

New Nigeria Foundation 2025 Annual Report

Commitment to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights

1. Describe how you have engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative over the past year.

New Nigeria Foundation (NNF) engaged in the Voluntary Principles Initiative in 2025 in several ways. The Foundation's engagements cut across several activities and events organised by the VPI Secretariat, VPI Board, NGO Pillar Board members, and the Foundation's ongoing projects. NNF was a member of the Review Committee for the Guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence on companies' security operations. The Foundation participated in the meetings of the NGOs on the Board of the Initiative and worked with them to select the NGOs that worked with the Executive Search Committee. Additionally, NNF collaborated with other members of the NGO Pillar on the Board to review the applications of Engaged NGO members that applied for full membership.

NNF engaged with a Latin American NGO to explore its potential of joining the Board of the VPI. This was to broaden the geographic spread of NGOs on the Board. The Foundation participated in the meetings of the VPI Board and activities leading to the recruitment and appointment of an Executive Director. New Nigeria Foundation attended the Annual Plenary meeting in London in March and VPI Board Strategy Retreat held in Texas, United States of America, in October 2025. NNF participated in NGO Pillar meetings organised in the period under review.

2. Describe efforts to increase transparency, both internally and externally, regarding your efforts to implement or support implementation of the Voluntary Principles.

NNF participated in meetings and activities aimed at increasing transparency. These include participation in presentations to the VPI Board by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Aris Mining, among others. Also, the Foundation held refresher sessions on VPSHR for staff who work with extractive communities where NNF implement projects.

3. Describe any efforts to engage in dialogue with other participants of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

NNF served in the NGO definition workstream along with Search for Common Ground and Pax on the framework for admission of new NGOs into the VPI. The definition provided additional criteria that VPI could include in the governance documents to guide the admission of new NGO members.

The Foundation is still working with the Nigeria Working Group on the VPs to reinvigorate a process that will see Nigeria joining the Initiative. The group has commenced engagement with officials of the new administration in Nigeria on joining the VPI.

Procedures

4. Provide a summary of the findings of the verification process.

NNF's VPI objectives continue to align with the mission and vision of the Foundation, which makes the Foundation's engagement in the Initiative one of the eight core areas of intervention that could result in the desired social change in Nigeria. NNF's activities in the VPI cover five key activities. The activities include community engagement, training and workshops, promotion of VPSHR, studies, and collaboration and advocacy. In carrying out these activities on the ground, the Foundation has ensured that it aligns with the VPs verification framework as provided in the guidelines.

Promotion of the Voluntary Principles

5. Describe your efforts to raise awareness of and promote understanding of the Voluntary

Principles with both internal and external stakeholders.

Given that there is a dearth of funding in the development space, NNF promoted the awareness of the VPs by embedding it in its activities under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). In October, one of such awareness creation activities was attended by 349 stakeholders spread across different stakeholders in the hydrocarbon sector. The Foundation also publishes VPs activities in its quarterly Newsletters and on the Foundation's website. VPs activities also constitute part of the regular report rendered to the Board of the Foundation.

6. Describe efforts to engage and facilitate participation of non-member CSOs, affected communities, and other relevant stakeholders in the Annual Plenary Meeting or workshops.

NNF is positioned to influence many non-member and other relevant stakeholder groups through its extensive involvement in the implementation of Chapter Three of Nigeria's Petroleum Industry Act. Many companies in the hydrocarbon sector are aware of NNF's activities in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and tend to ask for advice on some practical issues. NNF shared resources on VPSHR with an oil and gas company as part of capacity building for its staff. Some of the CSOs that we collaborate with recently became a member of the NWG.

NNF and the National Human Rights Commission, South-West Zonal Office serve as the secretariat for South-West Working Group of the VPI in Nigeria. The secretariat has held several meetings and is working towards convening a regional forum for CSOs working on the promotion of human rights in the region.

7. Describe your efforts to promote the adoption of the Voluntary Principles into relevant government of corporate policies, as well as international standards and/or guidelines.

NNF leverages the opportunities provided through its implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to introduce the VPs to the Host Communities' Development Trusts (HCDTs). NNF consistently reminded the HCDTs of the importance of being mindful of the rights of girls, women, youth and other vulnerable groups in their activities and encourage them to visit the VPI site to familiarise themselves with the activities of the VPI and issues surrounding human rights in the extractive sector.

Country Implementation

8. Describe efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the countries where you work.

The Foundation continued its advocacy against human rights violations by the security forces. The Foundation shares its VPs activities on social media and through its in-house publications.

11. Describe your efforts to engage with or support engagement with the public security sectors and/or private security sectors in the countries where you work.

NNF's ongoing engagement with the Lagos State Police Command on training of its personnel on respect for human rights and law enforcement continued; however, some specific activities were postponed due to funding challenges in the year.

12. Describe efforts to hold Voluntary Principles participants accountable for upholding their roles and responsibilities as members of the Voluntary Principles Initiative.

NNF leveraged its relationship with extractive communities to hold oil companies accountable for respect of the rights of women and other vulnerable groups.

Lessons, Effective Strategies, Innovative Approaches, and Additional Reporting

13. Lessons or issues from this reporting year, as well as plans or opportunities to advance the Voluntary Principles for the organization.

The Foundation's VPs initiatives were not undertaken as envisaged due to funding challenges in the period under review. While working of specific funding for VPs activities, NNF will continue to explore innovative ways to integrate VPs activities into ongoing projects of the Foundation as much as possible. NNF will continue to use VP training materials to create awareness of the VPs and the importance of respecting the rights of community members among Host Communities Development Trusts (HCDTs).

15. Participation in In-Country Working Groups - Describe your participation in the In-Country Working Groups, for example: which ICWGs you participated in this year, and information on in-kind support/contribution.

The Nigerian In-Country Working Group experienced some challenges with implementing its activities due to a lack of funds. However, NNF, working with the South-West Zonal Office of the National Human Rights Commission, developed a strategy to recruit non-member CSOs in the region and jointly developed a work plan for the implementation of regional activities.

16. Gender - Describe specific initiatives, policies, and/or procedures that address the needs of gender and vulnerable groups in the provision of security, as set in the VPI's "IGT companion Tool – Operationalizing the Voluntary Principles Through the Lens of Protecting and Respecting the Unique Needs and Rights of Women and Other Disadvantaged Groups" (a copy of this tool is available on the VPI website's Resources page).

In the period under review, NNF insisted on engagement and adequate representation of women and other vulnerable groups in its projects in extractive communities. This is to ensure that the rights of such groups are protected and ensure inclusion in decision-making.