

P4P NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Partners for Peace in the Niger Delta Newsletter!

So, dear partners, as you immerse yourselves in these narratives, remember that you are part of a movement—a force for good that ripples across the Niger Delta. Your dedication fuels our mission, and your belief in a peaceful region sustains us.

Thank you for being the architects of peace. Let this newsletter be a beacon—a reminder that our journey continues, and together, we shall navigate the currents toward a harmonious Niger Delta region.



DELTA DREAMS TO BAYELSA BRILLIANCE: TRIUMPHS ACROSS THE NINE NIGER DELTA STATES; SUCCESS STORIES!

Let us journey through a kaleidoscope of triumphs, each one a proof to resilience, unity, and progress. From the bustling urban streets of Delta to the tranquil creeks of Bayelsa, our P4P community has been instrumental in fostering positive change across the region.

FROM DRUG ABUSERS TO PEACE AMBASSADORS IN AKUMONI AND IKARAMA BAYELSA STATE

In a groundbreaking intervention funded by the P4P grant, the Light-Green and Clean Environment Initiative spearheaded a transformative project in the Akumoni and Ikarama communities of Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State. Titled "**Facilitating Reduction in Drug Abuse,**" an initiative aimed to tackle the pervasive issue of drug abuse among youths in the area.

The success story unfolds as numerous youths, inspired by the program's outreach and training efforts, courageously denounced cultism and illicit drug abuse. As a result of their commitment to positive change, these individuals were honored as peace ambassadors and formally registered as members of the P4P sub-chapter in their communities.

This strategic move not only empowers these young people to lead by example but also aligns them with the values, mission, and promotion of sustainable peace championed by the P4P initiative. It serves as an illuminant of hope, demonstrating the profound impact that community-driven interventions can have in transforming lives and fostering a culture of peace and prosperity in the Niger Delta.



Cross session of participants at the event

PEACE! YES!



Advocacy visits to the conflicting communities in Akwa Ibom State

BRIDGING DECADES OF DIVISION: HISTORIC MEETING UNITES COMMUNITIES AFTER TWO DECADES OF CONFLICT IN AKWA IBOM STATE

In this month's spotlight, we celebrate a monumental success in Akwa Ibom State—a testament to the power of dialogue and community engagement. Our project, "Addressing Communal Armed Conflict Over Land Dispute Between Uko Akpang Ewang and Ukongtege Uda in Mbo LGA," has achieved a breakthrough that many thought impossible.

For over two decades, the Uko Ntege and Enwang communities were divided by a bitter land dispute that disrupted lives and hindered development. The rift between these communities was not just a line on a map but a chasm in the people's hearts.

However, the winds of change began to blow as Partners for Peace stepped in with a commitment to reconciliation and peacebuilding. Through tireless efforts, we facilitated a historic meeting—the first of its kind in more than 20 years—where representatives from both communities sat down together to talk, not as adversaries, but as neighbours seeking common ground.

The discussions were not without their challenges, but the desire for peace proved stronger than the legacy of conflict. As each side presented their perspectives, a remarkable thing happened—empathy took root, and understanding blossomed.

Today, we are proud to report that these discussions have led to a preliminary agreement that honours the needs and concerns of both communities. This agreement is a beacon of hope, not just for Uko Ntege and Enwang, but for all who believe in the transformative power of peace.



Advocacy visit to Udu LGA chairman for the SPEAK UP project

Let this story be a reminder that even the longest-standing disputes can find resolution in the spirit of unity and cooperation.

As we share this success story, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone involved—our dedicated staff, the courageous community leaders, and you, our supporters, who believe in the vision of a peaceful Niger Delta.

Together, we are not just resolving conflicts; we are building bridges to a brighter future.

EMPOWERING VOICES, ENFORCING JUSTICE: A TRIUMPH AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN DELTA STATE

In a bold and impactful initiative, the Prevent Team of Delta P4P launched the "SPEAK UP" intervention to combat the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) against young girls and women in rural communities. This transformative effort didn't just raise awareness; it sparked tangible action and commitment from key stakeholders.

A significant milestone was achieved when a member of the State House of Assembly expressed unwavering support for addressing GBV. Recognizing the urgency and gravity of the issue, the lawmaker pledged to advocate for legislation to establish a mobile court dedicated to prosecuting cases of GBV. This crucial step not only demonstrates legislative responsiveness but also underscores a collective commitment to ensuring justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators.

