



Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Quarter Two:
April - June 2025

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
BATVE	Ondo State Board for Adult Technical Vocational Education
BDS	Business Development & Sustainability
Bol	Bank of Industry
CDP	Community Development Plan
CNA	Comprehensive Needs Assessment
CNL	Chevron Nigeria Limited
DARES	Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up
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
HCDT	Host Community Development Trust
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDH	IDH Trade
Ibom-LED	Ibom Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Centre
ILO	International Labor 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
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
PSS	Procurement Support Services
PWD	Person with Disability
P4P	Partners for Peace
REAN	Renewable Association of Nigeria
RFP	Request for Proposal
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP)
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 miles
WKHCDT	Warri Kingdom Coastal Host Community Development Trust
UK-PACT	UK Government's Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions
UHCDT	Ugboland Host Community Development Trust
YEP	Youth Employment Partway

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

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 in investment by donors and 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.

SO3: Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. This includes stimulating a market for carbon credits (generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.); reducing GHG emission 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 Chevron, 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



Introduction: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report

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 USAID, The Ford Foundation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Master Card Foundation, and the European Union.

This quarter’s report (April – June, 2025), is the second under phase IV strategic period (2025 – 2029), and it provides updates on programs 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 Executive Summary

This report outlines our program interventions and achievements in the Niger Delta from April to June 2025 (Q2), providing updates on program management, key learnings, and plans for the next quarter. PIND continues to advance **broad-based economic growth, peacebuilding, and governance reforms** across the region.

Our approach prioritizes **data-driven decision-making**, ensuring **evidence-based policy direction and impactful interventions** across economic development, peacebuilding, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts.

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 Q2 2025, 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.

Market System Development (MSD) Program

In Q2 2025, MSD continued to deepen its engagement drives with a wide range of strategic partners across the thematic areas as follows:

- In Q2, **88 existing partners** including input firms, digital technology companies, service providers, seed companies, research institutes, off-takers/processors etc., participated in the engagement meetings. These meetings focused on building business relationships, fostering collaborations, identifying opportunities for co-creation and co-investment to deliver and expand improved models for **Access to Agricultural Inputs (Fertilizers, CPPs, Feed, Vaccines, etc.); Access to Seeds; Access to Business Development Services and Finance; and Access to Industrial Market and Agricultural Technology.**
- From January to June, over **115** service providers/partners participated in engagement events facilitated by the MSD program to promote PIND's Phase IV (2025 – 2029) economic growth programs. Out of these, **32** have commenced provision of cross-cutting services to farmers and MSMEs around technical support, and access to improved seeds and inputs, as farmers kickstarted 2025 farming activities.
- MSD also facilitated intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) for **30 Service Providers** to enhance their capacity to deliver cross-sectoral extension and advisory support. This was achieved through collaboration with ZAL Consulting (a Master Service Provider), Afritropics Agro Services (a key input firm), and National Horticultural Research Institute [(NIHORT).
- An onboarding workshop for **52 stakeholders** in the seed sector was also facilitated to foster collaboration among seed actors and to develop a roadmap for a stronger seed system in the region.
- A performance grant has been approved for **30 Service Providers** whose capacity were built. Disbursement will occur in Q3 2025. When operational, these partners are expected to reach over **80,000 farmers** and MSMEs within a year.

Access to Energy (A2E)

This quarter marked a strategic shift from foundational planning to execution. Several partner-led energy solutions moved into investment-ready stages, and direct engagements with both HCDTs and developers intensified to bring renewable energy access closer to coastal and last-mile communities in the Niger Delta. Simultaneously, A2E continued aligning clean energy deployment with peacebuilding, climate resilience, and inclusive development outcomes. We have advanced critical preparatory milestones as follows:

- Two developers, Mimshack Anointed Int'l Concept and Moon Innovation, reached full investment readiness and began project preparation activities in coastal, unserved communities, including energy assessments, land allocation, and pre-implementation engagements.
- **Existing Partners Scale to New Locations:** Long-standing partners such as ETIN Power, A4&T, and Darway Coast scaled to new communities, supported by A2E's technical assistance and funding linkages.
- Over **582.45kWp** of solar energy was deployed across six communities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River states, displacing diesel generators and directly powering **2,500** households, **640** businesses, and **four health** facilities.
- **HCDT collaboration deepened:** Egbema-OPUDIS adjusted its energy project pipeline to align with budget approvals. A formal Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was also shared with KEFESSO HCDT for a kingdom-wide deployment of 11 renewable energy systems.

- Stakeholder validation and community prioritization were completed in the 18 Okomu communities, setting the foundation for integrated energy and peacebuilding interventions for the 2026 cycle.

Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)

- In Q2 2025, YEP prioritized identification and selection of implementing partners to roll out its youth development program. Twenty implementing partners were identified and selected for 2025 YEP delivery, of which 15 are returning partners who met preset criteria and are recommended for support to **upgrade their TVET centers**.
- The second window of support to implementing partners is the **Scholarship Grant** aimed at stimulating inclusivity by enabling more youths to access skills acquisition. This window primarily targets new entrepreneurial implementing partners. So far, 5 new organizations have met the criteria. The selection process for the scholarship grant will be finalized early in Q3 as more organizations are being targeted.
- **Partners' Outcomes – Technical and Vocational Skills Training:** YEP, implementing partners who previously benefitted from PIND support continued to implement commercially driven vocational skills training and link beneficiaries to employment and livelihood opportunities. They have collectively invested **₦20 million** to provide employable skills to youths¹.
- As of Q2 2025, over 16 partners have reported a cumulative total of **2,183 youths** trained in applicable skills from January to date. Out of the trained youths, **1,091 (50%)** have been linked to jobs, and over **1,000** have been linked to internships. An assessment to determine business establishment by the remaining benefitting youths is currently in progress.

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

Within the reporting period, PIND influenced a total of **\$220,923.38²** in investment by donors and funders into the Niger Delta under Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) and Capacity Building programs, as follows:

- **Youth Employment Program (YEP):** During the reporting period, five implementing partners attracted a total sum of **₦327,000,000.00 - [~\$214,145.38]** in investments into skills development in the Niger Delta.
- **Capacity Building:** Three local CAPABLE-trained organizations —Newland Pathway Integrated Consult, Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE), and Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF) — collectively accessed a total of **₦10,350,000 [~\$6,778.00]³** in funding to provide community-based services.

Strategic Objective 3: Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta.

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.

Access to energy

A total of **582.45kWp** of solar capacity was installed across six last-mile communities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River States, replacing what would have otherwise been small, inefficient, and polluting generators. Under a business-as-usual scenario, these communities, like many others in the region, would have relied heavily on petrol or diesel-powered generators.

Based on average generator usage for similar rural settlements, powering this level of demand would have required over **200,000 liters of diesel annually**, resulting in approximately **540 metric tons of CO₂ emissions** each year. Instead, by shifting to solar-powered mini grids, these communities are not only avoiding harmful emissions but also building resilience against fuel price volatility, supply chain disruptions, and climate-induced outages. The clean energy systems now power cold storage for fisheries, agro-processing equipment, retail shops, and healthcare facilities, ensuring that economic and social systems continue functioning during climate-related shocks.

¹ AZURE GOLD LTD - Building Construction, ₦5million from Political Actors in Akwa Ibom State; SOLAR WORLD GESELLSCHAFT (Services) got ₦1million from Private Individual, Nigeria, ASTEVEN RENEWABLE ENERGY & EFFICIENCY ACADEMY LTD (services) got ₦1million from private individual, in Nigeria; RAD 5 TECH HUB (ICT) got ₦13million from 3MTT - Federal Government; Alumni

² 1USD=₦1527 NAFEX Rate July 2025

³ **Capacity Building:** Training farmers on adaptive feed formulation, water-saving techniques, and sustainable input use, and **Market linkage:** facilitating linkages between cassava farmers and off-takers; supported trainings in community needs assessment, organizational development, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization.

Market System Development Program

In Q2 2025, PIND intensified the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation practices across all four MSD thematic areas to strengthen smallholder resilience in the Niger Delta.

- Under the **Access to Agricultural Inputs theme**, PIND finalized its partnership with **CHC Agritech**, a firm specializing in organic and environmentally friendly crop protection products. This engagement supports the integration of sustainable inputs into last-mile distribution, enhancing soil health and promotes the adoption of climate-smart technologies through awareness campaigns and farmer outreach.
- PIND advances a strategic partnership with **Afritropics** to establish **two demonstration greenhouse facilities in two states**. Each greenhouse will be fully equipped with modern irrigation systems and designed to showcase innovative agricultural technologies that support climate adaptation and productivity improvement. These demonstration sites will serve as learning hubs to encourage the wider adoption of climate-resilient practices among nursery operators and farmers. As part of this initiative, the use of **mulch film** will also be promoted to enhance soil health, conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve overall yield.
- Significant progress was made in developing a **harmonized Climate-Smart Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) manual**. Inputs from institutions like CRIN, IAR&T, IFDC, and NIHORT shaped its content. Additionally, 30 service providers were trained in collaboration with NIHORT and master service provider, ZAL to deliver climate-smart advisory services to farmers

Peace Building Program

In June, PIND's weekly Conflict Tracker highlighted the rising threat of climate-induced disasters and environmental risks in the Niger Delta, with a focus on flash floods. This followed recent events, including torrential rainfall and flash flood alerts from the **Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet)**, underscoring the region's growing vulnerability to extreme weather conditions. A climate-related data **filter** is currently being deployed on the Peace Map. This data will showcase Environmental Risks and Hazards (ERH) in the Niger Delta—including flooding, windstorm, gully erosion and oil spillage). The data will complement existing conflict data on the Peace Map and provide critical context to guide climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives by PIND's Peacebuilding and Economic Development programs, as well as for use by external stakeholders in the region.

Strategic Objective 4: HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities

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.

Market Systems Development (MSD)

To support MSMEs in the HCDT communities with linkages to finance, PIND, in collaboration with Marich Agro, (a business development service provider), supported 100 nano and micro businesses, including fisherfolks and processors, across 2 cooperatives (*Osan Oritse Business Women and Men MPCs and Gods Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs*) **in Ugborodo Community**, with linkages to Unity Bank, for access to financial services. Activities included awareness creation to enhance their readiness and qualification for the bank's available financing packages.

Summarily,

- Two service providers were supported with grants to expand agribusiness support to fisherfolks and MSMEs in HCDT communities in Delta and Ondo States.
- Linkages were facilitated between two cooperatives (Osan Oritse Business Women and Men MPCs and Gods Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs) were facilitated in Ugborodo Community and Unity Bank, enabling 100 MSMEs/Fisherfolks—members of the cooperatives, to access financing.
- Engagement with **SARO Agrosiences** (an input firm) were finalized to establish their presence within the HCDTs and implement the Input Distribution Model. Adoption and implementation will commence in the coming quarter. The groundwork laid in Q2 will serve as the foundation for co-created, co-financed interventions in Q3 and Q4, further reinforcing HCDT ownership and long-term sustainability of market development efforts in their communities.

Capacity Building (CB)

In Q2 2025, the **CB** team facilitated its **second PGPA-PIND collaboration meeting** in June. The PGPA is the Policy, Government and Public Affairs department of the Nigeria/Mid-Africa (NMA) Business Unit for Chevron Middle East, Eurasia and Africa Region. This meeting is a cornerstone of routine coordination and alignment efforts with PGPA, designed to strengthen collaborative interventions within Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) HCDT communities. Key outcomes from the PGPA–PIND collaboration meeting included shared understanding of the status and restructuring of HCDTs, particularly the clarification of new registrations and the transformation of the Warri Kingdom Onshore HCDT into three distinct entities: AMU-HCDT, Dibi-Olero HCDT, and Ikpere HCDT.

Access to Energy (A2E)

In Q2, A2E's collaboration with both CNL and non-CNL HCDTs gained traction, advancing efforts to invest in renewable energy solutions aligned with each community development priorities.

This quarter, there was significant advancement in collaboration with HCDTs to expand renewable energy access:

- **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT:** Following approval of its Community Development Plan (CDP) by **NUPRC**, the trusts began early implementation of its proposed energy portfolio, initially targeting three mini-grid upgrades and two new Energy Cabin installations. However, the final CAPEX allocation was below the proposed budget, necessitating realignment discussions with NUPRC. A2E has remained actively engaged, providing technical advisory to support project scoping and budget reconciliation.
- **Ugboland HCDT:** Building on progress from Q1, A2E will provide technical assistance for an energy audit in Ugboland. This audit is key to mapping electrification opportunities across the trust's priority communities. The resulting data will guide long-term planning and allow the HCDT to phase its electrification investments from 2025 to 2030, with clearer visibility on costs and returns.
- **KEFESSO HCDT (Non-CNL):** In collaboration with PIND's Advocacy and BDS teams, A2E's collaboration with KEFESSO moved a step closer to implementation. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been shared with the Trust to formalize a joint initiative to deploy 11 mini grids across 11 communities in their kingdom. This marks a strong commitment from non-CNL HCDT to integrate access to energy into their broader development agenda.

Rivers-3 HCDT: In collaboration with the BDS unit, A2E initiated a strategic knowledge-sharing and value proposition session with Rivers-3 HCDT. The dialogue focused on exploring renewable energy opportunities that align with the trust's infrastructure goals. The session was well received, and conversations are now progressing toward formal collaboration through proposed MOUs.

Youth Employment Pathways

Ugboland HCDT: This quarter, preparations advanced for the HCDT to co-invest in youth development. This effort leveraged the establishment of a partnership with the Ondo State Board for Adult Technical and Vocational Education (BATVE). Through this partnership, the Government Technical College, Okitipupa, will collaborate with YEP partner organizations to implement inclusive vocational training that benefits the Ugboland HCDT. In the previous quarter, two existing implementing partners, Amy6015 Global Enterprise and Micafotoy Technologies Ltd, trained of **78 youths from Ugboland HCDT** in Ondo State. This will be the second batch of training, targeting **100 youths** from Ugboland HCDT. The HCDT is proposing to fund logistics to support participation of these youths.

Peace Building Activities in the HCDTs

During the quarter, the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) disseminated 8 conflict early warning alerts and updates to leaders and secretaries of the CNL HCDTs, as well as to other peace actors in the area. Additionally, 10 members of the CNL HCDT, including one Peacebuilding Committee member, participated in the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Workshop. During the workshop, they were introduced to PIND's SMS-based EWER system and other peacebuilding processes and methodologies.

