


# Umu Igbo Unite


## Impact Report

2024





*UIU is not just an organization,  
it is a community that  
celebrates our culture. A  
movement that empowers the  
next generation in a foreign  
land to be proud of who they  
are and their roots.*





# Table Of Contents

01	Letter From The CEO
02	Impact By The Numbers
03	UIU Annual Convention
04	Program Updates
05	Financial Overview
06	Sponsor Recognition



# Letter From The CEO



Dear UIU Members and Supporters,

I am proud to reflect on our achievements and share our vision for the future.

## 2024 Highlights:

### Building Membership Pipelines

This year, we focused on strengthening membership pipelines through our chapters and UIUCares. Notably, we supported spearheaded the apprenticeship program in Igboland, with 6 participants completing the program.

The 20th Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention was a historic celebration of unity, cultural pride, and empowerment. With a clear vision for the future and a commitment to fostering inclusivity, UIU is poised to continue making a lasting impact on the global Igbo community for years to come.

## Key Goals for 2025

- Enhance the apprenticeship training program for Igbo youth to empower the next generation of leaders and professionals.
- Establish a venture capital fund (**UIU VC Fund**) to support startups created by Igbos in the diaspora.
- Launch the **UIU Directory**: A digital marketplace for business owners to advertise their services, accessible exclusively to paid members.
- Inclusive Programming and Events:
  - Host larger, more inclusive events to attract diverse attendees.
  - Expand professional development workshops featuring global leaders.
  - Strengthen partnerships with sponsors and supporters to amplify UIU's influence.

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the 21st UIU Annual Convention, taking place August 7–10, 2025, in Dallas, TX. For partnership opportunities, email us at [partnership@umuigbounite.com](mailto:partnership@umuigbounite.com).

## Our Commitment

Our core pillars - Cultural Preservation, Connecting the Diaspora, Entrepreneurship, and Civic Engagement remain at the heart of all we do. Learn more about our initiatives at [www.umuigbounite.com](http://www.umuigbounite.com).

## Special Thanks

- To Our Chapters: Thank you to our 15 active local chapters for your unwavering dedication to promoting Igbo culture in America. Your efforts are the foundation of our success.
- To Our National Operations Team: I extend my deepest gratitude for your pro bono service. Your tireless work behind the scenes ensures our organization continues to thrive.

As we look ahead, let us strengthen our bonds, celebrate our heritage, and build a brighter future for our community. Igbo ga-adi!

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to UIU.

Warm regards,

**Ijeoma Anadu Okoli**

Co-Founder & CEO, Umu Igbo Unite

# Impact By The Numbers

**2,000+**

Members from  
across the U.S. and  
abroad

**15**

Active chapters  
across the US

**1**

Pitch competition  
winner of \$10,000



**1**

**Annual  
convention**

**10+**

Impactful workshops on  
leadership,  
entrepreneurship, culture  
and mental health

**3 days**

of dynamic community  
building, networking,  
and cultural  
preservation

**30+**

Cultural  
performances:  
traditional dances,  
music and Igbo  
fashion



# UIU Annual Convention

## Introduction

The 20th Annual Umu Igbo Unite (UIU) Convention, held in Atlanta, GA, was a pivotal event celebrating two decades of UIU's mission to unite, empower, and preserve the culture of Igbos and Nigerians in the diaspora. This report highlights the convention's key achievements, attendee engagement, financial impact, and the lasting outcomes that will continue to shape the future of UIU.

## Theme

### **Igwe Bu Ike**

### **Our Unity is our Strength**

Celebrating 20 Years of UIU's Influence

## Vision

The 20th Convention was centered on celebrating two decades of UIU's influence by promoting cultural preservation, community support, and fostering leadership within the diaspora.



# Program Updates



## UIU 20th Annual Convention

This year's Umu Igbo Unite Convention was a historic milestone, with record attendance figures of **2,000 participants** an impressive 15% increase year-over-year, making it the largest UIU convention to date. Attendees included professionals, students, cultural leaders, and community members from across the globe, all united to celebrate 20 years of UIU's impact.

