



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NIDPRODEV

NIGER DELTA PROFESSIONALS FOR DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 2011

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **NIDPRODEV concludes first intervention in Northern Nigeria.**
- **Exploring gender and human security, the crucial link.**
- **An analysis of human security in the Niger Delta region.**

HUMAN SECURITY EDITION

Niger Delta Professionals for Development (NIDPRODEV) recently streamlined its thematic areas to three program areas: Community Development, Democracy and Governance and Human Security. In light of this, our next three newsletters will highlight each of the thematic areas. This quarter, the newsletter specifically focuses on the human security dimension of our programmes and activities.

Human Security is a matter of interest to NIDPRODEV because the Niger Delta, and arguably Nigeria as a whole, is currently in a state of human insecurity. It has a lack of effective political and security mechanisms to address conflict and crime. The human security dilemma in

Nigeria is further evidenced by limited access to economic and political decision making ability by rural dwellers, violations of human rights and disregard for rule of law perpetuated by security forces; and a lack of peace and security.

NIDPRODEV is working to ensure that human security challenges are met in the Niger Delta region. In the near future, we hope to meet these needs throughout Nigeria and the African sub-region as a whole. We are committed to the advancement of human security because it is a cornerstone of sustainable and transformative development.

In short, former United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan

articulated it best, when he stated that, "Freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment – these are the interrelated building blocks of human – and therefore national – security." These words encompass our vision for Nigeria.



Human Rights Training for Security Forces facilitated by NIDPRODEV

HUMAN SECURITY PROGRAMMES

Human security encompasses many of the elements of human development. Our programmes are developmental programmes in nature, which address the root causes of conflict; otherwise the dimensions of human security. These areas include economic security, food security, health security, personal security, community security

and political security. Over the past decade our programmes have addressed each of these elements of security, both collectively and stand alone. The contents of this newsletter will explore the human security dimensions of our work and its negative impact on our operating environment. While this newsletter presents snapshots

into our human security work, we invite you to visit, <http://www.nidprodev.org/newsevents/news/175-international-peace-day-2011-reflections-from-nigeria>, for a more comprehensive assessment of human security, authored in recognition of International Peace Day.

NIDPRODEV GOES NORTH

NIDPRODEV recently concluded its first ever, intervention in Northern Nigeria. The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in conjunction with Project Consultant, Dr. Lanre Adebayo piloted the Kaduna Dialogue Programme with funding from the UK Department of International Development (DFID). NIDPRODEV was recruited to carry out capacity building trainings on local govern-

ance and participatory development. The aim of the training was to strengthen established community governance structures -Community Development Networks- to ensure that they meet community needs through project implementation and engagement with local government. The project is being carried out in four LGA's of Kaduna State, including Kaduna, Jema'a, Zango-Kataf and

Zaria. Following the trainings NIDPRODEV facilitated community dialogue sessions in each LGA, where participants were able to discuss the causes of violence and collectively seek remedial measures. At the end of each dialogue, social charters, designed by NIDPRODEV, were signed by community residents, elected representatives, traditional rulers and religious leaders.



Executive Director, Joel Bisina, facilitating the Zaria Community Dialogue at the Emirs Palace

GMOU HIGHLIGHTS

The Partnership for Participatory Community Development (PPCD) was established to strengthen the capacity of Regional Development Councils (RDC) to deliver development to their communities. NIDPRODEV is a consortium member of the PPCD and mentors two RDCs , Keffes Regional Development Council (KRDC) and Egbema Gbaramatu Community Development Council, (EGCDC)

under the Chevron Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU). PPCD recently held a peacebuilding training for the RDCs. NIDPRODEV Programme Officer, Mr. Chin-yere Ihekaibe, facilitated training on Alternative Dispute Resolution and Mediation and Intervention Skills. The training was designed to equip RDC's with the ability to manage conflict in their communities. This is one of

the many services NIDPRODEV provides to the RDC's. NIDPRODEV plays a crucial role in strengthening the RDCs ability to deliver development and peace to their communities. In terms of human security, our relationship with the RDCs enhances their capacity to address issues of poverty and equity, where these persist human security is compromised.

“Where poverty and inequity persist, human security is compromised.”

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

NIDPRODEV currently has staff presence in 5 Shell Petroleum Development Company facilities to carry out our Community Relations Service (CRS). Through this service, we facilitate peaceful relations between oil companies, in this case Shell, and its host communities. Our Community Relations Officers (CRO) are charged with handling any issues that arise within the communities, ranging from power supply,

employment for community residents and oil spill clean ups among others. In general, the CRO works to ensure that the company is operating in line with its corporate social responsibility and that, where this does not occur, community residents do not resort to violence. The CRS demonstrates our conflict management and mediation skills and our ability to effectively work with stakeholders with diverging

interests. The CRS provides communities with a platform to express their concerns, a means for citizens to prevent conflict in a non-violent manner. Further, it promotes social inclusion, allowing communities access to the policy making process as it relates to corporate social responsibility. All of these are essential to human security.



