborodo, Delta State, had 115 participants (25 males, 90 females). Overall, 222 MSMEs benefited from these engagements. Also, 47 fisherfolks (14 males, 33 females) were reached in Ugborodo, in Delta state. They were reached through training on better fishing practices/technologies and established linkages platform. This was done in collaboration with Marich Agro and CAD Consulting Limited.

○ **Strengthening growth and development of Poultry farmers in the Niger Delta Region.**

As part of PIND Foundation's ongoing efforts to support poultry farmers and contribute to their growth and development in the region, PIND collaborated with the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN), Delta state chapter to organize their inaugural poultry summit held on June 8, 2024. The summit featured several discussions on critical topics such as the role of government, NGOs, Private organizations, and research institutions in the sustainability of small and medium-scale poultry industry for food security, employment, and self-reliance in Delta state. Other topics include the use of artificial intelligence in poultry farming and intervention plans for poultry farmers in Delta State by the Delta State Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, the event offered networking opportunities for poultry farmers and other stakeholders.

The summit significantly enhanced awareness among poultry farmers about available resources, support systems, and best practices for sustainable growth. It facilitated knowledge sharing, contributing to the overall capacity building of poultry in Delta State and beyond. Networking and collaboration opportunities were fostered, leading to potential partnerships and linkages among stakeholders in the poultry sector.

○ Finalizing the Cross-cutting strategy

The Market System Development program is transforming to a new program delivery strategy to engender more gains for all market actors, i.e. shifting from sector-based interventions to cross-cutting portfolios. The sector based approach intervened in *aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry and MSMEs linkages*, while the cross-cutting approach which will be implemented from 2025 -2029, covers *Access to agricultural inputs (fertilizers, CPPs, feed, vaccines, etc.); Access to agricultural inputs (seeds); Access to technical services; Access to business development services and finance; and Access to industrial market and agricultural technology.*

This Quarter, the MSD made significant progress in finalizing the cross-cutting strategy document across the different thematic. The strategy document lays out the proposed model for implementation, key activities to be carried out, and stakeholders for engagement to kick start the pilot implementation in preparation for the next strategic phase commencing in 2025.

Cross-cutting approach is expected to be more inclusive, as more Service Provider will be crowded-in, and more farmers/MSMEs would be reached with improved services. This will also deliver more impact as productivity of farmers/MSMEs would increase, distributed across more commodities.

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 with the opportunities to secure sustainable jobs and enterprises. PIND's approach involves innovative and quality technical vocational 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 Communications 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 including Delta and Ondo States 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 Q2 2024 Key Achievements

Facilitating Training and Job/Enterprise Linkage:

Number of youths enrolled for 2024 YEP training in Ondo State: In this quarter, the YEP training program in Ondo State continued with 344 youths (57% female, including 8 PWDs) enrolled. The cumulative number of participants in the ongoing training in Ondo State as at Q2 2024 was 775. Selection of YEP Technical Partners for 2024 training program was also completed with 19 IPs onboarded across Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Rivers States. Seven (7) of the selected organizations are women-led representing 41%. The organizations have since commenced program implementation of 20 projects across the four Niger Delta States after completing the projects' grants signing.

Number of youths with applicable skills: This quarter, all the training commenced in 2024 are ongoing. The number of youths who completed their training remained 74 youths comprising - 50 Finished Leather trainees who completed their training in February 2024, conducted by The Footwear Academy, and 24 youths from Meranos (ICT sector) and Ibiteinye Farms (Agriculture sector). First set of graduation in 2024 will be in Q3. Activity and outcome monitoring are ongoing to track the impact of the training.

3.2.2 Update on start-up business challenge fund plans

2024 Batch of Entrepreneurship Development plan: Following the advertisement for start-up business applications from past YEP participants, 525 valid proposals were received, including 2.2% from PWDs and 43.4% from female applicants. After a thorough vetting process, 366 applicants met the eligibility criteria, which included completion of YEP training, being aged 18-32, and ongoing engagement in the technical skills area. Further screening by 14 implementing partners assessed the viability and operational status of the screened start-ups, resulting in 183 applications being shortlisted for

pitching. The pitch sessions were conducted across the 4 states and involved evaluation by PIND teams from the program, PSS, Finance, and technical implementing partners. The assessors focused on business goals, viability, and financial projections to determine who made the final shortlist for recommendation and funding awards. Following the final approval in Q3, the successful candidates will be issued with the challenge fund.

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).

Building on the momentum from the first quarter, A2E continued to expand its reach, bringing clean and reliable energy solutions to more communities, businesses, and households. The program's efforts have significantly contributed to bridging the energy access gap, fostering economic growth, and improving the quality of life of people in the region. Examples are the energy mini-grids at Bateren in Warri South-West, Umolu Ndokwa East of Delta state; as well as Araromi Obu – Odigbo and Ilugha - Ondo West in Ondo State

Moreover, A2E facilitated community energy assessments in Esena-Ebe, Osain, and Agogboro communities. These assessments highlighted the pressing need for reliable and sustainable energy solutions, particularly in commercially viable areas that have been without reliable electricity for extended periods. In addition to on-the-ground efforts, A2E participated in the ARE Energy Access Investment Forum (EAIF) 2024, the leading annual investment event for the renewable electrification sector. This platform allowed A2E to showcase its models and share insights that would drive adoption and investments in the Niger Delta's renewable energy sector. A2E also attended the US-Africa Business Summit, where A2E's work in the electrification of the Niger Delta was discussed with high-level stakeholders from around the world.

