



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter One:
January - March 2026

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 peace, poverty reduction, energy access, employment generation, stability, and development in the region.

Learn more about [PINDfoundation.org](https://pindfoundation.org).

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AOIHCDT	Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe Host Community Development Trust
APNAG	Advocates of Peace, Nature, and Gender Justice
A2E	Access to Energy
ABAAS	Arog Bio Allied Agro Services Limited
BATVE	Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education
BDS	Business Development & Sustainability
BoI	Bank of Industry
CDP	Community Development Plan
CLASP	Collaborative Labelling and Appliance Standards Program - An NGO promoting efficient appliances for people and the planet.
CNA	Comprehensive Needs Assessment
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
DARES	Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up
CDP	Community Development Plan
CPP	Crop Protection Product
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DELCOM COOP	Delta State Commercial Oil Palm Plantation Growers Cooperative Society
EOHCDT	Egbema OPUDIS Host Community Development Trust
EU	European Union
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
FCDO	UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
FSP	Farm Service Provider
FMYD	Federal Ministry of Youth Development
FUPRE	Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GenCos	Nigerian Power Generation Companies
HCDT	Host Community Development Trust
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDH	IDH Trade
Ibom-LED	Ibom Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Centre
JONAPWD	Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities
JSC	Joint Steering Committee
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPDU	Integrated peace and development Unit
IWD	International Women's Day
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices
KEFFESO	Koluama 1, Ezetu 1, Foropa, Fish Town, Ekeni, Sangana
KSS	Knowledge Sharing Session
LMA	Labor Market Assessment
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MWI	Melville Women Initiative
NASME	Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises
NASC	National Agricultural Seed Council
NDPSN	Niger Delta Peace and Security Network
NDRPS	Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy
NDYEP	Niger Delta Youth Employment Pathways
NIHORT	National Institute for Horticultural Research

NPO	Nigerian Philanthropy Office
NSHP	Nigeria Solar for Health Project
NRCRI	National Root Crops Research Institute
NTU	NTU International
NUPRC	Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission
PB	Peacebuilding
PIA	Petroleum Industry Act
PIP	PIND Integrated Platform
PPA	Power Purchase Agreement
PREO	Powering Renewable Energy Opportunities - A demand-led donor funded productive use of renewable energy program improving the livelihoods of communities in sub-Saharan Africa and Pacific Island Countries
PSS	Procurement Support Services
PWD	Person with Disability
P4P	Partners for Peace
REAN	Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria
REA	Rural Electrification Agency
RFP	Request for Proposal
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP)
ROGEAP	Regional Off-grid Electricity Access Project - An ECOWAS project that provides funding for certified off-grid and standalone solar
ECN	Energy Commission of Nigeria
SDN	Stakeholder Democracy Network
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
SHF	Small Holder Farmers
SMEDAN	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria
ToT	Training of Trainers
TSPs	Technical Service Providers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
OAODF	Okiero Anthony Okoro Development Foundation
OOPC	Okomu Oil-Palm Company PLC
WACCIMA	Warri Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines and Agriculture
WKHCDT	Warri Kingdom Coastal Host Community Development Trust
UK-PACT	UK Government's Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions
UHCDDT	Ugboland Host Community Development Trust
YEP	Youth Employment Pathways
WACEE	West African Clean Energy and Environment Trade Fair and Conference
WISE	Empowering Young Women through SME Growth and Local Sourcing in Africa
YOF	Youth Outgrower Farmer

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/Knowledge management:** Enhances PIND's reputation and brand through clear and consistent messaging across multiple channels, highlighting its unique value proposition, transformative approaches, impact, learning and knowledge management.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Independently tracks, verifies, and measures program results to ensure accountability.

THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of Phase IV (2025-2029), PIND aims to:

SO1: Achieve better functioning market systems for agriculture and MSMEs, youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy benefiting 800,000 farmers and MSMEs, 50% of whom will increase their income by 40%, and creating 150,000 new jobs, 50% of which will benefit youths and other vulnerable groups. Additionally, 250 communities will be electrified.

SO2: Influence \$50 million investment in the Niger Delta through PIND; raise a minimum of \$7.5 million in additional funds from the private sector and donor community for PIND programs, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.

SO3: Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta, reducing GHG emissions from renewable energy, mitigating flood impacts through community plans, and supporting enterprises selling bio/organic products.

SO4: Support Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to co-invest in priority projects that improve economic and peacebuilding agendas in their communities by enhancing their capacity to co-design and co-invest in skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation.

SO5: Reduce conflict and promote peace by sustainably deploying the P4P Network, strengthening the link between peacebuilding and economic development, delivering value to donors and other stakeholders, and addressing regional conflict issues.

PIND’s Programs contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Programs	SDGs
Market development, Access to energy and Youth Employment Pathways	1,2,5,6,7
Peace Building Program	16
General Enabling Programs	5,10,15, 17



Security

During the quarter, PIND continued to collaborate with local peace actors and civil society organizations to mitigate emerging conflict risks across the Niger Delta, including identifying and addressing emerging conflict issues across Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) in Delta and Ondo States. For example, through the Early Warning Early Response (EWER) system, in Ondo State, PIND coordinated with the P4P Prevent Team and Council to deescalate a potential conflict at the Ewan Oilfield in Ilaje LGA. An incident involving damages to fishermen’s boats - allegedly caused by a vessel linked to CNL - sparked threats of protest and possible disruption of operations. The prompt deployment of the EWER system leading to the engagement of response actors – the Prevent Team helped to calm the tensions and averted escalation.

This reflects the combined effects of the ongoing peacebuilding, and conflict management interventions across the region. Nonetheless, incidents of violence and insecurity persisted, underscoring the continued fragility of peace in several parts of the Niger Delta. Kidnapping, both targeted and opportunistic, continues to be a significant threat across Nigeria, primarily driven by economic gains regardless of the victim’s profile.

Notable Security Incidents in Q1 2026:

- **Delta State (February 5, 2026):** Suspected kidnappers abducted travelers along the Ewu-Ajekuta Road in Ughelli North LGA. However, the Police were able to rescue the victims. Similarly, Police raided kidnapping and cult dens in the Ughelli North LGA, rescuing four victims from ongoing abductions linked to cult activities, and intensified operations in the area.
- **Ondo State (March 09, 2026):** Suspected gunmen shot and abducted a council secretary, and two others, in

- o Ilu-Abo, Akure North LGA.
- o **Abia State (March 23, 2026):** Government Security Forces (GSF) clashed with members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Eastern Security Network (ESN) in Aba (Aba North/South LGAs). Some members of the outlawed groups were killed in the exchange.
- o **Akwa Ibom State (January 2, 2026):** Police foiled an armed robbery attempt by a six-member gang targeting a petrol station along Ikot Ekpene Road near Ikot Ekang Junction in Abak LGA. In a gun duel, one suspect was neutralized (killed), while others fled.
- o **Bayelsa State (February 22, 2026):** Three persons were reportedly killed in a violent cult clash at the Igbogene suburb of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

Abridged Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

Introduction:

The Monitoring and Evaluation report provides updates to donors, Board of Trustees, and partners on project achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. It also aims 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.

The report highlights successes and challenges, fostering shared learning and encouraging further collaborations with partners including the Ford Foundation, the Mastercard Foundation, the European Union and Okomu Oil Palm Company.

This quarter’s report (**January–March, 2026**), is the fifth under Phase IV strategic period (2025 – 2029) - the first for 2026, and it provides updates on program performance in line with PIND’s five strategic objectives. Each quarter, PIND will present consolidated progress updates across all programs and projects under these objectives.

1.0 Strategic Objective 1. Better functioning market systems

This objective focuses on improving market systems in agriculture, MSMEs, youth skills development, finance, and access to renewable energy. Additionally, it aims to deepen economic growth outcomes in the Niger Delta through improved interventions to address systemic constraints hindering business functionality and equitable delivery of business gains to the players. In Q1 2026, the Market Systems Development (MSD), Access to Energy (A2E), and Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) programs continued to work collaboratively with PIND’s cross-cutting units (Capacity Building, Advocacy, etc.) to advance activities benefiting farmers and MSMEs.

1.1.0 Market System Development (MSD) Program

The functionality of the market system for agricultural growth continues to thrive with several behavioral changes observed in Q1 2026 by the engaged **Service Providers (SPs)**. Service Providers continued to enhance farmers’ knowledge on improved productivity models; strengthened the entire agricultural value chain through on-farm agronomic demonstrations; and diversified operations for resilience and growth. To expand the outcomes of service partners, PIND continued to identify entrepreneurial partners and onboard them into cross-cutting services across the MSD thematic areas: **Access to Agricultural Inputs (fertilizers, crop protection products (CPPs), feeds, vaccines, etc.); Access to Seeds; Access to Technical and Business Development Services; and Access to Industrial Markets and Agricultural Technology.**

1.1.1. Q1 2026 update on deepening partnerships to expand farmers’ outcomes:

Technical Services:

- o A Training-of-Trainers (ToT) was conducted for 19 local Technical Service Providers under the PIND–Okomu Oil Palm Company joint CSR project, enhancing their capacity to deliver cross-cutting, climate-smart services across key value chains. This approach is helping to create a stronger pool of local service providers who can deliver a wider range of services to farmers and MSMEs.
- o PIND introduced digital and financial service delivery models for Business Service Providers (BSPs). Through a

partnership with CAD Consulting, 29 BSPs were trained and onboarded onto the BlinkHub ICT platform, enabling more structured and scalable service delivery. BSPs have started using the BlinkHub platform to organize service delivery, track clients, and improve coordination.

- Linkages were also established between BSPs and 4 financial institutions, including Bank of Agriculture, Sterling Bank, Ecobank, and Unity Bank, strengthening their ability to connect MSMEs to funding opportunities.



Access to quality and climate-smart inputs:

- To stimulate demand for quality/climate-smart inputs and improved seeds, partners implemented a combination of demonstration-based learning, advisory services, and market linkage facilitation. During the quarter, 60 Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) trainings activities were conducted while CHC Agritech limited promoted eco-friendly and climate-smart products across target states. A total of **2,006 inputs and seeds purchases** were recorded, generating over **₦80 million in farmer investment** in seeds, fertilizers, and crop protection products.

Access to Industrial Market and Technology (AIMAT):

- PIND continued to promote partnership models for industrial processors, aggregators, and farmers to ensure a guaranteed market access for agricultural produce: In Q1 2026, **Agronadol Limited** and **Glory Andonase** (Service providers), delivered targeted training to farmers on export standards, post-harvest handling, and quality requirements, particularly in the cocoa sector to improve processing, storage, and product quality to meet the requirements of higher-value markets.
- A multi-stakeholder validation workshop brought together aggregators, off-takers, farmer groups, and service providers to review and refine the aggregation models. This process helped align incentives, clarify roles, and ensure the models reflect current market realities for all actors.
- Following the validation, pilot market linkages were initiated in collaboration with **Valuashore Global Resources** across cocoa, oil palm, and cassava value chains. These pilots mark an important step toward building repeatable and scalable sourcing arrangements between farmers and buyers.

1.1.2. Partners promote Agricultural Technology Innovations

In Q1 2026, **ColdHubs**, a solar-powered cold storage using a **Cooling-as-a-Service model (CaaS)** in Imo State, has been introduced for farmers, traders, and SMEs to access storage without high upfront costs. A Farmer-Trader Market Linkage meeting was organized by **ColdHubs** with 101 participants at Salad Market, Obinze, Imo State. A key highlight of the event was the introduction of the **Coldtivate App** to improve communication and coordination between farmers and buyers. This is in addition to the Renewable-Powered/Digital Technologies such as solar-powered knapsack sprayers, Tarager Drier, and Skonnet digital application for labor sourcing already being promoted.

1.1.3. MSD Key Outputs/Outcome as at Q1 2026

- In Q1 2026, an additional 41 Service Providers were onboarded in addition to the 54 service providers reported in 2025. They are delivering improved services to farmers and MSMEs across the four thematic areas: **Access to Agricultural Inputs (fertilizers, crop protection products (CCPs), feed, vaccines, etc.); Access to Seeds, Access to Technical and Business Development Services; and Access to Industrial Market and Agricultural Technology.** For this year MSD plans to onboard 100 service providers to provide cross-cutting services to farmers and MSMEs across the nine states of the Niger Delta.
- An additional **22,342 farmers/MSMEs – 11,104 females**, were reached in Q1 2026 with improved cross-cutting services through 41 service providers onboarded. MSD portfolio plans to impact over 150,000 farmers/MSMEs in 2026 through 100+ Service Providers. The progress of the MSD partners, farmers/MSMEs will be monitored to track their performances in the coming quarters.

1.2. Access to Energy (A2E)

1.2.1. Significant Achievements / Results

In Q1 2026, the Access to Energy (A2E) program focused on deepening market engagement, strengthening partner capacity, and translating outreach into measurable deployment outcomes across the Niger Delta. The quarter reflects a continued shift from facilitation to **early-stage scale**, where more developers are not only engaging with the A2E model but actively deploying energy solutions in rural and coastal communities.

Through targeted outreach such as participation at **WACEE '26** and structured knowledge-sharing on carbon credit financing, A2E expanded its reach within the energy ecosystem while strengthening the capacity of existing partners to access new financing pathways. These engagements improved partner understanding of sustainable, market-driven energy models and created clearer pathways from interest to investment.

A2E's hands-on support, including technical advisory, community entry facilitation, and field-based engagement, led to **tangible deployment outcomes**, with multiple partners implementing mini-grids, mesh grids, and solar home systems across underserved communities. At the same time, the program strengthened collaboration with HCDTs by aligning private sector investments with community development priorities and supporting project origination processes. Together, these outreach activities expanded A2E's partner network, deepened engagement with existing developers, and introduced new financing and collaboration pathways that support scalable energy deployment in the Niger Delta.

Overall, Q1 2026 activities demonstrate a maturing system where developers are increasingly confident to invest, HCDTs are becoming more structured in planning energy projects, and communities are gaining access to reliable electricity that supports livelihoods and local economic activity – see figure 1.