### Convention Highlights

- Empowering Conversations and Insightful Panels
- We began with the highly anticipated session, "Paving the Path to C-Suite: Empowering Africans in Corporate Spaces," featuring industry leaders [Elizabeth Adefioye](#), [Kevin Idahor](#), [Olu Jolaoso](#), [Ijeoma Emeka](#), and moderator [Noble Madu](#).
- Attendees explored financial strategies in the session "Shield Your Wealth" with [Paul Njoku](#) (CPA) and "Smart Money Moves" featuring [Ogor Chukudebelu](#) and [Simon Okeke](#).
- [Ngozi Ngonadi](#) led a thought-provoking discussion on the impactful book *Africa on the Precipice* with author [Nnamdi Chiekwu](#), focusing on what the diaspora can do for Nigeria.
- The Healthcare Networking Session featured insights from [Dr. Nkem Chukwumerije](#), [Dr. Chidebelu Ufodike](#), [Dr. Uche Ndefo](#), [Dr. Ike Ogbaa](#), and [Dr. Jennifer Okpukpara](#).
- The weekend also included the inspiring Creative Panel: Breaking Boundaries Through OUR Stories, with panelists [Darryl Vega](#), [Drea Okeke](#), [Pepi Sonuga](#), [Chinemerem Omeh](#), and [Adaorah Chantel](#), moderated by [Jessica Obilom](#). Another highlight was the Relationship Panel: Love Through the Decades, moderated by [Arinze Obikili](#), with couples [Orji & Onyinye Igbokwe](#), [Vince & Claudia Chukwukelu](#), and [Amanda & Akwasi Brobbery](#).
- The UIU Pitch Competition awarded the \$10K prize to [Gemstones](#), showcasing innovative entrepreneurial talent.
- Tech enthusiasts joined [Fortune Onwuzurike](#) and panelists [Nnamdi Nwaigwe](#), [Nate Robert-Eze](#), [Esosa Ighodara](#), [Noble Madu](#), and [Ngozi Eze](#) to discuss the future of technology.
- [Dr. Onyinye Igbokwe](#) and the UIUCares team completed a local mission at Atlanta Mission, preparing and serving meals to women and children in the metro Atlanta community, exemplifying UIU's commitment to giving back.

### UIUTalk and Keynote Sessions

- Inspiring Voices featuring speakers such as [George Azih](#), [Chiney Ogwumike](#), [Angela Nwandu](#) and [Ijeoma Anadu Okoli](#), captivated the audience with stories of resilience, leadership, and cultural pride.
- Discussions centered around navigating life as Nigerian Americans, highlighting the importance of unity, cultural preservation, and empowering the community.

### This milestone year brought exciting additions to the convention:

- *Mr. & Mrs. UIU Pageant: A celebration of poise, cultural knowledge, and community engagement. Congratulations to the winners, [Ifenyichukwu Ifeagwu](#) and [Meghan Kalu](#)!*
- *Founders Ball: Honoring two decades of UIU's legacy in a glamorous and heartfelt celebration.*
- **Umuada:** August Meeting for Women offered a space for women to connect and discuss shared experiences.
- **Umunna:** Men's Meeting provided opportunities for the men to collaborate and bond.

### A Weekend to Remember

- Every session, panel, and event was well-attended, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment of our vibrant community. With record-breaking attendance, this convention underscored UIU's ongoing dedication to fostering unity and empowering Igbo Nigerians in the diaspora.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this incredible milestone. Together, we continue to strengthen our bonds and build a brighter future for our community.

Explore highlights and in-depth features from the 20th Annual UIU Convention in the [2024 Magazine](#) 



# Program Updates

## UIUCares Foundation

UIUCares Foundation made significant strides in improving the lives of individuals in Igbo communities both locally and abroad. Key accomplishments include:

### Education

- Distributed 600 exercise books, 600 pens, and 17 math sets in a Back-to-School Drive benefiting 600 students in Enugu.
- Awarded full scholarships to **40 secondary school students in Enugu and Anambra**, covering tuition and essential supplies such as uniforms and backpacks.
- Partnered with the Gwacham 5 Foundation to fund \$10,000 annually for five years, awarding 10 college students \$1,000 scholarships in the 2023-2024 school year. Recipients include:
  - **Obianuju Victor Onyeka** - University of Texas Arlington
  - **Nnajofofor Chisom** - Suffolk University
  - **Chinanu Nwankwo** - Western Illinois University
  - **Ozioma Onuselogu** - Eastern Illinois University
  - **Bethel Mbakaogu** - University of Houston
  - **Elsie Okoye** - Hardin-Simmons University
  - **Obiajurum Odili** - Sam Houston State University
  - **Cindy Ufelle** - Montana State University
  - **Chinedu Okere** - Texas Tech University
  - **Nicole Agu** - Saint Peter's University



### Career Development

- Empowered youth through technology programs, with 12 students completing 32 computer training sessions.
- Supported 6 apprenticeships in skills such as shoemaking, baking, and tailoring.

