



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Four:
October - December 2024

pindfoundation.org



About PIND Foundation

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a Nigerian non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region. PIND fosters multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships at regional, national, and international levels to address the complex development challenges of the region.

Recognizing that no single entity can resolve these challenges alone, PIND collaborates with government, civil society, businesses, and international development partners to implement market-driven, community-based programs that mitigate conflicts and expand economic opportunities. This ensures that economic progress in the Niger Delta is systemic, inclusive, and sustainable.

PIND operates across all nine states in the Niger Delta – Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers, with a special focus on underserved and hard-to-reach coastal communities often overlooked in development programming.

Since 2010, PIND and its partners have contributed to poverty reduction, energy access, employment generation, stability, and development in the region.

Learn more about PINDfoundation.org.

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Activity
BATVE	Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education
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
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
MNDD	Ministry of Niger Delta Development
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
NDLink	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 actively engage in identifying multi-stakeholder partners and act as a catalyst for establishing 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 mitigate conflict by implementing interventions that promote stability and equitable growth in employment and income for beneficiaries across the nine target states: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers.

To achieve this goal, PIND works to understand the root causes of economic instability, conflict, and fragility to develop community-based, market-driven, and sustainable solutions.

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

- **Economic Development Program:** Focused on generating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment creation.
- **Peacebuilding Program:** Strengthens conflict resolution mechanisms to foster integrated peace and economic growth.

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

- **Capacity Building:** Strengthens the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations, civil society organizations, and communities.
- **Advocacy:** Seeks to influence policies, practices, and programs through in-depth analysis and an understanding of systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- **Communications and Outreach:** Enhances PIND's reputation through clear and consistent messaging across multiple channels, highlighting its unique value proposition, transformative approaches, impact, and learning.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Independently tracks, verifies, and measures program results to ensure accountability and impact.

STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS

By the end of Phase III (2020-2024), PIND aims to:

- Reach 300,000 people, with 200,000 farmers and small-scale enterprises increasing their income by 40%.
- Facilitate the creation of 45,000 new jobs, ensuring 50% participation by youth and vulnerable groups.
- Deliver economic benefits to 10,000 people in GMoU (now HCDT) communities through job creation and clean energy access.
- Strengthen 5 regional development committees to function effectively as grassroots development organizations in HCDT communities.
- Engage 5,000 peace actors in conflict mitigation, reaching up to 3 million people through peacebuilding interventions.
- Influence \$25 million in donor and government funding for projects that reduce poverty and conflict in the Niger Delta.
- Raise \$6.5 million from the private sector and donor community to support PIND programs.

Introduction: Q4 2024 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

This fourth quarter (October – December 2024) report provides updates to donors, Board of Trustees, and partners on project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. It also seeks to strengthen collaboration for greater impact and sustainability, while demonstrating how PIND’s work contributes to a peaceful and stable operating environment in the Niger Delta.

This report highlights successes and challenges, fostering shared learning for further collaborations with our partners which 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 outlines our program interventions and achievements in the Niger Delta from October – December 2024 (Quarter 4, 2024), while providing updates on program management, key learnings, and plans for the next quarter. PIND continues to drive **broad-based economic growth, peacebuilding, and governance reforms** in the Niger Delta. The organization prioritizes **data-driven decision-making**, ensuring **evidence-based policy direction and impactful interventions** across economic development, peacebuilding, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts.

1.1 Achievements

Market Systems Development (MSD)

The MSD project supports farmers and small enterprises in key sectors, helping them increase productivity and income while reducing poverty. The project employs a market systems development approach, which relies on an initial analysis of market systems to identify underlying weaknesses and design targeted interventions that address root causes rather than symptoms of market failure.

To ensure sustainability, interventions are anchored in a service providers’ model, equipping local service providers with the necessary skills, tools, and market connections to deliver long-term, viable solutions that enhance productivity and competitiveness for farmers and enterprises. This approach supports farmers engaged in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry, and MSMEs.

Q4 2024 Highlights:

- Over 122 service providers continued to provide support services to farmers and MSMEs in cassava, cocoa, palm oil, poultry value chains, and business linkages, delivering training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and business management
- 29,536 farmers and MSMEs received improved services in Q4, bringing the cumulative outreach to 101,825 (120% of the annual target of 85,000), with 49,339 beneficiaries (48.4% female).
- 82% adoption rate of improved farm practices among farmers and MSMEs, leading to investments of ₦6.22 billion in Q4, raising the 2024 cumulative investments to ₦21.01 billion (152.4% of the annual target of ₦13.78 billion).
- ₦38.78 billion additional income generated (183% of the annual target of ₦21.15 billion).
- 22,544 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created (173.4% of the annual target of 13,000), through increased labor demand in farms and businesses.

Additionally, to enhance MSME efficiency in Chevron Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), PIND collaborated with Newland Pathways Integrated Consult and Marich Agro Allied Services to support 550 micro-businesses in Ondo and Delta states. These businesses benefited from:

- Business and financial skills training in Odonla, Ode Ugborodo, Coastain Ugborodo, Ogidigben, and Madangho.
- 272 fisherfolk (Ondo: Awoye, Odofado, Odonla; Delta: Ogeye Eghoroke, Orere, Ugborodo, Deghele) trained in improved fishing practices and technologies for higher productivity.
- ₦3.05 million in market linkages generated, connecting fisherfolk to broader financing and trade opportunities.
- 67 improved fishing technologies adopted across Awoye (Ondo) and Orere, Ugborodo, Deghele.

Youth Employment Pathways (YEP): YEP focuses on developing skills, analyzing employment opportunities, and equipping young people with market-relevant competencies to secure sustainable jobs and entrepreneurship ventures.

Q4 2024 Highlights:

- 1,035 youth (479 females, 29 PWDs) graduated in Q4, bringing the 2024 total to 1,454 graduates (764 females) from 18 projects.
- 84% of graduates secured livelihoods (46% in jobs, 38% in entrepreneurship).
- 1,223 graduates reported income earnings after training.
- 294 youth placed in internships/apprenticeships to refine skill sets.

Challenge Fund Grant:

- ₦67 million disbursed to 114 beneficiaries across four states: 60 women-owned businesses, 54 male-led, and 5 PWD-led.
- Sectors covered: Agriculture (40), Building Construction (31), ICT (9), Services (34).

Access to Energy:

Access to energy is fundamental to human development and economic growth. However,, many rural communities in the Niger Delta still lack reliable electricity, particularly in coastal areas where households and MSMEs rely on costly and inefficient self-generation. The absence of modern energy services constrains economic opportunities, affects welfare, and compromises safety.

As part of PIND's strategy to drive impact and expand outreach, the Access to Energy (A2E) program prioritizes collaborations with private-sector clean energy developers to deploy rural enterprise-adaptive energy solutions. This approach is central to ensuring sustainable energy access for underserved communities

Key Achievements in Q4 2024:

- **Solar Refrigeration Hubs Deployment:** PIND established solar-powered refrigeration hubs in Ogidigben and Okibou-Zion (Delta State), powered by 15kWp solar systems. These hubs provided rent-a-space refrigeration services to 500+ fisherfolk, MSMEs, and households, significantly reducing post-harvest losses and boosting local economic activity.
- **Integration of Healthcare Electrification:** The refrigeration hubs were designed to provide reliable electricity for medical services, reinforcing PIND's commitment to holistic community development.
- **Strengthening HCDT Engagements:** PIND deepened collaborations with the Egbema-OPUDIS and Ogulagha-Ibe Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to align energy initiatives with broader community development plans. These engagements laid the groundwork for transformative energy interventions that support economic growth and improved livelihoods.

Through these initiatives, PIND's A2E program is driving rural electrification while catalyzing social and economic transformation. By addressing energy poverty, stimulating local economies, and reinforcing environmental sustainability, PIND continues to lead in clean energy facilitation in the Niger Delta.

Peacebuilding:

PIND's Peacebuilding Program is designed to promote long-term stability and conflict resolution in the Niger Delta. By fostering sustainable peace partnerships, multi-stakeholder collaborations, and conflict-sensitive economic development, the program creates an enabling environment for broad-based economic growth.

PIND's peacebuilding efforts are anchored in two interdependent initiatives:

1. **Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU):** Conducts research, provides training, and implements pilot projects to develop early warning and response mechanisms for conflict prevention.
2. **Partners for Peace (P4P) Network:** A grassroots initiative that mobilizes self-identified peace agents across all nine states and 119 LGAs in the Niger Delta. P4P promotes early warning conflict analysis, peacebuilding interventions, and stakeholder engagement.

Q4 2024 Highlights:

- **Conflict Early Warning & Analysis:** PIND produced and disseminated 13 conflict data reports, including 11 weekly conflict briefs, a policy brief, and a conflict report, providing data-driven insights to security stakeholders.
- **Increased Conflict Risk & Response:** Despite improvements in Q3, lethal violence increased by 28% in Q4 (149 fatalities to 190). Conflict drivers included organized crime, kidnapping for ransom, mob violence, and clashes between armed groups and security forces.
- **Grassroots Peacebuilding Interventions:** Small grants were deployed to nine community-based organizations (CBOs) to implement localized peacebuilding activities.

- **Akwa Ibom:** Advocates of Peace, Nature, and Gender Justice (APNAG) successfully mediated a 20-year communal conflict between Uko-Nteghe and Enwang communities, fostering dialogue and reconciliation.
- **Bayelsa:** The P4P Chapter engaged farmers, herders, and local authorities in Igbogene and Nyambiri Zarama to prevent farmer-herder clashes. A conflict monitoring group was also established to track movements and reduce tensions.
- **EU-PIND Violent Conflict and Criminality Transformation Project:** The 6.5 million Euro European Union-Niger Delta (EU-ND) Project, implemented by a consortium of partners (Search for Common Ground, Stakeholder Democracy Network, Academic Associates PeaceWorks, and PIND), focuses on:
 - Early Warning & Early Response (EWER) Systems
 - Social Cohesion & Conflict Transformation Interventions

Key Achievements in Q4 2024:

- Inter-community Solidarity Activities were held across 16 communities in Bayelsa and Delta States, engaging 1,673 participants in cultural activities (dance, music, drama, and traditional wrestling) to foster trust and unity.
- State Peace Architecture (SPA) Capacity Building: PIND facilitated trainings in Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers States, covering conflict resolution strategies, early warning systems, and intervention planning.
- Stakeholder Engagement:
 - 56 peacebuilding stakeholders utilized PIND’s conflict analysis data in Q4, bringing the 2024 total to 2,570 users—exceeding the annual target of 2,449 by over 100%.
 - 245 trained stakeholders applied their peacebuilding skills in local conflict resolution efforts, with 458 total in 2024 (176 female), surpassing the annual target by over 200%.
 - Between 2020 and 2024, 1,277 stakeholders applied PIND-facilitated conflict resolution strategies, exceeding the strategic target by more than 100%.

Through these interventions, PIND is reinforcing conflict prevention mechanisms and strengthening peace infrastructure, ensuring a more stable environment for economic development.

PIA implementation support

The Ford Foundation-funded “Bridges Project” is an innovative model for inclusive community development, fostering collaboration between communities, NGOs, oil and gas companies, and government entities to support the effective implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Operating in five Niger Delta states—Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ondo, and Rivers—the project established a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) to:

- Facilitate community engagement and awareness on PIA regulations.
- Build the capacity of CSOs and NGOs to support implementation.
- Strengthen Chevron’s Host Community Development Trusts (CNL HCDTs) by enhancing their economic development and peacebuilding capacities

Q4 2024 Milestones:

- **8th Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Meeting:** Provided a forum for community leaders, government officials, and industry stakeholders to exchange insights and best practices.
- **Capacity Building on Governance & Data Management:** Strengthened HCDTs’ administrative and financial oversight capabilities.
- **Energy & Development Integration:** PIND’s Access to Energy and Capacity Building teams presented their value proposition to HCDT members, fostering collaboration on sustainable community-led development.