Furthermore, A2E continued to support ecosystem partners by participating in the revalidation exercise for competency standards for training skilled technicians in the off-grid energy market, aiming to align existing standards with the evolving needs of the Nigerian renewable energy sector. Through strategic partnerships, community-centric assessments, active industry engagement, and capacity-building efforts, A2E has continued to drive the adoption of clean energy solutions and foster sustainable development in the Niger Delta.

Catalyzing Community Development through Strategic Private Sector Investments

A cornerstone of private partnership in Q2 is the significant investment of NGN 151,930,543 by YEAC into an Energy Cabin project in Umuolu Community, Delta State. This 82 kWp energy cabin, built on a 200 sqm plot of gifted land, has been a transformative force, providing electricity to 260 households and over 30 businesses. This project has directly benefited 1,590 individuals, underscoring the critical role of renewable energy in not only providing power but also in supporting peace advocacy and broader economic activities.

The Umuolu Community Energy Cabin project created six new jobs, including two technical operator positions and four electricity vendor roles. Additionally, its training programs equipped 24 individuals with the necessary skills to support and sustain these energy solutions. This focus on local capacity building ensures the long-term success and sustainability of the projects, empowering communities to take ownership and actively participate in their development.

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 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 in 2020 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 default by smallholder Farmers (SHFs) and SMEs, thus incentivizing and stimulating financial institutions, and unlocking the flow of funds along the value chains.

SK outlook for 2024 was to consolidate in prior years achievements; it's target for the year 2024 is to facilitate loans worth N100 million to 300 businesses in the selected value chains of poultry, cocoa, oil palm, cassava and MSMEs (particularly aquaculture) across the focal states of Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Imo and Ondo. This is set to be achieved through financial linkages, interest subsidy and risk sharing mechanism. Part of SK's intent is to promote gender parity, targeting 40% women inclusion. SK plans to sustain this objective in 2024 through support to women groups and established businesses/cooperatives with substantial women participation and business groups.

Key Q2 2024 Achievements

Following the progress and lessons learnt in the prior quarter, SK continued the intervention mandate for increased financial inclusion in the Niger Delta region, addressing and mitigating the inhibiting factors (Sector specific and Systemic barriers) that affect the flow of finance to the agricultural value chain while focusing on specific value chains with comparative advantage in the region.

In Q2, SK facilitated the disbursement and rollover loans of 25 million Naira to over 250 SHFs (aquaculture, and Oil Palm) in Corporate/SME including Nano operators in the poultry and MSMEs in aquaculture value chain through PIND's service providers in Ondo and Delta state respectively. The cumulative amount disbursed in 2024 as at midyear was ₦96.7 million to 594 beneficiaries. Gender inclusion soared to over 50% in the reporting period. To increase reach and implement an adaptive strategy based on current realities, SK is initiating a bespoke hub and spoke model in the poultry value chain focusing on MSMEs in the Niger Delta Region in collaboration with the Aventure Songhai farm, Amukpa Sapele and Sterling Bank Plc.

In addition to facilitation of finance to deserving SMEs, SK continued to implement a risk management mechanism that enhances the sustainability of projects/ projected default rate of 5%. In Q2 SK continued strategic business development meetings with financial institutions and development agencies (IDH, Ecobank and BoA) with the perspective of actualizing a collaboration path for scale in her financial intermediation mandate creating alternative economic focus in agriculture for increased wealth and wellbeing in the Niger Delta Region.

Table 2: Q2 2024 Sombreiro Kapital 2024 Outlook

2024 Sombreiro Kapital (SK) performance							
Indicators	Target	Q1 2024		Q2 2024		YEAR TO DATE (Q1 & Q2)	
		Q1 Result	No of females	Q2 Result	No of females	Q1 & Q2 Result	No of Female
No of farmers supported to receive loans by SK (units)	300	342	140	252	153	594	293
Volume of loans facilitated (₦)	100,000,000	71,783,080		25,000,000		96,783,080	
Default rate CRG on loans facilitated	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
New Investment leveraged into SK (₦)	40,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
No of farmers receiving loans from commercial Banks post SK Support (every 2 years)	NA	300	NA	0	NA	300	

3.5.0 Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity (AEAS) – Q3 FY24

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 Lean¹³ 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.

Building on the success of the proof-of-concept phase (May 2020 to May 2022), the Activity has continued to expand its reach and impact by reinforcing strategies to extend services to smallholder farmers. During the third quarter of FY24, the Activity made significant progress in building the capacity of MSMEs and reaching smallholder farmers (SHFs) in the states of Cross River and Delta with extension messages on the MIPs/ improved production practices. Specifically, 21 MSMEs were engaged, and 19,514 SHFs received extension messaging, demonstrating the Activity's commitment to scaling its successes and consolidating gains.

