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| **Interim Project Report**  |
| Support to Improve Public Procurement Management in Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers States |
| **April 2009 – March 2012**  |

Abuja November 2009 |

**Project Title: Support to improve public procurement management in Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers States**

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| **Goal**  | Improved performance of public contracts |
| **Outcome** | Public procurement capacity of Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers States strengthened |
| **Outputs**  | 1. Public Procurement at State and Local Government level in Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom strengthened
2. Systems, standards, safeguards, and staff required to implement public procurement legislation in the Core Niger Delta States put in place
3. Popular participation in use of public resources in the Niger Delta facilitated
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| **Implementing Agencies:** | UNDP, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers States, LGCs and participating non-state actors  |
| **Project Duration:** **Total Resources:** | 3 Years$1,500,000 |
| **Donor:** | Norwegian Government |

**Brief Description**

The project seeks to strengthen the procurement capacity of Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom States through training, and establishment of legislative frameworks to enhance sustainability. This would include supporting the Due Process mechanism in the States to assist them to strengthen procurement systems in the State and Local Government institutions and to assist them to engage with the public. Other areas of support include to non-state actors to encourage public participation and monitoring of the procurement process in the states. In this respect, network of CSOs will be supported to engage in the procurement process at all levels particularly in those projects at the local government levels. The primary beneficiaries of the project are the citizens of Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom States in particular and Nigeria in general. Other beneficiaries include participating civil society organisations and private sector institutions supporting procurement activities in the region.

**Progress on implementation**

The project forms part of the UNDP Country Action Plan signed with the Nigeria government and running between 2009 and 2012. As part of UNDP substantive support to the states including the four Niger Delta States implementing the project, a strong synergy has been built between the project and other UNDP projects thus achieving support and sustainability.

The under listed activities contained in the first year’s workplan have been built into the implementing partners workplan.

1. Conduct consultative meeting with implementing partners
2. Develop and outline terms of cooperation for UNDP to support States/LGCs
3. Conduct public procurement needs assessment of the states to facilitate public discussions on findings
4. Develop tool for performing State Procurement Assessment (with assistance from Consultant)
5. Conduct Procurement Assessment based on the tool developed
6. Publish draft report of Procurement Assessment and facilitate public discussions and feedback
7. Prepare draft PPL bill and PP regulations/Guidelines

**Update on project performance**

* Consultations held with partners resulting in workplan except Bayelsa (yet to develop its workplan).
* The State’s MOU with UNDP for the four years covers this project
* The states are at various stages of implementation of their workplan.
* As at the time of signing the contribution agreement in April 2009, none of the four states had a public procurement law. Delta State signed its public procurement bill into law on 27 August 2009, just few months after the signing of the contribution agreement. With the support from the project, Delta State Due Process is making tremendous progress in the implementation of the law. Current activities being supported by the project for the State include the following:
	+ Massive awareness creation - production and dissemination of IEC materials radio/tv jingles, reproduction of the law and distribution to MDAs, contractors, CSOs
	+ Sensitization of senior public officers, contractors, and CSOs
	+ Capacity assessment for the implementation of the law
	+ Support to CSO to train and monitor procurement/development projects
	+ Experience sharing visit to the Bureau for Public Procurement and National Assembly committees over sighting public procurement at federal level on the implementation of the federal Public procurement Act.