NIDPRODEV staff traveling to riverine communities. Left, Ms. Tessy Anthony, Programme Officer

GENDER AND HUMAN SECURITY

Men and women are affected differently by human insecurity because they have different access to resources and decision making power. The impact of human insecurity on women is not only one of victimization. It is one of enterprise and initiative, where they take up extra household and economic responsibilities. We have seen this first hand, as many of our programmes have specifically

targeted women. Our Oxfam Novib funded Livelihood and Governance Programme (ONLAG), targeted 70% female beneficiaries. The programme addresses many of the elements of human security; political security: empowering participants to have greater access to community decision making power; economic security: empowering participants with skills for independent income genera-

tion; and food security: improving agricultural techniques for farmers resulting in improved farm yields. NIDPRODEV concluded the first phase of this project in September 2011, and recently received funding from Oxfam Novib to strengthen implementation in existing communities and expand to 10 additional communities.



ONLAG participants learning soap making skills for income generation.

HUMAN SECURITY IN THE NIGER DELTA

A newsletter on human security would not be complete without a brief analysis of the human security situation in our area of operation, the Niger Delta. The state of human security in the Niger Delta has improved with the Amnesty Programme of 2009, which has reduced incidences of violence by armed militants. However, other aspects of human security are yet to be met, issues of underdevelopment, poor infrastructure, high incidences of crime and robbery, lack of regard for human rights and rule of law and continued inequitable distribution of resources undermine prospects for human security. As noted in the cover story, there is a lack of political and security mechanisms to address security threats. The current security mechanisms in place need serious restructuring. The Nigerian Police Force has been described by Human Rights Watch as “ a symbol of unfettered corruption, misman-

agement, and abuse.” Many have engaged in criminal acts further terrorizing the population they are in place to protect. The failure of the state to rectify this is a sign of political failure. These conditions produce an environment of fear and mistrust threatening personal, community and political security.

Future looking, the security situation may become compounded by the high rates of unemployed youth. While the Amnesty Programme provided skills training for militant youth, many are returning to the region unable to find work. This recreates the conditions that caused them to take up arms. Addressing these issues is crucial. There is no easy fix to this situation, it requires a holistic and coordinated approach. In achieving security goals, the following elements should be considered by all stakeholders government, oil companies, and development

partners:

- Provide youth with skills acquisition in traditional livelihoods to achieve self-employment;
- Provide security forces with a greater understanding of their human rights and responsibilities.;
- Impunity should not be tolerated, offenders of the law should be brought to justice;
- Significant investments in infrastructure should be made;
- Reduce the glorification of militancy, by creating incentives for non-militant youth;
- Examine why decentralization and the formation of LGA’s has failed to deliver development and create community level mechanisms to rectify this.

“The Amnesty Programme of 2009, has reduced incidences of violence by armed militants. However, other aspects of human security are yet to be met.”



Youth residents of Agge Palmbush, Ekeremor LGA, Bayelsa State

We are on the Web!

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/NIDPRODEV-LCPIT-Niger-Delta-Professionals-for-Development/139435119468790>

NIDPRODEV/LCPIT is a Nigerian non-profit organization founded in 1999. It currently operates in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria on the thematic areas of Community Development, Democracy and Governance and Human Security. It produces programming, conducts research and development and engages in networking and collaboration at the national, regional and international levels. NIDPRODEV as an organisation continues to reinvent itself, retooling and repositioning itself to enable it to deliver high impact projects.

...creating a safe space for peace and development action

NIDPRODEV STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

NIDPRODEV Senior Programme Manager, Mr. Jerry Nwigwe and Programme Officer, Mr. Chinyere Ihekaibe, participated in the Global Memorandum of Understanding Evaluation for Chevron. The purpose of the evaluation was to improve on the processes of the GMoU implementation by gathering lessons and challenges from all stakeholders in the process, to generate ideas and input for the 2012 GMoU negotiation with the host communities. This negotiation and the ideas gathered

in the evaluation will shape how the GMoU will function in the future.

NIDPRODEV Finance Manager, Mr. Tolu Oyero and Programme Coordination/ Logistics Manager Ms. Ifeoma Olisakwe recently participated in a PPCD sponsored Peachtree Software training. Through this five day training they gained knowledge on accounting software for enhanced project reporting. Both Mr. Oyero and Ms. Olisakwe play a lead role in project budgeting and ensuring that project imple-

mentation is in line with the funding limits. Both play a key role in project design, implementation and monitoring.

NIDPRODEV has a staff strength of 23 all from various parts of Nigeria. For full staff bios and further information on NIDPRODEV staff kindly visit our website at:

<http://www.nidprodev.org/>

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **NIDPRODEV secures funding to expand its Oxfam Novib Livelihood and Governance Programme in 10 additional communities of the Niger Delta.**
- **NIDPRODEV'S 2011 annual report to be published in 2012**
- **NIDPRODEV to participate in upcoming GMoU negotiation.**