

ABOUT US:

Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa), formerly known as the Niger Delta Professionals for Development (NIDPRODEV), is a Nigerian non-governmental organization (NGO) operating in Nigeria since 1999 with a mission to facilitate community and human development, foster good governance and create inclusive and diverse networks and collaborations in the Niger Delta and beyond. Our programmes and projects focuses on three thematic areas: Governance & Human Rights, Sustainable Livelihoods & Health, and Humanitarian Support Services.

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Strengthening CSOs capacity to promoting Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights as an Accountability tool In Nigeria- VPs Accountability Project

www.lite-africa.org

Project Overview

The VPs Accountability project funded by the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) is a one year project (October 2013-September 2014) with an overall goal to strengthen the Nigeria CSO Coalition on Business and Human Rights to build and enforce measures of corporate accountability, including increasing state practices on business and human rights principles and standards and ensuring the Nigerian government and Oil companies commits to the Voluntary Principles on Security and

Human Rights. The major Objectives of the project are:

- ◆ To Increase the awareness of the VPs and provide a platform for engagement in Nigeria through trainings and workshops
- ◆ To enhance advocacy skills of community members and CSOs to persuade oil companies and the Federal Government to sign up to and operationalize the VPs.

Community Awareness Sessions on the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (the VPs)

LITE Africa carried out an awareness session on the Voluntary Principles in Abagalada, Beneku, Koroama and Gbarantoru communities in the two Niger Delta states: of Delta, and Bayelsa between March and April 2014, .

Communities chosen for this sensitization were oil producing communities with history of violence, conflict and rights violations.

Koroama and Gbarantoru in Yenagoa L.G.A of Bayelsa State are host communities to Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). Abagalada and Beneku communities in Ndokwa West LGA of Delta state are host to Nigerian Agip Oil Company and Sterling Oil Company respectively.

These sessions provided a platform to create awareness and sensitize community members on the VPs as



Awareness Session at Beneku Community

a tool for dialogue and for them to advocate for the full implementation of the VPs by oil companies operating in their communities.

The Sessions had representatives of different socio-economic and political groups in the communities; including traditional leaders, women, youth leaders, elders, opinion leaders and retired Security Officers. Women constituted about 30% of the total attendance in the communities.

Civil Society Strengthening and Coordination

Upcoming News

◆ A two-day training on the VPs for 25 participants comprising of 5 CSOs, 5 Police Officers, 5 Military Officers, 5 civil defence officials and 5 Federal Government Officials in Abuja

◆ High level advocacy to Government officials and key stakeholders on the need for the Nigerian Government to sign on to the VPs



Jerry Nwigwe of LITE-Africa facilitating a session at the CSOs Meeting

As part of the effort in strengthening civil society efforts on the VPs advocacy, Cordaid is supporting two meetings of the Nigerian CSO Coalition on Business and Human Rights. A Meeting was held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on the 15th of April 2013 with the aim to reinforce coordination of VP efforts across Nigeria.

It brought together 30 CSOs representatives working on issues of Human Rights, Peace and Conflict, transparency and accountability, corporate

social responsibility and community development.

The meeting enabled participants to be sensitized on the VPs and various Business and Human Rights Framework and to develop an advocacy plan that will support the goal of the project, which is; ensuring the Nigerian government and oil companies commits to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Detailed report is on www.lite-africa.org

About CORDAID

Catholic Organization for Relief & Development Aid (CORDAID), is a Netherlands development organization has been protecting vulnerable human beings for almost 100 years, wherever poverty, injustice and violence have struck the hardest, both close to home and further afield..

Cordaid has a network of 634 partner organizations in more than thirty countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

Cordaid strives for a fair and sustainable society in which every individual counts; a society in which people share the Global Common Goods and one that leaves room for diversity. Cordaid collaborate with individuals and organizations who share our values and goals.

Business and Human Rights forum



Group Photograph at the Business and Human Rights forum



Mrs Orage of National Human Rights Commission facilitating a session at the forum

LITE Africa facilitated the first Business and Human Rights Forum in the Niger Delta held on the May 14, 2014 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. It brought together 27 stakeholders ranging from representatives of Shell Petroleum Development Company, Nigerian Agip Oil Company, Nigerian Police Force, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice, oil producing Community leaders from Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa states and Civil society Organizations working in the Niger Delta. The forum discussed on existing grievance mechanism and equipped participants with the 3rd pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights "Remedy Framework". The forum enabled stakeholders to be sensitized on their roles in advocating for corporate accountability standards in respecting human rights using the VPs most especially. At the end of the discussion, recommendations were proffered on ways to strengthen the grievance mechanisms and possibly establish it where it doesn't exist. For the full report, please log on to LITE Africa website (www.lite-africa.org).