



Partners for Peace (P4P) Niger Delta: Quarterly Report

July – September 2016

Partners for Peace Network

Partners for Peace (P4P) is a Network whose **mission** is to build social capital around peacebuilding through amplifying the voices of positive actors, building a network of self-identified agents of peace, and leveraging that network through facilitation, small grants, and capacity building. P4P's **vision** is dedicated to promoting sustainable peaceable livelihoods in the Niger Delta through voices, action, and network. It is a platform where local peace actors with different backgrounds and perspectives come together to understand and address the root causes of conflict in their locality and to build peace. The partnership Initiative in the Niger Delta (PIND) established, facilitates and supports the P4P Project.

Context

Partners for Peace (P4P) adopts a unique approach to peace building that seeks to enable people, businesses, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to work together to advance their cause for livelihoods free from violence and conflict. P4P fosters collaboration around the idea of peace building across various stakeholder groups in the Niger Delta through the cultivation of networks. These networks are then leveraged for specific peace building and conflict mitigation initiatives. This report will describe the P4P Network's progress and achievements during the month of July - September, 2016.



KEY ACTIVITIES IN JUL – SEPT, 2016

1. Training of Peace Actors on the P4P Peace Map in Abia, Bayelsa, Cross River, Imo, and Ondo State.
2. Planning meeting with stakeholders on the governorship elections in Edo state
3. Conduct Conflict Sensitivity training for Edo state P4P Cooperative farmers
4. Engagement meeting with INEC and Police for P4P Non-violent election project in Edo state
5. P4P stakeholders meeting with youth at risk in Awaara community in Ohaji/Egbema LGA of Imo state
6. P4P 1-day sensitization workshop on strengthening local governance structure in Ellu community in Isoko North LGA of Delta state.
7. Financial management and budgeting training for P4P SLOs
8. 2-day peace building capacity development workshop for youths in Awarra community in Ohaji/Egbema LGA of Imo state.
9. Edo state P4P non-violent election sensitization forum.
10. Training of field monitors in Edo State for the gubernatorial elections
11. Ondo state P4P sensitization workshop in partnership with International Republican Institute
12. Media campaign against post gubernatorial election in Edo state.
13. Imo State P4P meeting with militant general (Niger Delta Red Squad) to de-escalate tensions in Assa Community, Imo State.
14. Engagement meeting with the Arch Bishop of Owerri Diocese to de-escalate the situation in Awarra community, Imo State.
15. Budget and Financial management training to Abia, Cross River, Delta, Imo, and Ondo P4P State Chapters.
16. International World Peace Day events across all P4P State Chapters.
17. PREVENT Committee Interventions across the 9 states



Activities and Outreaches

In August 2016, Imo P4P organized a one-day Peacebuilding Summit in Assa Autonomous Community, [Awarra Court Area](#) of Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area. The summit was an outcome of numerous mediation efforts involving various stakeholders (traditional rulers, youth leaders, women groups, churches, alleged cult groups, IDPs, police and government officials). In early 2016, the two major armed groups Dewel and Debam changed their operational names to Niger Delta Red Squad (NDRS) and Niger Delta Rescue Force (NDRF) respectively. They also changed their mode of operations and demands. Intervention to end the violent conflict began 2010 by some concerned community people, in 2011 - 2012 some religious leaders also tried to mediate to end the violent conflict. Also, in late 2015 to early 2016, a group of concerned Awarra Court Area young graduates under the platform – Awarra Professionals also made several attempts to bring the warring groups to a discussion table to mediate the conflict. All efforts did not yield the expected results as the killings and destruction of lives and properties did not stop. P4P PREVENT Committee in April commenced intervention meetings with the armed groups and the key stakeholders. The meetings resulted in a cease fire by the armed groups to facilitate mediation efforts on ground and to allow for members of the communities that had fled as a result of the violence to return. This paved the way for awarra court area youth summit aimed at creating an avenue for youth leaders from all villages in Awarra Court Area to interact and suggest ways to attain lasting peace in the area. The youth leaders appreciated the mediation efforts of P4P that led to the summit which to them was a rare achievement that gave youths an opportunity to meet after a 6 year period of hostility. The youth leaders at the end of the summit shared ideas and came up with a 15 point communique requesting P4P to forward their submissions to the govern-

ment, multi-national companies operating in the area and other stakeholders. The summit had in attendance **186** youths of which **184** were male and **2** female.