The Prevent Team's intervention not only sheds light on the pervasive issue of GBV but also serves as a catalyst for concrete solutions. By mobilizing support from legislators and galvanizing community action, the "SPEAK UP" initiative embodies the spirit of empowerment and solidarity in the fight against GBV.

This success story reaffirms the Prevent Team's dedication to championing the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly vulnerable women and girls. Through collaborative efforts and unwavering advocacy, we continue to pave the way towards a future where gender-based violence is unequivocally condemned and justice prevails for all.

BRIDGING BOUNDARIES, BUILDING PEACE: A HISTORIC TRIUMPH IN CROSS RIVER STATE

Amidst the complexities of historical land disputes and lingering tensions, the Cross River State chapter embarked on a courageous intervention in 2023. Their mission: to address the longstanding conflict between the Oyadema Community in Obubra LGA and the Nko & Inyima communities in Yakurr LGA. Through unwavering dedication and strategic initiatives, a remarkable transformation unfolded.

For the first time in 95 years, all three communities came together, united by a shared desire for peace. Their collective willingness to embrace reconciliation marked a historic turning point, paving the way for constructive dialogue and collaborative efforts towards resolution. Central to this breakthrough was the mutual agreement to seek proper demarcation of the boundary between Oyadema, Inyima, and Nko, spanning across Yakurr and Obubra LGAs.

Adding momentum to this pivotal moment was the unwavering commitment of the Cross River State Government, represented by the state Boundary Commission (BORDERCOM). During advocacy visits, government officials expressed their dedication to facilitating the proper demarcation of boundaries—a crucial step towards sustainable peace and territorial clarity.

Furthermore, the training of journalists on conflict-sensitive reporting proved to be a catalyst for positive change. Equipped with the principles of peace journalism, media professionals forged stronger ties with P4P, amplifying the organization's message and initiatives through their platforms. This newfound collaboration has significantly enhanced the visibility of P4P events in the state, fostering a culture of informed and constructive dialogue.

The success story from Cross River State is not merely about resolving conflicts; it's a proof to the transformative power of unity, dialogue, and collaboration. It reaffirms P4P's steadfast commitment to fostering sustainable peace and reconciliation, one community at a time.



The three conflicting communities in one gathering in Cross River



Imo team on an advocacy visits

HARMONY RESTORED: IMO P4P LEADS PATH TO PEACE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Imo P4P's interventions in Awo Mberi Autonomous Community and Ohaji-Egbema LGA have ignited a powerful wave of unity and cooperation, propelling these communities towards profound peace and reconciliation. Through unwavering dedication and dynamic collaboration, community leaders and stakeholders have embarked on a transformative journey of dialogue and consensus-building, heralding a new era of harmony in the face of longstanding disputes.

In Awo Mberi Autonomous Community, the intervention focused on resolving the Ezeship tussle and Town union leadership dispute. Through facilitated discussions and mediation, aggrieved leaders and stakeholders reached a unanimous decision to support the traditional ruler, HRH Eze CAC Eronini. Dropping all petitions in court against the Eze symbolizes a pivotal step towards communal harmony. Additionally, the establishment of a committee to review draft peace-building mechanisms underscores the community's commitment to fostering lasting peace under Imo P4P's guidance.

Similarly, in Ohaji-Egbema LGA, the Prevent Team's intervention aimed at promoting peace by building the capacity of community leaders and influencers. The success story unfolds as Umuagwo and Mgbirich Communities agree to settle their land dispute out of court.

Furthermore, the constitution of a joint committee to draft a Peace Accord for dispute resolution highlights a proactive approach to conflict resolution. Both communities' pledge to incorporate the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee (PCRC) into the community's constitution signifies a shared commitment to sustainable peace.

Imo P4P's role as a neutral third party in facilitating these resolutions has been instrumental. By fostering dialogue, building trust, and empowering communities, Imo P4P has paved the way for harmony and cooperation, demonstrating the transformative impact of grassroots peacebuilding efforts.

As we celebrate these successes, let us continue to support Imo P4P's endeavors and work together towards a future where peace and unity thrive in every corner of the Niger Delta.



EMPOWERING FUTURES: P4P SKILL ACQUISITION INITIATIVE IN ILAJE LGA, ONDO STATE.

