



Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Quarterly Report 4 – February – April 2015

July 9, 2015

The following report summarizes the main findings as detailed in three memos produced during the fourth quarter of data collection and analysis. This quarterly report covers the time period from February through April 2015.

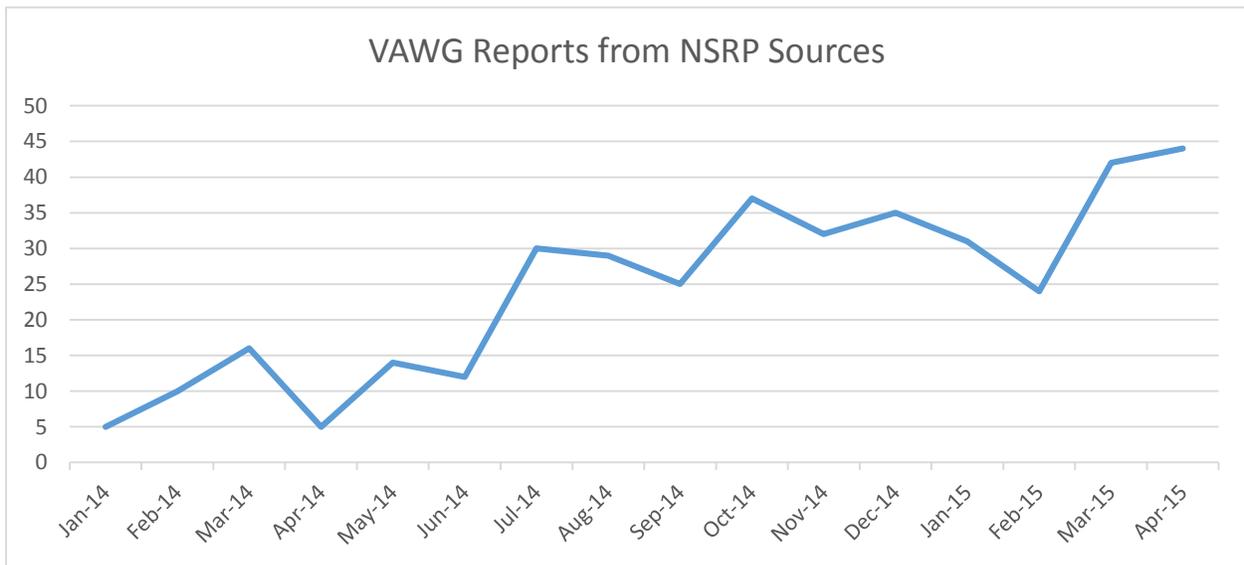


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources

Scope and limitations: We recognize that the data collected is not a comprehensive tally of all incidents of violence, VAWG or otherwise. However, to the extent that the data is representative of the patterns and trends, findings are as indicated in the report below.

Trends in Reporting

Overall for the quarter, reporting on VAWG from NSRP sources increased to an all-time high in April, for the second month in a row, after having dropped off slightly in February. The main trends in VAWG this quarter related to pre-election and election-related violence, insurgency and counter-insurgency activities, and domestic and intercommunal-related violence. This took place in the context of an increase in overall

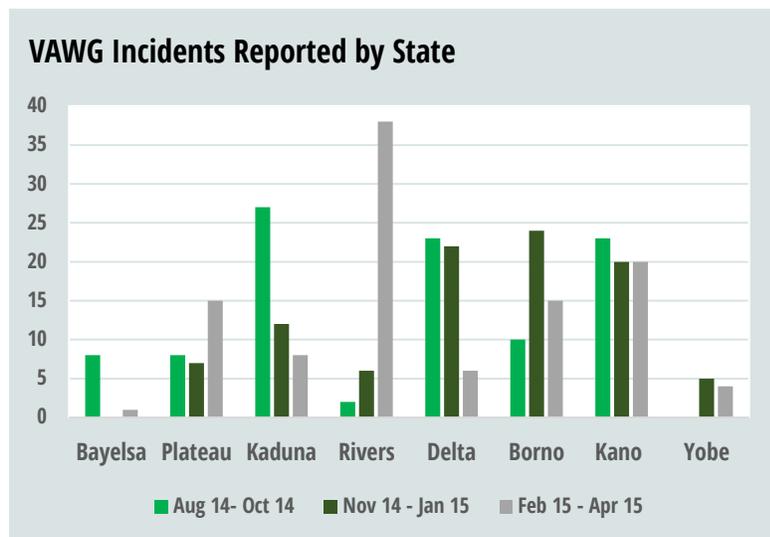


Figure 2: Quarterly trend in Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources

the state gubernatorial elections in April. In the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta, domestic and criminal violence made up the majority of incidents reported, continuing an overall trend of the past year. The following section details the main identified trends captured over the quarter, with some incidents of note.

Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency Violence Continues

VAWG-related incidents tied to the insurgency and counter-insurgency continued to remain high in the northeastern states of Borno and Yobe, with an increase in reprisal attacks occurring in March following a series of air raids and military offensives centered on the town of Bama. Specifically, it was reported in March that up to 24 women, assumed to be the abducted, forced brides of suspected Boko Haram insurgents, had been executed in Bama to prevent them being freed by military forces. Also in Bama, the bodies of women and children were reportedly discovered in wells, believed to have been executed as militants fled the area ahead of the counter-insurgency campaign. As noted above, the trend of using female suicide bombers also continued, with February representing a particularly deadly month in Borno and Yobe, claiming the lives of dozens, including women and children. In most attacks, individuals claiming affiliation with Boko Haram took responsibility.

In April, it was reported that nearly 300 women had been rescued from Boko Haram insurgents by Nigerian and coalition military forces, although these rescue attempts were often marred by violence and killings both of the women who were being held hostage and, in at least one instance, when the women fired on military personnel. Finally, in Mobbar, Borno state, it was reported that hundreds of decomposing bodies had been discovered when the military retook the town, suspected to have been executed by insurgents when trying to flee the violence.

Electoral Violence

As tensions rose leading up to the 28 March general elections and the 11 April gubernatorial elections, so did the number of violent attacks targeting or involving women and girls. The majority of these attacks happened in Bayelsa, Kano, Rivers, and Plateau states, and involved riots, attacks over money, and

violence in Borno and Yobe following the declaration and commencement of counter-insurgency operations in February and March aimed at rooting out suspected Boko Haram insurgents and freeing hostages and abductees. A worrisome trend in these two states, which had been identified in mid-2014 and has continued to increase, was the use of female suicide bombers, some reportedly as young as seven years old, in attacks on military, police, and civilian targets. Election-related violence, including the targeting of female aspirants or the female family members of political candidates, was reported throughout February and March, although dropped off following

targeted violence focused on the family of politicians. In Riyom LGA, Plateau state, the Chairman of the PDP of the Sop Ward was killed and his daughter badly injured in an attack by an unidentified gunman.

In February, a woman was reportedly attacked in an altercation concerning the postponement of the elections in Delta state, while one woman was killed in Bayelsa over a reported political conflict regarding money. In the same month in Rivers state, a man attacked his wife over a political disagreement, while a young girl was killed when political rallies grew violent. In April, in Kano state, the Resident Electoral Commissioner was killed along with his family when a suspected political opponent lit his house on fire.

Sexual Abuse and Criminal Violence

As in previous months, sexual abuse and gender based violence, often tied to criminal or cult group activities, remained prevalent throughout multiple states. In Kano, the defilement of young girls by neighbors, family members, and others made up the most often reported incidents of VAWG in the state. In Kaduna, sexual and physical abuse related to domestic violence was frequently reported. These incidents included the discovery and arrest of a 45-year old man who was accused of raping multiple girls, aged 11-14, on their way home from school in Dala, Borno state. In Kaduna, in an attack representative of the type of domestic violence often reported in the state, a woman was severely beaten by her husband for not having his meal prepared in February.

In the Niger Delta, sexual and physical abuse was often tied to domestic abuse, criminality and cult gangs, especially in Delta state. In Bayelsa in March, an 18-year old girl was reportedly attacked and raped by a cultist group. In Rivers, there were 21 incidents of VAWG reported in April, mainly domestic in nature although there were also cases of the rape and sexual abuse of children, often by relatives, throughout the quarter. Plateau, like Kaduna and Rivers, also had a high prevalence of domestic abuse and sexual violence, including issues of familial rape, beatings, abandonment, and the forced marriage of young women to much older family members. Other incidents in Plateau during the quarter concerned intercommunal tensions following an attack between two communities that left a farmer and his wife dead in February.