Building on the project’s success, a proposal for an extension has been approved, focusing on state-based MSPs with increased CSO participation to enhance sustainability.

Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

PIND’s communication strategy is designed to:

- Increase visibility – Ensuring more people know, talk about, and engage with PIND and its initiatives.
- Strengthen PIND’s reputation – Showcasing proven impact and transformative approaches to attract partners and donors.
- Drive stakeholder action – Encouraging collaborations, funding opportunities, and replication of PIND’s models.

Key Communication Highlights in Q4 2024:

- **Amplified Storytelling & Results Measurement:** Strategic messaging showcased PIND’s program impact through

data-driven storytelling, multi-channel engagement, and stakeholder-focused content.

- **Enhanced Media & Public Relations:** Increased engagement with local, national, and international media, positioning PIND as a thought leader in economic development and peacebuilding.
- **Digital & Social Media Reach:** Expanded outreach through targeted campaigns, knowledge-sharing platforms, and high-impact visuals, increasing stakeholder interaction and program visibility.

Advocacy

PIND's advocacy efforts in Q4 2024 remained focused on three key areas:

- Influencing public and private sector investments in new development projects in the Niger Delta.
- Addressing land access constraints for smallholder farmers.
- Reducing the burden of multiple taxation and illegal levies on small businesses.

Additionally, PIND continued to support policy reforms and institutional strategies to promote conflict prevention and sustain peace across the region.

Key Achievements in Q4 2024:

Enhancing Smallholder Farmers' Access to Land

PIND sustained partnerships with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo States, playing a critical role in advancing policy and legislative frameworks to improve land access for smallholder farmers.

- In Ondo State, PIND facilitated a policy validation session in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, finalizing the draft land access policy, which is now awaiting gubernatorial assent.

Combating Multiple Taxation and Illegal Levies

PIND finalized and disseminated its assessment report on the effects of multiple taxation on small businesses in the Niger Delta, catalyzing dialogue on tax reforms.

- A regional dialogue on tax policy reform was convened, engaging civil society organizations (CSOs), business membership organizations (BMOs), chambers of commerce, and policy experts.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) was established to spearhead advocacy for sustained tax policy reforms across the Niger Delta states.

Capacity Building

Capacity building remains a key enabler in PIND's mission to strengthen government institutions, civil society, and business associations for inclusive governance, economic growth, and sustainable peace.

PIND's capacity-building efforts are structured around two core initiatives:

- Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) & Market Systems Development (M4P): Enhancing the capacity of local development organizations to adopt a market systems approach.
- Strengthening Chevron's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs): Supporting HCDTs (formerly Regional Development Councils) in effective governance, project implementation, and alignment with Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

Key Achievements in Q4 2024:

Capacity Building for Grant and Service-Providing Organizations

PIND supported two organizations—Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE) and Better Living Foundation & Capacity Development—with resource mobilization, financial management, proposal writing, and market systems development (M4P) training.

- These organizations secured a combined ₦56.8 million in grants to implement development projects.
- GREENCODE received ₦46 million in funding out of the ₦56.8million for two projects in Cross River State:
 - MoCCSA Project (Mobilizing CSOs and Citizens for Social Accountability): Strengthening civic engagement and social accountability mechanisms.
 - **Tax Justice & Governance Project:** Advancing tax justice and governance reforms.

Strengthening CNL HCDTs

PIND conducted peacebuilding training workshops for four HCDTs (Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema-OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland HCDTs) to enhance conflict resolution skills and promote a culture of peace.

- Participants were trained in conflict sensitivity, stakeholder relationship management, and grievance redress mechanisms in alignment with PIA.

- Training also included hands-on experience with PIND’s SMS-based Early Warning and Response (EWER) system, enabling communities to **proactively identify and address conflict triggers**.

Business Development

To diversify its funding base and expand programmatic reach, PIND continued to strengthen internal collaboration and external partnerships in Q4 2024.

Key Achievements:

- **Third-Party Fundraising:** PIND secured \$6.249 million from the Mastercard Foundation Youth Cassava Project (YCAP) project in Q4, bringing total funds raised in Phase III (2020–2024) to \$8.3 million, exceeding the strategic target of \$6.5 million.
- **High-Level Donor Engagement:** PIND facilitated key meetings with the Mastercard Foundation YCAP consortium partners (IDH and Psaltry International) to finalize the implementation plan for the newly awarded YCAP project.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

PIND remains committed to gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) as a key driver of sustainable development, poverty reduction, and conflict prevention in GESI Mainstreaming in Q4 2024:

- **Economic Empowerment of Women:**
 - PIND’s strategic target was to enable at least 81,000 women (40% of total beneficiaries) to increase their incomes, positioning women’s economic empowerment at the core of its economic development strategy.
 - In 2024, 50,103 women (48% of total outreach) have benefited from PIND’s economic interventions.
- **Youth and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Inclusion:**
 - 29 persons with disabilities (PWDs) completed soft skills training through the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) program.
 - 388 youth (45% of total beneficiaries) participated in peacebuilding programs, which included conflict mitigation, forums on peace and stability, and mentorship initiatives.
- **Participation in Peacebuilding Initiatives:**
 - 376 women (44% of participants) and 485 men (56%) engaged in conflict resolution and stability programs.

Cumulatively, PIND’s organization-wide gender mainstreaming efforts reached 50,479 women (48.32% of total beneficiaries) out of 104,468, surpassing the 2024 annual target of 40% participation.

1.2 Challenges and Mitigation

Challenges

Market Development and Peacebuilding Programs

Challenges

- **Climate Change and Weather Disruptions:** Unpredictable weather patterns posed a significant challenge to field activities, affecting mobility, delaying the establishment of demonstration plots, and causing frequent cancellations or rescheduling of training sessions.

Mitigation:

- Service providers received additional training on sector-specific business cycles to enhance resilience against weather-related disruptions.
- PIND strengthened service providers with modern climate adaptation techniques to support farmers and MSMEs in adopting coping strategies for climate variability.

Challenges

- **Rising Input Costs and Security Concerns for Poultry Farmers:** The high cost of poultry inputs and escalating insecurity—driven by economic hardship and potential protests—affected farmer investments and limited field operations and outreach.

Mitigation:

- Service providers introduced improved Good Agronomic Practices (GAPs) to optimize production efficiency and reduce marginal costs.
- Continuous engagements with farmers helped identify cost-saving innovations and secured alternative supply chains.

Youth Employment Pathways Program: the fourth quarter present the following challenged in YEP

Challenges

- **Rising Transportation Costs:**

The sharp increase in fuel prices raised **transportation expenses for youth trainees**, leading to dropouts and financial strain for those continuing the program.

Mitigation:

- Training schedules were **adjusted to reduce on-site training frequency**, easing transportation burdens while maintaining learning quality.
- Some partners **piloted hybrid training models**, combining virtual and in-person sessions to improve accessibility.

Challenges

- **Youth Mobilization Challenges:**

Recruiting youths (ages 16–25) into skill-based training, particularly in **agriculture and construction**, remained difficult due to **peer pressure favoring quick-money schemes and informal economic activities**.

Mitigation:

- PIND leveraged **successful youth entrepreneurs and past trainees** as **peer role models** to influence **potential recruits**.
- Outreach efforts were **expanded to schools and youth organizations**, incorporating real-life success stories to inspire participation.

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

Challenges

- **Soaring Equipment Costs:**

Currency fluctuations and inflation caused significant increases in capital expenditures for solar refrigeration hubs and other clean energy solutions.

Mitigation:

- Energy entrepreneurs explored alternative energy technologies and cost-effective procurement **strategies** to adapt to market shifts.

Challenges

- **Delays in Community Development Plan (CDP) Approvals:**

The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) delayed the approval of HCDT Community Development Plans (CDPs), slowing the implementation of energy projects.

Mitigation:

- PIND intensified engagements with regulatory authorities to fast-track approvals.
- Alternative community-driven models were explored to sustain momentum while awaiting regulatory clearance.

Challenges

- **Fragmented Market Focus for Renewable Energy Developers:**

Many developers operate across multiple regions, limiting their ability to focus exclusively on localized energy needs in the Niger Delta.

Mitigation:

- PIND facilitated targeted networking opportunities for energy entrepreneurs to strengthen regional market linkages and align solutions with community needs.

Lessons learned:

Market System Development Program (MSD)

The **existing 5-hectare requirement** for participation as **Commercial Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs)** posed a barrier to entry due to **limited land access in the Niger Delta**.

Key Takeaway:

Adjusting the requirement from **5 hectares to a scalable model (0.5 to 3 hectares)** can **increase participation, encourage inclusivity, and expand the region's seed production base**.

Communications

Enhancing Mainstream Media Engagement:

The **need to improve PIND's visibility** beyond social media was identified, especially as **Phase IV, the PIND brand refresh, and the 15th-anniversary celebration** approach.

Key Takeaway:

The **Communications Unit** is revising its **media engagement strategy** to strengthen **mainstream media coverage and paid promotions**, ensuring **sustained visibility and outreach**.

Youth Employment Program (YEP)

Improving Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs):

Some training partners successfully **engaged social inclusion advisors** and collaborated with **special needs schools and disability organizations** to boost participation.

Key Takeaway:

Future YEP programs should **scale these inclusive strategies** to ensure **equal access and increased participation of PWDs**.

Program Management

Governance and Accountability: In Q3 2024, PIND convened separate meetings for its sub-committees on Projects and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability (BDS), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and Partnerships. These meetings are integral to **PIND's governance and accountability framework**, ensuring the Board remains well-informed and actively engaged in guiding program direction. Key agreements from these meetings, along with **M&E updates on program implementation**, were appropriately presented to **PIND's Board during the November 2024 meeting** to support strategic decision-making and program optimization.

Additionally, PIND conducted its **annual 2024 retreat**, which served as a platform to **review performance, extract key lessons, and initiate planning for 2025 activities**. The insights from these sessions will strengthen **operational planning and execution for 2025**.

During the quarter, PIND also **finalized and secured Board approval for its Phase IV Strategy (2025–2029)**, incorporating feedback from the **2024 Participatory Stakeholders Review (PSR)** and extensive consultations with diverse stakeholders.

Organizational Sustainability:

Phase IV Strategy Approval: PIND's Phase IV Strategy (2025–2029) has been successfully completed and approved for implementation over the next five years. Following the completion of the PSR process, a consolidated strategy document was developed and formally endorsed by the Board.

Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP: The anticipated \$6.249m grant contract for the Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP project was finalized in Q4 2024 setting the stage for an early program launch in Q1 2025. Following the grant award, the BDS team coordinated high-level engagements with Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP consortium partners, including IDH, to complete the due diligence process. The team also collaborated with IDH and Psaltry International to finalize the project implementation **plan**.

FAO FOLUR Project: Implementation of the **FAO FOLUR Project** progressed throughout **Q4 2024**, with the **BDS team supporting the Advocacy and MSD teams** in delivering key project components, including:

- FAO Customary Land Titling Consultative Forum
- Best Agronomic Practices Training of Trainers (ToT)
- Diversification Workshop
- Financial Literacy Training in Ondo and Cross River States

In addition, PIND actively participated in **monthly planning meetings, project implementation reviews**, and strategic discussions with FAO PILA Lead and FAO Land Tenure Lead.

EU-Funded Project: Transforming Criminality & Violence in the Niger Delta: The EU-funded initiative, "A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta," remains on track, with ongoing interventions designed to enhance early warning mechanisms, conflict resolution, and social cohesion in the region.