### Health and Wellness

- Donated \$1,000 to feed 100 students at Mother Louisa Charity Home for one month.
- Provided malaria testing and treatment for 100 patients, mosquito nets for 150 people, and sanitary products for 125 students.
- Contributed \$1,000 to empower 30 disabled individuals.
- Girls Health Program: The Girls Health Program provides menstrual hygiene education and free sanitary pads to secondary school students in Southeastern Nigeria. In collaboration with our dedicated Enugu team, we have developed seminars covering essential health topics. This year, we partnered with five schools, reaching over 400 girls with education and hygiene support. Our goal is to expand this vital program nationwide through strategic partnerships.

### Special Initiatives

- Raised \$20,000 to complete the **Restoration Series Sanitation Project** at Trans Ekulu Girls Secondary School, building 10 toilet stalls and sinks to serve over 2,300 girls.
- Partnered with the Zoya Walter Foundation to deliver the Christmas Family Feeding Program, spreading holiday cheer to families in need.

### UIUCares Expansion

Thanks to a \$30,000 donation from Angie Nwandu, UIUCares is expanding its outreach programs to focus on healthcare, education, and economic support. Upcoming projects include:

- Sanitation Facility Project (\$17,000): Constructing a modern toilet facility at Urban Girls Secondary School in Ekwulobia, Anambra State.
- Classroom Renovation Project (\$10,000): Renovating nine classrooms at Owerri City Secondary School to create clean, safe, and stable learning environments.
- Student Sponsorship (\$3,000): Covering school fees for 40 secondary school students across Imo (20) and Anambra (20) states.

### Looking Ahead

UIUCares remains dedicated to advancing education, promoting health and wellness, and improving infrastructure in Igbo communities. Future initiatives include continued school restoration, expanded apprenticeship programs, and community-driven projects in Nigeria and the diaspora. These achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and donors. Together, we are transforming lives and creating a lasting impact. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission.

**Click here** to help us reach our goal of raising \$100,000.

**Umu Igbo Unite Corporation** | 2024 Impact Report



# Program Updates

## UIU Chapter Highlights and Accomplishments

With **15 active chapters** across the U.S., Umu Igbo Unite continues to thrive and expand, connecting Igbo nationwide in cities like Atlanta, North Carolina, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Tristate (NY, NJ, CT), New England, DMV, Wisconsin, Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, Los Angeles, Bay Area, and Seattle.

### Collaborative Efforts and Growth

- Chapters are grouped into five regions, fostering collaboration on professional and cultural development events.
- Chapter leaders participate in **executive leadership training** annually to enhance their effectiveness and commitment.
- Exciting milestone: UIU's **first international chapter in Toronto, Canada**, is set to launch on **January 20th, 2025**, further expanding UIU's global reach.