Incident Reporting Trends across States and LGAs: Overall Violence and VAWG

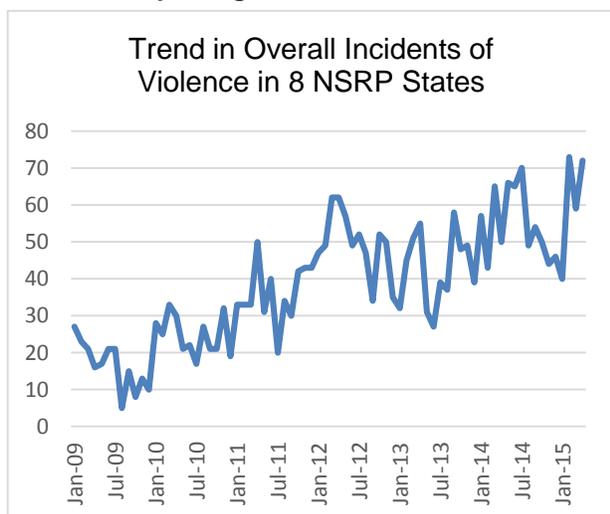


Figure 4: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform

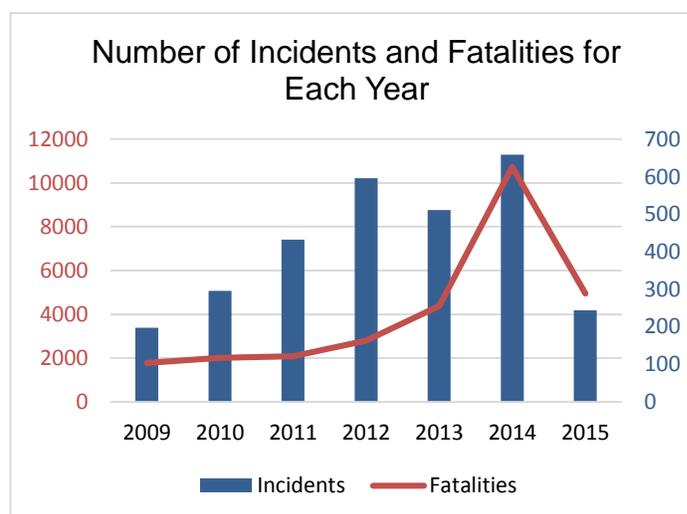


Figure 5: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped to the Observatory Platform

Trends in overall violence across the eight NSRP states has continued to increase according to data compiled by the Observatory Platform. January 2015 had the highest number of reports since the beginning of 2009. Figures 1 and 2 show the trends in overall violence reported to Nigeria Watch. This quarter has had the highest number of incidents of