Summary of progress against 2024 targets

The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2024 target as at Q4.

Economic Development Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q4 2024
Outreach	85,000	101,839
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	36,500 (15,603 direct)	49,407 ¹
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	14,000	13,073
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	17,000	20,608
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	9,500	10,304
<i>MSME development</i>	8,000	8,447
Farmers/MSMEs with increased productivity or sales	38,645	46,672
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	15,145	16,526
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	6,000	5,743
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	7,000	12,412
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	6,000	7,007
<i>MSME development</i>	4,500	4,984
Net attributable income change [Naira value]	₦21.12 billion	₦38.78billion
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦6.55 billion	₦18.17billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦2.22 billion	₦3.42billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦5.53 billion	₦8.38billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦3.48 billion	₦4.86billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.34 billion	₦3.95billion
Net attributable income change [% change]	40%	83% ²
New jobs facilitated	12,709	25,208
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	3,200	9,551
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	1,669	1,509
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	1,518	4,029
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	2,948	3,079
<i>MSME development</i>	3,374	4,375
<i>Access to energy</i>	98	1,447 ³
<i>Skills development for youth employment</i>	800	1,223 ⁴
Value of investments by economic development actors [Naira value]	₦13.77 billion	₦24.66billion Equity (₦23.024billion) Debt financing (₦1.63million)
<i>Cassava value chain</i>	₦4.51 billion	₦10.18billion
<i>Cocoa value chain</i>	₦1.26 billion	₦3.80billion
<i>Palm oil value chain</i>	₦2.40 billion	₦3.79billion
<i>Poultry value chain</i>	₦1.30 billion	₦1.61billion
<i>MSME development</i>	₦3.19 billion	₦1.63billion
<i>Access to Energy</i>	₦1.11 billion	₦3.65billion
States adoption of PIND's model for youth employment	3	0
Youths with applicable skills for employment	1,200	1,035
Peace Building Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q4 2024
Stakeholders with applicable skills in conflict management	215	458
Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis	2,449	2,570
Peace actors taking actions to mitigate conflict	1,284	1,214
Quality actions taken to mitigate conflict	108	139
Population that feels safe in the area they reside	2%	4.66% ⁵
Coastal Community Development Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q4 2024

¹ These are both direct and Indirect farmers for 2024

² Percentage income increase between 2023 and 2024 was 83%. Comparing percentage income increase between 2020 and 2024 was 239%

³ Average additional jobs created by Businesses from Full time and temporary engagement was 1.08 * 1,316 businesses accessing clean energy in 2024. The rapid expansion of the energy providers to other communities led to more businesses accessing energy.

⁴ 84.13% of the youths who completed their skills training had access to livelihood opportunities

⁵ 1.7% from individual peace actors conflict resolutions at family, group and communities; 2.96% from conflicts resolved by P4P prevent committee, prevent councils, and deployment of small grant for community conflict resolutions

<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	₦4.43billion ⁶
<i>Capacity Building</i>		
Organizations accessing funds/grants	9	5
Total value of funds raised with PIND's support	₦168 million	₦472,274,004 million ⁷
Organizations providing improved services to beneficiaries/Communities (HCDTs and other implementing Partners).	7	7 ⁸
General Enabling Program Indicators	2024 Targets	Cumulative Results as at Q4 2024
<i>Advocacy</i>		
Total value of public spending by governments and other institutions	₦1.0 billion	₦11.4billion ⁹
Total value of financial and technical assistance committed by donors and private sectors (CB+A2E)	₦1.28 billion ¹⁰	₦15,52 billion ¹¹
Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private sectors	₦1.11 billion	₦4.12billion
Change in policy in relation to multiple taxations on small-scale businesses	Qualitative description of Progress	Notable activities in this quarter included the finalization and dissemination of the assessment report on the effect of Multiple Taxation and illegal levies on Small Business in the Niger Delta". PIND convened a regional dialogue on tax reforms in the Niger Delta states, by involving key stakeholders from CSOs, BMOs, Chambers of Commerce & Industry, and Policy experts among others. A key outcome of this engagement was the formation of a TWG to pilot initiatives toward ensuring sustained advocacy for the implementation of the regional tax policy reform.
Level of responsiveness that facilitates access to land by smallholder farmers	Qualitative description of Progress	In Q4 of 2024, PIND sustained its partnership with arable land committees in both Edo and Ondo states, playing a crucial role in advancing policy and legislation that enhanced smallholder farmers' access to land. PIND supported the arable land committees to finalize the policy in preparation for executive assent and subsequent implementation. In Ondo State, PIND facilitated a validation session in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, in the production of the final policy draft, which is now awaiting the governor's assent.
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 Q4 with the preparations to launch a final draft of the Regional Peacebuilding Strategy document. The report is now ready for presentation to the MNDD for launching and implementation by the Federal Government.
<i>Business Development</i>		
Funds raised from other sources for PIND's programs	₦1.37 billion	-
<i>Communications</i>		
	2024 Target	Cumulative Results as at Q4 2024
Forums to share PIND's work and lessons from implementation	47	178
Public endorsements of PIND's work	131	752
Media reports with PIND mention	146	901
Level of awareness of PIND and its programs:		
Newsletter subscribers	899	3,147

⁶Estimates for 12 months (January – December, 2024) accessing clean energy from 11,990 households and Businesses from over 40 communities

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 (N390M) for various projects and consultancy services. Updated in Q4 2024.

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 –Plus others updated in Q4 2024.

⁹ Physical verifications of 72 infrastructure built by Abia state covering 2022, 2023 and 2024 were physically inspected. 51 projects were completed with the value of 11.4 billion Naira.

¹⁰ Funds raised by the CSOs under Capacity Building(₦168million) and Investment leveraged under A2E ₦1.11billion

¹¹ Value of public spend was ₦11.4b – reported from the implantation of the Abia State LTDP and the value of Private funds influenced was ₦4.12b from Power developers (A2E)/CSOs trained by CAPABE who access funds for local services in the region.

Website new visitors	42,104	274,185
Social media reach	4,510,530	19,055,129
Mainstream media reach	1,703,808	30,675,617
Email enquiries	308	2,093

2. Context Analysis

2.1 Socio-Economic Environment Strengthening Farmers and MSMEs' Resilience in Phase IV (2025–2029)

At the beginning of 2024, global economic projections suggested a milder but improved growth outlook, anticipating moderations in interest rate hikes, enhancements in global trade, labor market recovery, and reduced economic shocks (Proshare Research, February 24, 2024). However, these expectations were not met, as economic growth underperformed due to lingering effects of 2023 rate hikes, global shocks, and ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Poverty levels remained high, driven by economic constraints and persistent conflicts, while global growth rates slowed further in 2024, falling below historical averages.

Several macroeconomic challenges shaped Nigeria's economic landscape in 2024:

- **High Inflation Rates:**
 - Nigeria's headline inflation rose from 21.83% in January 2023 to 29.90% in January 2024 (an 8.07% increase).
 - By December 2024, inflation further increased to 34.80% (from 28.92% in December 2023), while food inflation reached 39.84% year-on-year.
 - This eroded the purchasing power of farmers and MSMEs, increased input costs, and deepened poverty cycles in the Niger Delta.
- **Fuel Subsidy Removal & Rising Costs:** The removal of the fuel subsidy triggered continuous increases in input prices and transaction costs for farmers and MSMEs, negatively impacting businesses and economic activities in the region.
- **Foreign Exchange Volatility:** While the Naira strengthened temporarily, the gains were not sustained, leading to higher agro-input costs and escalating transaction expenses for businesses.
- **Insecurity:** National and regional – Security concerns remained a major challenge for farmers and MSMEs, limiting mobility, disrupting supply chains, and heightening economic uncertainty.

PIND's Response in Phase IV (2025–2029)

To address these challenges and strengthen the resilience of farmers and MSMEs, PIND will consolidate the development approaches that were tested and proved to drive systemic economic shifts, inclusivity, and sustainable market growth.

PIND's **strategic vision** for Phase IV is to build a **stronger legacy of peace and development through multi-stakeholder partnerships and systemic interventions**. These efforts will:

- **Expand access to agricultural inputs** (fertilizers, crop protection products, feed, vaccines, and improved seeds).
- **Enhance access to technical and business development services** to improve productivity and profitability.
- **Strengthen financial linkages** to ensure MSMEs can **access capital for growth and expansion**.
- **Facilitate industrial market access** and promote **agricultural technology adoption** for efficiency and scalability.

2.1 Security

While Q4 2024 showed overall improvements in peace and security across the Niger Delta, violent crimes continued to be reported across the nine states of the Niger Delta.

Notable Security Incidents in Q4 2024:

- **Abia State (October 22, 2024):**
 - Suspected IPOB/ESN gunmen shot and killed two people along Old Express Road, Aba North LGA.
 - Travel restrictions were imposed in Abia State due to the heightened security risks.
- **Delta State (October 24, 2024):**
 - A violent clash between rival cult gangs (Maphite and Eiye) in Oteri town, Ughelli North LGA resulted in multiple injuries.
 - Consultants advised to exercise increased caution in Delta State.
- **Rivers State (October 21, 2024):**

- Armed gang members killed two people at Odiokwu Junction, Ahoada East LGA.
- **Edo State (November 7, 2024):**
 - A violent cult clash in Ohovbe, Agbor Park, Ikpoba Okha LGA left a dry cleaner dead.
 - On the same day, gunmen shot and killed two people along Ekenwan Road, Ovia North-East LGA.
 - Consultants advised to exercise extreme caution in Edo State, especially in the northern region.
- **Delta State (November 12, 2024):**
 - Gunmen opened fire in Ughelli main market during a dispute between Iwhreko and Ekiugbo communities over local revenue control.
 - One person was killed, and another was fatally injured.

Security Risks in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

- Criminal activity (robberies, petty theft, armed attacks, and abductions) persisted in the city center and surrounding outskirts (Abaji, Bwari, Gwagwalada).
- The threat of kidnapping remained high, with an increased pattern of abductions occurring at victims' residences.

Notable Incidents in FCT (Q4 2024):

- **October 14:**
 - Six security-related incidents were reported in AMAC, Bwari, and Gwagwalada, including:
 - Four armed attacks
 - One kidnapping
 - One government security force (GSF) operation
 - In AMAC, gunmen abducted a school principal near Lokogoma; she was later rescued by police, and one assailant was arrested.
 - In Karshi, gunmen attacked a journalist's residence, killing two people and injuring three others.
- **November 4:**
 - Six people abducted in two separate incidents:
 - Three victims were kidnapped at Amal Pepple Estate, AMAC (near Abuja Centenary City).
 - Three others were abducted in Atako Community, Kuje Area Council.

3. Economic Development Program

The Economic Development Program consists of three projects: Market Systems Development, Access to Energy, and the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP). The program's overarching objective is to reduce poverty by increasing the number of men and women who experience improved income levels and secure gainful employment. This is achieved through the facilitation of interventions designed for sustainable, long-term impact. The Market Systems Development project portfolio is made up of four agricultural value chains –cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry along with an MSMEs development program that integrates three cross-cutting interventions: access to finance, access to inputs, and business linkages. The project aims to identify critical constraints within these sectors and implement sustainable solutions that enhance the incomes of thousands of underserved men and women.

The Access to Energy project focuses on promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, including energy cabin and solar refrigeration. While Access to Energy project identifies and tests innovative technologies, the Market System Development project facilitates activities that strengthen market systems, ensuring wider adoption and long-term sustainability. The Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project builds on the success of the Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways (NDYEP) initiative, which was implemented between 2018 and 2021 with funding from the Ford Foundation in Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers States. The NDYEP project focused on four key sectors: agriculture, construction, finished leather goods and ICT. It was designed to be market-led and demand-driven, emphasizing sustainable interventions that lead to full-time employment for youth.

