

**REPORT OF ONE VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR**  
**THE RESEARCH REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRTEEN PERCENT (13%)**  
**DERIVATION FUND FOR STATES IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA ORGANIZED BY**  
**KEBETKACHE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE CENTRE, NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

**Summary**

The validation workshop on the 13% Derivation Fund Research Project was held at the West Africa Regional Office of FordFoundation, Banana Island, Lagos, Nigeria on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The research project was implemented by KebetKache Women Development and Resource Centre. A team of research consultants, led by DrSofiri Joab-Peterside was hired by KebetKache to conduct the field research and final writing of the research report. The research project was conducted in two Local Government Areas each in of Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States.

The validation workshop was part of the process of implementing the research report, and the purpose of the validation workshop was to create an interactive session for public presentation and participation of citizens from various backgrounds and the target states to enable them have an insight into the preliminary findings and presentations of the research report, and make inputs-comments, recommendations, suggestions, corrections and rebuttals that will enrich the final report. Participants for the validation workshop were selected from the target states for the field research- Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers. Invitations were also extended to grantees and partners of FordFoundation.

The preliminary report was presented by the research team and the participants made inputs into all the aspects and findings of the report, which were accepted by the research team. The final report is expected to cover all the inputs made at the validation workshop. It is expected that the final report will be publicly presented when the research team concludes their corrections and revisions on the preliminary report.

**Introduction**

Project Leads- Eva Kouka and EmemOkon

Eva Kouka welcomed all participants to the validation workshop and thanked them for finding time to attend the meeting. She also noted that the West Africa Regional Director of FordFoundation, Mr Innocent Chukwuma was on leave, hence his absence from the meeting.

Eva also stated that she has visited the Niger Delta and seen the situation in the area, including the environmental clean- up process in Ogoniland. Accordingly, she noted that the Natural Resource and Climate Change program of FordFoundation is also implemented in West Africa, South Africa, Kenya, Mexico and Brazil. The Foundation also supports the EITI, ECOWAS and the AU. She also introduced the FordFoundation Global Programs Officer, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ximena Wanaars, who was in Nigeria to connect with the Natural Resource and Climate Change program in the country and learn how it connects with Ford's Global program strategy. She also stated that her visit is also very important, and that the validation meeting is holding during the visit of the Global Program Officer to strengthen learning and understanding on the works of FordFoundation in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

Furthermore, EmemOkon, Executive Director of KebetKache Women Development and Resource Centre, thanked FordFoundation for the opportunity to undertake the research. She also appreciated all the researchers and Focus Group Discussion participants for participating in the implementation of the research. EmemOkon also thanked other partners of FordFoundation who were in the validation meeting. According to her, the research process includes methodology workshop, administration of research questionnaires, focused group discussions, validation workshop and the final presentation of the research report. She also stated that after the validation workshop, all comments, suggestions and reviews will be duly considered and the final report which will be presented to the public thereafter. She therefore urged all participants to engage in the validation process and address the issues raised in the research report as they understand them.

### **Presentation of the Research Findings**

The research findings were presented by Dr Sofiri Joab-Peterside, Emmanuel Nwakama and Moses---  
The research report outlined:

- The research objective:
- **Methodology**
- **Sources of data,**
- Research Process.

Analytical framework of the study- the analytical framework is based on the governance framework which examines how political leaderships appropriates and utilizes public resources in the delivery and provision of public services for the general good of the citizenry. On this note, the study finds that development interventions in the Niger Delta focused mostly in the urban centres and neglected the rural areas. It has become a sort of whitewashing by various administrations to concentrate development and governance interventions in urban centres to the detriment of rural areas. To that end, majority of citizens are denied the benefits of governance through the utilisation of the 13% derivation fund and this puts a serious dent of the nature of political leadership in the trajectory of politics and development in the Niger Delta region.

After the presentation of the overall research report, specific state reports were presented on Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States. These presentations reflected the focal areas covered in the study and the analyses of the findings are as presented in the overall research report.

### Questions and Comments

The following persons raised initial questions, comments and remarks to the presentation of the research report

Victoria Ibezim (Spaces for Change)

- i. Are there links between the research and other relevant literature?
- ii. The NEITI audit report praised Akwa Ibom state for high levels of improvement in capital expenditure and less focus on recurrent expenditure. How is this reconciled with the findings of the research?
- iii. Proposed a balance in the presentation of research findings in order to help government to address gaps

- iv. There is need to be mindful about data content integrity and accountability
- v. NGOs in the Niger Delta are trying, irrespective of the challenges of working and engaging in the Niger Delta region. NGOs as part of the Civil society collective has a lot of energy and are passionate about the works they are doing in the Niger Delta region

Dr Dauda Garuba (NEITI) and others made the following interventions

- i. The bulk of research in Nigeria is NGO funded. Universities are not doing the best of research. The Education Trust Fund is not able to fund a lot of research because of the paucity of research capabilities in Nigerian universities
- ii. Asked if the data used is limited to the 2017 budget or if there is sufficient addition to other sources of data
- iii. Data should be linked with the NEITI Report in order to strengthen the content of the report
- iv. The recent NEITI Report did not have Rivers State opening its books to NEITI
- v. There will be much to benefit if the research report is linked with the NEITI Report to clarify what has changed since previous similar studies
- vi. Rivers and Akwa Ibom States have no Development Commissions
- vii. NNDC and other Development programmes are avenues for political settlements
- viii. CSO/ NGO nexus is still a major issue of debate. NGO is not civil society. It is only a small part of it. It cannot be entirely responsible for the issues not addressed by the CSOs as an arena of struggle
- ix. Demography is very attractive in terms of the data captured
- x. Dissemination should be targeted at a variegated stakeholder audience to enrich public understanding and responsiveness
- xi. The review should be mindful of issues of threat and challenges should seriously considered in order to address the gaps adequately and to consider strengthening the study in case of further replication in regional context
- xii. There was a reference check on Bayelsa State with proper recommendation for correction
- xiii. Typographical errors were also noted and corrected

