



CPED-*Research For Development News*

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A Bi-Annual Publication of the Centre for Population and Environmental Development



UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD UPKEEP IN NIGERIA

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This Publication is supported by the *Think Tank Initiative Programme* initiated and managed by the *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*



About CPED

The Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit and non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty and inequality through policy oriented research and active engagement on development issues. CPED started as an action research group based in the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria in 1985. The action research group was concerned with applied research on sustainable development and poverty reduction challenges facing Nigeria. The research group also believed that communication, outreach and intervention programs, which can demonstrate the relevance and effectiveness of research findings and recommendations for policy and poverty reduction, especially at the grassroots level, must be key components of its action research. In order to translate its activities more widely, the Benin Social Science Research Group was transformed into an independent research and action Centre in 1998. It was formally registered in Nigeria as such by the Corporate Affairs Commission in 1999.

The establishment of CPED is influenced by three major developments. In the first place, the economic crisis of the 1980s that affected African countries including Nigeria led to poor funding of higher education, the emigration of academics to advanced countries which affected negatively, the quality of research on national development issues emanating from the universities which are the main institutions with the

structures and capacity to carry out research and promote discourse on socio-economic development. Secondly, the critical linkage between an independent research or think tank organisation and an outreach program that translates the findings into policy and at the same time test the applicability and effectiveness of the recommendations emanating from research findings has been lacking. Finally, an independent institution that is focusing on a holistic approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction in terms of research, communications and outreach activities is needed in Nigeria. CPED recognises that the core functions of new knowledge creation (research) and the application of knowledge for development (communication and outreach) are key challenges facing sustainable development and poverty reduction in Nigeria where little attention has been paid to the use of knowledge generated in academic institutions. Thus, CPED was created as a way of widening national and regional policy and development debate, provide learning and research opportunities and give visibility to action programmes relating to sustainable development and poverty reduction in different parts of Nigeria and beyond.

The vision is to be a key non-state actor in the promotion of grassroots development in the areas of population and environment in Africa. The overall mission is to promote action-based research programs, carry out communication to policy makers and undertake outreach/intervention programmes on population and environmental development in Africa.

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Editorial Policy of CPED's Research for Development News (CRDN)

CPED's Research for Development News (CRDN) is the official publication of the *Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)*. Through this medium, CPED seeks to reach out to relevant policy makers and other stakeholders on key issues concerning development in Nigeria in particular and other parts of Africa in general.

Vision: *CRDN* seeks to inform, educate and report development issues and challenges as well as the progress in the research and outreach activities of the Centre for the consumption of policy makers, other stakeholders and the reading public in its quest to promote sustainable, holistic and grassroots development.

Mission Statement: To provide a medium for drawing the attention of policy makers, other key stakeholders and the general public to the issues and challenges of development and the policy response needed to promote equitable development.

Core Values: The two core values of *CRDN* are derived from those of CPED. The first relates to the fact that the universal ideals of intellectual and academic freedom is promoted and respected by *CRDN*. In this respect *CRDN* will remain an independent, professional and development news letter. Secondly, *CRDN* is a non-partisan newsletter which is not associated with any political party or organization. However, when the need arises, *CRDN* in its publication of CPED's research, advocacy and outreach activities will address key political issues that have considerable impact on development, especially at the local level.

Editorial Board: The Editorial Board of *CRDN* shall be made up of CPED's Executive Director, two professional staff of CPED and two other members from outside CPED comprising mainly of CPED Fellows.

Editorial Policy: While *CRDN* will report on any development issue and the various activities of CPED, *CRDN* will, as much as possible, focus on a particular development theme in one edition. The theme to be addressed in a subsequent edition shall be announced for the benefit of contributors in advance.

Adverts: There shall be created in every issue, a space for advertisement. The cost of the advert placements shall be determined by the Editorial Board.

Manuscript submission: Persons interested in contributing to any edition of *CRDN* are welcomed to do so. Manuscripts should be original with a maximum length of five pages typewritten with double-line spacing and accompanied with biographical sketch of the author which must not be more than fifty words. Each article should be typed on A4 paper with a margin of one inch round. Manuscripts already published elsewhere shall not be accepted.

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Editor's Note



Professor Emeritus Andrew G. Onokerhoraye, Ph.D., OON, JP
Editor

The Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) is pleased to launch its *Research for Development News*, with support from the *Think Tank Initiative* initiated and managed by the *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*. CPED's *Research for Development News (CRDN)* series is published twice a year in June and December. The Series will report on the research, communication and intervention activities of CPED with the major aim of informing policy makers and other key stakeholders on development issues as well as informing key stakeholders on CPED's activities on research

and intervention. In this respect the editorial policy of *CPED's Research for Development News* is to focus on one major development issue in each number of CRDN.

This June 2016 edition of CRDN is presenting progress and outcomes of CPED research projects and other activities.

Professor Emeritus Andrew G. Onokerhoraye
Editor,
June, 2016.

CPED Research Findings and Policy Implications

The Invisibility of Housewives Contributions to Families: Understanding the Role of Women in Household Upkeep in Delta State, Nigeria.

The Centre for Population and Environmental Developments (CPED) has concluded her study titled: “The Invisibility of Housewives Contributions to Families: Understanding the Role of Women in Household Upkeep in Delta State, Nigeria” which was funded by IDRC. The study which was undertaken in line with CPED's research thematic area - '**Gender and Development**' as outlined in CPED's 2015 -2019 Strategic framework, was jointly carried by the Acting Director of Research – Dr. Johnson Egbemudia Dudu; Chairman, Board of Trustees, CPED (Prof. Gideon E.D. Omuta); and one of CPED's Research Assistant – Mrs. Iroroturi Iyamba (Nee Otto) in Delta State. The study was conducted in Isoko South, Udu and Ndokwa West Local Government Areas of Delta State, in January to April of 2016 using gender analysis approach. The specific objectives of the study were to find out if women contribute to the household in Delta State, the nature of their contributions, whether the contributions of housewives were recognised and appreciated and reasons for lack of recognition (if not appreciated) and to know the perception of housewives about the invisibility of their contributions to the families. The gap in the study was that in spite of the agreement during the final document of the end of decade conference for the United Nations decade for women held in Nairobi 1985 that all women contributions to the households be accounted for and measured in the national accounts and economics statistics and the position of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Cairo, Egypt, 1994 which gave a voice to the recognition

of women and their works, most housewives works in Nigeria and indeed Africa are still considered as part those of men and remained largely invisible.

Are women works actually invisible?

From reviewed literatures, the researchers found out that, there have been plethora of arguments regarding the role as well as the participation of women in economic activities in most societies and these have generated serious controversies regarding the contributions of women to the household upkeep. A school of thought believed that, the household was a unit of congruent interests and preferences, among whose members, the benefits of available resources were shared equitably irrespective of gender. This grouped were of the opinion that the household was perceived as one indivisible and united entity, hence, the head of the household was seen as representing the interest of all the members. Put in other words, development process was to this school of thought neutral, where any member of the household, especially the head, could adequately depict what happens in the general household and represented their interest, hence, there was no need taking issues of the household separately. In this way, the husband interest was seen as the same as that of the wife and whatever economic means the household members were working on; belong to the household which was in this sense represented by the head. However from the literatures, this concept of unitary household and gender neutrality had been challenged by academic, researchers, women activist groups, government policy makers, non-

governmental organizations and international agencies; that development is not gender neutral in development enquiry and policies discuss.