Following its successful pilot, the NDYEP model is now being expanded to additional states, including Ondo State, and was officially launched in Delta State in January 2021 under the name Youth Employment Pathways (YEP), with funding from Chevron Corporation.

Through these initiatives, PIND's Economic Development Program actively contributes to achieving several global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



3.1.0 Market Systems Development

In Q4 2024, PIND continued the implementation of the Market Systems Development (MSD) Program across Agricultural Value Chains - Cassava, Cocoa, Palm Oil, Poultry, and MSMEs. The program strengthened its network of service providers and market actors (fabricators, agricultural input suppliers, equipment companies, farmer associations, and financial institutions) to enhance service delivery to farmers and MSMEs across the Niger Delta. The following are key Interventions in Q4 2024:

- **Cassava Value Chain:**
 - A second batch of training for 61 Cassava Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) in Abia State was conducted in partnership with Umudike Seeds, Kolping Society, NASC, and CARA.
- **Cocoa Value Chain:**
 - 32 service providers facilitated Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training, focusing on:
 - Fertilizer and chemical application

- Pest management
 - Harvest and post-harvest management
 - Spacing, pruning, and tree welfare (based on Rainforest Alliance certification standards)
- To improve cocoa bean quality, three off-takers provided certification training on post-harvest best practices.
- PIND, through CADI, collaborated with an export company, a producer cooperative, and two licensed buying agents (LBAs) to enhance post-harvest processes:
 - BamGab Consolidated Investment LTD (LBA - Ondo)
 - Livinus Investment (LBA - Ikom)
 - Family Tree Cooperative (Producer Cooperative - Ondo, Ikom)
 - Nivik (Exporter - Ondo State)
- **Palm Oil Value Chain:**
 - Eight Farm Service Providers (FSPs) expanded their best management practices training for farmers in Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Cross River, Imo, and Ondo States.
 - PIND partnered with the Oil Palm Growers Association of Nigeria (OPGAN) to host a high-level oil palm industry stakeholder forum attended by 80+ key players (farmers, seed producers, government officials, and financial institutions).
 - The event focused on **expanding market opportunities, increasing demand for improved oil palm seeds**, and promoting certified high-yield, pest-resistant varieties to enhance sustainability and profitability.
- **Poultry Value Chain:**
 - A Poultry Linkage Workshop was held in Delta State, organized in collaboration with:
 - Chukess Farms Enterprises (Poultry Service Provider)
 - Animal Care (Day-Old Chicks and Feed Supplier)
 - Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN)
 - Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
 - The workshop, attended by 50+ market actors, aimed at enhancing networking opportunities and improving transactions, particularly for smallholder farmers.

3.1.1 Q4 2024 Key Achievements

Expanding Farmer and MSME Reach

Access to business services and market linkages remains a major barrier to productivity for farmers and MSMEs. In 2024, PIND focused on strengthening training, field demonstrations, and information-sharing mechanisms to increase outreach to 85,000 additional farmers and MSMEs, with an expected 38,645 beneficiaries increasing their incomes.

In Q4 2024, over 122 entrepreneurial Service Providers delivered Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) training across the region. 29,536 farmers and MSMEs (direct and indirect beneficiaries) received improved services in Q4 alone. **Cumulative outreach as of Q4 2024:** 101,825 farmers and MSMEs (120% of the annual target of 85,000). **Female participation:** 49,339 (48.45%) were women. – see table 1¹²

Q4 2024 Service Providers	
Sector	Q4 2024 SPs
Cassava	61
Cocoa	32
Palm Oil	8
Poultry	13
MSMEs	8
Total	122

Table 1. MSD Q4 progress against 2024 annual targets

Indicators	Target	Results Achieved	Performance (%)	Female	PWD	Annual Target	Achieved	Performance	Female	PWD
	Q4	Q4	Q4%	Q4	Q4	2024	YTD	YTD (%)	YTD	YTD
Number of farmers/MSMEs reached (Direct + Indirect)	17,770	29,536	166.2%	15,366	-	85,000	101,825	120%	49,339 (direct & Indirect)	-
Number of jobs facilitated	*	7,094	*	*		13,000	22,544	173.4%	11,115	-
Value of investment leveraged	*	₦6.22b	-	-	-	₦13.78b	₦21.01b	152.4%	₦9.87b	-

¹² As at Q4 2024 breakdown of the cumulative outreach: Cassava 49,407 direct & indirect farmers (female 29,431- 60%); Cocoa - A total of 13,060 farmers were reached, 2,410– 18% females, Palm oil - A total of 20,608 farmers/MSMEs participated in the event. 8,489– 41%, Poultry - A total of 10,304 poultry farmers were reached, 5,380 -52% females, MSMEs - A total of 8,447 micro and small enterprises were reached, 3,629- 43% female owned.

Number of farmers/MSMEs with increased income	*	26,299	-	-	-	38,645	57,841	150%	28,366	-
Change in the income of farmers (direct + indirect)	*	₦11.89b	-	-	-	₦21.15b	₦38.78b	183%	₦20.25b	-

* Impact indicators are usually tracked in Q3, depending on sector dynamics and through assessments or surveys. As a result, they do not have quarterly targets. Outcome and impact indicators are measured and reported in Q3 and Q4.

Q4 2024 – Plausible outcomes and productivity experienced by farmers

- **Farmers/MSMEs Increase Investments & Adoption of Improved Practices**
 - 82% adoption rate of improved farm practices and business models.
 - ₦6.22 billion invested by farmers/MSMEs in Q4 2024 (bringing total 2024 investments to ₦21.01 billion, exceeding the annual target of ₦13.78 billion by 152.4%).
- **Investments covered:**
 - Technology adoption (palm oil & cocoa)
 - Purchase of essential inputs for GAP adoption
- **Increase in Productivity & Income:**
 - ₦11.89 billion in net additional income recorded in Q4 2024.
 - Cumulative additional income in 2024: ₦38.78 billion (183% of annual target of ₦21.15 billion).
 - 7,094 new FTE jobs created in Q4, bringing the total FTE jobs in 2024 to 22,544 (173.4% of annual target of 13,000). – see table 1.

550 Businesses, Fisherfolks, and Processors supported in CNL coastal communities.

As part of PIND’s efforts to enhance the efficiency of MSMEs in CNL host communities, PIND, in collaboration with Newland Pathways Integrated Consult and Marich Agro-Allied Services, engaged and supported 278 micro-businesses in CNL communities in Ondo (Odonla) and Delta States (Ode Ugborodo, Coastain Ugborodo, Ogigidiben, and Madangho). These micro-businesses received training in business skills, management, and financial literacy to improve their operations and sustainability.

Additionally, 272 fisherfolks/processors from CNL host communities in Ondo (Awoye, Odofado, and Odonla) and Delta states (Ogeye Eghoroke, Orere, Ugborodo, and Deghele) were trained on improved fishing practices and technologies aimed at enhancing productivity and sustainability. The training was facilitated by Newland Pathway Integrated Consult and Marich Agro Allied Services. This was followed by linkages support to connect fisherfolks to broader markets and financing opportunities for business expansion and broader market with sales worth N3.05m. Following these engagements, PIND facilitated the adoption of sixty-seven (67) improved fishing technologies in communities in Ondo (Awoye) and Delta states (Orere, Ugborodo, and Deghele). This brings the total outreach recorded in the CNL communities for the quarter to 550 and a cumulative of 1,145 for the year.



Figure 1 An improved fishing net adoption by a program participant facilitated by Marich Agro Allied Services in Orere

Access to Finance for MSMEs and Fisherfolk

Building on the previous quarter's training on improved fishing and processing technologies, as well as best business practices across various CNL communities in Delta State, PIND continued facilitating financial access for MSMEs and fisherfolk.

During the quarter, 85 MSMEs from the Osan Oritse Business Women and Men Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society in Ugborodo, Women Youth Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, and Classic Authority Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society in Ogeye Eghoroke secured loans worth ₦6 million from Unity Bank in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital.

Additionally, PIND provided tailored business skills training to 2,189 MSMEs, covering financial literacy, record-keeping, and business plan development, equipping them to access financing. Business Service Providers (BSPs) also facilitated connections between MSMEs and loan opportunities from financial institutions such as the Bank of Industry and other reputable lenders.

As a result, 266 MSMEs (156 female-led) secured loans totaling ₦394.7 million. This brought the total loans facilitated in 2024 to ₦1.6 billion, falling short of the ₦3.2 billion recorded in the previous year. The shortfall was attributed to recent government and financial policy changes, including the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) stringent lending policies, rising interest rates, delays in loan disbursements from NIRSAL Microfinance Bank due to new compliance protocols, and broader economic instability caused by inflation and currency fluctuations.

Market Linkages – Increased Sales and Profitability for MSMEs.

PIND intensified its engagement with key stakeholders to facilitate market access for MSMEs in the Niger Delta. In collaboration with CAD Digital Farm Limited, Life Edge Consulting, Flourishing Fields Agribusiness, CAD Consulting Limited, and other BSPs, PIND connected businesses with prominent bulk buyers, including corporate entities and open markets across the region.

These coordinated efforts enabled 101 MSMEs to secure new market opportunities, generating transactions worth ₦332.8 million during the quarter. By enhancing visibility and facilitating direct access to bulk buyers, the initiative significantly boosted revenue and growth prospects for these businesses, contributing to their long-term sustainability.

For 2024, the cumulative sales generated by MSMEs through BSP-supported transactions reached ₦10.4 billion, with ₦3.95 billion (38%) recorded as additional income for participating businesses.

3.2.0 Skills Development for Youth Employment (YEP)

PIND's Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) Program aims to develop youth employability, create job opportunities, and support enterprise development. The program adopts an innovative, market-driven vocational training model, equipping young men and women with industry-relevant skills and transitioning them into employment or entrepreneurship.

3.2.1 Q4 2024 Key Achievements

Training & Employment Linkages

- Total number of trainees in Q4 2024: 1,363
- Graduates in Q4 2024: 1,035 (479 females, 29 PWDs)
- Total graduates in 2024: 1,454 (764 females)
- 84% of graduates secured income-generating opportunities:
- 46% were linked to jobs.
- 35% became self-employed.
- Internship/apprenticeship placements for 294 youth (139 males, 153 females, 4 PWDs) to enhance hands-on skills.

3.2.2 Start-up Business Challenge Fund

2024 Entrepreneurship Development Plan

- 183 youth applied for short-term startup grants across four states (Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta).
- 114 youth were selected through a competitive process.

Challenge Fund Grant Disbursement

- Total disbursed: ₦67,025,000 to 114 beneficiaries.
- Women-led businesses: 60 | Men: 54 (including 5 PWDs).
- Sectors funded:
 - Agriculture (40 recipients)
 - Building Construction (31 recipients)
 - ICT (9 recipients)
 - Services (34 recipients)

2024 YEP Feedback & Strategic Planning Workshop

- A two-day learning and planning forum were held on December 10-11, 2024, to close out the YEP 2024 training program.
- The forum focused on:
 - Evaluating program achievements and lessons learned.
 - Refining implementation strategies for Phase IV (2025–2029).
 - Enhancing cross-learning among partners.
- Participants: 48 partners from Abia, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, and Ondo States (21 existing, 27 potential new partners).

3.3.0 Access to Energy

Many coastal rural communities in the Niger Delta suffer from poor electrification, with little to no access to regular electricity for basic household needs and economic activities. Given the high costs and challenging terrain, connection to the national grid remains unlikely in the near future. Since 2018, PIND has been bridging this gap by providing alternative and affordable off-grid energy solutions. These solutions address not only basic energy needs (such as lighting and cooking) but also power productive enterprises, including barber shops, beauty salons, and small businesses.

