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The causes, effects and potential solutions to the deep-rooted Niger Delta oil crisis

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Oil spillage and gas flaring by the oil industry has devastated the Niger Delta for more than half a century. Oil pollution causes both immediate damage and long-term harm to fish, agricultural lands and the health of the living environment. The exploitation of oil and gas in the Niger Delta of Nigeria resulted to impoverishment, conflict, human rights abuses and despair to the majority of the people rather than development. The impact of the crises continuously affects oil and gas operators leaving the area unsafe and endangers the lives of workers and assets. This study tends to capture experiences from the events so as to prevent further deterioration of law, peace and order in the region. To provide a long lasting solution to the deep-rooted crises, the present study identified the root causes of the Niger Delta crisis, the trend of escalation, and the management strategies that were engaged along with their impact and recommended appropriate management approaches to prevent further deterioration of the situation and to restore peace in the areas.

Key words: Niger Delta, oil production, conflict, oil crisis, crisis management.

INTRODUCTION

Oil exploitation in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria began in 1956 at a production level of 5,100 barrels per day (p/d) and was first exported to Europe. The production level increased to 20,000 barrels p/d before independence in 1960. In 1961, the production increased to 46,000 p/d leading to the construction of a trans Niger pipeline in 1965 and the exploitation of offshore fields which increased the production to 275,000 p/d and to 420,000 before the commencement of Nigerian civil war in 1967 which lasted until 1970 (Ojakora, 2011). The civil war time slightly affected oil production which significantly increased to 2.06 million p/d in 1973. As of 1972, oil constituted 83% of Nigerian exports and constituted 17% of government revenue in 1971, 71% in 1973 and 86% in 1975. In the early 1990s, oil revenue accounted for more than 90% of Nigeria foreign exchange receipts and constituted about 70% of the budgetary revenues and 25% GDP (Edokpayi and Metaferia, 2005).

In 1998, the federal government income from sales of equity in crude oil was US$7.706 million and from royalty and Petroleum Profits Tax, US$4. 288 million which add up to 88% of the government's foreign exchange earnings in 1997. Until presently, oil has been the major source of revenue that sustains the Nigerian economy. In a report and statement of account for the year 2000, the Central Bank of Nigeria stated that oil accounted for ₦1.59 trillion or 83.5% of the total gross revenue for that year (Okoro, 2004; CBN, 2009).

The federal government has total control over oil resources which is only from the Niger Delta region of the country. The federal government of Nigeria farms out oil mining rights to the oil companies and receives rents and royalties from them. Nigerian law of property section 16 of the Interpretation Act, 1964 explicitly excludes mineral oils from the mining of land, state owned land which support oil are controlled by the communities and families until 1978 when the Land Use Act was promulgated as a Decree by a military government with the right of access

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to the land for its operations (Winter, 2007). Most scholarly works on oil exploitation activities in the Niger Delta have concentrated on the environmental impact of oil exploitation and the under-development of the region despite the fact that the huge revenue oil exploitation has yielded to the Nigerian state.

The present study focuses on the origin of the conflict, strategies used to control the conflict, effect of decades of conflict on the living environment and suggest possible ways to resolve the conflict (Oshionebo, 2002; Otuene, 2006; Hasan et al., 2000). The major means of livelihood for the people, as identified in 2008 by Opukri and Ibaba (2008), are subsistence farming, fishing, hunting, and trading. Environmental degradation due to pollution of the environment by the activities of the Multinational Companies (MNCs) has further reduced these means of livelihood and sustenance. These post impact of health hazards prompted for an exploratory study on the causes, effect and to propose solutions to the deep-rooted Niger Delta oil crisis in Nigeria. This was achieved through thorough and critical review of the causes and the effects of the prolonged Niger Delta oil crisis from previous related literature studies in the region. Based on the study findings, potential solution was proposed to ease tension that has resulted to wastages over the years.

