

2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED ACCOUNT
CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEVELOPMENT (CEHRD)



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...Promoting human rights and sustainable green development

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2016: Year of Consolidations

The year, 2016 was a very busy and demanding year for us at CEHRD, with huge tasks to be performed and deadlines to be met. However, with a team of devoted and committed staff with passion for rendering services to humanity, we were able to meet up with the enormous demands of the year successfully in terms of project implementation. Importantly, during the first quarter of the year, CEHRD offices were relocated to a permanent secretariat.

Guided by CEHRD's mission of empowering and assisting communities to address issues confronting them, our activities remained focused on our core thematic areas covering human rights and governance, environment and conservation and community health and development. We committed a great amount of resources, time and efforts towards empowering local communities with knowledge and skills to enable them stand up for their rights, including social and environmental justice. Community dialogues and town hall meetings were held in several communities, peace rallies were held in Gokana and Abua/Odual LGAs; peace concert was organized; stakeholder engagements, advocacy visits to key agencies, including security, parastatals and policy makers were carried out. Communities, both in Rivers and Bayelsa states were trained and empowered with advocacy skills as well as on how to demand and assert their rights using available key human rights' instruments including the national laws.

Given the importance we attach to the environment, we built a mass of local community environmental monitors who were trained, empowered and equipped to monitor, document and report pollution and other environmental challenges in their communities. Trainings on media engagements and women participations in governance were organized in several of our project implementation areas during which communities were not only encouraged to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into their governance structures, but they were given tips on how to take their needs, issues and problems to appropriate quarters through the media.

One of our great successes was bringing Rivers and Bayelsa lawmakers to a roundtable for trainings on how to legislate for environmental protection. It was a boost on our legislative advocacy works as the lawmakers opened up a channel of partnership to CEHRD.

The sad part of the 2016 story was the tragic death of one of our key staff, Mr. Michael Gbarabe, CEHRD's Senior Program Officer on Environment and Conservation. Mr. Gbarabe died in a ghastly motor accident on 6th December 2016, and was buried on 22nd December 2016 at his hometown, Bodo City in Gokana LGA of Rivers State.

The successes recorded would not have been possible without the support of the communities where CEHRD works, local and international partners as well as a team of dedicated staff.

We are grateful to our numerous partners, funders and communities who contributed in different ways in making 2016 successful for CEHRD. Above all, we will remain most grateful to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Nigeria for providing financial support for the production of this annual report.

Board of Directors and Advisory Board

Board of Directors/Trustees

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
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| Mr. Patrick Naagbantou | member |
| Ms Ibiba Donpedro | member |
| Mrs. Linda Akinsaya | member |
| Ms Caroline Obediah | member |
| Mr. Styvn Obodoekwe | secretary |
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Kingdom of the Netherlands

Programme Areas

In recent times, CEHRD's works cover three core (3) thematic areas:

Rural Health and Community Development Programme

CEHRD is concerned about the health of the rural Niger Delta community members. CEHRD runs this programme to create awareness, better knowledge, and active care for the health of the rural people in the Niger Delta geographic communities. We also promote health protection through enlightenment, and outreach campaigns against prevalent diseases such as tuberculosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, etc, and planned parenting.

CEHRD promotes sustainable development of the community in partnership with government where appropriate. However, we oppose ill-planned "Development Projects" that neglect input from local peoples including destroying the basis of their rural livelihood and economies. We also promote human rights based development. We believe that a Top-Down approach to development often leads to "dumped development" thus, engaging the local peoples is a necessity and of a high priority. Nevertheless, the development process can only be successful if along the way, there emerges a collectively enlightened people. Apart from this, we are left with a community of "beggars and benefactors".

Over the years, CEHRD has carefully ensured that its activities are not influenced by politicians. This has been maintained through non acceptance of "bribes" or gratifications from governments, oil and gas multinationals or their agencies.

Environment and Conservation Programme

Recognising that the Environment is life, CEHRD engages in conservation of forests (rainforests, flood plains, and mangrove forests); wild life protection and restoration, bio-diversity conservation, better agricultural and fishing practices to enhance food security. Also, the environmental advocacy project falls under this program. It promotes non-violent activities, eco-tourism, volunteerism, community stewardship, and management of local natural resources. Monitoring and documentation of environmental pollutions as well as campaigns for environmental justice fall with in the environment and conservation program of CEHRD.

Human Rights and Governance Programme

CEHRD undertakes human rights campaigns, advocacy, and litigation, on behalf of victims of human rights violations and abuses. This programme pursues good governance through engagement, civic, and voter's education. Also, anti-arms proliferation and unregulated arms trade campaigns are coordinated under this category. CEHRD monitors small arms trade

and its misuses or abuses in the hands of government security forces and non-state actors like militia, armed civilian (“cult”) groups, gangsters, etc. We also monitor its consequences on the people, especially women and children. Furthermore, under the Human Rights Program, CEHRD works towards its prevention, minimization and eradication through outreach, education, and legislative campaigns. We promote, defend and seek to expand the horizon of human rights.

