



COMMUNITIES' PERCEPTIONS OF THE OGONI CLEAN-UP PROJECT





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communities' Perceptions of the Ogoni Clean-up Project

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Executive Summary

Oil pollution is widespread in the Niger Delta and is caused by a combination of poor maintenance, corrosion, faulty equipment, failed clean-up attempts, bunkering (i.e. large-scale illegal tapping of oil from pipelines) as well as artisanal refining (i.e. small-scale, illegal refining of oil).

In June 2016, the Federal Government of Nigeria officially launched the Ogoni clean-up process to implement the recommendations of a detailed environmental assessment by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) published in 2011, and to restore the environment. Subsequently, in 2017, the Government established and mandated the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to oversee the clean-up process.

This study aims to inform HYPREP and other key stakeholders of possible ways to manage communities' expectations for a successful clean-up process, by highlighting the current perceptions of selected impacted communities in Ogoniland. For this study, we visited the following 8 communities spread across the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ogoniland: Ekpangbala and Agbi-Ogale in Eleme LGA, Gio and Kporghor in Tai LGA, K-Dere and Mogho in Gokana LGA, and Kpean and Buan in Khana LGA.

The report presents several main findings. First, almost all communities we visited are negative about their well-being, primarily because of oil pollution. Although community members are a bit more positive about their communities situations (expressed as a sense of community and strength of social relationships), people in all communities have negative perception of their capabilities, livelihoods, housing, living environments as well as their lands and natural resources.

Second, from a community perspective, it almost seems as if there is no oil spill response system in Ogoniland. Most community members do not consider the current response system effective, because most spills are not contained and cleaned, or only partially cleaned. Oil companies are recognized as the main responders to oil spillages, while government is considered largely absent when it comes to oil spill containment and cleanup.

In addition, Ogoni communities have heard about the clean-up, but do not have a detailed understanding what the project is about, many do not believe it has started and do not know exactly who they can contact for more information.

Fourth, Ogoni communities have a somewhat negative impression of the clean-up project so far, primarily because of the long delays and lack of tangible results in the still highly polluted areas. Nevertheless, there is significant optimism that the clean-up project could still operate smoothly and achieve its overall goal, but only if relevant government agencies and officials are sincere and committed, if there is adequate compensation, sufficient funding for clean-up activities as well as inclusive and youth-focused communication and community participation in the actual clean-up activities.

Moreover, Ogoni communities have high expectations of the clean-up project that go beyond the cleaning up of oil spills and environmental remediation. Most community members expect the project will provide a large number of jobs, (monetary) compensation as well as improved health due to improved living conditions and better health care access. Youth and women expect to benefit from skills training in the areas of welding and fabrication, ICT, tailoring & fashion design as well as farming and fishing. Because there are significant exceptions in preference among men and women, any skills development program requires a gender-sensitive needs assessment to avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes.

Finally, communities in Ogoniland realize that the clean-up process will be challenging. They are particularly concerned about the availability of funding, consider the current approach of community engagement inadequate and not sufficiently inclusive, and believe that the clean-up project risks being politicized, particularly in the run up to 2019 elections.

The report concludes by providing several recommendations. Improvement of community engagement is considered critical for a successful clean-up process. This comprises not only more effective communication but also a more inclusive, bottom-up approach to engaging with ordinary community members. In addition, the provision of compensation, particularly for those most affected by oil spill pollution, remains important for many community members. Involvement of youth in the clean-up project is a third recommendation, and considered particularly important from a perspective of conflict prevention and avoidance of re-pollution due to bunkering (oil theft) and artisanal refining. The report ends by elaborating some of the recommendations into concrete actions, which are meant as input for continued dialogue between the various stakeholders in the Ogoni clean-up process.

Part 1: Introduction



communities' Perceptions of the Ogoni Clean-up Project

women and youth representatives as well as case studies and personal life stories. The views of government, private sector and civil society representatives were documented during semi-structured interviews.

Selection of Communities

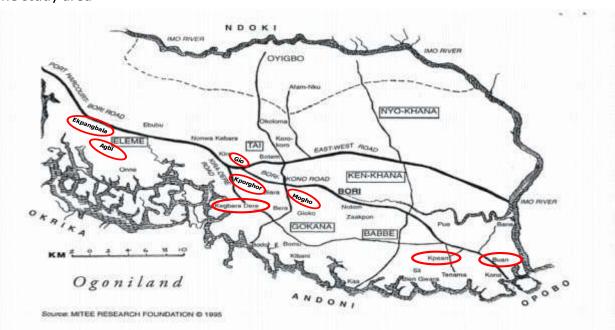
For this study, we visited the following 8 communities spread across the four LGAs of Ogoniland: Ekpangbala and Agbi-Ogale in Eleme LGA, Gio and Kporghor in Tai LGA, K-Dere and Mogho in Gokana LGA, and Kpean and Buan in Khana LGA.

The main criteria used for the selection of these communities included:

- 1) intensity of oil-related impact (most impacted);
- 2) population density (most densely populated);
- 3) natural resource type affected: water, farmland/crops, soil, swamp;
- 4) high incidence of conflict (cult rivalry, chieftaincy, boundary disputes over land, division of compensation money, etc.). To off-set the (unavoidable) selection bias as much as possible, we initially included 1 'control' community without any major oil-related impact, less densely populated, that did not have most of its natural resources affected and had less conflict. However, we had to drop the proposed control case due to internal community conflict.

The location of the 8 selected communities is indicated in the map below:

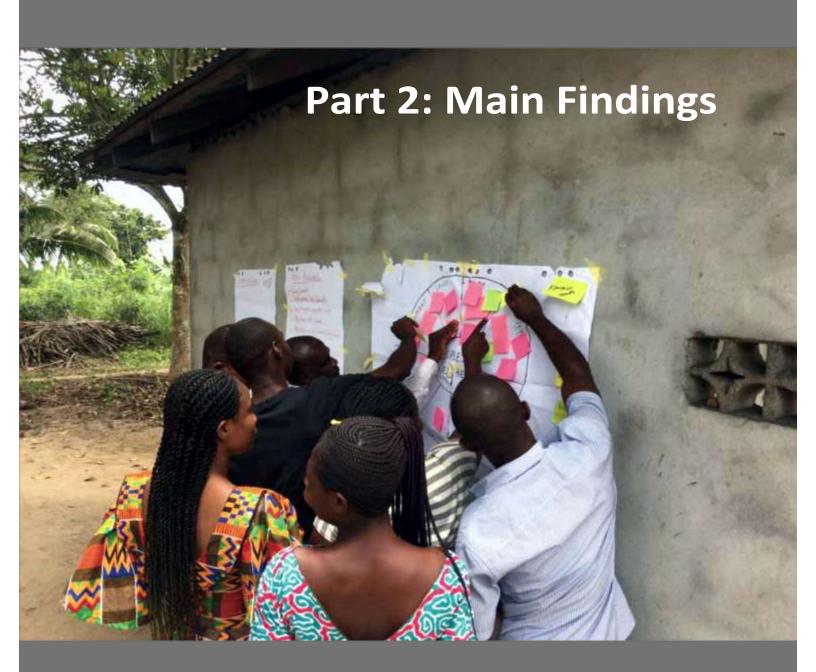
The study area



All charts presented in this report are based on aggregation of quantitative data collected during the community survey. Each chart mentions the total number of responses, indicated by 'n = [relevant number]. In some cases, such as those presenting recommendations, the charts include data from multiple answers from one single respondent. Because of the detailed nature of the data, for some questions we had to harmonize the individual

responses into somewhat broader categories to present the material in a more readable format. Finally, all data were analyzed from a gender-sensitive perspective; where there are significant differences in the responses given by men and women, we have disaggregated the data accordingly; (see, for example, the chapters on expectations and recommendations).