Strategic Objective 5: Reduce conflict and promote peace – This objective focuses on ensuring the sustainable deployment of Partners for Peace (P4P) Network; integrating Peacebuilding with economic development; delivering value to Chevron; and addressing regional conflict dynamics. HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities.

Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q1 2025

The peace and security situation in the Niger Delta was relatively stable in the second quarter of 2025, marked by a decrease in incidents of lethal violence compared to the first quarter of the year. Recent data indicates a **12%** decline in

reported conflict fatalities, with deaths dropping from **221** in Q1 to **194** in Q2. Notably, communal violence declined significantly, with fatalities from communal conflicts falling by **88%**, from **85** in Q1 to just **10** in Q2. Additionally, the number of communal conflict incidents declined by **41%**, reducing from **29** in Q1 to **17** in Q2. This overall decline in conflict risks and lethal violence reflects the success of ongoing peacebuilding and conflict management efforts across the region. However, despite this progress, incidents of violence and insecurity persisted, particularly in Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Imo, and Ondo states.

General Enabling programs

Advocacy

Strategic/Demand-Driven Support: In Q2 of 2025, PINDs' Advocacy achieved the following:

- **Promotion of PIND Models:** Strategic engagements with the Ministries of Planning in Akwa Ibom and Edo States advanced the adoption of the Long-Term Development Plans (LTDPs), aligning state planning processes with PIND's Development Plan Model.
- **HCDT Engagement & Capacity Building:** Over 50 Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) were engaged through the Bridges Project across five states. Key outcomes included the establishment of validated databases, creation of State Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), and increased adoption of PIND/PIA-aligned models for community development plans.
- **Federal and State Partnership on Youth Employment:** A high-level workshop was facilitated with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, promoting the YEP model for consideration in professionalizing youth work and expanding employment pathways nationwide. It also introduced the YEP Model through support for the development of the Bayelsa Youth Policy, which provided the framework for the Labor Market Assessment as a precursor for YEP intervention in the State
- **Policy Influence & Strategic Coordination:** Land access policy implementation in Delta State and Edo States was tracked to ensure alignment with PIND programs such as the Y-CAP. As Secretariat of the Nexus Working Group, Advocacy continues to drive alignment between peacebuilding and economic development initiatives.

KM-Communications

In Q2 2025, the KM-Comms 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, ensuring support for key program activities, advancing internal learning and branding efforts, and increasing both digital and media presence.

Significant Achievements/Results

- Successfully published the 2024 Annual Report themed Legacies. Impact. Strides. Footprints., highlighting PIND's achievements across the Niger Delta. Promoted across social media, website, and newsletters, the report achieved in over 200 downloads and over 700 views, showing growing interest in PIND's work.
- Welcomed 13,410 new website visitors, bringing total visits to 15,264. Published 30 new articles on the website and recorded an average of 500 monthly downloads of PIND products such as the 2024 Annual Report and the Q1 Progress Report.
- Shared compelling success stories and impact features from across PIND programs, boosting visibility and growing our social media audience to 61,104 followers.

Q2 2025 GESI Key Achievements:

GESI Mainstreaming: Within the reporting period, PIND's gender mainstreaming efforts recorded 44.7% female participation in its activities, meeting its GESI target of 40%. Detail is shown below:

- **MSD:** In Q2, a total of **4,404** farmers and MSMEs were reached through various MSD activities, of which **2,094** were women, representing approximately **48%** female participation. This reflects a strong commitment to gender inclusion and an encouraging balance in outreach efforts. Specific interventions were designed with 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:** As of Q2 2025, over 16 partners reported a cumulative **2,183** youths trained on applicable skills between January to date. Out of the trained youths, **939 (43%)** were female.

Peace Building: During the quarter, a total of **130** participants took part in PIND-facilitated P4P training, early warning workshops, and research activities. Participants included 56 females (**43%**), 89 youths (68.1%), and 3 persons with disabilities (2.3%).

Q2 2025 Planning M & E Key Achievements

Within the reporting period, the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation team provided overarching support through

- Oversight to ensure Phase IV strategy implementation across all programs aligned with the Theory of Change (ToC) in all programs/projects; Tracked and quality-assured programs outputs, outcomes and impact to ensure plausibility along the objective hierarchy through outcome monitoring, and produced Q2 2025 Progress report.

Business Development and Sustainability (BDS)

In 2025, 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 teams in Q2 2025 to advance fund raising efforts. Follow-up was conducted on the proposals already submitted to:

- **CitiFoundation:** aimed at expanding PIND's YEP program into Imo State under the 2025 Citi Foundation Global Innovation Challenge
- **International Labor Organization (ILO)** to design innovative financial solutions to improve livelihoods of 2,500 smallholder cocoa farmers while combating child labor in Ondo, Cross Rivers, and Osun states.
- **FCDO/UK-PACT – MediGrid on Clean Energy Transition:** MediGrid is a transformative healthcare electrification initiative designed to scale and expand access to solar-powered electricity for underserved primary and secondary healthcare centers in the Niger Delta.
- **Nexans Foundation** This project is an innovative solar health electrification initiative that uses "Power Enterprise Models" to electrify 30 community healthcare facilities and 30 surrounding communities in Cross River State.

Also, in Q2, six non-Chevron HCDTs were identified, with a view to promoting and supporting their CDPs with a sustainable development model. The following three HCDTs - Rivers 3 HCDT, Agoos HCDT, KEFESSO HCDT, have indicated interest in partnerships that will provide such support. Discussions are ongoing to determine the next steps.

3rd-party funded engagements have been pursued with external partners, specifically with Okomu Oil-Palm Plc on a N1Billion CSR Outsourcing initiative. A draft MoA is being developed. The Impact Investment SPV, Continuum Capital has taken a more progressive turn with new SoW for Cross Boundary signed and Bi-weekly progress Update meetings established.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs:

Market System Development Program:

- Institutionally, the slow execution of formal agreements with partners led to staggered timelines for launching field-level activities. Internal approvals and prolonged negotiations during Memoranda of Agreements (MoA) development delayed input supply, demo plot establishment, and training sessions in some communities.
- Capacity limitations among new and transitioning market actors, particularly service providers and agro-dealers, emerged as another constraint. Many struggled with the technical demands of delivering cross-cutting services or lacked confidence in input advisory, climate-smart practices, and agronomic demonstrations. This hampered the speed and consistency of field deployment.
- Efforts to strengthen market linkages also faced setbacks due to the difficulty in identifying aggregators who were both operationally sound and willing to adopt structured sourcing models. In many cases, potential partners operated informally or lacked the scale to anchor viable aggregation systems. Likewise, the ambition to scale technical services through digital platforms was challenged by the high cost of engaging digital technology firms, limiting the pace at which solutions could be adopted and operationalized.

Together, these challenges reflect the complexities of operating in dynamic rural markets. While none were insurmountable, they highlight the importance of adaptive planning, continuous learning, and strengthened partner coordination to sustain momentum and drive long-term systems change.

Capacity Building (CB):

- **Reduced Funding Access:** Despite improved internal systems and technical capacity, local organizations now face fewer funding opportunities, undermining the effectiveness of past capacity-building investments. PIND is supporting local organizations to diversify their funding sources, including exploring CSR, regional donors, and government partnerships to sustain impact despite the shrinking aid landscape.

Youth Employment Program (YEP)

- **Phase IV Strategy adoption:** Implementing Partners are slow to adjust to the new YEP strategies, which emphasize commercially - driven TVETs training through scholarships and facility support grants, as opposed to the direct delivery approach used in Phase III. YEP activities are geared toward building their capacities to embrace this strategic shift to guarantee sustainability of program delivery.

Cycle of Vocational Training: late commencement of training activities does not augur well for both implementing partners and trainees, as disruptions are observed toward the end-of-the year festivities. The YEP team is exploring options that will lead to early commencement of the training cycle, with the aim of concluding training within the same year.

Access to energy (A2E)

- **Fragmented Renewable Energy Policy Landscape:** Overlapping frameworks, such as the Energy Transition Plan, Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP), National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP), and Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) directives, are creating confusion for investors and developers. The absence of a unified enforcement mechanism undermines investor confidence and complicates long-term planning. To address this, A2E continues to encourage policy harmonization efforts through platforms like the NESG-GIZ Technical Sessions, which aim to streamline regulatory guidance and align implementation pathways.
- **Foreign Exchange Volatility:** Despite a rebound of the naira to ₦1,497/USD as of March 2025, import-dependent renewable components such as solar panels, batteries and inverters remain exposed to currency fluctuations. This volatility continues to impact cost predictability for developers. A2E is working with partners to mitigate this by encouraging the use of forward contracts to lock in exchange rates and advocating for import tax exemptions and incentives under local manufacturing policies.
- **Delays in Fund Disbursement by HCDDTs:** While many HCDDTs have shown growing commitment to renewable energy investments, the pace at which they access funds remains a critical bottleneck. These delays risk eroding community trust, especially when expectations have already been raised around timelines for energy deployment. A2E is working closely with HCDDT leadership through internal planning processes to align project timelines with realistic funding disbursement schedules. By supporting budgeting alignment and offering technical assistance early in the planning cycle, the program aims to reduce time lags between fund approval and actual implementation. A2E is also supporting documentation structures to help HCDDTs meet NUPRC compliance faster, which can accelerate fund release.
- **Environmental Safeguard Requirements Increasing Project Costs:** The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) requires Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) as part of the approval process for energy projects in coastal areas that could qualify for DARES or other international grants. While the intent is commendable, ensuring sustainability and community protection, these requirements significantly raise the capital expenditure (CAPEX) for developers. This added cost is especially burdensome for projects already facing logistical and technical challenges due to terrain and remoteness. A2E is exploring standardized ESMP templates tailored for coastal projects, which could reduce the time and cost of compliance without compromising due diligence.

Advocacy:

- **NUPRC regulatory roadblocks:** NUPRC issued a cease-and-desist order, leading to a halt in the remaining Bridges project activities
- **Policy uncertainty/Government Changes:** The state of emergency declared in Rivers State and the change in the Edo state government led to changes in the composition of political appointees and created uncertainties around pathways for government engagement and program implementation in the states. Advocacy addressed these challenges by leveraging its network of champions to initiate engagements with new stakeholders to further PIND's objectives.
- **Poor Infrastructure and Limited Mobility:** The deplorable state of roads and general infrastructure in the Niger Delta significantly hampers movement within and between communities. This restricts access to development and economic activities.

Lessons learned:

Economic Development and Peace Building Programs

MSD: • The onset of the rainy season after a prolonged dry period led to delayed planting calendars, which disrupted demonstration schedules, input uptake, and farmer training activities across multiple locations. This seasonal shift created temporary bottlenecks in demand for seeds, inputs, and services, reducing the momentum of early outreach efforts. Erratic rainfall and unexpected dry spells complicated access to demo sites and necessitated rescheduling of activities.

A2E: This quarter, A2E encountered situations where some community stakeholders began pressuring developers for additional incentives or greater control, operating under the assumption that developers were making significant profits from the projects. This misunderstanding has the potential to strain partnerships, delay implementation, and erode trust. Moving forward, A2E encourages developers to:

- Be transparent about their business model and cost structure, helping communities understand how tariffs are determined and what costs go into project deployment and maintenance.
- Sustain regular stakeholder engagements, even after project implementation, to reinforce trust, clarify expectations, and avoid the buildup of misinformation.

YEP: Capacity Assessment Workshops help increase the inclusivity of more training organizations—lesson drawn from the two workshops held in Bayelsa and Ondo States respectively.

1.1 Summary of progress against 2025 targets as at Q2

Table 1: The summary below presents a view of progress against PIND’s 2025 target as at Q2.

Strategic Objective 1: Better functioning market systems: for agricultural and MSME, youth skills development for employment, finance, and access to renewable energy.			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q2
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)	50	32
	Access to Energy (A2E)	10	8
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	15	15
2. Equity Investments leveraged from implementing partners as a result of successful adoption and adaptation programs in MSD, YEP and A2E (NGN)			
	Market System Development (MSD) (NGN)	**	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	Access to Energy (A2E) (NGN)	2.5 billion	105 million
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) (NGN)	50 million	20 million
3. Service providers experiencing increased productivity/income - Service providers, reached through project facilitation, who experienced increased productivity/income			
	Market System Development (MSD)	30	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	Access to Energy (A2E)	10	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	15	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
4. Net jobs created by the partners' businesses (Energy providers/IPs/Other partners)			
	Market System Development (MSD)	**4	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
5. Percentage change in income of partners (MSD/A2E/YEP)		10%	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>

⁴ ** Target for this is awaiting result of an ongoing analysis. This will be determined in Q3 2025

6. Number of targeted farmers and enterprises reached with improved products and services introduced through project facilitation.		100,000	4,403 ⁵
7. 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 (MSD)	56,000	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	1,000	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	5,000	To be measured in Q3
8. 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)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
9. 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)	13,750	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	1,000	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	5,000	To be measured in Q3
10. Net attributable income change [Naira value] - Aggregated change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) - MSD/YEP			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Access to Energy (A2E)	**	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
11. Percentage change in cumulative income of farmers/Businesses (NGN) -MSD/YEP (%)			
	Market System Development Program (MSD)	15%	To be measured in Q3
	Youth Employment Pathways (YEP)	**	To be measured in Q3
12. Change in Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index.			
	Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) - Market System Development Program (MSD)	65%	63%
13	Number of households with access to energy solutions by the energy providers in the coastal/HCDTs and neighboring communities	4,000	2,500
14	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	1,000	640
15	Number of persons with access to clean energy.	24,000	15,000
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)	5,000	2,183
17	Number of youths accessing employment and other income-earning opportunities after graduating from YEP program	5,000	1,091
18	Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds	65	To be measured in Q3
19	Financial benefits accruing to users of energy solutions (NGN) - Businesses and Households (A2E) (NGN)	1billion	To be measured in Q3
Strategic Objective 2: Investment by donors/funders influenced by PIND in Niger Delta (\$50million)			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q2
20.	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	\$220,923.38 ⁶

⁵ This is from few SPs. Outcome monitoring is ongoing and will be updated in Q3

⁶ This is from both YEP and CB. A2E is yet to report any external und invested in its program.