In the final quarter of 2024, PIND’s Access to Energy (A2E) project reinforced its commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions and fostering economic growth in the Niger Delta. Through strategic project implementation, impactful collaborations, and participation in key global and national platforms, the program addressed energy poverty, strengthened local economies, and enhanced community resilience.

A major highlight of the quarter was the deployment of solar refrigeration hubs in Ogidigben and Okibou-Zion communities, Delta State. Powered by 15kWp solar systems, these hubs offer rent-a-space refrigeration services to fisherfolk, MSMEs, and households, significantly reducing post-harvest losses. The initiative benefited over 500 local residents, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth. Additionally, by integrating healthcare electrification, the hubs provided reliable power for local medical services, further strengthening PIND’s commitment to holistic community development.

PIND also deepened its engagement with Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), working closely with the Egbema-OPUDIS and Ogulagha-Ibe HCDTs to integrate energy initiatives into their community development plans. These collaborations reinforced PIND’s role as a trusted facilitator while laying the groundwork for tailored energy interventions that drive economic growth and improve livelihoods.

The quarter was further marked by A2E’s active participation in leading energy platforms, including:

- Cracking the Nut Conference (#CTN24)
- African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) 2024 Conference
- REA Stakeholder Engagement Workshop (SEW2024)

These engagements showcased PIND’s scalable energy access models, fostered collaborations with global stakeholders, and strengthened partnerships with developers, policymakers, and impact investors. By presenting innovative clean energy solutions, PIND expanded its influence and secured vital support for its sustainability efforts.

Through these initiatives, PIND’s Access to Energy project is not only enhancing rural electrification but also catalyzing economic and social transformation. These achievements demonstrate how sustainable energy access unlocks development opportunities, improves livelihoods, and fosters environmental stewardship for underserved communities in the Niger Delta.

Table 2: 2024 summary of A2E as at Q4 2024

Access to energy quantitative as at 2024								
S/N	Indicators	Strategis targets	2024 Targets	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 Total
1	Number of Businesses with Access to Clean Energy	3,500.00	1,419	1,286	30	-	-	1,316
2	Number of Households with Access to clean Energy	4,500.00	2,612	5,084	260	-	-	5,344
3	People with access to Energy Technologies	30,150.00	15,976	31,790	1,625	-	-	33,415
4	Financial Benefits accruing to users of energy solutions	2,500,000,000.00	1,681,874,481	-	-	3,329,212,162	1,109,691,000	4,438,903,162
5	Total value of investments in energy solutions by public and private Sector	1,500,000,000.00	1,114,732,031.35	3,453,292,000	151,930,543	-	42,500,000	3,647,722,543
6	Number of jobs created	1,000	98	-	6	-	1,441	1,447
7	Total amount of environmental emissions saved by adoption of clean energy [tonnes of CO2 equivalent] PIND also advanced climate resilience through its A2E efforts which has deployed solar energy solutions with a combined installed capacity of 1,836.99 kWp over this strategic phase. These systems generated a remarkable 242,482,680 kWh of clean energy, offsetting 91,537.21 metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) emissions. By displacing emissions from conventional energy sources, these projects aligned with global climate action goals while simultaneously bolstering local economies in the Niger Delta.							

Solar Refrigeration Hub Deployments: Ogidigben and Okibou-Zion Communities, Delta State

A major highlight of the quarter was the deployment of solar refrigeration hubs in Ogidigben and Okibou-Zion communities, Delta State. These hubs, powered by 15kWp solar systems, provided rent-a-space refrigeration services to fisherfolk, MSMEs, and households.

Key Impacts of the Solar Hubs:

- **Reducing Post-Harvest Losses:** The hubs enabled better storage of perishable goods like fish, minimizing spoilage and increasing market opportunities.
- **Empowering Local Beneficiaries:** Over 500 local beneficiaries were impacted, with a special focus on women and youth, fostering economic empowerment in traditionally marginalized groups.
- **Integrating Healthcare Electrification:** Both hubs included the electrification of local healthcare centers through sustainable offtake agreements, ensuring uninterrupted power supply for critical medical services.
 - This initiative aligns with PIND’s commitment as a member of the Healthcare Electrification and Telecommunications Alliance (HETA), reflecting an integrated approach to clean energy and healthcare development.

Strategic Engagements with Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs)

The A2E program deepened its collaboration with Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to ensure that energy interventions are community-driven and aligned with local development plans.

- **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT:** There are ongoing dialogues focused on implementing energy projects outlined in their Community Development Plan (CDP). The trust expressed a strong commitment to advancing initiatives designed to meet the unique energy needs of the Egbema Kingdom.
- **Ogulagha-Ibe HCDT:** This marked the beginning of a new partnership, with discussions centered around potential energy interventions tailored to the community’s priorities. Both parties agreed to further explore specific projects that could drive economic and social transformation in the region.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement:

During Q4, the A2E team participated in the 8th Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) meeting under the Bridges Project, presenting PIND’s Access to Energy value proposition to various HCDTs. This platform facilitated:

- Strategic alignment of energy interventions with community needs.
- Demonstrations of how clean energy solutions can tackle critical local challenges.
- Collaborative planning to enhance livelihoods, productivity, and community resilience.

Unlocking Investment, Driving Job Creation, and Advancing Climate Action

PIND’s A2E initiatives delivered remarkable outcomes in Q4 2024, combining private sector investments, job creation, and climate resilience efforts.

Key Achievements:

- **Private Sector Investment:** The A2E program attracted ₦42.5 million in private investments for rural energy access.
 - Ejaice Limited: ₦31,002,816.04
 - Solarcool Limited: ₦11,588,685.13 (for solar refrigeration projects in Ogidigben and Okibou-Zion)
- **Job Creation:** 20 new jobs were created, directly linked to these innovative energy solutions, contributing to economic empowerment and sustainable development.
- **Climate Action:**
 - Deployed solar solutions with a combined installed capacity of 1,836.99 kWp.
 - Generated 242,482,680 kWh of clean energy, offsetting 91,537.21 metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions.
 - These efforts align with global climate action goals while stimulating local economies.
- **Financial Benefits to Energy Users:** Assessments revealed that ₦4.4 billion in financial benefits accrued to energy users through reduced operational costs, improved productivity, and enhanced quality of life.

Strategic Participation in National and International Energy Platforms

Throughout Q4 2024, PIND’s A2E program actively engaged in prominent national and global platforms, fostering partnerships, showcasing innovations, and attracting support for scalable energy models in the Niger Delta.

Key Events & Engagements:

- **Cracking the Nut Conference (Connexus Global Event):** PIND presented on “Decoupling Food Systems from GHGs Through Access to Energy Business Models,” highlighting how low-carbon technologies enhance energy efficiency and promote agro-based economic development.

- **African Venture Philanthropy Alliance (AVPA) 2024 Conference (Kenya):**
 - Engaged with global stakeholders such as Acumen, Rockefeller Philanthropy, and leading impact investors.
 - Showcased scalable energy access models to address energy poverty in underserved communities.
- **Rural Electrification Agency (REA) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop (SEW2024, Abuja):** Participated under the theme “Powering Partnerships for Sustainable Energy Access and Innovation,” collaborating with developers, policymakers, and financiers to advance renewable energy solutions in rural Nigeria.

These strategic engagements reinforced PIND’s role as a catalyst for innovative energy solutions, driving partnerships and policy alignment to advance rural electrification and economic development in the Niger Delta. By leveraging these platforms, the A2E program expanded its network, showcased scalable clean energy models, and demonstrated the transformative impact of sustainable energy access on underserved communities.

As PIND moves towards Phase IV, these industry collaborations lay the groundwork for scaling systemic interventions, ensuring that clean energy solutions reach more communities while driving long-term economic and social impact.

3.4.0 Sombreiro Kapital (SK)

Over the years, limited or non-existent access to finance has consistently hampered the productivity of businesses in the Niger Delta. This is largely due to systemic constraints such as restrictive regulations, infrastructural deficits, and knowledge gaps, which influence both the demand and supply of financial services. To address these constraints, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) was incorporated in 2020 as **Consulting Partner** to facilitate lending to businesses by issuing credit guarantees to partner commercial banks. This approach serves to de-risk lending, thereby unlocking the flow of finance to intended beneficiaries.

SK Mandate: At Sombreiro Kapital, we develop and integrate targeted crop and livestock value chains while issuing partial credit risk guarantees to partner financial institutions. This acts as a de-risking mechanism against credit default by smallholder farmers (SHFs) and SMEs, thereby incentivizing financial institutions to extend credit and unlocking funds across these value chains.

2024 Outlook and Targets:

For 2024, SK aimed to consolidate prior achievements and set an ambitious target to:

- Facilitate ₦100 million in loans to 300 businesses in the value chains of poultry, cocoa, oil palm, cassava, and MSMEs (with a focus on aquaculture).
- Focus on the focal states of Delta, Edo, Bayelsa, Imo, and Ondo.
- Achieve this through financial linkages, interest subsidies, and risk-sharing mechanisms.
- Promote gender parity by targeting 40% female participation, supporting women-led groups and business cooperatives with substantial female representation.

Key Achievements in Q4 2024:

In Q4 2024, SK focused on consolidating achievements from previous quarters and further advancing its mission to deepen inclusive finance among smallholders and MSMEs in the Niger Delta. The institution also worked to improve the symmetry of information, fostering sustainable relationships between fund providers and value chain actors, particularly in market linkages and technical support services.

Loan Facilitation and Impact:

- By the end of Q4 2024, SK had facilitated ₦184.78 million in loans to 854 beneficiary farmers (SHFs) and SMEs across the oil palm, fisheries, poultry, and aquaculture value chains.
- Women accounted for 41% of the beneficiaries, surpassing the gender parity target.
- The program maintained a single-digit interest rate of 9% on loans and achieved a default rate of 5%, consistent with industry standards.

Key Interventions:

Building on lessons from prior quarters, SK continued its intervention mandate to increase financial inclusion in the Niger Delta. Efforts were made to address sector-specific and systemic barriers that hinder the flow of finance into agricultural value chains, focusing on value chains with comparative advantages in the region.

Table 3: Q4 2024 Sombreiro Kapital 2024 performance

YEAR 2024 OUTLOOK FOR SOMBREIRO KAPITAL (SK)											
Indicators	2024 Targets	Q1 2024		Q2 2024		Q3 2024		Q4 2024		YEAR TO DATE (Q1 & Q2)	
		Q1 Result	Females	Result	No of females	Result	No of females	Result	No of females	Q1-Q4 Result	No of Female
No of farmers supported to receive loans by SK (units)	300	342	140	252	153	240	47	20	11	854	351
Volume of loans facilitated (₦)	100,000,000	71,783,080		25,000,000		88,000,000		3,000,000		187,783,080	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		NA	100		19		400	
Women to Men Ratio	40%		43%		60%		19%				41%

4.0 Peace Building Program

The strategic objective of the Peace Building Program is to achieve lasting, regional peace in the Niger Delta. PIND is doing this by:

- Creating sustainable peace partnerships.
- Encouraging collaboration and cooperation among peace actors.
- Supporting economic development as a pathway to peace.
- Strengthening indigenous structures for conflict resolution.
- Building interfaces with larger state-level or regional peace efforts.

Together, these initiatives aim to create an enabling environment for sustainable, broad-based economic development.

Structure of the Peace Building Program

The Peace Building Program consists of two interrelated and interdependent projects:

- **Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU):**
Focuses on research and training for local and international stakeholders. It implements innovative pilot projects that respond quickly to changing dynamics. The IPDU promotes collaboration among local, regional, and national actors in both the public and private sectors to develop early warning and response mechanisms, with a focus on gender and youth.