The report is divided into three parts; in addition to this introductory part, the second part focuses on the key findings while the third part focuses on recommendations.



2. What Communities Think About Their Current Situation

2.1 Key Findings from Community Focus Group Discussions

To assess communities' perceptions of the current situation in their villages, we asked representatives from different community groups (chiefs, women, youth) to score the following eight different dimensions of life in their communities:⁷

- 1. People's capabilities: capacities and skills;
- 2. Community: social cohesion, strength of relationships, prevalence of peace or conflict;
- 3. Culture: active social-cultural life related to ceremonies/festivals, cemeteries, shrines;
- 4. Livelihoods: ability to grow / find food;
- 5. Infrastructure and services: condition of roads, water & sanitation, energy supply, health;
- 6. Housing: quality of housing, buildings for businesses;
- 7. Living environment: quality of air, water, soil, vegetation, weather;
- 8. Land & natural resources: land use, quality of natural resources (trees, mangroves, swamps, rivers, etc.).

These eight dimensions of the 'social framework for projects' were presented on a flip chart during focus groups in the various communities. Using a simple scale of bad (pink) - medium (yellow) - good (green) in the form of color-coded post-it notes, we asked community members to 'score' these dimensions. The pictures below provide a selection of such scores:









Figure 2: 'Social Framework scores' from (left to right) K-Dere, Mogho, Gio and Agbi-Ogale on 7th, 16th, 19th and 20th April, 2018.

⁷ Smyth, Eddie and Frank Vanclay (2017), "The Social Framework for Projects: A Conceptual But Practical Model to Assist in Assessing, Planning and Managing the Social Impacts of Projects", *Impact Assessment and Appraisal (IAPA)*, Vol. 35, No 1, pp.65-80.





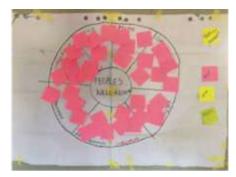


Figure 3: 'Social Framework scores' from (left to right) Kporghor, Ekpangbala and Buan on 26th, 27th and 30th April, 2018. (no social framework score available for Kpean).

As shown in figures 2 and 3 above, the communities we visited generally have a negative perception of people's well-being, primarily because of oil pollution. Although community members in places like K-Dere and Mogho are a bit more positive about their communities' situations (expressed as 'a sense of community' and 'strength of social relationships), people in all communities have a mostly negative perception of their capabilities, livelihoods, housing, living environment as well as their land and natural resources. This is illustrated by the personal stories of several prominent community representatives presented throughout this report.



Creek polluted with oil near K-Dere (January 2017).

Personal story of Chief Dominic Tegbo (K-Dere)

"My great-grandfather was the deputy chief of the K-Dere council of chiefs. I spent all of my childhood in K-Dere, including in 1958 when they started with oil production here. Initially, K-Dere resisted and people obstructed the caterpillars [i.e. the excavators used by oil companies] from entering our area. However, some time K-Dere community surrendered; our fathers were tricked and gave their permission to SPDC to start oil production; an agreement was signed, but most of our fathers could not read and write. SPDC just gave us peanuts, some ten thousand Naira (approx. USD 25) here and there. When people protested and blocked the road, they would just call in the police, who would beat us.

Before oil production started, our yams were so big and fat; there was plenty of big fish, we had periwinkles and crabs. Nowadays, because of the oil pollution, the fish has largely gone and



what's left tastes very bitter. At some point, I left and lived in the UK for more than 30 years. When I came back a few years ago, it was so sad to see what had happened to K-Dere; it was no longer the place I remembered from my childhood. Our environment and livelihoods are destroyed. And the situation only seems to be getting worse.

The clean-up needs to be done properly; we need neutral scientists who do not deceive us. Our boys [i.e. youth] need something to do, they can be trained, for example into construction, repair of motorcycles, etc. Now, they have nothing to do and no other means of survival than breaking into pipes and cooking the oil [i.e. artisanal refining]. Yet, HYPREP is not carrying us along. Yes, they talk to Ogoni representatives but that information does not reach us. How can you forget the host communities themselves? Why is there no regular and real dialogue? Why have they not started with training our youth yet? That way, they will have no problem when they start, because people have seen something in return. We know they cannot employ every youth in our community; but already a few will make a big difference. If they are going ahead with the clean-up with only outsiders, the youth will cause trouble."

3. Perceived Effectiveness of the Current Oil Spill Response System

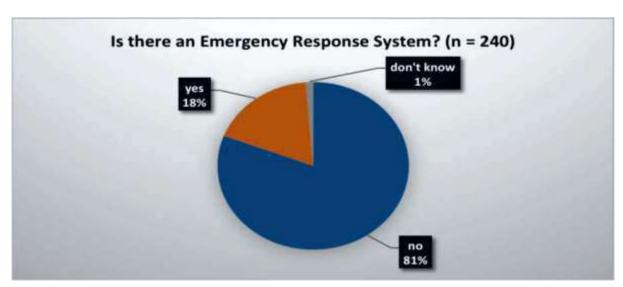
3.1 Introduction

The overall responsibility for oil spill emergency response throughout Nigeria lies with the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). Dependent on the outcome of a joint investigation visit (JIV), the company operating the relevant oil facility or pipeline has primary responsibility for responding to the spill, regardless of its cause, for example, operational faults, poor maintenance or 'third party interference' such as sabotage and theft/'bunkering'). However, the reality in the Niger Delta, including Ogoniland, is that many oil spills are not reported and emergency response can take a long time; in extreme cases several weeks or even months, as happened in Bodo community. The main reason for the slow response given by NOSDRA and the oil companies, is the difficulty in accessing the spill sites, for example because of poor weather, remoteness, insecurity, protests or being denied permission by the local community.

3.2 Key Findings

In the survey, we asked community representatives several questions related to the current (oil spill) emergency response system. The main findings and a brief analysis are presented below.

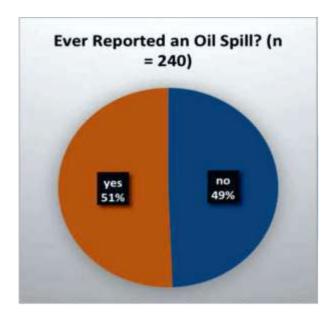
Response System Awareness and Effectiveness

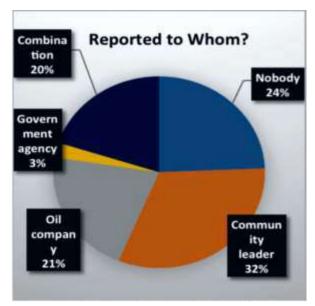


A large majority of respondents mentioned that there is no emergency response system. This does not necessarily mean that it does not exist, but it is a clear indication that either there is very limited awareness of the current response system or that, at least from the perspective of most community representatives, it is currently not 'real' or functioning.

