

Report of Mobilization of Pilot Community-Based Stakeholders on the Project “Gender Inequality and Rural Women’s Health in Post-COVID-19 Nigeria: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Women’s Health in Nigeria”

Introduction

This report covers the engagement meetings held with stakeholders after identification and selection of pilot communities for intervention activities in the (6) target project Local Government Areas in Edo and Delta states.

Selection of Pilot Communities for Intervention Activities

The identification and selection of Six (6) target pilot communities took place in the last quarter of the project’s first year. This selection was carried out by the project team after a comprehensive analysis and review of the data generated from the project's wards and communities. Several criteria were utilized in this selection process, including:

- Gender challenges faced by women in the community.
- Women’s access to and decision-making power regarding productive resources.
- Women’s access to leadership roles and participation.
- Impact of COVID-19 on the livelihood of women and other people in the community.
- Access and use of healthcare facilities.
- The security situation and ease of access to the communities.

Following a thorough review of the baseline survey and a careful examination of the security conditions in the target Local Government Areas (LGAs), with consideration for the safety of project staff during intervention activities, the project team selected one community from each of the six LGAs. This approach aligns with the project proposal's strategy aimed at enhancing the capacity of women across the three senatorial districts of Edo and Delta states. The names of the six selected communities are provided in the table below:

Table 1: Pilot Communities Selected for Intervention

<i>Selected Community</i>	<i>Local Government Area</i>	<i>Senatorial District</i>	<i>State</i>
<i>Akpata</i>	Ethiope East	Delta Central	Delta
<i>Irri</i>	Isoko South	Delta South	Delta
<i>Alifekede</i>	Ika South	Delta North	Delta
<i>Usugbenu</i>	Esan Central	Edo Central	Edo
<i>Ikoha</i>	Ovia South West	Edo South	Edo
<i>Idoko</i>	Etsako East	Edo North	Edo

Mobilization of selected pilot communities for intervention activities

Following the selection of the project communities, the next step was community mobilization. Mobilizing the project beneficiaries, particularly within the pilot communities, was a crucial process to secure their support and readiness for the upcoming tasks. The project team initiated a series of consultative meetings with women, girls, youths and community leaders to provide them with comprehensive briefings on the Women-Rise project and to clarify their roles in executing the intervention activities within their respective communities. Below are the mobilization efforts conducted by the project staff in the pilot-communities.

Ikoha Community, Ovia South West LGA

The residents of Ikoha community primarily rely on agriculture as their main occupation. Additionally, some community members are engaged in fishing, which constitutes a significant part of their livelihood. However, the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic have substantially impacted their way of life including their economic livelihood. During the mobilization visit to the community, the CPED project team was warmly received by the community's elders' council and other key stakeholders, including women leaders and youth groups. The discussion highlighted the significant challenges faced by the community due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community spokesperson, in his address, expressed gratitude for choosing Ikoha as the target community in Ovia South West and assured the team of their full support. He noted that the community had actively participated in a recent survey carried out by the organization, with some of their women and men involved in focus group discussions and interviews.

Among those present during the visit to the community were Elder Odin Godfrey (Odiowere) and head of the community, Hon. Sebastian Omoregbe, Chairman, Community Development Committee (CDC), Elder (Mrs.) Aruoyuwa Aboghafan, head of the women groups and Mrs. Omorodion Juliet, a teacher in the community.

Table 2: Participants at the Meeting in Ikoha Community

S/n	Names	Sex
1	Mrs. Omorodion Juliet	F
2	Airwyuwa Ikponmwosa	M
3	Mr. Odin Godfrey	M
4	Mr. Dick Adun	M
5	Mr. Izeivwokun Uyi	M
6	Mr. Edoghogho	M
7	Mrs. Margreth Umolo	F
8	Mrs. Cicilia Odin	F
9	Mrs. Victoria Ewade	F
10	Mrs. Osagiede Margreth	F
11	Mrs. Ovesehi	F
12	Mrs. Florence Edoghogho	F
13	Mrs. Vero Joseph	F
14	Mrs. Rose Adun	F

