



**STATE OF SOCIAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
IN OIL-RICH
COMMUNITIES
OF RIVERS STATE**

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List of Abbreviation

CHEW -	Community Health Extension Worker
EMOC -	Empowering Oil-Producing Communities Project
LGA -	Local Government Area
HC -	Health Centre
NPHCDA -	National Primary Health Care Development Agency
PHC -	Primary Healthcare Centre
RSMOE -	Rivers State Ministry of Education
WASH -	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
PER -	Public Expenditure Review
CHO -	Community Health Officer.

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Executive Summary



Oil-producing communities are key to Nigeria's economic development. By bearing the brunt of oil extraction - loss of diversity and other natural productive assets, they should benefit from strategic infrastructural developments to compensate for manifest and latent consequences of oil exploration. Contrastingly, this is not so. Against this backdrop, this report is an attempt to take stock of social infrastructure in oil-producing communities in Rivers with a view to determining their felt-needs for policy intervention. In all the local councils surveyed, we found broad dilapidation of critical social infrastructures - schools, PHCs and WASH facilities in the communities. The continuing neglect of basic social infrastructure in oil-producing communities (grassroots) is a pattern of economic system that undervalues rural dwellers, frustrates democratic participation and perpetuates exclusion. In addition to immediate corrective interventions in oil-producing communities, this report calls for a comprehensive Public Expenditure Review (PER) and infrastructural audit in the social sectors: health, education, water resources and rural development in Rivers State.



Hamza Lawal
CEO, Connected Development

Introduction

In developing country contexts, the disparity between rural communities and urban centres is inevitable, but the scale in Nigeria is often too wide - suggestive of structural marginalisation and multidimensional deprivation. As we implemented activities designed/formulated to achieve public participation in economic governance in the Niger Delta under the Empowering Oil-Producing Communities (EMOC) Project, we found a striking reality - allocation and distribution of modern infrastructure or social amenities are over-concentrated in urban centres to the detriment of rural areas.

Although abnormal and prohibitive, successive governments have unwittingly found justifications to perpetuate wide rural-urban dichotomies in resource redistribution and governance. This manifests in the disproportionate concentration of social goods in urban centres which triggers massive rural-urban migration and robs rural areas of the dynamism and resourcefulness of human capital required to drive rural sustenance in particular and national development in general. Fundamentally, uncontrolled rural-urban migration pushes rural areas further to the fringeheads, widening social gaps and deepening structural marginalisation.

EMOC is a Niger Delta-specific project. The Niger Delta region epitomises Nigeria's development paradox. Despite the region's natural resource endowments, its people live in abject poverty. Generally, it is not unreasonable to expect the region that lays the golden eggs to have basic social amenities that support local economic sustenance and development. Similarly, it is not unreasonable to expect those who bear the brunt of Nigeria's oil extraction fallouts (loss of diversity and environmental degradation) should benefit from strategic infrastructural developments to compensate for manifest and latent consequences of oil exploration.

Working in the grassroots under EMOC, our experience projects a sharp contrast with the above expectations. From dilapidated schools to abandoned health posts, the majority of existing social amenities littered across oil-producing communities beg for high-level policy attention - reconstruction, renovation and renewal. Against this backdrop, the need to take stock of social infrastructure in the region became imperative. This report is a rapid appraisal (survey) to ascertain the state of social infrastructure in the region, notably Rivers State. It is aimed and believed that the findings can serve as a take-off point for strategic engagement with concerned stakeholders for inclusive economic governance. Particularly, we hope that it will lead to better targeting and equitable resource reallocation for integrated rural development in the grassroots (oil-producing communities).

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to ascertain the state/condition of social infrastructure in the Niger Delta region. The report would spotlight the state of social infrastructures in the region and provide recommendations on how the gaps could be addressed. Importantly, the report would guide development actors (particularly, Rivers State Government) in mobilising and allocating existing resources to priority areas in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development.

The specific objectives translated to research questions include:



A. What is the state of PHCs in Rivers State?

B. What is the state of public (basic) schools in Rivers State?



C. What is the enrollment and retention profile in public schools (primary and secondary) in Rivers State?

D. Are hygiene facilities (potable water points) available and accessible to community members in oil-producing communities?



Methodology

The research design is a mix-method. This includes (i) a comprehensive review of relevant social infrastructural studies in the Niger Delta. (ii) survey instrument (questionnaire) administered to relevant officials - heads of PHCs, headteachers of primary and secondary, and community leaders in the selected local governments and communities. Data were collected in three (3) broad sectors (health, education, and WASH) embodying social infrastructures in each of the Local Government Areas (LGAs). Where appropriate, PHCs, schools, or communities are used as the unit of analysis.

Sampling: This study employed a multi-stage sampling procedure. Rivers State was purposively selected out of the nine (9) states making up the Niger Delta region. This is because Rivers State is the focal state for EMOC - Empowering Oil-Producing Communities Project. Of the 23 local government Areas (LGAs), two LGAs were randomly selected in each of the three (3) senatorial zones in the state. This amounted to six (6) LGAs. In each of the LGAs, data were collected in about six (6) communities (See Table 1 below). The target population is the grassroots (oil-producing communities) in the three senatorial zones of Rivers State, Nigeria.