Significant Achievements / Results

- **Deployment of 10 Energy Solutions Across the Niger Delta by five energy partners:** Partner-supported interventions led to the installation of mini-grids, mesh grids, and solar home systems across ten communities by five partners, providing access to electricity for 33,348¹ people.
- **Private Sector Response Strengthened:** Multiple developers translated outreach and technical support into actual investments, with partners such as **Ashdam Solar, Darwey Coast, Renergy, Oghosa Energy, and DISA Energy** deploying solutions across Abia, Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Ondo, and Delta States.
- **Expanded Financing Awareness Through Carbon Credit Engagement:** A2E introduced partners to carbon credit financing, improving their ability to structure projects for additional funding and enhancing long-term project viability.
- **Stronger HCDT–Private Sector Linkages:** A2E facilitated developer entry into HCDT communities and supported project planning processes, enabling early-stage co-investment and alignment with Community Development Plans.
- **Progress on Inclusive Participation:** Two female-led energy companies deployed projects during the quarter, while inclusive governance structures, such as the Power Committee in Gbelebu community, ensured participation of women and youth in energy project oversight.

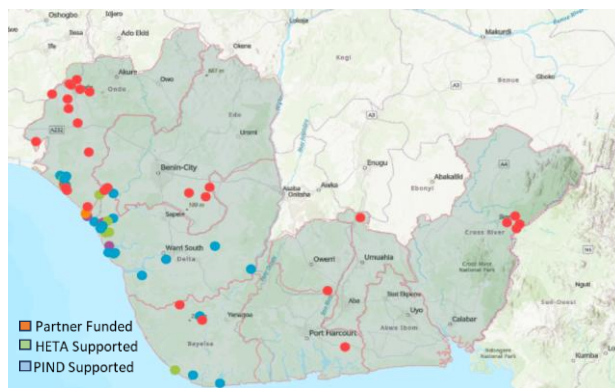


Fig 1: Communities with Clean Energy Solutions (2019 – 2026)

1.2.2. Energy Partners outcomes

In Q1 2026, A2E observed clear shifts in the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of partner energy providers, following sustained outreach and targeted technical assistance. Developers moved from exploratory interest to concrete

¹ This was from 5,558 households accessing clean energy within the reporting period, at an average of 6 persons per household – source NBS

investment decisions, demonstrating stronger confidence in operating within coastal and last-mile markets in the Niger Delta. See details of the **10** energy solutions across the Niger Delta below:

- **Darwey Coast**, supported through sustained technical advisory spanning previous quarters, deployed **four mini-grids** across Abia, Imo, Bayelsa, and Rivers States.
- **Ashdam Solar** through community entry support and stakeholder engagement facilitated by A2E, deployed **mesh grid solutions in two coastal communities in Ondo State**.
- **Reenergy** implemented a **mini-grid project in a rural community in Ondo State**.
- **Oghosa Energy** deployed **two energy solutions in coastal communities in Delta State**.
- **DISA Energy** also expanded access through the deployment of **solar home systems in a coastal community in Bayelsa State**.

Collectively, these partner actions represent a substantive change in behavior across the cohort. These five partners invested their own capital, mobilized external finance, and deployed solutions aligned with the productive use of energy. In total, the five partners invested **₦5.25 million** into rural and coastal communities in the Niger Delta during the quarter.

1.2.3. Key A2E Activities/Outputs/Outcomes as at Q1 2026

Ten communities in the Niger Delta impacted with access to clean energy within the reporting period include: Lekwesi (Abia), Alatia (Imo), Kaani (Rivers), Akeddei (Bayelsa), Lege (Ondo), Isampou (Ekeremor LGA, Bayelsa), Rebiminiu and Obenfala (Ilaje LGA, Ondo), Itagbene (Delta), and Okifamba (Delta).

Key outputs are provided below:

- **Number of businesses and households accessing clean energy:** Within the reporting period, **5,558** households, and **3,322** businesses accessed clean energy from the installation of solar mini-grids and other solutions. In 2026, A2E plans to provide clean energy solutions to **6,500** households, **3,500** businesses, through 20 additional energy partners.
- These interventions provided access to reliable electricity for a total of **33,348 people**, including households and small businesses operating within these communities. The beneficiaries primarily include low-income households, traders, fisherfolks and micro-enterprises whose livelihoods depend on stable energy for productive activities such as trading, processing, and small-scale services.
- In addition to direct access, the deployments also contributed to **local job creation**, with at least **two village-level technicians engaged in each community** to support installation, basic maintenance, and system operations. This has helped build local technical capacity and strengthen community ownership of the energy solutions. Overall, the interventions are improving livelihoods by reducing energy costs, enabling productive use, and creating local economic opportunities, while strengthening the foundation for sustainable energy access in underserved communities.
- Other impact indicators of the A2E will be tracked subsequently.

1.3.0. Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)

The Youth Employment Pathways program adopts three-pronged approach in phase IV of PIND program, aimed at improving the system for youth employment: TVET facility upgrades for inclusive training; TVET scholarship grants and challenge fund award. These complement each other in building a system that stimulates ecosystem functionality for youth development in the Niger Delta.

This leverages **implementing partners** as the key drivers of youth skill development. As the program continues to facilitate models that address key constraints through a series of systemic changes led by the TVETs and support interventions, TVETs are increasingly operating commercial business models with private and diverse income streams; interacting with other industry and market actors to drive access to affordable, market-relevant skills training; supporting more youth in gaining employment or enterprise opportunities in the region; and exploring opportunities for scaling impact through collaborations with state and non-state actors such as government agencies, HCDDTs, and private entities.

1.3.1. Monitoring of TVET Facility Improvement Grant and 2025-2026 TVET Scholarship Grant:

Within this quarter, monitoring visits were conducted to ascertain that the grants obtained by 14 organizations in Q4 2025 were utilized for the upgrade of their TVET facilities. At the time of the visits, 11 institutions complied with their grant's requirements, purchased and installed all proposed equipment and were found to be operational. One organization did not comply fully with the requirement citing difficulty in acquiring the specified equipment but procured other brands of equipment in replacement. Two (2) other institutions had not commenced procurement as they were waiting for matching funds to optimize the upgrade of their facilities. The monitoring focused not only on verification of equipment procured, installation, and functionality, but also the institutional readiness to support a commercially driven vocational training delivery. Off-grid solar power systems were a major investment across centers, to address the gross shortage of power at training centers.

A total of ₦112,700,450 was awarded to the 14 organizations to facilitate strategic outcomes such as the expansion and scale-up of TVET operations and service delivery, and the increase of commercially effective skills training models. Also, ₦351,171,431 (VAT inclusive) was disbursed as grant awards to 25 TVETs across all YEP sectors—agriculture, ICT, building construction and services, and solar renewable energy. The 25 organizations (including six new organizations) are committed to supporting the vocational training of over 4,000 unemployed youths, with about 1,430 receiving scholarships. Forty-five percent (45%) of the organizations are women-led, continuing to promote women's participation in vocational skills development under the YEP program.

1.3.2. TVET Organizations Onboarding Workshop

In Q1 2026, an onboarding workshop was held for all 25 TVET scholarship grantees following the commencement of the 25 scholarship grants which were signed with Partner Organizations in Q4 2025. The workshop provided clarity on YEP Phase IV strategy as well as guidelines on the grant implementation and YEP model, especially to new Partner Organizations. Six (6) new YEP implementing partners were successfully onboarded and all partners were adequately oriented on the successful implementation of the TVET scholarship grant. Three (3) major categories of scholarship implementation were agreed on - scholarship model to selected beneficiaries; partial scholarships at varying percentages + part-payment; and a reduced cost of training for all trainees. This effectively signaled the commencement of the implementation of the TVET scholarship grant.

1.3.3. YEP, Implementing Partners Outputs and Outcomes

Technical Vocational Skills Training: Fourteen (14) partners reported enrolment of 1,827 participants for Q1 2026, with the majority successfully commencing skills training, while a small proportion were not selected or are pending placement. An average of 95.5% of participants are youths, demonstrating strong alignment with the program's youth-focused objectives. Gender distribution across partners averages approximately 54.8% male and 45.2% female, with variations across sectors—female participation is higher in service-oriented trades, while technical sectors remain male-dominated. Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) remains limited, with an average of about 1% across partners. Click to view [List of implementing partners who have commenced training in Q1 2026](#). An investment of ₦9,750,000.00 was recorded by these partners, who plough back their income into their businesses.

Within the quarter, 168 youths who started their training in the previous quarters, have graduated, 79 linked to employment opportunities (including waged employment, internships, and startups), while over 1,000 remain in active training pipelines. This will be monitored along with 2026 new enrolments. Five (5) partners reported the creation of 11 additional jobs through full-time engagement.

1.3.4. YEP Scale-up and Expansion Activities

Bayelsa YEP Implementation Collaboration Exploration with BMYD: In 2026 Q1, PIND and the Bayelsa Ministry of Youth Development (BMYD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to scale the planned YEP program implementation

in Bayelsa. A key part of the deliverables of the MoU was to facilitate technical and vocational skills training to 2,000 youths over a period of two (2) years among other youth development related activities. However, with reference to the activity implementation plan that was developed for this purpose, since the close of registration of intended youths with over 11,300 applications and the initial interview shortlist of eligible 1000 participants, no further communication has been held in this regard.

Opportunities Exploration in the Creative Sector: Following the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) in the previous quarter, the process of soliciting and reviewing applications was completed in Q1, leading to the selection of a qualified consultant to undertake the rapid study in the creative sector across Delta State and selected environs. The consultant has been formally engaged and is expected to commence the study in Q2, with a focus on generating insights to support youth employment and enterprise development within the creative industry ecosystem.

The Bayelsa State Education Development Trust Fund (BEDTF) collaboration with PIND: The Bayelsa State Education Development Trust Fund (BEDTF), in partnership with PIND, is advancing efforts to enhance practical learning and align education with skills development, innovation, and employment. Under the Integrated School-Based Enterprise and Innovation Program (ISEIP), a needs assessment was conducted across selected Model Secondary Schools and five Government Science and Technical Colleges. The TVET-focused assessment reviewed key areas including trade functionality, workshop infrastructure, equipment adequacy, curriculum alignment, instructor capacity, safety standards, industry linkages, and commercialization potential, with the goal of strengthening institutional capacity to produce industry-ready graduates.

YEP Implementation for Okomu: In preparation for the Youth Skills Acquisition Program targeting beneficiaries from Okomu neighboring communities, key project activities conducted in Q1 included mapping and assessment of potential TVET centers/partners; assessment of the proposed TVET center at Udo; facilitation of collaboration with relevant government agencies such as Edo Board for Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE) and EdoJobs; assessment of potential implementing organizations across relevant sectors and trades to determine their capacity to deliver skills training in sectors aligned with market demand; shortlisting of 165 youth beneficiaries from OOPC neighboring communities in technical & vocational skills training.

1.3.5. YEP, Exploring Innovative opportunity with the JobRed Platform

PIND facilitated a collaboration relationship between YEP implementing partners and JobRed - a career readiness and talent development platform, to enable YEP implementing partners strengthen their job-linkage efforts and improve employment outcomes for trained beneficiaries. The engagement facilitated direct linkages between JobRed and selected implementing partners in the ICT and agriculture sectors, allowing interested partners to leverage JobRed's platforms and services—including job matching, employer engagement, post-training value addition such as ICT upgrade opportunities and scholarships, and career exposure activities—to complement their ongoing efforts. This approach ensures that partners retain ownership of job-linkage outcomes while benefiting from additional pathways that enhance the transition of trained youth into employment.

1.3.6. Update on State and non-state actors

The Bayelsa State Ministry of Youth Development: In 2026 Q1, PIND and the Bayelsa Ministry of Youth Development (BMYD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to scale the planned YEP program implementation in Bayelsa. Summarily, the collaboration would assist both organizations to jointly facilitate the implementation of youth skills development programs, co-create and implement workshops, conferences, webinars, exchange programs, tech tools, and platforms to build youths' digital skills and entrepreneurship capacity, and leverage third-party funding and other resources from national and international agencies, development banks, and private-sector corporations to support the vocational training and development of 2,000 youths in Bayelsa State

Dakkada Skills Acquisition Center (DASAC): YEP, visited the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre (DASAC); a government-owned vocational training facility in Akwa Ibom as part of the effort to engage government and affiliated institutions to strengthen their employability program through the adaptation of the YEP model. The engagement provided an opportunity to deepen institutional understanding, assess areas of strategic alignment, and explore potential collaboration pathways. Notably, DASAC management demonstrated strong commitment to exploring a formal

partnership with PIND, including the potential adaptation and contextualization of the YEP model to enhance youth employment outcomes in Akwa Ibom State.

Edo Board for Technical and Vocational Education (BTVE): PIND is scheduled to sign an MoU with Edo BTVE in April 2026. The collaboration with Edo BTVE would in the immediate term and for the purpose of the Okomu project provides YEP the leverage of the facility and infrastructure of the Benin Technical College to deploy skills training in Welding and Fabrication, Finished Leatherwork (Shoe Production) and Catering Services. Other collaborations that could emerge from this include provision of technical assistance such as Training of Trainers (ToT) by the YEP program to support the integration of soft skills curriculum into BTVE programs; and facilitating and hosting broader job readiness and career development seminars aimed at a more extensive audience of unemployed youth in Edo State

Edo Skills Development Agency (EdoJobs): PIND is scheduled to sign an MoU with EdoJobs in April 2026. For the purpose of the Okomu project, the collaboration is aimed to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between EdoJobs and skills training partners in supporting partners' effort in the aspect of job placement opportunities upon completion of training for this cohort of training. Other collaborations could equally emerge from this such as partnership with the YEP program to implement technical vocational skills, Job placements and enterprise development for unemployed youths in Edo State, and partner with the YEP program to co-create a platform for start-ups to pitch and present their business ideas to potential investors capable of providing financial support.

1.3.7. System Level Shifts - Sustainability of YEP

- **Sustained Independent Youth Training:** The Implementing Partners continued to deliver employability training after the support from PIND. Click here for the [List of YEP direct and active implementing partners as at Q1 2026](#)
- **Deepened Independent Partners' Post Training Linkages:** Partners are increasingly promoting post-training engagements for youths who completed skills training at their centers. PIND verified post-training experience shows that 38% of the youths with employable skills established new businesses with personal equity, while 46% are being linked to jobs. Overall, **84%** of youths with applicable skills have access to livelihoods, strengthening enrolment into YEP programs—**57.3%** male and **42.7%** female². This will be reassessed in Q3 2026.