15	Mr. Samuel Ogbormo	M
16	Mr. John Umolo	M
17	Mrs. Rose Awuyo	F
18	Mrs. Esehe Omozuwa	F
19	Mrs. Regina Ashibede	F
20	Mr. Robison	M
21	Mrs. Patience Ogbomo	F
22	Mr. Omokars Richard	M
23	Mrs. Magdaly Omorodi	F
24	Mrs. Itoha Omorodio	F
25	Mrs. Friday Iduwe	M
26	Kate Osewegie	F
27	Julie Asenogua	F
28	Eboghafan Arwoyuwa	F
29	Mr. Ojo Eghosa. G.	M
30	Anthony Oguntin	M
31	Christiana Aghobahi	F
32	Odobo Evon Esohe	F

Usugbenu Community, Esan Central LGA

Usugbenu community is situated in the Irrua metropolis of Esan Central Local Government Area in Edo state. The residents of this community primarily derive their livelihood from farming and trading.

During the visit to Usugbenu community, the CPED team, provided stakeholders with a comprehensive briefing on the purpose of the visit and sought their support for the project's implementation within the community. In his reaction, the representative of the community head, Elder Aburimen expressed gratitude to the team for choosing Usugbenu community as the site for the pilot project. The community leader further affirmed their commitment to supporting and collaborating with the team throughout the project's implementation in the community.

During the discussion, the women leader of Ughenokhua, a quarter within Usugbenu, shared her perspective on how the COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the women in the community. She highlighted that many women who were engaged in trading faced significant disruptions to their sources of income. She expressed concern that a considerable number of women were currently unemployed, which was leading to various health challenges within the community.

Other community members who participated in the mobilization visit also voiced their grievances regarding the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on their livelihoods. They lamented how the pandemic had resulted in an increase in unpaid work for married women in the community. Additionally, they raised concerns about the high cost of living, which was disproportionately

affecting the less fortunate members of the community. These challenges underscored the importance of the Women-Rise project in addressing the pressing needs and vulnerabilities faced by the community, particularly its women.

Table 3: Participants at the Meeting in Usugbenu Community

S/n	Name	Sex
1	Abai Osemuahu	M
2	Aburimen Anthony	M
3	Akhabue Obehi	F
4	Akugbe Stanley	M
5	Anetor Ehimen	M
6	Anetor Obehi	F
7	Anna Odafe	F
8	Augustine Ebhodaghe	M
9	Augustine Success	M
10	Bridget Ushahon	F
11	Doris Agbozi	F
12	Edeko Justina	F
13	Ehimen Omozokpia	M
14	Esegbe Ehijie	M
15	Faith Usiahon	F
16	Gladys Okosodo	F
17	Joel Ajah	M
18	Joy Godwin	F
19	Juliana Odigie	F
20	Justina Ehikpehale	F
21	Mabel Iluobe	F
22	Mabel Ugbehilu	F
23	Maria Agbozi	F
24	Matthew Iyoha	M
25	Michael Ineomon	M
26	Obolo Itohan	F
27	Odion Remi	F
28	Omoike Jude	M
29	Onaburekhalen L.A.	M
30	Patience Akowe	F

Idoko Community, Etsako East LGA

Over the years, the Idoko community has maintained peaceful coexistence with neighbouring communities in Etsako East Local Government Area. The residents of this community are known for their peace-loving nature, and their primary economic activity centres around agriculture. As

part of the community mobilization efforts, the project team scheduled a visit to the Idoko community.

Upon arrival in the community, the project staff first paid a courtesy visit to the community's leadership. Welcoming the team were prominent figures from the Idoko community, including the Village Head, High Chief Oshomah Akenabor, the Community Secretary, Chief Aliu Peter, and several other community chiefs.

Subsequently, a stakeholders' meeting was convened to inform the community about the purpose of the visit and to announce that Idoko community had been selected as one of the pilot communities for intervention activities in the ongoing women-rise project. In attendance were key stakeholders, such as the Women Leader, retired Mrs. Lucy Oshomah, representatives of women's groups, and the youth group led by Youth Leader Mr. Vincent Ademu. This engagement meeting, attended by over thirty participants, served as a strategic platform to garner community support for the project and ensure active participation during its implementation.