	Senatorial Zone	Selected LGAs	Number of Selected Communities
	Rivers East	Ikwerre	7
		Omuma	5
	Rivers South East	Andoni	6
		Eleme	6
	Rivers West	Aari-Toru	7
		Degema	6

Table 1: Summary of Sampling Procedure

Conceptual Framework: Typology of Rural Infrastructure



The New Jersey State Planning Commission defines infrastructure as those capital facilities and land assets under public ownership or operated or maintained for public benefit.¹ This public benefit is usually to support the development and redevelopment of a territory and to protect public health, safety and welfare of the territory or geography. In this respect, infrastructure is a prerequisite to maintaining society and the economy and investments in infrastructure are investments in the future of the economy, environment, government and culture.

There are three (3) broad categories of rural infrastructure: physical, social and institutional.² Physical infrastructure includes such amenities as roads, storage facilities, irrigation facilities, soil conservation structures, rail lines and port facilities. On the other, social infrastructure includes health facilities (hospitals, maternity centres, dispensaries, etc.), educational facilities (primary and secondary schools, colleges of education, adult and vocational education centres etc.), water supplies and electricity. As the third type of rural infrastructure, institutional infrastructure includes rural institutions, credit and agriculture research institutions, postal and telecommunication facilities, self-help and community development institutions, etc.

In this study, we adopted the second typology of rural infrastructure (social infrastructure). This is because the provision of social infrastructure is squarely consistent with the mandate or obligations of the subnational levels of government. On the other hand, physical infrastructure requires lumpy expenditures that often go beyond the constitutional responsibility of states and local governments. That is, only higher tiers of government such as the federal government can mobilise the required resources for their supply or provision. Therefore, the focus of the study is social infrastructure: health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

State of Selected Social Infrastructures in Rivers State

5.1 Health Sector

In this section, the central development concern is the recognition that supplying basic healthcare services to average rural dwellers is good for rural wellbeing and also a prerequisite to a vibrant rural economy. The issue then is whether available primary healthcare centres (PHCs) are enough to serve host and catchment communities and whether they have the prerequisite resources to deliver on basic health needs and health security for community members.

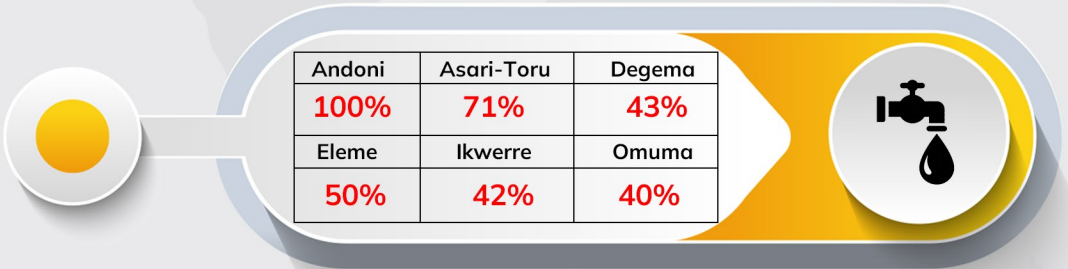
5.1.1 Infrastructural Characteristics of PHCs in Rivers State

Although there are slight variations in the condition of the PHCs across the LGAs, the general condition of the PHCs is unwholesome. The PHCs were found in various conditions capable of undermining or sabotaging the well-being of rural dwellers and consequently, the rural economy.

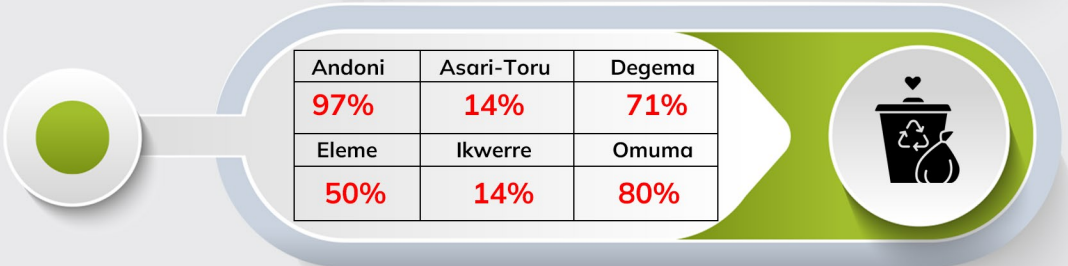
Summarily, Table 1 describes the general characteristics of PHCs in the oil-producing communities in Rivers State. From the table, the majority of the PHCs lack potable water. In Andoni, for example, 100% of PHCs lack access to clean water and only 16% of facilities are connected to the national grid (electricity). Similarly, only about 16% of facilities in Andoni have residential quarters for staff members. In contrast, in Ikwerre LGA, all the PHCs are connected to the grid.