- **Child Right Project**

At the core of the human rights programme of CEHRD is the Child Rights Project. In July 2009, CEHRD, in partnership with Stepping Stones Foundation, embarked on monitoring, documenting and reporting child right violations in six states (Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Akwa-Ibom and Edo) of the Niger Delta. The project in line with the mandate of CEHRD and Stepping Stone Nigeria (SSN) is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged children such as the so called “child witches” in the Niger Delta. We are working towards a world where every child is free and their rights are protected under a just law.

ABOUT CEHRD

CEHRD was founded in August 15th, 1999 by Conservationists, Environmentalists, Activists and Health Workers in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria.

In a bid to actualise its mission and strategic objectives, CEHRD has partnership with several networks and coalitions at the local and international levels, sharing similar mission and vision. CEHRD is the coordinating secretariat of the West African Human Rights Defenders Network [WAHRDN] and the Rivers State Chapter of Child Protection Network, (CPN).

WAHRDN was established in May 2005, at the end of an international conference of human rights organisations in Dakar, Senegal. The network represents 14 national human rights coalitions in the West African Sub-region.

CEHRD is a leading member of the African Mangrove Network [AMN], working to protect and conserve mangrove forests throughout the African Continent.

Other networks and coalitions which CEHRD belongs to include:

- People’s Movement for Human Rights Education [PMHRE]
- Publish What You Pay [PWYP]
- Gender and Constitution Reform Network [GECORN]
- Coalition for Accountability and Transparency in Extractive Industry, Fisheries and Forestry in Nigeria [CATEIFFIN]
- National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil Spills in the Niger Delta (NACGOND)
- Rivers State chapter of the Civil Society Network on HIV/AIDS [CISNAN]
- Niger Delta Citizens Budget Platform [NDCBP] and

- Transitional Monitoring Group [TMG]

VISION

A just society with an enabling environment for the realisation of the people's fundamental human rights

MISSION

To forge a common link with the rural Niger Delta communities primarily through research, participatory trainings, campaigns and advocacy on the problems confronting them. Equipping them with the basic knowledge of their situation and encouraging them to address the issues themselves.

CORE VALUES

In our work, we do not compromise our:

- *Selflessness*
- *Commitment*
- *Courage*
- *Honesty*
- *Accountability*
- *Sincerity*
- *Transparency*

OBJECTIVES

- To engage in environmental research and advocacy.
- To pursue conservation of tropical rainforest, wildlife, and mangrove forest in rural communities in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
- To work towards the eradication and prevention of the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
- To work towards the eradication of diseases prevalent in the rural communities like malaria, HIV/AIDS, etc.
- To promote sustainable and green community development.
- To ensure peace and stability in the communities of the Niger Delta.

REPOSITIONING CEHRD:

CEHRD 2016 STAFF RETREAT AT EKET, AKWA IBOM STATE



CEHRD staff and Board members during her 2016 retreat held at Villa Marina Hotel, Eket, Akwa Ibom state, October 27th to October 30th, 2016.

CEHRD held her staff retreat from 27th to 30th October, 2016 at Eket, Akwa Ibom state. The retreat was used to review the strengths and weakness, opportunities and threats in the Niger Delta in relation to CEHRD's works in the region. The organisational strategic plan from 2016 to 2018 and programmes were reviewed, way forward suggested.

Board meeting

Part of the activities during the retreat was the meeting of members of the Board of Directors of the organization. The meeting was presided over by the Board Chairperson, Constance Meju. The Board did not only commend the management of the organization for remaining focused on the vision and mission of CEHRD, but also took vital decisions aimed at moving the organization to a higher level.

The retreat ended with a renewed commitment from all Staff, Management and Board members to rekindle the founding vision and mission of CEHRD and to ensure that the organisation stays on course with its pioneering role as a leading human rights research and advocacy organisation; and more so, as an organisation dedicated to the course of

the oppressed and down trodden in the society. At the end of the retreat, the organisation was charged for greater achievements.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

Empowering local communities to participate in governance

CEHRD organised community level trainings on Participatory Governance and Social Inclusion, which was part of capacity building, empowerment and sensitization programmes on the human rights stream of the Dutch Embassy funded project entitled Promoting Best Practice Mechanisms in Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria: An Intervention framework for Rivers and Bayelsa States.

The community level trainings were conducted for two days each in ten oil impacted communities in Rivers State, and six communities in Bayelsa State; communities are critical to the peace and stability of the Niger Delta region. The trainings were conducted two days each in the following communities in Bayelsa State: Elebele, Oruma, Kalaba, Ikarama, Akumoni and Epie-Zarama. The Rivers State communities are: Afam, Oyigbo town, Marihu, Egberu Ndoki, Umuagbai, Erema, Okwuzi, Idu-Ekpeye, Akala Olu, and Oyiba. The oil companies operating in these communities are Shell, Total and AGIP.