High Chief Oshomah, in his welcoming remarks, expressed gratitude and appreciation to the project staff, the project team members, for selecting Idoko community out of the many communities in the area for the project. The Community High Chief further urged CPED to assist their community in any way it saw fit, emphasizing the importance of the project for their community's well-being.

Table 4: Participants at the Meeting in Idoko Community

S/n	Names	Sex
1	High Chief Akenabor	M
2	Chief Partrick Endurance	M
3	Chief Gabriel I. Moghe	M
4	Chief Boyo Eneto	M
5	Mr. Patrick Ofor	M
6	Mr. Paul Ogidiko	M
7	Mr. John Lamai	M
8	Mr. Joseph Damisa	M
9	Chief Emmanuel Ann	M
10	Mr. Umoru Brugbi	M
11	Chief. Emmanuel Arai	M
12	Vicent Ademu	M
13	Paul Zibiri	M
14	Noble Oshomah	M
15	Oshogwemeh Ayegbeni	M
16	Omoh Mutube	M
17	Oshomah Lucy	F
18	Imagwe Felicia	F
19	Akenabor Magdalene	F

20	Damisa Endurance	F
21	Lamai Paulina	F
22	Sheun Queen	F
23	Enike Felicia	F
24	Lamai Angela	F
25	Imagwe Faith	F
26	Emoh Rose	F
27	Monday Gift	F
28	Ananhi Patience	F
29	Emmanuel Joy	F
30	Alimasunya Angela	F
31	Sabo Angela	F

Alifekede Community, Ika South

Upon arrival in the community, the project team initiated a meeting with the community's elders to explain the purpose of their visit. Fortunately, after a thorough and detailed presentation by the project staff, the elders expressed their full support for the project and pledged to assist the project team in achieving its objectives. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for the following day to allow the project team and the council of elders to engage with various segments of the community, represented by heads of associations, including farmers, market traders, women, youths, and others.

During the subsequent meeting, a member of the project staff, provided a concise overview of the Women-Rise project and explained the reason for her visit to the community. She concluded her presentation by urging everyone present to cooperate with CPED and its project partners to ensure the project's success.

The attendees at the meeting expressed their happiness and gratitude to CPED for extending assistance during these challenging times faced by the community. They assured the project team of their unwavering support and committed to creating a conducive environment for the team to work and achieve their objectives successfully.

Table 5: Participants at the Meeting in Alifekede Community

SN	Name	Sex
1	Maria Isichei	F
2	Bose James	F
3	Amaka Chiogor	F
4	Okolie Mary	F
5	Stephen Okocha	F
6	Sunday Okindu	M
7	Ebu Philip	M

8	Goddey Efere	M
9	Ojei Ignatius	M
10	Obiazi Solomon	M
11	Ikpade Shimen	M
12	Omorojie Amechi	M
13	Efere Lucky	M
14	Ewere Agholor	M
15	Joy Okumbor	F
16	Ebuh Philip	M
17	Joy Elelegwu	F
18	Susan Onybome	F
19	Ebu Mary	F
20	Okonji Ngozi	F
21	Ozor Emeke	F
22	Okafor Blessing	F
23	Nkechi Lucky	F
24	Elizabeth Uzor	F
25	Esther Iwebuke	F
26	Ojei Jacob	M
27	Ngozi Ebuh	F
28	Obaizi Monday	M
29	Cecilia Stephen	F
30	Kika Joy	F

Irri Community, Isoko South

The project team also visited Irri Community, where they were warmly received by the President, Mr. Justin, and his cabinet members. The project staff formally briefed them on the purpose of their visit and emphasized the role the community would play in ensuring the project's success, which included the formation of a Community Project Implementation Committee at a later date.

On the following day, the project team convened a meeting with various stakeholders, including farmers, market traders, women's groups, teachers, artisans, youths, and elders. During this gathering, the project team provided an overview of the project and encouraged the community members to wholeheartedly support the team in carrying out the intervention program within their community.