Table 2: Selected Infrastructural Characteristics of PHCs in Rivers State

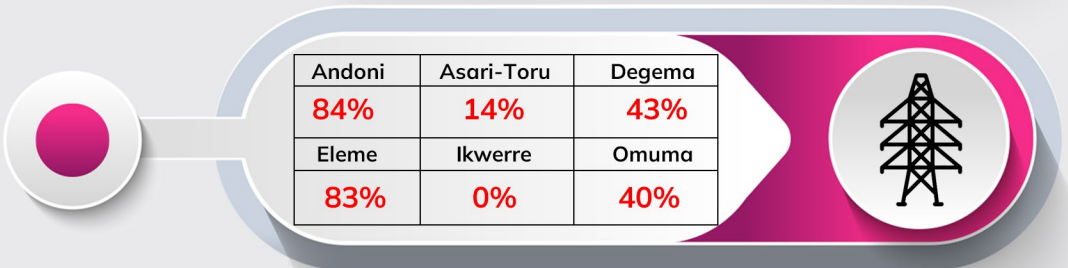
Local Council	Facility	Availability of Selected Infrastructure			
		Potable Water	Waste Disposal	Connected to National Grid	Staff Quarters
Andoni	Ajakajak community PHC	No	Yes	No	No
	Otuafu/Otunria HC	No	No	No	No
	MPHC, Unyeadá	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Egendem PHC	No	No	No	No
	Egwede PHC	No	No	No	No
	Unvengala PHC	No	No	No	No
Andoni Profile/Statistics		No - 100% Yes -	No - 97% Yes -33%	No - 84% Yes - 16%	No - 16% Yes -84%
Asari-Toru	MPHC, Ido	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	MPHC, Abalama	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	MPHC, Sama	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	PHC, Oproama	Yes	Yes	No	No
	MPHC, Buguma	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	PHC, Krakrama	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Ward PHC, Tema	Yes	No	Yes	No
Asari-Toru Profile/Statistics		No - 71% Yes - 29%	No - 14% Yes - 86%	No - 14% Yes - 86%	No - 29% Yes - 71%
Degema	MPHC, Tombia	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	MPHC, Usokun-Degema	Yes	No	Yes	No
	MPHC, Obuama	NA	No	No	Yes
	Ogurama HC, Old Bakana	No	No	No	No
	MPHC, Bakana	Yes	No	No	No
	MPHC, Ipokuma (Degema Consulate)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	General Hospital, Degema	No	No	Yes	No
	Degema Profile/Statistics		No - 43% Yes - 57%	No - 71% Yes - 29%	No - 43% Yes - 47%
Eleme	PHC, Alode	No	Yes	No	No
	ALETO PHC	No	No	Yes	No
	MPHC, AGBONCHIA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Ogale, PHC	Yes	No	No	No
	MPHC, EBUBU	No	No	No	No
	MPHC, Onne	No	Yes	No	Yes
Eleme Profile/Statistics		No - 50% Yes - 50%	No - 50% Yes - 50%	No - 83% Yes - 17%	No - 67% Yes - 33%
Ikwerre	PHC, Omagwa	No	No	Yes	No
	PHC, Isiokpo	No	Yes	Yes	No
	MPHC, Adanta	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	PHC, Aluu	No	Yes	Yes	No
	MPHC, Igwuruta	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Ogbodo PHC	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	PHC, Omuwie	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ikwerre Profile/Statistics		No - 42% Yes - 58%	No - 14% Yes - 86%	No - Yes - 100%	No - 100% Yes -
Omuma	Eberi PHC	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Umueke PHC	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Ohimoyoro PHC, Umuobuo	No	Yes	No	No
	PHC Oyoro	Yes	No	Yes	No
	Umuwaka Ofeh HC	No	No	No	No
Omuma Profile/Statistics		No - 40% Yes - 60%	No - 80% Yes - 20%	No - 40% Yes - 60%	No - 100% Yes -