The communities are seemingly among the most neglected parts of the States in terms of socio-economic, human rights and infrastructure development. They also lack the capacity to engage the oil companies and several years of oil exploitation on their land has translated into minimal positive impacts, but more of environmental degradation and human rights abuses. It was therefore a unique opportunity for them to learn about the issues of advocacy, lobbying, communications and media engagements and also to understand ways and strategies of engaging with oil companies and regulatory agencies to negotiate their rights, employ peaceful and non-violent strategies and platforms to demand for redress of wrongs done by the oil companies to them in course of their operations. The Components of the training include contents on Governance, Participation and Inclusion, Transparency and Accountability, Community engagement, Gender and Youth Community Development and Political Participation.



Group photo of participants during a session in Bayelsa State.

Thirty-five persons (20 men, 15 women) per community drawn from among Traditional Rulers, Council of Chiefs, Community Development Committees (CDC), Youth Groups, Women Leaders and Opinion Leaders, participated in the trainings in each State. The participants were selected thus to reflect a cross section of the community stakeholders so as to promote social inclusion and participation of all interest groups. Communities were however, allowed to handle the nomination of participants, but based on the specifications of the project.



Group photo of participants during the training in Rivers State

Outcome of the Trainings

- I. The communities identified a clear need for inclusion and participation of all stakeholders in both community governance structures and external engagements with governments and oil companies.

- II. Communities recognized the need for internal community democracy through setting up transparent and accountable leadership structures to enable them speak with one voice and engage positively with government and oil companies.
- III. Communities noted that women and youth inclusion are crucial to the development of viable community leadership structures and agreed to reform the existing male dominated leadership arrangements.
- IV. Communities resolved to be more proactive in their engagements with governments and oil companies and to seek external support from credible civil society organisations and media organisations to enhance their demands and to strengthen their engagements.
- V. Communities identified record keeping, proper information management and documentation as viable means of strengthening stakeholder participation and inclusion in community governance and managing external relations and engagements.
- VI. Communities resolved to focus their engagements around issues of economic development; political inclusion, human rights and environmental justice to enable them engage with government constructively and achieve their rights.

Engaging the Youths:

Meeting With the Youth Leadership Networks in Rivers State

CEHRD output two organised 24 meetings with the members of the youth leadership networks set up in 3 communities – Okana in Abua/Odual, Kpor in Gokana and Marine Base in Port Harcourt LGAs. Eight meetings were held in each community. The youth leadership network meetings were geared towards strengthening the members' ability to plan and organise activities aimed at engaging and advocating for more accountable, transparent and inclusive youth employment and empowerment programmes in Rivers State. The meetings also served as an avenue for vetting and reviewing the sustainability plan of the networks.

The meetings created an avenue for each network to plan for key advocacy visits, radio programmes, and strategize on putting the issue of transparency, accountability and inclusivity in the front burner in Rivers state. The executive members of the Networks were able to mobilise their members while taking responsibility for the management of their network. The youths are partnering with relevant state institutions, National Youth Council of Nigeria, Rivers State chapter, NYCN and community leaders to visit selected schools, volunteer mobilisation and engagement with State and LGA primary and secondary schools on need to shun violence in demand for equity in the distribution of economic resources and conflict prevention. 10 members of the network were selected by Rivers State Sustainable Development Agency, RSSDA and served as field enumerators and collated data for the Labour Market Assessment in Rivers State.



Cross-section of Marine youth Leadership network members during one of their meetings

The youths are becoming more committed to owning the process as seen from some of the ideas and advocacy messages delivered.



Group photo at the end of meeting between the Representatives of Okana Youth Leadership Network and some community leaders from Abual Odual LGA in Okana with CEHRD staffs participating.

Bonding With Agencies and Ministries for Accountability

Advocacy Visits to Ministries

The Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) and, Kpor, Okana and Marine Base Youth Leadership Networks in line with its search for accountability of government to the people and the youths, and working to reduce youth unemployment in Rivers state paid advocacy visits to several Ministries, Agencies and Enterprises including the Ministry of Youth Development, Ministry of Employment Generation and Empowerment, National Youth Council PHALGA Chapter, Rivers state. Also visited were the Rivers State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, National Directorate of Employment, Abua National Youth Council, Head of Local Government Administration in Gokana LGA, Chairman, National Union of Local Government Employees, (NULGE) in Abual LGA, and Chairman, National Youth Council of Nigeria, Rivers State chapter.

The advocacy visits were part of the strategies aimed at ensuring that the objectives of the programme which is to prevent and reduce conflicts in employment/empowerment programmes through strengthening community and youth bodies' capacity to non-violently demand for an equitable, transparent, accountable and inclusive process is being realised.