In August 2016, Edo State P4P Edo received funding from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) through the Fund for Peace to contribute to the reduction of violence in the October 28 gubernatorial elections. The State Chapter in September 2016 collaborated with PIND/FFP to organize a One-day Stakeholders Forum, Advocacy and Sensitization Campaign against Electoral Violence, with the theme **“Building Blocks for Peace”** in the State. The forum which was aimed at sensitizing youths and media to achieve a violent free gubernatorial election in the State was attended by a broad category of stakeholders including representatives of the Security agencies, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), women groups, youth groups and other stakeholders. As part of its Early Warning and Early Response strategy to monitor actual and potential violent conflict during the Edo gubernatorial elections, P4P identified and trained **64** conflict monitors on the P4P/IPDU SMS Early Warning Reporting System in 4 LGAs (Etsako-West, Oredo, Orhionmwon, Esan North East) identified to be hotspots from the P4P Peace Map during the election. The reports from the monitors were fed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for response to prevent election related violence. P4P Also worked with the media to counter the narrative of hate and inciting messages after the elections results were greeted with dissatisfaction by some members of the electorate.

Also in August 2016, Delta State P4P organized a One-day Town hall Peacebuilding/Communal Governance Strengthening meeting in Ellu Community, Isoko North LGA, Delta State. The meeting aimed at strengthening community peace, social economic integration and development. The event had in attendance major stakeholders of the Ellu community. At the Town Hall meeting, all members and groups in the community were enjoined to work in one accord and play their respective roles in the governance structure on a complementary basis. The stakeholders present embraced the meeting and appreciated P4P for the positive idea to intervene in the community conflict situation.

SMS-Based Early Warning Response System

The SMS-Based Early Warning Response System and peace messaging online platform collects, collates and analyzes conflict incidents data. The Platform enables PREVENT Committee Members and other trained field monitors to send in regular reports that are integrated into monthly trackers along with other data sources. Between July-August, 2016 over 195 incidents were reported to the IPDU SMS Platform compared with 223 and 160 reported in Q1 and Q2 respectively. Comparing with Q2 this was higher as a result of the gubernatorial elections in Edo State. These reports came through trained conflict monitors and PREVENT Committee members across the region.



Participants engagement in Edo State P4P Non-violent election project



Proudly supported by



Skills

The Partners' for Peace (P4P) is committed to building the capacities of CSO's/ NGO's and Network members in the Niger Delta.

P4P in June, 2016 commenced the training of NGO/CSO/CBO's in the Niger Delta on the use of P4P Peace map; an online platform that collates, collects and analyzes information from multiple sources on conflict incidents in the region. Between July and September, 2016 the Peace Map training was carried out in 5 states (*Abia Bayelsa, Cross River, Imo, Ondo*) with a total of **109** participants of which **52** are females and **57** males. The training which aims to build capacity of Peace Actors in the Niger Delta on how to use the Peace Map to support their peacebuilding activities was well appreciated by participants as it serves as an eye opener to them to identify conflict hotspots in the region for interventions. Click [here](#) for more information on the Peace Map



Building the Capacity of Peace Actors on how to utilize the P4P Peace Map across the Niger Delta States

In order to build the capacity of P4P State Chapters as users/producers of basic budget documents, the P4P State Liaison Officers (SLOs) trained 6 of their respective State Chapters on Basic NGO budget skills. The training had in total **33** participants of which **13** were females and **20** males across the 6 States.