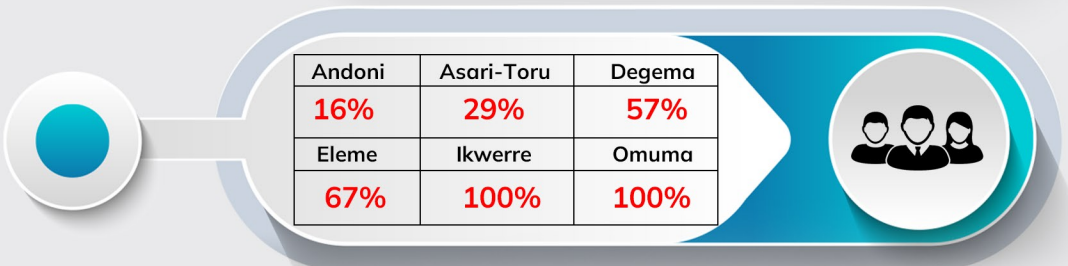
Potable Water



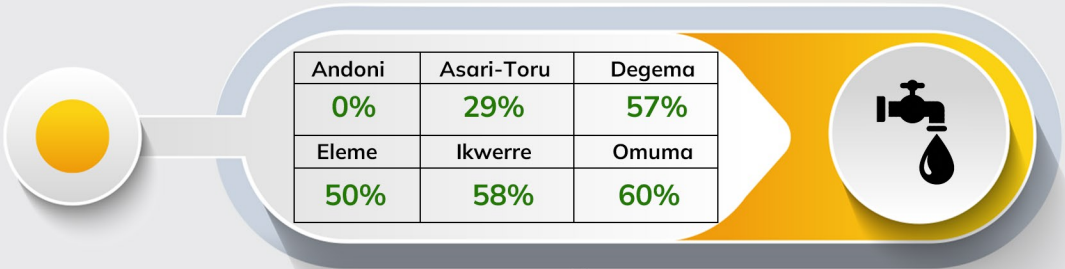
Waste Disposal



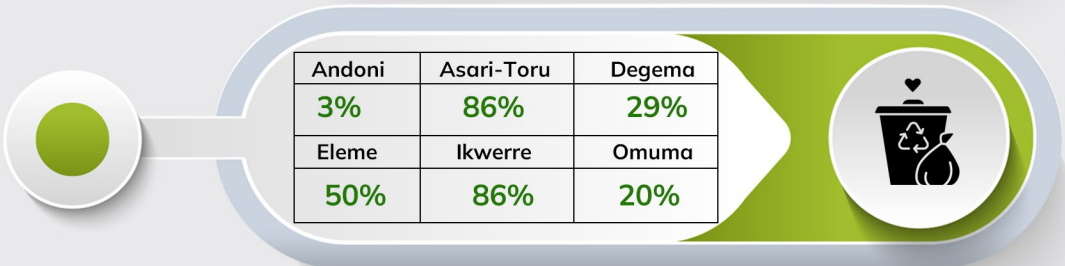
Connected to National Grid



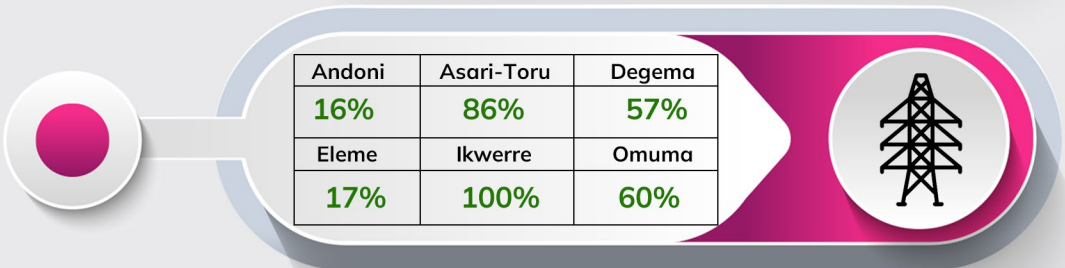
Staff Quarters



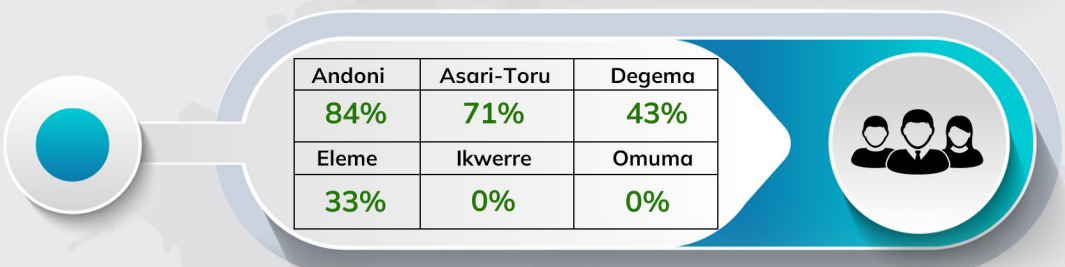
Potable Water



Waste Disposal



Connected to National Grid



Staff Quarters

HC = Health Centre; PHC = Primary Health Centre

In Eleme, 50% of the PHCs in the LGA have access to potable water while the other 50% do not have. Relatedly, two thirds of PHCs in Eleme lack residential quarters for members of staff. On power supply (connection to the national grid), an overwhelming majority (83%) of the PHCs are disconnected or unconnected to transmission lines. This means that medical operations/procedures/services dependent on power are either not offered at the grassroots or that the PHCs are reliant on generating sets (generators). But because the cost of running generators is often prohibitive, the reality is that a PHC that is not connected to the national grid is as good as being condemned to eternal darkness or blackout. Consequently, the number of services or quality of services obtainable from such facilities are usually limited to the very ones that can operate without power supply.

Similarly, half (50%) of the PHCs do not have modern waste disposal installations or points and the other half do. Although environmental pollution is a major development challenge facing the Niger Delta region (Rivers inclusive), significant proportions of the PHCs across the LGAs still lack proper waste disposal points. This poses health dangers or increases community vulnerabilities to disease outbreaks and other public health risks. The fact that large populations of the grassroots depend on these facilities (without adequate environmental assets) highlights the urgency to install or construct modern incinerators or waste disposal facilities in affected PHCs and communities in Rivers State.

5.1.2 Personnel Characteristics of PHCs in Rivers

According to the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the minimum standard for personnel deployment in a PHC (for emphasis) is found in Table 4. By the national standard, most PHCs in Rivers State do not qualify as typical or model PHCs.

There is no gainsaying that the personnel profile (strength) of PHCs is a measure of preparedness or capacity to deliver required health services. In all the PHCs surveyed, low manpower supply (staff strength) is a major challenge to service delivery. In Table 3, most PHCs lack core members of the medical team, and the case of supporting staff is not any better - it is actually worse off. Most PHCs lack drivers (as well as ambulances) for ambulatory or emergency services and most pharmacies (or dispensaries), although they exist, lack pharmacy technicians to man them. On supply of core members of the medical team, 47% of the PHCs in Rivers State do not have Nurses and 37% of the PHCs do not have pharmacist technicians.