Remarks from FordFoundation Staff and other participants

- i. Understanding of 13% derivation fund was supposed to be good thing but the research seems to have shown that the fund was not delivering any tangible change or result to the people of the Niger Delta
- ii. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC) was not mentioned as part of the study in the research report
- iii. The issue of coordination: How is the research pointing out the issue of fiscal coordination between the 13% derivation fund with the regular budget of states.
- iv. Research dissemination- Are there no means of dissemination to ensure that the research report gets across to all relevant stakeholders
- v. There is also the need for relevant and specific recommendations to ensure that the end users such as funders (particularly FordFoundation) can act on it and utilise the information to address policies and program interventions

#### Other Comments and Remarks

- i. Issues of errors of fact from Ibeno Local Government Area were pointed out by a participant.
- ii. Challenge of lack of LGA legislation holding local government chairmen to account was also pointed out
- iii. Gender disparity in the engagement with research respondents (FGD and interviews) was also raised
- iv. Lack of government accountability in the utilization of the 13% derivation fund is making citizens question the allocation of the fund to states, but communities also cannot manage it properly or deliver development if it is given to them.
- v. Participants also pointed out the negative development trend in Delta State, as noted in the report, indicating the dismal performance of the State Government in development delivery.
- vi. It was also asked whether the 13% derivation fund will not create more conflict and bloodshed if the fund is given directly to the communities since that is their key agitations
- vii. Participants also requested to know if the communities can do things better if they are given the funds directly since the States have failed in delivering development through the management of the 13% derivation fund.

#### Remarks and Response from the Research Team

The research team accepted all the comments, questions and interventions made to enrich the research and thanked all the respondents. Nothing that the views expressed have added value to the research report, and the team will incorporate all relevant points noted in the interventions into the research. However, the research team pointed out that:

- i. The research team faced serious challenges in accessing information from States in the Niger Delta (Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers States). Only Akwa Ibom state complied with the research team in terms of openness and willingness to disclose information to the budget. For other states, they have to resort to guerrilla method to get data from them.
- ii. NGO capacity in research writing is also a major area of challenge noted by the research team. Although this was corrected for need of balance by the participants
- iii. The research team also clarified to the audience that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is not funded from the 13% derivation so it is not captured in the study.
- iv. On the issue of what has changed in the Delta over the years since the derivation fund was allocated, the research team pointed out that the research report recorded minimal results in terms of large scale improvements in governance and development, but it must also be noted that the findings of the research report are based on what was documented from the field investigations and nothing else can be added to it.

## **Remarks from the Global Program Officer of FordFoundation**

The Global Program Officer Ximena Wanaars thanked the research team for the presentation of the research report. She also asked some questions:

- i. How the 13% derivation fund was derived? Whether communities were involved in its process and allocation
- ii. Whether there is a popular participation on how the 13% fund is being managed and utilized
- iii. Is the private sector involved in order to strengthen how government manages and utilizes the derivation fund?

The research team responded to the questions raised by the Global Program Officer of FordFoundation-Natural Resource and Climate Change- Ximena Wanaars-

- i. Noting that indigenous governance systems have collapsed as a result of oil exploitation and communities in the Niger Delta lacked the leadership and coordination to engage constructively to hold government to account and demand accountability in the utilization of the 13% derivation fund. Rather what the people of the Niger Delta do is to resort to demanding for peanuts and settlements from their political leaders at the detriment of their development and collective benefit.
- ii. It was also noted that youths in the Niger Delta region has no respect for community governance structures and leadership hierarchies. And this leaves a lot to desire in regards to indigenous governance stability and coordination in the region.

## **Final Comments and Remarks from Ximena Wanaars**

In her final comment, Ximena Wanaars stated that what FordFoundation has been doing is to take a different look at the different ways the issue of benefit sharing has been working in different parts of the world, and how it is affecting the rights and capacity of citizens to access resources and participate in governance. She also noted FordFoundation is interested in how the beneficial sharing process connects with

- i. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)
- ii. Issues of collective participation and social inclusion
- iii. Power dynamics in communities between men and women and how it affects the rights of each gender
- iv. Creating spaces for women to share their voices and participate in government is important for the implementation of these types of programs
- v. How it also connects with similar interventions in other parts of the world and how Nigeria can learn and benefit from them

## **Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks**

- i. EmemOkon thanked Eva Kouka (Program Officer, FordFoundation) for her unwavering support to the success of the project.

- ii. She also thanked all the members of the research team for their efforts into the research project
- iii. She appreciated the issue of gender disparity in the research process and promised that the organisation will respond to ensure that the gap is filled
- iv. She also assured the participants that the research project is part of an ongoing project, which is focused on building a critical mass of stakeholders- particularly women groups to engage government and hold them to account. Hence the final report will be publicly presented and there will be follow-up advocacy programs after the presentation of the final research.