The Ministries, Agencies and Enterprises visited gave recognition to the youth network and its mission as well as verbal commitment to engage all stakeholders in the employment and empowerment programmes in the project implementation communities and continuously make necessary changes to make the process more transparent, accountable and inclusive.



Full view of representatives of Okana Youth Leaders Network and CEHRD with Officials of National Youth Council of Nigeria, Abual Odual LGA chapter, Rivers State during an advocacy visit for collaboration and advancement of the youth empowerment programmes in the LGA.



Photo taken during advocacy visit by Representatives of Kpor Youth Leadership network to the Head of Local Government Administration, at the Gokana LGA headquarter with CEHRD staff facilitating the meeting.

Interactive Sessions between the Youths and Government Ministries

CEHRD organised interactive sessions between the youths in Abual/Odual, Gokana and Phalga LGAs and Government Agencies in Rivers State. The interactive sessions provided a level playing ground for community youths to meet with relevant government elected and appointed employment/empowerment directors and officers. During the interactive sessions, community youths had the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. The interactive forum also provided an avenue for invited directors and officers to communicate the activities of their agencies, dispose of rumours and advice communities on the recruitment and selection processes as well as how to keep abreast of recurring and upcoming opportunities.



Group work session during an Interactive session organised by CEHRD with Kpor Youth Leadership Network, Community leaders and Representatives of Government Agencies in Gokana LGA hall in Kpor.



View of participants during Interactive session at Food Loud Event Centre organised by CEHRD and Marine Base Youth Network with representatives from the Ministry of Youth Development and National Youth Council, Phalga LGA chapters present.

The interactive sessions led to increased visibility of the networks' activities, increased collaboration and partnership of relevant government agencies with the networks, community leaders and youths from the 38 communities in the 3 LGAs, increase in information dissemination and campaign for peace; increased commitment to the right values and non-violent strategies in transforming community economic actions into significant development and creation of youth employment registers in the ministries and local government, where youths can come at their free time, register their names, the community, sex, previous qualifications and the skills they need to acquire and a more transparent selection process.



Full view of CEHRD staff and the Chairman of Okana and Marine base Youth Leadership Network during the Interactive session with the Ministry of Youth Development and United Nations Annual Habitat event for selected and invited youths in Rivers State.

Live Radio Discussions/Call in Programme

CEHRD team published 30 press releases on several print and online media houses and participated in several Live Radio shows at Wazobia 94.1Fm in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on the need for partnership and collaboration among youth employment and empowerment agencies for effective design and implementation of youth programmes in Rivers state, and at Rhythm 93.7FM and Wazobia 94.1FM in Port Harcourt on the need for sustainable production and consumption as it concerns effective design and implementation of agricultural programmes on 9th and 11th August, 2016 respectively in commemoration of the International Youth Day celebration.

The radio discussions and newspaper publications put the issues in the public burner through calling for best practices in youth employment and empowerment processes. The activities were documented as expanded pool of data and have become reference materials for advocacy visits and other engagement by the youth networks.

The network also created awareness on the lack of transparency, accountability and inclusivity in the delivery of youth employment and empowerment programmes in Rivers state and the need to salvage the situation.

Building the Capacity of Youths

Peace Building Training

Twenty (25) youths were empowered through a conflict resolution and civic engagement training. The training empowered the youths to use various strategies in their engagement with relevant state agencies in demand for equal participation and benefits from government sponsored youth employment and empowerment programmes in the state.



Group photo of participants during the training. Cross-section of participants during the training.

The experience sharing was impactful as there was rich knowledge transfer and renewed commitment to break forth in the pursuit of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the design and delivery of youth empowerment programmes in Rivers State. There is improved ownership mentality among the youths for the programme.

Gokana Youth Summit

CEHRD organised Gokana youth summit on 28th October, 2016 at the Gokana Local Government Hall in Kpor. The summit was aimed at increasing access to information, increasing collaboration between the Youths of Gokana and government agencies, and promoting conflict sensitivity, transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth employment and empowerment programmes in Gokana LGA and Rivers State at large. The event featured panelists' discussions, two lectures and interaction sessions leading to action plans.

The panelists' discussion which was centred on merits and demerits of integrating transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth empowerment programmes in Gokana LGA/Rivers State was a huge success and goal oriented. The panelists, facilitators and participants agreed that it is very important that government agencies and youth statutory bodies consistently integrate transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth empowerment programmes in Gokana LGA/Rivers

State. This all agreed, will bring the needed development; build trust and strong relationships across boards and quell youth restiveness in the LGA and the state at large.



Full View of Participants during the Gokana Youth Summit In Gokana LGA hall in Kpor.



Panelists discussing the merits and demerits of mainstreaming transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the design and implementation of youth empowerment programmes at the Youth Summit.