In the current reporting quarter, the Activity focused on scaling the number of farmers who receive extension messaging to enhance their productivity, while emphasizing the sustainability of its success after completion and exit. To achieve this, the Activity employed a range of strategies, including demand stimulation, digital Apps, video extension, bio-fertilizer/demo plot establishment, and off-taker/aggregator. The following key activities and results highlight the performance of the Extension Activity in FY24 Q3:

Farmers outreach: A total of 19,514 new farmers were reached with extension messaging in the two States, comprising 10,770 males, 8,744 females, and 6,337 youth. The high level of outreach can be attributed to the wet cropping season and the strong demand for the Most Impactful Practices (MIPs) by smallholder farmers through the 21 partner MSMEs. The majority of the farmers, amounting to 15,535, were reached through demand stimulation initiatives. In accordance with the five strategies developed by the Extension Activity to scale the number of smallholder farmers receiving extension services, 2,715 farmers were reached through suite of digital app (Rice App, Field Area Measure App, Plantix App) initiatives and 866 smallholder farmers were reached through various video enabled extension platform. The provision of support to MSMEs through the Partnership and Innovation Fund (PIF) initiative played a significant role in enhancing farmers' outreach during the quarter. The Activity provided innovative financing facilities to 10 MSMEs who have demonstrated a track record of competence in transforming extension services into a viable enterprise in previous years. The PIF enabled these MSMEs to increase their participation in extension service delivery, thereby scaling the number of farmers who received extension messaging and ultimately enhancing their productivity and income. Table 3 presents a breakdown of the farmers who received extension messaging in the two states, highlighting the distribution of beneficiaries across Cross River and Delta State.

Table 3: Total participants in Q3-FY24

FY24 Q3 total participants	Cross River	Delta	Total
Number of individuals participating	10,654	9,128	19,782
Number of farmers participating	10,515	8,999	19,514

¹³ 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.

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 has focused on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives that promote a more enabling, integrated, and peaceable environment conducive for economic growth and development in the region.

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



This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q2,2024.

4.1 Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q2 2024

Communal conflict over land and boundary disputes as well as clashes between herders and farmers declined during the period. Data uploaded on the P4P Peace Map shows that communal violence reduced by 31.57% from 19 reported fatalities in Q1 to 13 fatalities in Q2 of 2024. However, general conflict issues - lethal violence, reported incidents of conflict risk and violence, organized criminality, including clashes between hoodlums and government security forces, and kidnap for ransom, criminal violence and clashes between cult gangs showed increases across the Niger Delta in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter of the year.

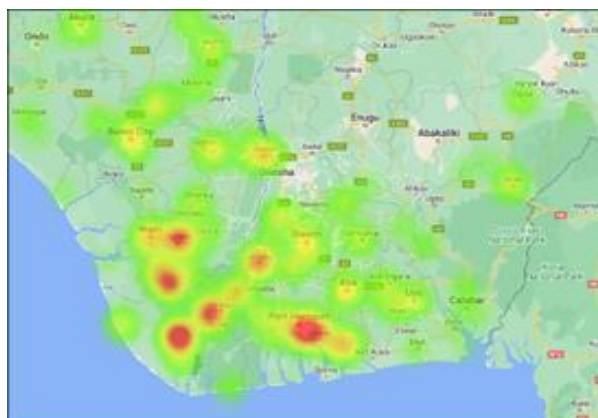


Figure 4: Niger Delta Conflict Fatalities Heat Map Q2 2024

4.2 Peace building highlights of activities in Q2 2024:

Production and dissemination of PB research products: In Q2, 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 14 data-driven research and analytical products including 13 weekly conflict briefs and 1 quarterly (2024 Q1) conflict report and 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.



Figure 5: Step-down Training on Inclusive Leadership and Conflict Transformation for Community Leaders in Rivers State

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union- Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, “A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta” continued in Q2. The 6.5million Euro project which is implemented by consortium of partners - Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) and Academic Associates Peace Works (AAPW), and PIND, drives the Early Warning, Early Response (EWER) and social cohesion component of the interventions through the Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND.

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. Activities during the period were multifaceted including the step-down capacity strengthening on inclusive leadership and conflict transformation in 26 project communities spanning 13 LGAs within Rivers.

Another key activity was the routine monitoring of the trained 330 EWER monitors across the 66 project communities, conflict incident tracking, analysis, and conflict bulletin production. PIND played a crucial role in furthering peacebuilding efforts during the reporting quarter by drafting two monthly conflict bulletins. The conflict bulletins continued to serve as valuable resources for stakeholders, fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration towards transforming criminality and violence in the Niger Delta region. Furthermore, PIND aided the establishment and inauguration of community peace architectures (CPAs) in the project communities in Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers states. The CPAs serve as the response components to the conflict incident reports from field monitors. They meet on a monthly basis to discuss emerging threats, share information, and coordinate responses within the community. Also, in order to strengthen collaboration between local actors, including communities, local and state government officials, and formal and informal security actors, IPDU supported SFCG to facilitate the establishment and inauguration of local-level peace architectures (LPAs) in the project LGAs in Delta and Rivers States. The LPAs champion collaboration with the CPAs to address emerging conflict issues within the project communities.

Niger Delta Peace and Security Network Meeting

PIND coordinated Niger Delta Peace and Security Network (NDPSN) meeting in Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River and Ondo states to intensify peace and security management in the region. The NDPSN is a structure established by PIND in 2017 that mobilizes and coordinates various actors involved in peace, security and development in the Niger Delta. The meetings had a total of 100 participants drawn from government – police, NSCDC, military, local NGOs, CBOs, traditional and religious institutions, informal sector actors among others. A follow-up with the stakeholders shows that a number of them are incorporating the value derived from the meeting, which usually incorporates a peacebuilding training for their programming and activities. Some are also applying the skills to resolve conflicts in their localities.

