

Community Women Engage CCDC and RDCs' Leaders on Gender Inclusiveness



AMAICOMMA GFPs and women leaders interact with the Executive members during the Gender Forum held at Ode-Ugbo, Ondo State.

The Gender Focal Persons (GFPs) of the RDCs/CCDC with support from PPCD facilitated a Gender Forum and advocacy engagements with the RDCs and CCDC in the third quarter of 2021. The activities which had over 97 participants were organized to ensure that gender mainstreaming is embedded in the development processes of communities and the RDCs/CCDC. The objectives of the engagement were: To create a platform for interaction between the RDC Exco and community women on gender issues, provide opportunity for further discussions on emerging issues from interactive forum and promote peace between the RDC and community.

The AMAICOMMA CCDC Gender Forum held on May 26, 2021 at Ode-Ugbo community, Ilaje, Ondo State. Advocacy and Follow up engagements with the RDCs'/CCDC's Executives were held on April 29, 2021 at Dodo River CRDA Secretariat, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and May 27, 2021 respectively at AMAICOMMA CCDC and Ilaje RDC's Secretariats, Igbokoda, Ilaje, Ondo State. Some of the issues discussed were: Understanding OMoU, updates on activities/achievements of AMAICOMMA and its challenges, empowerment / skill acquisition, employment,

teenage pregnancy, women inclusion in Project & Program Review Committee (PPRC) and Community Management Board (CMB), provision of women public toilets across Dodo River CRDA communities, Dodo River CRDA women adult education programme (Part2), etc.



Juliana Korekopaghe, Dodo River CRDA GFP facilitating the presentation of gender issues at the Advocacy visit made to the Dodo River CRDA Executive in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State



GFPs, PPCD and MSDF reps on a follow-up engagement on gender issues with Ilaje RDC Executive

The events had in attendance: GFPs, RDCs/CCDC Executives, PPCD and women leaders. A representative of Morgan Smart Development Foundation (MSDF) participated in the AMAICOMMA CDC and Ilaje RDC's advocacy engagement.

PPCD Organizes Onboarding Training for EGDCF New Members



The EGDCF Chairman Chief Joseph Wuruyai, speaking with other members during the Onboarding training held June 2-3, 2021 at Vienna Hotel, Asaba



Chief Godspower Gbenekama, the immediate past Vice Chairman of EGDCF speaking during the onboarding training

A total of 63 members of Egbema and Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation were onboarded during the training programme held in June 2-3, 2021 at Vienna International Hotel, Asaba, Delta State.

The training programme had the following objectives: To enhance participants' understanding of the contents of the GMOU, build their capacities for effective implementation, align them with the objectives and implementation processes, increase their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and acquaint them with the planned capacity building programmes for the RDC and other stakeholders of the GMOU.

Methodology for the onboarding included: Plenary sessions, presentations and panel discussions which focused on: History of CNL's Community Engagement process, review of the GMOU document-commitments of RDC, CNL and State Government, GMOU committees and their roles, understanding the CEMB and the way it works, roles of the RDC in the GMOU, structure of the EGDCF and duties of the EGDCF Executive council, roles of different stakeholder groups, GMOU financing, finance and administration in EGDCF, the PPRC operations and roles of member-organisation rep, conception and role of PPCD in the GMOU.

The immediate past Chairman and his Vice, Comrade Jude Ukori and Chief Godspower Gbenekama were present at the Onboarding

training to shed light on some information and misconceptions about the GMOU process from their wealth of experience.

Committees' onboarding training was also organized at PPCD Office in Warri, Delta State on June 28-30, 2021 for 36 members that constitute the various Committees of the RDC. It was an opportunity to be more detailed in unpacking the specific roles and responsibilities of Committees members and share practical experiences. The



Busola Babalola (PPCD) explaining some issues to participants during the EGDCF Committee Onboarding held at PPCD Office on June 28-29, 2021.



Uju Obiora PPCD Senior Programme Manager facilitating a session during the Committee Onboarding held at PPCD Office on June 28-30, 2021

two Onboarding trainings were facilitated by representatives of Chevron Nigeria Limited,

PPCD and NNF

Ilaje RDC Holds Interactive Forum with Community Stakeholders



Interactive session at the Ilaje RDC's Forum held at Oba Makin Hall, Ode Ugbo, Ondo State.

No fewer than 75 persons participated in the Ilaje Rural Development Advocacy Committee Initiative's (Ilaje RDC) 'Interactive Forum' organized by the Participatory Partnerships for Community Development (PPCD) to enhance communication between the RDC and her communities. The meeting was conducted at Oba-Makin Hall in Ode-Ugbo community on May 25, 2021. Participants were drawn from the eight communities (Awoye, Akinsolu Gbagira, Jirinwo, Mese, Molutehin, Odofado

and Opuekeba) of Ilaje RDC.

The objectives of the forum were: to facilitate communication between Ilaje RDC and the communities; ensure effective working relationship between the new leadership and the communities; increase Communities' members' understanding on the GMoU process; enhance peace and understanding between communities and Ilaje RDC leaders and introduce the Communities members to the activities of PPCD.