End of Project Training for Kpor, Okana and Marine base Youth Leadership Network Members

CEHRD output two team organised end of project training in Marine base, Kpor and Okana between 12th and 23rd December, 2016 at Kpor, Okana and Marine base in Rivers State. The 9 days training which was attended by 333 persons (37 persons per day for 9 days) has as its objective to increase the knowledge of the youth network members and strengthen collaboration between community leaders and the network so as to effectively project one voice in the demand for transparency, accountability and inclusivity of marginalised persons in government employment/empowerment programmes.

The essence of the training is to boost the skills of the leaders and the network on media relations, organisational management, financial management, goal setting and project management, to be able to function independently. The trainings were geared towards helping them take advantage of new resources to better organise and effectively advocate for their issues.



A side view of the participants and facilitator during the training in Okana, Abual/Odual LGAs.

The youths demonstrated increased knowledge on media relations and skills, organisation management, financial management, drafting press releases, organising press conference and briefings, and project management.

Commemoration of International Women's Day 2016 by Peace Clubs, Rivers State

CEHRD staff visited Mogho community in Gokana Local government area to commemorate the International Women's day 2016 and to sensitize young persons on the need to shun all forms of electoral violence. Peace club members from Mogho and Bera communities (Gokana) and guests from Marine base, Abua/Odual Project Implementation Areas, PIAs, representatives of the security force, members of the Kpor Youth Network, political groups and community leaderships attended the event. The International Women's Day is an annual event celebrated globally every March 8th. The celebration is focused on calling for action to accelerate gender parity.

Speaking at the event, CEHRD director of programmes solicited stakeholders support in actualizing women participation in decision making, as well as providing space for women to attain leadership positions, just like their male counterparts.



Picture Description please

He made a plea to community stakeholders' to provide safe space for women so as to make them participate in elections, particularly the already held March 19 re-run election in Rivers state and in subsequent elections.

Entrepreneurship training for members of the peace club and facilitators

CEHRD organised entrepreneurship training in all Peace Club project communities. The training was designed and implemented to respond to the understanding that one major driver of violence against women and girls is poor means of livelihood which often results into economic violence. The training was held in Marine Base in Phalga LGA, Anyu in Abua/Odual LGA and Mogho/Bera in Gokana LGA between the 8th and 10th of June, 2016. The participants included peace club members within 14-17 years boys/girls and 18-24 girls.

The training led to remarkable entrepreneurship decisions among the peace club members. Amongst the results is the commencement of farming of plantain and banana on the hectare of land offered to them by one of the facilitators and a contact person in Anyu community by the Anyu peace club. The Marine Base peace club also set-up a pop-corn making business which will provide livelihood support for club members and also help them raise funds to keep the peace club going at the end of the funding term. Mogho and Bera peace clubs are now engaged in skills transfer within the club, which is focused at building capacity of club members by individuals within the club who have skills. With this, club members can start operating and making money from skills acquired – which includes; hair making, bead and soap making. This will help to sustain the Peace Club and for resource mobilization.



Entrepreneurship Training Session

Members of the peace club in project communities continued to meet on weekly basis to take part in their peace education training and sanitation exercises.

Media Engagement Focusing on the Role of Community in Reducing Incidences of Rape

CEHRD and Peace club members participated in radio programmes at Wazobia 94.1Fm and Rhythm 93.7FM both in Port Harcourt to discuss women economic empowerment, as an avenue of reducing violence against women/girls and the role of the community/public in reducing incidences of rape. This was in commemoration of the International Women’s Day 2016 with the theme: “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality”.

The discussions created public awareness on how female economic empowerment can reduce violence and the alarming incidences of rape both in the urban and rural communities of Rivers state.

Opening of Peace Club Mediation Centre

CEHRD organised an Official tape cutting and inauguration of the mediation centre in Mogho community, Gokana LGA, Rivers state on Thursday September 8th, 2016 by His Royal Highness - Mene Steven Kpea (Paramount Ruler of Mogho community) cutting the tapes.

During the commissioning, His Royal Highness - Chief Stephen Kpea encouraged community members to imbibe the culture of peace by ensuring that issues affecting them are properly addressed by channelling complaints to the peace club mediation centre, where reports of incidences of disputes would be captured for a prompt action, mainly through mediation. He promised to take it up as his responsibility to abolish the

law that prevents first daughters from getting married except they have delivered an illegitimate child to their fathers and also ensure that other harmful practices that infringe on the rights of women in his community will be abolished because these laws were made by men and they have in no way helped the women or the children.



Official tape cutting and inauguration of the mediation centre in Mogho community, Gokana LGA, Rivers State.

Advocacy Visit to the Rivers State Commissioner of Police (CP)

CEHRD and representatives of the peace club paid an advocacy visit to the Rivers state Commissioner of Police (CP) - Francis M. Odesanya on Friday August 26th, 2016. The advocacy team was made up of CEHRD representatives, two female and one male peace club members from Marine Base and the Peace club facilitator. The meeting with the Rivers State Commissioner of Police - Francis M. Odesanya also had in attendance the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Finance and Administration, Y.R.K Okoro.