	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by Energy providers from external donors/funders - (USD)	**	-
	Net Amount of funds/grants accessed with PIND's influence into the ND by YEP IPs from external donors/funders - (USD)	**	\$214,145.38 ⁷
	Net Amount of funds raised/technical assistance from funders, donors, and private institutions by the CSOs/NGOs for local service provision (HCDTs + others) - (USD)	**	\$6,778.00 ⁸
21. Naira value of the demonstrable changes as a result of PIND-influenced Development Models, policies and initiatives in EDP and PB. (NGN) 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.			
	Advocacy (Naira value - NGN)	100billion	To be measured in Q3
22. 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	To be measured in Q3
23. 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)			
		4	To be measured in Q3
24. 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	To be measured in Q3
Strategic Objective 3: Integration of climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. (Pilot)			
	Indicators	2025 Target	Results as at Q2
25. 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		20,000	540 metric tons of CO₂ emissions⁹
	A2E - Volume of reduction of GHG Emission from renewable energy	**	To be measured in Q3
	A2E - Value of carbon credit generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.) MSD, A2E in (NGN)	**	To be measured in Q3
	A2E- Sales of bio/organic products/ (NGN)	**	To be measured in Q3
26. Number of MSMEs adopting climate smart technologies		2,000	To be measured in Q3
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	2025 Target	Results as at Q2

⁷ **Youth Employment Program (YEP):** Within the period of our reporting, five implementing partners have attracted a total sum of ₦327,000,000.00 - [\$214,145.38] investment into skills development into the Niger Delta

⁸ **Capacity Building:** Three Local CAPABLE trained organizations: *Newland Pathway Integrated Consult, Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE), and Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF)* collectively accessed a total of ₦10,350,000 [\$6,778.00] in funding

⁹ A total of **582.45kWp** of solar capacity was installed across six last-mile communities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River States, replacing what would have otherwise been small, inefficient, and polluting generators. Based on average generator usage for similar rural settlements, powering this level of demand would have required over **200,000 liters of diesel annually**, resulting in approximately **540 metric tons** of CO₂ emissions each year.

27. Capacity Building - Networks and organizations in the HCDTs showing net change in capacity index to enhance implementation of PIA.	4	To be measured in Q3
28. Capacity Building - Net change in capacity index of the HCDTs and others (OCA baseline of 0.5): Observable increase in the capacity of government and corporate partners to respond effectively to conflict dynamics, as evidenced by quarterly assessments and regional security reports.	1	To be measured in Q3
29. Number of organizations, associations and networks accessing funds/grants with PIND assistance.	5	3 ¹⁰
30. Capacity Building - Organizations providing improved services to the HCDTs	5	3
31. 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	200million	₦10,350,000 [\$6,778.00]
32. 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	1,000	100 ¹¹
YEP - Youths with applicable skills in the CNL HCDTs	500	To be measured in Q3
33. Number of CNL HCDTs persons benefitting from Capacity Building (EDP and PB)	400	To be measured in Q3
34. Number of youths benefitting from PIND's Challenge Funds in the HCDTs	20	To be measured in Q3
35. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions in the HCDTs	10	To be measured in Q3
36. CNL HCDTs with effective PB committee, and showing reduction in conflict risks	1	To be measured in Q3
37. Rate of utilization of conflict data and insights by HCDTs, evidenced by policy or operational adjustments to increase adoption of community-specific, conflict-sensitive practices within HCDTs, shown by a reduction in local conflicts and enhanced community safety measures.	1	To be measured in Q3
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	2025 Target	Results as at Q2
38. Percentage of population reporting improved safety among local residents in the Niger - Delta - evidenced by persons reporting improved safety in their communities due to enhanced community-level engagement and resilience reflected in an increasing number of trained peace actors and community members adopting constructive conflict resolution techniques	10%	To be measured in Q3
39. 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
40. Autonomous peacebuilding project execution by P4P, evidenced by the submission of independent project proposals, signed agreement and successful management of grants.	9	To be measured in Q3
41. P4P members trained in project management, proposal writing, and reporting with participants demonstrating enhanced skills for successful project completions.	20	To be measured in Q3
42. Stakeholders utilizing PIND's peace data and analysis - Utilization rate of EWER data and alerts by stakeholders, evidenced by subscribers.	100	22

¹⁰**Capacity Building:** Three Local CAPABLE trained organizations: *Newland Pathway Integrated Consult, Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE), and Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF)* collectively accessed a total of **₦10,350,000 [\$6,778.00]** in funding

¹¹ PIND, in collaboration with Marich Agro, a Business Development service provider, supported 100 nano and micro businesses, inclusive of fisherfolks and processors, across 2 cooperatives (*Osan Oritse Business Women and Men MPCs and Gods Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs*) in **Ugborodo Community** with linkages to Unity Bank, a financial institution for financial linkages.

43. Quarterly update from P4P detailing progress on independent projects activities, and regular peace outlook updates showing:	4	2
i) New P4P members registered recorded/trained quarterly documented in the P4P quarterly reports		12
ii) Quality actions taken by the P4P members reported quarterly in P4Pnetwork quarterly report		<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
44. 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	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
45. Briefs/Trackers and Research Products published	36	24 ¹²
46. 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.	4	<i>1 (CNA for OOPC)</i>
47. Documented cases of improved economic stability linked to peacebuilding interventions, tracked semi-annually.	2	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>
48. New business investments attracted to the ND due to increased safety.	20	<i>To be measured in Q3</i>

2. Context Analysis

2.1 PIND Deepening Partnership Model to build Farmers and MSMEs' resilience against macro-economic dynamics.

Several macroeconomic challenges continue to exert pressure on households (farmers and businesses) such as high inflation rates and increased inputs costs, which erode the purchasing power of farmers and MSMEs. This is compounded by environmental issues, leading to negative effects such as a restricted mobility/transaction, disruption of supply chains, and heightening economic uncertainty. The root causes of the current macroeconomic dynamics can be traced to the removal of fuel subsidy, continued volatility of the foreign exchange, and persistent security concerns in the region, all of which remain key challenges at both national and regional levels.

PIND in its current strategic period (2025 – 2029), is leveraging on its **Partnership Model** to engender a systemic approach to address the effects of high macroeconomic dynamics in the Niger Delta. This model is hinged on adoption of a market system approach across cross-cutting themes by old and new implementing partners. This incentivizes partners through adaptation of the improved models and the expansion of their businesses.

To advance this, PIND embarked on several innovative ideas including:

- Stepping up the **identification of entrepreneurial Partners** [*service providers, technical and vocational training centers (TVET), clean energy developers*] for partnership formation to implement cross-cutting interventions in agriculture; youth development and access to clean energy in the Niger Delta.
- Introduction of the cross-cutting programs as model designed to provide wider business opportunities to market actors in order to **stimulate adoption, adaptation and growth**.
- Commencement of capacity enhancements activities for the engaged partners to increase their **knowledge and skills to implement cross-technical services** to farmers and MSMEs.
- Advancement of **autonomous status for the P4P Network** as a **peacebuilding social infrastructure** to deepen community-based peace building efforts for improved peace in the Niger Delta region.
- Allowing flexibility for **Energy Providers** to preserve assets and resume service delivery (access to electricity) quickly. **A2E** is leveraging the modular design of the Energy Cabin, which is elevated above the ground level and can be disassembled and relocated if flood threats escalate. This mitigation responds the increased rainfall and rising water levels, which continue to pose threats to infrastructure in low-lying areas of the Niger Delta.

These steps to mitigate the negative effects of Nigeria's macroeconomic volatility, especially for ecosystem actors, and serve as a panacea for lasting peace and increased business investment in the Niger Delta.

¹² 13 in Q2 2025 in addition to 11 in Q1 2025

2.2 Security

Quarter Two 2025 recorded some improvements in peace and security across the Niger Delta, though violent crimes persisted across the nine states of the region. 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 Q2 2025:

- Abia State (June 29, 2025): Gunmen allegedly attacked Uloma Lodge at Abia State University, *Uturu, in Isuikwuato LGA*, at about 14:03hrs, leaving one person dead. The incident is suspected to be cult-related
- **Bayelsa State (June 22, 2025 at about 1900hr):** Unidentified gunmen dressed in black abducted a State High Court judge, in Yenagoa.
- **Delta State (May 28, 2025, at about 19:00hrs):** A clash between rival cult groups was reported at *Umuodafe and Big Ashi Eke market in Oshimili North LGA*, resulting in two fatalities.
- **Rivers State:** (June 08, 2025): A student of the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) reportedly died from a stray bullet by an unidentified Police officer, creating tension in the Choba area. (June 22, 2025): The Rivers Police Command confirmed that hoodlums attacked the *Ahoada East LGA's Sole Administrator*, and forced him to sign a resignation letter that surfaced online on June 21, 2025, at about 13:40 hrs. (June 28, 2025, at about 23:00hrs): OSPAC members allegedly beat a father of two to death in Elele community, *Ikwerre LGA of Rivers State*

3. Key Programs Objectives and Achievements

This section outlines key achievements recorded in Q2 2025 across PIND programs, aligned with the strategic objectives.

3.1. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 (SO1)

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

This objective aims to deepen the economic growth outcomes in the Niger Delta by addressing systemic constraints that hinder business operations and equitable distribution of economic benefits. In Q2 2025, the Market Systems Development (MSD), Access to Energy (A2E), and Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) programs advanced collaboration with cross-cutting units of the Foundation such as Capacity Building and Advocacy to deliver interventions for farmers and MSMEs. The details are provided in the following sections.

3.1.1 Market Systems Development (MSD) – SO1

The MSD program supports farmers and small enterprises across key agricultural value chains in the Niger Delta to boost productivity, increase income and reduce poverty. The program employs a market systems development approach, beginning with in-depth market analysis to uncover root causes of dysfunction and design interventions that address underlying market failures rather than surface-level symptoms.

In Phases I, II, and III (2010 – 2024), PIND implemented sector-based interventions across five agricultural value chains: aquaculture, cassava, cocoa, palm oil, and poultry, including business linkages. The program identified binding constraints within these value chains and developed sustainable solutions that increased the income of thousands of poor men and women. To ensure sustainability, PIND adopted a Service Providers' model, equipping local Service Providers with the skills, tools, and networks needed to offer viable market solutions that addressed the root causes of poor performance by farmers and enterprises. Over 12 years, the MSD program reached approximately 450,000 farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across these value chains.

Based on insights from project implementation experience, technical review sessions, the 2023 Impact Evaluation study, and the 2024 Participatory Strategic Review (PSR), PIND has shifted from a commodity-focused to a cross-cutting intervention approach. This transition is designed to amplify benefits across multiple value chains and strengthen the Service Providers' model for more transformative and scalable impact.

During this current phase (2025 – 2029), PIND aims to develop well-functioning, resilient market systems in the Niger Delta that respond to farmers' needs to increase productivity, link to markets, and increase incomes. The program will engage and support at least 400 new and existing service providers/market actors to reach 800,000 farmers with improved business models, building on the successes of the past 12 years. The goal is to create an additional 110,000 new jobs over the next five years (2025-2029) and support climate adaptation by farmers through the promotion of green, climate-smart business model innovations.

The MSD thematic areas for this phase are as follows:

- **Access to Agricultural Inputs (Fertilizers, CPPs, Feed, Vaccines, etc.)** –Strengthening and incentivizing lead firms and agro-dealers to drive innovations that improve access to quality inputs and knowledge on good agronomic practices.
- **Access to Seeds** - Promoting the use of quality seeds across various value chains by identifying and addressing constraints to their availability and use.
- **Access to Technical Services** - Incentivizing and Strengthening service providers to lead innovations in good agronomic practices and farm services.
- **Access to Business Development Services and Finance** - Enhancing the delivery of business support services and financial access through BDS providers in collaboration with Sombreiro Kapital and a planned SPV for impact investing.
- **Access to Industrial Market and Agricultural Technology** - Improving access to markets and climate-friendly agricultural technologies by Incentivizing large buyers and equipment manufacturers to promote quality, processing, and storage innovations.

Key MSD Achievements in Q2 2025:

i) Identification and Engagement of Potential Partners

In Q2 2025, PIND continued to deepen its engagement drives with a wide range of strategic partners across the MSD thematic areas. A total of **88 existing partners**— including input firms, digital technology companies, service providers, seed companies, research institutes, off-takers/processors etc.—participated in the engagement meetings. These meetings focused on building business relationships, fostering collaborations, and identifying opportunities for co-creation and co-investment to deliver and scale improved models across the following areas: **Access to Agricultural Inputs (Fertilizers, CPPs, Feed, Vaccines, etc.); Access to Seeds, Access to Business Development Services and Finance; and Access to Industrial Market and Agricultural Technology.**

As of Q2 2025, over **115 existing and new partners** had participated in several engagement meetings facilitated by PIND to introduce Phase IV programs. Of these, **32 partners** have begun providing cross-cutting services to farmers and MSMEs under the identified themes, representing 64% of the **50 targeted Service providers for 2025**. Additional service providers are finalizing their partnership processes in preparation for Q3 2025 service delivery.

Other MSD highlights accomplished in Q2 include:

- Facilitation of an intensive Training of Trainers (ToT) for **30 Service Providers** to strengthen their capacity to deliver cross-sectoral extension and advisory support services. This was delivered in collaboration with ZAL Consulting (a Master Service Provider), Afritropics Agro Services (a key input firm), and the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT).
- Facilitation of onboarding workshop for 52 stakeholders in the Seed sector¹³. This was aimed at fostering collaboration among the seed actors and developing a roadmap for a stronger seed system in the region.
- An approval of a performance grant for 30 Service Providers whose capacity were built, which will be disbursed in Q3 2025. When in operation, it will enable the partners to reach over 80,000 farmers and MSMEs in a year.
- Four (4) partnerships got formalized with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed and signed with 4 key firms: **Afritropics** to drive the promotion of improved seeds and greenhouse technology for improved production, **SARO Agrosiences Ltd** to scale up the adoption of input, develop farm service centers, and reach **farmers in the HCDT** coastal communities, **Terra Agrarisch Commodities** for market access for palm oil farmers

¹³ [3 research institutes (CRIN, NIFOR, NIHORT), National Seed Council (NAS) responsible for seed regulation in Nigeria and 47 seed entrepreneurs and nursery operators across key agricultural commodities such as cocoa, palm oil, cassava, and vegetables]

and other commodities through a structured partnership and aggregation model and **CHC Agritec** for climate-smart input.

ii) Outreach and Direct Support to Farmers and MSMEs

During the reporting period, early outcomes from few service providers and partners showed that cross-cutting services were provided to **3,481** farmers and MSMEs—including **1,683** female (48%). The cumulative outreach for the year reached **4,404** (including **2,094** women) across the Niger Delta, with more results expected in Q3 2025. The support services included technical and business development services, access to improved seed varieties (particularly for cassava and cocoa). Other services provided to farmers were training on good agricultural practices (GAP), financial literacy/product awareness (e.g., SK loan packages), and linkages to agro-input dealers. Over 50 demonstration plots established to promote the adoption of improved practices and climate-smart practices, led by Saro Agro Sciences and other service providers.

iii) Cross-Program Synergy and Support to Third-Party Projects

The Mastercard Foundation-funded Youth Cassava Project (Y-CAP) remains central to the facilitative role of PIND. During the quarter, PIND facilitated a strategic planning meeting between the National Root Crop Research Institute (NRCRI) and Umudike Seeds to co-develop a joint workplan and budget for the engagement of 100 cassava seed entrepreneurs. PIND also supported the planning of a proposal development workshop and participated in monthly consortium meetings with IDH to ensure strategic alignment and cohesion among implementing partners.