In response, the President of Irri community conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to CPED for selecting their community and assured the project team of their full support and collaboration throughout the project's implementation.

Table 6: Participants at the Meeting in Irri Community

Sn	Name	Sex
1	Unufe Ajiri	F
2	Eyeye Loveth	F
3	Akpotu Flora	F
4	Onokurede Uyoyou	F
5	Idi Roda	F
6	Aboghe Paulina	F
7	Cletus Emamuzo	F
8	Arekor Ada	F
9	Ajiri Gift	F
10	Ekee Success	F
11	Omakaino Abigail	F
12	Ezekiah Rosemary	F
13	Alex Anthonia	F
14	Odikeh Linda	F
15	Idi Anthonia	F
16	Okekele Roselyn	F
17	Actor Gloria	F
18	Patience Ugbalake	F
19	Patience Agbanye	F
20	Okobri Uzuazoraro	M
21	John Edoworu	M
22	Goodluck Ajaru	M
23	Eju Mike	M
24	Reuben Agarry	M
25	Egi Alex Aforkoghene	M
26	Patrick Omowe	M
27	Osage Henry	M
28	Office Othuke	M
29	Franco Obonyano	M
30	Ohis David	M

Akpata Community, Ethiope East

Akpata community is located in the Isiokolo metropolis within the Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta state. The residents of this community primarily sustain themselves through farming and trading.

During the meeting between the CPED project staff and the community stakeholders, the CPED team provided an extensive briefing on the purpose of their visit and requested the community's

support for implementing the project within their community. In response, Hon. Perter Omorhokpo, the representative of the community head, expressed gratitude to the team for selecting Akpata community as the site for the pilot project. On behalf of the stakeholders, the community leader reaffirmed their dedication to supporting and collaborating with the team throughout the project's implementation in the community.

During the discussion, some community members shared their experiences regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the community. They noted that Akpata, being highly reliant on agriculture and the informal sector, had experienced disruptions in supply chains, reduced market access, and labour shortages due to government-enforced lockdowns and movement restrictions. These disruptions had led to decreased agricultural productivity and income loss for many rural families. They expressed concern about the high unemployment rate in the community and expressed a desire for the organization and government to provide capacity-building opportunities that could empower individuals to achieve economic self-reliance.

Table 7: Participants at the Meeting in Akpata Community

SN	Name	Sex
1	Akpodeh Julie	F
2	Afovbe Bkessing	F
3	Iboyi Rebecca	F
4	Fifena Margret	F
5	Akambe Juliet	F
6	Orukpete Joy	F
7	Esowhode Queen	F
8	Efedaye Ngozi	F
9	Owhovorione Stella	F
10	Edewor Ochuko	F
11	Egbo Mercy	F
12	Oghor Clara	F
13	Ugherughe Edith	F
14	Vera Oghenemine	F
15	Ajewho Augustina	F
16	Sunday Orueseamre	M
17	Perter Omorhokpo	M
18	Justice Udi	M
19	Otuenu Sunday	M
20	Peter Efedaye	M
21	Abraham Owhovoriode	M
22	John Ememe	M
23	Purity Onosiapkor	M
24	Hosea Omosevwhera	M
25	David Oboba	M
26	Ese Francis	M

27	Ikede Stanley	M
29	Michael Egbo	M
30	Obimiruru Sunday	M
31	Clara Akpojivi	F



Photo: Mobilization of community leaders and other stakeholders in Idoko community, Etsako East, Edo state



Photo: Meeting with elders in Idoko community, Etsako East, Edo state



Photo: Project staff with community stakeholders in Usugbenu community, Esan Central LGA, Edo state.



Photo: CPED Program staff interacting with stakeholders in Ikoha community, Ovia South West LGA, Edo state



Photo: Mobilization of stakeholders in Ika South, Delta state

Conclusion

The mobilization in the six (6) selected pilot communities for intervention activities gave the project staff the opportunity to engaged in consultative meetings with community stakeholders, including women, and youths, to ensure their comprehensive understanding of women-rise project and their roles in its successful implementation.