In an effort to promote economic empowerment and reduce unemployment among youths in Ilaje LGA, the Ondo State P4P team embarked on a transformative intervention titled **"Alternative Livelihood for Youths through Skill Acquisition."** Through this initiative, twenty-five beneficiaries were equipped with essential skills in making fancy footwears and Adire T-shirts, paving the way for new opportunities and entrepreneurship. Now, let's delve into the inspiring stories of three individuals who have embraced these skills and are making a positive impact in their communities.

TOPE OMOPE BEATRICE: CRAFTING CHANGE IN ONDO COMMUNITIES

In Ilaje Local Government, Tope Omope Beatrice found new purpose through Ondo P4P's 2023 skill training program. Learning tie-and-dye and slipper-making, she became a catalyst for change.

Travelling to riverine communities, she shared her skills, spreading the message of P4P and inspiring others to join. Back home, Tope launched her craft business, attracting significant patronage

Her story exemplifies the transformative impact of P4P interventions, proving that skill training can ignite economic empowerment and community resilience.



YETUNDE IKOMOLA'S JOURNEY WITH ONDO P4P

In the riverine area of Ilaje, Yetunde Ikomola embarked on a journey of empowerment through the Ondo P4P economic development initiative in 2023. Seeking alternative livelihood opportunities, she embraced the craft offered by the program and soon found herself mastering the skills with passion and dedication.

Yetunde not only honed her craft but also discovered a newfound sense of purpose. As she established herself in the craft, she realized the power of passing down knowledge to others.

Yetunde's story is a testament to the transformative impact of the Ondo P4P intervention. Through her journey, she not only secured her own livelihood but also became a catalyst for change in her community, uplifting others and creating a ripple effect of empowerment that continues to resonate far and wide.



FROM FIGHTER TO PEACEBUILDER: GODWIN OBODO'S JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

In the rugged terrain of Ilaje Local Government in Ondo State, Godwin Obodo's name once evoked fear and unrest. Popularly called General Obodo, he was a formidable figure, deeply entrenched in the tumultuous world of communal agitation and resource disputes. But beneath the facade of an Ex-Militant Leader lay a man yearning for a different path—a path illuminated by peace and prosperity.

His life took a remarkable turn when he embraced the mission of peacebuilding through the Partners for Peace (P4P) program for ex agitators in 2018.

Embracing the mission of peacebuilding, Godwin became a fervent advocate for reconciliation and harmony in his community. With steadfast dedication, he played a pivotal role in establishing a P4P sub-chapter, rallying fellow ex-agitators and community members alike to join the cause.

With determination and guidance from the Ondo P4P team, he transitioned from conflict to commerce, mastering tie-and-dye and slipper-making crafts in 2023.

Today, he not only sustains his family's livelihood but also transforms former adversaries into allies, significantly reducing conflict in the Ilaje community. Godwin's journey is a testament to the power of individual transformation and collective efforts in fostering lasting peace.

From Turmoil to Triumph: Preventing Cult Violence in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

In the bustling streets of Port Harcourt, the Prevent Team of Rivers P4P embarked on a bold mission to tackle the scourge of cult violence. Through strategic interventions and strong determination, they not only quelled the flames of conflict but also ignited a beacon of hope for the community.

The success story unfolds as more than 10 cult members in the Diobu and Town areas of Port Harcourt chose a path of redemption, marking a profound shift in their lives and the safety of their neighborhoods. But the impact doesn't stop there.

St. Peters Anglican Church emerged as a beacon of support, offering a lifeline to these repentant youths. With a commitment to their rehabilitation, the church is providing essential skills training and equipping them with starter packs for meaningful engagement. This transformative gesture speaks volumes about the power of compassion and the potential for change.

Additionally, the Diobu vigilante group has joined forces with the Prevent Team, becoming an organizational member of P4P. Together, they stand as guardians of peace, tirelessly working to stamp out cultism and criminality in the area.

The Prevent Team's intervention in Port Harcourt Metropolis is not just about reducing violence; it's about transforming lives and rebuilding communities. It's a story of resilience, redemption, and the strong belief in the possibility of a brighter tomorrow. Through unity and determination, we continue to pave the way towards a future where peace reigns supreme in Rivers State.



PARTICIPANTS IN A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



CONFLICT ANALYSIS SESSION

About P4P

P4P is a network dedicated to promoting peace in the Niger Delta. Join now and connect. It is only by linking hands that the vision of peaceable livelihoods in our communities will be realized. P4P provides a platform where people with different backgrounds and perspectives can come together, not to point fingers or take sides, but to understand and address the root causes of conflict and build peace.

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