NIGER DELTA

The Niger Delta is a densely region often referred to as "Oil River" and extends to about 26,000 Km^2 in the southern part of the country with about 10,000 Km^2 of wetlands in the rain forest of Nigeria (Uyigue and Agho, 2007). Nigeria is one of the most populous countries in Africa and the most populous country in West Africa (Ojakoratu, 2011; Uyigue and Agho, 2007). Ojakorotu (2011) described the region as one of the world's richest mineral resources region with different species of plants and animals as well as humans. 90% of the daily production of 2.3 million barrels of oil per day accounts for over 80% of the national revenue (Ojakoratu, 2011). The Niger Delta region comprises Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers states. 95% of Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings from oil exploration which increased from 5,100 barrels of oil per day at its first discovery in 1956 to current volumes of over 2 million barrels per day come from the Niger Delta (Ojakoratu, 2011). Contrary to the initial constitutional requirement that 50% of the oil revenue were to be reinvested in the development of the Niger Delta, the revenue allocation was reduced to 20% in 1975 (Ngomba-Roth, 2007) and later to 1.5% of government's total earnings (Ngomba-Roth, 2007: 192). When the citizens mounted pressure on the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the MNCs to show a corporate responsibility for the development of the region or face the consequences of looming crises, the funding was

increased to 3% in 1992 and further to 17% in 2005 (Ngomba-Roth, 2007: 192).

Occupation

The major means of livelihood for the people are subsistence farming, fishing, hunting, and trading (Okpukri and Ibaba, 2008). Environmental degradation due to pollution of the environment by the activities of the multinational oil companies has drastically reduced these means of livelihood and sustenance in exchange for environmental pollution and oil spillage. The land and water bodies are polluted limiting farm and fishing activities. Continual gas flaring over the years has modified the lifestyles of people and scared away game animals and has limited hunting. The people find it very difficult to meet their daily needs without sufficient farming, fishing and hunting (Okpukri and Ibaba, 2008). These have consequently led to high dependence on imported products at exorbitant prices as a result of lack of accessible road network, lack of safe and affordable transportation and competition of living with workers in the oil and gas industries who are rich and can afford to pay for expensive goods. Roofs on houses are changed for every 3 months due to the acid rain resulting from the pollutants from the oil and gas activities which corrodes the roofing sheets due to frequent rainfall (O'Neill, 2007).

The Niger Delta people find it difficult to deal with loss of means of livelihood, higher cost of living, environmental pollution and lack of roads, potable water, housing, electricity, education and health facilities, among other basic infrastructures (Ngomba-Roth, 2007; Mahler, 2010; Watts, 2010), while the Niger Delta people refer to their struggle as oppression and marginalization (Watts, 2010). A situation where there is unavailability of the basic amenities of life is often referred to as poverty (Lishman, 2007) and comprises lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. Poverty is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social, and cultural life. These factors are predominant in the Niger Delta region and amid developing, loss of livelihoods as a result of economic recession, sudden poverty as a result of conflict and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems and social institutions (Lishman, 2007: 20).

ORIGIN OF THE OIL-CONFLICT

The origin of the Niger Delta problem could be traced back to the colonial days. A study by Dike (1956) showed that Nigeria and the Niger Delta bloom on palm oil exportation in exchange for the importation of

manufactured goods. Niger Delta ports supported active trading, importation, and exportation of goods during those days (Ngomba-Roth, 2007; Dike, 1956). Most major ethnic groups profited above the minor groups within the Niger Delta and the colonial rule of the British government failed to address the neglect of the minority ethnic groups and that has persisted since after the Nigerian independence in 1960. Asuni (2009) in his study described that the government have attempted to address the crises and restore peace to the region through the formation of panels to investigate and recommend measures as well as for agencies to assist in the development of the region but the progress of this intention was stifled by corruption. Consequently, the Nigerian government has not only lost in terms of revenue and the potentials for investment, but the instability this region put the nation and the government which is in bad condition.

It is common knowledge in the Niger Delta areas and in the country at large that oil and gas industry representatives, family members and those with and without business with oil prospecting and producing have been affected and continued to live with the bitter consequences of the crises that have prevailed over six decades. Lives and properties have been lost, businesses have been closed and movement restricted in some areas because people remain at risk of being kidnapped. The industry decided not to pay ransoms in order to discourage the practice so families of affected individuals have to pay the enormous amounts demanded. Besides the financial strain, the emotional traumas that children, women and the elderly who are often kidnapped from their homes, schools, churches and in the streets are forced to endure call for lasting solutions.