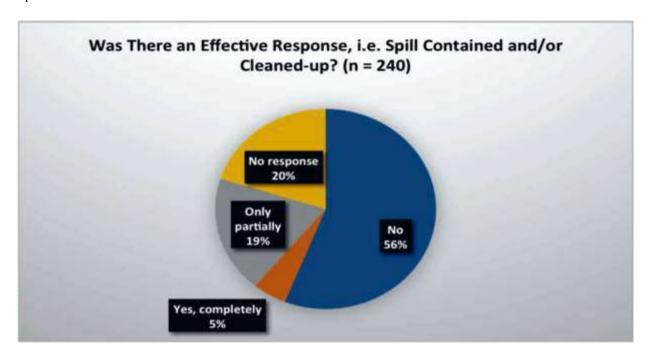
⁸ National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). Revised 2010.

⁹ Amnesty International (2018), *Negligence in the Niger Delta. Decoding Shell's and ENI's Poor Record on Oil Spills* (Al: London), p.24.





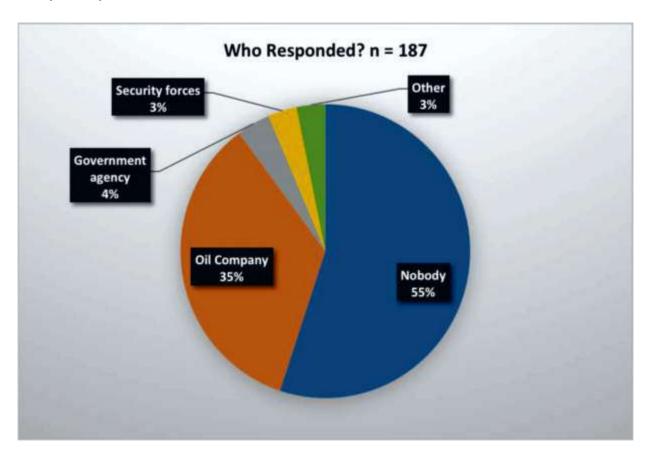
Despite the large number of spills in Ogoniland, a little over half of our respondents have ever reported an oil spill. Those who did report mainly reported to community leaders (32%), oil companies (21%) or a combination of actors (20%), primarily at community level (including paramount rulers and chiefs). Only 3% reported to government agencies, including the agency responsible for detection and response, i.e. NOSDRA. This could be because of knowledge gaps on what communication channels to use in the event of an oil spill.



An effective response to an oil spill requires that the spill is contained and that the affected area is cleaned, i.e. oil pollution removed and area remediated. For those cases where a spill

was responded to, very few respondents answered it, (5%). In contrast, most community representatives did not think the response was effective at all (56%), while a significant number believed it was only partially effective (19%).

Oil Spill Response



According to community members, most oil spillages did not receive any response (55%). For those that did receive a response, this was mainly conducted by oil companies (35%). In the view of community members, government agencies, including NOSDRA, HYPREP and security forces, are hardly involved in oil spill response.

3.3 Conclusion

From a community perspective, it almost seems as if there is no oil spill response system in Ogoniland. This indicates either a limited community awareness of the response system or a strong belief that it is not working in practice, i.e. has not made any tangible difference in areas where oil spillages have occurred. Related to this, most community members do not consider the current response system effective because most spills are not contained and cleaned, or are only partially cleaned. Oil companies are seen as the main responders to oil spillages, while government is considered largely absent.

Personal story of Chief Mrs. Justina Kuru (Mogho)



"Because of the spill we don't have coco yams again. Even our pumpkin vegetables are damaged by the acidic rain, yet these leaves are used by the widows, orphans and poor women to cook native soup, when there is no money. We are in agony during spills. The farming areas cannot be cultivated again. If you plant on it, the crops will not grow.

Several people have been coming from different (government or company) agencies, but we don't trust any of them. Even the Ministry of Environment did some sort of review, but nothing has been done really.

One day I went out to the farm, I crossed the stream and my clothes were soaked. I was hungry and decided to roast yam to eat. When I put on light, I was not aware that my clothes had drawn gas from the crude and caught fire. Thank God, I pulled off the clothes immediately. If not, I would have been burnt to ashes.

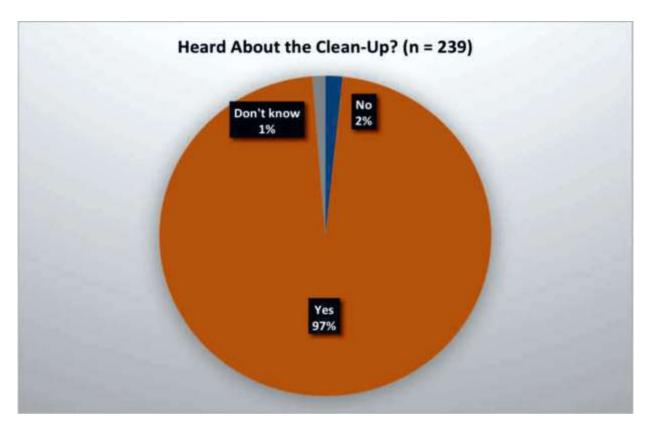
If government is serious about the clean-up, I will be very happy because we are tired of the deceit. I expect them to implement the work and restore the land back to its former glory. Most of the youths who are violent are so because of idleness. Normally, our community members don't look for white collar jobs. At night, the youths go to catch fish and crayfish and sell it to get money. However, now everything is out of control because of the pollution.

The government should employ our youths and empower them. The mothers in our community should be considered as well because women bear most of the burden and many of them are widows. They should be assisted with their trades."

4. Community Awareness of the Clean-Up Process

4.1 Introduction

Since the official launch of the Ogoni oil spill clean-up project in June 2016, there has been a lot of talk in Ogoniland, Rivers State and throughout Nigeria about the process. The question is, however, if all this talk has led to improved community awareness and understanding of the clean-up process.

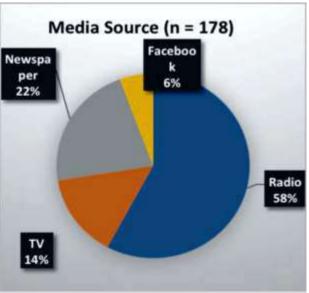


Our survey confirms that almost all community members have heard about the clean-up project (see chart above), and so in general terms have a basic awareness of it. Yet, as we will see below, this does not necessarily mean communities have a detailed understanding of what the clean-up project is all about, if it has started, and who they can contact for more information.

4.2 Key findings

Sources of Information





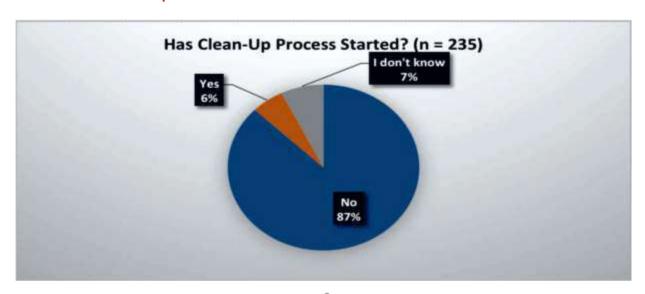
The above-left chart indicates that community members use a combination of information sources to learn about the clean-up project. Community meetings, community leaders and the media are the main sources of information. Zooming in on media sources (above-right chart), it becomes clear that radio is by far the most popular source of information (58%), followed by newspapers (22%) and TV (14%). Even though there is a lot of hype about Facebook and Twitter, at this moment social media seems to be an almost negligible source of information for most community members in Ogoniland, at least when it comes to acquiring information about the clean-up project.