3.1.2 Access to energy (A2E) – SO1

Many rural and coastal communities in the Niger Delta suffer from poor electrification, with little to no access to regular electricity for basic household needs and economic activities. Due to the high costs and difficult terrain, connection to the national grid in these areas remains unlikely in the near future. Since 2018, PIND worked to close this gap by facilitating the delivery of alternative, affordable off-grid energy solutions. These interventions address not only basic energy needs (lighting and cooking) but also power microenterprises like barber shops, beauty salons, and other small businesses.

During Phase III, PIND's A2E built on earlier efforts to establish key partnerships between communities, energy developers, and the donor community. This ecosystem supported innovative and sustainable business models that expanded energy access to underserved, last-mile coastal communities in the Niger Delta. These efforts contributed to tangible improvements in healthcare, education, digital connectivity, and other critical services—while advancing climate goals through decarbonized energy pathways aligned with broader sustainable development objectives.

Strategy for Phase IV (2025–2029):

In this new strategic Phase (2025 – 2029), the A2E program will scale the gains from Phase III by expanding an inclusive, decentralized renewable energy (DRE) ecosystem to unserved coastal and non-coastal communities across the Niger Delta. This phase takes a holistic approach to improving energy access by engaging a wide range of actors across the renewable energy value chain. The objective is to support productive and essential energy use in agriculture, healthcare, and small enterprises, ultimately improving livelihoods and quality of life.

This phase will enhance market conditions for distributed renewable energy models through:

- **Capacity Building:** Training new energy developers to meet the specific needs of Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) and neighboring communities.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborating with government agencies such as the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), financial institutions, and carbon market actors to fund and scale healthcare and community electrification projects.
- **Advocacy and Market Stimulation:** Working with PIND's Advocacy Unit to address regulatory and investment barriers, promote energy productivity for agriculture and enterprise, and unlock carbon finance by engaging carbon credit brokers. These efforts aim to renewable energy markets and create scalable models and investment potential for low-carbon growth.

Additionally, A2E will directly contribute to climate-resilient development by expanding access to electricity for

agricultural productivity, enhancing community well-being; and promoting decarbonization through renewable energy solutions.

Through broad stakeholder engagement and scalable models, A2E will continue to drive socio-economic transformation across the Niger Delta.

Key A2E Achievements in Q2 2025:

PIND's facilitative role as a neutral energy broker, technical enabler, and systems builder, continues to unlock systemic value. By bridging knowledge gaps, building trust, and aligning incentives across the off-grid power enterprise pipeline, the program is steering the off-grid energy market in the Niger Delta toward inclusive, sustainable, and scalable outcomes. These Q2 milestones reinforce our strategic direction and validate the efficacy of facilitation as a tool for delivering durable development impact

This quarter marked a strategic shift from foundational planning to execution. Several partner-led energy solutions advanced to investment-ready stages, and direct engagements with both HCDTs and developers intensified to bring renewable energy access closer to coastal and last-mile communities in the Niger Delta. Simultaneously, A2E continued aligning clean energy deployment with peacebuilding, climate resilience, and inclusive development outcomes. Key milestones achieved include:

- **Two developers**, Mimshack Anointed Int'l Concept and Moon Innovation, reached full investment readiness and began project preparation activities in unserved coastal communities, including energy assessments, land allocation, and pre-implementation engagements.
- **Existing Partners Scale to New Locations:** Long-standing partners like ETIN Power, A4&T, and Darway Coast expanded into new communities with support from A2E through technical assistance and funding linkages.
- **Over 582.45kWp of solar energy** was deployed across six communities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River states, displacing diesel generators and directly powering **2,500** households, **640** businesses, and **four health** facilities.
- **HCDT collaboration deepened:** Egbema-OPUDIS adjusted its energy project pipeline to align with budget approvals, and a formal MOA was shared with KEFESSO HCDT for a kingdom-wide deployment of 11 renewable energy systems.
- **Stakeholder validation and community prioritization** were completed in the 18 Okomu communities, laying the foundation for integrated energy and peacebuilding interventions for the 2026 cycle.

i) **Direct engagement with energy providers (partners)**

This quarter, A2E focused on consolidating past engagements and translating them into tangible progress for energy developers targeting coastal and HCDT communities. Building on networks established during previous stakeholder workshops, A2E sustained follow-up engagements with select partners through one-on-one sessions and strategic knowledge-sharing efforts. These touchpoints enabled the program to provide the various context-specific guidance that moved several partners closer to investment readiness.

In Q2, A2E's model sharing evolved from high-level presentations to more hands-on support. The team worked closely with both new and existing partners to unpack the technical, financial, and operational gaps in their proposed energy solutions. Support included linking developers to potential funders, exposing them to donor expectations, and helping them troubleshoot long-standing bottlenecks that have limited implementation in the Niger Delta.

Support was provided to four targeted energy providers—Moon Innovation, ETIN Power, Darway Coast, and A4&T—bringing the cumulative number of supported providers to 10. This includes those engaged in Q1, such as Protergia Energy, Nline, A1 Power Technologies, PrimeVolts Solar, Kamim Technology, and Volte Health Systems Ltd.

A key part of this quarter's engagement was technical assistance provided to existing partners for scaling. This included identifying funding windows, guiding partners through application processes, and helping them prepare eligibility documents such as business plans, technical designs, and project financials—requirements often critical for accessing grants and investment. Through these strategic interactions and hands-on support, the program is not only expanding its partner network, but also equipping developers with the tools, knowledge and relationships needed to deliver impactful energy solutions across the Niger Delta.

iii) **A2E Partners' Outcomes - Business Model Adaptation and Market Deepening:**

In Q2, PIND's A2E program recorded tangible progress towards systemic change, as the Niger Delta energy ecosystem moved from latent interest to deliberate action. With facilitative support, mentoring, and coordination at the ecosystem-level, early-stage developers advanced from ideation to deployment readiness, while existing partners scaled operations using improved business models and expanded geographic coverage. Examples include:

- **Moon Innovation**, formerly focused on urban standalone solar solutions pivoted to rural energy deployment following engagement with PIND. Through an M4P-aligned approach—joint diagnostics, field assessments, and tailored guidance—the developer recalibrated its market strategy to align with rural demand patterns. This led to formal exclusivity agreements with two coastal communities, **Agogboro and Agokutu**, including land allocations for infrastructure. This shift marks a significant evolution in enterprise behaviors and an emergent understanding of last-mile commercial viability.
- **Catalyzing Scaling and Investment through Strategic Facilitation:** PIND's Phase IV facilitation emphasizes sustainability, ownership, and crowding-in. By mentoring developers on navigating policy constraints, building viable business cases, and leveraging social capital, the program catalyzed notable outcomes. **ETIN Power**, a female-led enterprise and long-term partner, scaled into **Ologbonugu Community, Edo State**, deploying an **18.45 kWp mini-grid** that now connects **138 users**. Building on PIND-supported capacity development and facilitation around social investment opportunities in oil-host communities, ETIN secured **₦105 million** in co-financing from a national oil company, leveraged by PIND, demonstrating successful crowding-in and adaptive, market-responsive growth.
- **Ecosystem Expansion and Replication of Best Practice:** DARWAY Coast, a PIND partner since 2022, continues to demonstrate strong adaptive capacity. Supported with ongoing technical input and strategic linkages, **DARWAY** expanded its interventions across four rural communities in Cross River State during Q2—**Agbokim (113 kWp), Etomi (120 kWp), Abia (67 kWp), and Beneghe (134 kWp)**. This regional expansion reflects the successful replication of tailored business models for underserved communities.
- **A4&T Power** sustained its upward trajectory by embedding PIND's technical recommendations and confidence-building interventions into its expansion model. In Q2, the firm deployed a **130 kWp** mini-grid in Kolawole, Ondo State, connecting **523 new households** and enterprises. This growth further validates A2E models and PIND's role in enabling investor readiness, risk mitigation, and operational excellence.
- **Shifting Behavior, Strengthening Systems:** Beyond infrastructure rollouts, these outcomes signal systemic shifts: developers are adopting community-responsive business strategies, investing in productive-use technologies, and anchoring operations in long-term market viability. Increasingly, partners are mobilizing co-financing, adapting to context-specific challenges, and co-creating solutions with communities and stakeholders.
- **A2E Partners Outputs:** Households, MSMEs, and market vendors are gaining access to electricity through Energy Cabins and mini-grids, enabling productive uses like retail, tailoring, welding, and agro-processing. In Q2, **2,500 households** and **640 businesses**¹⁴ gained reliable electricity across Edo, Ondo, and Cross River States. Primary health facilities, now connected under lifeline tariffs, have transitioned from fuel generators to solar energy, significantly improving service delivery. **Four facilities** were powered in Q2, enabling vaccine storage, medical equipment usage, and 24-hour healthcare services. These interventions are delivering both social and economic value, reducing operating costs for MSMEs, improving household comfort, and enhancing healthcare capacity. Together, they are unlocking livelihood opportunities and building resilience in underserved communities.

3.1.3 Youth Employment Pathways (YEP) – SO1

The YEP program aims to strengthen youth skills development ecosystem by identifying job creation opportunities, supporting technical and vocational training centers (TVET), and promoting sustainable, market-driven training models. The program targets disadvantaged young men and women in the Niger Delta, equipping them with technical and soft skills to access employment or start their own businesses.

During Phase III (2020-2024), the private TVET centers adopted and commercialized YEP's training models. In Phase IV (2025-2029), the focus is on supporting TVETs to scale their operations, improving training effectiveness, and ensuring sustainability by deepening partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders. This strategy outlines below the key intervention areas that will drive the program forward, ensuring a greater impact on youth employability and entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta:

¹⁴ Verification of the electrifying households and businesses is ongoing and would be reported in Q3 and Q4.

- **Develop an infrastructure of private sector-led TVET and training firms** that will invest in developing commercially driven training for youth skills development to meet market demand: *The YEP model will be scaled by strengthening both existing and new skills development structures.*
- **Increase the efficiency of YEP funding** to fund more skills training to underserved youths (Leverage YEP resources to deliver skills training to underserved youths): *A demand-driven approach to skills development in the Niger Delta will be promoted*
- Promote adoption and adaptation of the YEP model and framework by States and other Institutions to improve employability, program delivery, and sustenance: *This initiative will involve providing technical assistance and fostering collaborations with government departments, agencies, and institutions focused on Youth Employment Pathways program.*
- Facilitate Chevron HCDTs and fence line communities to actively invest through the YEP model to drive skills development for community Youths for livelihood opportunities (Employment/Business Venture).
- Increased integration with PIND ED sectors: *This strategy focuses on identifying critical skills across other PIND Economic Development units and developing targeted training programs by YEP partners in collaboration with key components such as MSD, A2E and the Peacebuilding program.*

Key Youth Employment Pathways Achievements in Q2 2025:

i) Identification and selection of implementing partners for YEP

As of Q2 2025, YEP identified and selected 20 implementing partners for 2025 YEP program delivery. Of these, 15 are returning partner organizations who met pre-set criteria and are recommended for support to **upgrade their TVET centers**. This upgrade initiative, while not a recurring exercise in this phase, is designed to stimulate and demonstrate to the partners the need for increased investments to improve TVET centers to train more people. The TVET facilities improvement grant was targeted at returning, active partner organizations that are currently implementing the YEP program, however, terms and conditions apply.

The second support window to the implementing partners is the **Scholarship Grant** designed to boost inclusivity by enabling more youths to access skills training, It primarily targets new entrepreneurial implementing partners. So far, 5 new organizations have met the eligibility criteria. The selection process for the scholarship grant will be finalized early in Q3, with additional organizations currently being targeted

Assessment of TVET Organizations: In Q2 2025, a capacity assessment was conducted for 6 skills training organizations in Akure –two existing partners and four potential new organizations—to evaluate their capacity to deliver TVET services.

The preliminary insights from the assessment were that the training organizations are underutilizing the capacity that exists in their training centers, with only an average of 24% capacity utilized - *a maximum training capacity of 610 persons, but currently have only 149 persons* in various vocational skills training. The insight from this assessment is helping to shape IPs selection and onboarding for YEP program in 2025. The major reasons for the underutilization of the TVET centers are affordability of the vocational training by the youths.

ii) Partners' Outcomes (Technical and Vocational Skills Training)

While PIND ramps up the Phase IV partnerships for YEP implementation, partners who had previously benefitted from PIND continued to implement commercially driven vocational skills training and linkages to employment and livelihood opportunities. Through a PIND¹⁵-leveraged investment of **N20 million**, they provided employable skills to the youths. by As of Q2 2025, over 16 partners have reported a cumulative of **2,183 youths** trained in applicable skills from January to date. Of the trained youths, **1,091 (50%)** have been linked to jobs, and over **1,000** have been linked to internships. An assessment plan to determine the rate of business establishment by the remaining beneficiaries is currently in progress.

iii) Startup Business Challenge Fund:

The selection of startup businesses to benefit from the challenge fund has been completed. **65** emerging enterprises were shortlisted and will be recommended for grant awards in August. The businesses cut across all program sectors;

¹⁵ AZURE GOLD LTD - Building Construction, N5million from Political Actors in Akwa Ibom State; SOLAR WORLD GESELLSCHAFT (Services) got N1million from Private Individual, Nigeria, ASTEVEN RENEWABLE ENERGY & EFFICIENCY ACADEMY LTD (services) got N1million from private individual, in Nigeria; RAD 5 TECH HUB (ICT) got N13million from 3MTT - Federal Government; Alumni

agriculture, ICT, services and building construction. This includes 18 startup businesses each from Ondo and Rivers States, 17 from Delta, and 12 from Akwa Ibom. The beneficiaries' cuts across all YEP sectors, 22 from Services including fashion, photography, and solar installation, 20 from agriculture, 18 from building construction, and only 5 from ICT. In terms of gender, 32 startups are female-led with 3PWD, 33 are male while 3 are persons with disability. All grant for the challenge fund will be approved and disbursed in August.

