



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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UN HELPS NIGERIAN YOUTH TO ACQUIRE SKILLS

VIDEO

AUDIO

NARRATION

RIVER (12")

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria – it's one of the world's largest wetland areas. It has a unique but fragile ecosystem.

FLAME (19")

The Niger Delta produces over 90 percent of the crude oil that is the lifeblood of the Nigerian economy. But, it's brought about massive environment degradation. And precious little of the vast sums generated by oil exports have ever reached the people of the Niger Delta.

DANCE (24")

The half million Ogoni people have paid a steep price as the oil industry has developed. The Ogoni drew international attention to this issue with their movement for the survival of the Ogoni people in the early 1990s, led by writer and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa. Tragically, in 1995, the then Nigerian government hanged Saro-Wiwa and eight others.

CROWDS (21")

In the past decade, repression and neglect

fuelled restive feelings among the impoverished population. Violence swirled throughout the region as angry youths disrupted oil operations, kidnapped employees from oil multinationals or fought each other as they competed for the few benefits that trickled down. Local council chairman, Linus Kpabari.

LINUS KPABARI ON CAMERA
(12")

KPABARI:

"What we need here are employment opportunities and economic empowerment for our people. The moment the youths are allowed to roam about, they are vulnerable to crisis and all that. They become restive."

COURSES (21")

NARRATION

To tackle this problem, the Bori Skills Development Centre was established by UNDP, the UN Development Programme. It provides vocational training to youths to facilitate employment and enterprise development. Four hundred young adults attend courses in seven trades including woodwork, hair dressing, cosmetics, sewing and fashion design, masonry, typing and computer classes. The youngsters are extremely enthusiastic according to UNDP's Advisor, Yaprika Nwankwko.

YAPRIKA NWANKWO ON
CAMERA (19")

NWANKWO:

"They are very zealous to learn. They want to be on their own. They don't want to depend on the

government. They want to have their own stores, they want to have their own workshop, and at the end of the day they can be helping their parents. It's a model for other communities to learn."

NARRATION

TECHNICAL TRAINING (18")

But the most sought after trades are the ones that can potentially lead to employment with the oil industry. Mechanics, electronics, metal works and welding are some of the boys' favourites. Eighteen-year-old Wisdom Sunday Peter is learning to become a welder.

PETER:

WISDOM SUNDAY PETER (6")

"I always wanted to be an engineer, to have a lot of money, so that I can help my people."

NARRATION

MORE TRAINING (25")

In spite of the irregular payment of teachers' salaries by the local government, over 1,000 young people have graduated. Some of them have been granted credit facilities under UNDP's microcredit scheme. This has allowed them to create employment opportunities for themselves and others. Ultimately, only socio-economic development and community self-esteem will bring peace to the troubled Niger Delta region.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.