Community Understanding of the Clean-Up



The chart above indicates that community members have a varied understanding of the clean-up project. Roughly 30% of the people interviewed consider the clean-up a technical process aimed at removing the environmental pollution from oil-affected areas in Ogoniland. Most people, however, highlight one of the clean-up's (expected) socioeconomic components: creation of job and business opportunities (19%), compensation (18%) and skills training (17%). Only a limited number of people think the clean-up will involve resettlement (7%) or contribute to an improvement of security (5%).

Status of the Clean-Up



Interestingly, the overwhelming majority of community members (87%) do not think the clean-up process has started. Only a small part (6%) believes it has started or doesn't know (7%). When asked why they believe the clean-up has not started, community members give different reasons, including but not limited to:

"There is nothing on the ground to show that it has started";

"There is no physical presence or staff of HYPREP in our area";

"None of the UNEP-recommended emergency measures has been implemented";

"Nobody has come to clean up and the pollution remains".

Those who believe the clean-up has started cited the following reasons:

"It has started in Bodo, but not in our community"

"Because the government has established a Governing Council and Board of Trustees"

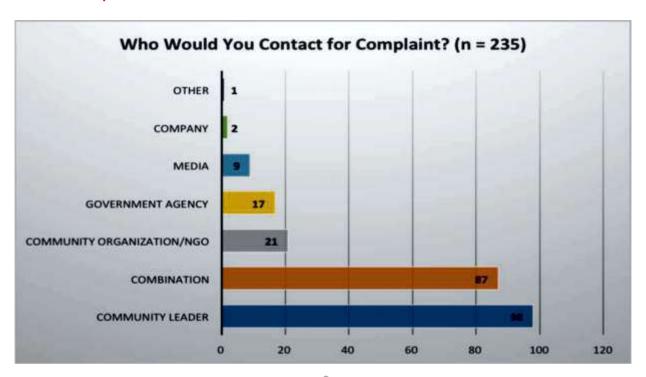
"Because the inauguration of HYPREP is done"

Finally, those who replied 'I don't know' provided the following reasons:

"Because there is no information about the process"

"Because we have not seen anything yet"

Trusted Complaint Handlers



It is widely acknowledged that effective grievance management is a critical requirement for any business operation, particularly in the (onshore) oil and gas sector where social and environmental impacts on local communities are likely to occur.¹⁰ Therefore, we also asked community members who they would contact if they had a complaint about the clean-up process: 42% preferred contacting a community leader, while 37% would contact two or more of the above-mentioned actors (with a slight preference for community and civil society actors, including community leaders, NGOs and media).

4.3 Conclusion

Ogoni communities have certainly heard about the clean-up, but do not have a detailed understanding what the project is about, many do not believe it has started and do not know exactly who they can contact for more information.

-

¹⁰ (2010) UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNOHCHR: Geneva). For a useful toolkit, see: IPIECA (2014) Community Grievance Mechanisms in the Oil and Gas Industry. A Manual for Implementing Operational-Level Grievance Mechanisms and Designing Corporate Frameworks (IPIECA: London).

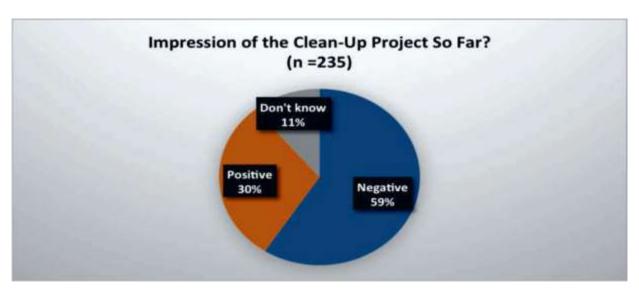
5. Perceived Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Clean-Up Project

5.1 Introduction

The clean-up project is a complex, multi-faceted process that, as indicated above, people understand differently. This chapter focuses on how communities in Ogoniland assess the project's efficiency — i.e. whether it is functioning smoothly or not— as well as its effectiveness — i.e. whether the project is achieving its overall goal of environmental remediation. The clean-up project only started recently and its real efficiency and effectiveness can only be measured after its completion, which is expected to be several years if not decades from now. Nevertheless, since community views and positions regarding the clean-up may have a significant impact on the progress of the clean-up project, particularly in terms of community support and community access, it is important to regularly take stock of community perceptions, including at the beginning of the project.

5.2 Key Findings

Overall Impression of the Clean-Up



The chart above indicates that a majority of community members (59%) have an overall negative view of the clean-up project, at least up until now. When asked why, their motivations differ somewhat but many point to the long delays, poor communication and lack of tangible activities, in particular the non-implementation of the so-called 'emergency measures' already recommended since 2011¹¹:

"We only hear promises; there are no visible signs of clean-up in our communities"

"Two years after the flag-off, nothing has been done"

"Nothing is happening because of politicization and bureaucracy"

-

¹¹ UNEP (2011) Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland (Nairobi: UNEP), p.13.

"We have not received clean water, healthcare or trainings for our youth"

However, almost a third of community members have a more positive impression of the clean-up project, although this assessment seems dependent on their future expectations of the project:

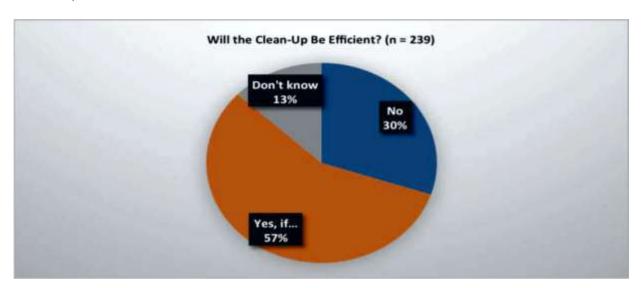
"If it is done properly, it will restore our environment and livelihoods"

"If it actually happens, it will improve living conditions and create jobs for our youths"

"I want to keep a positive outlook; I have not seen HYPREP here, but if we are carried along in the planning and the process is managed well, it will be okay"

Perceived Clean-Up Efficiency

As explained before, efficiency here refers to the extent to which communities feel the clean-up project has been functioning – i.e. with or without problems– at least up until now and likely to be in the future.



A small majority of community members (57%) believes the clean-up project will be efficient, but only if certain conditions related to process management, communication, inclusion and neutrality are met:

"If it is done properly, meaning due diligence before any activities as well as proper planning and implementation"

"If the affected communities and youth are carried along, which means there should be good communication and consultation with all stakeholders"

"If political interference is avoided"

A significant portion of community members (30%), however, does not believe the clean-up will be efficient, for a variety of reasons:

"The landowners, youth and host communities have not been actively engaged"

"Without compensation, it will not work: 'settlement' [i.e. compensation] must be made"

"There will be political interference"

"If the youth will not be employed in the process, there will be trouble"

Finally, 13% of the survey respondents do not know if the clean-up project will be efficient or not.