Participants who recently completed technical skills training are undergoing entrepreneurship training to boost their capacity to start their own enterprises. The training will be followed by a 3-month business mentorship and incubation period.

Online Entrepreneurship Training and Mentorship: The entrepreneurship training equips aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to establish their businesses. During the reporting period, 319 past YEP program beneficiaries of TVET training participated in a 10-day entrepreneurship training facilitated by PIND's implementing partners. The mentorship aspect of the program will conclude in Q3. A full report of the exercise will be published then.

iv) Promotion of Youths development in States - MOU Signed with BATVE:

Promoting the YEP model and framework across states and institutions, is a key milestone. As part of continued efforts to strengthen relationships between private sector TVETs and government institutions for the adaptation of the NDYEP model, a major highlight of the cross-learning activity was the MOU signing between PIND and the Ondo State Board of Adult Technical and Vocational Education (BATVE).

The 2-year MoU supports collaboration with government institutions to promote the YEP model. This partnership will enable joint vocational skills training and job linkage for youths from Ugboland HCDT communities. 2 returning partner organizations will supervise the delivery of vocational skills training by tutors from government technical colleges in building construction and services sectors.

3.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 (SO2)

Influence \$50million Investment by donors/funders in the Niger Delta; Raise a minimum of \$7.5 million additional funds from 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. PIND's effort toward in this regard will be executed through the Economic Development (ED), and Peace Building (PB) Programs. This is distinct from the equity investments leveraged through service providers, Implementing Partners and energy providers' business expansions, which would be tracked under SO1.

Additionally, new funds will be raised from the private sector and donor community for PIND programs through the activities of Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) unit. The target is to raise a minimum of \$7.5 million—equivalent to 30% of Chevron's funding.

Also, government's funds spent on projects emanating 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.

Q2 2025 Strategic Objective 2 (SO2) Key Achievements:

During the reporting period, PIND influenced a total of **\$220,923.38¹⁶** Investment by donors/funders into the Niger Delta by PIND as follows:

Youth Employment Program (YEP): Five implementing partners attracted a total sum of **₦327,000,000.00 - [\$214,145.38]** in investment toward skills development into the Niger Delta as shown below:

¹⁶ 1USD=N1527 NAFEX Rate July 2025

- OLOTU SQUARE (Technology) attracted ₦149,000,000.00 from the World Bank, SDN and Sherman Grey;
- ASTEVEN RENEWABLE ENERGY & EFFICIENCY ACADEMY LTD (Services) attracted ₦3,000,000 from British High Commission through TAF Foundation.
- MICAFOTOY TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED received ₦25,000,000 from UNODC, UNDP, RoLAC (International).
- START INNOVATION HUB (ICT) received ₦100,000,000 from the World Bank.
- CLINTONEL FOUNDATION - (ICT & Renewable Energy), received ₦50,000,000 from the World Bank.

Capacity Building: Three CAPABLE-trained organizations—*Newland Pathway Integrated Consult, Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE), and Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF)* collectively accessed a total of **₦10,350,000 [\$6,778.00]** in funding as follows:

- Newland Pathway accessed **₦2,500,000** in funding through the delivery of services such as SMEDAN financial management training and business plan writing, as well as by leveraging strategic funding opportunities in the United States
- WUEE secured **₦1,850,000** through a trust fund channeled through its sister organization in the United States, supported by USAID and other institutional donors. The funding was used to conduct a community needs assessment training in Etinan Local Government Area and implement a capacity-building initiative for women farmers affected by climate change in Cross River State in the first half of the year.
- FAWEF accessed **₦6,000,000** through a multi-faceted approach to resource mobilization strategy from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The funds supported project monitoring activities for the NDDC in Yenagoa and Ogbia Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State. Additionally, FAWEF implemented a data collection and information-sharing initiative under the BRIDGES project, targeting Host Community Development Trusts across the eight Local Government Areas in Bayelsa State.

3.3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 (SO3)

Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta. This objective aims to stimulate the market for carbon credits (value generated from mangroves, plantations, etc.); reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through renewable energy; develop community mitigation plans for the negative impacts of flooding, and engage enterprises selling bio/organic products.

PIND is advancing climate resilience through its Access to Energy (A2E) efforts, which deployed solar energy solutions with a combined installed capacity of 1,836.99 kWp during the 2020- 2024 strategic phase. These systems generated 242,482,680 kWh of clean energy, offsetting 91,537.21 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions. By displacing emissions from conventional energy sources, these projects align with global climate action goals while also bolstering local economies in the Niger Delta. PIND will expand effort to report CO₂ displacement through renewable energy solutions deployed for community and cluster businesses in the current phase.

The Market Systems Development (MSD) program will emphasize key components of the climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to increase resilience in the Niger Delta through the promotion and adoption of efficient climate-smart agro-allied practices and technologies.

Example include tracking and reporting the climate benefits of Chokor ovens and Smoking Kilns over traditional drum methods; calculating CO₂ equivalent savings from solar solutions used for fish drying instead of drums and fire wood; and supporting, mitigation plans for flood impact through community-based initiatives, including replanting in plantation crop areas.

Q2 2025 Strategic Objective 3 (SO3) Key Achievements:

i) Access to energy

In Q2, A2E-supported interventions directly advanced both climate mitigation and adaptation in the Niger Delta through the deploying decentralized renewable energy solutions. A total of **582.45kWp** of solar capacity was installed across six last-mile communities in Ondo, Edo, and Cross River States, replacing what would have otherwise been small, inefficient, and polluting generators.

Under a business-as-usual scenario, these communities, like many across the region, would have relied heavily on petrol or diesel-powered generators. Based on average generator usage for similar rural settlements, powering this level of demand would have required over **200,000 liters** of diesel annually, resulting in approximately 540 metric tons of CO₂ emissions each year. Instead, by shifting to solar-powered mini grids, these communities are not only avoiding harmful emissions but also building resilience against fuel price volatility, supply chain disruptions, and climate-induced outages. The clean energy systems now power cold storage for fisheries, Agro-processing equipment, retail shops, and healthcare facilities, ensuring economic and social systems continue functioning during climate-related shocks.

This transition from fossil-fuel dependence to decentralized solar reinforces that climate action and development are not in conflict. In the Niger Delta context, they are deeply complementary.

ii) Market Systems Development Program

In Q2 2025, PIND intensified the integration of climate adaptation and mitigation practices across all four MSD thematic areas to strengthen smallholder resilience in the Niger Delta.

- Under the **Access to Agricultural Inputs theme**, PIND finalized its partnership with **CHC Agritech**, a firm specializing in organic and environmentally friendly crop protection products. This supports the integration of sustainable inputs into last-mile distribution, enhancing soil health and promoting the adoption of climate-smart technologies through awareness campaigns and farmer outreach.
- PIND advanced a strategic partnership with Afritropics to establish **two demonstration greenhouse facilities in two states**. Each greenhouse will be fully equipped with modern irrigation systems and designed to showcase innovative agricultural technologies that support climate adaptation and productivity improvement. The demonstration sites will serve as learning hubs to encourage wider adoption of climate-resilient practices among nursery operators and farmers. As part of this initiative, the use of mulch film will also be promoted to enhance soil health, conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve overall yield.
- PIND partnered with NIHORT, NIFOR, and CRIN to promote the adoption of climate-resilient seed varieties tailored to the agro-ecological conditions of the Niger Delta. These collaborations aim to strengthen smallholder farmers' capacity to adapt to changing climatic conditions by increasing access to high-quality, stress-tolerant seeds for key crops such as cassava, cocoa, oil palm, vegetables, and grains. Together, these partnerships will play a pivotal role in enhancing resilience, improving productivity, and supporting sustainable agricultural transformation in the region.
- Significant progress was made in developing a harmonized Climate-Smart Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) manual. Contributions from institutions such as CRIN, IAR&T, IFDC, and NIHORT shaped its content. In addition, 30 service providers were trained in collaboration with NIHORT, and master service provider, ZAL to deliver climate-smart advisory services to farmers.

Peacebuilding Program

In June, PIND's weekly Conflict Tracker highlighted the rising threat of climate-induced disasters and environmental risks in the Niger Delta, focusing on flash floods. This followed recent events, including torrential rainfall and flash flood alerts from the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), emphasizing the region's growing vulnerability to extreme weather conditions. A filter for climate-related data is currently being deployed on the Peace Map. This data would showcase Environmental Risks and hazards (ERH) data of the Niger Delta (including flooding, windstorm, gully erosion and oil spillage). The data will complement existing conflict data on the Peace Map and provide valuable context to inform and guide climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives by PIND's Peacebuilding and Economic Development programs, as well as external stakeholders in the region.

3.4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 (SO4)

HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities: This objective supports HCDTs to co-invest in their priority projects, improving economic and peace outcomes through enhanced capacity to co-design and implement interventions that stimulate skills development, market linkages, and renewable energy solutions for job creation and income generation in their communities.

PIND's value proposition to Chevron will be optimized under this objective when CNL HCDTs, networks and organizations show measurable improvement in their capacity to advance economic and peace agendas. This includes the development

and application of policies and frameworks that foster an enabling environment for sustainable development, and clear evidence of co-investment in priority projects.

To deliver this objective, all PIND program areas are deliberately aligned. Economic development and Peacebuilding projects will be co-designed and co-invested in to advance economic and peace goals in the HCDDT communities. CSOs, NGOs, Private sectors players will play key roles in shaping of the HCDDTs' development agendas across all of PIND's programming.

Q2 2025 Strategic Objective 4 (S04) Key Achievements

Market Systems Development (MSD) HCDDTs Engagement: In Q2 2025, the MSD project deepened its engagement with Host Community Development Trusts (HCDDTs), transitioning from preliminary discussions in Q1 to concrete steps toward implementation. Under the **Access to Agricultural Inputs and Seeds** thematic areas, a consultant was competitively selected to conduct a rapid assessment across selected HCDDTs. This assessment aims to identify at least two viable commodities per community, alongside their corresponding input requirements and value chain potential. It also includes structured stakeholder engagements with agro-dealers, farmers, service providers, and community representatives to ensure alignment with local demand and capacity.

Simultaneously, under the **Access to Technical and Business Development Services** thematic area, early planning commenced for community-based training and demonstration activities tailored to HCDDT-prioritized commodities. These efforts aim to build local capacity and drive adoption of good agricultural practices.

To support MSMEs in the HCDDT communities with linkages to finance, PIND, in collaboration with Marich Agro, a Business Development service provider, supported 100 nano and micro businesses, including fisherfolks and processors across 2 cooperatives (*Osan Oritse Business Women and Men MPCs and Gods Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs*) in **Ugborodo Community**. These cooperatives were linked to Unity Bank, for access to financing. . Awareness activities were also conducted to improve their readiness and eligibility for the bank's available financing packages.

Summarily,

- Two service providers were supported with grants to expand agribusiness support to fisherfolks and MSMEs in HCDDT communities in Delta and Ondo States.
- Linkages were facilitated between two cooperatives (Osan Oritse Business Women and Men MPCs and Gods Favour Fisheries/Business Men MPCs) in Ugborodo Community and Unity Bank for access to finance for 100 MSMEs/Fisherfolk.
- Engagement with SARO Agrosiences (an input firm) was finalized, with the firm set to establish their presence within HCDDT communities and implement the Input distribution model. Adoption and implementation will commence in the next quarter. The groundwork laid in Q2 will serve as the foundation for co-created, co-financed interventions in Q3 and Q4, reinforcing HCDDT ownership and long-term sustainability of market development efforts in their communities.

Capacity Building (CB):

PGPA – PIND Collaboration to Advance HCDDTs Development:

In Q2 2025, the **CB** team facilitated its second PGPA-PIND collaboration meeting in June. This meeting serves as a cornerstone of ongoing coordination efforts with PGPA to strengthen collaborative interventions in Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) Host Community Development Trust (HCDDT) communities. During the session, the team provided updates on the operational status of the newly established HCDDTs, reviewed progress on the joint PGPA-PIND collaboration work plans for the year, reassessed priority focus areas for the months ahead, and identified gaps and areas for improvement to enhance both efficiency and impact. This ongoing engagement builds upon previous meetings, ensuring strategic alignment, shared learning, and synergy in delivering community-driven development outcomes across CNL host communities.

Outputs of PGPA – PIND Collaboration

- A shared understanding of the restructuring of HCDDTs, particularly the clarification of new registrations and the transformation of the Warri Kingdom Onshore HCDDT into three distinct entities: AMU-HCDDT, Dibi-Olero HCDDT, and Ikpere HCDDT.
- Acknowledgement of emerging governance tensions, such as community resistance in Kokodiagbene, and agreement on a collaborative approach to address such issues internally, with PIND's support as needed.

- Strong affirmation of the need to actively involve HCDT leadership and secretaries at all stages of project planning and implementation across areas such as youth employment, capacity building, agribusiness, and energy access.
- Commitment to strengthening coordination through ongoing CDP analysis and the establishment of state-level Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), ensuring that interventions remain aligned with community-driven priorities.

Access to Energy: In Q2, A2E's collaboration with both CNL and non-CNL HCDTs continued to gain traction as they advanced efforts to invest in renewable energy solutions align with their community development priorities.