### Cultural Engagement and Community Impact

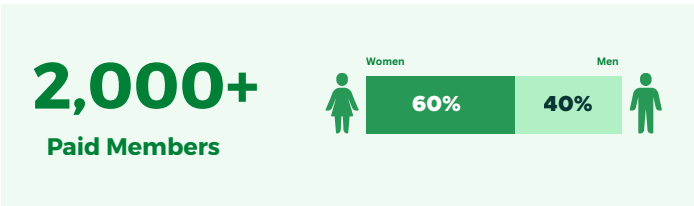
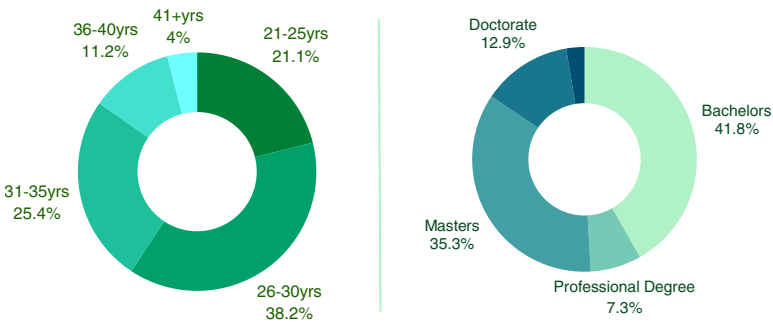
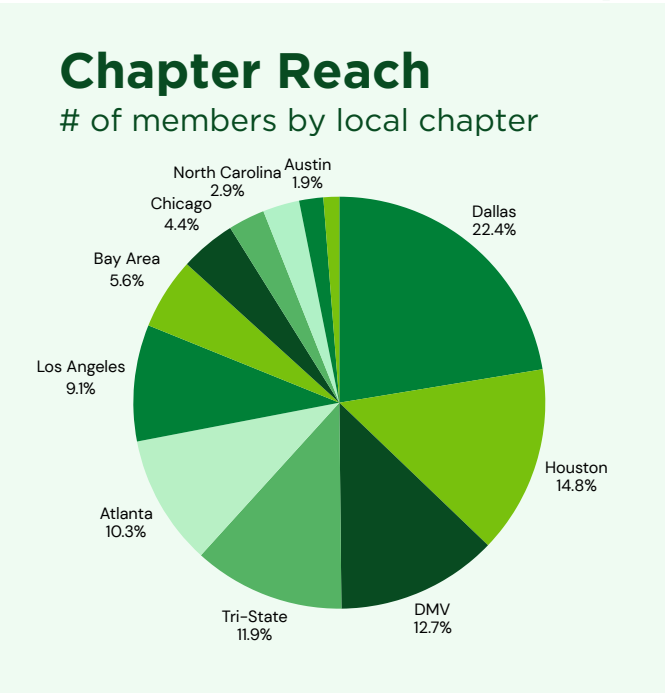
- Over **50% of UIU chapters** host **cultural gala nights**, highlighting the organization's dedication to community development, cultural celebration, and local stakeholder engagement.
- Chapters collectively donated over **\$12,000** to local charities and the **UIUCares Foundation** this year, demonstrating their commitment to giving back.
- UIU chapters boast a combined **Instagram following of 30,000+** and represent over **1,500 paid members**, with more than **90% of members** belonging to local chapters.
- **The DMV chapter** was honored with the **African Community Service Award** for its exceptional contributions to the DC/Maryland community.
- **The DMV, Tristate, and New England chapters** hosted a successful regional leadership retreat in Atlantic City, fostering collaboration and growth among leaders.
- **The New England chapter** was honored with the prestigious Better Beaches Grant in recognition of their impactful community efforts.
- **The Dallas chapter** organized a series of Chin Chin Chats, engaging members in discussions on culture and trending topics while collaborating across all regions. They also donated over \$5,000 to charity and received the UIUCares Award for their outstanding contributions.
- **The North Carolina chapter** hosted a full-day Professional Summit, bringing together members and industry representatives for networking and development.
- **The Atlanta chapter** demonstrated the power of community by reuniting a member with his mother, showcasing the spirit of unity and support within UIU.
- **The Los Angeles chapter** received the prestigious Chapter of the Year Award for their exceptional achievements and commitment to UIU's mission.

### Recognition and Accountability

- Chapters submit detailed **Chapter Award Packets** annually, showcasing their activities, community impact, and leadership efforts.

UIU's chapters continue to play a pivotal role in fostering cultural pride, empowering communities, and creating meaningful connections across the diaspora. These accomplishments underscore the strength of UIU's chapter network and its unwavering commitment to our mission.

## U.S. Chapter Representation



# Program Updates

## UIUConnects

### Pitch Competition

- Innovation Spotlight: Gemstones Language Learning Platform. At the 2024 Startup Pitch Competition, organized by UIUConnects—a national program of the Umu Igbo Unite Corporation (501c3)—Uchenna F. Okoye secured the \$10,000 Microsoft-sponsored prize with Gemstones, an innovative language learning application. The platform revolutionizes African language education through advanced audio technology that precisely teaches tonal variations, addressing a significant gap in digital language learning. This breakthrough innovation promises to make African languages more accessible while preserving their linguistic authenticity.