Many of the PHCs do not have core staff members such as Nurses and CHEWs. Specifically, the total number of CHEWs in Degema, Eleme, Ikwerre and Omuma are 9, 9, 26 and 14, respectively. In Andoni, Eleme and Omuma, the total number of Nurses found in each of them are three (3) as most facilities do not have nurses on posting/deployment while the number of Pharmacists in Andoni and Omuma is 2 and 3, respectively. Whether essential or non-essential members of staff, the staff strength of each facility is inadequate to serve the applicable population of the host community and catchment communities.

Considering the population profile of host communities and catchment communities, it can be deduced that PHCs in Rivers State are grossly understaffed (core and non-core like cleaners and drivers) and the consequences on rural healthcare delivery cannot be overemphasised.



Table 3: Selected Personnel Characteristics of PHCs in River

Local Council	Facility	Health Officers					
		CHEW	CHO	Pharmacist	Driver	Cleaner	Nurse
Andoni	Ajakajak community HC	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Otuafu/Otunria HC	4	-	-	-	-	-
	MPHC, Unyead	4	1	1	-	3	1
	Egendem PHC	3	1	-	-	-	1
	Egwede PHC	1	1	1	-	1	-
	Unyengala PHC	2	1	-	-	-	1
	Total number of Health Officers in Andoni	14	6	2	-	4	3
Asari-Toru	MPHC, Ido	3	2	1	-	3	4
	MPHC, Abalama	3	3	1	-	3	1
	MPHC, Sama	4	3	1	-	3	-
	PHC, Oproama	3	4	1	-	-	-
	MPHC, Buguma	5	4	1	-	3	1
	PHC, Krakrama	4	2	1	-	-	-
	Ward PHC, Tema	3	2	1	-	1	-
Total number of Health Officers in Asari-Toru	25	20	7	0	13	6	
Degema	MPHC, Tombia	-	5	4	1	-	4
	MPHC, Usokun-Degema	5	2	-	-	-	-
	MPHC, Obuama	-	5	2	1	-	3
	Ogurama HC, Old Bakana	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MPHC, Bakana	-	-	-	-	-	-
	MPHC, Ipokuma (Degema Consulate)	4	3	1	-	4	-
General Hospital, Degema	-	0	-	1	1	5	
Total number of Health Officers in Degema	9	15	7	3	5	12	
Eleme	PHC, Alode	2	1	1	0	0	0
	ALETO PHC	0	2	0	0	0	0
	MPHC, AGBONCHIA	5	0	1	0	5	1
	OGALE, PHC	2	0	1	0	3	1
	MPHC, EBUBU	0	2	0	0	3	0
	MPHC, Onne	0	4	1	0	3	1
Total number of Health Officers in Eleme	9	9	4	0	14	3	
Ikwerre	PHC, Omagwa	0	4	0	0	3	2
	PHC, Isiokpo	5	4	0	0	5	5
	MPHC, Adanta	5	4	1	1	5	5
	PHC, Aluu	3	4	1	0	5	5
	MPHC, Igwuruta	5	4	1	0	5	5
	Ogbodo PHC	3	4	1	0	5	5
	PHC, Omuwie	5	4	1	1	5	5
Total number of Health Officers in Ikwerre	26	28	5	2	33	32	
Omuma	Eberi PHC	4	4	1	0	4	0
	Umueke PHC	0	0	1	0	0	3
	Ohimoyoro PHC, Umuobuo	4	3	1	0	1	0
	PHC OYORO	2	2	0	0	1	0
	UMUWAKA OFEH HC	4	4	0	0	2	0
Total number of Health Officers in Omuma	14	13	3	0	8	3	

CHEW

Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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14	25	9
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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9	26	14
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Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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6	20	15
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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9	28	13
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CHO

PHARMACIST

Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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2	7	7
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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4	28	13
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Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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0	0	3
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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0	5	3
----------	----------	----------



DRIVER

CLEANER

Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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4	13	5
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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14	33	8
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Andoni	Asari-Toru	Degema
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3	6	12
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Elemé	Ikwerre	Omuma
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3	32	3
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NURSE

5.2 Education Sector Analysis

In rural settings as well as urban centres, the ability to read and write confers and aids social and economic advantages in significant ways. Education (formal and informal channels) is the pathway to the acquisition of functional literacy and numeracy capabilities for participation in skilled economic production.³ For instance, citizens at the grassroots are better placed to understand and adopt social or scientific innovations, modern agronomic practices, etc., when they are educated than when they are not. Generally, education aids efficient allocation of available (scarce) resources in ways that ensure profits are maximised be it at the industrial, household or personal levels.

5.2.2 Availability of Selected Amenities in Public Schools in Rivers State

According to Requirement Guidelines for Schools by the Rivers State Ministry of Education (RSMOE), “the school compound should be secured with a fence and a gate, manned by security guards.” On power supply, the guideline also stipulated that in every school, “there should be a national grid and or alternative source of power supply.” However, the condition on the ground is a sharp contrast to the guidelines.

None of the schools in Andoni is fenced (perimeter fencing is a security measure) and none of the schools has a security guard in their employment, deployment or service. Similarly, none of the schools in Andoni is connected to the national grid (electricity). Apart from being shocking, the condition of public schools in Rivers state is generally a huge indictment. The observed and recorded cases of school vandalism, theft, and insecurity in the state are not surprising because security guards are not deployed to the schools. We suspect this would surely have implications on school enrolment and attendance.