2.0 Strategic Objective 2: Influence \$50 million in investment by donors/funders in the Niger Delta through PIND; raise a minimum of \$7.5 million in additional funds from the private sector and donor community for PIND programs (equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding).

This objective seeks to attract external investments into the Niger Delta from donors and funders to deepen the economic growth outcomes in the region through improved interventions that address systemic constraints hindering business functionality and equitable delivery of business gains to market players.

New funds will be raised from the private sector and donor community for PIND programs through the activities of the Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) unit. The target is to raise a minimum of \$7.5 million, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding. Government funds spent on projects arising from PIND-influenced development models, policies and initiatives, (e.g. Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS), Access to Land Policy, State long-term development plans, etc.) and resulting in demonstrable changes will be tracked and reported, annually.

2.1.0 Q1 2026 Key Achievements

In Q1 2026, PIND influenced a total of **\$3,855,302.03 (₦5,360,740,861.84)** at **\$1/1,364.29** in investment by donors and funders into the Niger Delta under the Youth Employment Pathways (YEP), Access to Energy and Capacity Building (CB) and Market Development programs. This constitutes 39.29% of the target of **\$10 million** target set for 2026. Details below:

- **Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) program:** In Q1 2026, Meranos Nigeria Ltd reported to have leveraged **₦9,750,000 (\$7,146.57)** external funding from another donor to implement skills training. YEP targets \$2million partners investments in 2026 to deliver youths training.

² These values will be tracked and updated once more in 2026 through field outcome monitoring

- **Capacity Building (CB):** Within this quarter, CSOs in the region trained by PIND influenced a total of **₦11,846,800** (\$8,683.49) into the development of the Niger Delta. The Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF) secured **₦10,000,000** from CONOIL Nigeria Limited through the Koluama Host Communities Development Trust for services towards eradicating Tuberculosis in Niger Delta. Also, Newland Pathway Integrated Consult secured **₦1,846,800**, a performance grant to support the expansion of technical and business development services. In 2026 the CB targets to influence \$1 million, which would be leveraged from the local CSOs trained by PIND.
- **Access to Energy:** In Q1 2026, a total of **₦5,250,000,000 (\$3,848,155.45)** was influenced into the development of the Niger Delta through funders, donors, and private institutions by the energy partners. The funds were used to deploy ten new energy solutions across the Niger Delta during the quarter. Notably, **Darwey Coast**, supported through sustained technical advisory spanning previous quarters, deployed four mini-grids across Abia, Imo, Bayelsa, and Rivers States. **Ashdam Solar**, through community entry support and stakeholder engagement facilitated by A2E, deployed mesh grid solutions in two coastal communities in Ondo State. **Renergy** implemented a mini-grid project in a rural community in Ondo State, while Oghosa Energy deployed two energy solutions in coastal communities in Delta State. **DISA Energy** also expanded access through the deployment of solar home systems in a coastal community in Bayelsa State. In 2026, A2E targets to leverage up to \$5 million of funds.
- **Market System Development (MSD) Program:** A total of **₦89,144,061.84 (\$65,340.99)** was leveraged by the Service providers to provide improved cross-cutting services to farmers and MSMEs – happened in Q4 2025, but was omitted then. This amount was part of the private sector players influencing funds into the development of the region. In 2026, MSD targets **₦165million** in leverage from over 100 Service Providers.

3.0 Strategic Objective 3: Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta, reduce GHG emissions through renewable energy, mitigating flood impacts through community plans, and support enterprises selling bio/organic products.

This objective aims to build resilience in the Niger Delta by promoting carbon markets, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating flood risks, and supporting enterprises selling bio/organic products.

3.1.0 Access to energy - climate adaptation

A2E-supported interventions continued to contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation through the deployment of decentralized solar-powered energy systems across rural and coastal communities in the Niger Delta. These systems are replacing diesel and petrol-based generators, which has historically been the dominant source of electricity in these areas. During the quarter, partners deployed a combined solar capacity of over 1.1 MWp across multiple communities, including installations by A2E energy partners in Abia, Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Ondo, and Delta States. These systems include mini-grids, mesh grid configurations, and solar home systems designed to meet both household and productive-use energy needs.

From a climate mitigation perspective, these deployments are reducing greenhouse gas emissions by displacing fossil fuel-based generators. The transition to solar energy significantly cuts carbon emissions associated with electricity generation, while also reducing noise and air pollution within communities. This is particularly important in coastal settlements where generator use is often intensive due to lack of grid access.

From an adaptation and resilience standpoint, the interventions are strengthening the ability of communities to cope with environmental and economic shocks. Reliable solar-powered systems reduce dependence on fuel supply chains, which are often disrupted by weather conditions, high transportation costs, or market volatility. In addition, the integration of productive-use applications such as cold storage and small enterprise equipment supports livelihood stability, especially for fishing and trading communities that are highly exposed to climate variability.

The deployment of mesh grid and solar home system solutions in communities such as **Rebiminiu and Isampou** also demonstrates flexible and context-specific energy solutions that can adapt to dispersed settlements and difficult terrain, further improving resilience in hard-to-reach areas.

Another key development in Q1 was the introduction of carbon credit financing as a complementary climate initiative. Through a dedicated knowledge-sharing session, A2E supported partners to understand how renewable energy projects can generate carbon credits and attract additional financing. This approach links climate action directly with project viability, enabling developers to structure projects that not only reduce emissions but also access new funding streams. By supporting project profiling and data requirements for carbon financing, A2E is helping to build a pipeline of climate-aligned energy projects that can scale more sustainably. Overall, Q1 activities reinforce the role of renewable energy not only as a clean power source, but as a practical tool for building climate resilience, supporting livelihoods, and reducing long-term vulnerability in the Niger Delta.

3.1.1. Market System Development Program - climate adaptation

Climate adaptation and mitigation remained embedded across service delivery models, with service providers integrating climate-smart advisory into technical and business support across commodities. These efforts demonstrate a shift toward integrating climate-smart practices within market-driven service delivery, enabling farmers to adopt more resilient production systems while improving productivity and access to markets.

During the quarter, 6,618 farmers (30% of 22,342) adopted climate-smart practices that improve soil health, conserve water, and reduce post-harvest losses, strengthening resilience to climate variability. Partnerships with input suppliers and research institutions further supported access to improved, climate-resilient seed varieties and technologies.

Examples of the practical knowledge on sustainable land management, efficient input use, and improved agronomic practices that enhance productivity while reducing environmental risk are as follows:

- Adoption of mulching, ridge planting, composting, efficient fertilizer application, and integrated pest management. These practices are integrated into PIND promoted GAP manual to enable farmers manage soil fertility, retain moisture, and reduce production risks linked to erratic rainfall.
- Espousal of improved seed varieties (cassava, maize, rice, and vegetables) and certified crop protection products, which would improve yield stability and pest management under changing climate conditions.
- Promotion of eco-friendly input solutions, including biological and soil-regenerating products, promoted by CHC **Agritech** - PIND's partner.
- Expansion of access to solar-powered cold storage, reducing post-harvest losses and improving market access for perishable produce promoted by **ColdHubs**
- Introduction of solar-powered irrigation solutions for targeted farm clusters through PIND's partnership with **Green Focus Technologies Limited** underway in Q2, will improve water access, production efficiency, and climate resilience while reducing emissions.

3.1.2 Peace Building Program – climate adaptation

During Q1 2026, the Peacebuilding Program recorded progress in integrating climate considerations into its interventions. The deployment of filters for climate-related conflict data within the EWER system was finalized, enhancing the ability to track and analyze the relationship between climate risks and conflict dynamics. In addition, preparations for the validation session of the policy brief examining the nexus between climate change, livelihood disruptions, and conflict in the Niger Delta are at an advanced stage.

3.1.3 Advocacy - climate Adaptation

In Q1 2026, PIND's Advocacy program advanced climate adaptation and mitigation across several interconnected fronts in the Niger Delta. The newly launched Host Community Development Index (HCDI), developed by Policy Alert through PIND's Bridges Project capacity-building support, embeds climate resilience as a core assessment dimension for HCDTs. By evaluating energy transition readiness and environmental sustainability alongside governance indicators, the HCDI provides a structured, evidence-based framework for promoting climate adaptation standards across host communities and holding HCDTs accountable to them.

Building on this foundation, the new phase of Ford Foundation funding currently under review following PIND's application is designed to expand the Bridges Multi-Stakeholder Platform to explicitly include interventions on just energy transition and climate and environmental justice. This represents a strategic evolution of the Bridges model: from governance reform and community accountability toward active engagement on the green economy transition,

positioning PIND as a credible platform for climate advocacy within the PIA and HCDT ecosystem.

Through sustained advocacy for the Access to Energy (A2E) model, the team continued to identify and address policy constraints limiting clean energy adoption in coastal and off-grid communities. Engagements with the A2E program area in Q1 mapped states with electricity bureaux and their effects on A2E partners, informing advocacy interventions aimed at creating a more enabling environment for renewable energy access. Each barrier removed strengthens the pipeline for community-level climate resilience infrastructure across the region.

Finally, through CAPIND, the team is embedding climate awareness within the advocacy capacity of CNL HCDTs. The nomination of Advocacy Leads and the development of a comprehensive advocacy training manual are equipping HCDT representatives to design and implement issue-based campaigns including on climate-related challenges within their own communities. This co-creation approach shifts climate advocacy from an externally driven activity to one that is locally owned, sustained, and responsive to community-specific environmental risks

4.0 Strategic Objective 4: Support Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to co-invest in priority projects that improve economic and peacebuilding agendas in their communities by enhancing their capacity to co-design and co-invest in skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation.

This objective focuses on enhancing the capacity of HCDTs to co-design and co-invest in interventions that improve economic conditions and peacebuilding in their communities through skills development, market linkages, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation. This section will highlight activities supporting Chevron Nigeria Limited Host Community Development Trust (CNL HCDT) communities, as well as the non-CNL HCDTs across the Niger Delta region, as part of PIND's broad response to the PIA opportunity in phase IV.

Click [HCDTs Dashboard](#) to navigate the CNL and other HCDTs in the map. You can navigate the platform by other clicks on any of the states, to see specific HCDTs geolocations.

4.1.0 Market Systems Development (MSD) HCDTs Engagement:

MSD aims to improve the livelihood of **12,000** farmers and nano, micro, and small businesses in the HCDT communities. The MSD program continued its community-based training and demonstration activities tailored to MSMEs in the HCDT communities. These efforts are designed to build local capacity and drive the adoption of good agricultural and business practices within the communities.

PIND is supporting Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) to move beyond traditional project funding toward co-investment in market-driven interventions that improve livelihoods and strengthen local economies. This includes building their capacity to co-design and finance initiatives that enhance agricultural productivity, expand market access, and support sustainable income generation.

During Q1 2026, progress was made in shifting HCDTs from general engagement to investment-focused collaboration. Strategic alignment meetings were held with **Egbema OPUDIS** and **Warri Kingdom Coastal HCDTs**, identifying agribusiness development and access to finance as priority entry points. These engagements clarified roles between HCDTs, private sector actors, and service providers, and identified practical co-investment opportunities. This reflects an important shift toward more structured and commercially oriented partnerships, aligning community development priorities with viable market opportunities. Similar engagements are planned with other HCDTs, including Ogulagha-Ibe and Ugboland.

In addition, PIND strengthened the capacity of MSMEs, fisherfolks, and processors within HCDT communities to better participate in local markets. In partnership with Marich Agro Allied Services, **493³** MSMEs and fisherfolks across five Delta State communities (**Ogribiri (141)**, **Ogbudugbudu (218)**, **Madagho (36)**, **Ugborodo Costain (98)**, and **Agogboro (6)** communities) received training and linkage support focused on business practices, financial management, and access to

³ In total, 533 persons (493 plus 40 from CB) from the CNL HCDTs have benefitted from PIND activities in Q1 2026. PIND Planned to reach 2400 persons directly with PIND programs in 2026.

markets and finance. These interventions improved enterprise management through practical tools such as record-keeping templates and loan application systems, while also strengthening group structures. Support to cooperative formation led to the establishment of five new cooperatives, alongside strengthening existing groups.

Market linkage activities also generated early commercial results, including approximately ₦1.88 million in crayfish sales in Agogboro, demonstrating improved access to buyers and increased market participation. In **Madagho**, the introduction of improved fishing nets alongside strengthened cooperative systems is expected to further improve productivity and incomes.

Overall, these efforts are positioning HCDTs as active partners in supporting market-led solutions, while strengthening communities' ability to use available funds more effectively. As these alignment processes mature, they are expected to translate into concrete co-investment decisions and scaled implementation in subsequent quarters.

4.1.1 HCDTs Capacity Building (HCB)

During the first quarter, the Capacity Building program implemented a series of foundational interventions to increase the institutional capacity of the HCDTs and reposition them from largely administrative entities to proactive, results-driven development institutions.

The quarter commenced with Strategic Alignment Meetings held in January, February, and March across all four HCDTs: **Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, Egbema OPUDIS, Warri Kingdom Coastal, and Ugboland**. These engagements focused on alignment on the projects captured under the CNL HCDTs Community Development Plans (CDPs) of the HCDTs; present approved co-developed project implementation workplans and framework by CNL Corporate Affairs and PIND (CAPIND) to foster ownership, strengthen accountability and collaboration between & among PIND, CNL Corporate Affairs, and the CNL HCDTs leadership, track progress on activities and address emerging issues for effective and timely implementation of Community Development Plans

Also, in Q1 2026, an impact Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training workshop conducted in March 18th – 21st for the four CNL HCDTs. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the HCDTs to understand monitoring and evaluation concepts, have capacity to apply the learning in designing **Monitoring Plans** for all **Community Development Plans (CDPs)**; use the monitoring plans to measure and report **outcomes and impacts of all CDPs**; and enhance their capacity to provide evidenced based **advisory** on a new CDPs for greater community impact. The workshop also communicated the roles of the **Monitoring and Evaluation Teams**; and **Project Implementation Teams** of the Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs). Click [Role of M & E, project implementation Team of the HCDTs](#).

These interventions resulted in a notable shift in institutional mindset. HCDT members increasingly perceive M&E as a strategic tool for enhancing value for money and decision-making, rather than as a compliance or fault-finding mechanism. Furthermore, participants were exposed to the design concept of results chains that distinguish between immediate outputs and long-term development outcomes, thereby improving the quality of project planning and execution.