### UIUConnects Partnership with ITEXperience

- UIUConnects has formed a strategic partnership with ITEXperience. This collaboration provides UIU members with free access to sought-after certification courses and mentorship opportunities through Coursera. The initiative aims to empower members exploring career changes or seeking professional growth by equipping them with industry-recognized skills and guidance from tech experts. This impactful program highlights UIU's commitment to fostering career development and creating opportunities for its community.

### UIU Tech Panel discussion during AfroTech week in Houston, TX

- It Takes A Village - At the Intersection of Tech and Community. Technology as a Catalyst for Community Empowerment. During AfroTech Conference week, UIUConnects team hosted a strategic panel discussion examining technology's role in advancing underrepresented communities. Industry leaders convened to address three critical areas: supporting minority founders, developing community-focused technological solutions, and implementing social impact initiatives. The panel delivered actionable insights for creating inclusive innovation while addressing systemic barriers. By bringing together diverse perspectives, this discussion advanced the dialogue on leveraging technology for social equity and community empowerment.





# 5-Year Strategic Goals 2025 - 2030

- **Financial Sustainability**

- Enhance financial performance through strategic planning and income diversification.
- Establish the UIU VC Fund to support startups founded by Igbos in the diaspora.
- Implement sound administrative practices to ensure long-term financial stability.

- **Chapter Development**

- Develop and implement performance measures for all UIU chapters to track and improve their effectiveness.
- Create leadership development programs to ensure strong chapter governance.

- **Programming and Events**

- Host larger, more inclusive events to attract a diverse range of attendees.
- Expand professional development workshops to feature global leaders.
- Strengthen partnerships with sponsors and supporters to increase UIU's influence and reach.
- Launch the UIU Directory: A digital marketplace for business owners to advertise their services, accessible exclusively to paid members.
- Mature and fully integrate the Igbo Language Program for all paid members and chapters.

- **Membership Pipeline Development**

- Develop a sustainable external membership program targeting younger Igbos, bridging generational gaps.
- Address the needs of internal members with programs that focus on leadership development and succession planning for national and chapter leadership roles.

- **UIUCares Foundation**

- Launch enhanced apprenticeship training programs for Igbo youth in 2025 to empower the next generation of leaders and professionals.
- Expand UIUCares to include programs supporting missionary and educational travel to Eastern Nigeria.
- Establish UIUCares as the go-to platform for addressing community needs and providing support.

- **Connecting the Diaspora to Igbo Homeland**

- Build and nurture partnerships with key stakeholders in Igboland.
- Focus on collaborative efforts in critical areas such as healthcare, education, job creation, and economic development.
- Strengthen bridges between the Igbo diaspora and their homeland to foster mutual growth and cultural preservation.