EFFECT OF THE OIL-CONFLICT

The impacts of the prolonged oil conflict that have suffered Niger Delta inhabitants for over the past fifty years affected various businesses conducted by the multinational companies in the region as the government policies and implementation measures were deficient in providing adequate safety for workers (including expatriate) in the oil and gas industries. The lives of those that were kidnapped are at risk. Children, the aged and the needy are plagued by the dire consequences of this epidemic. The present study provided a clear description for a better understanding of the experiences of the Niger Delta inhabitants, the causes and how the crisis escalated and suggested appropriate management strategies to mitigate the adverse impacts of future activities in the area.

The suggestion aimed at providing the government with management strategies for the multinational oil companies, the leadership of the Niger Delta communities and how their decisions and actions should

best be structured to prevent escalation of crises in the region. Deeper insight from the causes of the crises and different management strategies that have been used resulted in the deterioration of the situations. Appropriate management strategies based on identifying the coping capabilities of the inhabitants will produce expected results and are recommended to provide lasting solutions to the deep-rooted crises.

Not only that the recommendations from previous studies are expected to deliver sustainable peace and opportunities for the development of the Niger Delta communities and organizations that have lost lives and businesses, the suggestions will further equip the government and the oil and gas industries with helpful information to identify and manage the emergence of similar uprisings. The suggestions will also provide a lasting peace to the nation, security and restore stability and opportunities for tourism, businesses and for the development of the region and to the nation.

Those living in fear for years with their children, aged and vulnerable family members and the people that have been kidnapped from their homes, schools, churches, in traffic, at work place and other places will feel relief as peace, security and stability is restored (Ogula and Woods, 2008). Opportunities will thrive again for investment and for businesses in the areas. Therefore, the present study will provide a channel to restore peace and order in the areas and to the lives of millions who are dependent on the area's activities and products by changing the story of Niger Delta using the recommendations provided in this study.

CAUSES OF THE OIL CRISIS AND PEACE-MAKING STRATEGIES

Activities of the Nigerian government as well as military and democratic administrations have not changed the fate of the Niger Delta people who are calling for attention and development. Military leaders are not sympathetic toward the cause of the crises in the Niger Delta and were blamed for nurturing the growth of militancy (Mahler, 2010; Asuni, 2009; Obi, 2009).

Edokpayi and Metaferia (2005) held that the activities of the multinational oil and gas industries have increased the level of poverty in the areas as pollution from the oil and gas activities affected water, air, soil, animals, human safety, health and the environment leading to the drastic decline of the quality of life. The government contributed to improper regulation of the oil and gas activities and for colluding against the people and for laws and policies that engendered ethnic clashes and complicated the crises. Social groups protested against the heightened oppression as the oil and gas industries and the government policies and actions failed to protect the people.

The involvement of the military by the government and the oil and gas industries to stop peaceful protests was

claimed to have exhilarated violence in the areas (Edokpayi and Metaferia, 2005). A study by Uyigue and Agho (2007) found that local conflicts and peaceful protests which was initiated as a step to peace-making transformed into violence and organized crimes because the oil and gas industries and the government used violence to quash uprisings. Oil production dropped as workers were kidnapped and facilities were destroyed. Vandalism of pipelines rose from seven in 1993 to over 600 in 2000 (Uyigue and Agho, 2007). Kidnapping, destruction of oil pipeline and other criminal activities yielded higher earnings for rebelling youths which have persisted over the period. Government efforts to checkmate criminal activities and to ensure safety in the areas increased the level of violence. Security was violated as the youths emerged as militants with more sophisticated firearms and crumpled their perceived oppressors until no solutions were in sight. The Nigerian government later adjusted policies and set up a board for the development of the Niger Delta; however, corruption frustrated the restoration of peace in the region. Multinational industries have shown interest in addressing the concerns over the crises so as to continue operations. The MNCs later provided scholarship scheme and awarded contracts to the community members but the opportunities were seized by the leaders (Okoro, 2004).

A series of attempts using dialogue for peace-making produced no results (Uyigue and Agho, 2007). The militants enjoyed the possessing of more sophisticated firearms and familiarity with the Niger Delta topography and tides made it difficult for non-indigenous people to navigate the area. Most organizations, families and workers have relocated as a result of insecurity in the areas although the multinational industries spent millions of dollars to strengthen security over their workers and properties as well as to ensure a continual operation.