The later school of thought especially see house wife works within the household as distinct from that of the husband and that for the full realisation of economic potential of the household, these works must be recognised and evaluated as such. The proponents of the later school of thought such as: Marilyn Waring – the author of *“The Invisibility of Women's Work: The Economics of Local and Global “Bullshit”*”; Harry H. Postner (*Who later evaluated the work of Marilyn Waring*); Agarwal B. in an article titled: “The gender and environment debate: Lessons from India”; Krishna Tirath (India Minister for women & child development) and the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)/BSR believed the works as well as other contributions of women to the family must be adequately accounted for, since most time their contributions to family upkeep remained insignificantly accounted for and invisible – no matter how substantial or important they may be. This group argued that major household productions, when viewed from the unitary point gives credit of the production efforts to the heads of the households and in most African countries which are patriarchal in nature, the men take all the glory and production outcomes are accounted to them – thereby making the contributions of their wives in these instances unrecognised and invisible even though such women or housewives are more engaged in the production process. Hence, the advocates of this position opined that, the household must be viewed from the lens of gender analysis which Idyorough see as a close examination of a problem or situation in order to identify the gender issues related to it; and the unveiling and making such gender issue easily recognisable. According to the author, the process of examination of the issue

ensures that, obstacles to progress and prospects for development are identified, the choice of intervention strategies is made and the programme to be implemented is also identified. Therefore, the examination of the household production should take cognisance of the role of men as well as those played by women to be able to disaggregate the contributions to household by the husband and the wife so as to make the works of women, no matter how insignificant, visible.

Identifying women's works that are Invisible

Identifying women works that are generally invisible, Waring and others pointed out that apart from their production in agricultural activities, the most excluded and invisible works of women are household activities. According to Waring these invisible work of women are excluded from economic measurement and are hardly marketed and hence, do not contribute to gross domestic products – bringing about gross under evaluation to household productivity in national economies. From their view points, women role and contributions to households as well as the economies are most time overlooked – women's health, particularly reproductive health, and the important role that women play in childbearing have profound effects on women's ability to participate fully in the economy. Indeed, they asserted that seventy-five percent of the world total unpaid care is undertaken by women, including caring for the elderly, cooking, cleaning and caring for husbands themselves. Sadly, according to them, these jobs are not accounted for as part of economic productivity. From the perspective of the group, when the house is seen as one unit, it tends to benefit men and keeps women, by and large unequal to men in the labour market as well in the society – leading to constant perpetuation of gender based inequalities; which result in other forms of discriminations and unequal societal norms especially in large part of

the male dominated patriarchal society where women contributions; especially at the domestic environment are undervalued, even though very labourious work is done by them in both rural and urban areas, which helped in enhancing productivity of the men in the household too. However, the group believed, that valuation of unpaid and invisible labour by women will lead to quantification of women's contributions to the economy; establish their claims on national exchequer and inclusion in national policy; claims in establishing and determining legal compensation in case of divorce; and in empowering women and generally lead to formulation of suitable strategies for empowering women. Lastly, according to the later school of thought, the valuation of the works of women will provide data for effective planning; act as the legal framework for asset sharing during divorce, which has the potential to go a long way in empowering women and enhancing their dignity in the society and the households and will reinforce the recognition of the impact and contributions of non-market works towards market works, and the macro-economy dimensions of such valuation – hence, all invisible works of women either in the households or others should be effectively recognised since the labour of women in the household enable men to produce more wealth than they could not have done in the absence of the performance of such works.

How did the study arrive at the needed results and conclusion?

The study adopted survey design using a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches in data collection. Quantitative techniques involved the use of pre-tested structured questionnaires to understand the socio-demographic attributes of respondents on one hand and information on the participations of house wives in households unpaid activities such

as childbearing, caring for children, cooking, cleaning, and clothes watching including farming and other agricultural activities on the other hand. Qualitative methods used were in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) used to enhance, as well as clarify, the quantitative results generated in the survey. With respect to quantitative approach, a cross-sectional survey was carried out in which 396 women were survey in self administration of questionnaires. The inclusion criteria were: being residents in the study areas for a period of not less than one year and being a housewife and still married and living together as spouses as at the time of the interview. The study was carried out in three urban and rural locations each that were purposively selected. Delta State was demarcated into three senatorial zones and a local government purposively selected from each of the senatorial zones. The selected LGAs were: Isoko South LGA (Delta South), Ndokwa West LGA (Delta North) and Udu LGA in Delta Central. The LGAs were selected to reflect some spatial flavour in the discussion of invisibility of housewives contributions to household upkeep in Delta State. A systematic sampling selection was adopted to select the housing units where respondents who took part in the interviews were selected. The study began with contact setting and visits to relevant stakeholders and authorities to inform them of the purpose and permission to start the study between January and April, 2016.

What was the result of the study?

The study involved 396 women with equal number of them selected from rural as well as urban communities of the studied areas. The largest household sizes of the studied population were 7-8 and 5-6 members with 34.3% and 29.9% respectively. The highest age range of the respondents was in 31-40 year with 37.4%. Educationally, the proportion was 37.8%, 36.2%,

14.5% and 11.5% for primary school, secondary school, tertiary level and for those without any form of formal schooling respectively. More than 32% of the respondents lived on N10,000 or less; 25.4% lived on N11,000-N20,000, 24.5% lived on N31,000-N50,000 and 17.2% lived on more than N50,000 per month. More of the sampled population was from Urhobo (35.3%). This was followed by Igbo (30.7%) and Isoko (29.6%). Occupationally, there were more respondents who were traders (27.8%) and farmers (24.7%). However, 21.1% of them were not employed as at the time of the survey.

Do women contribute to households in Delta State?

A preponderant of the respondents (98.3%) believed that housewives are a strong part of the contributions to the household upkeep. The excerpts from interviews below further support this

“Let us be honest with ourselves. Let the men also be humble to admit our contributions to keeping the homes surviving. I dare to say today that without housewives most homes in Delta State and indeed Nigeria will never be stable economically. I have experiences and indeed witnesses that the bread winners in most homes are now the housewives. We hustle daily to bring food to the table in our homes even when most men will not want to appreciate this”

“The issue is that most men do not want to admit their helplessness that they cannot take care of the home alone. They choose to ignore our contributions even when we have taken over their duties to provide for the family. They still posed as the head without acknowledging our numerous contributions which ordinarily

should make us compete for the headship of the home, but God gave that to our men. However it is important we receive commendations for our uncountable inputs to the welfare of our families and be given loan to be able to generate more for the family”

In which areas do women contribute to their households?

Evidence from the study suggested that 94.8% of women contributed to the finances of their households. Also, 97%, 92%, 73% and 70.8% contributed to the payment of family food, payment of family clothes, properties acquisition and payment of school fees in the studied localities. Additionally, housewives are involved in providing school uniforms (71%) sending income to parents (69.1%), helping in the payment of rent for their homes (58.8%), selling in the family stores (30%) and worked in the family farms (27%). Women also contribute to other unpaid and unmarketed domestic works as 100% of the women were engaged in bathing of children, 100% of them were involved in cooking for their families, 100% of them took part in washing family clothes and another 100% of them helped to clean their homes. Other domestic activities that the housewives participated in were: caring for sick children (99.5%), taking of children to school (78%), clearing of their compound (73.1%), helping their children with home works (69.2%), ironing of clothes (55.3%) and caring for the elderly (54.3%). The extract from an FGD is line with the figures from the study.

“There is no aspect of the home where our hands are not seen. From morning till night we are all over the place in our homes to make sure all is well with the family. We cook, clean, do home works with children, mend clothes among

other things. We need recognition and financial assistance to be able to do more and also help to generate income for ourselves, families and the entire nation”

Do men contribute to household domestic works?

The study revealed that only 36.7% of men contribute to household works in the studied area with Ndokwa West having the highest households (40.9%) where men partner in domestic activities with Isoko South LGA being the least with 33.8%. The participation of Udu was 35.2%, thus establishing low participation by men in Delta State as the portion of interview revealed below:

“We do all the works in the home without any assistance from the men yet they take all the glory. Take for example; our family has over five plot of lands where we normally farm every year. I work day and night with my children on the plots of lands but all the farms belong to my husband who is seen as the head. That is what culture and tradition made it to be. All the cash from sales from the farms are given to my husband who owns the lands. What are my own in all these? I am the wife to my husband. The farmlands and my humble self are owned by my husband. I am considered the property of my husband. No matter the level of my involvement in our household activities, all my efforts are seen as part the achievement of my husband. I feel that women should be respected and treated as their husband in our communities and given independence to own some private lands”

Why are women works not recognised?