# Financial Overview

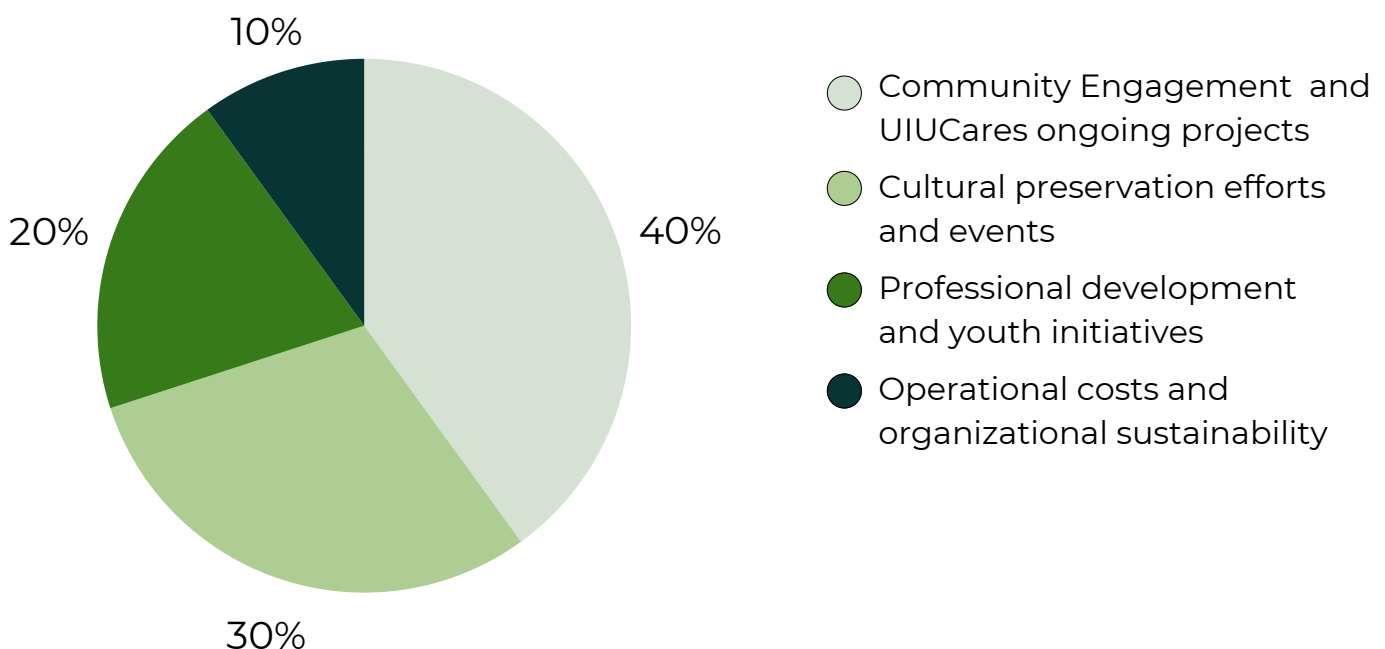
**\$113,350** Total funds raised through sponsorships, donations, company matching and vendors

## Major Donors *(Donors who give \$10K+)*

- **Angie Nwandu** - \$30,000 toward UIUCares will directly support community outreach initiatives back home.
- **The Gwacham 5 Foundation** - \$20,000 towards UIUCares college student scholarships and UIUCares operations.
- **rrtQ INC** - \$20,000 split between the 2024 UIUCares campaign and Convention expenses.
- **Chidobe Awuzie** - \$10,000 towards the 2024 UIUCares campaign.

The 20th Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention was a historic celebration of unity, cultural pride, and empowerment. With a clear vision for the future and a commitment to fostering inclusivity, UIU is poised to continue making a lasting impact on the global Igbo community for years to come.

## Expense Allocation



# Sponsor Recognition

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed sponsors whose support has been instrumental in our success. Your generous contributions have empowered us to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve. Without your vision and dedication, our important work would not be possible.

Through your sponsorship, we have been able to implement critical initiatives, create meaningful opportunities, and provide much-needed assistance to our community. Your belief in our mission has inspired us to go above and beyond, and we are truly grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

On behalf of our organization and those whose lives have been positively affected, we express our deepest gratitude. Your commitment to making a difference serves as a beacon of hope, and we are honored to have you as our valued sponsors.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey towards a brighter future!

## Sponsors

**Angie Nwandu**



# How to Partner

UIU bridges the gap  
so that **we are one**

For all other inquiries

4062 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste A-317  
Atlanta, GA, 30319

[contact@umuigbounite.com](mailto:contact@umuigbounite.com)

## To partner with us

please contact:


[partnership@umuigbounite.com](mailto:partnership@umuigbounite.com)

**2025**  
**National**  
**Convention** | **AUG**  
**7th – 10th**  
**Dallas, TX**



Interact with UIU

[www.umuigbounite.com](http://www.umuigbounite.com)  
[@umuigbounite](https://www.instagram.com/umuigbounite)

A group of eight people, seven women and two men, standing together in a formal setting, likely at a convention. They are all dressed in black formal attire. The background is a dimly lit room with other people and tables visible.

Umu Igbo Unite is a non-profit 501 c(3) US based organization that consists of a wide range of professionals and college students (21+) of Igbo heritage residing in the US. Our membership targets people from all parts of the South-Eastern Igbo speaking states of Nigeria including: Abia, Anambra, Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Bayelsa, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-River and Rivers states.