This quarter, there was significant advancement in collaboration with HCDTs to expand renewable energy access:

- **Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT:** Following the NUPRC - approved Community Development Plan (CDP), Egbema-OPUDIS HCDT moved into early implementation of its proposed energy portfolio, initially targeting three mini-grid upgrades and two new Energy Cabin installations. However, the final CAPEX allocation fell short of the proposed budget, prompting realignment discussions with NUPRC. A2E has remained actively engaged, providing technical advisory to support project scoping and budget reconciliation
- **Ugboland HCDT:** Building on Q1 progress, A2E will provide technical assistance for an energy audit in Ugboland. This audit is key to mapping electrification opportunities across the trust's priority communities. The data will guide long-term planning and allow the HCDT to phase its electrification investments from 2025 to 2030 with clearer visibility on costs and returns.
- **KEFESSO HCDT (Non-CNL HCDT):** In collaboration with our Advocacy and BDS teams, A2E's collaboration with KEFESSO have moved one step closer to implementation. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been shared with the trust to formalize a joint initiative to deploy 11 mini grids across 11 communities in their kingdom. This marks a strong commitment from the non-CNL HCDT to integrate access to energy into their broader development agenda.
- **Rivers-3 HCDT:** This quarter, A2E, in collaboration with the BDS unit initiated a strategic knowledge-sharing and value proposition session with Rivers-3 HCDT. The dialogue focused on exploring renewable energy opportunities that align with the trust's infrastructure goals. The session was well received, and conversations are now progressing toward formal collaboration through proposed MOUs.

Youth Employment Pathways (YEP):

Ugboland HCDT: This quarter, preparations for the HCDT to co-invest in youth development advanced, leveraging the establishment of a partnership with the Ondo State Board for Adult Technical and Vocational Education (BATVE). Under this partnership, Government Technical College, Okitipupa will collaborate with YEP partner organizations to implement inclusive vocational training programs that will benefit Ugboland HCDT. In the previous quarter, two existing implementing partners, Amy6015 Global Enterprise and, Micafotoy Technologies Ltd, trained of **78 youths in Ugboland HCDT** in Ondo State. This current initiative will be the 2nd batch of training, targeting 100 youths from Ugboland HCDT. The HCDT is proposing to fund for the logistics associated with their participation.

Egbema OPUDIS HCDT: The HCDT expressed strong interest in co-investing in skills development training and job linkages for youths in their localities. The HCDT has submitted a list of 76 nominated youths interested in participating in vocational training. 4 training centers are being prepared to accommodate these unemployed youths for the skills development program. The identified skill areas of interest are solar installation, fashion design, GMS/ICT, and aluminum fabrication.

Peace Building Activities in the HCDTs:

During the quarter, the IPDU disseminated 8 conflict early warning alerts and information to CNL HCDT leaders, secretaries, and other peace actors in the area. Additionally, 10 CNL HCDT members, including one member of the Peacebuilding Committee, participated in the Conflict EWER Workshop, where they were introduced to PIND's SMS-based EWER system and other peacebuilding processes and methodologies. After the training, HCDT members applied the skills gained. For example, Samson Gospel Keikpo from Egbema OPUDIS shared: *"I am very involved in the peacebuilding committee in my community. For some time, the community faced serious issues with cultism, traced to drug abuse within the village. In June 2025, the drug dealer was arrested and I went to the community to reconcile the youths and the parents because some family members were beginning to get tense as a result of the situation."*

In addition, **Omadino community** in Warri South LGA, a CNL HCDT, benefited from the peace initiative as part of the EU-Niger Delta project. This included the installation of symbolic peace billboards in 14 conflict-prone communities across

Bayelsa and Delta states. A community-designed peace messaging billboard was installed in a high-traffic, conflict-prone area to serve as legacy infrastructure, reinforcing peace narratives. These billboards promote drug-free lifestyles and unity, acting as constant psychosocial nudges that cement peace narratives in the visual landscape, fostering communal pride and identity around peace, and supporting collective memory of cooperation.

Advocacy - HCDT Engagements:

- **Convening stakeholder consultative meetings in 5 states (Edo, Ondo, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Rivers states):** Under the Bridges project, PIND convened critical stakeholders from HCDTs, community leadership, CSOs and government bodies to discuss a wide range of topics, including challenges and lessons from implementing the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) in communities and states. These convenings served as platforms to showcase PIA models, built participants' capacity in implementing each element of the PIA models, and advocate for collaborations among HCDTs to improve PIA implementation and facilitate shared learning. These meetings also provided valuable opportunities for respective program areas to demonstrate their value propositions to the stakeholders.
- **Conducting HCDT database validation:** To ensure equitable data verification, PIND facilitated database validation sessions in the 5 focal states of the Bridges Project—such as the registered titles of the trusts, office addresses, contact persons, phone numbers and email addresses, gender disaggregated lists of Board of Trustees (BOT), Management Committee, and Advisory Committee members, the status of the Community Development Plans (CDP), Needs Assessment, existing challenges and mitigation plans of each of the HCDTs—were reviewed and validated. These sessions provided a space for HCDT BOT, Management Committee and Advisory Committee members to share challenges and learn from one other.
- **Establishment of State multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs):** To further scale the impact of the Bridges Project and create opportunities for sustainability, PIND established MSPs in the 5 focal states. These platforms are designed to deepen understanding of PIND-influenced Community development models and expand awareness of the PIA among HCDTs across the Niger Delta, and promote wider adoption of HCDT models, contributing to more effective and scalable PIA implementation. among more HCDTs.

3.5. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 (SO5)

Reduce conflict and promote peace - 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. HCDTs are co-investing in their priority projects to improve economic and peace agendas in their communities.

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, using the following approaches:

- **Research:** With its cutting-edge early warning and early response system (EWER), PIND serves as an essential resource for community, government, and private sector stakeholders seeking timely, high-quality insights on conflict dynamics in the Niger Delta. This role is supported by innovative tools and products that enable, proactive, informed decision making aligned with broader peace and development agenda.
- **Community Empowerment:** The P4P Network will transition to full independence, positioning itself as a capable grantee of PIND and other potential donors. Building on over a decade of grassroots peacebuilding across the nine states and 119 LGAs of the Niger Delta, P4P will restructure its program delivery to autonomously initiate and manage peacebuilding activities. This will foster an integrated, stable environment for economic growth. PIND will support this transition by adopting a donor role—drafting targeted RFPs and templates, offering proposal feedback, and facilitating After-Action Reviews—to enhance P4P's capacity, sustainability, and impact in the region.
- **Government and Corporate Frameworks:** PIND will deepen collaboration with government and corporate stakeholders to align peacebuilding frameworks with local needs, driving regional stability and creating pathways for the replication and scaling of successful peacebuilding interventions. By partnering with the Niger Delta Regional Peacebuilding Strategy (NDRPS) and supporting the Petroleum Industry Act's Host Community Development Trusts (HCDT), PIND will provide community-specific conflict data and insights, empowering

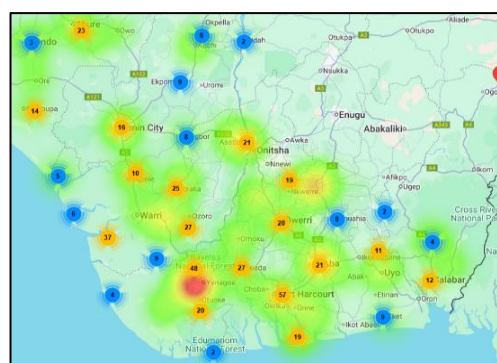
stakeholders to adopt conflict-sensitive practices that can be replicated across diverse contexts. Through collaborative workshops and consultations, PIND will ensure that peacebuilding outcomes are integrated into strategic planning processes, enabling interventions that are data-driven, adaptable, and designed for broader impact across the Niger Delta.

- **Linking PB with ED:** PIND will be integrating peacebuilding with economic development to foster long-term stability and prosperity across the Niger Delta. By aligning peacebuilding initiatives with economic goals, PIND will implement joint planning frameworks and conduct conflict-sensitive assessments in economically active regions. These efforts will ensure that economic interventions are designed to minimize conflict risks and support sustainable livelihoods. Through this integrated approach, PIND aims to create multiplier effects where economic stability reinforces peace, resulting in safer, more resilient communities that attract investment and promote regional growth.

3.5 Q2 2025 Strategic Objective 5 (SO5) Key Achievements:

Niger Delta Peace Outlook in Q2 2025:

The peace and security situation in the Niger Delta was relatively stable in the second quarter of 2025, marked by a decrease in incidents of lethal violence compared to the first quarter of the year. Recent data indicates a **12%** decline in reported conflict fatalities, with deaths dropping from **221** in Q1 to **194** in Q2. Notably, communal violence declined significantly, with fatalities from communal conflicts falling by **88%**, from **85** in Q1 to just **10** in Q2. Additionally, the number of communal conflict incidents declined by **41%**, reducing from **29** in Q1 to **17** in Q2. This overall decline in conflict risks and lethal violence reflects the success of ongoing peacebuilding and conflict management efforts across the region. However, despite this progress, incidents of violence and insecurity persisted, particularly in Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Imo, and Ondo states.



Niger Delta conflict Fatalities Heat Map Q2 2025

Analysis of conflict trends and dynamics during the period revealed that criminal violence (including homicide and kidnapping), cult gang violence, and clashes between government security forces and non-state armed groups remained the primary drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in the region. Criminal violence, especially homicide, kidnapping for ransom, mob violence, and clashes between criminal groups and security forces, remained widespread across all nine Niger Delta states. Kidnapping for ransom and armed clashes between criminal gangs and security forces continued to fuel insecurity, with criminal violence accounting for **93%** of reported conflict fatalities during the quarter. The highest fatalities from criminal violence were recorded in Delta, Bayelsa, Ondo, Imo, and Rivers states. Nevertheless, data indicates an **17%** decrease in criminal violence-related fatalities at the regional level, dropping from **108** in Q1 to **90** in Q2.

Clashes between rival cult gangs remained prevalent across the region, with increased intensity in Bayelsa State, which recorded over 10 fatalities during the period. These clashes were mainly driven by reprisal attacks and supremacy battles over territorial control and the collection of illegal levies. Current data shows a **127%** increase in cult gang-related fatalities, rising from **11** in Q1 to **25** in Q2. However, there was no significant change in the number of reported cult gang incidents between the two quarters. This indicates that cult clashes were more lethal in Q2, causing more fatalities per incident compared to Q1. Other major security concerns during the period included separatist agitation, mob violence, and natural disasters such as flooding. Clashes between separatist militias and government security forces remained significant, with fatalities rising by **70%** from **10** in Q1 to **17** in Q2. Vigilante and mob violence also posed key conflict risks, resulting in over five reported fatalities across the region, with incidents particularly prevalent in Imo, Delta, Ondo, and Abia states.

3.5.2 Peacebuilding highlights of activities in Q2 2025

Nonetheless, PIND is relentlessly undertaking interventions in conflict prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta region as part of the plan of action aimed at keeping the level of violence low, particularly in key communities of interest. PIND continued to leverage its peacebuilding 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 address 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 Q2 2025.

i) Advance Research and Data-Driven Analysis for Informed Peacebuilding

PIND produced and disseminated numerous data-driven and research-based conflict early warning products to update peace and security stakeholders and facilitate targeted peacebuilding and conflict management interventions across the Niger Delta. During the period, the IPDU disseminated 25 conflict early warning alerts to over 70 response actors, including P4P Prevent Committees, Prevent Councils, CNL Host Community Development Trust (HCDDT) peacebuilding committees, and EU-Niger Delta Project Consortium partners. Additionally, PIND produced 13 data-driven research and analytical products, comprising 12 weekly conflict briefs and one Q1 2025 Niger Delta Conflict Tracker, highlighting emerging conflict risks and security issues in the region, including organized criminal violence, cult and gang violence, communal tensions, mob violence, communal conflict, and public awareness on disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. The research and data analysis products were disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders, including local peace actors, civil society organizations (CSOs), government security agencies, and development partners at local, national, and international levels.

iv) Strengthening Regional Ecosystem Players

PIND facilitated a roundtable to share findings of a special policy brief exploring the impact of communal conflict on agricultural investments in the Niger Delta. The session aimed to operationalize the recommendations of the report.

To further strengthen its early warning and response capacity, PIND deepened the reach and effectiveness of its integrated early warning infrastructure by integrating and building the capacity of an additional 90 Peace Champions to improve the quality and quantity of conflict reports on its SMS Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) platform.

v) EU-funded Niger Delta Project

PIND also continued its partnership with a consortium of peacebuilding organizations, including Search for Common Ground (SFCG) and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), to implement the EU-funded Niger Delta Project – A Community-Centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta. As a leading implementing partner for the EU-Niger Delta Project, PIND worked closely with consortium partners and community leaders to deliver numerous community-driven peacebuilding interventions focused on strengthening social cohesion, fostering harmony, and building community resilience. In Q2 2025, the EU-funded project evolved from early-stage peacebuilding investments to deepened, community-owned actions that are shaping a new social contract across the Niger Delta. Core program highlights include:

- **Community-led sensitization campaigns targeting drug abuse and illegal oil bunkering:** These campaigns were conducted in 14 communities across Bayelsa and Delta states, addressing drug and substance abuse in 13 communities and illegal oil bunkering in one. They involved local actors such as youth leaders, women influencers, and ex-agitators delivering tailored messages through street campaigns, school visits, market dialogues, NYSC engagement, and town halls integrated into local festivals. This resulted in a shift from top-down awareness to bottom-up moral authority, cultural repositioning of peace as a community-led practice, and increased local ownership and peer-led engagement.
- **Full-scale After-Action Review (AAR) across all 33 LGAs:** This activity marked the first complete system-wide reflection of the year, covering all 33 LGAs. The AAR sessions were convened with local peace actors and community stakeholders, EWER monitors and youth leaders, as well as traditional leaders, women’s groups, and partners.

vi) Nexus between Peace Building and Economic Development

The Peacebuilding and Economic Development Program incorporated a peacebuilding module into the “Access to Seeds Stakeholders Onboarding Workshop” held in June 2025. The module focused on integrating conflict sensitivity into farm management in land dispute contexts. The farmers, service providers and farm administrators were introduced to the problem of land disputes, which reduce access to arable land, the implications of this phenomenon, and the way forward: integration of a conflict-sensitive approach. Nursery operators were encouraged to be stakeholders in peacebuilding within their communities. By promoting dialogue, fostering inclusive relationships, and helping to prevent local disputes—especially those linked to land use, youth unemployment, or resource competition—these operators can play a vital role in sustaining a peaceful environment conducive to growth.

