



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PATHWAYS

OVERVIEW

- The Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project began in 2018 to develop models of youth training in which marginalized young people are trained in market-relevant skills and subsequently supported into sustainable jobs or enterprises (SDG 8). Between 2018 and 2023, 8,281 youths were trained and equipped with in-demand vocational skills in Rivers, Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Delta States. The program was extended to Ondo State in 2024.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct research that enables a better understanding of the dynamics of the labor market systems in the Niger Delta region.
- Develop model pathways for long-term sustainable jobs, self-employment, or entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta.
- Deliver more effective skills-based training, which enables a closer link between the demand for jobs and income-generating opportunities and the region's labor supply.
- Provide vocational training to over 8,000 youths, including young women and youth with disabilities, and equip them with sector-specific technical and soft skills in key economic sectors.
- Disseminate key findings and learnings to the Niger Delta state governments and provide technical support to adopt the model for subsequent youth employment and skills development programs.

APPROACH

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

PRODUCTS & SERVICES DEVELOPED

- 3 Labor Market Assessment Reports:** for Abia, Akwa Ibom & Rivers States, Delta and Ondo States.
- 1 YEP Model:** A framework and model for youth employment intervention.
- 4 Skills Training Practice Papers:** in Aquaculture, ICT (information and communication technology), Building Construction, and Finished Leather sectors.
- Reviewed NDYEP Business Ideas Challenge Program.**

STRATEGIC TARGETS

- 7,000 youths enrolled in YEP.
- 5,000 youths trained in applicable skills for employment and entrepreneurial startups.
- 2,000 youths accessing employment.
- 40% GESI target.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 9,804 youths trained in sector-specific skills, including ICT, building construction, finished leather, and aquaculture.
- About 3,200 youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities.
- 2 MoU signings with government-owned facilities in Akwa Ibom and Ondo States on adoption of the YEP Model.

PIND'S INVESTMENTS

- PIND leveraged USD 2 million from the Ford Foundation for the YEP pilot phase (2018 - 2020). We now wholly fund the project in Delta & Ondo States with USD 5 million (2021 - 2024).

PARTNERS

- DELTA STATE JOB CREATION BUREAU
- FORD FOUNDATION
- RIVTAV CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
- IBOM LEADERSHIP ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER (IBOM-LED)
- ONDO STATE BOARD FOR ADULT

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