The following reasons were given for lack of recognition for women works. In the first place the domination of the society by men due to culture, pride of men, ownership of lands by men in most communities, Additionally, the selfishness of men was given as a probable reason as the excerpt from FGD in Ndokwa West revealed below:

“Man makes money and gives to the wife. He builds the house, pays school fees and assumed he is the only one working because of this. Women works are not accounted for. She gives birth to a child, cares for the child, washes clothes for all in the home, cooks for everybody and takes care of the sick child. Men do not see all these women works as anything because they are not paid for with money, they are not regarded as anything and hence they are of no value to the man. It is when cash is involved that men see it as valuable”

What happens when women works are not appreciated?

The result from the study indicated that only 33.3% of women works were recognised by their spouse since most women were of the view that their works were not recognised as the excerpts from FGDs revealed below:

“I do everything in our home. I am the bread winner of our home, yet I can't open my mouth to say a word. There is no form of appreciation; instead what I get in return for the job in the home is beating and constant reminder to me that he is the one that married me. No appreciation at all. We deserve some commendations.

We need a platform to address this challenge in a meeting. Something must be done to stop the beating”

“Nobody cares to know what we women do to help our families. We make things better in our homes and help out our husbands. When things are good, it is the men that are responsible. Every bad thing is caused by the woman. Nobody see all the good works we do to move our families forward”

“Frankly speaking, it is dejecting to work so hard and someone else gets all the glory. That is what it is. We shall be pushing for recognition and appreciation and equal rights over time. We must continue to fight for our place. Women must fight for their right my creating awareness about their plights”

“Men hide their incompetence and laziness under the cover of their gender. All the works that women do are allotted to them. This kills the productive zeal of women to be creative, knowing that the praise will go to another person and that recognition will not come their way”

Conclusion/Recommendation

The study showed that the contributions of housewives to the household development are many from the non domestic to domestic sphere even though grossly unrecognised and appreciated. It is important that that these contributions be recognised and appreciated in Delta State and indeed Nigeria so that they could

be harness for statewide and national development. The recognition of women and their works will minimise issue of gender inequality and bring about a fair society where both wives as well as their husbands will be happy. Additionally, the recognition of women and their works will also bring about the formulation of suitable strategies for planning and empowering women. It will also bring about adequate calculation of GDP which international agencies use for assistance of countries, and full estimation of our economy and generate the right data for planning and precise rating of our economy in the international arenas. We must all strive to fulfill the words of Waring that the role and work of women on the planet are intimately related to the goal of comprehensive socio-economic and political development. This work is vital for the development of all societies and for the quality of life on our planet. It is only in this sense we can achieve a balance development devoid of injustice and gender inequality. The study recommended that in line with the expectations of the participants, the following be done:

1. *Women must work together to address any form of discrimination against them by raising awareness about their plights such as calling meetings, organizing seminars and conferences to attempt to stop abuse by men;*
2. *Women be recognised and given loan to be able to generate more resources since they are major contributors to their households' income and care of their families as well as increase national productivity.”*
3. *The ownership of lands by some should be encouraged to increase their pride and self dignity and to increase their productivities and ownership.*

**CPED CONCLUDES ITS RESEARCH PROJECT TITLED:
“AMNESTY FOR PEACE IN THE NIGER DELTA: A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF
WHETHER FORGIVING CRIME OF THE PAST CONTRIBUTES TO LASTING PEACE”**

The two years research project on Amnesty for Peace in the Niger Delta falls under the 'Conflict and Development in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region' theme of the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)'s current strategic plan (2015-2019) as part of its effort to contribute to sustainable peace, security and development in the Nigeria's Niger Delta region.

The research project which began in the last quarter of the year 2013 seeks to conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of drivers of the violent conflicts in the region and to assess the impacts that the Amnesty programme has had on mitigating conflicts, national stability and the potential for reoccurrence of further conflicts. Secondly, the research project was carried out to document the challenges, experiences and lessons of the Amnesty Programme as a form of political settlement in

the Niger Delta region and its implication for sustainable peace and nation building.

Earlier in Vol. 6 No.1, June 2015, edition of CPED Research for Development News, we presented key findings of the research and policy implications based on the results of the key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGDs) used in this research. This edition of CPED RDNews therefore, considers and document the key findings of two major instruments (structured and unstructured questionnaire) used for the survey. The first is the Social Activist Sample (SAS) which was completed by 443 persons who were involved in the Niger Delta struggle as activists (76.5%) and militant agitators (16.7%). Other demographic data of these respondents are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: Dominant Social Characteristic of the Social Activist Sample (SAS)

S/N	Social characteristics	Dominant characteristics	
1	Age	25-34 years	(80.1%)
2	Sex	Male	(81.9%)
3	Religion	Christian	(90.1%)
4	Marital Status	Married	(53%)
5	Employment	Unemployed	(41.3%)
6	Monthly income	₦20,000 – ₦100,000	(50.8%)
7	Ethnic group	Ijaw	(67%)

The second instrument is In-depth schedule (INIS) which is partly structured and partly unstructured questionnaire that was administered to the general public in the core Niger Delta States (Bayelsa 33%; Delta 37.4; Rivers 29.6%) using purposive sampling. A total

of 2,444 respondents who are majorly drawn from the age set of 15-24 (25.5%) and 24-34 (65.1%) participated in this survey. Again, other social demographic data of these respondents are shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Dominant Social Characteristic of INIS

S/N	Social characteristics	Dominant characteristics
1	Age	25-34 years (65.1%)
2	Sex	Male (62.8%)
3	Religion	Christian (81.5%)
4	Marital Status	Married (48.8%)
5	Highest Education	Secondary (77.2%)
6	Occupation	Not employed (39%)
7	Monthly income	₦20,000 – ₦100,000 (55.5%)

In consideration of the results of these surveys, two issues relating to (1) Perception of the militancy as method of engagement in the resource struggle and conflict in the Niger Delta,

and (2) Inclusion and Exclusion in the Presidential Amnesty Programme, were investigated and then a recommendation is made.

PERCEPTION OF MILITANCY AS METHOD OF ENGAGEMENT IN THE RESOURCE STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT IN THE NIGER DELTA

The respondents of the Social Activist Schedule see militancy as resulting from a combination of political challenges (64.6%), which are derived from the sense of regional and minority ethnic deprivation amidst resource endowment. The political challenges including marginality, resource

control and underdevelopment are driven by governance based claims of resource and development entitlements and benefits. However, youth unemployment (20.3%) and poverty (8.4%) are also issues that explain the youth vanguard role in the militancy.

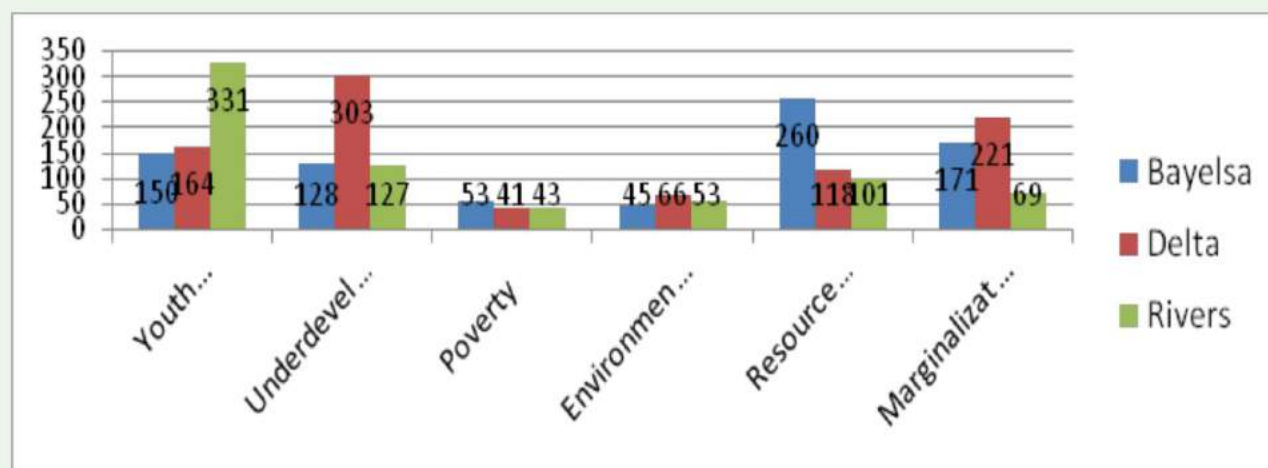


Figure 1: Causes of Militancy in the Niger Delta (INIS)

In the INIS sample, the region based socio-economic and political conditions of lack of development and social amenities (22.8%), resource injustice and the struggle for resource control (19.6%), and marginality and deprivation (18.9%) are also seen to be the source of the militancy (Figure 1). The regions high level of

youth unemployment (26.4%) is the single most important factor that is perceived to have generated militant agitation in the region.

