

**A COMMUNIQUE AOPTED AT THE END OF A ONE DAY FISCAL INCLUSION TOWN HALL MEETING ORGANISED BY NDEBUMOG ON TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018 AS PART SPP 3 ACTIVITIES AT IVORY GUEST HOUSE, OYIGBO, RIVERS STATE.**

**Preamble**

A one-day town hall meeting on *development action plans, community needs assessment and shadow budget* was organized by the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group (NDEBUMOG ([www.nigerdeltabudget.org](http://www.nigerdeltabudget.org)) with support from Oxfam in Nigeria.

Participants were drawn from several communities, clusters, NDEBUMOG Shadow Budget Groups, Civil Society Organizations, CBOs, alongside, some professional bodies. The event was a success, as the aims of the meeting, which included to enlighten participants on shadow budget and community needs assessment and how they can go about it was achieved. After the technical presentations, below are what came out from the meeting;

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- Most communities lack capacity to carry out needs' assessment and shadow budgeting.
- Projects are imposed on communities without considering their needs.
- Most communities do not have needs assessment documents or action plans.
- Gender equity is lacking within communal, cultural and socioeconomic considerations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Capacity building and sensitizations are needed at empowering communities on how to carry out needs' assessment and shadow budgeting. It was emphasized that such knowledge of shadow budget can help to fiscally empower the people in a democracy.
- Community Associations and Women Groups should be consulted as part of budget consultations
- Budget tracking should be taken seriously by communities in synergy with CSOs and responsive agencies of government

**CONCLUSION:**

Participants commended Oxfam and NDEBUMOG for the event, particularly, the empowerment of women, which was the hallmark of this event.

**THE COMMUNIQUE DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

1. Mr. Kelechi Agu
2. Assumpta Chinyere
3. Nse Udoh

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF COMMUNIQUE was moved by**

1. Okafor Nkeiruka, and seconded by
2. Pauline Ekiyor