In addition, **alignment of peacebuilding initiatives with economic development goals** materialized through the ongoing collaboration between PIND and Okomu Oil Palm Company (OOPC). Both programs worked together to carry out a validation exercise for the earlier conducted Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) in 18 Okomu Oil Palm Company neighboring communities in Edo State. The aim of the validation exercise was to reaffirm and identify gaps in the needs assessment to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics influencing peace and community development in the OOPC host communities.

This strategic engagement aims to lay a strong foundation for peacebuilding, economic development, and stakeholder collaboration by identifying conflict triggers, socio-economic gaps, and opportunities for sustainable development in OOPC neighboring communities. This will leverage PIND's proven models and infrastructure, including the Market Systems Approach, sector-based programs, Access to energy (A2E), and Youth Employment Pathways (YEP). Others include access to finance, Peacebuilding's Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) systems, the Partners for Peace (P4P) network, and Peace Actors. These participatory sessions enabled the communities to confirm their development priorities and provided a platform for dialogue and consensus-building. The process reinforced social cohesion and co-ownership, setting the stage for co-designed interventions that promote both sustainable livelihoods and peaceful community–corporate relations.

4. General Enabling Programs Delivery and Achievements

This section presents key achievements in Q2 2025 for initiatives implemented under the General Enabling Program. PIND's work is anchored on two interrelated pillars: (1) Economic Development program, focused on enabling pro-poor market development and job creation.; and (2) 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 through evidence-based engagements.
- **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.

4.1 Capacity Building

As a key enabler of PIND's 2025 – 2029 strategy, the Capacity Building program is designed to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of Chevron Host Community Development Trusts HCDDTs, private institutions, government institutions, civil society, business associations and services providers, for effective socio-economic engagement and inclusive governance to promote growth and peaceful co-existence in the Niger Delta. This program directly contributes to PIND's long-term development objectives.

The program focuses on two major areas:

1. **Strengthening HCDDTs:** Support Chevron HCDDT (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.

Key Achievements – Q2 2025:

Economic Programs – CB Mapping of Community-based organizations: In Q2 2025, 13 cooperatives/associations were identified and profiled across 3 states—Cross River, Rivers, and Bayelsa – as a foundational step toward a more comprehensive, in-depth capacity assessment to be conducted on them. The insights gathered will inform the development of targeted and context-specific capacity-strengthening plans aimed at enhancing the effectiveness, resilience, and service delivery capacity of these organizations in alignment with the MSD team's

long-term goals.

The team collected detailed data on each group, including their location, total membership, leadership and governance structure, sources of income, and support mechanisms provided to farmers. The assessment also reviewed their institutional and operational frameworks, highlighting preliminary observations around capacity strengths, constraints, and development needs.

Peace Building - Capacity Building Training for P4P Members: The capacity building training for members and partners of the P4P Network in Rivers State revealed significant gaps in resource mobilization skills, including weak donor mapping, limited knowledge of fundraising strategies, and inadequate grant proposal writing abilities. Participants also lacked digital tools, ethical storytelling techniques, and structured donor engagement strategies, which hindered their ability to access and manage both local and international funding opportunities. To address these challenges, the P4P Network, in collaboration with the **Initiatives for Sustainable Peace and Entrepreneurship Development (ISPED)**, organized a two-day technical workshop. The workshop focused on practical skills such as proposal writing, project and grant management, donor mapping, digital fundraising, and the use of AI in storytelling.

The training emphasized realistic budgeting, aligning projects with donor priorities, and establishing long-term donor engagement strategies. 12 participants from NGOs, CSOs, community stakeholders, and independent peace actors benefited. Following the workshop, participants showed increased confidence and formed three teams to apply their learning by crafting actionable fundraising concept notes with integrated budgeting, needs assessments, and donor engagement plans. They expressed strong motivation to lead future proposal development efforts, ensuring local ownership of development projects, while their enhanced storytelling and peace communication skills now empower them to address community needs more effectively and explore new partnership opportunities



Participants at the P4P Resource Mobilization Workshop in Rivers State

CABAPABLE Organizations providing Community services in the Niger Delta

Three CAPABLE organizations continued to deliver various services: Newland Pathway Integrated Consult, Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE), and the Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF).

- **Newland Pathway Integrated Consult – Access-to-finance:** Supported 24 agribusinesses with business plan preparation and linkages to the SMEDAN Matching Fund initiative. Also provided **climate-smart advisory services**, training farmers on adaptive feed formulation, water-saving techniques, and sustainable input use, and facilitated **market linkages** between cassava farmers and off-takers
- **Women United for Economic Empowerment (WUEE):** Supported trainings in community needs assessment, organizational development, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization. WUEE continues to provide needs assessment and charter-of-demand trainings to communities across the Niger Delta region.
- **Family Welfare Foundation Bayelsa (FAWEF):** Worked with Host Communities Development Trusts (HCDTs) to enhance their operational capabilities by facilitating collaboration between HCDTs and other civil society organizations within Bayelsa State. FAWEF also organized training and information-sharing sessions for 30 Board of Trustees members of HCDTs drawn from the eight Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State.

4.2 Advocacy

The goal for Advocacy from 2025 – 2029 is to leverage value from existing 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 will be at strategic levels and deliberate to elicit measurable impacts through the following approaches:

- **Strategic/Demand-Driven Support:** Leverage existing structures to support program areas in cross-cutting operations and open opportunities for Impact Investment. Engaging strategic partnerships and handholding programs on demand.
- **Supporting Program Integration:** Provide strategic support to Economic Development, A2E, MSD and Peacebuilding programs, focusing on the nexus between the two them. Advocacy will facilitate collaboration between these program pillars and enable partnerships with government institutions, donor organizations, and the private sector. The goal is to drive the implementation of strategic initiatives and influence key engagements that promote both economic development and peacebuilding.
- **Promotion of PIND Models:** Build strategic partnerships within the private and public sectors to promote PIND's development models across the Niger Delta.

- **Strategic Collaboration:** Pursue collaborations with other organizations on globally relevant advocacy issues that will bring value to PIND by influencing policy on its focus areas amplifying its role as an advocate for the fulfilment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region.
- **Deliver value to Chevron:** Enhance PIND’s support for Chevron HCDTs by sharing lessons and experiences from other HCDTs in the PIA implementation process, positively impacting community relations in the Chevron HCDTs.
- **Nexus with other Programs:** Advocacy will be embedded at the activity design stages of both economic development and peacebuilding efforts (e.g., access to land, influencing government spending and tracking development projects to support the MSD and general programs. Advocacy efforts will also influence government policies and programs and promote PIND’s models to support YEP, A2E, and MSD broadening HCDT work within the PIA ecosystem.

Q2 2025 Advocacy Key Activities:

In Q2 of 2025, PIND’s Advocacy Program advanced its strategic mandate by deepening policy influence, fostering multi-stakeholder engagement, and promoting the adoption of PIND’s development models across the government, private sector, and Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs). Amid shifting political dynamics and operational challenges, the program delivered targeted interventions that reinforced PIND’s role as a key driver of inclusive economic development and peacebuilding in the Niger Delta.

Key Advocacy Outputs in Q2 2025

- **Promotion of PIND Models:** Strategic engagements with the Ministries of Planning in Akwa Ibom and Edo States advanced the adoption of the Long-Term Development Plans (LTDPs), aligning state planning processes with PIND’s Development Plan Model.
- **HCDT Engagement & Capacity Building:** Over 50 Host Community Development Trusts (HCDTs) were engaged through the Bridges Project across five states. Key outcomes included validated databases, the creation of State Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs), and increased adoption of PIND/PIA-aligned models for community development plans.
- **Federal and State Partnership on Youth Employment:** A high-level workshop with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, promoted the YEP model for use in professionalizing youth work and expanding employment pathways nationwide. It also introduced the YEP Model, through its support for the development of the Bayelsa Youth Policy that provided the framework for the Labour Market Assessment as a precursor for YEP intervention in the State
- **Policy Influence & Strategic Coordination:** Land access policy implementation was tracked in Delta State and Edo States to ensure alignment with PIND programs such as the Y-CAP. As Secretariat of the Nexus Working Group, Advocacy continues to drive alignment between peacebuilding and economic development initiatives.

4.3 Knowledge Management /Communications

The KM-COMMS Strategic Plan for 2025–2029 aims to amplify PIND’s impact, strengthen partnerships, and ensure long-term organizational sustainability through targeted interventions and measurable outcomes in the following key areas:

- **Scale up successful models:** PIND will increase media visibility and improve communication tools. Annual tailored media engagements will be held in Abuja and Lagos, targeting 50 key national and regional media outlets. A global outreach campaign will aim for coverage on platforms such as BBC and Reuters.
- A comprehensive audit of PIND’s communication assets will ensure alignment with its mission and vision. A redesigned website will improve user experience and serve as a dynamic platform for storytelling. These efforts aim to establish at least 25 strategic media partnerships, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and attract international collaborations and funding.

In Q2 2025, the KM-Comms 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, ensuring support for key program activities, advancing internal learning and branding efforts, and increasing both digital and media presence.

Q2 2025 Key Achievements

- Published the 2024 Annual Report titled *Legacies. Impact. Strides. Footprints.*, highlighting PIND’s achievements across the Niger Delta and promoted via social media, website, and newsletters, resulting in nearly 200 downloads and over 700 views.
- Attracted 13,410 new PIND website visitors, totaling 15,264 visits. Published 30 new articles on the website and

recorded an average of 500 monthly downloads of PIND products such as the 2024 Annual Report and the Q1 Progress Report.

- Shared compelling success stories and impact features across PIND programs, boosting visibility and growing social media audience to 61,104 followers.
- Coordinated a 13-week Bridges Project media advocacy campaign, including three radio public service announcements on Wazobia FM 94.1 (Port Harcourt) and Melody FM 88.6 (Warri), plus appearances on Delta Rainbow TV and Wazobia FM.
- Produced and distributed three press releases earning about 80 media mentions in regional and national outlets such as *The Guardian*, *Punch*, *Vanguard*, and *ThisDay*, significantly enhancing PIND’s media presence.

4.4 Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E)

This unit tracks and assesses progress toward organizational goals, ensuring that interventions are data-driven and outcomes-focused. It will focus on the following:

- Sustain the use of planning frameworks that articulate priorities based on analysis and alignment with Phase IV (2025 - 2029).
- Enhance systems and processes for managing data and informing program decisions.
- Manage the processes of measuring change and evidencing project impact (Baseline establishment, Activity and outcome monitoring, data quality assurance, Assessments, Progress reports).
- Ensure adherence to the internal governance for program management and promote participation and accountability.

Q2 2025 Planning M & E Key Achievements

During the reporting period, the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation team provided overarching support in the following ways:

- Performed oversight roles to ensure Phase IV strategy implementation frameworks across all programs align with the Theory of Changes (ToC) for each program/project.
- Tracked and quality-assured programs outputs, outcomes and impacts to ensure plausibility along the objective hierarchy. This was done by regular activity and outcome monitoring and review of project concept and justification notes.
- Ensured implementation of feedback from technical reviews in Q2 toward achieving 2025 program milestones.
- Produced Q2 2025 M & E progress report.

4.5 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

PIND’s commitment to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) remains central to its mission of promoting sustainable poverty reduction, shared security, and prosperity in the Niger Delta. The 2025–2029 strategic plan prioritizes gender equality, aiming to empower women, girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and vulnerable populations. PIND implements its GESI strategy through mainstreaming, tracking the Women’s Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI) and participating in international public events such as *International Women’s Day (IWD)*, *International Youth Day (IYD)*, and the *16 Days of Activism campaign*.

GESI Mainstreaming

PIND’s GESI policy requires gender mainstreaming across all its program, with outputs disaggregated and reported.

PIND has set a strategic target for at least 40% of its overall program beneficiaries to be women who experience increased income, positioning women’s economic empowerment as a core focus of its Economic Development programs.

Women Empowerment in Agricultural Index (WEAI):

PIND tracks changes in the WEAI due to women's access to and benefits from livelihood and economic programs. The WEAI measures the empowerment, agency, and inclusion of women in agriculture, helping identify and address constraints that hinder their full participation.

The WEAI is composed of the Five Domains of Empowerment sub-index (5DE), which assesses women’s empowerment in the following areas. Each domain and its corresponding indicators are weighted equally:

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

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

Public GESI Events

PIND also commemorates globally recognized platforms celebrating women and youths annually, such as International Women Day (IWD), 16 Days of Activism, and International Youths Days (IYD) aligning their global themes with PIND's programs to benefit stakeholders in the region. These events aim to generate lasting outcomes beyond the celebrations.

Q2 2025 GESI Key Achievements:

GESI Mainstreaming: During the reporting period, PIND's mainstreamed gender data recorded 44.7% of participants in its activities were women, exceeding the GESI target of 40%. Details by program area:

- **MSD:** In Q2, a total of **4,404** farmers and MSMEs were reached, of which **2,094** were women, representing approximately **48%** female participation. This reflects a strong commitment to gender inclusion and an encouraging balance in 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:** By Q2 2025, over 16 partners reported a cumulative of **2,183** youths trained on applicable skills between January and June. Out these, **939 (43%)** were female.
- **Peace Building:** A total of **130** participants took part in PIND facilitated P4P training program and Early Warning workshops and research activities. The included **56 female (43%)**, 89 youths (68.1%) and 3 (2.3%) persons with disabilities (PWDs). Notably, during the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) workshop held in Akwa Ibom, PIND purposively included three PWDs, including one with hearing impairment and engaged a sign-language interpreter for the session.

Public GESI Events:

In Q2 2025, planning began for the 2025 International Youth Day (IYD) commemoration, themed "**Advancing Peace and Development in the Niger Delta Through Technology, Partnerships and Job Creation.**" The event will include panel

discussions, the YEP Business Challenge Fund Awards, success story showcases, and other youth-empowerment activities.

Additionally, the **Project Support Services unit** awarded 18 contracts (service orders and purchase orders) of which two (11%) were to women-led vendors. In the Advocacy program, 502 participants took part in various activities, with 21.7% female participation and 0.4% representation by PWDs.