These results indicate that there were certain conditions that generated grievances, frustration and anger among the people of the region. These

pertain largely to issues of relative deprivation. The region is seen as disadvantaged in the benefits from its resource contributions, and marginalised in developmental attention and outcomes, in spite of its enormous resource endowments and contributions to the national revenue profile. However, as noted in both samples, unemployment and poverty particularly among the youth are crucial to the youth involvement in the militancy.

If militancy was brewed from the socio-political conditions and grievances of the region, it would mean that it had grass-root and popular support. The investigation of the perceptions of respondents on militancy and nature of militant engagements in the struggle for resource control is however divided. In the INIS sample, 50.8% perceive militancy and militant engagements as positive, worthy and proper while 49.2% see it otherwise.

INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY PROGRAMME

The study investigated the level of inclusion or exclusion in PAP. This is in terms of which groups were favoured in the access to PAP and its benefits. Respondents of both the INIS and SAS

believed very strongly that non ex militants were registered and do participated in PAP (Figure 3). The INIS sample thinks that the number of the ex-militants in the DDR that are not actually ex-militants is quite high.

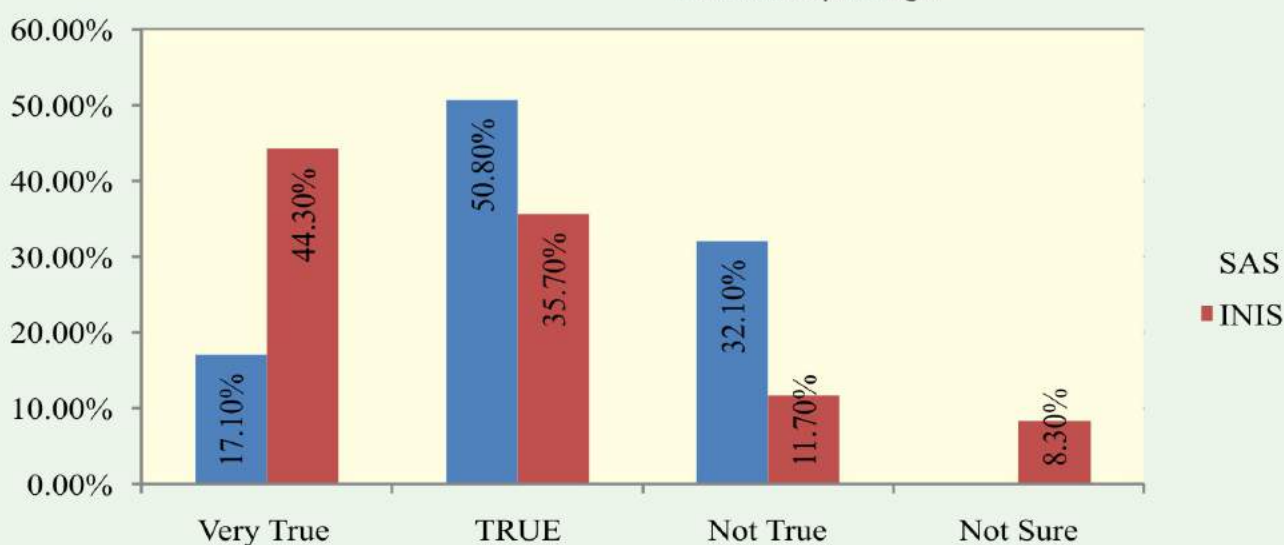


Figure 2: Responses to Allegations that many DDR participants are not actual Ex-militants

The less powerful militant leaders and those of non-Ijaw's ethnic origin did not have fair access to inclusion in PAP. This may be the explanation for the numerous protests over non inclusion by some ex-militants and ex-militant groups as well as protests by ex-militant leaders over discriminatory benefits. The programme is seen as fairly exclusionary as only some ex-militants were accommodated (49.5%). Particularly excluded is the non-armed youth (19.4%). Further investigation reveals that the PAP is perceived as

not fair to the small militant groups (44%) and non-militant youth (54.2%). The exclusion of the non-militant and non armed youth from the PAP is seen as having very negative consequences for sustainable peace and security.

Apart from it not being fair (44.8%) of respondents of INIS indicated that it could lead to a new regime of arms proliferation, violence and social unrest while (8.8%) agreed that it could lead to further youth restiveness in the region.

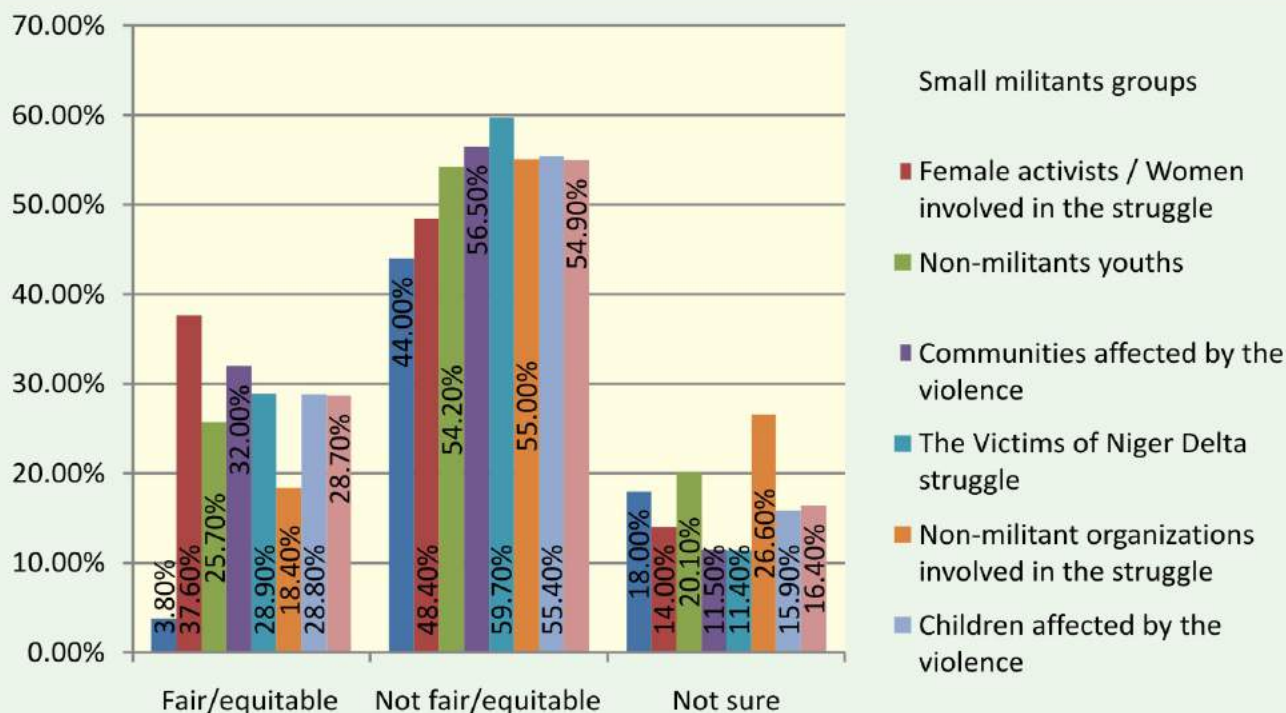


Figure 3: Assessment of the Fairness and Equitability of the PAP to Groups Involved or Affected By the Conflict (INIS)

As shown in Figure 3 above, the results of the In-depth Interview Schedule indicate that PAP is not seen to be fair and equitable to any of the groups. Particularly, it is seen to be unfair and inequitable to the victims of the struggle (59.7%), communities affected by violence

(56.5%), children affected by violence (55.4%), non militant organisations involved in the struggle (55.4%), vulnerable citizens (54.9%) and non militant youth (54.2%). It is evident that PAP ignored these groups in its implementation conception and activities.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

PAP does not seem to be the solution to the Niger Delta problem, because it has remained at the level of ad hoc, temporary and stop gap solution that is meant to end violence. The Amnesty ought to be a commencement point for providing more permanent solutions to the problems of the Niger Delta. PAP as a short term route to security and peace cannot be the long lasting solution, because it cannot solve the problems of poverty, environmental degradation, and massive youth

unemployment. It has not been accompanied by programmes that address the causes of the Niger Delta problem. As it stands, the post amnesty needs of the Niger Delta people have not been met and some of the promises made by the Federal Government during the consultations preceding the amnesty have not been redeemed.