The interventions delivered during the quarter resulted in measurable improvements in both technical capacity and strategic orientation across the HCDTs. Post-training assessments indicated significant improvements in participants' technical knowledge, with some achieving high-impact gains of up to 7 points on a 10-point scale.

- HCDTs were successfully exposed to M&E concepts, such as Theories of Change (ToC) and result-based measurement, which are necessary tools for sustainable delivery of development projects. Their knowledge and ability were enhanced to track project progress, assess outcomes, and report transparently to stakeholders.
- In addition, the adoption of the **Social Investment Repository and Reporting Tool (SIRRT)** was introduced to the HCDTs, which will strengthen the ability of HCDTs to digitally track, document, and report project implementation, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability to regulatory bodies and host communities.

4.1.2 HCDTs Access to Energy

In Q1 2026, A2E continued to strengthen the role of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) in driving renewable energy investments by linking them more directly with private developers and supporting the early stages of project origination. The focus during the quarter was on aligning HCDT priorities with private-led energy solutions and building

the technical foundation required for co-investment.

A key approach was facilitating market entry of developers into HCDT communities. A2E actively guided partners to identify viable opportunities within HCDT clusters and supported community entry processes in collaboration with the respective Trusts. For instance, **Ashdam Solar** was directed to **Rebiminiu and Obenfala** communities under **the Ugboland HCDT**, while **Oghosa Energy** was supported to deploy in **Okifamba and Itagbene** communities under the **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT**. These engagements were carried out jointly with the HCDTs, ensuring alignment with local governance structures and development priorities. This approach is gradually positioning HCDTs not just as beneficiaries, but as active enablers of energy investments within their communities.

A2E also maintained continuous engagement with the four CNL-aligned HCDTs, providing hands-on support across project origination processes. This included participation in CAPIND and CNL-HCDT coordination meetings, as well as direct technical support to develop energy project documents, refine implementation plans, and align proposed interventions with approved Community Development Plans (CDPs). These efforts are helping to prepare the HCDTs to deploy their own funds into structured renewable energy projects.

In addition, A2E provided targeted technical support to the Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT on the design and rollout of its developer pre-qualification process, strengthening its ability to engage credible private sector partners for upcoming electrification projects.

Further progress was made through a joint energy assessment in **Ogulagha Kingdom**, conducted in collaboration with the Agbonu-Ogulagha-Ibe HCDT and partner developer, Blue Camel. The assessment covered **Ogulagha, Obuguru, Osain, and Okutu communities**, focusing on evaluating the feasibility of clean energy solutions and engaging local stakeholders to ensure community alignment. A viable site was identified for a solar refrigeration hub in **Ogulagha community**, while additional communities were assessed for potential energy cabin deployments. The engagement also aligned with the HCDT's CDP, which includes planned financing for energy infrastructure in Oboguru community where the HCDT has decided to replace diesel generator project with a solar mini-grid project in their CDP.

Overall, these activities demonstrate a gradual shift toward co-investment in practice, where HCDTs are not only planning energy projects but are actively engaging in project development, coordinating with private developers, and preparing to deploy their own resources to improve electricity access across their communities.

4.1.3 HCDTs Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)

In Q1 2026, two HCDTs (**Egbema Opudis, Agbonu Ogulagha Ibe**) have committed to training of youth in skills as captured in the CDPs by providing the required logistics support that will enhance effective participation and completion of skills training with the TVETs for the duration. Already, over **120 youths** from **Egbema OPUDIS HCDT and Agbonu Ogulagha Ibe HCDT** have been shortlisted for skills training following the disbursement of TVET Scholarship grant awards to TVET Partners.

Engagement is ongoing with other HCDTs – **Warri Kingdom Coastal HCDT, Ugboland HCDT**, and Fekouregha HCDT, Bayelsa. Similar considerations for Ugboland HCDT and Warri Kingdom Coastal are underway to have their buy-in for youth's skill development.

4.1.4 Peace Building Activities in the HCDTs

During Q1 2026, PIND continued to deliver strategic value to CNL through proactive conflict mitigation interventions across its HCDTs in Delta and Ondo states. A key focus was addressing employment-related tensions, community grievances, and risks to operational stability.

In Egbema OPUDIS HCDT, tensions emerged around the non-mobilization of verified nominees for employment opportunities, delays in recruitment processes, and perceptions of lack of transparency. Of the nominated individuals, a significant number were not mobilized, leading to frustration among community members and fueling distrust toward both the HCDT and the Oil Company. These grievances triggered attempts to disrupt operations, although the situation had not escalated into violence or full-scale disruptions. PIND adopted a proactive approach to mitigate these risks

through sustained stakeholder engagement, and continuous monitoring using the EWER system. Engagements with HCDT leadership, the Peacebuilding Committee and other stakeholders helped to manage tensions, address misinformation, and prevent escalation.

Engagement of four (4) Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Field Assistants:

The team also successfully facilitated the engagement of four (4) Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Field Assistants under the CNL HCDT–Egbema OPUDIS HCDTs in Delta and Ondo States. This engagement supported field-level implementation capacity and strengthened early warning and response mechanisms within the integrated peace development unit (IPDU) program area. Across other HCDTs, similar interventions were implemented to address emerging risks, including tensions linked to pipeline surveillance contracts and community grievances.

The deployment of EWER Field Assistants also strengthened communication between early warning monitors and response actors, ensuring timely information flow and enabling rapid, preventive action. These efforts contributed to reinforcing trust between communities and corporate stakeholders.

4.1.5 Advocacy - HCDT Engagements

CNL HCDTs: PIND's advocacy's role on the **Bridges Project**, have been central to unblocking corporate and regulatory bottlenecks that would otherwise stall co-investment of the HCDTs, thereby preventing the community agitation and peace risks that project delays typically generate.

Within the reporting period it is evident that all the four Host Community Development Trusts **Egbema OPUDIS (EOHCDT), Agbonu Ogunlaga-Ibe (AOIHCDT), Ugboland (UHCDT), and Warri Kingdom Coastal (WKCHCDT)** are actively co-investing PIA-mandated funds in community priority projects across multiple program areas. Rather than functioning as passive recipients of development support, the HCDTs are committing institutional resources, governance capacity, and community funds to projects they have helped identify and plan. See below:

- **EOHCDT** has implemented solar energy solutions in secondary schools, establishing a benchmark model. Additionally, it is co-funding the solarization of its secretariat, with technical support provided by PIND.
- **UHCDT** has completed A2E assessments, established an in-house Sombreiro Kapital Steering Committee to govern community financing, and has YEP graduates already starting businesses — demonstrating tangible returns on co-investment.
- **AOIHCDT** is advancing multi-stakeholder alignment across A2E, YEP, and Sombreiro Kapital, while also leveraging the Leventis Foundation partnership for youth agricultural training.
- **WKCHCDT**, though at an earlier stage, has submitted M&E nominees, nominated Leventis candidates, and is preparing for an A2E Board presentation to enable informed energy co-investment decisions.

Also, PIND's advocacy role has transformed the co-investment environment by addressing structural bottlenecks that threaten peace.

- In AOIHCDT's case, a contractor mobilization dispute with Chevron over payment modalities had stalled project implementation, generating community agitation and court action, a direct peace risk. CAPIND intervened to facilitate an emergency engagement with Chevron management, demonstrating that advocacy is itself a peacebuilding act.
- Across all HCDTs, the co-creation of **joint advocacy and engagement strategies**, anchored by newly nominated Advocacy Leads and the planned capacity building for these leaders is helping to build the institutional capacity for communities to engage operators and regulators constructively rather than through agitation. This is fundamentally shifting the community-company relationship from adversarial to collaborative.

NON CNL HCDTs: Foukergha2 HCDT is seeking a collaboration with PIND as well as PINDs support to build the capacity of the BOT members for effective implementation of the PIA. This is intended to be a curated training targeted at strengthening the capacity of the BOT members on PIA governance and implementation framework. It will be funded by Foukergha HCDT and will structure in a review of their current community development plans to reflect PINDs YEP and A2E models in youth skills training.

5.0 Strategic Objective 5 (SO5): Reduce conflict and promote peace by ensuring the sustainable and effective deployment of the P4P Network; cultivating linkages between peacebuilding and economic development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict issues.

Building on over a decade of achievements, the Peacebuilding Program aims to position PIND more centrally as a strategic enabler of sustainable peace and development in the region. In **Phase IV (2024-2029)**, the Peacebuilding Program will bridge communities, government, and corporate stakeholders, empowering the P4P Network to independently manage peacebuilding initiatives aligned with broader development strategies. By linking peacebuilding with economic growth initiatives, PIND will promote a holistic model that leverages economic stability as a foundation for long-term peace.

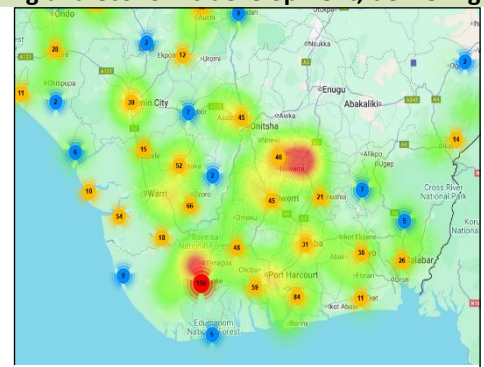


Fig 2: Niger Delta Conflict Fatalities Heat Map, Q1

5.1.0. Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q1 2026 [Click Q1 2026 PB analytical products](#)

During the first quarter of 2026, the Peacebuilding (PB) Program continued to advance its mandate of promoting data-driven conflict prevention, strengthening community-based peace structures, and aligning peacebuilding with economic development across the Niger Delta. These interventions enhanced local capacity for conflict prevention, improved early warning reporting, reinforced community ownership of peacebuilding processes and improved situational awareness, informed policy and programming, and strengthened preventive responses.

Q1 2026, however, was marked by an observed fragility of peace across the region, with conflict-related fatalities increased from 76 in Q4 2025 to 103 in Q1 2026 - largely driven by rising criminal violence, cult clashes, and growing political tensions ahead of the 2027 general elections. The fragility underscores the importance of a sustained and adaptive interventions, leveraging P4P network, prevent council and other peace infrastructure.

5.1.1. Peacebuilding highlights of activities in Q1 2026

In view of the persistent incidents of violence and criminal activities, PIND continued to undertake interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta region as part of the plan of action aimed at keeping the level of violence low, particularly in key communities of interest. PIND continued to leverage on its PB social infrastructure and social capital of peace actors across the region for long-term sustainable peace. PIND’s peacebuilding strategy recognizes the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to tackling the complex causes and drivers of conflict; adopting innovative approaches to work on problems of militancy, election violence, gang/cult violence, communal violence, and the cross-cutting issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). The following provides details of the activities carried out in Q1 2026.

- **Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding:** In Q1 2026, PIND strengthened its role as a hub for evidence-based peacebuilding by producing and disseminating conflict early warning outputs, analytical briefs, and regional security assessments. PIND produced and disseminated a range of data-driven, research-based conflict early warning products to inform peace and security stakeholders and support targeted peacebuilding and conflict management interventions across the Niger Delta. In total, 10 conflict early warning alerts were issued to more than 60 response actors, including P4P Prevent Committees, Prevent Councils, CNL’s HCDT Peacebuilding Committees, EU–Niger Delta Project consortium partners, and local and community-based response mechanisms established under the EU–Niger Delta Project. These alerts enabled timely responses to emerging risks and strengthened coordination among peace actors across the region.
- **Analytical and research outputs:** In addition, 12 analytical outputs, comprising 11 weekly conflict briefs and the 2025 Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report were produced. These publications tracked and assessed evolving security dynamics, including trends in organized criminal activity, cult and gang violence, communal tensions, mob actions, drug abuse, corporate–community relations, and risks



Fig 3: Safarogbo Community P4P Subchapter

related to climate change, disasters, and disease outbreaks. Widely shared with civil society organizations, security agencies, academic institutions, and development partners at local, national, and international levels, these outputs contributed to improved situational awareness, informed policy and programming, and strengthened preventive responses.

- **Sustainable and effective deployment of P4P Network:** Establishment of Community-Based Peace Structures in OOPC Neighboring Communities - the Partners for Peace, in collaboration with PIND and Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc (OOPC), successfully established four new P4P subchapters and delivered intensive capacity-building training across OOPC neighboring communities - Safarogbo, Udo, Ofunama, and Madagbayo communities in Ovia South-West LGA of Edo State.
- Altogether, 246 community members, including youths, women, and traditional leaders were equipped with practical skills in conflict management, leadership, and volunteerism. A major milestone was the introduction of the Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) system, enabling local peace actors to detect and report early signs of conflict in real time and can manage such. The initiative culminated in the democratic inauguration of seven new subchapter executives, strengthening grassroots peace structures and deepening community ownership of conflict prevention and management. The program not only reinforced local peacebuilding but also laid a foundation for sustainable economic development in the communities.

P4P Subchapter Strengthening (Cross River States): As part of efforts to strengthen grassroots peace structures, P4P facilitated the establishment and capacity strengthening of subchapters across selected communities in Cross River State (Biase LGA - Apet Central and Idoma; Akamkpa LGA - Ekong Anaku). Three new subchapters were created, and a total of 144 community members—including youths, women, and traditional leaders—were trained on peacebuilding, leadership, and conflict management. These interventions enhanced local capacity for conflict prevention, improved early warning reporting, and reinforced community ownership of peacebuilding processes. The strengthened subchapters now serve as critical platforms for dialogue, mediation, and coordinated response to emerging conflict risks within their communities.

5.1.2. Strengthening Regional Ecosystem Players

During the quarter, PIND in collaboration with local peace actors, government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners, implemented targeted interventions to mitigate emerging conflict risks across the Niger Delta. A key achievement was the establishment of locally driven conflict early warning systems and peacebuilding structures in 18 communities around Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc in Ovia South-West LGA, Edo State. This included the creation of four P4P subchapters, the inauguration of an Integrated Peacebuilding Committee (IPC) linked to existing community leadership structures, and the training of 54 community members as early warning reporters on the IPDU SMS platform. In addition, 36 individuals drawn from local leadership structures were trained as IPC members and equipped with conflict management and grievance resolution skills.