Clean-Up Effectiveness

Effectiveness is defined here as the extent to which community members believe the cleanup project can achieve its overall goal, i.e. environmental remediation of the oil-polluted sites in Ogoniland.



A significant majority of community members (67%) believe that the clean-up can succeed in remediating the Ogoni environment. However, this same group emphasizes that the effectiveness of the clean-up project is only possible if certain (necessary) conditions are met:

"If the government is sincere and things are done properly"

"If the process is not hijacked by politicians, including those from our area"

"As long as competent companies do their job and experts are allowed to carry out their work"

"UNEP and other international actors need to be involved"

"Only if our youth is empowered (trained) and communities are consulted properly"

Almost a quarter of survey respondents do not know if the project will be effective or not. Finally, 11% of community members are less optimistic and believe the project will not be effective, for several reasons:

"There has been no serious commitment from government"

"There will be a lot of politicization and corruption: the clean-up will turn into a campaign ground"

"Illegal refining must be stopped to prevent re-pollution"

Requirements for an Efficient and Effective Clean-Up

Even though most community members in Ogoniland seem willing to give the clean-up project 'the benefit of the doubt' (see above), trust between communities, government and companies is clearly low and almost everyone feels that the project can only succeed if certain key conditions are met. The chart below provides the top-10 such conditions.



What community members believe is needed most is sincerity and commitment from government officials and agencies involved in the clean-up. In our view, this is an indication of the (very) low level of trust Ogoni communities have in government because of many years of neglect and broken promises.

Two other key conditions cited for an efficient and effective clean-up is adequate (monetary) compensation for those most affected by the oil spills as well as sufficient government funding for clean-up activities. Regarding the latter, there is a strong impression among Ogoni communities that government has not (yet) allocated sufficient financial resources for clean-up activities.

The other reasons are all related to the need for more inclusive participation and better communication of community members in the clean-up process. In this connection, youth involvement/employment and training is seen as critically important.

5.3 Conclusion

The Ogoni communities contacted for this study have a somewhat negative impression of the clean-up project so far, primarily because of the long delays and lack of tangible results in their still highly-polluted areas. Nevertheless, there is significant optimism that the clean-up project could still operate smoothly and achieve its overall goal, but only if relevant government agencies and officials are sincere and committed, if there is adequate compensation, sufficient funding for clean-up activities as well as inclusive and youth-focused communication and community participation in the actual clean-up activities.

6. Community Expectations of the Clean-Up Project

6.1. Introduction

Given the many years of untreated oil spills and overall developmental neglect in Ogoniland, it is no surprise that most community members have high expectations of the clean-up project. This chapter provides an overview of both the general expectations people have as well as what kind of skills they expect to acquire as a result of their involvement in the process.

6.2 Key Findings

Related to the different understanding of what the clean-up project entails (chapter 4), community members have a broad range of expectations. The chart below presents the 10 most-cited expectations of the project.

Clean-Up Expectations



Employment and business opportunities are by far the most frequently mentioned expectations of the project. This is not surprising given the high rate of unemployment in Ogoniland. This expectation is almost the same among men and women. Discussions with youth and women representatives indicate that job expectations range from low-skilled work such as clearing and digging to medium-and higher-skilled jobs such as operators of heavy-duty machinery (excavators and trucks), welding and electrical engineering.

Improved basic services (such as healthcare, education and electricity) feature as the second-highest expectation preferred by 57% of men against 43% of women. Third comes skills training, particularly for youth. Skills training is mentioned significantly more by men (66%) than by women (34%). Another expectation from the clean-up project is (monetary) compensation, mentioned slightly more by women (56%) than men (44%). Although staff of HYPREP and key stakeholders at Rivers State and Federal level during interviews strongly disapproved of the idea that compensation will be part of the clean-up project, many

community members in Ogoniland clearly have a different view on this. Finally, given the severely oil-polluted environment in Ogoniland, it is no surprise that environmental restoration and a clean and healthy environment also feature high in community expectations of the clean-up project.

Skills Training Expectations

The clean-up project is likely to provide some form of practical and vocational skills training, either directly related to oil spill clean-up or, more indirectly, related to the restoration of livelihoods in Ogoniland. Skills training expectations are particularly high among the youth. Many youth are currently unemployed and sometimes involved in criminal activities, including oil theft ('bunkering') and artisanal refining. When asked about their preferred skills training subjects, community members gave the following feedback:



Our research shows that community members would like to be trained primarily on technical skills, such as welding and fabrication, information and communication technology (ICT), and to a lesser extent, operation of heavy duty machinery such as trucks and excavators. However, these skills are clearly more popular among men than women. Women prefer training on tailoring & fashion design as well as catering, although there is a significant group of women who are also interested being trained on a variety of technical skills. Therefore, there is need for a more nuanced, gender-sensitive approach to skills training development that avoids reinforcing gender stereotypes.

A significant number of community members continue to be interested in farming and fishing and are particularly interested in how they can improve their agricultural production and processing techniques.

6.3 Conclusion

Ogoni communities have high expectations of the clean-up project that clearly go beyond the cleaning up of oil spills in their area and subsequent remediation of the environment.

Most community members expect the project will provide a large number of jobs, (monetary) compensation as well as improved health due to improved living conditions and better health care access. Moreover, community members, in particularly youth and women, expect to benefit from skills training in the areas of welding and fabrication, ICT, tailoring & fashion design as well as farming and fishing. Although men are generally more attracted to technical skills while women are relatively more interested in manufacturing, there are significant exceptions. Therefore, any skills development training program requires a detailed gender-sensitive needs assessment to ensure a good fit with people's preferences and to avoid reinforcing gender stereotypes.

Personal Story of Olai Nwolu Gomba, youth leader of Ekpangbala community

"From what I can remember growing up in Ekpangbala, we were fishermen, hunters and farmers. Those were our major sources of livelihood. Right now, we no longer farm because the ground is not yielding and this is stressful. The youths are really suffering, such that our life span has been cut short. We no longer reach 80 or 60 years. Most of our death posters are from 32, 42 and 50 years old.

To be frank, the youths are involved dangerous things. The youth do all this block moulding, and other daily wage work just to survive. We really hope the clean-up is real because we really need it. I think if the Government wants to help, they can support us with skill acquisition, education and compensation. The type of skills we need mechanical farming, fishing, argon welding, as well as trading and tailoring for women. Monetary compensation or grants will help us engage in different businesses.



Mr. Olai Nwolu Gomba (left), interviewed by Dr. Kabari Sam from CEHRD (right)

[To avoid conflict in the community, HYPREP should provide] compensation first and secondly involve everyone in the clean-up process. Also, we need a health centre and clean drinking water; we now spend almost N500 daily to get water to wash our clothes, and N200 to cook our daily meal. I hope to see our land cleaned, farm land restored to how it used to be and youths gainfully employed. If all these things are met, the whole community will be peaceful."

with community representatives at leadership and community levels as well as its methods and approach to communication, which is seemingly indirect and mainly top-down via community leaders. Connected to this, women and youth in particular feel largely excluded from the current clean-up related community engagement process.