What is clear is that conflict transformation is crucial to sustainable peace and security. For the Niger Delta, sustainable peace and security is a

mirage as long as the issues of allocation of oil based revenues to the region, land use act and other laws that disinherited the region from their oil resource, the participation in the oil economy, poverty alleviation and the grievances in relation to corporate social responsibility, environmental degradation and development and infrastructure deficits unaddressed. The way to peace is to redress the exploitation, marginalisation, inequity and injustice against the region, in favour of massive development, resource control, equity participation, environmental restoration and economic empowerment. The way beyond PAP is the design and implementation of substantive solutions, including creating employment, alleviating poverty and developing the region.

Widespread violent conflicts have been seen in some states of the Niger Delta in the recent past. The lack of conflict transformation means that any accentuation of the ND problematic, threat to regional interests, or major development that affects the fortunes of the region can be expected to generate or accentuate grievances, frustration and anger that can drive ex militants to the forest and creeks in a new resistance.

Amnesty Programme has only made peace with the arm bearing segment of the agitators in the Niger Delta by providing them training and paying stipends but the problems of the region that warranted militancy has not been addressed. Militancy has largely stopped and militant camps in the creeks have mostly been closed, but the Amnesty Programme that brought these about does not incorporate the resolution of the problems of the region. Even though the current ex- militants of the Niger

Delta have been settled, there is no guarantee that other segments of the youth will not rise to protest the persistent problems of the region. Therefore the resolution of the Niger Delta conflict goes beyond PAP.

The continued existence of security threats in the oil economy and society as indicated by vandalism of oil infrastructure, the persisting high levels of bunkering and illegal refining, high levels of political and electoral violence, and high levels of criminality such as sea piracy, all of which may have some levels of participation of new or former militants, are indications that all is not yet well with the region. There are large numbers of aggrieved youths, dissatisfied ex militants and excluded youths from PAP who remained prone to criminality, cultism and other social vices, and are available for mobilisation for violent elite struggles, electoral violence, communal conflicts, bunkering and illegal refining.

Ibaba (2011) has raised the question as to whether the attention given to ex-militants do not reinforce the frustrations of the non-arms bearing Niger Deltans. Ikelegbe (2014) has stated that the next violence would be quite extensive and intensive as every youth, woman and adult would have to join militant groups, acquire arms and demonstrate capability for violence in order to position themselves for the next Amnesty programme.

The biggest challenge to current peace and security and even the nation is what will happen with the 30,000 trained ex-militants, when the monthly stipends is stopped with the termination of the programme in 2016, as only a

trickle of those trained have been employed or provided business start up support. In the situation where industrialisation is slow and many existing industries are in dire conditions, and where governments are constrained by funding, there would be extensive unemployment among the trained ex-militants, and concomitantly frustration would be inevitable. How will the nation handle this population of youth, trained in arms, hitherto used to armed resistance as a means of livelihood, when they become frustrated and angry and possibly turned on the society, governments, the oil companies and the oil economy and infrastructure? How would their frustration and anger be contained and directed away from violence? What portends does a new militancy conducted by more educated, trained and exposed personnel have in the event of a return to the creeks, swamps and forests in a new armed resistance?

Recommendations

For PAP, there is need to strengthen the legitimacy of the leadership through better management, transparency and accountability, monitoring and coordination, the reduction of the cost of governance and the placement of the interests of ex militants at the centre of concerns. The system of payment of monthly stipends should be transparent and accountable. Payment should be made directly to the ex-militants rather than the current system of payment through their commanders.

The pathway for a broad programme beyond PAP for the resolution of the Niger Delta crisis has been identified earlier. A programme of economy recovery and development has to be established that enables the establishment of

inclusive training and skills development, and inclusive economic empowerment as a platform of creating extensive opportunities for everyone. In addition, a broad development framework that involves public- private partnership and synergies particularly between governments, oil companies and communities need to be established to drive the process of extensive infrastructure and social service development and industrialisation. There is need for synergy with the oil companies, oil and gas communities, state and local governments and international organisations in the effective implementation of PAP and the recommended post Amnesty programmes of development, along with better systems of governance, through better transparency, accountability and responsive governance.

Policy prescriptions and standards need to be established and pathways charted for building a secured and peaceful society. There is need for the establishment of explicit structural frameworks and structures for peace building and conflict resolution at the community, local government, state government and regional levels to facilitate social cohesion, reconciliation, conflict resolution and peace efforts. Such frameworks could constitute standby mechanisms for managing security and conflict issues as they arise. There is also need for policy activities and efforts to deconstruct fear, suspicion, hostilities and social tensions. There have to be efforts at reducing resource (land & water) and environmental scarcity and ensuing conflicts through lands and water remediation and reclamation. Finally, there should also be mechanisms for conflict monitoring, early warning systems on conflicts, conflict prevention and peace interventions.

Other CPED Activities

CPED Commenced its Project on Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Underserved Rural Areas of Nigeria through Implementation Research

By Job Eronmhonele, CPED, Benin City Nigeria

Although Nigeria's maternal health indicators are improving, they still remain some of the worst globally. The rate of Nigeria women dying during pregnancy and childbirth are still very high. On the other hand, Children younger than five (5) years in age in most communities around the country are often predisposed to various illnesses that may be harmful to their development, including malaria, diarrhea, worms, and nutritional deficiencies. We have a rapidly expanded children population- most of them are growing up poor, malnourished and uneducated. Nigeria is among countries with the largest numbers of unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children in the world. Out of the six million Nigeria children born every year, more than one million fail to get vaccinated by their first birthday. Maternal and child mortality patterns in Nigeria are partly explained by social, cultural and environmental conditions (Ononokponu & Odimegwu, 2014).

Much of the research on MCH issues is carried out in the college domain and they have focused on a few aspects of the demand side, largely in terms of physical access without simultaneously examining the supply side. Promoting change in MCH care delivery and use in vulnerable rural communities is therefore challenging due to knowledge barriers and service delivery gaps, traditional/cultural beliefs and practices, lack of social support networks, financial constraints and inaccessibility of health care facilities. In addition, less attention has been paid to implementation research in Nigeria entailing the production of evidence on the best ways to support the adoption of, and optimize use of innovations in MCH care. This situation will likely continue to present a challenge unless some innovative strategies are put in place in rural areas. The ability to test diverse MCH implementation pathways and to identify what works in rural community settings is

critical to the improvement of MCH care in Nigeria.

It is in this context that CPED in collaboration with its partners seeks a grant from the Think Tank Initiative's (TTI) arm of International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to implement an action research project entitled "Improving Maternal and Child Health in Underserved Rural Areas of Nigeria through Implementation Research". This 18 months study/intervention programme which is being carried out in Agbamue community of Okpe LGA, Delta state, is to contribute to the improvement of MCH care in rural communities in Nigeria.