4.3 Key/immediate peace building outcomes in Q2 2024

Analysis of the utilization of PIND's data products revealed that 181 stakeholders utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis during the review period. Specifically, selected stakeholders from non-governmental organizations and academia

reported utilizing PIND’s peacebuilding data and analysis for various purposes. Also, 65 stakeholders whose capacities had been strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training¹⁴ sessions and workshops, applied the skills they had acquired to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities while, 249 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta, utilizing 37 ‘quality actions’¹⁵ to resolve these conflicts within the reporting period

Table 4: Summary of selected interventions carried out by some peace actors in Q2 2024

Resolving Communal Conflicts in Rivers State
<p>Chief Ojobah, a traditional ruler from Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/ Ndoni LGA, Rivers State, was trained in community inclusive leadership and conflict transformation in April 2024. He used his leadership skills to resolve a conflict that would have led to a serious crisis in his community, if not properly managed. The situation was a life-threatening case over contracts awarded by an International Oil company (IOC). Some community members and the Ogba/Egbema/ Ndoni security and planning advisory committee (OSPAC) were against the contract awardees who, out of greed, did not meet the community’s expectations. The matter was later referred to a reconciliation committee, under the ONELGA traditional institution at the Oba's palace. Chief Ojobah, a member of the committee, invited all the parties involved and the issue was finally resolved thereby enthroning peace.</p>
Addressing Intra-communal Conflicts in Igbogene, Bayelsa
<p>Yeghinime is a peace actor from Igbogene in Yenegoa, Bayelsa State. In May 2024, he intervened in a dispute between a family and a contractor that would have deprived the entire community of infrastructural development project by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in their community. The community donated a land for the building of a town hall. However, conflict emerged when the contractor wanted to start work and a family came out to stop the contractor claiming they own the land. This caused conflict between the community leaders and the family. Mr Yeghinima mobilized few members of the youth executives to engage the two parties. He was able to use his skill in conflict management to investigate the issue. It was found out that the family has before now donated the piece of land to the community. After this fact came up, the family settled with the community and the contractor was allowed to continue the building project.</p>

4.4 Quality and comprehensive policies and strategies that promote a peaceful non-violent society

PIND and the Ministry of Niger Delta Development (MNDD) successfully drafted the Niger Delta Regional Peace Strategy (NDRPS) document after a rigorous process. This includes the inauguration of a Technical Working Group (TWG) in 2022, comprising at least 45 relevant stakeholders. In 2023, town hall meetings with over 315 participants were also organized in the 9 Niger Delta states to document the views of relevant stakeholders on peace and security constraints, as well as suggestions to address them. Based on the foregoing, 45 stakeholders participated in a validation meeting at Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, on Thursday, 18th April, 2024 where the NDRPS document was strategically reviewed to ensure that it aligns with the objectives of the NDRPS. The validation exercise was key to the finalization of the document and subsequent implementation.



Figure 6: Participants at the validation meeting of the NDRPS held in

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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).

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:

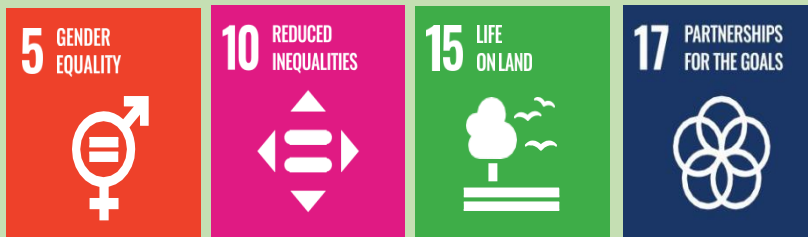
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation that plans and tracks progress toward the organizational goal.

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

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

A robust communications and outreach effort that enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging via multiple channels, of its unique selling points, transformative approaches, impacts, and learning.

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



This section shows key achievements in Quarter 2 of 2024 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program.

5.1 Capacity Building

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

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

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

Assessment (OCA) conducted on the RDCs. These include coaching, mentoring and training conducted for various committees of the RDCs including those in Video production and photography, Sustainable Project Management, and on gender equality and social inclusion.

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

Baseline Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for three HCDTs Completed

During this quarter, the Capacity Building program carried out two baseline Organizational Capacity Assessments (OCA) in addition to Ugboland, done in the previous quarter, completing for three out of four CNL HCDTs. The communities are Egbema Opudis and Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe HCDTs in Delta state. The HCDTs were assessed across 13 domains which include leadership, project and financial management, human resource management, fundraising and mobilization, peacebuilding, Gender, Community and External stakeholders' engagement and Advocacy. The baseline OCA was aimed at systematically assess the HCDT's current capabilities, identify organizational capacity gaps to ensure that the leadership and administration of the HCDT possess the necessary technical and institutional capabilities for efficient operations in alignment with the PIA Act.

Also, during this quarter, a Validation Workshop was held for the three of the Chevron-established HCDTs; Ugboland, Egbema-OPUDIS, and Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, to ascertain the accuracy and validity of the data collected during the baseline OCA, ensuring that it accurately reflects the current organizational capacities and needs of the HCDT. The process actively involved the HCDT members in discussing the assessment findings, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the improvement process, and collaboratively identifying and prioritizing key areas for capacity development. Emanating from the validation workshop, a Capacity Development Action Plan which outlines specific/actionable steps that will be taken to address the identified gaps, was also developed for the HCDTs to support its growth and enhance the overall organizational capacity of the HCDTs.



Figure 7: A cross section of participants at the validation workshop in Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe HCDT.

The baseline OCA was aimed at systematically assessing the HCDT's current capabilities, identify organizational capacity gaps to ensure that the leadership and administration of the HCDT possess the necessary technical and institutional capabilities for efficient operations in alignment with the PIA Act. This was followed by a Capacity Development Action Plan that was developed from the findings of the baseline assessment to further strengthen the capacity of the HCDTs. Implementation of these recommendations is scheduled for the coming quarters.