Finally, political interference is another important challenge. Many community representatives are suspicious of the true motivations not only of government officials involved in the clean-up process, but also other politicians, middle-men and even some of their own leaders. In the words of one interviewee:

"These local 'oligarchs' should put their own personal interests aside, give way and let HYPREP talk directly to the youth and clearly explain."

Several community representatives are afraid that politicization of the clean-up process will increase as the 2019 elections get closer.

7.3 Conclusion

Communities in Ogoniland realize that the clean-up process will be challenging. They are particularly concerned about the availability of funding, consider the current approach of community engagement inadequate and not sufficiently inclusive, and believe that the clean-up project risks being politicized, particularly in the run up to the 2019 elections.



Part 3: Recommendations



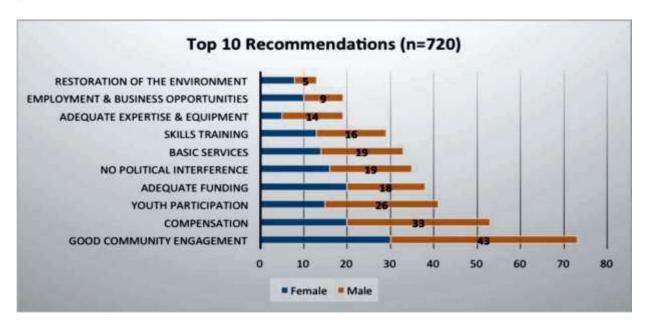
8. Community and Stakeholder Recommendations

This chapter puts forward a series of recommendations, as highlighted by community representatives directly as well as based on our own analysis of the key findings. Even though the recommendations are primarily addressed to HYPREP, a successful clean-up in Ogoniland needs a concerted effort of all relevant stakeholders, including the Rivers State Government, relevant Federal Government ministries and agencies, Ogoni leaders and interested civil society organizations.

Above all, continuous monitoring of the local context in Ogoniland and an assessment of likely positive and negative impacts on communities should inform any policies, strategies and decisions taken during the clean-up process.

8.1 Summary of Community Recommendations

During the survey and focus group discussions, community members provided dozens of recommendations to ensure the clean-up process will be successful. The following chart presents the recommendations that were cited most:



Improvement of community engagement is considered critical for a successful clean-up process. This comprises not only more effective communication but also a more inclusive, bottom-up approach to engaging with ordinary community members. In addition, the provision of compensation, particularly for those most affected by oil spill pollution, remains important for many community members, who consider the Bodo compensation payment as an example. The official government argument is that Bodo is different — as individual compensation payments in that case, resulted from a unique, out-of-court settlement, seems to carry little weight in the eyes of many Ogoni community members. Involvement of youth in the clean-up project is a third recommendation, and considered particularly important from a perspective of conflict prevention and avoidance of re-pollution due to 'bunkering' (oil theft) and artisanal refining:

"If you want to avoid tension during the clean-up then train the youths now"

For a detailed overview of recommendations per community, see annex 2. The next sections will elaborate some of the recommendations into concrete actions, which are meant as input for continued dialogue between the various stakeholders in the Ogoni clean-up process.

8.2 From Recommendations to Action

Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan That Focuses on Effective Communication, Inclusive Community Consultation and Grievance Management

- As clean-up contractors will likely be identified and start their activities in the next few months, now is a good time to develop a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan (SEP). International best practice identifies building blocks for effective stakeholder engagement, including detailed stakeholder identification and analysis, information disclosure (in an accessible and easily understandable format), stakeholder consultation, negotiation and partnership, assessment and management of impacts, grievance management and stakeholder involvement in project monitoring;¹³
- To reach a wider community audience across Ogoniland for more general messages, use community-based organizations such as MOSOP and KAGOTE in combination with radio. Key general messages need to be repeated on a regular basis;
- To reach members in specific communities more effectively, it is advised to make better use of large and small community meetings, where needed facilitated by trusted third parties such as religious leaders or civil society organizations will be involved. In addition, HYPREP should use multiple channels of communication, such as town criers, council of elders, youth and women representatives to share information and pass key messages;
- Operational-level messages that are location- and time-specific— for example, concerning specific trainings, events or remediation/construction works— need to be shared with and disseminated in advance through key community representatives. Depending on the message and community characteristics and dynamics, this might differ per community;
- Communication is a two-way process, which implies that any new (policy) initiative or response should be based on deep listening to community concerns and ideas. To avoid further perceived marginalization, women and youth representatives should be included in all consultations;
- To address the wider community perception that HYPREP is not very visible and difficult to reach, a more pro-active community engagement approach combined with relevant outreach activities, particularly at community level, is necessary;
- Put a workable system in place for receiving, assessing and dealing with grievances in a transparent, accessible and fair manner. This can help prevent grievances in the first place, or from escalating into more problematic, violent conflict. In addition, a wellfunctioning grievance mechanism can be an important source of information about what works and what doesn't work.

¹³ International Finance Corporation (2011), Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies Doing Business in Emerging Markets (IFC: Washington, D.C.).

Involve Communities More Meaningfully in the Clean-Up Process

- Take full advantage of the local governance structures in impacted communities to disseminate vital information about the clean-up. Avoid 'leadership capture' syndrome – which occurs when only a few high-level community leaders are contacted without involving other representatives of key community groups;
- HYPREP is advised to have a community trusted 'contact person' or 'liaison person' in each of the impacted communities;
- To avoid continued rumor-mongering and to manage expectations, HYPREP should widely share and explain the proposed clean-up work plan, at the very least a summary of objectives and key planned activities should (if not always,) often be communicated to key stakeholders, women and youth inclusive;
- Information-sharing is not enough. Provide more opportunities for ordinary community representatives to provide their inputs into the clean-up process. Involve not only community leaders, but also women and youth representatives in the planning, implementation and monitoring of clean-up activities;
- Encourage community leaders to better inform their constituencies.

Implement the UNEP-Recommended Emergency Measures without Further Delay

- Prioritize the provision of clean drinking water to all communities whose drinking water supply is impacted by extreme levels oil pollution;
- A sustainable water provision system is necessary and we are aware that HYPREP is working on it. Nevertheless, in the meantime, a short-term plan for provision of potable water is urgently needed;
- Collaborate with primary health care facilities to systematically document health complaints in local communities in Ogoniland. Over time this should form part of a comprehensive health impact study.

Focus on Youth Training and Employment as a Conflict and Re-Pollution Prevention Measure

- Develop as soon as possible a clear strategy for timely information-sharing and training of youth in oil spill response activities and clean-up skills;
- Develop a special re-orientation and assistance package for youth involved in illegal activities, such as bunkering and artisanal refining, to prevent re-pollution;
- Develop a climate-smart security strategy that involves security forces changing their current practice of bombing and/or burning illegal refineries, which undermines efforts towards oil spill clean-up and environmental remediation.

Assess and Manage Impacts and Invite Third-Party Monitors

- Assess the likely environmental and social impacts of any new clean-up activity beforehand and develop adequate impact management plans;
- Regularly monitor and discuss the progress of clean-up related activities together with other knowledgeable, independent third parties such as UNEP and interested embassies;
- Undertake periodic town hall engagements in impacted communities to bring all stakeholders up to speed with the activities of HYPREP.