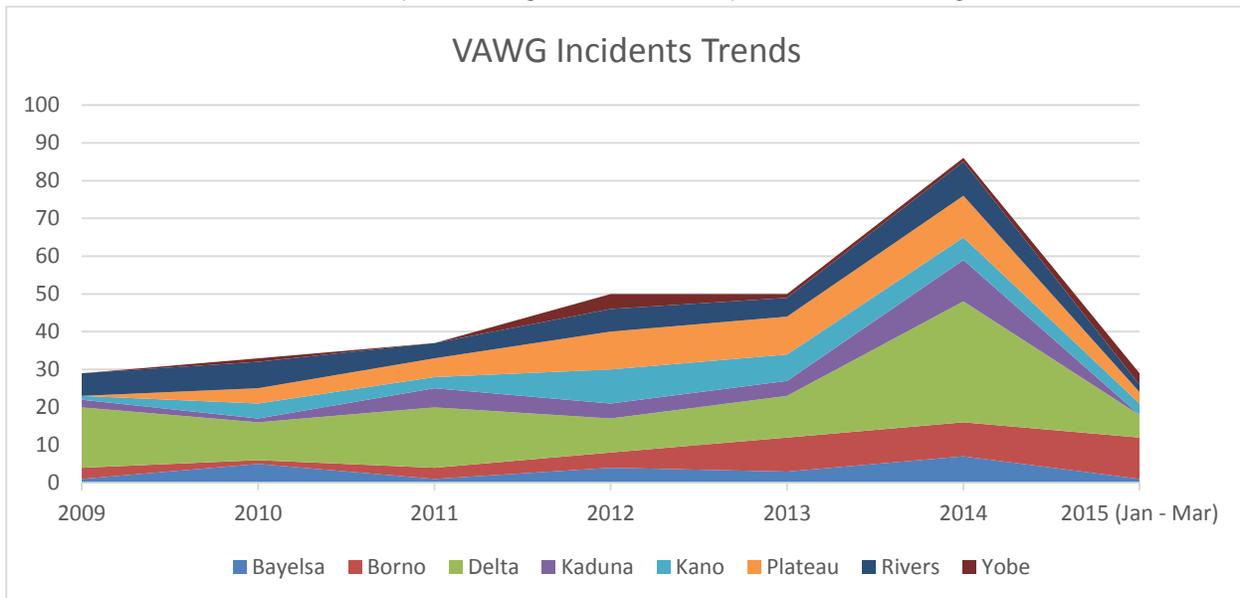


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

overall violence since the inception of the NSRP project, with 204 incident reports and 3,616 fatalities.

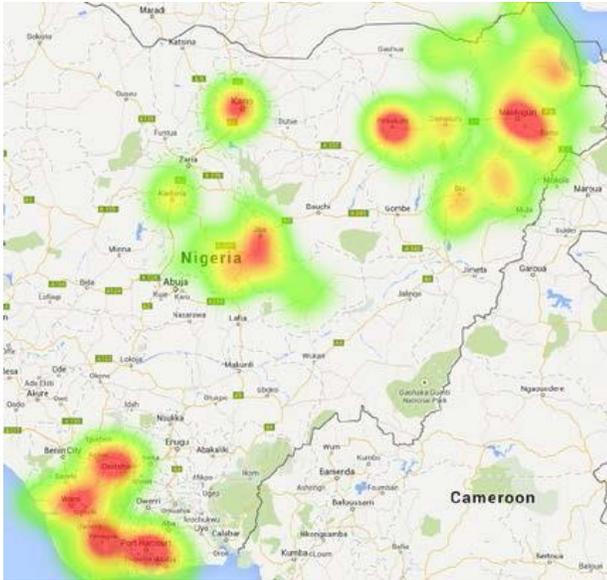
Incidents of VAWG reported through Nigeria Watch continued to increase. In the first four months of 2015, there were 48 reported incidents of VAWG as compared to a total of 85 for all of 2014. While NSRP Sources are used for a qualitative analysis of local issues and context, Nigeria Watch data is used to estimate quantitative trends, given its even distribution across time and space. An automated word search of Nigeria Watch data shows Borno as the most at risk state with regards to VAWG during this quarter. This is a continuing trend from last year.

Outreach through the platform

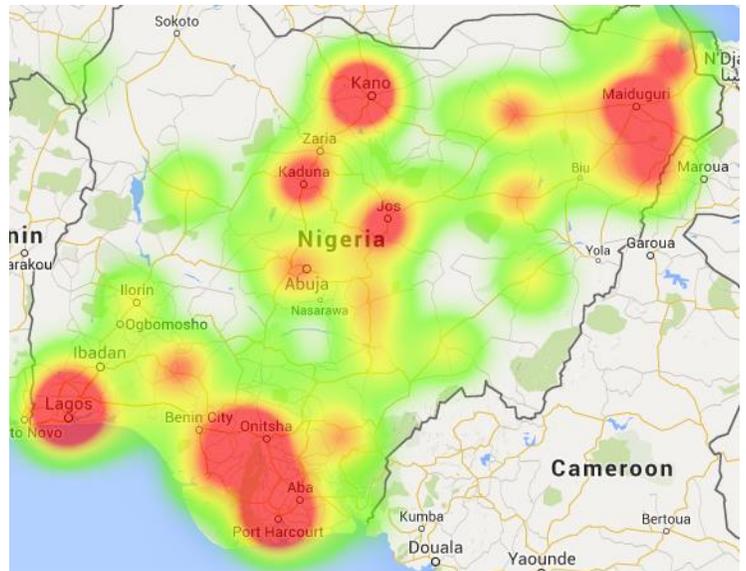
A web-based application has been developed that is able to track traffic to the Peace Map as a way to measure public awareness. The Peace Map is used by various projects operating throughout Nigeria and can be accessed through several deployments of the page. The analytics application is able to track which deployment of the platform is used to access the map as well as overall visits. This upgrade was applied to the NSRP deployment of the Observatory map during the second half of May. Moving forward we will be able to track overall visits the Peace Map and visits originating through the NSRP website, allowing us to measure the visibility of the project. As an M&E tool, this application will be able to highlight when public outreach and awareness campaigns are needed.