The broad theoretical framework for this project is provided by the Theory of Change which emphasises measurable health outcomes including changes in capacity/skills, attitudes, and/or knowledge that would lead to better policies, implementation strategies and interventions. The project in using the Theory of Change focused on higher level outcomes and how best to achieve these by focusing more on needs and outputs. Within the framework of the theory of change, the programme is guided by the concept of implementation research which is that subset of health systems research that focuses on how to promote the uptake and successful implementation of evidence-based interventions and policies.

The project implementation began with a baseline survey of some communities in Okpe LGA of Delta State. The study was conducted as a cross sectional survey using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The Quantitative surveys focused on rural health facilities with particular focus on MCH issues. Data collection tools for service delivery- facilities, staff, client exit and annual number of antenatal registrations and births and household surveys focusing on household members, recently pregnant women, and mothers with children 12 to 23 months

were used. The Qualitative methods include interview with key informants, focus group discussions and participant observation which helped to explore perceptions about determinants of access to MCH, the quality of care provided, community participation in governance and possible options for improving equitable access. Ethnographic technique interview was also used to explore ways that socio-cultural traditions and customs are practiced by mothers in rural communities.

Some key findings of the maternal and child health care survey reveals that some women prefer to deliver at home than in using the PHC facility in the community. Some gave reasons as follows:

“Some women prefer to deliver their babies at home or traditional birth attendants because of the issue of respect. The women receive more pamper and care from TBAs than the staff in the PHCs”.

“The PHC staff are very hostile, they are not friendly in any way. The staff yell at pregnant women telling them ‘am I the one that got you pregnant?’,.....did I take part in the sexual pleasure?. The delivery women get such act from the PHC staff instead of calm and gentle pampering”.

“The facilities are outdated, they are too old. There are bed bugs on the bed, even the mosquito net is torn, there are no good facilities and the PHC is too small for the community”.

“Pregnant women prefer delivery their babies in traditional birth attendant or at home because of the special care they get when they visit these traditional places but at the PHC, the nurses will be yelling at the pregnant women, telling them all sorts of rubbish like, “am I the one that fuck you?” and so on. The nurses even whip the pregnant women and so on”.

The condition of some of the facilities calls for serious concern. The situation in Egborode facility is especially discouraging as the building is almost collapsing at the time of this survey. Some PHC users said that they prefer to pay for transportation and visit the nearest general hospital where services for maternal and child health care is free even though they wait a longer time on the queue to receive health care service than to visit the PHC in their communities where they have to pay highly and yet would not see a doctor for adequate treatment or for fear of be hit by a collapsed building.



Figure: Out-Patient Room in Egborode PHC located at Okpe LGA, Delta State

In some other facilities the health care staff and PHC users rely on open well for source of drinking water.

No wonder then that close to 70% of reported illness is malaria and diarrhea.



Figure: Open well found in Most Rural Communities of Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

In the focus group discussion with community members, key observable evidence that was highly reported was that the PHC facility staff usually sells some of the drugs available to patient even at higher rate compared to what they can get when they visit open shops. They claim that they pay for syringes, disinfectants, tissue papers and many other commodities before receiving services. Some therefore, claim to visit the primary health care centre only when they have emergencies.

Based on these and other evidences as outlined in the survey report, CPED has commenced some intervention activities to demonstrate evidence of what works in improving maternal and child health care situation at the rural level. Among other things the MNCH project team has commence (1) installation of water pumps and borehole to ensure supply of clean and

drinkable water in the PHC facility located at the community of project implementation as well as to serve members of the community (2) re-vitalized the operation of the Ward Development Committee (WDC) to play oversight role in the governance and administration of PHC service delivery with special focus on service delivery (3) enumeration of all households in the community with a view to establish a good patient record system as well as to try Community Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) (4) finalized plans to train members of WDC and Village health workers to pilot outreach activities and home visitation e.t.c.

The outcome/impact of these activities will be related in subsequent edition of CPED Research for Development News.

CPED Staff Participated in the Annual Meeting of Members of the Regional Advisory Committee of WAHO-IDRC Project on Health Systems Dakar, Senegal, February 15-17, 2016

By Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele

The workshop brought together all partners involved in the implementation of the regional project. The objectives of the regional advisory committee meeting among other things include to (1) assess the quality of the implementation of the four research projects of the regional initiative (2) Clarify the next steps towards the production of rigorous and useful research findings (3) Draw lessons from projects implementation and research findings (4) Clarify the next steps towards research teams' and WAHO's readiness for the production of publications and participation in the Vancouver International Conference (November 2016) (5) Develop long-term implementation plans for each research team and for the regional level to harness knowledge transfer and influence policy and practices.

Those present include the Director General of WAHO, representatives of IDRC including Sue Godt and the Regional Advisory Committee members including Dr. Artur Jorge Correia, president of the National health Development Centre, Ministry of Health, Praia, Cape Verde; Professor Rose GanaFomban Leke, Board Chair, National Medical Research Institute, University of Yaounde and Irene Agyepong, University of Ghana among others. Technical experts and consultants for the project in the region were also invited to participate in the workshop. Among these were Professor Benjamin Uzochukwu, Dr. Ayo Palmer, Mohamed Kebbeh and Adama Ndiaye. Other attendees include research team members of the four regional projects along with representatives of the project steering committees. Professor Emeritus Andrew Godwin Onokerhoraye and Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele represented CPED research team while Dr. Francis Onojeta, Ministry of Health, Asaba, Delta State represented the steering committee set up by CPED research team.

After the usual welcome remarks and introduction of participants, Dr. Keita made a presentation of the progress report on the regional project i.e. "West

Africa Initiative on the Capacity building through Research on Health Systems". While commending all the research teams for the work done so far, Dr. Keita also stated that more works need to be done to able to meet the set objectives of the initiative. He stated that the meeting would enable research teams to learn from each other and share experiences of what works better in their respective countries as well as identify gaps in the implementation of the research. Dr. Keita (regional coordinator for the WAHO project) specially commended CPED for being able to produce policy briefs with actionable recommendations for communicating with policy makers and all stakeholders. He however enjoined CPED to go beyond that and engage policy actors with key recommendations to bring about the needed change in the health systems.

To begin the day one activities proper, each research team was asked to do a group work with the help of the technical experts and consultants to access the quality of the teams' research project with respect to Implementation- design, quality, methodology, findings and urgent needs for the team to successfully complete the research project. After the group work, each team made a presentation based on the comments from the group discussions on the status and main results of the research project implementation. CPED Executive director and the health systems project team leader Professor Emeritus Andrew Godwin Onokerhoraye, who represented the project Principal Investigator (Professor Gideon E. D. Omuta) at the meeting, made a presentation on behalf of CPED research team. The other 3 research groups also made presentations on the status of their implementation and this was followed by comments, suggestions and recommendation for improvement by all research teams.

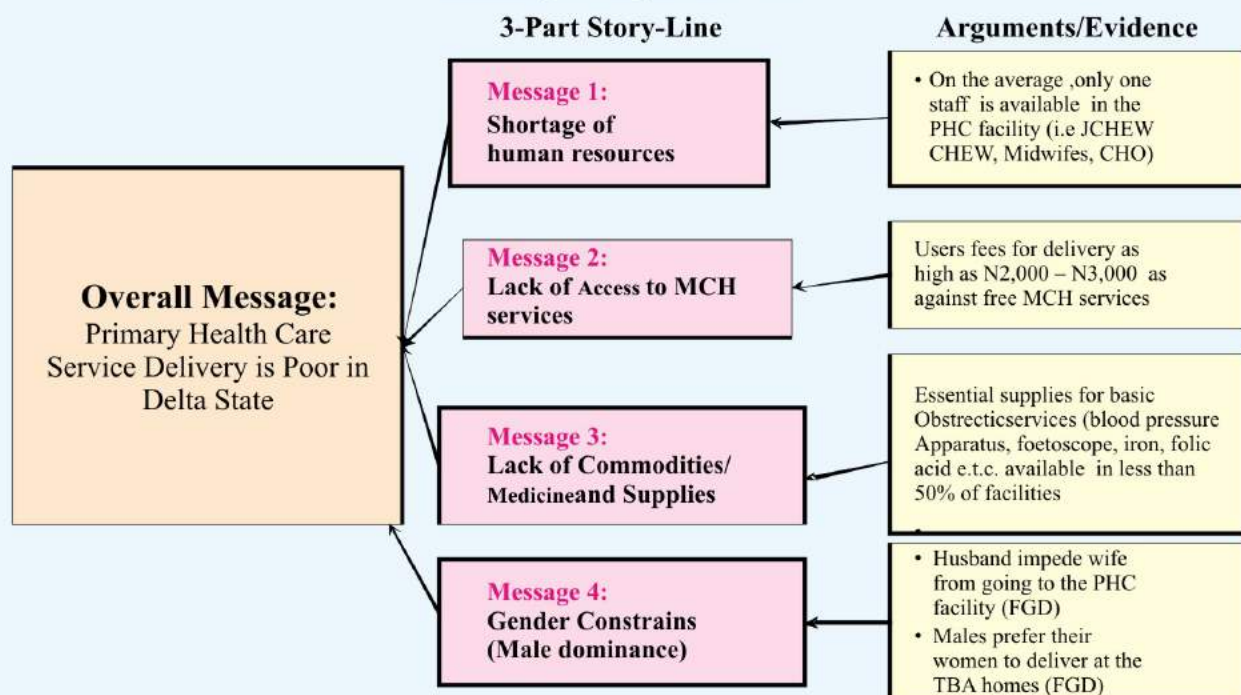
Each research team were encourage to do more rigorous analysis of their data in order to come up with more actionable recommendations that can