Capacity Building for Bridges Project Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Members

PIND hosted a one-day capacity-building workshop for members of the Bridges Project Multi-Stakeholder Platform on May 28, 2024 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The workshop aimed to build the capacity of the members and strengthen their conflict and grievance management skills, specifically for the effective resolutions of grievances and conflict situations in their communities and within the Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs). The training particularly enhanced their skills and abilities in conflict management and analysis and improved their understanding and application of mediation as a conflict resolution tool. Participants expressed appreciation for the valuable skills derived from the training. A representative from Akuku Toru HCDT, in Akuku Toru, Rivers State noted that the training on conflict and grievance management would help him manage conflicts, especially within the HCDT.

Organizations providing services and those 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 **Working Fingers International** formerly known as **Divine Support Initiative** in Asaba, Delta state, **Better Living Foundation** in Akure, Ondo state, and **Ududu Development and Peace Initiative** in Rivers State. Two organizations,

Women United for Economic Empowerment and **Antof Rural Resource Development Centre**, which received capacity-building training from PIND in resource mobilization, financial management, and proposal writing, etc. accessed a total of 410 million Naira this year.

5.2 Advocacy

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

In the second quarter of 2024, PIND's advocacy initiatives were characterized by forging strategic partnerships, employing innovative engagement strategies, and maintaining a strong commitment to advancing sustainable development goals in the Niger Delta region. Engagements with State governments focused on collaborating with civil servants while also engaging influential political leaders such as Commissioners and Special Advisers. This two-prong approach has helped in the achievement of the expected results relating to our government engagement objectives, with an emphasis on influencing government spending and investment in development activities in the region. This is evident in the results from the engagements with Cross River and Abia states.

The implementation of the PIA Bridges Project continued to gain momentum and relevance in the region, with capacity-building training for MSP members and deliberations aimed at collating feedback from key stakeholders on PIA implementation and providing valuable evidence to advocate and influence possible legislative changes in the PIA.

The implementation of the advocacy component of FAO's FOLUR project which started in Cross River and Ondo states in Q1, intensified in Q2. PIND engaged stakeholders in local government administration, traditional rulers and directors of Agric services in the 8 focal LGAs in each state.

Equitable access to land by smallholder farmers.

PIND continued its collaboration with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo states by assisting in finalizing policy and legislative processes relating to access to land for smallholder farmers in Q2 2024. PIND is supporting the articulation and review of draft policies and legislation in collaboration with the respective States' arable land committees and the Ministries of Justice to develop a draft policy document. These policies have been useful in supporting the implementation of projects with access to arable land-related activities such as the FAO FOLUR-IP project. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization awarded PIND a \$153,000 grant for the implementation of components of the Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States). In previous quarter, the inception workshop was held to present the project to the public, familiarized with the consortium partners and technical details of the project, as well as discussed, the commitments and operational strategies for delivery.

Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levy Intervention

In Q2 2024, PIND continued to collate and update policy changes relating to Multiple Taxation and illegal levies nationally. There has been significant progress made in responding to PIND advocacy efforts in this regard. Some of the expected results from this intervention such as the development of a documentary, the printing and dissemination of the field assessment on the effect of multiple taxation and illegal levies and the convening have progressed in Q2, with the commencement of production of the report underway and other interventions at final stages. Engagements with partners such as the Tax Justice and Governance platform continued in quarter 2 with agreements on establishing a body of BMOs and CSOs to help intensify the advocacy for tax policy reform in the focal Niger Delta States and to support the implementation of PIND's advocacy efforts towards these policy reforms.

Significant policy updates:

In May 2024 the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee (PFPTRC) set up by President Bola Tinubu hinted at plans to *revolutionize Nigeria's tax system, exempting 95% of the informal sector from all taxes. The move was aimed at reducing the burden of multiple taxation on small businesses and low-income individuals.* According, to the Committee Chairman, the Committee on Tax Reforms has completed its proposal phase and is currently in consultation with the key business stakeholders in the private sector as part of its engagement process. These consultations continued through

May, with approvals from the relevant governmental authorities, completed by the end of June 2024. The proposal is scheduled for submission to the National Assembly by Q3 2024, with enactment aimed at the end of Q3. Some immediate reforms, such as a new withholding tax regulation exempting small businesses, which do not require the executive assent were ready for implementation

As part of ongoing fiscal policy and tax reforms, a new withholding tax regime has been approved by the Federal Government to address key challenges and streamline tax processes. One significant change is the exemption of small businesses from withholding tax compliance, alleviating their administrative burden and supporting their growth. Some key changes include;

- Exemption for Small Businesses: Small businesses are now exempt from withholding tax compliance.
- Reduced Rates: Businesses with low-profit margins will benefit from reduced withholding tax rates.
- Exemptions for Manufacturers and Farmers: Specific exemptions are provided for manufacturers and producers, including farmers.
- Credit Utilization and Ease of Obtaining Credit: Simplified processes for obtaining and utilizing credits for tax deducted at source.
- Clarity on Procedures: Clear guidelines on the timing of tax deduction and definitions of key terms.

These policy changes largely reflect, in part, PIND's policy advocacy efforts in this regard which have included; the submission of a Memorandum, collaboration, and engagements with the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms, at national and state levels with the Tax Justice and Governance platform, who is a key stakeholder in this process and a member of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax reforms. PIND also attended stakeholders' engagement organized by the committee to present its proposals.