From Table 5, the profile of schools in Andoni, as well as other LGAs, is best described as “funny” and it calls for the attention of high-level social and political authorities. One is forced to ask: how have budgetary allocations and resources meant for educational development in the local governments been deployed in the last 20 years? Whatever the answers, the condition of schools in Andoni is not only unsatisfactory but undesirable.

Apart from raising serious questions on accountability from both the supply and demand side of governance, the “graphic contents” passing as schools are sufficient exhibits for heads to roll in Rivers State Ministry of Education who have supervised the degradation or ruinous condition of public schools in the state.

Table 5: Availability of Selected Amenities in Public Schools in Rivers State

LGA	Name of Facility (school)	Availability of Perimeter Fence	Availability of security guard	Availability of potable water	Connected to National Grid	Availability of Proper Waste Point	Availability of Toilet Facility
Andoni	CPS, Ajakajak	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CPS, Samanga	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CSS, (junior)	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CPS, Otunria	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CPS, Dema	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CPS, Unyead 2	No	No	No	No	No	No
Response summary in Andoni		Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%
Asari-Toru	State School	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
	Community Secondary School	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Kalabari National College	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	State School	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	State School	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Community Secondary school	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
	State School	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Response summary in Asari-Toru		Yes - 14% No- 86%	Yes - 43% No- 57%	Yes - 43% No- 57%	Yes - 86% No- 14%	Yes - 100% No- 0%	Yes - 100% No- 0%
Degema	New Church Primary School, Degema	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
	CSS, Bukuma	No	No	No	No	No	No
	CSS (UBE), Tombia		Yes	No	No	No	No
	GSS, Usokun-Degema		No	No	No	Yes	No
	Oba-Ama High School, Bakana		Yes	No	No	No	No
	Degema National High School	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Universal Primary Education	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Response summary in Degema		Yes - 25% No- 75%	Yes - 43% No- 57%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 43% No- 57%	Yes - 43% No- 57%

Elemé	SPS, Aleto	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	SPS (1), Agbonchia	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
	SPS (1), Ogale	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
	State School Ebubu	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	CSS (Junior), Agbeta Onne	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Eteo CSS (Junior)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Response summary in Elemé		Yes - 3% No- 97%	Yes - 3% No- 97%	Yes - 67% No- 33%	Yes - 33% No- 67%	Yes - 17% No- 83%	Yes - 100% No- 0%
Ikwerre	Community secondary school	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	Model Primary School, Omagwa	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	Model school isiokpo	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Community Secondary School	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	Model primary school, Adanta	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
	State school Alu	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
	Model primary School	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Response summary in Ikwerre		Yes - 43% No- 57%	Yes - 71% No- 29%	Yes - 14% No- 86%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 71% No- 29%
Omuma	State School Umunachi & Umuagwu	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
	State School (1), Ofeh	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
	Community Primary School Ohimogho	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
	State School Ohimoyoro	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
	State School Umuoyoro	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Response summary in Omuma		Yes - 40% No- 60%	Yes - 20% No- 80%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 20% No- 80%	Yes - 0% No- 100%	Yes - 80% No- 20%

Evidently, there are variations in the several characteristics of schools across the LGAs but these variations are insufficient to prevent the conclusion that public schools in Rivers state are “shadow schools”. These schools simply lack the amenities to support conducive learning environments and positive educational outcomes.

Politically, as the state (oil-producing communities) laying the golden egg for the country, the pitiable condition of public schools is unjustifiable. Relatedly, the condition of social infrastructures at the grassroots could be linked to broad resentment, grievance, and violence often reported in the state and region. The volatility and combustible condition of the oil-producing communities may be connected to their experiences and feelings of marginalisation and/or perceptions of structural exclusion in the distribution of “dividends of democracy”.⁴

5.2.3 Age of Basic Public Schools in Rivers State

The average age of public schools in Rivers State is 49 years. Statistically, no school has been built in the oil-producing communities in the last half-century. Disaggregating the data on school age based on LGAs, the average age of schools in Omuma is 60 years (oldest) while Ikwerre is 23 years (youngest). This supports the findings in Table 5 that implicate negligence or a state of near abandonment. A public school established in 1916 (106 years ago) that is poorly maintained and serviced perfectly aligns with our concept of “shadow schools” in Rivers State. From the demands and standards of 21st-century education, these schools cannot deliver on expectations or quality education. Little wonder there is a growing incidence of learning poverty and out-of-school syndrome in the state.⁵

The age of public schools in Rivers contrasts/negates the consensus that basic social services are the building blocks for human development.⁶ Indeed, social services (education) are now accepted as fundamental human rights. But the widening gap between this consensus and the reality of public education in Rivers State calls for further scrutiny. By wittingly or unwittingly denying citizens access to basic education – governments in Rivers State are violating the human rights of their citizens.