4.6 Business Development and Sustainability (BDS)

In the current strategic phase (2025 – 2029) the primary objective for Business Development and Sustainability (BDS) unit is to raise \$7.5 million to expand, deepen, and sustain PIND's program activities. This will be achieved through collaboration with other PIND programs via the following approaches:

- **Grants:** Identify and apply for solicited, unsolicited, sole, co-funded, and consortium grants, targeting small to medium-sized project-specific funding opportunities.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provide Technical Assistance services to development organizations, private sector actors, and government institutions to deliver specific program interventions across A2E, YEP, PB, and MSD program areas.
- **HCDT Funds:** Support host communities and institutions (Settlers, Commission, and donors) in the PIA HCDT sector, including consultancy services to registered HCDTs
- **Impact Investment:** Leverage blended finance models combining grant funding with impact investment, focused on capacity building for SPV pipeline companies capable of generating both financial and social returns.

Through internal collaboration and coordination, BDS will explore donor cultivation and stewardship of third-party-funded projects by identifying channels, platforms, and networks where funders interact and share strategies and initiatives. Additionally, through a third-Party funder engagement, BDS will regularly engage with donor partners to ensure clear communications through established feedback mechanisms and protocols.

Q2 2025 BDS Key Achievements:

In 2025, 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 teams in Q2 2025 to advance fund raising efforts. BDS followed up on proposals already submitted to:

- **CitiFoundation:** Aimed at expanding PIND's YEP program into Imo State under the 2025 Citi Foundation Global Innovation Challenge.
- **International Labor Organization (ILO):** To design innovative financial solutions to improve livelihoods of 2,500 smallholder cocoa farmers while combating child labor in Ondo, Cross Rivers, and Osun states.
- **FCDO/UK-PACT – MediGrid on Clean Energy Transition:** MediGrid is a transformative healthcare electrification strengthening initiative designed to scale and expand access to solar-powered electricity for underserved primary and secondary healthcare centers in the Niger Delta.
- **Nexans Foundation** This project is an innovative solar health electrification initiative that uses "Power Enterprise Models" to electrify 30 community healthcare facilities and 30 surrounding communities in Cross River State.

Also, in Q2, more than six non-Chevron HCDTs were identified with a view to promoting and supporting their CDP through a sustainable development model. The following - Rivers 3 HCDT, Agoos HCDT, KEFESSO HCDT have indicated interest in partnerships to provide such support.

Third-party funded engagements were pursued with external partners, notably with Okomu Oil-Palm Plc on N1Billion CSR Outsourcing initiative. A draft MoA is being developed. Additionally, the Impact Investment SPV, **Continuum Capital** has gained momentum, with a new Scope of Work (SoW) signed with Cross Boundary signed, Bi-weekly progress update meeting established.

5. Program Management

Governance and Accountability: PIND held its Q2 technical reviews of its Economic Development and Peace Building programs in line with the phase IV strategy implementation, with support from DAI and FFP consultants. This process enabled learnings that will improve program delivery mechanisms. During the quarter, PIND welcomed its new Executive Director, **Mr. Sam Ogbemi Daibo**, to lead its operations. The onboarding of the new Executive Director marks a strategic

development for the continuity of PIND's program delivery.

Additionally, PIND-NDPI launched its first **Grant Monitoring Committee Meeting** to review program implementations and operating performance in the previous quarter (January to March, 2025). It was agreed that the Grant Monitoring Committee will meet monthly, with the next session scheduled for August 15, 2025.

Organizational Sustainability:

In its effort to diversify and expand income sources, PIND continued follow ups on grant proposals submitted in Q2 2025 and progressed with the implementation of the \$6.24 million **Mastercard Foundation Y-CAP** project in Edo and Delta States. Further progress was made to advance a partnership agreement signed with Okomu Oil Palm Company, after conducting a comprehensive needs assessment (CNA) in its host communities in Edo State. This CNA will inform interventions to manage conflict and promote sustainable development using PIND's models and infrastructure. The EU-funded project - *Community-centered Approach to Transforming Criminality and Violence in the Niger Delta* is also being finalized.

Organizational effectiveness, health, safety, and security:

PIND continued investing in employee well-being and workplace safety. In Q2 2025, 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 project implementation and operations.
- Timely processing of utility bills, communication systems maintenance, stakeholder/vendor relations, and vehicle maintenance.
- Successful facilitation of internal and external events
- Onboarding of new staff and effective asset and facilities management.

6. Project Support Services (PSS):

The PSS department Unit continued implementing policies and procedures to ensure transparency and compliance in PIND's procurement and grant processes.

Key Q2 2025 Achievements:

- Reviewed and updated the Procurement, Contracts & Grants Manual, officially approved on March 25, 2025, and effective from April 1, 2025.
- Concluded the annual vendor pre-qualification exercise (closed on April 30, 2025) to build a database of tax-compliant vendors, consultants, and service providers. Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are currently being categorized and reviewed, and the vendor database is being updated.

PIND's procurement and contract administration ensured strict adherence to internal policies and procedures.

- A total of 18 contracts were awarded In Q2 2025: 9 service orders and 9 purchase orders
- The updated procurement, contracts, and grant manual became effective April 1, 2025. Disseminated and knowledge sharing sessions were conducted.
- These contracts totaled ₦2.23billion. The table below presents contract and grant awards in Q2 2025, disaggregated by contract type and gender

Table 2. Contracts awarded in Q2 2025 in their types, total amount and by type of recipient

Instruments	Number (Q2 2025)	Number Processed to date (April - June 2025)	Value Committed(Q2) (NGN)	Total Amount committed to date (Jan-June 2025) (NGN)	Total Value Committed by Gender (Q2 2025)							
					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	-	8	-	1.88 billion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services Order	9	35	71.28 million	297,23 million	2	10.87 million	2	18.52 million	1	12.89 million	4	29.00 million
Purchase Order	9	12	46.34 million	57.56 million	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	46.34 million
Master Services Contract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOU	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	18	55	117.62 million	2.23billion	2	10.87 million	2	18.52 million	1	12.89 million	13	75.34 million

7.0 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 various models to increase access to finance for target sectors and businesses in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria to stimulate the flow of finance (both on the demand/supply of capital) into Agric businesses focusing on smallholders' inclusivity. 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.

SK has implemented models to address information asymmetries between banks and borrowers (typically lead firms), and between lead firms and smallholder farmers (SHF). The overarching approach includes.

- Promote innovative financing models for SMEs, agriculture and renewable energy.
- De-risk lending through issuance of credit guarantees to encourage financial institutions to increase lending and grow their portfolios in targeted sectors as information asymmetries decline.
- Offer blended loans at 9% interest with default rates below 5%
- Provide technical assistance in loan administration and implement SK's risk management mechanism for partners investments to SHFs/MSME.
- Facilitate Linkages funders and MSMEs/lead firms.
- Ensure stakeholder engagement, capacity building and technical support for partner banks and beneficiaries.

SK Focal agricultural value chains have been Cassava, Oil Palm, Cocoa, Aquaculture and Poultry. Our milestone achievements include, though not limited to the following:

- Tested and implemented seven financing models with Sterling Bank Plc and Unity Bank Plc, including Anchor /Aggregation model in Oil Palm Value Chain, Input finance model in Aquaculture/poultry value chains, output marketing in fishery in Coastal communities and Asset Finance.
- Mobilized ₦590 million in loans from a seed capital of ₦100 million since 2020, benefiting 2,113 farmers across Cocoa, Oil Palm, Poultry, Aquaculture/Fishery, and Cassava value chains.
- Maintained 3% default rate in the phase with no material erosion on seed capital.
- Increased seed capital from N100 million to N112million (as of the 2023 audited financial statements).
- Proven ability to attract counterpart resources, demonstrating the need to increase capital to maintain competitiveness (initial \$200,000 now worth ~\$62,500 due to FX devaluation).

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

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

In 2025, the main focus for SK is to:

- **Develop and test innovative financial products for PIND ED programs (MSD, YEP, A2E)** with new financial institutions/partners for SK.
- **Integrate PIND technical Service Providers** and other economic actors into SK activities to develop pipeline and take financing opportunities to banks and for follow up loan monitoring and remediation, and also, amplifying successful Models through written case studies, workshops and events.
- **Attract More Capital into the SK** to increase volume of Loans to MSMEs/Farmers and implement Loan products for HCDDT communities - a funding strategy with the HCDDTs.

Key Sombreiro Kapital (SK) Achievements in Q2 2025:

Within the landscape of smallholder- by inclusive finance, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) has distinguished itself as a catalyst for innovation; developing models that effectively integrate underserved Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) population, who have often been overlooked in traditional intervention funding schemes. In Q2, Sombreiro Kapital (SK) deepened its collaboration with financial institutions, service providers, and projects to tailor financial solutions around the needs of PIND's beneficiaries. Notably, SK supported the co-design and adaptation of a cocoa value chain finance product with Sterling Bank Plc, in partnership with PIND's service provider, Agronadol Ltd. This effort reflects SK's commitment to innovating alternative financing models. The following represents SK outputs for Q2 2025:

- During the reporting period, **350** farmers were supported to receive loans by SK, bringing the cumulative to **450 (90%)** of the 2025 target of **500** farmers.
- The volume of loans facilitated (₦) (Seed Capital) was **₦88,000,000**, bringing the net amount to **₦91,000,000** for the first six months of this year, **91%** of 2025 target of **₦100 million**. Additionally, indirect leveraged loan accessed through SK linkages was **₦150,000,000**.

These achievements contribute to fostering a more resilient and adaptive financial ecosystem aligned with sustainable systems change.

Building on the momentum from Q1, SK's collaboration with Dorbudee Consulting led to a partnership proposal for the Niger Delta Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Trade, and Agriculture (NDCCITA) to channel intervention funds to SMEs through SK's platform for members of WACCIMA. This partnership also yielded positive feedback from the Bank of Industry (BoI) regarding selected SMEs who successfully passed the second phase assessment for the RAPID Nano Credit program initiative of the federal government.

In line with the 2025 workplan, SK also convened a second strategic workshop for BDSPs and financial institutions in collaboration with PIND's Access to Technical and Business Services. The session aimed to expand the pool of service providers working within SK's model, strengthen deal pipelines, and build relationships with financial institutions and relevant financial products. Participating banks included Sterling Bank Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Ecobank Ltd, and UBA Plc, alongside over ten business development service providers. In furtherance to expanding the partnership base, engagements for partnerships to increase the number of financial institutions working with SK have been extended to additional financial institutions.

8.0 Third-Party Projects

8.1 Mastercard Foundation Cassava Youth Agripreneur Program (Y-CAP)

The Cassava Youth Agripreneur Program (Y-CAP) is an intervention in the agriculture priority sector of the Mastercard Foundation that contributes to the realization of the YAW strategy in Nigeria. Y-CAP seeks to transform cassava value chain in Nigeria by promoting innovative and sustainable business approach that boosts production for both the food and industrial markets and attract youth and women into cassava value chain to build capacity, access resources (including finance and markets), and improve efficiency in cassava production and processing. The Program approach will focus on providing key support, aligning relationships, and offering incentives needed to optimize productivity and efficiency in the value chain.

This will lead to profitable cassava farming businesses, creation of dignified and fulfilling jobs. Y-CAP aims to support

cassava youth outgrower farmers (YOF) (**80% young women**) and other cassava agripreneurs to increase knowledge and capacity in cassava production and processing. This will ensure supply of safe, quality-assured, and price-competitive cassava-based raw materials and products to processing factories and the global market. The intervention will incentivize investment to reinvent the potential opportunities in cassava value chain in Nigeria and create institutional changes that will sustainably drive the impact of these interventions.

The specific Objectives are:

- Equip **80,000** youth cassava producers (**80% women; 5% of Persons Living with Disabilities—PLWDs; 1% of Internally Displaced Persons—IDPs**) to improve their skills and tools and create entrepreneurial work opportunities, leading to overall productivity increases in the cassava value chain in Nigeria.
- Strengthen market linkages and structures for program participants, improve operational efficiency of MSMEs/actors/service providers along the value chain, and build a resilient agricultural value chain/market ecosystem—further enabling long-term sustainable and dignified work opportunities and livelihoods for young women, youth agripreneurs and their families/communities.
- Stimulate commercial and private sector investment and catalyze diverse funding and capital injection options into the value chain for sustained growth and development, and to rapidly accelerate women and youth participation in the ecosystem.
- Support and strengthen the adoption of innovation and climate-friendly approaches among stakeholders, and strengthen government and private agricultural extension systems, technology development, and supply chain.
- Collaborate with policymakers to support enabling policies that positively impact and unlock opportunities for the cassava value chain and amplify the voice and agency for youth

A total of **80,000 youth** participants between the age of **15-35 years** will be onboarded in the program, 80% of whom will be young women. These are youth outgrower farmers that will be integrated into the supply chains of cassava SME processors. In addition, 1250 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 of and reporting on the project.

8.2 Y-CAP Key Achievements as at Q2 2025

SME Engagement and Proposal Development:

7 SMEs have been supported through proposal development write-shops and a total of 20,000 youth out grower farmers (YOFs) will be onboarded across 7 SME-led out grower schemes. SMEs submitted proposals and budgets are now under review by the Program Implementation Committee (PIC).

Land Access Facilitation:

Engagement with Delta State Government through DELCOM led to land commitments totaling over 5,500 hectares. 500 hectares of land has been pledged from Edo River Basin Authority through the Edo State Ministry of Agriculture to SMEs. The Delta State government through the Secretary to the State Government, also committed to securing cassava farms.

Strategic Partnerships Formed:

An MoU has been finalized with NRCRI for GAP ToT training; an MoA has been finalized with Umudike Seed Company and NASC for 100 cassava seed entrepreneurs (CSEs). Partnerships with Saro AgroScience and Harvest Field Industries have also been initiated for input supply. Thrive Agric was selected to onboard 32,000 YOFs through a digital platform.

Consortium Coordination and MEL Alignment:

PIND has held quarterly and monthly consortium meetings with IDH and a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) plan onboarding has been conducted by IDH. Full rollout pending tool finalization.

Priority Q3 Activities:

Finalize SME contracts and MoUs with stakeholders – Umudike Seeds, NRCRI, NASC; Mobilize and cluster youth outgrower farmers and seed entrepreneurs; Facilitate SME-YOF contract signings and onboarding; Establish and formalize buying commitments with offtakers; Facilitate access for YOFs and CSEs to production inputs; and Initiate installation of 9 makeshift cassava processing hubs.



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