

EC Partners

- Poverty Alleviation Consortium (an NGO in Akwa Ibom State)

Facts and Figures

- EC has committed **€63 million** in reducing poverty in the Niger Delta with focus on providing basic amenities to the people of the region
- **2116 projects** have been implemented in the areas of water & sanitation, primary health, access road, foot paths, education and income generation
- Akwa Ibom is located in the southern most point of the country. The State is bordered on the east by Cross River State, on the west by Rivers State and Abia State, and on the South by the Atlantic Ocean



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Conflict prevention

Ikot Ukpong and Mbiotu II Road Project

"...the people of ikot Ukpong and Mbiotu II will forever remain grateful to you for this road project which has not only linked us with other communities but made movement of goods and people easy."

Village Head of the community



Ikot Ukpong Road Project

Context: Using micro projects in conflict management

Ikot Ukpong Iman is a small agrarian, isolated, and poor community in the southern part of Etinan Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State in the Niger Delta sharing a common boundary with the more populous, larger and relatively wealthy community of Mbiotu II. While Mbiotu II boasts educated and politically well connected members, with the community enjoying modern amenities such as potable water, schools, access to larger cities, and primary health facilities; the same cannot be said about Ikot Ukpong Iman, resulting in frequent conflicts between the two communities.

The *Eteidung* (Village Head) of Ikot Ukpong tells how that its more powerful neighbors used to cross to their part of land in Ikot Ukpong to harvest palm fruits and cultivate the land. This was seen as an affront and a violent conflict ensued in 1952 leading to looting and destruction of property.

The conflict persisted until the European Union Micro Project Programme in the Six Niger Delta States (MPP6) piloted a micro project in the communities using a Conflict Sensitive Approach to Project Development. The approach helped the aggrieved communities to come together to discuss common issues and resolve to work together. The two communities set up a joint Project Implementation Committee, with representatives of women, youths and men selected democratically to discuss issues concerning the two communities.

As a result of the exercise, the two communities agreed to build the road which was funded by the European Commission, linking the two communities to increase trade and fellowship amongst community members.

Objective: Reducing social tension through conflict sensitive approach project development

- Reduce poverty among the rural poor in the six states of the Niger Delta thus contributing to the reduction of social tension and conflict
- Increase access of community members to basic infrastructure like road, water, primary health and Schools
- Improve access to income generating options for men, women and youths in the Niger Delta

Impact: What has been achieved?

- Empowerment of the community to resolve conflict issues by themselves and set rules against environmental issues like sand dredging from the streams
- Increasing access by the community to aid economic activities as well the reduction of overhead cost on agricultural production by farmers in the community
- Increased inter-communal activities between the two aggrieved communities
- Marked reduction in the incidence of attacks on women carrying goods through the bush to neighboring towns