The advocacy visit is to seek support from the Nigerian Police to ensure that the Violence against Persons' Prohibition Act (VAPP) is enforced by ensuring that gender desks in every division as directed by the former inspector General of Police- Solomon Arase are functional.

In his contribution, the Director of Programmes, CEHRD, Mr. Styvn Obodoekwe appreciated the CP for making out time to receive members of the advocacy team, and also solicited the enforcement of the VAPP Act 2015, which was signed into law by the former President – Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. He noted that, while efforts are being made by the peace club to raise public awareness on the VAPP Act, it is also important that the police give an enabling environment to bring offenders to book, thereby serving as deterrent to others.

Responding to the presentation by the advocacy team, CP Odesanya appreciated CEHRD and the Peace Club for its work in the last three (3) years, and promised that

the Police will do all within its capacity to give attention to it and other security issues which have posed immense challenge to the command in recent times. CP Odesanya on that premise instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Finance and Administration (Y.R. K Okoro) to identify and to assign gender desk officers across other police stations under the command to take-up issues around violence against persons.



Photo during the Peace Club Advocacy visit to the CP Rivers state - Francis Odesanya

ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Consultation / Interfacing with Relevant Environmental Agencies

CEHRD carried out consultation visits to the national headquarters of National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), whose mandate is to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for Nigerians. The aim of the visit was to seek support and partners to the project focused on the collation of environmental and oil spill data and monitoring for impact.

The agency described CEHRD visit and objectives of the project as timely, as it will aid all environmental agencies to effectively collect an all-inclusive range of environmental impact data, needed by the agency to achieve its mandate. The agency indicated that from its strategic plan, it aimed to use education and advocacy as its main tools of interaction with private companies and other layers of society. It expressed its willingness to partner with CEHRD and local community participants in the development of environmental advocacy and educational content for electronic media dissemination and public enlightenment.

NESREA also suggested that an all-inclusive infographic data website should be developed in partnership with all other government agencies, this, they stated, will form the basis for an all-encompassing information portal that could be used by all government agencies who have been saddled with the responsibility of protecting the environment in Nigeria for analysis and the development of intervention policies that are inclusive and participatory in manner.

National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA)

CEHRD carried out a consultation visit to the zonal office of the **National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA)** in Yenagoa, Bayelsa state. During the visit, the team intimated the Zonal office on the initial stages of the monitoring project, which covered the training and equipping of 60 oil spill monitors in potential oil spill prone rural communities in Rivers and Bayelsa states to qualitatively and quantitatively document data during oil spills, remediation activities and Joint Investigation activities. The team also shared with the agency the project, which looked to expand the network to other oil prone communities, which had not yet been earlier covered by the initial stages of the project.

The NOSDRA team which was headed by the Zonal Director, Mr. Francis Umeh, described the training and capacity building of the oil spills monitors across the two states as a welcomed step forward and a valuable development in the delivery of the agency's mandate. This he described as invaluable, since the zonal office in Bayelsa state was relatively new (6 months old) and needed community based contacts to share

and receive information. The agency however identified areas where additional work was needed to add depth and sustainability to the project with a view on achieving operational transparency and accountability within the region.

The Bayelsa zonal office of NOSDRA encouraged CEHRD to look into creating more awareness for the community members on the impact of oil spills on their environment and stir their understanding away from the mindset that sees an increase in the oil spilled as an increase in the compensation due. The agency expressed its willingness to collaborate in the delivery of such community mediations, capacity building trainings, meetings and workshops for rural communities. This, they believed will add quality to the capacity of knowledge transferred to the oil spill monitors and the overall outcome of the project.

Rivers and Bayelsa States Capacity Building Trainings Phase One (1)

CEHRD organised training of community monitors in Bori, Khana Local Government Area in Rivers state on the 4th of May 2016, while the training of community monitors in Bayelsa state was held on the 26th of March 2016 in the state capital, Yenagoa. The Bayelsa zonal office director and other officials from NOSDRA were in attendance and also anchored the JIV trainings and interactive sessions. The training focused on developing the capacity of the participants to use audiovisual techniques to qualitatively monitor oil spill activities and understanding Joint Investigation (JIV) processes in impacted communities.

CEHRD built the capacity of 20 community monitors comprising 15 men and 5 women from 14 communities in Rivers State and 21 community monitors comprising 13 men and 8 women from 14 communities in Bayelsa State and developed one (1) environmental incident Data sheet for Rivers and Bayelsa States; explored possible ways to incorporate the community monitors into the implementation plan of the UNEP report, which was flagged off by President, Muhammadu Buhari in June 2016. This is with the aim of carrying out independent monitoring and documentation of the process.



Participating oil spill monitors during the audio-visual sessions.