influence policies both at the state, national and west Africa sub-region.

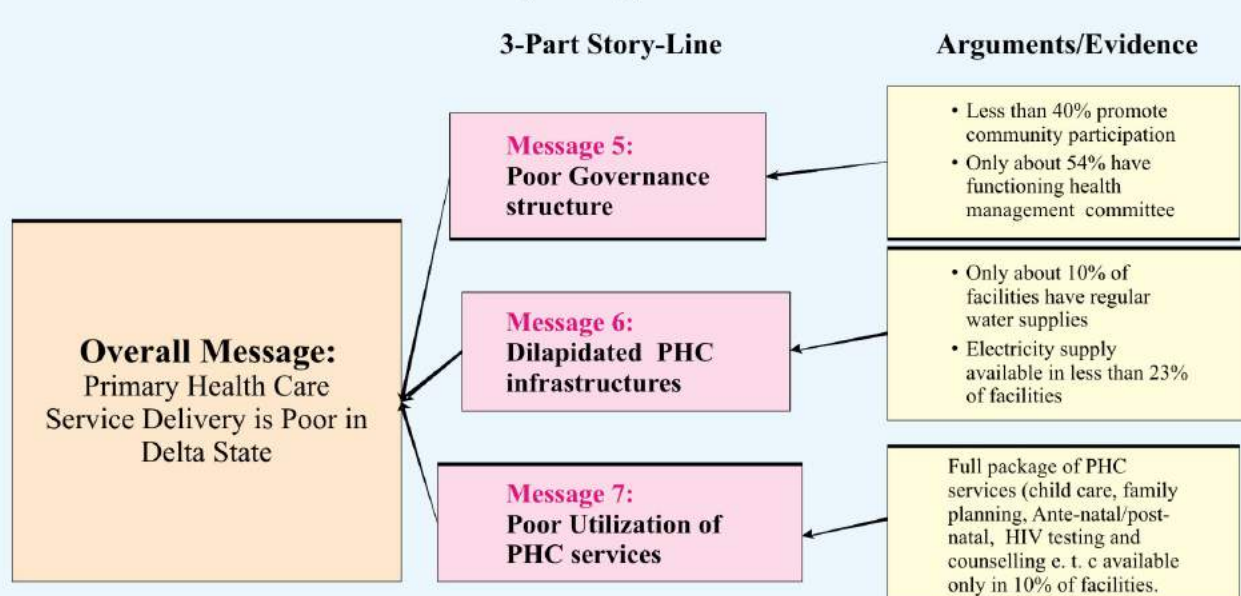
The second day of the programme witnessed a slight twist from proposed agenda for the meeting. This in my opinion was due to the presentations made the previous day. The organizing team (WAHO, IDRC and the RAC) saw the need to build the capacity of each research team to be able exhume key messages

from the various research team work with respect to the findings of the research that can influence stakeholders for action. Professor BSC Ozochukwu took the research teams through the needed work to be done to achieve this. Thereafter, each research team (organization) was asked to do a group work and come up with a single message called 'building an argument tree' following the model below.

Building an Argument Tree



Building an Argument Tree -2



CPED Research team came up with the argument tree as shown above and was later presented by **Job Eronmhonsele**, who represented CPED Junior research team for the health systems project in Delta State. This was followed by comments and suggestions for improvement as well.

To further strengthened the various teams on policy engagement, the two organisations from the Anglophone countries (Nigeria, Sierra Leone) and Francophone (Senegal and Burkina Faso) were asked to jointly discuss what the roles of researchers are in moving from research findings to health policy. The steering committee members present, WAHO/IDRC group as well as the RAC members individually as a group brainstormed on their role in moving research findings to health policies both at the national and regional level.

The third day of the meeting was basically a half-day event. After the usual recap of the previous days' work, Dr. Keita of WAHO and Professor Irene Ayepong, University of Ghana and a member of the Regional Advisory Committee made presentations on the links/synergies between the regional project and other initiatives in the ECOWAS region including the new project of WAHO on "Innovating for Maternal Newborn and Child Health in the region" and how to capitalized on the initiatives.

This was followed by a discussion on the preparations for the World Symposium of Research on Health Systems to be held in Vancouver, November 14-18,

2016. It was gathered that abstracts have been submitted and virtually only 1 abstract each from the countries in the sub-region have been accepted for presentation so far. For example, only one abstract each has been accepted from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal e. t. c. However, the Symposium organizing committee still invites abstracts for individual presentations linked to the six sub-themes of the symposium. For more information, please visit the website: www.healthsystemsresearch.org/hsr2016. It was also emphasized that the competition is high and abstracts arising from the health systems projects in the region for submission, should be as many as possible to increase the chances of getting at least one accepted. Especially junior researchers and postgraduate students were encouraged to apply and register for the conference.

To finalize the meeting process and chart a part way for what lies ahead, each research team, again, was asked to draw up an action/activity plan for the remaining period of the project. Professor Onokerhoraye presented the plan on behalf of CPED to include more engagement with policy makers to utilized recommendations of the research as well as organizing a workshop were all key stakeholders will be invited to consider the research report and chart the course for implementation to bring about the needed change.

The meeting was well organized and was declared closed by the DG of WAHO.



**REUNION ANNUELLE DES MEMBRES DU COMITE CONSULTATIF REGIONAL
DU PROJET OOAS-CRDI**
**ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
WAHO-IDRC DAKAR 15 – 17 / 02 / 2016**

CPED Joins other Think Tanks in West Africa to Launch a Network – (WATTNet) March 1-2, 2016, Accra, Ghana

By Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele

Over the years especially beginning from the 1960s, most of the countries in the West Africa Sub-region have witnessed Economic mismanagement and most importantly political instability which have led to decelerated economic growth and development in the region. Leaders of the region though are working hard towards more economic integration, would require policy options on good governance and sound economic policies to promote sustainable development in the region. Collaborative approach to research on priority areas are therefore needed to transform and accelerate inclusive development in the region, hence the emergence of WATTNet.

On March 1st, 2016, the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) based in Benin City, Nigeria, together with 9 other Think Tank organizations in the West Africa Sub-region namely: African Heritage institution (Afriheritage), Enugu Nigeria, Centre d 'Etudes De Documentation, de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CEDERES), Burkina Faso, Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES), Ivory Coast, Consortium for Economic and Social Research (CRES), Senegal, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), Abuja, Nigeria, Institute of Democratic Governance (IDEG), Accra, Ghana, Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), Ghana and Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana, launched a network called WATTNet.