SLO's Building Capacity of P4P Finance Team on Basic NGO Budget Skills

State	Training	Total Participants	Female	Male
Abia	P4P Peace Map Training to Peace Actors	30	14	16
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	8	2	5
Bayelsa	P4P Peace Map Training to Peace Actors	20	7	13
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	4	1	3
Cross River	P4P Peace Map Training to Peace Actors	21	13	8
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	5	3	2
Delta	Social Media, Photography and Video Editing Training	19	9	10
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	3	3	0
Edo	IPDU/SMS Early Warning and Early Response Training of Conflict Monitors	64	28	36
Imo	P4P Peace Map Training to Peace Actors	17	6	11
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	5	1	4
Ondo	P4P Peace Map Training to Peace Actors	21	12	9
	Basic NGO Budget Skill Training	8	3	5

Linkage with Social and Professional Development Skills

PIND Foundation in July 2016, conducted a 6 day certified training for 19 participants from the P4P Network across the 9 states of the Niger Delta “on social media advantages, photography, filming as well as photo and video editing”. The training was aimed at empowering Network members with the necessary skills for catalyzing change through story telling, videography and photography. It was also aimed at improving participants’ skills in social media and using it as a tool for positive change. The training which held at PIND Economic Development Centre (EDC) Warri and had in attendance 2 participants from each state (Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers). Each state was given a video camera to enable them discharge their roles in their respective states. Click [here](#) to read an online report of the training as published by Cross River Watch Magazine.



Group photo of participants at the Social Media, Photography and Video Editing Training

P4P Led Partnerships

Partnership is key to sustainable peace and development. P4P between the month of July - September, 2016 established partnerships with different stakeholders committed to promoting peace in the Niger Delta. Bayelsa and Edo partnered with United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and received funding to carry out activities towards reducing election related violence in their respective gubernatorial elections with the help of Fund for Peace (FFP). Ondo State P4P partnered with International Republican Institute and received funding to hold a conflict mitigation stakeholders’ roundtable towards the upcoming gubernatorial election in the state. Also, Edo and Rivers P4P established partnership with INEC and the Media houses to sensitize the electorate during the gubernatorial and re-run elections in their respective states. Moreover, Imo State P4P established partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Owerri to address the issue armed militant groups in Awarra.



Ondo State P4P Conflict Mitigation Stakeholders Participants in Partnership with IRI



Edo State P4P Non-Violent Project in Partnership with USIP/FFP/PIND



Rivers P4P Establish Partnership with INEC



St. Joseph Catholic Parish in Assa, Awarra Court Area.

Peace Clubs

P4P in May 2016, piloted a Peace Club initiative in 2 Secondary Schools in Ondo State using the P4P Chapter members for implementation. The Peace Club was established to engage secondary school students in conflict management and to teach them skills necessary for conflict resolution. Modules covering a range of topics was developed by PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) used by the peace club facilitators in the schools for their meetings. Between July - September 2016, the Peace clubs had held 10 meetings involving both community and students in peacebuilding activities and creating awareness about conflict resolution in the community of Ipe Akoko where the initiative is being piloted. Successes recorded so far indicates that the students are beginning to embrace and understand the dynamics of conflict and mitigation strategies within their families and community. Click [here](#) to read the reports of the Peace club activities



Sensitization of Secondary and Primary School Students on Peace Club Formation



Peace Club Facilitators in Action



Group of Peace Club Students and Facilitators



Peace Club Monthly meetings with students

PREVENT Committee Interventions

In the past three months (July-September) the P4P Network has been active throughout the Niger Delta. State Chapters and PREVENT Committees carried out 29 peace building interventions. A few to mention are as follows:

Abia

The PREVENT Committee on 26th August, 2016 engaged with community leaders in the Ohafia community of the state, in a peace meeting with cattle herdsman. The meeting aimed to ensure peaceful co-existence between herdsman and farmers in the area especially against the backdrop of frequent incidences of violent clash between both groups. The Committee called on both groups to cooperate and ensure lasting peace in the communities. The villagers said the herdsman often devastate their farm crops, and sometimes uproot their farm produce to feed their cattle. Speaking at the meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, explained that the truce was called to ensure lasting peace in the area and avert impending crisis within individual local governments in the states. He appealed to both parties to see why good neighbourliness should be encouraged and sustained. Both groups on agreement resolved to stay in peace in the community. Please see [here](#) for more