Table 6: Age of Public Schools in rivers State

Local Council	Name of Facility (school)	Year Established	School Age	Average Age of School in the LGA
Andoni	CPS, Ajakajak	1957	65	57
	CPS, Samanga	1957	65	
	CSS, (junior)	1981	41	
	CPS, Otunria	2004	18	
	CPS, Dema	1957	65	
	CPS, Unyeada 2	1936	86	
Asari-Toru	State School	1953	69	49
	Community Secondary School	2006	16	
	Kalabari National College	1938	84	
	State School	1987	35	
	State School	1990	32	
	Community Secondary school	1981	41	
	State School	1957	65	
Degema	New Church Primary School Degema	1945	77	45
	CSS, Buguma	1991	31	
	CSS (UBE), Tombia	1985	37	
	GSS, Usokun-Degema	1992	30	
	Oba-Ama High School, Bakana	1981	41	
	Degema National High School	1977	45	
	Universal Primary Education	1998	24	
ELEME	State Primary School Aleto	1957	65	57
	State Primary School 1 Agbonchia	1986	36	
	State Primary School 1 Ogale	1957	65	
	State School Ebubu	1916	106	
	CSS (Junior), Agbeta Onne	2018	4	
	CSS (Junior), Eteo	1957	65	

Ikwerre	Community secondary school	1998	24	23
	Model primary school, Omagwa	1998	24	
	Model school, Isiokpo	1982	40	
	Community Secondary School	2010	12	
	Model primary school, Adanta	1998	24	
	State school, Alu	1998	24	
	Model primary School	2010	12	
OMUMA	State School Umunachi & Umuagwu	1952	70	60
	State School (1), Ofeh	1965	57	
	Community Primary School, Ohimogho	1964	58	
	State School, Ohimoyoro	1964	58	
	State School, Umuoyoro	1964	58	

Average age = 60

5.2.4 School Enrolment and Attendance Profile

On the aggregate, the figures on enrolment and school attendance contained in Table 7 are unbelievable but it is the striking reality at the grassroots. From a gender prism, there are more girls going to school in Eleme (295) Ikwerre (517) and Degema (129) whereas there are more boys in Asari-Toru (75). Strikingly, the general profile of school enrolment in the schools surveyed is extremely low. Perhaps, the findings (condition) of schools reported in Tables 5 and 6 are driving pupils/students either to urban centres or other states with better educational amenities.

It is also likely that state-owned schools are losing an unimaginable number of their students to privately owned schools. Whatever the case, there are reasons to worry about the condition of public schools at the grassroots in Rivers. Invariably, if pupils/students are leaving their classrooms for the street, the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act can be said to be at great risk or to have been compromised in Rivers State. It is for the authorities to prove otherwise.

Table 7: School Enrolment and Attendance Profile

Local Council	Average Number of girls enrolled	Average Number of boys enrolled	Average School Start Age	Average Class Population	Average Daily School Attendance
Andoni	181	196	5	98	5
Asari-Toru	57	75	5	24	9
Degema	87	113	4	15	9
Degema	129	116	5	61	15
Eleme	295	256	5	51	12
Ikwerre	517	355	4	46	12
Omuma	117	115	6	33	NA

5.3 WASH Sector Analysis

Apart from Ikwerre (18%) and Degema (11%) LGAs, pipe borne water is the least reported source of water in oil-producing communities in Rivers State. In most LGAs, the most reported source of drinking water is well water and sachet water. Because the incidence of oil spillage in Rivers State is frequent, this suggests that most communities are at risk of drinking polluted or unpurified water.⁷

In 2019, approximately 60 million Nigerians were living without access to basic drinking water services, 80 million without access to improved sanitation facilities and 167 million without access to a basic hand washing facility. In rural areas, 39 percent of households lack access to at least basic water supply services, while only half have access to improved sanitation and almost a third (29 percent) practice open defecation – a fraction that has marginally changed since 1990.⁸

6. Commentary on contributions of Social Infrastructure to Grassroots Development

One of the greatest dualities or dichotomies in Nigeria's development process is the yawning gap between rural and urban areas. Rural areas (grassroots) lag behind the urban areas in development resulting in increasing disparities in the standard of living in the rural and urban areas. This disparity is responsible for the mass migration of the population from the former to the latter. While rural-urban interaction is desirable and inevitable, an equitable geographic spread of social infrastructure will counterbalance negative outcomes or consequences of rural-urban migration. This feeds into our strong suspicion that the near state of abandonment of social infrastructure in oil-producing communities in Rivers State is self-sabotaging on the part of relevant authorities.

The first strategy to attract and retain vibrant populations at the grassroots for rural development is to rescue it from the ravages of preventable diseases. Debilitating diseases undermine the capabilities of rural people to perform "energy-intensive" tasks related to agriculture. The next step is rescuing rural areas from the chains of social darkness - low levels of education. It follows that since massive investment in education and health are famous policy options capable of transforming rural areas from mere reservoirs of cheap labour to vibrant rural economies, the urgency to pursue aggressive investment in human capital development - education and health, cannot be overemphasised.



7. Recommendations

There are broad and specific policy imperatives thrown up or that can be deduced by the discussions and figures above. Nonetheless, they can be limited to the following;

1

Since access to basic social amenities is now considered and treated in the realms of fundamental human rights, the severe shortage of personnel and infrastructure (educational and health) in oil-producing communities has to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Addressing personnel and infrastructural gaps is hoped to positively impact health outcomes and the education profile of the state. Else, sustaining the indicting condition of basic public schools and PHCs in the state could be considered as a violation of inalienable/fundamental human rights.