The militants later diverted their attention to politicians and wealthy Nigerians (Obi, 2009, 2010) and more militant groups emerged and kidnapping increased and spread through to the poor. People were kidnapped from their homes and in the streets, children from schools or while in transit, and the elderly from the countryside. Over forty percent of the national oil production dropped as oil and gas industries cut down operations and withdrew their workers from the areas and this led the government to publicly seek peaceful negotiations and resolutions (Watts, 2010).

Ojakorotu (2011) disclosed that the government offered amnesty to militants in 2009 and that reduced the activities of the militants and involvement in different forms of training. However, the situation has not changed as kidnappings persisted and facilities are continually being destroyed. These peacemaking strategies were not suitable for the Niger Delta people as the region has long been subdued by the influences from government and MNCs. The continuing impact of the failed peace-making strategies necessitated for a realistic and prompt sustaining solution to the region. It is for this purpose that this study was initiated to identify the causes of the crisis, its effect and to propose suitable approaches to effectively sustain peace and protect properties in the areas.

BARRIERS TO LONG-LASTING PEACE AND THE IMPEDING DANGERS TO THE STRATEGIES

High level of corruption has affected the Niger Delta people from benefit from the allocated revenue despite complaints that the allocations are very small. Most community members only earn very little compensation for acquiring lands while the rent on lands goes directly to the government. The Niger Delta crises escalated beyond the borders of Nigeria and have affected individuals and corporations around the world. Warner and Palfreyman (2003) described the crisis as a significant disruption of life and business with possibilities of generating extensive media coverage.

The stability and security of the Niger Delta have been elusive as the people struggled to expunge oil industries they reported are exploiting them and leaving their environment polluted and unfit for agriculture activities such as farming and fishing (Ojakoronu, 2011). They also accused the government of neglecting and marginalizing their immense contributions to the nation's economy. The results have been revealed by ongoing events like kidnappings of expatriates for ransom, demolition of oil and gas facilities, environmental pollution and loss of revenue and resources (Obi, 2010; Abidde, 2009; Oriola, 2011). These consequences are clear signs of unsuccessful management of the uprisings that have dominated the Niger Delta region and has become sources of international concern as most expatriates from foreign countries have been affected (Ojakoronu, 2011).

The study found that the crisis has shaken Nigeria and claimed properties and lives of locals, nationals and expatriates as well as loss of businesses and opportunities, and have drawn international attention till present day; hence, there is a need for a lasting solution in order to subdue the deteriorating impact of the oil-spurred long-lasted crisis. Previous efforts to control the crises were unsuccessful and left the region unsafe. This study, however, provides a better insight and proffer strategic management measures for a long lasting solution to the crises.

The problem that is addressed in this study is the deep-rooted crises in the Niger Delta between the oil and gas industries, the communities and the government which have led to the loss of lives and properties over five decades ago. Detailed review of previous related literature studies was provided to explore sustainable management approaches and adequate insight on the causes and effects of the crises and proffer ways to resolve its further impact.

A study by Ngomba-Roth (2007) found that whenever the needs of people are left unmet, conflicts abound. The Niger Delta situation was initially looked down on as a minor issue which in the course of time turned into an international concern and prevailed till present day. There was no anticipation that the crises could last so long because the management strategies engaged by the government and the oil and gas industries provided only temporary relief to the solutions. The same practices fail hold as rising awareness of the financial opportunities, social conditions, and environmental degradation resulting from oil and gas operations spread to the ignorant indigenes of the Niger Delta.

The multinational companies have an undue advantage over the poor communities and have provided them with political clout and coverage from corrupt government officials (Ngomba-Roth, 2007). Edokpayi and Metaferia (2005) added that the presence of the multinational oil companies promotes the development of the oil wells, contributed to poverty, conflicts and degradation of the environmental health of the areas. Supporting Ngomba-Roth (2007), Watts (2010) affirmed that government policies neglected the Niger Delta people and the region without considering their contributions to the national earnings. The multinational oil companies later colluded with prominent members of the communities to silence the people and this created strife that caused the community members to fight each other for scarce commodities and sovereignty. The power struggle continued as the communities forcefully competed for limited economic and political resources which eventually worsened by the absence of systematic, responsible, developmental and transparency initiatives by the government and the multinational industries (Edokpayi and Metaferia, 2005; Ngomba-Roth, 2007; Watts, 2010).