Akwa Ibom

On 8th August, 2016 the PREVENT Committee intervened in a dispute between Families from Idanre community in Ondo state and Ukwok community in Akwa Ibom State concerning the burial rites of a deceased woman and her child. According to local customs in Idanre community where the incident happened the deceased should be buried in the forest, but the husband of the deceased woman and the Akwa Ibom community people in Idanre objected and insisted the corpse be taken to her village for proper burial in line with their town tradition. As a result of this the corpse was not properly embalmed. This actually led to the clash of interest and tradition. Consequent upon which, there were petitions to the Police, other organizations and individuals. The legal Aid Council in Ondo State invited the PREVENT Committee who conducted an analysis and carried out advocacy to relevant stakeholders and facilitated the release of the corpses for proper burial in her community. The corpse was released to the husband for burial on 3rd September, 2016. The deceased's husband was then offered a job by the youth Leader, Ukwok Youth Organization. Akwa Ibom state Government gave financial assistance to the family and two of his children were given scholarship by two individuals

(Commissioner for Women Affairs and Special Adviser on Inter-Party Affairs).

Bayelsa

On 9th September, 2016 the PREVENT Committee intervened when they received early warning information regarding tensions relating to local elections into the Community Development Committee (CDC) in Dorgu-Ama community in Nembe LGA. All the candidates in the election wanted win at all costs and were inciting tensions in the community. This stemmed from the perceived economic and political influence at the disposal of the Chairman of the CDC within the community. The Prevent Committee engaged with the key stakeholders in the community. Seeing that the actors and their supporters were not willing to discuss the rising tensions, the Prevent Committee reported the matter to the police and suggested that the election be postponed pending when the underlying issues are discussed and resolved. In response, the State's Commissioner of Police ordered the election be put on hold, and requested the traditional rulers and the two major contestants for chairmanship to come and see him. The intervention is still ongoing.

Cross River

Cross River State PREVENT Committee in July, 2016 intervened in a conflict between Oyadama and Inyima communities in Yakurr and Obubra Local Government Areas respectively. The communities had increasing incidences of boundary dispute that resulted in violence. The PREVENT Committee on noticing the situation advocated to the traditional ruler in Yakurr and Obubra Local Government Areas to call on the state government to put an end to the lingering crisis between their border communities by properly and clearly demarcating the boundary between Oyadama and Inyima. The traditional rulers on this accepted that if proper demarcation is done between the boundaries that this will bring about peace in the area. They both however resolved to call on the government for demarcation. The intervention is ongoing.



Cross River PREVENT Committee members with traditional rulers of Yakurr and Obubra LGAs during Advocacy

Delta

In August 2016, Delta State P4P organized a One-day Town hall Peacebuilding/Communal Governance Strengthening meeting in Ellu Community. The meeting aimed at intervening in the incessant communal conflicts that frequently occur in the community and strengthen the community peace, social economic integration and development. The event had in attendance major stakeholders of the Ellu community. In his speech the State Network Coordinator, Barr. Ken Atsenuwa echoed that peace is everybody's business not for just the security agency and other peace-building organizations. He further added that for peace to be sustained in Ellu, all members and groups in the community must work in one accord and play their respective roles in the governance structure on a complementary basis. The stakeholders present embraced the

meeting and appreciated P4P for the positive idea to intervene in the community conflict situation.

Imo

On Saturday, July 2, 2016, the Imo Prevent Committee had successful meetings with the Leaderships of the armed militant groups fighting in Awarra Court Area in Ohaji Egbema LGA. They met with the Niger Delta Rescue Force (NDRF) and Niger Delta Red Squad (NDRS). The meeting aimed at a fruitful deliberation on ways to ensure peace in Awarra Court Area. After a lengthy conversation with the groups who expressed their happiness with the effort of the Prevent Committee in ensuing peace is restored in the area, they agreed to a cease fire to observe the committee's sincerity, determination and commitment to make peace among the warring parties in Awarra Court Area. They also agreed to allow the IDPs who were taking refuge in Ohuba, obile etc. to start returning back to their ancestral homes and also agreed to allow peace talks with the Traditional Rulers of the area that were presently on exiles, the multi-national companies operating in the area, government and any other key actors to the violent conflict. On July 7, 2016, after the successful meeting with the groups, the PREVENT Committee transmitted letters of request for peace building interactive meeting with respect to the violent conflict in Awarra Court Area Ohaji-Egbema LGA to various stakeholders to the conflict.