2

For a comprehensive and robust policy response, we argue for a comprehensive public expenditure review (PER) in the health and education sector administration in the state. We also advocate for a comprehensive audit of social infrastructures in Rivers State, beyond the oil-producing communities. The reports from the PER and infrastructure audit will feed into a feasible and modest policy response (development/action plan) for the state. The PER will also influence or open up unorthodox sources of resource mobilisation for rapid upgradation of reparable facilities or construction of new facilities at the grassroots.

3

Since the scale of infrastructural decay in public schools and PHCs are both embarrassing and indicting, the state and local governments should organise education and health summits to interface with local (community) and industry actors with a view to charting the way forward and agreeing on points for emergency (urgent) action.

4

The state government as well as local governments should explore avenues to collaborate with communities and corporate entities (oil companies operating in the communities/region) to provide/reconstruct basic social amenities in the regions/communities they operate. This could be brokered in the form of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and conducted with the view/understanding that social exclusion is the harbinger of insecurity and criminal resistance.

5

At the heart of rural-urban migration are “push and pull” factors. While rural-urban interaction is desirable and inevitable, an equitable geographic spread of social infrastructure will counterbalance negative outcomes or consequences of rural-urban migration.

6

To support transparent and efficient deployment of public resources and consequently improve health and education outcomes, we argue for mass sensitisation and campaigns on active citizenry and social accountability. This will enable/trigger community awareness and strengthen the capacity of rural dwellers to engage formal stakeholders on topical policy issues affecting their immediate environment and wellbeing - education and health. Ultimately, a critical mass of active citizens is hoped to reduce the tendency for misappropriation of public funds while helping available resources work better for the people.

7

With this report, we recommend intensive town hall meetings (THMs) across the six (6) LGAs that participated in the study. This will provide informal policy stakeholders (communities) the required platform to dialogue/engage with formal policy actors (relevant MDAs) on revamping public utilities (social amenities) and policy options for inclusive rural development.

8

Since most communities lack access to potable water (WASH), it poses health dangers or increases community vulnerabilities to disease outbreaks and other public health risks. Because large populations of the grassroots depend on unclean sources of water for drinking and domestic uses, it highlights the urgency to install or construct modern water schemes and waste disposal facilities in schools, PHCs and oil-producing communities in Rivers State.



8. Conclusion

Under EMOC, this report is a part of the process to study, understand, debating and spotlighting social infrastructural gaps in selected oil-producing communities in Rivers State. Through it, the felt needs of the communities can be better understood and can now be projected to policy tables or decision-making quarters for appropriate action. During the study, seeing researchers and enumerators come to their communities to collect data brought a lot of excitement to the communities (grassroots people). This suggests the extent of helplessness and/or deprivations that grassroots people had endured.

It underscores the wider recognition that economic growth, if not properly handled, can expand social inequality - the gap between the different social classes (rich and poor). With the scale of infrastructural deficits in this report, we urge policy-makers to recognize the synergies or interactions between basic amenities and social development.

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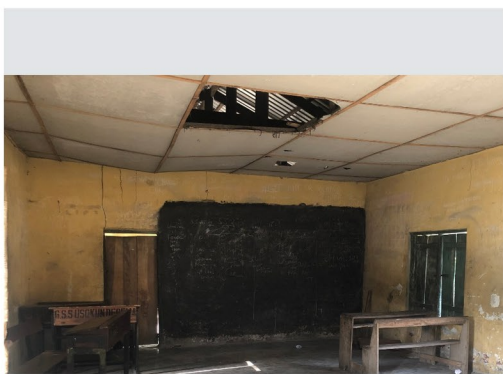
Pictorial Representation



Andoni LGA WASH



Community Primary School, Andoni



Community Secondary School, Degema



General Hospital Degema LGA



Ikwerre LGA WASH



LGEA School, ELeMe LGA

About Our Work with FORD Foundation

Ford, with its interest to mitigate challenges faced by rural communities who shoulder the cost of natural resources extraction in developing nations, in which women are proportionately affected in addition to socio-cultural norms that inhibit economic opportunity and participation, evidence in the underrepresentation of women in elected positions, extended its support to CODE.

In 2019, CODE was contracted by Ford Foundation to conduct research on the impacts of oil exploration activities on local incomes in the Niger Delta. A research which was successfully conducted with far-reaching and critical insights, analysis and recommendations. In 2020 they engaged Connected Development for a 12month intervention to Ogoni, Ahoada East, Ahoada West, Onelga, Oyigbo, Eleme Onne, Abonnema, Bonny, Etche, Emohua in Rivers State to conduct an on-ground assessment of government-funded projects and empower community members to engage and influence multi-sectoral stakeholders using Follow The Money (FTM) model. These tracking activities in these communities, through identification of 19 Projects across 10 communities which were abandoned or non-existent and due to advocacy efforts of the Community Monitoring Teams (CMTs), resulted in 8 out of the 19 Projects restarted and reached various levels of completion.

During the last one years, this work was extended to some new Oil-Producing communities in Rivers State (Odiemerenyi, George - Pepple, Bomu, Idama, Odawu, Omoku, Akpabo, Umuechem, and Oyigbo urban) tracking activities and identifying projects across these communities which were abandoned or non-existent.

For a better insight into the state of rural infrastructure in the entire state we conducted this research which adopted a simple random sampling approach for the selection of local councils involved in the study.

Our Products