The event was facilitated by PPCD Team with support from the RDC's representatives and provided a platform for interaction on different issues such as: Understanding the GMoU, RDC's activities, achievements and challenges, feedback from 2019 GMoU evaluation, community development issues etc. It provided an opportunity for the new Chairman of the RDC Prince Roland Akintoye to share the ongoing events in the RDC.

PPCD Collaborates with PIND to Train RDCs on Early Warning, Early Response and Peace Building

PPCD and PIND collaborated in the capacity building of the KEFFES RDF and Dodo River CRDA on Early Warning and Peace Building. The training which held on April 27-29, 2021 at Top Rank Hotel, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, was organized to enhance participants' understanding of the concept and different components of peace building.

Subjects discussed at the training included: Overview of peace and peace building, conflicts, early warning, Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system/exercises, generation of data for interventions, responding to incidents /designing intervention, effective communication and peace building, negotiation and mediation.

In the same vein, the training was conducted for EGCDF and Ilaje RDC Peace Building

committees and executives on September 15-19, 2020 at Bon Hotel, Warri, Delta State and September 22-24, 2020 at Heritage Hotel, Akure, Ondo State respectively. The trainings had in attendance: Members of Peace Building Committees and executives of the RDCs, PPCD, PIND, MSDF and LITE-Africa.



Cross section of participants during group discussion at the Early Warning, Early Response and Peace Building training for KEFFES RDF and Dodo River CRDA Peace Building Committees

My Perspectives on the GMoU

GMoU: RDC's Impact is More Visible in Our Communities than Government's--Aboh



Comrade Markson J. Aboh, EGCDF PRO

Question: Can you introduce yourself and your role (s) in the GMoU process?

Answer: My name is Comrade Markson J. Aboh, the current PRO of Egbema and Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF).

Question: Can you assess the GMoU process and tell us how it has impacted your RDC and its communities?

Answer: The GMoU has impacted our communities positively. There is no process that is perfect but as far as development is concerned, it is the project that comes via the RDC that are more visible in our communities compared to that of State, Local and Federal Governments. That does not mean there are no challenges emanating from lack of direct access to CNL as practiced in the past but in terms of infrastructures and capacity building, the GMoU has been fair.

Question: How do you think that the community projects should be sustained?

Answer: One key thing is to know the community priority projects. If the community priority is not put into consideration, such project is as good as useless. If you do what they want for them, they will take ownership and as well make maximum use of it.

Question: What new areas of development would you want your RDC and even the GMoU to focus on in the future?

Answer: Basically, education is one key area. Also, with the teeming youth population, capacity building is expected to be carried out almost every year if resources are available. Currently, the foreign and local scholarship programs are not directly funded by CNL, internally the RDC has been supporting these scholarships with the RDC's project fund.

Question: How would you assess your RDC projects implementation strategy in the light of the new GMoU focus on human development and livelihood?

Answer: The implementation strategy is fair but it takes a lot of commitment to do a good job with the topography of our environment. In the area of capacity building, the past administration was able to train a lot of persons on various skills. One big challenge we have is that, when these opportunities arise some genuine candidates are denied. Another area is that the time allotted for some of the skills are not adequate to impart elaborate knowledge. We intend to organize vocational trainings for the youths in various skills; this will also be complemented with educational support, mentoring and provision of start-up packs where necessary.

Question: How is your RDC faring in soliciting and securing third party support and sponsorship?

Answer: The last administration was able to reach out to some partners and promises have been made. I strongly believe that if the RDC follow up, we will make great progress in terms of third party funding. All the RDC needs is to build on the success the immediate past administration has recorded in this regard.

Question: What are the major problems confronting your RDC?

Answer: Currently, the number one problem is funding. We solely depend on Chevron. Meeting the needs of the key stakeholders' group is also a challenge but the greatest of them all is youth engagement.

Question: What is the future of the GMoU and what should key stakeholders do to ensure sustainability of the process?

Answer: GMoU sustainability is tied to commitment. As the years go by, money allotted for the GMoU process is becoming insufficient. Another aspect is that as we have this agreement with CNL, they should not wait until we request for renegotiation. As situation improves, we want it to automatically translate to improvement of the GMoU process. By and large, if both parties are committed to the process, sustainability will be ensured.

Question: PPCD and NGOs have conducted some activities in your RDC. What do you want included in their programmes and what other ways can PPCD and other NGOs support your RDC?

Answer: PPCD used to train local contractors on bidding process, with that training they are able to bid for every other job(s) outside the RDC project(s). For me, the training gave me an edge and the confidence to bid for jobs because I represented one of the contractors the time the training was conducted. Another one is Leadership training for community stakeholder groups (community chairmen, youth and women leaders). I think PPCD need to re-introduce the 'Leadership training' so that some of these leaders will know their roles, not just to fold their arms and wait for the RDC. It is also an opportunity to prepare people for leadership roles outside the RDC. I just want to appreciate PPCD for their support. We have had people testify that because they were in the RDC, they were opportune to be trained and it has improved their leadership skills

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Our Contact:



Participatory Partnerships for Community Development
38, Johnson Duku Crescent, Opp. Christ Apostolic Church (CAC)
Effurun GRA, Warri, Delta State.
Tel. No: +234 (81) 22015662; +234 (70) 86677032
E-mail: info@ppcdng.org; ppcdng@gmail.com
Website: www.ppcdng.org