Since the creation of the application there have been 2,166 visits to the Peace Map.

	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Page views	684	523	678	281



November 2014 – January 2015



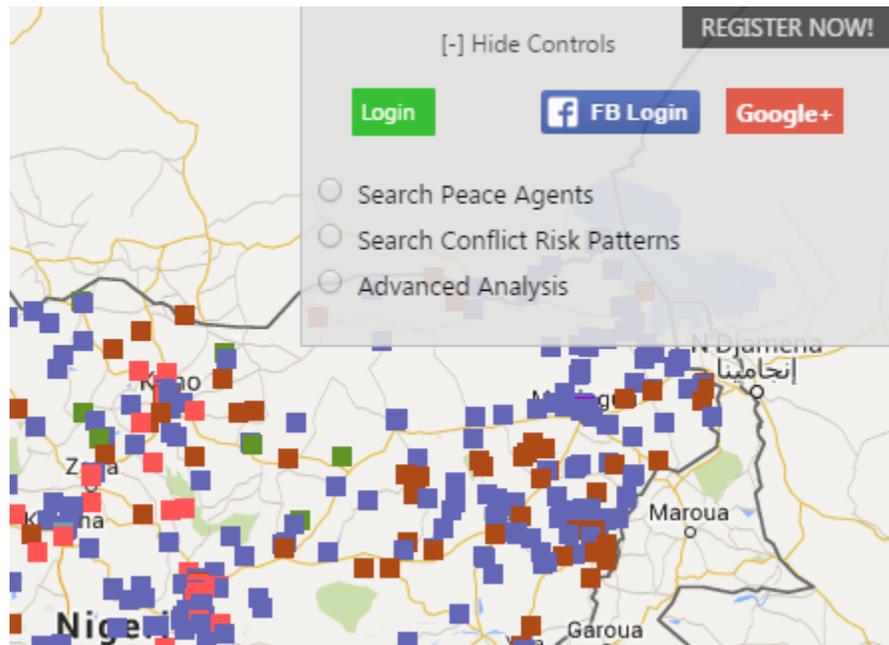
February 2015 – April 2015

Figure 6: Observatory Screenshot (ACLED and Nigeria Watch) - <http://www.nsrp-nigeria.org/>

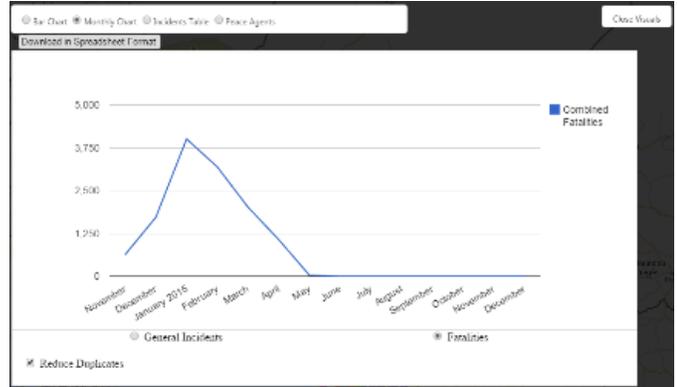
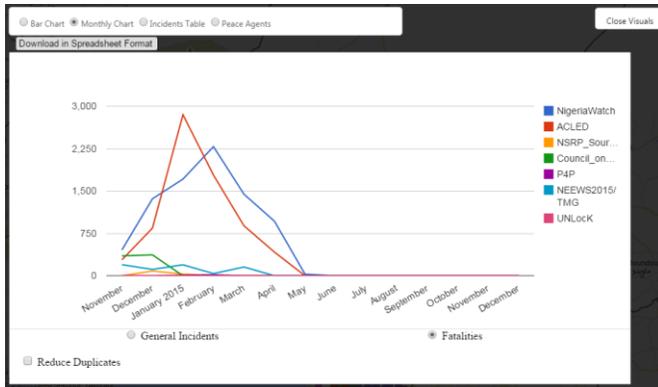
Improvements to the Platform:

Detailed below are some of the improvements made to the Observatory Platform during the 4th Quarter of reporting, February-April 2015.

