

The Tragedy of Oil Production in the Niger Delta

From July 14-16, 2009, SERAC conducted a mission to three communities in Delta State – Okpaile, Olomoro, and Erovie – to investigate the effects that oil exploration and production has had on people living in the Niger Delta. While Shell oil pumps millions of barrels of oil from beneath their ground, many of the members of these communities continue to live without adequate public services, including health care, educational facilities, electricity, or clean drinking water. Worse, community members spoke passionately about the tragic impacts that the oil industry has had on their livelihoods and their overall quality of life over the past half-century. From seismic explorations that caused people’s homes to crack and fall, drilling operations that led to the confiscation of people’s land without adequate compensation (and lately without any rent at all), transportation of oil through pipelines that burst causing innumerable oil spills that have destroyed people’s farmlands and fish ponds, dumping of associated waste that has contaminated the land and water and caused serious illnesses, and gas flares that have polluted the environment and reduced agricultural productivity – the entire process of oil production in the Delta has had a devastating effect on the local environment and the people who live there. The following photos document this sad story.



Well into which toxic waste was dumped



Banana tree without much fruit in Okpaile village



Discarded waste after clean-up in Okpaile village



Ogini flowstation, Okpaile village



Ogini flowstation gas flare, Okpaile village



Creek next to SDPC facility in Olomoro community



A typical house at Olomoro community



Overview of the Olomoro community



Okpaile village - Trees dying up...