PIND – Okomu Oil Palm Project: EWER Workshop for OOPC Peace Monitors: A key intervention was the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) capacity strengthening workshop for OOPC Peace Monitors. The workshop brought together 56 participants, including Peace Monitors and relevant stakeholders drawn from OOPC neighboring communities. Through structured training sessions, participants enhanced their understanding of conflict dynamics, improved their capacity for accurate incident reporting, and strengthened their ability to respond effectively to emerging risks. The workshop also fostered collaboration and experience-sharing among participants, contributing to improved coordination among community-based peace actors.

Warri Peace Community Support Initiative (WPCSI) & Joint Intervention Committee (JIC): The first quarter of 2026 marked a strategic and impactful period for peacebuilding interventions implemented by WPCSI and JIC within Warri Federal Constituency. The focus of activities during this period was to strengthen peace, build trust, and promote structured dialogue among communities through consistent communication and engagement. Rather than reacting to conflict, the intervention adopted a preventive peacebuilding approach, emphasizing early engagement, information sharing, and trust development. This ensured that emerging issues were addressed before they escalated. Key Interventions include:

- Structured Communication Strategy: A coordinated communication framework guided all activities ensuring consistent messaging across platforms. This helped reduce misinformation, improve clarity, and align all peace messages across engagements.
- Weekly Radio Peace Programs and Engagements: Regular radio programs served as the primary medium for disseminating peace messages to a wide audience. These programs focused on promoting dialogue, addressing community concerns and encouraging peaceful coexistence. These interactive sessions allowed for listener

- participation through call-ins, clarification of issues, and reinforcement of key peace messages.
- **Advocacy Engagements:** WPCSI and JIC engaged key stakeholders, including government representatives, to present community concerns and promote coordinated responses to peace-related issues.
- **Internal Coordination:** Regular internal meetings ensured alignment, monitoring, and effective planning across all activities.

5.1.3. Nexus between Peace Building and Economic Development:

A key milestone during the quarter was the strengthened collaboration between PIND and Okomu Oil Palm Company (OOPC), which reflects a growing recognition of the importance of integrating peacebuilding with economic development. Both programs worked closely to advance a coordinated approach that addresses conflict drivers while promoting sustainable livelihoods. This collaboration led to the successful inauguration and capacity strengthening of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), which provides strategic oversight for the intervention. In addition, extensive community engagement meetings were conducted to align stakeholders with the project's integrated development framework. A notable shift was observed toward prioritizing human capital development as a sustainable pathway for improving livelihoods and reducing conflict risks.

Quarterly Community-Level Engagements (Okomu Extension Communities): Community engagement activities conducted across Okomu extension communities provided valuable insights into local dynamics and challenges affecting peacebuilding efforts. The engagements revealed low levels of awareness and understanding of human capital development initiatives, which contributed to resistance among some community members. In addition, weak communication systems between community leadership structures and residents limited participation and information flow. Significant gender exclusion was also observed, with women either underrepresented or actively excluded from community decision-making processes. These findings underscore the need for sustained engagement, improved communication strategies, and deliberate efforts to promote inclusive participation. The engagements further highlighted the importance of continuous peacebuilding and leadership capacity development to strengthen community resilience.

6.0 General Enabling programs

This section presents key achievements in Q1 2026 for initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program. PIND's work is anchored on two interrelated pillars: (1) the Economic Development program, focused on enabling pro-poor market development and job creation; and (2) the Peace Building program, centered on strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms to promote sustainable peace and economic growth.

To support, enable, measure the outcomes of these pillars, PIND implements several cross-cutting initiatives:

- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the capabilities of Business Membership Organizations (BMOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and local communities, for sustainable development.
- **Advocacy:** Influencing public policies, practices, and programs, using in-depth analysis to address systemic constraints to regional growth.
- **Communications:** Ensuring consistent, high-impact messaging that amplifies PIND's models, results, and learning.
- **Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E):** Tracking and assessing performance and ensuring data-driven decision-making across all program areas.

6.1 Capacity Building

As a key enabler of PIND's Phase IV strategy, the Capacity Building program is designed to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of Chevron Host Community Development Trusts HCDTs, private institutions, government institutions, civil society, business associations and services providers, for effective socio-economic engagement and inclusive governance. This program directly contributes to PIND's long-term development objectives and the promotion of growth and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta.

The program focuses on two major areas:

1. **Strengthening HCDTs:** Supporting Chevron HCDT, which replaced the Regional Development Councils (RDCs)

under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) of 2021, to effectively implement peacebuilding and economic development interventions.

2. **Empowering Local Institutions:** Enhancing the institutional capacity of local BMOs, organizations, and implementing partners, to drive sustainable economic growth in the region.

6.1.1 Empowering Local Institutions (BMOs)- Key Achievements – Q1 2026:

During the first quarter, the Capacity Building program implemented a series of foundational interventions to increase the institutional capacity of the HCDTs and reposition them from largely administrative entities to proactive, results-driven development institutions.

The quarter commenced with Strategic Alignment Meetings held in January, February, and March across all four HCDTs: **Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, Egbema OPUDIS, Warri Kingdom Coastal, and Ugboland**. These engagements focused on alignment on the projects captured under the CNL HCDTs Community Development Plans (CDPs) of the HCDTs; present approved co-developed project implementation workplans and framework by CNL Corporate Affairs and PIND (CAPIND) to foster ownership, strengthen accountability and collaboration between & among PIND, CNL Corporate Affairs, and the CNL HCDTs leadership, track progress on activities and address emerging issues for effective and timely implementation of Community development plans

Also, in Q1 2026, an impact Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training workshop conducted in March 18–21 for the four CNL HCDTs. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the HCDTs to understand monitoring and evaluation concepts, have capacity to apply the learning in designing **Monitoring Plans** for all **Community Development Plans (CDPs)**; use the monitoring plans to measure and report **outcomes and impacts of all CDPs**; and enhance their capacity to provide evidenced-based **advisory** on a new CDPs for greater community impact. The workshop also communicated the roles of the **Monitoring and Evaluation Teams**; and **Project Implementation Teams** of the Host Communities Development Thrusts (HCDTs). Click [Role of M & E, project implementation Team of the HCDTs](#).

These interventions resulted in a notable shift in institutional mindset. HCDT members increasingly perceive M&E as a strategic tool for enhancing value for money and decision-making, rather than as a compliance or fault-finding mechanism. Furthermore, participants were exposed to the design concept of results chains that distinguish between immediate outputs and long-term development outcomes, thereby improving the quality of project planning and execution.

The interventions delivered during the quarter resulted in measurable improvements in both technical capacity and strategic orientation across the HCDTs. Post-training assessments indicated significant improvements in participants' technical knowledge, with some achieving high-impact gains of up to 7 points on a 10-point scale.

- HCDTs were successfully exposed to M&E concepts, such as Theories of Change (ToC) and result-based measurement, which are necessary tools for sustainable delivery of development projects. Their knowledge and ability were enhanced to track project progress, assess outcomes, and report transparently to stakeholders.
- In addition, the adoption of the **Social Investment Repository and Reporting Tool (SIRRT)** was introduced to the HCDTs, which will strengthen the ability of HCDTs to digitally track, document, and report project implementation, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability to regulatory bodies and host communities.

6.1.2 Organizations providing Community services in the Niger Delta

During the reporting period, **EKAP ACHI FOUNDATION** demonstrated improved organizational capacity and enhanced service delivery, drawing on institutional-strengthening support and capacity-building training previously provided by PIND across relevant organizational practices and frameworks. As evidence of this improved capacity, the organization successfully implemented the **Sustainable Program for Economic Empowerment and Livelihood (SPEEL)** initiative in Akparabong in Ikom LGA and Effraya in Etung LGA, Cross River State. The **SPEEL** initiative encompassed multiple components, including crop production (cassava, maize, cocoa, coffee, and vegetables/aquaculture for households), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions aimed at achieving LGA-wide Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, income security and empowerment programs as well as Healthy Aging initiatives, addressing emerging development challenges linked to governance and system failures. These interventions demonstrate **EKAP ACHI FOUNDATION'S** strengthened ability to design, coordinate, and implement integrated community development programs that respond to local livelihoods, health, and empowerment needs.

Also, during the same period, **Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF)** leveraged capacity-building trainings, lessons learned, and methodologies from PIND to provide technical support to an HCDT in Bayelsa State. FAWEF supported the development of community development plans and actively monitored the implementation of Tuberculosis interventions across the state. This work involved conducting interviews with Tuberculosis survivors who had received various forms of support under the Global Fund, as well as assessing health care facilities to determine their capacity to support Tuberculosis patients. These engagements reflect FAWEF's strengthened ability to coordinate and implement health-focused interventions that address both patient needs and broader systemic challenges in local health service delivery.

6.1.3 Organizations, associations, and networks accessing funds/grants with PIND assistance

Within the reporting period, two CSOs access funds into the development of the Niger Delta region. **Newland Pathway Integrated Consult** accessed ₦1,846,800, while **Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF)** accessed 10million from CONOIL Nigeria Limited through the Koluama Host Communities Development Trust, as well as additional support from the Global Fund through the Network of NGOs working to eradicate Tuberculosis in Nigeria. These resources are being deployed to conduct needs assessments and develop Community Development Plans for six communities within the Koluama HCDT in Bayelsa State, as well as to implement community-based monitoring of Tuberculosis interventions supported by the Global Fund.

6.1.4 Number of CNL HCDTs persons benefitting from Capacity Building (EDP and PB)

A total of 40 representatives (34 males and 6 females) from four Chevron Nigeria Limited HCDTs: **Warri Kingdom Coastal, Egbema OPUDIS, Agbonu Ogulagha-Ibe, and Ugboland**, participated in the Monitoring and Evaluation capacity-building workshop held during the quarter. The participants, drawn from the Boards of Trustees, Management Committees, and Advisory Committees, received targeted guidance on Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and its role in effective project and program management, logic modelling, indicators, data collection tools, and reporting templates, and the knowledge of practical Theories of Change (ToC).

6.2.0 Advocacy

The goal for Advocacy in the next five years (2025 – 2029) is to leverage value from already built models and structures to support program areas in cross-cutting operations and open up opportunities for investments across the Economic Development and Peacebuilding programs. Its support shall be at strategic levels and deliberate to elicit measurable impacts and will be implemented through the following approaches: Strategic/Demand-Driven Support, Supporting Program Integration, Promotion of PIND Models, Strategic Collaboration, and Deliver value to the stakeholders.

In Q1 2026, PIND's Advocacy program achieved impactful results across its core priorities. It deepened strategic partnerships, enhanced policy development and impact across different sectors (A2E, YEP, MSD), and strengthened host community relationships through co-investment in projects within PIND's core areas of A2E, MSD, YEP, etc. Q1 2026, marked the beginning of well-structured cross-functional engagements with Community stakeholders, HCDTs, State governments, and governmental organizations, and the local governments for Advocacy. There were also high-level external collaborations with Donors, NGOs, and the organized private sector.

Key Advocacy Outputs and Outcomes in Q1 2026

A. Promotion of PIND Models to the Government and Private Sector

- **Abia (Data Workshop):** PIND Advocacy Lead and the Digital Data experts participated as a panelist at the Abia State Future Enterprise and Data Architecture Workshop in Umuahia and shared PIND model and experience on the importance of data governance with the Abia State government to support the states' policy reforms across all its MDAs
- **Abia YEP Framework:** PIND's engagement with Abia State aimed at analyzing and adopting PIND's Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) Model into the "Abia State Youth Development Intervention Framework (2026-2030)." This series of engagements with Abia State provided opportunities for the YEP team to contribute and share its model to enhance the development of this framework. A verifiable and notable outcome of these engagements is the adoption and scaling of the YEP model by the Abia State Government; currently in validation with PIND as a participating reviewer.
- **Cross River Ministry of Human Capital:** Draft YEP implementation framework developed; strong potential to institutionalize YEP within the state's youth employment strategy.

- **Bayelsa Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning:** Multi-stakeholder platform convened; PIND models promoted across Agriculture, Youth, and Local Government ministries alongside HCDTs and private sector actors.
 - **Delta Budget Ministry:** PIND models showcased to Energy, Youth, Job Creation Bureau, and Local Government — opportunities for deeper collaboration identified.
 - **Delta Ministry of Agriculture:** WISE project land access conversations deepened; existing agricultural access policy tracked for upcoming review.
 - **Edo Ministry of Agriculture:** Arable land policy implementation tracked; office space for Edo WISE Coordinator secured.
 - **Edo Jobs & BTVET:** Separate engagements completed; MoUs to be signed in Q2 — BTVET contributing TVET centers, Edo Jobs bringing job linkages for YEP graduates.
 - **External Collaborations & MoUs: Ford Foundation:** Application submitted for a new funding phase to scale the Bridges MSP, with a focus on advancing a just energy transition and climate mitigation.
 - **NUPRC MoU:** The MoU between PIND and NUPRC was in active review and finalization during Q1, led jointly by the Advocacy and Business Development units. This formalization is strategically significant, and recognition of PIND facilitative role and interface between the regulator, the Host Community Development Trusts, and the settlers in the implementation the PIA architecture enabling more direct input into HCDDT performance standards, promotion of PIND’s PIA Models regulatory guidance on PIA Chapter 3, and data-sharing to amplify impact of PIA interventions
 - **BudgIT & CISLAC:** Formal partnership frameworks initiated; MoUs in finalization; expected to amplify PIND’s policy influence nationally on PIA, climate, and fiscal governance.
 - **UNDP:** PIND formalized a strategic partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership establishes a framework for joint action on inclusive economic development, renewable energy access, innovation ecosystems, and community resilience in Nigeria. The collaboration aligns UNDP Nigeria’s Integrated Smart States Program (2025–2027) with PIND’s 2025–2029 strategic objectives, leveraging PIND’s local expertise and implementation capacity in the Niger Delta to drive impact.
 - **NCDMB:** PWD capacity-building proposal submitted via YEP team; DMG events committee to be reconstituted in Q2.
 - **Bayelsa Ministry of Youth:** MoU formalized; joint initiative to train over 1,000 youths underway.
- B. Policy Influencing and Tracking of Government Development Spending**
- **LTDP Verification (Abia & Cross River):** 163 projects assessed; 89% confirmed completed; ₦55.48 billion in verified project value reported in 2025 reporting; ₦176.25 billion in ongoing projects flagged for 2026 follow-up.
- C. PIA/HCDDT Engagements**
- **HCDI Launch (Policy Alert):** Host Community Development Index launched publicly — a direct product of PIND’s Bridges Project capacity-building support; now piloted in Rivers and Akwa Ibom States as a credible PIA accountability tool.
 - **Foukeregha2 HCDDT:** PIND identified as strategic thought partner; BOT capacity needs assessed to inform tailored support for PIA governance and CDP review.
 - **CAPIND/CNL HCDDTs:** Advocacy Leads nominated by all four HCDDTs; joint advocacy strategies to be co-created; advocacy training manual developed — marking a deliberate shift from PIND-led facilitation to HCDDT-owned advocacy.
- D. Advocacy Support to Program Areas**
- **Peacebuilding:** NDRPS launch approach redesigned to be piloted in two states, and within their local government areas with co-designed Pilot States/LGAs; Climate Change and Human Security policy brief validated — both ready for launch at the Niger Delta Peace and Security Summit.
 - **MSD:** Roundtable on Access to Seeds in planning; MSD model adoption prospects identified in target states.
 - **Access to Energy:** Key policy constraints mapped for A2E partners in coastal/off-grid communities; advocacy strategy is being developed.
 - **YEP:** State-focused scaling approach adopted; Bayelsa Ministry of Youth partnership formalized; NCDMB PWD

capacity-building proposal submitted; MoUs with Edo Jobs and BTJET set for early Q2.