On 2nd August, 2016 with respect to the series of interventions to resolve the violent conflicts/disputes in Awarra Court Area of Ohaji-Egbema LGA. The PREVENT Committee upon the outcome of the series of the consultative meetings with key actors and major stakeholders in the Court Area, collaborated with Awarra Court Area Youth Council (ACAYOC) to organize the "2016 Awarra Court Area Peace Building Summit", in Assa Autonomous Community, which was attended by over 80 youth leaders including members of the two militant groups. A communiqué was signed and forwarded to the state

government for consideration during the summit. The calm above intervention and dialogue spurred the Imo State Government pronouncing and conducting the disarmament and demilitarization of the two armed militant groups that were operating in the court area on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 for the Niger Delta Rescue Force (NDRF) and Wednesday, September 21, 2016 for the Niger Delta Red Squad (NDRS) in Owerri respectively. For more details see [here](#) and [here](#)

Imo CWC Rep. Addressing Youth Leaders at the Awarra Summit



Group picture of Awarra Youth Leaders after the Summit

Ondo

Ondo PREVENT Committee commenced intervention on the conflict between Fulani herdsmen and Farmers in the state. They started interventions by visiting the traditional rulers and relevant stakeholders in the identified communities. On 27th June, 2016, a visit was carried out to Oke-Odu community to meet with the Oba and his council of chiefs to brief them on the purpose of the visit. The Oba and his council of chiefs appreciated the committee immensely in their interest to address the issue as it had already turn the community and its environs apart.

On 29th June 2016, the PREVENT Committee visited the Ipinsa, Ilere, Ijare and Gaga communities respectively. They were warmly welcomed and appreciated for taking the giant stride to solving the menace in the society. In Gaga community, a community dialogue was carried out and a peace committee comprising representatives of herdsmen, community people and PREVENT Committee members was inaugurated.

On the 13th July, 2016 an a visit was carried out in Ogbese community. The purpose of the visit was made known to the stakeholders, and they appreciated the effort and promised to work with the Committee members to solve the problem. The Council of Chiefs of high repute who spoke at length during the meeting committed to support the PREVENT Committee to address the issue. Following the series of interventions the communities came up with a memorandum of understanding to accommodate the Fulani herdsmen association as responsible residents of the community. Click [here](#) to read the full report and memorandum of understanding guiding the both parties.

Rivers

On 26th July 2016, Rivers PREVENT Committee intervened in a lingering conflict between the Community Development Committee (CDC) members in Elikpokwuodu community in Obio Akpor LGA. The PREVENT Committee received a letter titled: “ACTS OF POTENTIAL VIOLENCE/COMMUNAL CRISIS” from a member of Elikpokwuodu community in Obio-Akpo LGA calling for intervention in a CDC crisis that has lingered in the community for about three years. This conflict has also divided the council of chiefs of the community. The PREVENT Committee upon the request for intervention visited

the paramount ruler of the community informing him of the call by a concerned indigene to intervene in the crisis and also asked for his permission to intervene. They interviewed key individuals and stakeholders within the community to identify the issues, actors, needs, and dynamics of the conflict. However, the intervention is still on-going, tension has reduced and the conflicting parties have agreed to approach the matter in a nonviolent way.

Success Stories

P4P State Chapters have continued to record successes in their activities and efforts to build sustainable peace in the Niger Delta. Below are a few recorded among the numerous successes between July – September, 2016.

Abia State P4P; in September conducted a practical demonstration on the the use of the Oil Palm Mechanical Harvester to community leaders and farmers in Avonkwu Community in Isieke, Umuahia North LGA. The community leaders welcomed the idea and opted to get the machine for their people.



Practical Demonstration of Oil Palm Mechanical Harvester in Avonkwu Community

Akwa Ibom P4P; in August partnered with Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board to conduct a workshop for youth on Developing indigenous capacity in the Nigeria oil and gas industry in Essien Udim LGA of the state. Over 100 youth participated in the event.