PINDs has been prominent in this space toward influencing government policies through its advocacies. It has continued to garner public opinion on the matter and assure inclusivity. In 2021, PIND conducted a survey and organized interactive discussion programs on the issues on popular radio stations in the target states. PIND has been featured on television programs and interviews to further discuss these issues.

PIND is collaborating with other organizations such as the Tax Justice Platform, BMOs and CSOs in pushing for legislative review and are currently receiving attention and influencing changes at states and federal levels.

NDLink

NDLINK sustained the momentum gained in Q1 to achieve and surpass its set targets by Q2, leveraging on implementing a new content strategy and an improved approach to platform engagement. The platform continued to record increased user engagement, reach, and improved brand awareness amongst stakeholders, directly attributable to the new strategies implemented, with a record 114 new subscriptions to NDLink Website alerts in this quarter. NDLink also played a significant role in designing PIND's PSR Social Media strategy, which resulted in a noteworthy number of responses that were valuable in shaping PIND's strategy for the next phase. An analysis of engagements and responses from platform users showed that NDLink's content continues to be relevant to its targeted stakeholders.

International Days/Advocacy on Social Issues: The NDlink platform continued to amplify awareness of issues relevant to the Niger Delta. The platform marked the International Days within the period, projecting the themes from the perspective of the Niger Delta and proffering actionable resources and solutions to the issues outlined. A notable campaign was on World Environment Day 2024 in which the theme of Ecosystem restoration was localized to the environmental issues in the Niger Delta, using striking visuals, as an action call-to-action Manuals on Mangrove Restoration in the Niger Delta to equip stakeholders with knowledge and skills to advocate and implement actionable solutions. The recent Cholera outbreak has also been spotlighted, with NDlink sharing actionable tips to members of the public on ways to halt the spread of the disease.

5.3 Communications

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

Sharing Knowledge of PIND's Development Models

In Q2 2024, PIND participated in or hosted 6 forums where it shared its models for socio-economic development in the Niger Delta, evidence of its work, and lessons learned to 2,150 target stakeholders of the Foundation. 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:

Social Media: The quarter began with the promotion of Youth Employment Pathways project applications in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Delta, and Rivers. This social media campaign addressed public inquiries about the application process, previously managed only by partners. Following this, the PSR social media engagement gained traction as the public, beneficiaries, and partners provided feedback on PIND's impact and future projections. Finally, the 2023 Annual Report was released, and snippets were also published using infographics and success story videos.

During the period under review, PIND shared 630 social media posts, which led to 33,551 engagements in the form of likes, comments, and shares. Our content on PIND's social media platforms reached 4,335,349 people, 142% of the yearly target. Video views across all platforms were 68,580, and new subscribers on YouTube were 737, an 8% increase from last quarter.

Table 5: : Summary of the social media posts during the period in Q2 2024

S/N	Social Media Platform	Number of Persons Reached
1	Facebook	3,073,878
2	Instagram	1,178,418
3	LinkedIn	50,105
4	Twitter	27,126
5	YouTube	5,822

Newsletter: In Q2 2024, we sent out seven newsletters, that is, 12,096 emails, to 3,627 subscribers, a 50% increase from last quarter. We gained 768 new subscribers through the active engagement of participants at PIND events. We recorded an average open rate of 28%; the open rate is the percentage of subscribers who opened the newsletter from the email inbox. Stakeholder groups that engaged the most with PIND's newsletters include Gender/Vulnerable, International and National Oil Companies (IOCs and NOCs), Implementing Partners, Donor/Development, Civil Society Organizations/Business Membership Organizations, Federal Government and State Media organizations.

PIND Website: In Q2 2024, we actively posted content on the PIND website and strategically used social media to drive traffic to the web posts. This attracted 25,698 individuals to PIND's website for the first time, exposing them to PIND's work, results, and models.

Table 6: PIND's website performance summary in Q2 2024.

Website Performance Summary for Q2 2024:

25,698 new visitors learned about PIND for the first time.

35,796 repeat visitors returned to the website to learn more about PIND;

60% were male, and 40% were female users reached by the website

42 new contents about PIND, and partners shared

23,075 new views of posted content. PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND

41,530 total page views of posted content, and PIND pages that increased awareness of PIND

35% of visitors searched directly to access the website

19,969 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, India, Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, Netherlands, and our Nigerian audience.

Email Enquiries: PIND received 155 email and social media inquiries in Q2. Most of these inquiries sought information on partnerships or collaborations, job opportunities, and invitations for PIND to share knowledge at academic research, case studies on PIND, and access to PIND-promoted technologies and services, among others. Inquiries included more information on our YEP Program, A2E, Serendib and Peacebuilding.

Mainstream Media: In Q2, 2024, PIND reached almost 750,000 individuals via mainstream media. We had 76 positive

mainstream media reports with PIND mentions, with 15 earned. A majority of our media outreach was on the publication of the PIND 2023 Annual Report and Peacebuilding activities, such as the validation of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy with the Ministry of Niger Delta Development.

Public Endorsements of PIND: PIND received 114 public endorsements appreciating, acknowledging, or commending the Foundation's work in the region. These endorsements are public statements by key stakeholders: partners, the media, project participants, and the general public. For example, PIND received endorsements from partners across our platforms for the Peace Champions Program, YEP Training, and A2E HETA project, as well as endorsements on various agricultural products

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 strategic target of enabling at least 81,000 women (40% of the overall target) to increase their incomes, thereby positioning women's economic empowerment at the core of its economic development implementation activities. In Q2 2024, the total outreach who participated in various economic development interventions was 14,530, out of which 7,876 (55%) were males and 6,498 (45%) were females. We recorded 8 PWD who got enrolled in YEP training.