- **WISE (Mastercard):** Hand holding engagements with Delta and Edo States governments were completed, and this resulted in the program being allotted a permanent office space in Edo State to operate for the duration of the project, land accessibility by farmers in delta state nearing completion, and final authorization for land allocation in Edo by the Edo state being awaited
- **NDLink/National Youth Policy:** PIND models and approaches embedded into the zonal review process of the Nigerian Youth Policy.
- **Advocacy & Partnership Committee:** Emerging partnership trends identified; strategic approaches refined for Energy and Non-Energy workstreams.

Q1 2026 Female -mainstreaming				
	Number reported	Female	%	Q1 value
MSD farmers and MSMEs reached	22,342	11,104	49.7%	49.70%
A2E partners	20	4	20%	20.00%
YEP partners/youths enrolled for training	1,827	767	42.0%	42%
PB IPDU event participants	138	49	35.5%	36%
PSS Professional Services Contract, Service Orders, Grants MOU/MOA	39	11	28%	28.21%
Programs only)			37%	37%
program plus non program			35.08%	35.08%

Table 1: Q1 2026 GESI mainstreaming

6.3.0 Q1 2026 Knowledge Management and Communications

In Q1 2026, the Knowledge Management and Communications unit continued positioning PIND as a thought leader and impact-driven organization through integrated storytelling, strategic visibility, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The team aligned efforts with organizational priorities, supporting key program activities, advancing internal learning and branding efforts, and increasing both digital and media presence.

Significant Achievements/Results

- Provided visibility, branding, and documentation support for 15+ program activities, improving availability of high-quality content for reporting, media, and stakeholder engagement.
- Supported high-level partnerships and engagements, including PIND–UNDP MoU, PIND–SIAT Group MoU, and WACEE Energy Trade Fair, strengthening PIND’s strategic positioning.
- Advanced digital transformation through the rollout of the redesigned PIND website and progress on NDLink engagement platforms.
- Delivered targeted peacebuilding communications, including PSA production and 8-week radio engagement campaigns, peacebuilding awareness stickers, increasing public awareness on peaceful coexistence in Warri Federal Constituency.
- Strengthened knowledge products through review and refinement of policy briefs, including climate change and human security
- Produced and published over 25 impact videos, amplifying beneficiary voices and showcasing program outcomes across agriculture, peacebuilding, and energy sectors. Selected examples are provided below:
 - [Powering Livelihoods Through Sustainable Innovation](#)
 - [Promoting Agricultural Resilience through Peacebuilding in the Niger Delta](#)
 - [Transforming Cocoa Farming in the Niger Delta](#)
 - [Building a Future-Ready Niger Delta Through Partnership and Foresight](#)
 - [Building Resilient Economies Through Transparent Tax Systems](#)

6.3.1 Q1 2026 GESI Key Achievements:

6.3.2 GESI Mainstreaming: In Q1 2026, the overall PIND’s mainstreamed gender data recorded an average of **35.1%** participation across its activities, with programmatic area scoring **37%** mainstreaming. The final **35%** GESI mainstreamed percentage as at Q1 2026 falls short of the organizational target of **40%** - as shown in the female mainstreaming table below.

- **MSD:** In Q1 2026, a total of **22,342** farmers and MSMEs were reached, of which **11,104** were women, representing approximately **49%** female participation. This reflects strong commitment to gender inclusion and balanced outreach efforts. Specific interventions were designed using inclusive service models, ensuring that women and youth were not only participants but also positioned as service providers, seed entrepreneurs, and

agripreneurs within the evolving market systems.

- **YEP:** In Q1 2026, over 14 partners reported a cumulative total of 1,827 youths enrolled for training on applicable skills between, of which 767 (**42%**) were female.
- **Peacebuilding (IPDU):** A total of 139 participants were recorded in Q1 2026, including 49 - **women 35%**, while 37 youths (26.8%) and 5 PWDs, took part in the IPDU activities as well as mentors and mentees onboarded for the GESI IWD mentorship program.
- **Project Support Services:** In Q1 2026, a total of 39 contracts (service and purchase orders) were awarded, with 11 awarded to female-led vendors, representing **28%** of the total.

6.3.3 Commemoration of IWD 2026

PIND commemorated the 2026 International Women’s Day, themed “**Give to Gain,**” with a strong emphasis on investing in women and girls to create stronger communities, fostering generosity, collaboration, and reciprocal support to advance gender equity. In alignment with these global priorities, PIND adopted the sub-theme “**Empower to Thrive,**” reflecting its commitment to impact-driven interventions that strengthen the economic and social positioning of women across the Niger Delta.

To commemorate the day, PIND designed and initiated a structured mentorship program targeting **30 women** with the aim of recognizing and strengthening the critical roles women play as economic actors, peacebuilders, and agents of sustainable development. The initiative was anchored on three strategic focus areas: **access to productive resources and markets, peacebuilding and resource mobilization, and solar enterprise capacity building.** These areas were deliberately selected to address persistent constraints faced by women in the region, including limited market access, underrepresentation in peacebuilding processes, and low participation in emerging sectors such as renewable energy.

A key highlight of the commemoration was the engagement and onboarding of **30 experienced service providers and peace actors (mentors)** who were paired with the **selected mentees to provide one-on-one mentorship over a nine-month period (April – December 2026).** The mentorship program emphasizes practical learning, exposure to real-world applications, and continuous handholding support, enabling participants to build relevant technical, entrepreneurial, and leadership competencies. Mentors are expected to integrate mentees into their ongoing activities ranging from field demonstrations and market linkage engagements to technical installations and community-level peacebuilding initiatives. This thereby ensures that learning is both experiential and demand-driven.

The program is designed to deliver measurable outcomes, including improved business practices and increased access to premium markets for women entrepreneurs, strengthened capacity for resource mobilization among women engaged in peacebuilding, and enhanced technical and enterprise skills for women in the solar energy value chain. Beyond direct outcomes, the initiative is structured to generate a multiplier effect, where beneficiaries are expected to cascade knowledge and skills within their networks, thereby expanding impact and contributing to a broader pool of empowered women across the region.

In addition to the external-facing activities, PIND also commemorated IWD internally through a GESI-focused session aimed at raising awareness among staff on the 2026 global themes and reinforcing the Foundation’s commitment to gender inclusion. This was complemented by coordinated communication efforts, including the development and dissemination of themed social media content highlighting PIND’s role in advancing women’s empowerment.



PIND’s Commemoration of IWD 2026

6.4.0 Q4 2025 Planning M & E Key Achievements

Within the reporting period, the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation team:

- Completed the development of the planning framework for 2026 operations and coordinated the development of program milestones for 2026.
- Coordinated development of key performance indicators for program managers, as a precursor for the production of the direct report key performance indicators for 2026
- Implemented result-measurement processes by facilitating field monitoring through development of tools for re-engaging research officers (M & E Associates)
- Maintained program intervention control frameworks to support plausible attributions and reporting.
- Conducted Q1 2026 technical review and leaning to ensure Phase IV strategy implementation alignment with the Theory of Change (ToC) across all programs and projects.
- Supported organizational governance processes, including the conduction of Q1 2026 Boards meetings.

6.5.0 Business Development and Sustainability (BDS)

In 2026, BDS aims to raise \$1.5 million. In alignment with its strategic objective to diversify and expand its funding base, the BDS team deepened internal collaboration with other units in Q1 2026 to advance fundraising efforts including:

- Commencement of the implementation of Project-Specific Agreement with the Okomu Oil Plc for ₦1billion (\$ 654,000 at ₦1,530) to support the development of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program.

7.0 Program Management - Governance and Accountability:

PIND held her first 2026 Leadership Team (LT) meeting in Q1 2026 to review organizational health and guide the course for 2026 program management. During the quarter, PIND also held and participated in separate board meetings for NDPI trustees and the PIND Board of Trustees, providing oversight, guidance, and accountability for program implementation. Preparations for a joint Board meeting in Nigeria also commenced during the period.

7.1 Organizational Sustainability

PIND continues to refine its program governance structure to enhance outcomes and stakeholders value. Program **oversight** has been organized into **Energies and Non-Energies portfolios**. The **Energies portfolio** covers interventions and projects across oil and gas sector corporations, while the **non-energies portfolio** focuses on interventions and projects across non-oil and gas corporations in the Niger Delta. Dr. Teslim Giwa, PIND's Access to Energy program manager, leads the **Energies Portfolio**, while Mr. Misan Edema-Sillo, Economic Development Program manager, leads the **Non-Energies Portfolio**. Both portfolios are expected to operate as impact teams, machine-enabled, and with high analytics.

In Q1 2026, PIND progressed with the implementation of the N1billion program delivery agreement with Okomu Oil Plc to implement CSR interventions in 2026. This milestone is strengthening non-oil corporate partnerships in the Niger Delta.

PIND also progressed operations of Continuum Capital (CC), its impact investment vehicle, following the employment and full onboarding of a dedicated manager. Continuum Capital (CC) was established to drive large-scale investments into the Niger Delta for widespread impact. It is separate from the existing Sombreiro Kapital (SK), which provides access to finance through loan guarantees for PIND program beneficiaries.

PIND is continuing the implementation of the **Mastercard Foundation-funded Women in Sourcing and Enterprise (WISE)** program, while the EU-funded **Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta** project has helped to expand the IPDU-led community peacebuilding efforts.

7.2.0 Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security

PIND continued investing in employee well-being and workplace safety. In Q1 2026, the Operations Unit provided seamless services to consultants and stakeholders, enabling effective project delivery.

Key achievements included:

- Enhanced IT management through continuous review and updates of PIND’s Integrated Platform (PIP).
- Optimal logistics support for program implementation and operations.
- Timely processing of utility bills, maintenance of communication systems, stakeholder/vendor relations, and vehicle maintenance.
- Successful facilitation of internal and external events.
- Provided security updates and travel advice for approved field trips with regular liaison with the emergency response team at various locations in readiness for uncertainties.
- 12 safety & security reports were circulated to the workforce to enhance their safety and security awareness.
- Conducted safety & security assessment for all PIND locations and developed appropriate risk mitigation measures.

8.0 Project Support Services (PSS):

The PSS unit continued implementing policies and procedures to ensure transparency and compliance in PIND’s procurement and grant processes. Key achievements as at Q1 2026 include:

- Processing a total of 39 Instruments comprising 3 Professional Services Contracts, 21 Service Orders, 7 Purchase Orders, 7 Grants, 1 MOU/MOA, out of which 11 (28%) were from female.
- Introduction of the updated conflict of interest policy and attestation sign-up form - This update strengthened compliance controls and reinforced ethical standards of our procurement engagements with both external and internal consultants/vendors.
- PSS facilitated the engagement of four (4) Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Field Assistants under the CNL HCDT–Egbema OPUDIS HCDTs in Delta and Ondo States.
- PSS completed the contract renewal process for all PIND third-party project consultants, including Women in Sourcing and Enterprise (WISE), Sombreiro Capital, and PIA/HCDTs. A number of purchase orders were also processed across IT, MSD, Operations, and IPDU during the period. This exercise ensured continuity of service delivery and sustained implementation of these projects, enabling them to effectively achieve their set targets.
- In order to maintain the integrity of PIND's financial transactions, PSS as part of its Compliance role, continued the SRN payment review procedures within the period to continue to guarantee that all financial transactions were conducted in accordance with established policies; appropriate authorization by the relevant DOA to ensure value for money by enforcing competitive bidding processes; and the review of sole source justification requests. This role will be transitioned to the newly appointed Internal Control Manager at the beginning of the 2nd quarter.

Table 2: Contracts awarded in Q1 2026 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Q1 2026											
	Number (Q1 2026)	Number Processed to date (January - March 2026)	Value Committed (Q1 2026) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-March 2026) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q1 2026)							
					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	3	3	2,176,607,114.59	2,176,607,114.59	-	-	-	-	1	2,169,125,114.59	2	7,482,000.00
Services Order	21	21	279,685,619.15	279,685,619.15	4	54,899,999.95	7	111,589,219.20	-	-	10	113,196,400.00
Purchase Order	7	7	38,129,775.00	38,129,775.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	17,408,825.00
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	7	7	110,316,500.00	110,316,500.00	-	-	-	-	2	25,961,250.00	5	84,355,250.00
MOU	1	1	82,550,000.00	82,550,000.00	-	-	-	-	1	82,550,000.00	-	-
Total	39	39	2,576,972,508.74	2,576,972,508.74	4	54,899,999.95	7	111,589,219.20	4	2,277,636,364.59	24	222,442,475.00

9.0 Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

9.1.0 Capacity Building (CB)

- **Slow implementation of the HCDTs Development Plans:** Delays in the release of funds to the HCDTs makes it difficult for them to carry out their sponsored institutional trainings.
- CAPIND is working with both HCDTs and the settlor to facilitate processes leading to seamless operationalization of the community development plans (CDPs). Furthermore, the Capacity Building team is facilitating series of emergency virtual and in-person engagements between HCDT leadership and Chevron management to negotiate a mutually acceptable framework. Proposed solutions include the introduction of mechanisms such as Verified Advance Payment Guarantees to balance accountability with practical implementation realities.