1. Streamlined Dashboard to Make it More Intuitive and User-Friendly



2. Track Risk Trends (Toggling between # of Incidents and # of Fatalities) In Select Counties or Divisions Broken out by Source or Total Combined Incidents after Reducing Duplicates across Sources



3. Users Can Register Their Peace Initiatives Online for Inclusion on the Map to better Facilitate Scoping and Networking

Please Register Below

Notice: Fields in red must be completed to submit information.

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth (format: yyyy/mm/dd)	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number (format: 00-0000000000)	<input type="text"/>
Your Title with Organization	<input type="text"/>
Please Enter User Name	<input type="text"/>
Please Enter a Password	<input type="password"/>
Please Re-enter Same Password	<input type="password"/>
Name of Organization	<input type="text"/>
Website of Organization	<input type="text"/>
Address or Street Name	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
Admin level 2 (District/LGA/etc.)	<input type="text"/>
Admin level 1 (State/Province/Region/etc.)	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="Choose a Country"/>

Coordinates Are Required. Not yet generated

In what peacebuilding area(s) are you involved?
 Children Youth

(Please choose up to three additional areas of interest)

Gender Economic Development Education Health Peace/Conflict Mitigation
 Governance Human Rights Agriculture Environment Emergency Response Human Security
 Community Mobilization Community Development Communications

Can we share your work?
 Yes! (Display who we are and what we do.)
 No! (Don't display any of our information.)
 Some! (Do not display who we are. Only display what we do.)



Conclusions & Recommendations for Next Quarter

The quarter has shown significant progress in data collection and analysis functionality for the Observatory, particularly the NSRP sources filter. In March and April, the incidents reported by NSRP sources hit an all-time high for two months running, with 42 incidents reported in March and 44 reported in April.

Objective 1: Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities in the eight NSRP focus states.

During the time period of February to April 2015, we produced three VAWG memos measuring trends across the eight NSRP states. Both the number of overall violence reports and the number of fatalities increased during this quarter. VAWG reporting through the Observatory Platform increased from the last quarter as well. As far as major events, general and state-level elections and a coalition military counter-insurgency effort took place during this time period.

(Data: Nigeria Watch)	Total Incidents	Total Fatalities
2014 May-July	201	3,564
2014 Aug-Oct	153	2,751
2014 Nov- 2015 Jan	130	2,955
2015 Feb - Apr	204	3,616

Objective 2: Break the culture of silence and increase the level of reporting and awareness on issues of violence affecting women and girls.

One of the objectives of this initiative is to break the culture of silence around these issues. The high number of reports to the NSRP sources filter (see Figure 1) is indicative that overall reporting has increased, assuming a higher level of awareness, at least in several key states, of VAWG. The outreach efforts on the part of the partner CSOs in Kaduna, Kano, Rivers, and Plateau have had highly positive results, particularly in Rivers, where the number of reports submitted for the months of March and April were higher than any other month since the inception of the project. One concern remains Borno and Yobe where reporting coverage is almost wholly dependent on local and international press, with reporting from national and international donor and emergency relief organizations also contributing data. While a great deal of focus has been paid to the Northeast, in particular Borno, over the past quarter due to the insurgency and counter-insurgency efforts leading up to and through the elections, without an identified and sustainable source of local level data, when media attention fades, there is the possibility of a real lack of data.

Objective 3: Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other deployments of the tool.

As we are able to track visits to the Peace Map through the NSRP webpage, it will be important to direct traffic there, an effort all Observatory partners should play a role in. As the numbers of reports received in March and April have

shown, however, we are meeting the objective of increased reporting in many of the states, particularly in the Niger Delta and Middle Belt.

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

As noted in prior reports, one of the unique features of the Observatory platform is that not only does it display specific incidents of violence in the eight states and generate trends, it also lists Peace Agents in each state who are able to be utilized for preventative response. Over the past quarter ten new organizations have registered as self-identified Peace Agents on the Map with a focus on gender issues, bringing the total to 66 for the eight NSRP States. This will hopefully help enable better networking and scoping. This database also allows NSRP to support and leverage existing efforts on the ground. There has yet to be a Peace Agent focused on gender identified in Yobe, although efforts have been made on both the part of the FFP civil society network as well as through NSRP and its partner programs.