Design a Comprehensive Strategy for Livelihood Restoration and Improvement

- Start as soon as possible with the development of a clear strategy for livelihood restoration and involve representatives from key community groups, such as farmers and fishermen, women and youth in the design of such a strategy;
- Widen the current narrow focus on short-term skills training and employment to the development of more integrated livelihood improvement packages that combine training, marketing, access to micro-finance and other forms of business development support;
- Livelihood restoration should begin with a comprehensive analysis and plan for economic development in Ogoni communities. While this will involve broad-spectrum stakeholder engagement, communities should be allowed to play a greater role in restoring their own economy.

Prioritize Trust and Confidence Building:

- Develop, with community input, context-specific community development plans (CDPs), to earn trust and confidence of the people as well as create ownership. Such plans should be shared with the trustees of development agencies, such as the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and other organizations for joint implementation;
- Focus the medical outreach on highly-impacted communities, at least for now. Trust of local communities in HYPREP is decimated when non-or less-impacted communities benefit from the health outreach while the critically impacted are kept waiting;
- Consider reducing HYPREP's role to clean-up advice and supervision; let communities 'own' and contribute to the clean-up process, while HYPREP provides strategic direction.

Success Indicators and Gender-Sensitive Skills and Needs Assessment

- HYPREP is advised to develop specific success indicators for measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of the clean-up. Success indicators should include social, environmental and economic indicators. Such indicators should be developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;
- HYPREP should undertake a gender-sensitive skills and needs assessment to develop a comprehensive and realistic overview of the available skills and job needs in impacted communities.

Annexes

Annex 1 - Challenges and Impacts (Related to Oil Spills) Per Selected Communities14

Community Agbi-Ogale Category ¹⁵	Agbi-Ogale	Ekpangbala	K-Dere	Mogho
People/skills	 It has pulled Agbi youths backwards. 	The people are excluded in visits by HYPREP	- Youths have no skills	- No skills
Community	Disabilities of children Illnesses, e.g. eye defects It has affected their reproductive	 Decrease in life span Unemployment Skin rashes from bathing with 	 Unemployment of youths Sicknesses (Cataract, cough, poor eye sight) 	 Unemployment of youths Youths are involved in cultism and social vices
	system and reduced their life expectancy rate It has caused abnormal growth Hunger and starvation	rain and stream water High concentration of oil in the soil causes shallow graves because they are not able to dig	 Restive youth Death of livestocks 	 Death from sicknesses Hunger and starvation Poverty Poor health
	screening tests because of their poor health.	 to crude and gas. Noise pollution from nearby companies 		
Livelihood	 Lack of food No livelihood 	 No aquatic life Poor crop yield (small tubers of 	 No jobs No farmlands for cultivation 	 No jobs No fish points
		yam, no vegetables) No hunting	Bitter taste of fish which is not marketable	 No raffia palms Fruits in swamps no longer
		- Loss of Intellihood	- No periwinides and crabs	 Poor yam and cocoyam yield
Infrastructure & services	Water infrastructure is no longer functioning	 No potable water 	 No roads except those leading to polluted sites 	 No electricity No roads
		AND CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR	- No electricity - No schools	 No health facilities No potable water

¹⁴ This is a non-exhaustive overview of challenges/impacts as a result of oil pollution, as mentioned by community members in different focus groups (primarily with women and youth representatives).

⁵⁵ Categories correspond to the eight dimensions of the Social Framework for Projects, as introduced in chapter 2.

Scoring		resources	Land & natural					environment	Living					Housing
		1	-		-		,	1	1		,			,
	houses cannot be built on it either	Lands cannot be developed and	Infertility of land (no yield)	day	No potable water; Water is	polluted.	The wells and streams are	Borehole water is polluted	No fishes in the water	of contaminated water	toilet bowls discoloured because	rain	Leaking roofs because of acidic	Cracks and leakages in houses
	-	×	- P					P	A				a	ر حج
	Infertility of land		Polluted well and borehole					Polluted water	Air pollution				acidic rain	Roofs destroyed because of
		- Sm	- Infe		- Pol	- Dep	- Bor	- Pol	- Air					
The spin is a spin in the spin		Small root yams	Infertility of land (no yield)		Polluted underground water	Deposits of oil in the soil	Borehole water is polluted	Polluted land	Air is Polluted with (black) soot					
Total David	< 0.0	-	_						•					
NEW PROPERTY.	Contaminated rain water Contaminated underground water	No mangroves	Wild animals gone extinct					rain water	Contaminated rivers and			Cracked buildings	Corroded roofs	Leaking roofs from acidic rain

Category ¹⁶ People/skills	<u>Y</u>	Gio No skills Sickness and death of	. K	own out has killed many	Buan Infertility in men and women
Сопанценій	- Crises in the community - Reduced life expectancy rate - Sicknesses (skin diseases, anemia - Death	- Sickness and death of children caused by diarrhea - Unemployment of youths - Health issues (cholera, respiratory tract diseases, miscarriages) - Hopelessness of youths and women	and ren	Well blown out has killed many people in the community pleople in the community pleople in the community cardiac problems, rashes on their bodies Restive youths Oil pollution has impoverished the community Poor food safety measures, contaminated food are eaten No spill response system in the community is still in court with SPDC over well 13	se, se, their their the
Culture	8		•		
Livelihood	Destroyed source of livelihood (farmlands, fishes, mangroves, cassava)	od - No livelihood es, - No tilapia, periwinkle - Poor cassava yield	1 1	ods have been	destroyed
Infrastructure & services	No health centres	 No potable water Substandard health Centre 	1 1 1	No schools No potable water No health centres	
Housing	 Correded roofs Wall cracks and leakages 	- Corroded roofs	- Leakin	Leaking roofs from acid rain	š

 $^{^{36}}$ Categories correspond to the eight dimensions of the Social Framework for Projects, as introduced in chapter 2.

Scoring	Land & natural resources	Living environment
	 Destroyed mangroves Destroyed aquatic lives Poor crop yield 	- Contaminated soil
	 Destroyed mangroves Infertile farmlands Contaminated underground water 	 Particulate matters in the atmosphere Contaminated water
[not available]	 Damaged economic trees Crops such as yam, melon, cassava, pepper no longer yield Loss of aquatic life 	 Contaminated soil Well blown out has led to air pollution Acidic rain
	 Contaminated streams No seasonal fruit yields Poor yield (Small cassava tubers and no yams) 	- Contaminated soil - Polluted water