Training Phase 1 of the network of community monitors In Bayelsa state

Empowering Community Monitors Rivers and Bayelsa States Capacity Building Trainings Phase Two (2)

CEHRD organised the second phase of trainings for the Rivers state community monitors on the 18th of August 2016, in Bori, Khana Local Government Area in Rivers State. Also, the second phase of trainings for the Bayelsa state community monitors was held on the 26th of August 2016 at the state capital, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.

The trainings were aimed at exposing the community monitors to innovative ways to further partner with the regulatory agencies and increase synergy, especially during the implementation process of the recommendations contained in the UNEP report and increase the capacity of the community monitors to share information via the social media platforms (Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter) using the android smart phones.

The representatives of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA, built the capacity of the oil spill monitors to collect data using NOSDRA approved

mechanisms and data inputs procedures, for quick reporting and remediation of impacted oil spill areas and locations in the Niger Delta.

One of the outcomes of the training was a communiqué outlining recommendations that can be taken by the government to improve environmental monitoring in impacted communities and increase synergy between communities and regulatory agencies. Environmental incident reports from the target communities were identified and collated. These reports are compiled in the Environmental Data sheet. 10 community monitors were equipped with 10 mobile android smart phones for environmental incident data reporting and communication.



NOSDRA official during the interactive session



CEHRD coordinator delivering Keynote Address

Media Component

CEHRD produced a 5 minutes educational video on the importance of environmental monitoring and baseline data collection by community people and two (2) audio Jingles in Pidgin English (Creole) and Normal English for radio airing in Rivers and Bayelsa states. The educational short length documentary video shows the importance of community environmental baseline data collection and how it can help communities' to non-violently advocate for adequate remediation and compensation if impacted.

Implementation of an environmental protection talk show on Creek 106.6 FM, Bayelsa state with the theme – “The Implementation of the UNEP report and its wider impacts on the Niger Delta.”

CEHRD published four (4) newspaper stories on the effectiveness of community based environmental monitoring, non-violent interactions between communities, environmental agencies and its wider benefits to the environment. CEHRD also published one press release on the 5th anniversary of the submission of the UNEP report (4th August, 2016). The press release focused on combating the challenges facing the recent flag off of the Implementation processes by the Federal Government and possible recommendation that will ensure its transparent and effective implementation.

Some of the outcomes were the expansion of the network of oil monitoring communities from 30 communities to 58 communities and increase in the spread of community monitors from 60 people in 2015 to **101** monitors in 2016. We also produced the environmental incident report sheet for project target communities in Rivers and Bayelsa states.

Publication of Policy Papers

In 2016, CEHRD published three policy papers on Key Issues on Human Rights, Environmental Justice and Natural Resource Governance and Accountability in the Niger Delta. The Policy papers were designed to enhance the advocacy, lobbying and institutional engagement processes of the project. They are:

Policy Research on the Quality of life in Oil Impacted Communities

This research on the quality of life explores how oil and gas exploitation has affected the living conditions of citizens in oil impacted communities, and what responses as well as coping mechanisms has communities employed to engage oil companies and governments to address the challenges. To that end, the research looked at how environmental degradation directly affects human health, water, livelihood sources and other socio-economic conditions. It also examines the interventionist approaches of governments and oil companies over time, and the perception or reactions of the affected communities to such interventions. It demanded for improvement in policy and operational response from government and oil companies towards communities in the

Niger Delta. The research findings shall form part of our engagements and advocacy with key stakeholders from 2017.

Completion of the Policy Research Project on the Conversion of Oil Revenue into Economic Services and Infrastructure in Bayelsa State

This research project examines the poor state of development in Bayelsa State despite the huge oil revenues that have flowed into the state, which has raised a number of questions including: what has happened to the huge oil revenues? How much of the revenue have been converted into economic services and infrastructure? What is the nature of the public expenditure pattern? This paper sets out to answer these questions. The specific objectives were to determine the socio-economic impacts of oil revenues on citizens of Bayelsa State; track public spending on pro-poor concerns; and document qualitative and quantitative service delivery at the community level. The analysis indicates that public expenditure pattern neglects the concerns of the poor, and rather focuses on white elephant or elite projects such as airports, etc., which adds no value to the quality of life of majority of citizens. The paper recommends the establishment of a poverty reduction fund (PRF), which will take a proportion of state budget to fund pro-poor concerns.

Completion of the Policy Research Report on Revenue Utilization by the Rivers State Government since 1999

This policy brief is based on research on utilization of oil revenues by the Rivers State government for the welfare of citizens. It addressed a key question of how government has utilized oil revenues and how this has impacted living conditions of citizens since 1999. It further raised questions of lack of transparency and accountability in the management of public resources in the Niger Delta and proposed policy actions on greater openness and improvement in Natural Resource Governance in the region.