The proliferation of firearms, according to Obi (2009) and Ojakorotu (2011) originated during ethnic crises. Each group was equipped by wealthy patrons from respective ethnicities for defense and to attack others. Affluent politicians and ethnic leaders provided members with funds that multiplied firearms as communities fought for sovereignty over one another. The battles on the course of time interfered with oil and gas production activities which prompted the government to send in military personnel to protect its major source of economic livelihood. Edokpayi and Metaferia (2005), Ojakorotu (2011), and Watt (2010) described that soldiers were mobilized to patrol facilities and communities in order to make the environment conducive for oil and gas operations. The Niger Delta people grew out of the discomfort of living with armed men as ideas emerged that the only way to fight back was to be better armed and this thus gave birth to armed struggles. As the government and the oil and gas industries forcefully engaged to deal with emerging crises, they fuelled the crises rather than providing a peaceful solution to the violence. The impacts of violence are a constant reminder that the Niger Delta problem is not only a challenge to people from the region but to every Nigerian and to every region that depends on oil and its byproducts for daily lives.

The government and the multinational industries through the Niger Delta experiences have learned that using force to solve social problems can only complicate the matter as violence begets more violence. The ripples of conflicts eventually ran out and claimed global attention for years till the present and has affected individuals and organizations, indigenous people, nationals and expatriates that work in the region. The bitter consequences and deep-rooted concerns are proof that the problem deserves priority attention.

PRESENT SITUATION

Today, the crises in the Niger Delta is no longer limited to the region but has become an international concern that affects oil and gas activities, workers as well as families whose relatives work in the location all over the world. Oil and gas industries are spending to protect their workers and facilities that have become subject to kidnapping and vandalism (Abidde, 2009) while the government is struggling to control its major earnings and to restore peace in order to retain the interest of investors (Abidde, 2009). Although efforts are continually being made to foster peace in the region, lives are still being lost, environmental pollution continues, workers are being kidnapped, facilities are being destroyed and the government forces are not properly equipped to stop militants in possession of more sophisticated firearms as they operate in the familiar environment whose topography is difficult for non-indigenes to navigate.

Experiences from previous literature studies showed that ignoring issues is not an ideal control strategy. Regester and Larkin (2008: 95) asserted that issue ignored is a crisis ensured. Studies warned that ignoring emerging crises led to escalation with potentially devastating consequences (Warner and Palfreyman, 2003; Mitroff and Anagnos, 2005). It is not possible to respond to every issue that arises from the Niger Delta region but it is essential to identify the causes and effects of the crisis so as to focus on the emerging issues that have the capability of significantly transforming the living environment, the oil activities, organizations, the society, the nation and global businesses at large.

The trend of the Niger Delta crises was not anticipated by the government, the communities or the oil and gas industries (Edokpayi and Metaferia, 2005; Asuni, 2009; Watts, 2010; Ojakoronu, 2011). This study recognized that the coping capabilities of those that underwent the crises have been affected by the leadership strategies of those in authority. This is based on the fact that leadership capabilities influence the quality of decisions that are used to directly or indirectly shape crises conditions of the affected areas. This study therefore

provided an enhanced platform to the decisions and information management processes of the oil and gas industries in the Niger Delta and the government to maintain a peaceful relationship to address the critical situations in the Niger Delta which has been affected by inappropriate management strategies. The study covered the crucial decisions and management strategies that escalated the Niger Delta crises based on which practicable management strategies were recommended.