- **Partners for Peace (P4P) Network:**

PIND's strategy for establishing social infrastructure and building social capital across all nine states of the Niger Delta. In the past five years, PIND has built a network of self-identified peace agents who leverage grassroots networking to promote peace. The P4P Network currently has chapters and subchapters in all 9 states and 119 LGAs in the region.

In the current strategic phase (2020-2024), the Peace Network has focused on establishing and strengthening grassroots conflict resolution initiatives to promote a more integrated and peaceful environment conducive to economic growth.

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



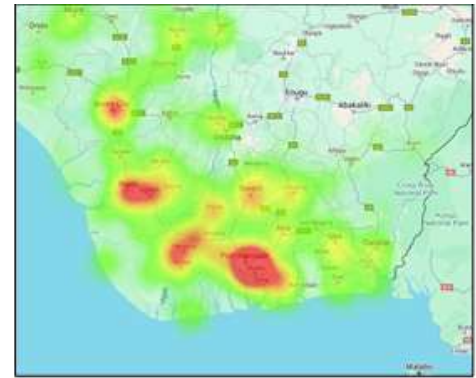
This section highlights key achievements of the Peace Building program in Q4,2024.

4.1 Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q4 2024

Despite concerted efforts, conflict risks and lethal violence in the Niger Delta increased in Q4 2024 compared to Q3 2024.

Key Data Points:

- Lethal violence increased by 28%, rising from 149 fatalities in Q3 to 190 in Q4.
- Criminal violence, including kidnappings for ransom, rose by 54%, from 98 fatalities in Q3 to 151 in Q4
- Armed clashes between security forces and criminal gangs/separatist militias rose by 50%, from 40 reported fatalities in Q3 to 60 in Q4.
- Cult and gang-related violence increased by 21%, from 33 fatalities in Q3 to 40 in Q4.
- Communal conflicts decreased by 31.5% in terms of incidents, but communal violence-related fatalities rose by 175%.



Niger Delta Conflict Fatalities Heat Map, Q4 2024

Primary Drivers of Conflict:

- Organized criminality (e.g. kidnapping for ransom, mob violence, violent clashes with government security forces).
- Cult clashes and gang violence, particularly in Edo, Imo, and Rivers states.

4.2 Peace building highlights of activities in Q4 2024:

Despite rising conflict, PIND remained committed to **building social infrastructure** and **empowering peace actors** across the region for **long-term sustainable peace**.

Key Initiatives:

1. Conflict Early Warning Products:

- Produced and disseminated 13 data-driven research and analytical products in Q4 2024, including:
 - 11 Weekly Conflict Briefs
 - 1 Special Policy Brief
 - 1 Quarterly Conflict Report (Q3 2024)
- These reports were shared with local, national, and international peace actors to enhance situational awareness and inform conflict mitigation strategies.
- In total, PIND produced 56 research and analytical products in 2024, exceeding the annual target by over 100%.

2. Small Grants for Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):

Nine (9) CBOs were awarded small grants to implement peacebuilding interventions in their respective states:

- Sanab Development Foundation (SANAB) – Abia
- Advocates of Peace, Nature and Gender Justice (APNAG) – Akwa Ibom
- Girl Child Empowerment and Reproductive Health Initiative (GREP) – Bayelsa
- Hopeland Community Initiative for Peace and Social Development (HCIPSD) – Cross River
- Family-Centred Initiative for Challenged Persons (FACICP) – Delta
- Koslivia Development Initiative (KODI) – Edo
- Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) – Imo
- Melville Women Initiative (MWI) – Ondo
- Community Resource Development Foundation (CREDEF) – Rivers

The objective of this initiative was to design, implement, and monitor peacebuilding interventions across the Niger Delta, focusing on conflict management, violence prevention, and enhancing overall peace and safety in the region. As part of this effort, one of PIND's partner CBOs, Sanab Development Foundation, led a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) awareness campaign in Umudike community, Ikwuano LGA, Abia State. The community, home to Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, was strategically chosen due to its high youth population—a demographic particularly vulnerable to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). The campaign effectively engaged key stakeholders, including students, university representatives, traditional and religious leaders, and state government officials.

Highlights of P4P Activities in Q4 2024:

- **Akwa Ibom:** The Uko-Nteghé and Enwang communities resolved a 20-year communal conflict through facilitated dialogues and peacebuilding efforts led by the P4P Network.
- **Bayelsa:** The P4P Chapter addressed recurring clashes between farmers and herders in Igbogene and Nyambiri Zarama communities by organizing multi-stakeholder engagements. As a result, community leaders and herders agreed to establish a conflict monitoring group to track and manage disputes.

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 Q4 2024. The €6.5 million project is implemented by a consortium comprising Search for Common Ground (SFCG), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), and PIND. As part of this initiative, PIND leads the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) and social cohesion components through its Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU).

Key Activities and Achievements

- **Consortium Budget Realignment & Technical Review (October 10, 2024):** SFCG hosted a budget realignment meeting in Abuja to review project progress, financial performance, and reassign responsibilities. The session included a fraud awareness training and concluded with the finalization of a revised budget and work plan. Subsequently, PIND participated in a technical meeting with SFCG, where it reviewed its financial status, work plan, and milestones, improving reporting timelines and implementation efficiency.
- **Cultural and Arts-Based Peacebuilding:** PIND organized arts and culture-based inter-community solidarity activities across 16 communities in Bayelsa and Delta states. The events, which engaged 1,673 participants, utilized dance, music, drama, and traditional wrestling to build trust, promote unity, and mitigate violence and criminality through cultural integration.
- **Strengthening Peace Structures:**
 - Community Peace Architecture (CPA) Meetings:
 - In December 2024, PIND facilitated monthly CPA meetings in Delta State, providing a platform for stakeholders to discuss emerging threats, share progress, and document impact stories from cultural peacebuilding activities.
 - State Peace Architecture (SPA) Capacity Building:
 - PIND supported SPA training sessions in Delta, Bayelsa, and Rivers states, focusing on early warning systems, conflict analysis, and strategic peace interventions. The SPA coordination meetings in Rivers and Bayelsa identified key conflict drivers such as drug abuse and proposed awareness campaigns as intervention strategies.
- **Early Warning and Conflict Prevention:**
 - PIND disseminated early warning messages and published a conflict bulletin to support proactive conflict prevention. These bulletins served as key resources for informed discussions and collaborative problem-solving.
 - PIND attended the quarterly EWER Technical Working Group meeting, where consortium partners reviewed progress, addressed reporting gaps, and developed strategies for enhanced implementation in 2025.



Arts and Culture Events, Bayelsa State



Participants at the arts and culture events in Bayelsa

Through these efforts, PIND strengthened community resilience, improved conflict management structures, and deepened regional peacebuilding efforts. By integrating cultural heritage into peacebuilding, facilitating proactive conflict prevention, and enhancing strategic partnerships, PIND continues to play a critical role in promoting stability and sustainable peace in the Niger Delta.

Prevent Council Facilitation and Consolidation in Abia, Edo and Ondo States

Between 2022 and 2023, PIND established Prevent Councils in Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Delta states to explore how local institutions and stakeholders—including traditional rulers and community leaders - can be leveraged for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation at the community, local, and state levels in the Niger Delta.

A key learning from these Prevent Councils is that traditional leaders have strong incentives to drive peace and security management at the grassroots level, as it aligns with the cultural heritage of their communities. Engagement with these leaders has helped coordinate communication among stakeholders, improving targeted responses to mitigate and prevent violent conflict.

Drawing on lessons learned from past interventions and considering current trends of conflict and insecurity, PIND initiated Prevent Councils in Abia, Edo, and Ondo states between October and December 2024.

Key Activities:

- **Preliminary Visits and Advocacy:** Conducted preliminary visits and advocacy efforts in communities identified as having a history of communal conflict and violence in the three states.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Successfully secured buy-in from local community leaders and stakeholders in preparation for a forthcoming capacity-strengthening exercise.

4.3 Key Peacebuilding Outcomes in Q4 2024

Utilization of PIND's Data Products:

- 56 stakeholders utilized PIND's peacebuilding data and analysis during Q4 2024.
- In 2024, a total of 2,570 stakeholders accessed these data products, surpassing the annual target by more than 100%.
- From 2020 to 2024, over 11,000 stakeholders utilized PIND's data products, exceeding the strategic target of 10,000 stakeholders.

Capacity Building Impact:

- 245 stakeholders, whose capacities were strengthened through PIND/P4P facilitated training sessions and workshops, applied their skills to promote peace and tackle conflict in their communities.
- In 2024, a total of 458 stakeholders (176 female) applied their acquired skills, surpassing the annual target by over 200%.
- Between 2020 and 2024, 1,277 stakeholders applied their skills, exceeding the strategic target by more than 100%.

Conflict Resolution by Peace Actors:

- In Q4 2024, 259 peace actors (P4P members) constructively resolved emerging conflicts in various communities in the Niger Delta by applying 34 quality actions.
- In 2024, a total of 1,214 peace actors resolved conflicts using 139 quality actions.
- Cumulatively, from 2020 to 2024, 5,010 peace actors resolved conflicts using 676 quality actions, exceeding the strategic targets.

4.4 Population Reporting Improved Peace Outlook:

A study conducted in Q4 2024 measured the proportion of people reporting improved safety and security in their communities:

- 510,916 people across 66 communities in nine states of the Niger Delta reported a positive peace outlook in 2024.
- This figure represents 1.7% of the 3 million Niger Delta population (2006 NPC data) impacted by conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution activities in Q4 2024.

Strategic Target Progress:

- The strategic target set for 2020 - 2024 was to positively impact 10% (i.e., 3 million people) of the Niger Delta population through the activities of 5,000 peace actors.
- By the end of Q4 2024, a cumulative total of 2,925,916 people reported a positive peace outlook, translating to 9.75% of the target population—just shy of the 10% goal.

Contributing Factors:

The positive outcomes were driven by various community-based peacebuilding interventions, including:

- Small Grant Projects (e.g., Herder-Farmer Conflict Interventions)
- P4P Subchapter Member Interventions

- P4P State Chapter Engagements
- P4P Prevent Committee Actions
- Prevent Council Community Interventions

These initiatives contributed to the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of several conflict drivers and risks.

4.5 Immediate Outcomes of the EU-PIND Project:

The EU-PIND Project yielded significant outcomes in Q4 2024:

- **Enhanced Interpersonal and Conflict-Resolution Skills:** Participants in social cohesion events reported improved skills in conflict resolution, strengthening relationships among youth, community leaders, and security agents.
- **Application of Skills in Conflict Resolution:** Over 75% of participants, including community leaders and youth, applied their skills to address emerging issues such as:
 - Land disputes
 - Resource-sharing conflicts
 - Domestic violence
 - Cult and gang-related violence, often fueled by drug abuse.
- **Capacity Building for Early Warning Systems:** The majority of EWER peace monitors across the three states reported significant improvements in their ability to prevent and resolve conflicts.
- **Cultural and Artistic Activities:** These activities proved effective in promoting dialogue and resolving conflicts, reinforcing the role of local culture in peacebuilding.

4.6 Behavior changes by peace actors to tackle conflict and promote peace in Q4 2024.

PIND’s peacebuilding efforts aim to:

- Prevent violence as a means of conflict resolution.
- Reduce community fragility that serves as a breeding ground for violence.
- Create opportunities for long-term development by fostering peaceful coexistence.

Key Strategies:

- **Promoting a Culture of Peace:** By providing relevant data for early response and facilitating collaborative conflict management, PIND promotes non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.
- **Facilitating Training and Workshops:** Through the Integrated Peace Development Unit (IPDU) and Partners for Peace (P4P) network, PIND has provided training to enhance the capacities of peace actors.