9.1.3 Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)

- Delayed engagements of youths from CNL host communities due to delays in engaging implementing partners under the TVET Scholarship Grant. In response, PIND is facilitating specific partners to focus on delivering services to the HCDTs.
- Decreased enrolment of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) across TVET partner centers due primarily to affordability constraints and limited access to scholarships. PIND is exploring partnerships with other ecosystem actors to optimize the scholarships model for inclusive outreach to PWDs.

9.1.6 Access to Energy (A2E)

- One of the key challenges encountered in Q1 2026 relates to alignment between community structures and formal HCDT governance during project implementation. In some communities, while there is strong interest in energy deployment, differences in decision-making processes between community leadership and HCDT structures can affect the timing of agreements and project rollout. This creates uncertainty for developers who require clear approvals before committing resources.
- To address this, A2E strengthened its approach to early-stage stakeholder alignment, ensuring that both community representatives and HCDT Boards of Trustees are engaged from the outset. By sequencing engagements more deliberately and clarifying roles early, the program is helping to reduce friction during agreement stages and improve implementation timelines.
- In addition, the early-stage adoption of new financing mechanisms such as carbon credit funding presents practical challenges for partners, particularly around understanding requirements, data collection, and project eligibility. Many developers are engaging with this for the first time. To overcome this, A2E has initiated capacity-building sessions and is providing ongoing support to guide partners through the profiling and submission process, ensuring that they are better prepared to access this funding pathway.

9.1.5 Advocacy:

- Engagements with government institutions and partners were occasionally slowed by bureaucratic processes, resulting in delays in approvals, feedback, and implementation timelines. For instance, proposals submitted to partners are still awaiting formal approval, affecting the pace of planned interventions.
- In some instances, particularly within government, there were gaps in capacity, which affected the pace of engagement. This was evident in areas such as policy implementation and understanding of partnership frameworks.
- Despite these challenges, progress was made in strengthening partnerships, advancing advocacy objectives, and positioning PIND's models for adoption. Continued engagement, adaptive strategies, and sustained follow-up will be critical to overcoming these constraints in subsequent quarters.

9.1.7 GESI:

The YEP team reported a decrease in enrolment of Persons with Disabilities across all TVET partner centers – with most of the reasons provided being the inability to afford training or transportation stipends for them. PIND is working with the implementing partners to promote PIND's YEP model to attract scholarship funding from other ecosystem players

(local and international) for inclusivity.

9.2.1 Lessons learned:

A2E: The quarter reinforced the value of hands-on, continuous technical support to partners, especially those entering the Niger Delta market for the first time. Beyond initial outreach, developers benefit more from sustained engagement, including field exposure and practical guidance. A2E will continue to deepen this approach by combining knowledge-sharing with real-world application.

Finally, the introduction of carbon credit financing highlighted the need to introduce new concepts gradually with practical guidance. While partners showed strong interest, effective uptake requires clear guidance, follow-up support, and simplified processes. Future engagements will therefore place more emphasis on step-by-step onboarding to ensure better adoption and results.

Advocacy: Proactive engagement and consistent follow-up with key stakeholders are essential to maintain alignment, manage expectations, and prevent delays. The process of finalizing partnerships (e.g., MoUs) often takes longer than anticipated. Factoring in administrative timelines and building in buffer periods can help manage expectations and ensure smoother execution.

10. Summary of progress against 2026 targets as at Q1

Table 3: The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND's 2026 target as at Q1.

Strategic Objective 1: Better functioning market systems: for agricultural and MSME, youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy.					
	Indicators	2026 Target	Results as at Q1 2026		Rag
1. Number of targeted service providers reached and providing services across sectors (MSD), TVET centers/IPs (YEP) and energy providers (A2E)				%	
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	100	41	41%	
	Access to Energy (A2E)	20	9	45%	
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	20	10	50%	
2. Equity Investments leveraged from the implementing partners as a result of successful adoption and adaptation programs in MSD, YEP and A2E (NGN)					
	Market System Development Program (MSD) (NGN)	165million	89.14million ⁴	89%	
	Access to Energy (A2E) (NGN)	6.5billion	5.25billion ⁵	81%	
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) (NGN)	150million	9.75million	7%	
3. Service providers experiencing increased productivity/income - Service providers, reached through project facilitation, who experienced increased productivity/income					
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	80	TBD in Q3	-	
	Access to Energy (A2E)	20	5 ⁶	25%	
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	20	TBD in Q3	-	
4. Net jobs created by the Partners' businesses (Energy providers/IPs/Other partners)					
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	450	TBD in Q3	-	
	Access to Energy (A2E)	100	20.00	20%	
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	300	11.00 (More TBD in Q3)	3.6%	

⁴ This was recorded in 2026, but was omitted then. Now it is reported in Q1 2026

⁵ In Q1 2026, 10 energy solutions across the Niger Delta: **Darwey Coast**, deployed **four mini-grids** across Abia, Imo, Bayelsa, and Rivers States; **Ashdam Solar**, deployed **mesh grid solutions** in two coastal communities in Ondo State; **Renergy** implemented a **mini-grid project** in a rural community in Ondo State; **Oghosa Energy** deployed **two energy solutions** in coastal communities in Delta State; **DISA Energy** also expanded access through the deployment of **solar home systems** in a coastal community in Bayelsa State.

⁶ Out of the 9 Energy Providers onboarded in Q1 2026, 5 deployed the 10 energy solutions as at Q1 2026

5. Number of targeted farmers and enterprises reached with improved products and services, introduced through project facilitation.	150,000	22,342	15%	
6. Farmers/businesses who experienced increased productivity/income in MSD/YEP; Realize a financial benefit as a result of access to clean energy (A2E)				
Market System Development Program (MSD)	73,000	TBD in Q3	-	
Access to Energy (A2E)	3,500	TBD in Q3	-	
Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	8,000	TBD in Q3	-	
7. Naira value of (equity) investment by farmers adopting/adapting the cross-cutting services and innovations (MSD); by new enterprises established under YEP; and Businesses accessing clean energy (A2E)				
Market System Development Program (MSD) NGN	119.9 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) (NGN)	3.5 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
8. Number of Jobs created by farmers who access partners' services; Number of jobs created by Businesses established in YEP; number of jobs created by Businesses who access clean energy under A2E. (This is distinct from the SPs contribution to jobs)				
Market System Development Program (MSD)	20,500	TBD in Q3	-	
Access to Energy (A2E)	7,200	TBD in Q3	-	
Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	9,000	TBD in Q3	-	
9. Net attributable income change [Naira value] - Aggregated change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) -MSD/YEP				
Market System Development Program (MSD) (NGN)	80 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
Access to Energy (A2E) (NGN)	2 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) (NGN)	2 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
10. Percentage change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) -MSD/YEP (%)				
Market System Development Program (MSD)	70%	TBD in Q3	-	
11. Change in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.				
Percentage of GESI mainstreaming	40%	35.08%	88%	
Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) - Market System Development Program (MSD)	80%	TBD in Q3	-	
12. Number of households with access to energy solutions by the energy providers in the coastal/HCDTs and neighboring communities	6,500	5,558	86%	
13. Number of businesses with access to energy solutions by the energy providers, promoting tested energy models around the productive use of energy for economic development of the coastal/HCDTs and neighboring communities	3,500	3,322	95%	
14. Number of persons with access to clean energy.	42,500	33,348.00	78%	
15. Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions (NGN) - Businesses and Households (A2E) (NGN)	2 billion	TBD in Q3	-	
16. Number of youths with applicable skills from supported TVET centers/IPs (private and public) implementing innovative youth skills development model in the ND (completed training)	10,000	168 ⁷	2%	
17. Number of youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities after graduating from YEP program	8,000	TBD in Q3	-	
18. Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds	65	TBD in Q3	-	
Strategic Objective 2: Investment by donors/funders influenced by PIND in Niger Delta (\$50million)				
	Indicators	2026 Target	Results as at Q1 2026	
19. Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by partners (Energy providers/IPs and other SPs) from external donors/funders - (50 million USD)		\$10million	\$3,929,326.51	39.3%

⁷ This was from the 2025 raining batch. None has graduated from the 1,827 enrolled in 2026 yet. This is being monitored

A2E	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the development of the ND by Energy providers from external donors/funders - (USD)	\$5 million	\$3,848,155.45	77%	
YEP	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the development of the ND by YEP IPs from external donors/funders - (USD)	\$2 million	\$7,146.57	0.36%	
Capacity Building	Net Amount of funds raised/technical assistance from funders, donors, and private institutions by the CSOs/NGOs for local service provision (HCDTs + others) - (USD)	\$1 million	\$8,683.49	0.87%	
MSD	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the development of the ND by MSD Partners (SPs) from external donors/funders - (USD)	\$2 million	\$65,340.99	3.3%	
20. Naira value of the demonstrable changes as a result of PIND-influenced Development Models, policies and initiatives in EDP and PB. (NGN) <i>Demonstrable changes (infrastructural and non-infrastructural projects) as a result of the implementation of: Long-term Development Plans (LTDP), Access to land Policy, NDRPS, policy on double taxation etc. by public and private institutions.</i>					
	Advocacy (Naira value - NGN)	100billion	TBD in Q3	-	
21. BDS Funds raised for PIND managed activities (Raise additional funds from private sector and donor community for PIND programs. A minimum of \$7.5 million raised for PIND, equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding) - USD					
	BDS - Grants/Technical Services - (USD)	\$1.5million	TBD in Q3	-	
22. Number of firm commitments by state governments institutions and other development agencies to replicate key aspects of PIND's youth employment pathways approaches, per year and cumulatively (YEP)					
		5	2.00 ⁸	40%	
23. Number of state and non-state actors that adopt or adapt the model for youth job readiness, workforce development and entrepreneurship that is developed, tested, validated, and/or refined by PIND.					
		20	1.00 ⁹	5%	
Strategic Objective 3: Integration of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. (Pilot)					
	Indicators	2026 Target	Results as at Q1 2026		
24. Quantity of Co2 equivalent emissions reduced (metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) emissions) - This is the cumulative amount of CO2 displaced from the deployment of renewable energy technologies for community and cluster businesses energy solutions		150,000	TBD in Q4 2026	-	
Strategic Objective 4: HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities: Enhance the capacity of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), to co-design and co-invest in interventions to stimulate skills development, linkages to markets, and renewable solutions for job creation and income generation in their communities. Integration of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta.					
	Indicators	2026 Target	Results as at Q1 2026		
27. Number of organizations, associations and networks accessing funds/grants with PIND assistance.		5	2 ¹⁰	40%	
28. Capacity Building - Organizations providing improved services to the HCDTs		5	2	40%	
29. Capacity Building - Total amount of funds raised/technical assistance from funders, donors, and private institutions by the CSOs/NGOs for local service provision at the HCDTs (NGN) - to be reported as part of the \$50million target		100 million	11,846,800 (\$8,683.49 @ \$1 = N1450)	1.18%	

⁸ 1. In 2026 Q1, PIND and the Bayelsa Ministry of Youth Development (BMYD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to scale the planned YEP program implementation in Bayelsa. 2. Dakkkada Skills Acquisition Center (DASAC): YEP, visited the Dakkada Skills Acquisition Centre (DASAC); a government owned vocational training facility in Akwa Ibom. Notably, DASAC management demonstrated strong commitment to exploring a formal partnership with PIND, including the potential adaptation and contextualization of the YEP model to enhance youth employment outcomes in Akwa Ibom State.

⁹ Bayelsa State has committed to adopt the YEP model through an MoU with PIND

¹⁰ Newland Pathway Integrated Consult accessed ₦1,846,800, while Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF) accessed 10million from CONOIL Nigeria Limited through the Koluama Host Communities Development Trust, as well as additional support from the Global Fund through the Network of NGOs working to eradicate Tuberculosis in Nigeria. These resources are being deployed to conduct needs assessments and develop Community Development Plans for six communities within the Koluama HCDT in Bayelsa State, as well as to implement community-based monitoring of Tuberculosis interventions supported by the Global Fund.

30. Number of targeted farmers and enterprises reached in the CNL HCDTs with improved products and services, introduced through project facilitation per year and cumulatively. This includes Youths with applicable skills in the CNL HCDTs				
	MSD - Targeted farmers and enterprises reached in the CNL HCDTs	2,000	493.00	24.6%
	YEP - Youths with applicable skills in the CNL HCDTs	500	TBD in q2	-
31. Number of CNL HCDTs persons benefitting from Capacity Building (EDP and PB)				
		400	40.00	10%
32. Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds in the HCDTs				
		20	TBD in q3	-
33. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions in the HCDTs				
		15	-	-
Strategic Objective 5: Reducing conflict and promoting peace: Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding; ensuring a sustainable and effective deployment of P4P Network; cultivating linkage between Peace Building and Economic Development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict issues.				
	Indicators	2026 Target	Results as at Q1 2026	
34. Percentage of population reporting improved safety among local residents in the Niger - Delta - evidenced by persons reporting improved safety in their communities				
		1.25million	TBD in Q3 2026	-
35. Strategic alignment activities (workshops, consultations, and roundtables) conducted with government and corporate stakeholders to enhanced strategic alignment of government and corporate peacebuilding frameworks (e.g., NDRPS and Chevron HCDTs) with local needs, demonstrated integration conflict sensitive data and inclusive approaches.				
		3	2 ¹¹	66.7%
36. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions.				
		10	10	100%
37. Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis - Utilization rate of EWER data and alerts by stakeholders, evidenced by subscribers.				
		100	28	28%
38. Quarterly update from P4P detailing progress on independent projects activities, and regular peace outlook updates showing:				
		4	1	25%
39. Stakeholders incorporating conflict analysis insights into planning or interventions. (Greater adoption of peacebuilding strategies by local and international stakeholders informed by data and research products, evidenced by stakeholder feedback and application in policy or interventions)				
		5	TBD in Q3 2026	-
40. Briefs/Trackers and Research Products published				
		48	12 ¹²	25%
41. Integrated plans and implementation strategy developed across peacebuilding and economic development teams, yielding joint interventions that are reported to enhance both stability and economic growth in targeted regions.				
		3	1	25%
42. Documented cases of improved economic stability linked to peacebuilding interventions, tracked semi-annually.				
		2	TBD in Q3 2026	-
43. New business investments attracted to the ND due to increased safety.				
		20	TBD in Q3 2026	-

11.0. Sombreiro Kapital (SK)

Sombreiro Kapital Ltd/Gte (SK), incorporated on July 27, 2018, was established to drive innovation in agricultural value chain financing and MSMEs support in the renewable energy sector. Over the years, SK has demonstrated multiple models to improve access to finance for target sectors and businesses in the Niger Delta, stimulating capital flow on both the demand and supply sides of finance for agribusinesses, with a focus on smallholder inclusion. With a capital base of ₦100 million, SK focuses on increasing financial inclusion for smallholder farmers and MSMEs in the Niger Delta by reinvesting interest earned, lowering the cost of capital through blended finance, and serving as a testing ground for innovative financing models.