Annex 2 - Recommendations By Selected Communities 17

	The state of the s		The state of the s
Agbi-Ogale El	Ekpangbala	K-Dere	Mogho
HYPREP should not use inferior materials yo	Involvement of Indigenes and youths in clean-up exercise	Don't politicize the clean-up;	The leadership of the community should be involved in the planning
The timing should be immediate Er	Employ Ekpangbala professionals	Use real, effective methods for clean-up and remediation	Fertilizers should be provided for the infertile lands
), fish heavy	Potable water should be provided immediately	Generate employment, especially for the youths, by providing skills	Grants and startups should be given to the elderly ones to start businesses;
duty vehicle mechanics, tailoring		training and letting them participate in clean-up activities	
Compensation for damages A	Assessment of water and land to	Involve indigenous sub-	Provide pipe borne water; stable
before starting the clean-up ch	check level of pollution	contractors; Use local contact persons;	electricity
ICT centres for computer Co	Consultation with community	Keep us updated about what's	Our employment quota should be
learning		happening on a regular basis, via our youth president. Don't just	higher;
		announce things on the radio in	
		Port Harcourt, without informing us directly.	
Scholarships for students M	Monetary compensation for all	Involve at least 1 of our	Good roads
		representatives in the various committees.	
HYPREP should give us health El	Electricity	There should be shops, for trading, salon	Health facilities and centres
problem we just need to stay alive		Of severe	
There is no health centre in Agbi Fa	Farmland restoration	We should be trained on practical skills, such as sewing; and there	Educate the women

¹⁷ This is a non-exhaustive overview of recommendations, mentioned by community members in different focus groups (primarily with women and youth representatives).

				are	out	NSi	Rela		WO	Gra	nur	We	Skil			Tra			sho	The			
				are sinking into the ground.	out of the soil and the houses	Nsisioken because crude comes	Relocation of the people of		women for their businesses	Grants should be given to our	nursing, medical skills.	welding and fabrication,	Skills acquisition such as HSE,			Trainings for the youths			should be taken care of	The elders of the community			
															training centres	Build secondary schools and				Health Centres			
							Improvement of healthcare	(of soil), tilling the sail	provide food, can do the mixing	During the dean-up, women can			Better roads, electricity/light	toilets and clean, piped water	infrastructure, e.g. by installing	Improve our market	education	intelligent, but they need	scholarships. Our girls are	We need money for education;	messages)	e.g. creating sign posts (for public	should be projects for women,
Maintain peace in the land	Skill acquisition and training before clean-up	Scholarships for youths	Compensation before clean-up				Project supervision	that may arise	conducted often to manage any crises	Town hall meetings should be	interaction with the local community	communication should be one-on-one	During consultation process,			Indigenous contractors should be used			Mogho	Centre of excellence should be built in			

Kporghor	Gio	Kpean	Buan
involve stakeholders in the	HYPREP should visit the	Provide housing for us	HYPREP should be serious
community	community with their medical		
	team		

	groups in the community		
	We want a census of vulnerable		
sensitization			
HYPREP should undergo high level of	Provide potable water		
dh			support
Speedy implementation of the clean-	Safety measures		Provision of emergency aids for
the time and number of persons			designing)
local impacted communities, extend	participation		hair dressing, fashion and
Extend the free medical outreach to	Youth empowerment and	Town hall for our community	Skill acquisition (e.g. catering,
Continuous funding of HYPREP	Start ups	Good road construction	Agricultural aids (e.g. fertilizers
		standard)	
		our health centre to minimum	
Consult the local community	Security	Standard health centre (Upgrade	Provision of housing
	including the youths.	acquisition trainings	
Provision of health and water facilities	Consult every stakeholder	Training centre for the skill	Electricity
			etc.)
	peace in the community	school	startups grants, skills training,
The process should not be politicised	Compensation to the youths for	Renovate and equip our primary	Women empowerment (e.g.
youths		pipe fitting	security
They should give trainings to our	Construct our roads	Skill acquisition such as welding,	Fully equipped health and
			Potable water
the methodology of the clean-up	business depends on it		work with HYPREP
They should give us information on	Give us electricity because our	Give us employment with HYPREP	The community is willing to
the community			grants
We want to see physical activities in	Pay us allowance monthly	Ultramodern market	Empower the community e.g.
and implementation of the dean-up			
Involve communities in the design	Build markets	Provision of potable water	Do not politicise HYPREP

Annex 3 - List of Respondents

Stakeholder Interviews

Nr.	Name	Position	Organization	Location	Date
1	Hon. Obinna Chidoka	Chairman, House Committee on Environment and Habitat	House of Representatives	Abuja	10/04/2018
2	Mr. Eric Makwe	Clerk, House Committee on Environment	House of Representatives	Abuja	09/04/2018
3	Hon. Henry Nwawuba	Member, House Committee on Environment	House of Representatives	Abuja	10/04/2018
4	Mrs Aanu Basil	HYPREP Desk Officer, Federal Ministry of Environment	Federal Ministry of Environment	Abuja	11/04/2018
5	Mr. Akinwumi Oke	Coordinator	CORDAID	Abuja	09/04/2018
6	Mr. Jens-Petter Kjemprud	Ambassador	Norwegian Embassy	Abuja	10/04/2018
7	Hon. Christian Ahiakwo	Chairman, House Committee on Environment	Rivers State House of Assembly	Port Harcourt	04/04/2018
8	Sir Cyrus Titus Nkangwung	Zonal Director	NOSDRA	Port Harcourt	05/04/2018
9	Florence Kayemba	Programme Manager	SDN	Port Harcourt	05/04/2018
10	Dr. Benjamin Ubleble	Senior Project Officer	NACGOND	Port Harcourt	05/04/2018
11	Rev. Fr. Abel Agbulu	Coordinator	Pax Viva Foundation	Port Harcourt	07/04/2018

Community Survey

Nr.	Location (community)	Location (LGA)	Number of respondents	Date
1	Agbi	Eleme	30 (17 men, 13 women)	April 02 – 09, 2018
2	Ekpangbala	Eleme	29 (15 men, 14 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018
3	Kporghor	Tai	30 (17 men, 13 women)	April 02 – 09, 2018
4	Gio	Tai	30 (19 men, 11 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018

5	Kegbara Dere	Gokana	30 (18 men, 12 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018
6	Mogho	Gokana	29 (17 men, 12 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018
7	Buan	Khana	30 (15 men, 15 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018
8	Kpean	Khana	30 (15 men, 15 women)	April 02 - 09, 2018

Focus Group Discussions

Nr.	Type of Group	Number of	Location	Date
		participants	(community)	
1	Women	10	K-Dere	07/04/2018
2	Youth	9	k-Dere	07/04/2018
3	Women	10	Mogho	16/04/2018
4	Youth	9	Mogho	16/04/2018
5	Women	13	Gio	19/04/2018
6	Youth	12	Gio	19/04/2018
7	Women	11	Agbi	20/04/2018
8	Youth	14	Agbi	20/04/2018
9	Women	11	Kporghor	26/04/2018
10	Youth	10	Khorghor	26/04/2018
11	Women	10	Ekpangbala	27/04/2018
12	Youth	11	Ekpangbala	27/04/2018
13	Women	10	Buan	30/04/2018
14	Youth	8	Buan	30/04/2018
15	Women	10	Kpean	07/05/2018
16	Youth	10	Kpean	07/05/2018

Meetings With Councils of Chiefs

Nr.	Number of participants	Location (community)	Location (LGA)	Date
1	12	K-Dere	Gokana	07/04/2018
2	8	Mogho	Gokana	16/04/2018
3	11	Gio	Tai	19/04/2018
4	10	Agbi	Eleme	20/04/2018
5	11	Kporghor	Tai	26/04/2018
6	10	Ekpangbala	Eleme	27/04/2018
7	9	Buan	Khana	30/04/2018
8	10	Kpean	Khana	07/05/2018