Some examples of the way these peace actors have applied skills gained to promote peace and tackle conflict in Q4, are given in table 4

Table 4. Summary of selected interventions carried out by some stakeholders and peace actors in Q4 2024

Resolving Herders-Farmers Conflict in Akwa Ibom
Chief Emmanuel, a member of the Akwa Ibom State Prevent Council, intervened in a conflict between herdsmen and some farmers in Utu-Ikot, Ikot Ekpene LGA. In September 2024, cows led by the herdsmen invaded some farms in the community and destroyed crops and the affected farmers were agitated. They demanded compensation or the herdsmen will be chased out of the community. Being a community leader, he intervened and the herdsmen agreed to pay the sum of NGN35,000 to the farmers as compensation. The matter was resolved peacefully.
Preventing Cult Gang Violence in Bayelsa
Kponu is a member of the Partners for Peace Network and the Youth President of Amarata community, Yenagoa LGA, who was trained on early warning and early response techniques and peacebuilding. In October 2024, he resolved a conflict between two notorious cult groups at OMPADEC school field, Amarata. Each group had members with arsenals and were ready for violent actions because of alleged theft. Kponu’s attention was drawn to the violence that was about to happen, and he quickly probed the matter, talked to both parties and calmed the tension to resolve the conflict.

5. General Enabling Program

This section shows key achievements in Quarter 4 of 2024 for all initiatives implemented under the General Enabling

PIND's interventions are organized under two distinct but interrelated program areas: (1) an Economic Development program, focused on creating opportunities for pro-poor market development and employment generation; and (2) a Peace Building program, aimed at strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms to foster integrated peace and support sustainable economic growth.

To support, enable, measure, and communicate the results and achievements of these two core pillars, PIND implements several cross-cutting initiatives:

- **Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E):** This track and assesses progress toward organizational goals, ensuring that interventions are data-driven and outcomes-focused.
- **Capacity Building:** Focused on enhancing the service delivery and engagement capacity of business membership organizations (BMOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and local communities, fostering sustainable development practices.
- **Advocacy:** Aims to influence policies, practices, and programs, using in-depth analysis to address systemic constraints to growth in the Niger Delta region.
- **Robust Communications and Outreach:** Enhances PIND's reputation by delivering clear, consistent messaging through multiple channels, highlighting its unique approaches, transformative impacts, and key learnings.

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



Program.

5.1 Capacity Building

As a key enabler of PIND's mission, the Capacity Building program is designed to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of government, civil society, and business associations/service providers. The goal is to foster effective socio-economic engagement, inclusive governance, and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta. This program directly contributes to PIND's long-term development objectives.

The program focuses on two major areas:

1. **Strengthening Local Development Organizations:** Through the Capacity Building for Local Empowerment (CAPABLE) – Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) project, PIND helps local organizations adopt market-driven approaches to development. M4P is a strategic framework that addresses systemic barriers preventing the poor from effectively participating in markets. In 2024, PIND continued to support CAPABLE organizations through direct mentorship on market systems implementation, proposal writing, and resource mobilization, helping them secure funding for sustainable interventions.
2. **Enhancing Community Development Institutions (HCDTs):** PIND plays a pivotal role in strengthening Chevron's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), which replaced the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021. In collaboration with Chevron's Policy, Government, and Public Affairs (PGPA) unit, PIND ensures these institutions can effectively manage development projects, promote peace, and

support sustainable livelihoods.

Key Capacity-Building Interventions for HCDTs

Following an Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of four HCDTs, PIND implemented strategic interventions:

- **Conflict Management & Peacebuilding Training:** In October 2024, a 2-day workshop in Asaba, Delta State, equipped 38 key HCDT members from Delta and Ondo States with skills in conflict sensitivity, early warning and response, and grievance redress mechanisms. Participants gained practical tools to mitigate conflicts, ensuring smoother project implementation.
- **Early Warning & Response (EWER) Integration:** HCDT members were introduced to PIND's SMS-based EWER system, enabling them to proactively track and address conflict triggers in their communities.
- **Organizational Governance & Leadership Support:** PIND provided ongoing coaching and advisory support to HCDT boards, advisory bodies, and management committees, helping them navigate community development mandates under the PIA framework.

Empowering Organizations for Sustainable Growth

Two organizations—Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE) and Better Living Foundation and Capacity Development—accessed ₦56.8 million in funding after receiving capacity-building support from PIND in:

- Resource mobilization & financial management
- Proposal writing & market systems development (M4P)

GREENCODE secured ₦46 million for two major projects in Cross River State:

- Mobilizing CSOs and Citizens for Social Accountability (MoCCSA): Strengthening community-driven accountability mechanisms.
- Tax Justice & Governance Project: Advocating for equitable tax reforms.



Participants at the tailored specific Peacebuilding training workshop for four CNL HCDTs

Better Living Foundation secured ₦10.8 million to implement a peacebuilding initiative in Yobe State.

These successes underscore the value of PIND's capacity-building interventions, helping organizations mobilize funding, implement impactful projects, and sustain long-term growth.

5.2 Advocacy

PIND's advocacy efforts in Q4 2024 focused on driving policy reforms, securing funding for regional development, and institutionalizing conflict prevention strategies. Key focus areas included:

1. **Advancing Land Access for Smallholder Farmers:** PIND continued its collaboration with arable land committees in Edo and Ondo States, advocating for policies that enhance smallholder farmers' access to land.
 - In Ondo State, PIND partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture to finalize a land access policy draft, now awaiting the governor's assent.
 - These efforts support broader initiatives, including FAO's FOLUR-IP project and the Mastercard Foundation's agricultural interventions.
2. **Addressing Multiple Taxation & Illegal Levies:** PIND finalized and disseminated a landmark report on multiple taxation's impact on small businesses in the Niger Delta.
 - Regional Tax Reform Dialogue: PIND convened a multi-stakeholder forum involving CSOs, business associations, and policy experts, including representatives from:
 - Tax Justice & Governance Platform
 - Small & Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)
 - Port Harcourt & Aba Chambers of Commerce
 - A **Technical Working Group (TWG) was established** to drive advocacy for tax policy reforms, aligning with national fiscal policies and regional economic strategies.
3. **Strengthening Government Engagement:** PIND actively participated in the 7th National Council on Youth Development (NCYD), deepening relationships with federal and state-level youth development stakeholders.
 - The engagement led to **proposed collaborations on internship and apprenticeship programs**, furthering youth employment initiatives in the Niger Delta.

4. **Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) – Bridges Project:** The Bridges Project, a key multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) for PIA implementation, concluded its 8th session in Q4 2024.
- PIND facilitated **capacity-building workshops on governance and data management** for HCDTs, ensuring they effectively **administer their trusts under the PIA framework**.
 - PIND's **Access to Energy and Capacity Building teams** engaged HCDTs, **pitching energy solutions and development interventions** to drive sustainable community growth.
 - A **proposal for project extension was approved**, transitioning to a **state-level MSP model with increased CSO participation** for sustainability.

NDLink

NDLink continued to experience substantial growth and impact, recording 53,562 new users on the platform in 2024 and 26,232 downloads throughout the year. In recognition of its growing profile, two organizations-initiated collaborations with the platform, leading to the implementation of initiatives that amplified PIND's work and strengthened the capacity of local organizations for greater impact.

NDLink exceeded its Q4 2024 targets by achieving 11,499 downloads of development resources (target: 3,000), raising awareness of development programs with 21,000 engagements (target: 2,500), and receiving 43 comments/feedback on issues catalyzed by the platform (target: 26).

In collaboration with Wikimedia Nigeria and Wikipedia Niger Delta, local affiliates of the world's largest and most widely referenced digital knowledge platform—Wikipedia—NDLink facilitated a training for selected NGOs in the Niger Delta on leveraging Wikipedia's 10 billion monthly views to amplify their causes. The training was initiated to address the lack of technical skills among development actors in the region, preventing them from fully utilizing the platform to publish their work and expand their impact.

Participants included members of PIND's Communication Unit, Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Partners for Peace (P4P), the Global Shapers Community, and participants from the PIND EU-SFCG project, among others. The training featured practical sessions on effectively utilizing Wikipedia, and participants found it highly beneficial, pledging to apply the knowledge within their organizations. This initiative aligns with PIND's efforts to equip local organizations with the skills needed to amplify advocacy efforts in the Niger Delta.

5.3 Communications

PIND's communications activities focus on boosting visibility, enhancing engagement, and strengthening its brand identity to attract partnerships and encourage the adoption of PIND's models of sustainable development. The strategic use of digital and mainstream media has significantly amplified PIND's impact, fostering stakeholder relationships and establishing the organization as a thought leader in the Niger Delta.

Increasing awareness of PIND among stakeholder groups through digital and mainstream media

From October to December 2024, PIND actively showcased its programs and activities across social media platforms. Notable highlights included:

- Cracking the Nut Conference
- National Agricultural Extension Impact Workshop
- EU/SFCG Arts and Culture Event
- Oil Palm Workshop
- DAME Awards
- Women in Tech Summit 3.0
- 13th Practical Nigerian Content Forum

These events garnered significant online engagement, with audiences lauding PIND's contributions to peacebuilding and economic development in the Niger Delta.

Sharing Knowledge of PIND's Development Models

PIND took strategic steps to share its development models, focusing on Access to Energy (A2E) and market systems approaches. The Cracking the Nut Conference served as a launchpad for highlighting PIND's solar mini-grid and refrigeration models, showcasing their success in electrifying last-mile coastal communities. The event spurred investment interest and was amplified across digital channels through pre- and post-event coverage.

Additionally, PIND shared its Q3 Progress Report and success story videos, which further boosted online visibility.

5.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND’s commitment to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) remains central to its mission of promoting sustainable poverty reduction, shared security, and prosperity in the Niger Delta. The 2020–2024 strategic plan prioritized gender equality, aiming to empower women, girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and vulnerable populations.

Strategic Gender Equality Targets

PIND set a strategic target to enable at least 81,000 women (40% of the overall target) to increase their incomes, positioning women’s economic empowerment as a core focus of its economic development programs.

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, positioning women’s economic empowerment at the core of its economic development activities.

In Q4 2024, a total of 29,536 individuals participated in various economic development interventions, of which 13,421 (45%) were male and 16,114 (55%) were female. Additionally, 29 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) completed soft skills training through the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) program.

The cumulative number of participants in the Economic Development program for the year reached 103,607, with 50,103 (48%) being female. Similarly, 376 women (44%), 485 men (56%), and 388 youths (45%) participated in various peacebuilding interventions, including conflict mitigation, peace and stability forums, skills enhancement, and mentorship programs, all aimed at promoting sustainable peace in the region.

Outreach - Gender Summary Q4 2024						
		Total	female	% females	males	males %
MSD	Cassava	49,407	29,431	60%	19,976	40.4%
	Cocoa	13,060	2,410	18%	6,420	49.2%
	Palm oil	20,608	8,489	41%	12,119	58.8%
	Poultry	10,304	5,380	52%	4,924	47.8%
	MSMEs	8,447	3,629	43%	4,818	57.0%
	Total	101,825	49,339	48.45%	48,257	47.4%
YEP	YEP	1,782	764	43%	1,018	57.1%
EDP	YEP+MDP	103,607	50,103	48.36%	53,505	51.6%
PB	PB training	861	376	44%	485	56%
Overall average		104,468	50,479	48.32%		
	PWD (YEP)	29				
	PWD (PB)	0				

Table 6: Gender disaggregation

In summary, in 2024, PIND recorded 50,479 female participants (48.3%) out of a total of 104,468, surpassing the 2024 annual gender mainstreaming target of 40%.