Similarly, a total of 276 women (37% of the total beneficiaries); 478 men (63% of the total beneficiaries); 291 youths (39% of the total beneficiaries) 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. In summary, the organization-wise gender mainstreaming as at Q2 2024 was 24,057 (47.60%) from a total of 50,544 surpassing 2024 annual target of 40%. While persons with disabilities (PWDs) were 8 from YEP.

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.

The second quarter of 2024 saw several discussions with donors to deepen partnerships and collaborations. A key example was the discussion between Bank of Industry (BOI) and PIND for a possible intervention on Access to Renewable Energy in the Niger Delta. The BDS Team continued to hold internal collaboration meetings with the program teams to ensure seamless delivery of projects PIND has committed to, as well as progressing funding landscape analysis.

Execution of Third-Party Projects:

- **FAO FOLUR Project:** The BDS Team continued to support the Advocacy and MSD Teams in the FAO FOLUR project, which also featured well in Q1 of 2024. The project was officially launched at the State level, and the implementation plans and strategies were developed. In the quarter in review, engagements were made with 16 local government areas in Cross River and Ondo State to understand the current land allocation practices. The goal of this aspect of the project is to influence customary land titling for smallholder farmers.
- **A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta:** The BDS continues to provide support to the Peacebuilding implementation of the EU-funded project in the Niger Delta through coordination with SFCG.

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges Challenges

Market Development and Peace Building Programs: Soaring production costs driven by the high cost of input (especially feed), insecurity, and high energy expenses are negatively affecting the productivity of smallholder farmers. Also, escalating costs of transportation, agricultural inputs, and high cost of other transactions is exacerbated by rising fuel prices limiting movements and travel within the region. PIND continues to strengthen the Service Providers with modern information to provide needed support to the farmers/MSMEs to adopt coping strategies in their businesses.

Youth Employment Pathways Program: Many youths residing in semi-rural areas faced difficulties in participating in training due high cost of transportation. Options such as virtual training, staying with friends or relatives in urban centers where training centers are located or seeking external support are being explored.

Access to Energy: The second quarter of 2024 presented several challenges for the A2E program:

- Firstly, exchange rate volatility, significantly impacted the cost structure of the Solar PV renewable energy sector. This fluctuation made it more expensive and difficult for private investors to secure the necessary funding and resources. Leading power developers to prioritize robust credit risk management and strong unit economics over rapid growth to stay afloat.
- Secondly, security concerns, limited travels to some coastal communities¹⁶ and hindered the A2E team's ability to visit these areas and obtain firsthand energy and status information.
- Thirdly, some community stakeholders were not willing to pay for electricity, holding on to the mindset that electricity should be free for their communities. This reluctance to invest in paid electricity solutions posed a significant barrier to implementing sustainable clean energy projects in these communities. PIND continues to provide necessary support to the energy providers to enhance their community orientations efforts toward educating the communities on electricity consumptions, costs and sustainability.

Peace Building: Violent protests caused by political tensions in Rivers State, and communal violence in Edo state slowed down some PB activities. As the situation returns to normal, PB will continue with its activities.

7. Program Management

Governance and Accountability

PIND 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR).

- Within the quarter, PIND completed its 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR), to inform strategic direction and identify opportunities for continued development with respect to its partnership-based approach to corporate social enterprise.
- Specifically, the PSR reviewed PIND's development strategies and approaches to improve effectiveness; explored how partners (i.e. funders, beneficiaries, implementers and Government) view the foundation;
- Examined links between partner goals and interests; and assessed PIND's impact and influence, how it could achieve lasting benefits, and how to ensure its operations are sustainable. The findings and recommendations of the PSR have been produced and shared with the Boards of PIND/NDPI foundation and its deployment in the development of strategic plan has begun.

Organizational Sustainability:

Phase IV strategy development: With the completion of the PSR processes, phase IV strategy development commenced with the engagement of a consultant to produce a consolidated strategy for 2025 – 2029. Findings from the PSR and Impact Evaluation reports would be used to achieve this.

Ford Foundation - The Bridges Project: The activities of The Bridges Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) continued with its 6th meeting which took place in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, with 20 members in attendance. Insights on the experiences of implementing the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) from the participating stakeholders and HCDTs were shared. These insights were intended to aid in the development of effective models for PIA implementation.

¹⁶ due to heightened security tension around Bomadi, Ughelli and Forcados waterways following an ambush on JTF personnel at Okuoma Community resulting in significant military casualties. Military authorities have commenced massive operations in Bomadi/Ughelli areas and Forcados waterways in search of fleeing perpetrators and this could expand to other coastal communities away from the incident area. This has resulted in a large concentration of military personnel at Bomadi and Ughelli along the East – West Road which could impact traffic flow.

EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project: The implementation of the European Union- Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project titled, “A Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta” continued in Q2.

FAO FOLUR project: The Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP) in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (Ondo and Cross Rivers States), which was officially launched at the State level has commenced implementation in this quarter with engagements in 16 local government areas in Cross River and Ondo State. The goal of this aspect of the project is to influence customary land titling for smallholder farmers.

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:

PIND continued to invest resources to promote wellbeing and safeguard employees’ lives. In Q2 2024, Operations provided optimal and seamless services to consultants and stakeholders which invariably contributed to the overall quality and value addition to PIND’s operations. In addition to seamless logistics support for the smooth execution of operations and projects implementations, PIND Integrated Platform (PIP) was constantly being reviewed and updates done to enhance IT management.