INTENTION OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

The intention of the Niger Delta people is to either control the resources from the region or to have access to considerable parts to alleviate their poverty and support the development of the areas (Watts, 2010). The government has not shown any interest to relinquish its hold to justify the communities' claims of neglect or to implement policies that will threaten its control of the resources in the region. The oil and gas industries have been accused of failing in their corporate responsibilities to the people and to the region. Accusations of neglect abound but have not fostered the resolution of the crises. Findings from the previous literature studies on Niger Delta crises showed that ignoring or trying to rationalize the problem is a sign of denial and have not prevented or stopped crises but rather escalated the problems (Kemshall and Pritchard, 1999; Warner and Pelfreyman, 2003; Mitroff and Anagnos, 2005; Regester and Larkin, 2008). Adequate and fast response is therefore essential to control matters that may be difficult to handle if they are allowed to persist without intervention and transparent management. It therefore becomes essential to explore lasting solutions to crises prone Niger Delta region that hasled to the lost of lives and properties. Specific action plans based on the findings from previous literature form part of the crisis management strategy and are the potential solutions to the deep-rooted oil crisis in the Niger Delta region.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Authors of crisis management did suggest various strategies for effective management of crises. Various approaches depend on the situation in question. Important steps to crises management comprise an early identification of the cause, mitigation and management of crises (Warner and Pelfreyman, 2003; Elimeleh, 2007; Brian, 2007; Murawski et al., 2011). The authors confirmed that the end of a crisis does not put a stop to the management activities. Instead, it should be the time that the organization not only enjoys the accomplished success but sits back to reevaluate actions taken so as to prepare a better delivery in subsequent situations. Ignoring histories and lessons that could be learnt from past events neither help an organization nor emerging situations. Consequently, lessons learnt should be documented, communicated and applied for enhanced prevention and performance.

Different authors defined crises in various ways but agreed that crises are unpleasant situations. Mitroff and Anagnos (2005: 34) explained the crisis as an event that affects or has the potential to affect the whole of an organization as well as their belongings. The study revealed that crisis exposes the true nature of those who experiences it whether they are individuals or organizations. The way individuals manage crises reveals their values and priorities as well as their strengths and weaknesses. This agrees with Epicetus's view that "Circumstances do not make a man but merely reveals him to others" (Tracy, 2007). Factors that influence the way crises are managed are the nature of the crises, timing, duration and the possible causes and consequences (Elimeleh, 2007; Murawski et al., 2011). Warner and Palfreyman (2003) reported cases of crises as an effect of poor processes, controls and communication, lack of early crises detection and management resources as well as creativity and commitment to processes and procedures that support effective crisis management. Understanding the causes and its trends is essential for successful crisis management.

Beyond every reasonable doubt, the Niger Delta crisis that has lasted for over five decades resulted from oil exploration activities that affected major means of livelihood of the people such as farming, fishing, hunting, and trading as identified in 2008 by Opukri and Ibaba (2008). The oil activities severely degraded the living environment through consistent pollution by the MNCs' oil spillage and construction of pipeline channels to supply oil to other parts of the country. Continual gas flaring scared away game animals and limited hunting, and the people find it difficult to meet their daily needs without sufficient farming, fishing and hunting. The Niger Delta people can no longer meet their daily livelihood because of the high cost of living, environmental pollution and lack of roads, potable water, housing, electricity, education and health facilities, among other basic infrastructures.

Uprising of various crime activities in the area are signs and consequences of unsuccessful management of the crisis in the region; however, the post-impact of the deep-rooted crisis can be controlled through dialogue with the indigenous people and Nigeria with a focus on resettlement plan, provision of the basic amenities such as steady electric power supply, water supply, good roads and hospital. The resettlement scheme should include the provision of job opportunities to the people. The job opportunities will replace the people's previous agricultural and fisheries' practices, while steady power and water supply will provide an alternative source of the contaminated river that has been contaminated by oil spillage. The provision of alternative means of survival will create a peaceful environment to the deep-rooted Niger Delta oil crises in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

The impeding dangers of unresolved conflict in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria can no longer be undermined. The present study identified things that were not known earlier about the Niger Delta crises, to improve knowledge and provide a clear understanding on the causes and remediation of the deep-rooted and prolonged oil crises. The study reported the adverse impacts of oil and gas activities on individuals, families, communities and the environment of the Niger Delta.

The study revealed the dangers with inappropriate decisions and actions of the government and the oil and gas industries to control the deteriorating impact of the Niger Delta crises on the communities and the region at large. In order to change the adverse impacts of the crises to individuals, families, communities, the environment, organizations, and the society, the present study provided recommendations to guide the government, the oil and gas industries and the Niger Delta communities in their relations and actions to protect lives and the living environment. The approach provided has not been put to use elsewhere and provides sets of compensation to all the affected source of livelihood of the indigenous people which was the cause of the oil crisis.

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