5.5 Business Development

In alignment with its strategic objective to diversify and expand its funding base, PIND continued to engage potential partners to explore new opportunities across its program areas. The organization focused on strengthening internal collaboration and coordinating efforts to deepen business development initiatives. Since Q4 2022, this approach has yielded significant milestones, driving sustainability and growth across programs

Facilitate Donor Stewardship for Increased Funding.

In Q4 2024, PIND successfully raised \$6.249 million from the Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP project, significantly surpassing its strategic funding target. The cumulative funds raised during this strategic phase (2020–2024) reached \$8.3 million, exceeding the initial target of \$6.5 million.

Following the YCAP award, the Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) team:

- Coordinated high-level meetings with consortium partners, IDH and Psaltry International.
- Managed the due diligence process with the Mastercard Foundation and partners.
- Finalized the implementation plan for the Y-CAP project, ensuring smooth program rollout in Q1 2025.

Execution of Third-Party Projects

- **FAO FOLUR Project:** During the quarter, the BDS team supported the Advocacy and Market Systems Development (MSD) teams in delivering key components of the FOLUR project. This included:
 - Facilitating the FAO customary land titling consultative forum.
 - Conducting Training of Trainers (ToT) on best agronomic practices.
 - Hosting a diversification workshop and financial literacy training in Ondo and Cross River States.
 - Reviewing project implementation reports and participating in monthly planning meetings with FAO PILA and FAO Land Tenure Leads.

- **A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta:** The BDS team provided critical support to the Peacebuilding implementation of the EU-funded project in collaboration with Search for Common Ground (SFCG). Key activities included:
 - Monitoring project progress and ensuring alignment with EU reporting requirements.
 - Addressing implementation challenges, including HR issues related to consultant remuneration and internal audit queries by SFCG. Investigations confirmed no involvement of PIND staff in fraudulent activities.
 - Facilitating coordination meetings with Finance and Peacebuilding teams to enhance project delivery.
- **Additional Business Development Initiatives**
 - **Engagement with Serendib Capital:** Supported community engagement and stakeholder mapping for the mangrove restoration and carbon trading project in Delta State.
 - **MoU Signing with Okomu Oil-Palm PLC:** Coordinated a strategic partnership to co-create and implement CSR interventions with communities in Edo State.
- **Increasing PIND's Visibility:** Collaborated with the Communications/Knowledge Management unit to enhance PIND's visibility at key conferences and summits, including:
 - Lagos Employment Trust Fund Summit 3.0
 - Impact Investors Foundation West Africa Deal Summit
 - AVPA Annual Conference in Nairobi, Kenya
- **Continuum Capital SPV Establishment:** Supported the registration of Continuum Capital, a proposed Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The BDS team:
 - Obtained the registration certificate from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).
 - Engaged with banks and private-sector investors for potential investments.
 - Initiated the development of a governance structure and SPV handbook to guide operations and capital raising.
- **Participation in the 2024 AVPA Conference (Kenya):** PIND's impact investment activities gained high visibility through:
 - Speaking engagements, panel discussions, and roundtables.
 - Induction into the Nigeria Advisory Board for Impact Investing during the West Africa Deal Summit in Lagos

6. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Market Development and Peace Building Programs:

- **Weather/Climate Change:** Unpredictable weather impeded the establishment of demonstration plots, causing frequent cancellations and rescheduling of activities. Service providers were trained to understand sector-specific business cycles and enhance resilience.
- **Reduced Poultry Investment:** High input costs and renewed insecurity, coupled with potential protests due to economic hardships, affected field operations and outreach. Service providers improved Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to reduce marginal production costs.

Youth Employment Pathways Program: the fourth quarter present the following challenged in YEP

- **Rising Transportation Costs:** Fuel price increases led to higher commuting expenses, causing dropouts and financial strain for participants. Some partners adjusted training schedules, yielding improved attendance rates.
- **Youth Mobilization Challenges:** Recruiting youth (16-25 years) for sectors like agriculture and construction proved difficult due to peer pressure favoring get-rich-quick schemes. Successful alumni were recruited to mentor and inspire potential participants

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

- **Rising Equipment Prices:** Currency fluctuations and inflation increased the capital costs of solar refrigeration hub projects.
- **Delays in Community Development Plan Approvals:** The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission delayed the approval of HCDT projects, disrupting timelines.
- **Fragmented Market Focus:** Renewable energy developers operating across regions struggled to concentrate efforts solely on the Niger Delta, limiting localized solutions.

Lessons learned:

Market System Development Program (MSD)

The requirement of 5 hectares for Commercial Seed Entrepreneurs (CSEs) posed barriers due to limited land access in the Niger Delta. Reducing the requirement to 0.5 hectares with scalability up to 3 hectares encourages broader participation and enhances agricultural engagement.

Communications:

Increasing PIND's visibility in mainstream media remains crucial. The Communications unit is revising its media strategy, focusing on the Phase IV brand refresh and the upcoming 15th-anniversary celebration. Paid promotions on social media will ensure sustained audience engagement.

Youth Employment Program (YEP):

Engaging social inclusion advisors and partnering with schools for special needs increased participation from persons with disabilities (PWDs), fostering inclusivity.

7. Program Management

Governance and Accountability: Separate meetings of PIND's sub-committees—including Project and Programs, Audit and Compliance, Business Development and Sustainability (BDS), Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and Advocacy and Partnership—were held in Q3 2024. These meetings are crucial for PIND's internal governance and accountability, ensuring that the Board remains informed about programming and provides feedback to optimize implementation. Key agreements from these meetings, along with M&E updates on program implementation, were reported to PIND's Board during the November 2024 meeting.

PIND also conducted its annual retreat to review 2024 performance and initiate plans for 2025 activities. Lessons learned were shared to enhance the 2025 operating plan and execution strategies.

During the quarter, PIND finalized and secured Board approval for its Phase IV (2025–2029) strategy. The strategy was developed using feedback from the 2024 Participatory Stakeholders Review (PSR) and consultations with key stakeholders.

Organizational Sustainability:

- Phase IV Strategy Approval:** PIND completed and secured approval for its 2025–2029 Phase IV strategy. This strategy, developed with input from the PSR process and various stakeholder consultations, provides a roadmap for the next five years.
- Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP:** In Q4 2024, PIND finalized a \$6.249 million grant contract for the Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP project, setting the stage for an early Q1 2025 launch. The BDS team coordinated high-level meetings with Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP consortium partners (IDH and Psaltry International) to conduct due diligence and finalize the implementation plan.
- FAO FOLUR Project:** PIND continued implementing the FAO FOLUR Project in Q4 2024, supporting various project components, including:
 - Customary land titling consultative forum
 - Best agronomic practice training of trainers (ToT)
 - Diversification workshop
 - Financial literacy training in Ondo and Cross River States
 - The BDS team reviewed project implementation reports, participated in monthly planning meetings, and engaged with FAO's PILA and Land Tenure Leads.
- A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta:** The EU-funded project remained on track as planned.

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:

PIND continued investing in employee well-being and workplace safety. In Q4 2024, the Operations Unit provided seamless services to consultants and stakeholders, enhancing project execution.

Key achievements included:

- Enhanced IT management through continuous review and updates of PIND’s Integrated Platform (PIP).
- Optimal logistics arrangements for project implementation and operations.
- Efficient processing of utility bills, maintenance of communication equipment, stakeholder/vendor relations, and vehicle maintenance.
- Successful facilitation of events and workshops, both within and outside PIND premises.
- Onboarding of new staff and effective equipment and facilities management.

Project Support Services (PSS):

PIND’s procurement and contract administration services ensured compliance with internal policies and procedures.

- In Q4 2024, 37 contracts were awarded, totaling ₦163.38 million.
- Throughout 2024, 279 contracts were awarded, with 102 contracts (34.34%) awarded to women or female-led organizations.

The table below presents contract and grant awards in Q4 2024, dis-aggregated by contract type and gender, along with cumulative figures from January–December 2024

Table 7. Contracts awarded in Q4 2024 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number (Q4)	Number Processed to date (Jan-Dec 2024)	Value Committed(Q4) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-Dec 2024) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q4)							
					Male	Value Committed (NGN)	Female	Value Committed (NGN)	Female-Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed (NGN)	Male-Headed/Owned Organizations	Value Committed (NGN)
Professional Services Contract	1	11	7.9 million	153.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7.9 million
Services Order	13	64	41.22	317.98	4	14.58 million	2	6.86 million	2	4.59 million	5	15.19 million
Purchase Order	7	20	32.54 million	88.32 million	-	-	-	-	2	9.2 million	5	23.33 million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	13	177	58.92 million	469.96 million	3	5.85 million	-	-	7	28 million	3	25.07 million
MOU	3	7	22.77 million	141.71 million	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22.77 million
Total	37	279	163.35 million	1.17 billion	7	20.43 million	2	6.86 million	11	41.79 million	17	94.28 million

8. Looking Ahead

Priority actions for next quarter

In Phase IV, Q1 2025, the **market development program** will transition into cross-cutting programming for the next phase, under the following cross-cutting thematic areas:

Access to Seeds:

- Adapt existing seed promotion models and expand to other communities
- Finalize partnerships with selected seed companies and key stakeholders in the seed sector
- Develop a seed distribution model in collaboration with market actors.

Access to input:

- Develop an input distribution model for inputs in the crops and livestock sub-sector in collaboration with key industry stakeholders.
- Finalize engagements and partnerships with input firms and identify potential partners
- Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to implement the upgraded input distribution model and climate-smart input promotion.

Access to Technical and Business Development Services:

- Remodel existing improved technical modules to represent cross-cutting themes into a consolidated GAP model inclusive of climate-smart actions.
- Finalize partnerships with key firms and service providers to provide cross-cutting technical/business services (inclusive of climate-smart practices)

Access to the industrial market and Technology:

- Review existing aggregation models (including PIND's model) and develop an updated aggregation model to cover key players (industrial processors, aggregators, farmers) and commodities for guaranteed market access.
- Finalize engagements and partnerships to drive guaranteed market access and technology for farmers.

The Access to Energy project will provide renewable energy solutions to enhance livelihoods by developing energy provider networks, partnering with financing entities, and expanding electricity access.

The Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) project will develop private sector-led vocational training for youth skill development by strengthening TVET centers and implementation partners (IPs). Additionally, it will expand vocational and entrepreneurship training for youths.

The Peacebuilding Program will:

- Supervise the execution of the EU/SFCG-funded project in selected states.
- Facilitate the implementation of peacebuilding and economic development activities for Okomu Oil Palm in collaboration with other units.
- Support the development of the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) in collaboration with Advocacy.
- Facilitate collaborations and partnerships with relevant organizations, e.g., UNIPORT, SDN, IPCR, Peace Makers Network, NDC, etc.
- Recalibrate and strengthen Peacebuilding Committees in CNL HCDTs through grants and capacity building.
- Produce weekly Conflict Update Trackers and Briefs.
- Facilitate Prevent Council operationalization in selected states.
- Strengthen the Niger Delta Peace and Security Network.
- Provide quarterly technical oversight support to P4P coordinators and the secretariat.
- Conduct monthly M&E follow-ups and communication support for Peace Monitors.
- Organize validation workshops to present peacebuilding research findings.
- Conduct field research (FGDs & KIIs) for policy briefs and conflict reports.

The Advocacy Program will:

- Establish the Multiple Taxation Technical Working Group (TWG).
- Track the implementation of the NDRPS.
- Facilitate the expansion of The Bridges Project.
- Continue the next phase of the Multiple Taxation intervention and work with the Communications Unit on a documentary on multiple taxation and illegal levies.
- Track and report stakeholder engagements across program areas.
- Continue updating the Stakeholder Engagement Tracker.
- Strengthen the NDLink sustainability drive and engage new partners.
- Provide advocacy support to the FAO FOLUR project.
- Explore new advocacy focus areas for the next phase.



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