Completion of the Research Report on the Impacts of oil and gas extraction on Women and Children in the Niger Delta

This research highlights the negative effects of oil and gas extraction on women's lives and livelihoods in the Niger Delta region. The study argues that women are mostly the victims of environmental degradation and human rights violations in the region. It also noted that Lands have been acquired for oil operational activities and without compensation paid to owners, especially women. The Environment has been devastated-rivers polluted, streams, mangrove and rainforests destroyed, the very source of livelihood of the women of the Delta have consequently been destroyed. Protests by women against these have been met with repressions, leading to rape, death and loss of their sons, husbands and other loved ones. Indeed the survival and existence of the women of the Niger Delta is hanging in the balance.

Capacity Building for Members of the Rivers and Bayelsa State Houses of Assembly

CEHRD organised capacity building training for members of the Rivers and Bayelsa States Houses of Assembly. The capacity building training was designed to strengthen the capacity of State legislators on regulatory policies and best practice mechanisms that will enhance their work as representatives of constituencies of which local communities are part of and so look up to them to initiate the change process. Participants at the training includes: Elected members of the Rivers and Bayelsa States Houses of Assembly, Legislative Aids, Administrative staff from the two Houses of Assembly, Key Civil Society Partners of CEHRD, Resource Persons drawn from the civil society and academic institutions and the media.

The training programme held for two days respectively in each State and was implemented in collaboration with Amnesty International (AI) Nigeria.



Members of Bayelsa State House of Assembly at the end of the Training.



The Rt. Hon. Daborudima Adams, Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly giving his opening remark during the training.

Bayelsa State House of Assembly Key Resolutions

Participants resolved and demanded as follows:

- That regulatory agencies be empowered to end dependence on oil companies and there is urgent need to streamline the functions of the multiple regulatory agencies in the oil and gas sector to eliminate conflict of interests/functions which give oil companies lee way to continue degrading the environment, thereby defeating the purposes for which the agencies were created.
- That the constitution be amended to give state legislators oversight powers over activities of the oil companies operating in their domain in order to regulate their activities and protect their local environment.
- That Environmental Impact Assessment and other laws available for environmental protection should be diligently enforced. EIAs should be made transparent, participatory and accountable in accordance with the provisions of the laws governing them.
- That communities be enlightened on their environmental and human rights and responsibilities by government and civil society.
- That there should be an urgent and speedy passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill as a panacea for dousing the current spate of agitations in the oil producing communities.
- That there be sustained and continuous collaboration between legislators, as true representatives of the people and NGOs/Civil Society, especially, Centre for Environment Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), NACGOND and Amnesty International.
- That Bayelsa Legislators shall work towards a Regional Forum for Legislators from the Niger Delta to address the region's peculiar environmental challenges.
- That regular capacity building for law makers to enhance their oversight abilities for the benefit of their constituents/constituencies be organised.
- That the Bayelsa State House of Assembly shall set up research and documentation desk to collate data on environmental and human rights abuses/violations.
- That Oil Companies dominant in the state be mandated to respect domestic laws and abide by international standards;
- That poverty, marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region be addressed as a more sustainable way of tackling the problem of insecurity rather than militarization.

Rivers State House of Assembly Key Resolutions

Participants resolved as follows:

- Empowering regulatory agencies to insulate them from over dependence on the oil companies. In addition there is an urgent need to streamline the functions of

the multiple regulatory agencies in the oil and gas sector in order to eliminate conflict of interest/functions which has allowed the oil companies the lee way to continue degrading the environment, thereby defeating the purposes for which the agencies were created.

- Amendment of the constitution to give states oversight over activities of the oil companies in order to regulate the activities of the oil companies and better protect the environment.
- Enforcing the Joint Investigation Visits, Environmental Impact Assessment, and other laws available for environmental protection. EIAs and JIVs should be made to be transparent, participatory and accountable in accordance with the provisions of the EIAs and JIVs.
- Renegotiating the Joint Venture agreements between the government and the oil companies to ensure that the government does not remain in a situation that it is being forced to regulate itself or to be a judge on its own matter.
- Urgent and speedy passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill as a panacea for dousing the current spate of agitations in the oil producing communities.
- Sustained and continuous collaboration between legislators, as the true representatives of the people and NGOs/Civil Society, especially Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) and Amnesty International.
- Regular capacity building for lawmakers to enhance their lawmaking oversight functions for the benefit of their constituencies.

RURAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

IMMUNIZATION OF BEBOR PUPILS

The CEHRD School Health Programme has made significant impacts on the health of Bebor pupils. We continued with the programme to Bori and Bane where we met with the Parents/Care givers of the pupils. Health tips on how to sustain the health of the pupils at home and/or during holidays were given followed by the immunisation and mass de-worming of the school populace.



Pupils receiving Immunisation at their schools

Staff Training and Development

During the year 2016, CEHRD trained its staff in the areas of proposal writing and fund raising, project design, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and institutional engagement. CEHRD staff also participated in other training activities organised by other organisations, partners and stakeholders.



Photo of CEHRD staff during training on proposal writing at the Ken Saro-Wiwa hall of Fame