Section of participants at the workshop in Essien Udim LGA

Bayelsa State P4P; On the 8th of September visited the Nigerian Union of Journalist, Bayelsa State Branch and the General Manager of the State Radio corporation. As media partners to promote the activities of P4P Network in the State through media campaign.



Bayelsa P4P at the State Radio Cooperation Office

Cross River State P4P; marked the International World Peace Day in collaboration with office of the State Security Adviser and other NGO's in the State with a 5km walk from Mary Slessor roundabout and ended at Leopard Town roundabout. At the end of the peace walk participants signed a communique which was sent to the State government for consideration. The communique urged the State Government to effectively monitor and use early warning signs of violent conflicts to mitigate and curtail conflict reoccurrence in the state, build strong institutions that will aim to curb inequality and also deploy transparency, inclusiveness, accountability, policy coherence, and implementation of previous peace and reconciliatory recommendations to tackle emerging conflicts”.



World Peace Day Event in Cross River State

Delta State P4P; marked the International World Peace Day on 21st September with a day Peace walk rally. The rally started at 9:45am to 1:45pm from DBS to Ekpan community estate and Okere community and then back to DBS premises. The rally aimed at encouraging the populace to maintain peace in their homes, and communities.



Section of participants at the Rivers Town Hall meeting in Onelga



Delta P4P International World Peace Day Event

Media Intervention Programme

P4P is committed to promoting peace in the Niger Delta through media platforms. In September PIND supported media campaign programmes in Abia and Delta State P4P chapters.

Abia P4P conducted a live Radio/TV program on the need for Peace in the State. The broadcast was on Vision Africa Radio 104.1 FM and Broadcasting Corporation of Abia (BCA) State Television respectively.

Delta P4P conducted the Radio/TV programme on Delta Broadcasting Service (DBS) and Delta Rainbow Television Warri. They focused on three topics; The Role of women in peace building and conflict prevention. Mindset Change as Vehicle for Sustained Peace and Development in Delta State. Poverty, Sustainable Livelihood Systems and Peace in Delta State.



Abia Radio/TV intervention Programme at BCA and 104.1 FM

P4P Membership Growth



P4P Membership growth is on the rise continuously as at June, 2016 the Network had reached a total of 4,431 members.

However, as at 30th September, 2016 the membership increased with additional 150 members making an aggregate of 4,581 members of which 38% are females and 62% are males, with a total of 659 organizational members.

P4P State Chapter Meeting Dates

Each P4P Chapter conducts two sets of monthly meetings as follows below. A member of the Facilitation Team attends each of the meetings to provide possible mentorship and support.

State	General Meeting	Time	Prevent Team Meeting	Time
Abia	3rd Thursday every month	11 am	Last Thursday every month	11am
Akwa Ibom	3rd Friday every month	4pm	Last Friday every month	4pm
Bayelsa	2nd Tuesday every month	2pm	2nd Monday every month	4pm
Cross River	2nd Friday every month	2pm	1st Thursday every month	2pm
Delta	2nd Tuesday every month	11 am	2nd Tuesday every month	1pm
Edo	Last Friday every month	12pm	Last Friday every month	10am
Imo	3rd Wednesday every month	2pm	3rd Wednesday every month	2pm
Ondo	Last Thursday every month	3pm	Last Thursday every month	1pm
Rivers	1st Tuesday every month	1pm	Last Tuesday every month	1pm

ICT and Social Media Platforms

Members of the P4P platform interact in a lively social media space. The P4P Facebook Page has 4,209 followers. Each chapter also have their own Facebook Page. P4P's Twitter Page has 660 Followers with over 860 tweets. Data on conflict trends and the locations of peace agents in the Niger Delta is collated and presented on the Peace Map for better scoping, networking, and analysis.

For more on the P4P Network you can follow us on:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/partners4peace>

Twitter: http://twitter.com/P4P_NigerDelta

YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/partners4peace?sub_confirmation=1 tube

Website: www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: 080 9936 2222

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description