In addition, the team successfully completed the training on incident /emergency/crisis management, capacity building of PIND support staff, processing of utility bills, management of communication equipment and relationship with stakeholders/vendors, vehicle maintenance and repairs, managed events and workshops within and outside PIND’s premises, onboarding of new staff and general equipment and facilities management.

Project support services (PSS):

PIND’s procurement and contract administration services ensured that procedures, processes, protocols, and systems were utilized in line with PIND’s policies and procedures. 48 contracts/grants worth ₦315.85 million were awarded in Q2 2024. There was more use of the Service Order instrument as contracting instruments compared to the others as most annual contracts were renewed and engagement of consultants for the implementation of the EU Consortium project.

Table 8. Contracts awarded in Q2 2024 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number processed (Q2)	Number Processed to date (Jan-Dec 2024)	Value Committed (Q2) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-Dec 2024) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q2)							
					Male	Value Committed (NGN)	Female	Value Committed (NGN)	Female-Headed/Owned Organization	Value Committed (NGN)	Male-Headed/Owned Organization	Value Committed (NGN)
Professional Services Contract	1	9	20.46 Million	142.13 Million	-	-	-	-	1	20.46 Million	-	-
Services Order	5	25	6.64 Million	202.33 Million	-	-	1	2.91 Million	-	-	4	3.73 Million
Purchase Order	2	8	2.51 Million	41.75 Million	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2.51 Million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	40	40	286.24 Million	286.24 Million	6	10.66 Million	2	3.64 Million	11	65.54	21	206.4
MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	48	82	315.85 Million	672.45 Million	6	10.66 Million	3	6.55 Million	12	86 Million	27	212.64 Million

8. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Q3 2024, the market development project will undertake the following activities:

- **Cassava:** Technical training for increased productivity for cassava farmers; Close monitoring and follow-up sessions with Cassava Seed Enterprises (CSEs); continuation of linkages and access to finance for cassava farmers in collaboration with SK and conduct assessment of agro-dealer and FSP and that of the CSE engagement based on the program feedback.
- **Cocoa:** Organize at least one webinar for cocoa stakeholders; Produce the Climate-smart Cocoa GAP manual; Training organized for service providers using the revised manual and report produced; Engage a consultant to drive activities

- o on cocoa quality improvement
- o **MSMEs:** Provide support to strengthen 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, fisherfolks and processors in the Chevron host communities
- o **Palm oil BMP:** Promote the benefits of improved seeds and facilitate a workshop to improve collaboration and coordination in the seed industry to reach at least 6,000 farmers.
- o **Poultry:** Identify and collaborate with a local feed company to carry out awareness creation and linkages to farmers; Onboard new VLDs and link them to their distribution Channel; facilitate quarterly Knowledge Sharing workshops for service providers and commence study on access to technical and business development services for the next strategic phase.
- o **Cross cutting:** The market systems development will commence the scoping study on the cross-cutting themes which are: **Expanding access to agricultural Inputs (Fertilizers, Crop protection Products(CPPs), Feed, Vaccines, etc.), Access to agricultural Inputs (Seeds), Access to Technical Services; Access to Business Development Services and Finance, and Access to industrial market and agricultural technology.** The assessment will help determine the opportunities and also identify potential new sectors where the cross-cutting themes can be implemented and also specific interventions and indicators to be measured for the next phase.

The **access to energy project** will initiate a challenge fund to establish off-grid energy installations in five riverine communities in Delta State, advancing new partnerships; continue collaboration with NDPI and Total Impact to develop a pipeline of impact investment products for selected developers; sign MOAs with three new developers to accelerate the deployment of interventions in three coastal communities, with a focus on solar refrigeration and Energy Cabin projects; conduct impact assessments for HETA projects to gather evidence of their effectiveness and support scaling up efforts through multilateral donor activities.

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

Work with partners and BATVE to monitor and close out activities of technical/soft skills training for youths in Ondo State; monitor the implementation of the YEP training with Ibom-LED in Akwa Ibom state; continue engagement with the Rivers State ICT Department on the MoU on adoption/adaptation of the NDYEP Model; monitor the technical and soft skills training for target beneficiaries in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, and Delta states; and prepare grants for selected beneficiaries of the 2024 batch of Challenge Fund.


The **peacebuilding program** will supervise the execution of the EU/SFCG funded project in selected states; establish Peace Club (Bayelsa State) and strengthen mitigation of youth restiveness in the Niger Delta; facilitate EWER training in HCDTs; jointly integrate Peacebuilding activities with Economic Development (Conflict Sensitivity); carry out quarterly maintenance of database and website.

Peacebuilding will also facilitate the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy; P4P and MSP activities and produce briefs and trackers; facilitate the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network fora; and facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states. We will produce Factsheet, PB Annual Intervention Catalogue, Herders/Farmers interventions compendium and engage with Fund for Peace (FFP) to deliver set 5 KPIs.

The **advocacy project** will provide advocacy support for prospective programs and projects, follow up with the status of Edo and Ondo access to land interventions and support the policy drafting process; and embark on advocacy engagements with States and other relevant agencies and organizations. It will also continue the next phase of multiple Taxation intervention, work with communications on the documentary on multiple taxation and illegal levies; track and report stakeholders' engagements across program areas as well as continuing to update stakeholders' engagement tracker. Other priorities are the NDLink sustainability drive and engagement with clients; implement PIA-related intervention; provide advocacy support to the FAO FOLUR project and continue to support peacebuilding initiatives relating to the NDPRS.



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