The West African Think Tank Network (WATTNet) is a network of Think Tanks in West Africa sub-region with the objective of promoting socio-economic and political development in West Africa through evidence-

based research and advocacy. Among other things WATTNet seeks to create a platform for collaboration and cross-learning among West African Think Tanks, which enables sustained cooperation among research institutions in the region and generates quality evidence and knowledge on economic, social and political issues that feed into national and regional policy design, implementation and evaluation. WATTNet is also organised to respond to the needs of national, regional and international development actors, including institutions such as Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the African Development Bank (AFDB).

The launch of the Network coincided with its inaugural conference and was attended by eminent personalities across the region including his Excellency, John Agyekun Kufuor, former president of Ghana; Mr. Kalilou Traore, ECOWAS Commissioner for Industry and Private Sector; Dr. Coulibaly Aly Diadjiry, Director of the Centre of Strategic and Programming and Research, WAEMU; Ms Marie-laurie Akin-Olugbade, AfDB Resident representative in Ghana and Dr. Simon Carter, Regional Director, IDRC regional Office for Sub Saharan Africa. Others include all the Directors of the member organisations of WATTNet, researchers from Universities and other institutions across the region, captains of industries and allied institutions, Policy/Decision makers from different ministries across the region as well as representatives of international development partners. Professor Williams Akpochofo, a member of CPED Board of Trustees representing the Chairman, Professor Andrew



His Excellency, John A. Kufuor, Former President of Ghana at the opening ceremony of the Launch of WATTNet

G. Onokerhoraye, CPED Executive Director, Dr. Johnson E. Dudu, Senior Research fellow and Acting Director of Research, CPED and Engr. Job I. Eronmhonsele, Senior Programme Officer and Head of Communications Division, CPED represented CPED team at the conference. In all, about 200 participants attended the official launch and the inaugural conference of WATTNet.

In his opening remarks at the official launch of WATTNet His Excellency, John Kufuor said “having looked at the topic of the conference Transforming West Africa for Inclusive Development, I remembered that ECOWAS was set up to do exactly this work more than 40 years ago. I asked myself why has ECOWAS not being able to do it 40 years down the line.....they are trying but they do not seem to be making the headway to realize this lofty and very crucial mission to achieve inclusive development for West Africa”.

Former president John Kufuor noted that there still exist lack of commitment and lack of

resolution on the part of leaders that are suppose to drive the mission of ECOWAS and therefore tasked WATTNet to critically find out why this has been so and to work hard to influence the leadership of the region. In his concluding speech, he enjoined members of the WATTNet to work hard to get leaders to appreciate how the countries in the region can benefit from each other and thereby realize the mission of ECOWAS. During the questions and answers session immediately after his speech, a female participant asked Mr. President what he thinks of women inclusion in political advancement of the region. In his response, His Excellency John Kufuor noted that politics in the region is still in a level where muscles are required to play the games. But he however proposed that the legislative arm of government should have two levels i.e. a house with democratically elected members and another with a composition of technocrats without elections. According to him even if women are not able to compete for the first house they can for the second which will be purely based on merit.



Professor Andrew Onokerhoraye Signing the WATTNet CHARTER

The official launch of the Network also witnessed the signing of the WATTNet CHARTER. CPED Executive Director signed on behalf of CPED as a member of WATTNet.

Other activities included presentations and discussions which focused on Trade and Regional Integration, Natural Resource Management,

Private Sector and Infrastructure for Inclusive Development. And in the end the conference was able to develop an action plan that will address some critical issues pertaining to the sub-region, and obtained commitment from Heads of Governments on the action plan.

The IEA, Ghana played the role of Secretariat in organizing and hosting the two-day conference.

CPED Participated in the 2016 Africa Think Tank Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco, May 2 – 4, 2016.

By Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele

The acceptance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 marked the initiation of a new universal effort to eradicate poverty in all its forms. The 17 goals and 169 targets are now a global mandate for all nations to make life better for their people, and are designed to include the interrelated and interdependent actions relating to their achievement. They are also consistent with the vision spelled out in Africa Union's (AU) Agenda 2063, endorsed by African Heads of State in 2013. In order to have a smooth takeoff in the implementation of these laudable agenda, it would be of great interest for countries facing similar challenges along with

their respective think tank organizations devoted to doing the deep thinking to help policy-makers make informed decisions share their challenges and successes so that all their countries can be better positioned in designing their futures. It is in line with this concept that on May 2-4, 2016, the Think Tanks and Civil Societies of the University of Pennsylvania (TTCSP) in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and OCP Policy Centre brought together 85 think tanks from 45 countries to attend the 3rd Africa Think Tank Conference titled "Building a Sustainable and Secure Future for the People and Institutions of Africa" which was held in Sofitel Hotel, Marrakesh, Morocco.

The opening ceremony which began on May 2nd at 17:00, Morocco time was attended by majority of participants who arrived on or before that day. In his welcome remarks James McGann, Director, TTCSP, University of Pennsylvania, thanked everyone present for taken up the challenge of bridging the gap between research and policy implementation. He enjoined everyone to be open minded during the discussion and to focus on solutions to Africa problems. The opening session also featured a discussion panel with the theme “Africa – Recent Developments and the Role of Think Tanks, and was moderated by John

Yearwood, Vice Chair, International Press Institute and Former World Editor, Miami Herald. The panelists include Abdallah Saaf, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Centre, and Former Minister of Education, Morocco; Hamid Temmar, Former Minister responsible for Economic Transition, Algeria; Newai Gebre-ab, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, and Executive Director, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), Ethiopia as well as Fredrick Nikiema, Former Minister of Communication and Spokesperson of the Transitional Government, Burkina Faso.



Job Eronmhonsele Presenting in Thematic Panel 1: Implementing the SDGs/Agenda 2063 – Think tanks roles



Thematic panel 2 with four panelists has its theme as “Climate Change- How can Think Tanks, Individually and Collectively, Support COP22 preparation?”, thematic panel 3 with four panelists has its theme “Trade and Economic Exchanges- How can Think Tanks Individually and Collectively, facilitate adoption of the Continental Free Trade Area?, while thematic panel 4 also with four panelists discussed the theme “Think Tank Sustainability-Sharing views and Experiences from Africa and Beyond”.

All four thematic panels were followed by 30min questions, comments and general discussions. That helped to prepare for the Strategic Brainstorming Panels (SBPs) scheduled to take place the next day, May 4th, 2016.

On May 4, 2016 the conference began with a breakout session to further brainstorm on the four

themes of the 4 thematic panels of the previous day as discussed earlier with a view to come up with recommendations for policy actions. Again, each of the SBP featured speakers and chairs and in the end all participants met in a plenary where the chairs of the SBPs presented recommendations from the breakout SBP.

In all, discussions covered the preservation and development of Africa Think Tanks, including key aspects such as governance and capacity building, independence and financial sustainability, strategic communication, partnerships and cross-fertilization with other think tanks, governments and NGOs. The conference no doubt has further strengthened the relationship between Africa think tanks as well as linkages between think tanks and policy makers to promote sustainable development of Africa and strong south-south cooperation.



CENTRE FOR POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT (CPED)

Under the current five-year programme of work, CPED activities focus on four broad areas reflecting the objectives set for the five-year strategic plan period as follows:

- (i) Research;
- (ii) Communications and outreach;
- (iii) Intervention programmes; and
- (iv) Capacity Building of CPED and partners.

RESEARCH

Six research thematic areas will be targeted by CPED during the five-year period as follows:

1. *Climate change with particular reference to the wetland and coastal regions;*
2. *Gender and development;*
3. *Health Systems and health care delivery;*
4. *Action Research on Education and Development;*
5. *Growth, development and equity; and*
6. *Niger Delta region, peace building and development.*

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Partnership development with public and private sector/civil society organisations

INTERVENTION PROGRAMMES ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Beyond action and policy oriented research and its communications activities, our mandate entails implementing intervention activities in our identified areas of policy research during the five-year strategic plan period. In this context intervention programmes that benefit largely deprived grassroots communities and other disadvantaged people are being carried out.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF CPED AND PARTNERS

CPED believes that the strengthening partner organisations including community based organisations must be a key mechanism for the achievement of its mandate during the next five years. This also includes the strengthening of CPED to be able to fulfil its mandate during the strategic plan period.