¹¹ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dg8oTmWN9A7Iw3TWBvwPuy09oO5cT163?usp=drive_link

¹² 12 analytical outputs, comprising 11 weekly conflict briefs and the 2025 Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report were produced.

In Phase IV (2025 – 2029), SK plans to:

- Influence financial institutions to tailor products for PINDs target beneficiaries in the Niger Delta and develop innovative financial products for PIND's Economic Development programs (MSD, YEP, and A2E).
- Increase its capital base to leverage more loans by seeking new capital injections from PIND and external investors, including HCDTs.
- Test new financing models aligned with evolving market and regulatory dynamics of the operating environment in target ED programs
- Expand financial services into Coastal communities and HCDT ecosystems by developing a bespoke funding strategy with the HCDTs.
-

By the end of 2026, SK is expected to have strengthened its capital base, expanded its partner ecosystem, improved portfolio performance, and progressed significantly toward becoming a fully independent blended finance institution supporting inclusive economic growth in the Niger Delta. In 2026, SK's main focus is to:

- **Capital Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships:** Expand and diversify SK's capital base through funding partnerships with HCDTs, Development agencies, Foundations, and corporates, while progressively reducing reliance on legacy funding sources.
- **Financial Innovation and Inclusive Portfolio Growth:** Develop and scale blended finance models that improve access to finance for over 1,000 MSMEs and smallholder farmers, while maintaining strong portfolio quality with Portfolio at Risk (PAR 30) below 5%.
- **Institutional Strengthening and Operational Sustainability:** Strengthen internal systems, governance structures, and revenue generation capacity to support SK's transition into a self-sustaining financial intermediary.

11.1. Key Sombreiro Kapital (SK) Achievements in Q1 2026:

During Q1 2026, SK continued to advance its mandate of expanding access to finance for smallholder farmers and MSMEs through sustained stakeholder engagement, program coordination, and strategic partnerships with financial institutions and service providers. Emphasis was placed on strengthening implementation structures, improving beneficiary readiness for financing, increased MSMEs linkages to funders, and deepening collaboration with partners to enhance financial intermediation – below are the highlights:

Capital Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships: SK commenced implementation of the Okomu CSR initiative, applying its aggregation model to expand reach and strengthen supply clusters for financing. Mobilization, profiling, and sensitization activities were conducted to support cooperative formation and strengthening for sustainable financing outcomes. Enrolment into the financial system commenced with Unity Bank Plc and Ecobank Ltd, with 305 farmers mobilized, while 14 existing cooperatives (over 300 members) are being strengthened. The intervention has also created market linkages for non-oil palm commodities, opening up additional economic opportunities for community producers

Strategic partnerships and capital mobilization: During the reporting period, SK deepened engagement with Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs), including Egbema OPODIS, Ugboland HCDT, and Warri Kingdom Coastal Trust, with discussions centered on a projected ₦600 million livelihood intervention program. Strategic partnerships were also advanced with SIAT/PRESCO and SARO Africa to support model scaling, capital mobilization, and broader financial inclusion interventions focusing on last mile distribution chains to BoPs (Bottom of the pyramid) operators. SK leveraging and bringing her core to bear in the UNDP-supported programming in collaboration with PIND, focusing on innovative solutions and the aggregation of nano-operators across focal states for capacity building and financial inclusion under the ISSP, MSMEs and financing development program

Institutional Strengthening and Ecosystem Development: During the quarter, SK prioritized strengthening its institutional systems to enhance long-term sustainability and improve the delivery of financial inclusion interventions. Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) continued to play a critical role in driving field implementation, enterprise development, and facilitating linkages between beneficiaries, markets, and fund providers

To date, **92 SMEs** have been profiled by four BDSPs—Newland, Agronadol, CAD Consulting, and Anchor & Bolt Consulting. This includes **32 women** entrepreneurs identified under the BoI GLOW credit scheme for women, facilitated by Agronadol. In addition, BDSPs continued engagement with viable microfinance institutions to expand community-level

access to finance. These include Memphis Microfinance (Ondo State), Zeemat Microfinance (Edo State), and Okerewa Community Peaceful Multipurpose Cooperative Society (Port Harcourt).

BSPs/SK Partnership on MSMEs Financing: Under the indirect leverage and linkages platform, Partnership with Dorbudee Consulting also progressed during the reporting period through SME profiling and financial linkages. As a result, **80 SMEs accessed ₦50 million** in financing through **WACCIMA** under the NDDCIMA microcredit scheme, supporting businesses in agriculture and trading.

Also, the BoI Nano RAPID scheme, MSMEs profiled and supported under the initiative have demonstrated strong technical capacity and are meeting their repayment obligations as scheduled. Additionally, leveraging improved access to affordable finance, SPs are offering business services to SMEs leveraging opportunity provided by the Delta State/BoI ₦1 billion credit scheme through Access Bank Plc. In Q1 2026, **four SMEs** are had credit risk assessment for a **₦60 million** intervention with Unity Bank Plc, and are expected to be deployed in Q2. These results reflect the effectiveness of the systems-based approach adopted under the initiative

Ecosystem Collaboration and Market Innovation: In collaboration with PIND’s Market Systems Development (MSD) team, SK facilitated a business linkage and capacity-building workshop involving BDSPs, digital platform providers, and financial institutions, including Sterling Bank Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Bank of Agriculture, and Ecobank Ltd. The introduction of a digital pan-African market platform further strengthened innovation in market access, improved risk assessment processes, and expanded the scope of BDSP engagement across the ecosystem.

Innovative Finance Models in Coastal Communities: Furthermore, innovative finance models initiated in the previous year within coastal communities are currently being implemented in collaboration with Marich Agro Services, TA Commodities, Newland Pathways and Dorbudee Consulting. These models, designed to support the development of coastal trade hubs within the HCDT communities, are being refined to ensure long-term sustainability and improved market participation.

Table 4: The summary below presents a view of progress against SK’s 2026 target as at Q1.

SN	Strategic Area	2026 Target	Q1 Results
1	Capital Mobilization (NGN)	₦800 million	₦82 million seed capital received from OOPC; engagements ongoing with HCDTs and corporates
2	Financial Inclusion: Farmers and cooperatives integrated into financing structures	1,000	305 farmers mobilized; 14 cooperatives strengthened (300+ members)
3	No. BDSPs delivering Service for SK (Direct partners)	10	5 partnering and actively profiling SMEs
4	Indirect leverage funds (NGN)	₦200 million	80 MSMEs accessed ₦50 million under NDDCIMA microcredit scheme
5	Technical assistance/Pipeline development	2 deals	Two corporations identified in Q1 -₦1billion patient capital request
6	Ratio of women to men (including people with disabilities)	40%	Sustained .40% inclusion
7	Loan default rate	< 2%	Sustain less than 2% default

Other highlights:

- **Loan Pipeline:** Credit facility under development- ₦60 million credit under assessment with Unity Bank Plc
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Expansion of ecosystem partners - Active collaboration with HCDTs, SIAT/PRESCO, SARO Africa, and United Nations Development Program / Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta
- **Portfolio Quality:** Portfolio at Risk (PAR 30) < 5% - Current repayment performance remains strong

12. Women in Sourcing and Enterprise (WISE)

The Cassava Youth Agripreneur Program— now known as Women in Sourcing and Enterprise (WISE) — is an intervention under the agriculture priority sector of the Mastercard Foundation that contributes to the realization of the Young Africa Works (YAW) strategy in Nigeria. WISE seeks to transform the cassava value chain in Nigeria by promoting innovative and sustainable business approaches that boost production for both the food and industrial markets, while attracting youth and women into the cassava value chain to build capacity, access resources (including finance and markets), and improve efficiency in cassava production and processing. The program’s approach focuses on providing key support, aligning relationships, and offering incentives needed to optimize productivity and efficiency across the value chain.

This will lead to profitable cassava farming businesses and the creation of dignified and fulfilling jobs. WISE aims to support cassava youth out grower farmers (YOFs) —**80% of whom are young women**—and other cassava agripreneurs to increase knowledge and capacity in cassava production and processing. This will ensure the supply of safe, quality-assured, and price-competitive cassava-based raw materials and products to processing factories and global markets. The intervention will incentivize investment to unlock opportunities within the cassava value chain in Nigeria and create institutional changes that will sustainably drive the impact.

A total of **80,000 youth** participants aged **15-35 years** will be onboarded into the program, 80% of whom will be young women. These youth out grower farmers will be integrated into the supply chains of cassava SME processors. In addition, 1,250 more participants will be onboarded into other segments of the cassava value chain.

PIND is responsible for onboarding and engaging **30,000** youth agripreneurs and **94** cassava seed entrepreneurs, delivering **9** makeshift cassava processing centers, and engaging **10** SMEs within the Edo/Delta cluster in the implementation, coordination, and results delivery and reporting on the project.

WISE Key Achievements as at Q1 2026

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the first quarter (Q1) implementation of Year 2 of the Empowering Young Women through SME Growth and Local Sourcing in Africa (WISE) Program. The Q1 marked a critical transition into full-scale implementation, characterized by intensified field-level execution, strengthened stakeholder coordination, and deliberate efforts to address systemic constraints affecting scale and delivery.

During the reporting period, all nine Sub Implementing Partners (SIPs) were actively engaged in field operations, with a strong focus on farmer mobilization, onboarding, and readiness for the 2026 production cycle. Implementation was guided by structured workplans aligned to the program’s strategic pathways and work package, ensuring coordinated delivery across governance, coalition building, value chain development, production systems, financing, and monitoring and learning.

Significant progress was recorded in outreach and onboarding. A total of 8,800 Youth Out grower Farmers (YOFs) were onboarded during the quarter, of which 7,865 (89%) were young women with an average age of 26, reflecting strong performance against youth and gender inclusion targets this bring the total onboarded YOF by PIND to 13,568. In addition, a total of 3,330 Youth in Work (YIW) with 2,309 YIW onboarded in this reporting quarter opportunities were created, primarily in on-farm value chain activities, demonstrating early traction in employment generation as SMEs advance toward full production cycles. The program also maintained a strong inclusion focus, onboarding 384 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and 726 internally displaced persons (IDPs)/Refugees, reinforcing its commitment to reaching marginalized groups.

The program made notable strides in strengthening the enabling environment for implementation. High-level engagements with government stakeholders in Delta and Edo States improved institutional support for land access, including commitments for endorsement frameworks and access to public or institutional land. In parallel, partnerships with private sector actors, input suppliers, and research institutions were expanded and strengthened, improving

coordination across the cassava value chain and enhancing SME access to critical services.

Capacity strengthening remained a central focus during the quarter. SMEs received targeted support through pre-season planning workshops, financial management training, and continuous coaching, addressing gaps identified through audit processes and performance reviews. Additionally, the harmonization of training materials in collaboration with the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), alongside the rollout of Training of Trainers (ToT) programs, laid a strong foundation for standardized delivery of Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and climate-smart agriculture interventions.

On the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) front, key milestones were achieved, including the completion and adoption of the baseline study and the implementation of a comprehensive gender analysis across all Sub-implementation Partners (SIPs). These efforts have strengthened the program’s evidence base and will inform more targeted, gender-responsive interventions moving forward. Furthermore, investments in communication and visibility, through branding support, storytelling initiatives, and development of training content, have enhanced program positioning and stakeholder engagement. The quarter also recorded key programmatic adjustments, including the discontinuation of one SIP (Green Hill Agric Product) due to intention to run a pilot outgrower scheme involving 50 YOFs. This action underscores the program’s commitment to supporting an average of 3,000 YOFs per SIP.

Table 5: WISE: Farmers Onboarding Summary (Quarter 1 Y2 Actuals)

SN	SMEs	#YOF Overall Target	Actual for 2025	# of women YOFs Actual in 2025	# YOFs Actual in 2026 Q1	# Women YOFs Actual in 2026 Q1	#PWDs YOFs Actual in 2025 Q1	#DP/ Refugee YOFs Actual in 2025 Q1	Total onboarded YOF (2025 +Q1)	% of YOF achieved against Target
1	Adventium Songhai	1,500	150	150	690	490	13	103	840	56%
2	Arla	5,000	300	300	1,823	1,730	31	105	2,122	42%
3	Asanita	2,500	0	0	2,247	2,028	85	310	2,247	90%
4	Bethan	1,000	244	220	329	223	12	1	573	57%
5	Briel Jaco	2,000	640	638	729	672	17	67	1,369	68%
6	Ebedebiri Starch	5,000	1242	1146	986	855	3	135	2,228	45%
7	Royal Winosa	1,500	1126	1029	374	317	3	0	1,500	100%
8	Matna	3,000	0	0	290	264	1	4	290	10%
9	Von Food	5,000	1067	1031	1,332	1,286	219	1	2,399	48%
TOTAL		26,500	5,220	4,299	8,800	7,865 (89%)	384	726	13,568	51%

Challenges

Despite these achievements, implementation during the quarter was influenced by key operational constraints, particularly delays in Year 2 funding disbursement. This affected the timely procurement and distribution of starter packs (inputs), resulting in a phased approach to farm establishment activities across most SMEs. Consequently, while planning, mobilization, and capacity-building activities progressed significantly, full-scale planting operations are expected to accelerate in April/May of the subsequent quarter as funding flows stabilize.

Overall, Q1 reflects a period of strong operational alignment, ecosystem strengthening, and foundational work for scale. While implementation momentum was partially constrained by funding and input-related delays, the systems, partnerships, and capacities established during the quarter positioned the program for accelerated delivery in subsequent periods. Moving forward, priority will be placed on synchronizing financing with agricultural timelines, scaling production activities, deepening government and private sector engagement, and strengthening coordination across all implementation partners to drive sustainable and inclusive outcomes.



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