



Picture: Max Mader
MOSOP scholarship beneficiaries at the Ogoni Day celebration 2003.

6.5 A micro-credit scheme for Ogoni women has been run as a pilot project. However, the required funds to institutionalise the project could not be secured.⁸⁵

6.6 The Federation of Ogoni Women Associations (FOWA), an affiliate of MOSOP, has established a network to monitor the abandoned Shell sites in Ogoni. Women and children guard those sites and report attempted activities such as the removal of pipelines and the tapping of oil wells. Agents claiming to clean up the places or youths approaching the sites are kept from entering the areas by immediately informing

MOSOP and organising rallies and protests together with MOSOP. Other members of FOWA find and bring food for the guards monitoring the sites. The purpose of this monitoring network is to operate as a public whistle blower.⁸⁶

6.7 FOWA reported violence against women and children guards in three cases. In March 2002, FOWA was informed that people had come to Korokoro to withdraw oil. When they went there and protested, they were beat up.⁸⁷ In spite of the risk, the women and the children do the monitoring instead of men, because, as a matter of experience, men are more likely to be shot. In Korokoro two women guards were raped.⁸⁸ In Bane, near the Yorla explosion site, FOWA surprised people dismantling pipelines.⁸⁹ In Yorla in April 2002, an attempt to drill oil was thwarted by the women. The boys guarding the place had been chased away with gunfire before, one of them had been shot.⁹⁰



Members of the Federation of Ogoni Women's Associations (FOWA) at the Ogoni Day celebration 2003.

Pictures: Max Mader

6.8 The problem of groups who attempt to drill oil aggressing the monitoring women and children is identified with the issue of Ogoni youths that are incited, paid, and equipped with weapons and who fight each other or neighbouring communities. Youths who have been tempted by this source of income are educated so that they won't be manipulated into fighting other Ogoni fellow-citizens for receiving money (see 10.17). Obviously, those groups as well as the Ogoni youths must be hired by some party disposing of the funds to pay them, because