

# Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #7 – November 2014 Data – January 12, 2015

In November, the NSRP Sources filter continued to generate more reports about Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) than any other source integrated onto the platform, an indication that the data collection effort is filling an important gap in the information landscape. As of the end of November 2014, there are 46 self-identified Agents of Peace, broken out by LGA, focusing on issues of gender in the NSRP states. Rivers, with 12 Agents of Peace, has the most while Yobe has the least, with zero identified. Quantitative data suggests that the month of November was slightly improved in terms of the number of VAWG incidents in the eight NSRP states since the previous month of October. However, in terms of fatalities, November was more deadly, with a high profile suicide bombing in Maiduguri. In regard to overall violence, by the end of November, 2014 has been the worst year since 2009 as measured by the number of incidents and by far the worst as measured by the number of fatalities. This memo focuses specifically on the month of November (data coding and uploading lags by a month) for the eight NSRP focus states: Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta.

In keeping with the format of the three previous monthly memos, this project seeks to accomplish **four general objectives**:

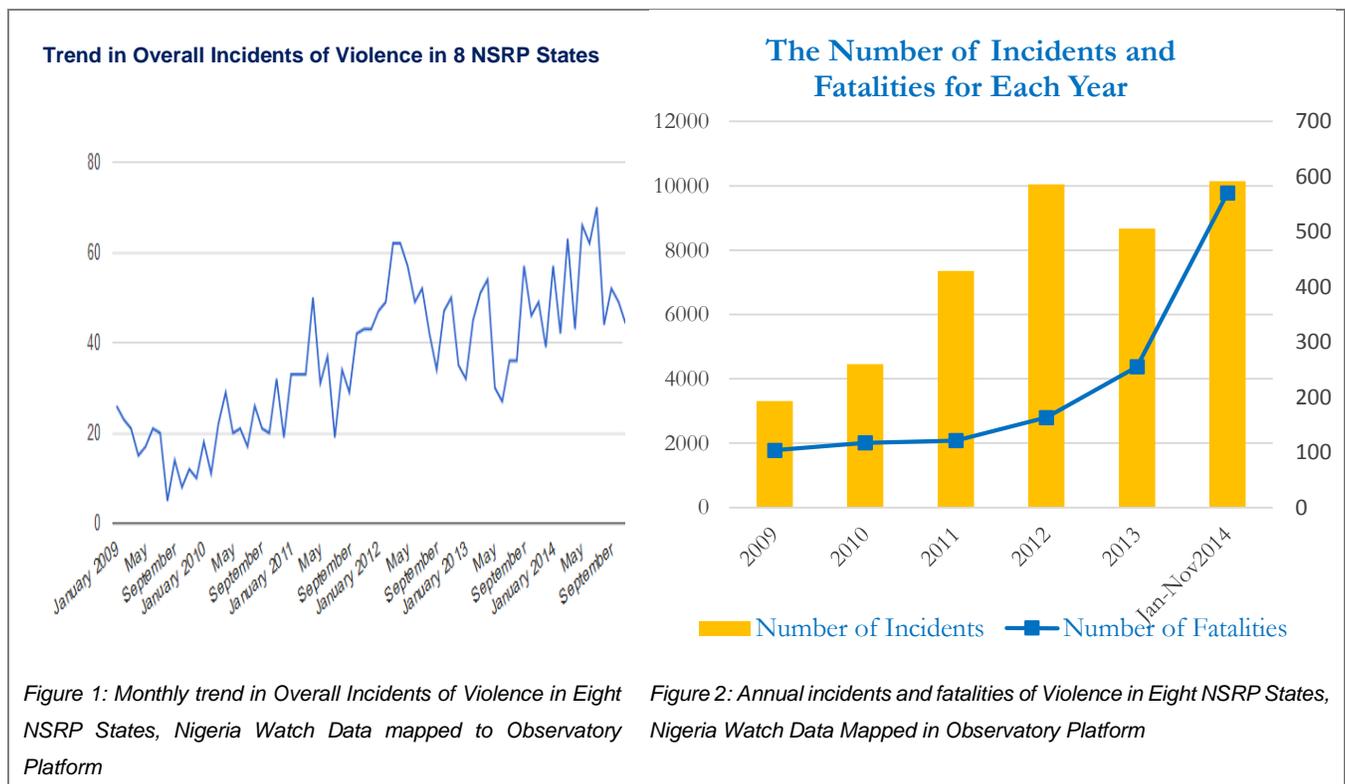
1. Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities in the eight NSRP focus states. For overall levels, we use Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.
2. Break the culture of silence and increase the level of reporting on issues of violence affecting women and girls. To measure the level of reporting, we aggregate all sources, including the NSRP Sources filter on the Observatory platform.
3. Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other deployments of the tool, including the P4P Digital Platform. For this we use Google Analytics to track traffic to the map application.
4. Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response. If this project accomplishes the first three general objectives, NSRP will be in a good position to support the efforts of the Observatory Steering Committee (OBSTEC) in their targeted interventions for the mitigation of violence affecting women and girls. To this end, the Observatory Platform identifies local Peace Agents focused on issues related to gender, and highlights opportunities for engagement by OBSTEC to collaborate and facilitate as appropriate.

*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.*

## Objective 1: Measure Trends in Violence Affecting Women and Girls as Compared to Overall Levels of Violence and Fatalities in the Eight NSRP States

While the NSRP Sources filter is integrated with other sources for a qualitative overview of the types of VAWG issues being reported by state, Nigeria Watch data is used to quantify trends in violence for this memo. We utilize Nigeria Watch in this way because although it may have thinner coverage of specific issues, such as VAWG, it applies a consistent methodology and is evenly distributed by date and location. The ability to use different source filters for their respective strengths and triangulate them accordingly is what the Observatory Platform is designed to do. All data is coded according to the VAWG framework tailored in the NSRP training and orientation workshops, thus far held in Kano and Kaduna, with two more soon to be conducted in Plateau and Rivers states.

Quantitatively, the month of November was slightly improved from the previous month as measured by the number of VAWG incidents and overall incidents reported. However, the number of fatalities reported for November exceeded those of the prior month. In addition, 2014 has now exceeded all previous years measured since 2009, with 592 incidents reported between the months of January and November (as compared with a high of 586 for 2012 and 506 for 2013). Already, the estimated number of overall fatalities in 2014 has far exceeded those recoded in any single calendar year since we started measuring in 2009.



Specifically, with regards to VAWG, the same deterioration can be seen on an annualized basis, with Delta state having the most incidents reported overall (see the green area in the chart below) and Yobe, the least. The states which have shown the

most worsening in the last three years are Plateau, Borno, and Kano states. In 2014, Delta state had the highest rate of overall VAWG incidents per capita, followed by Bayelsa state, which has a high numbers of incidents relative to its small population.

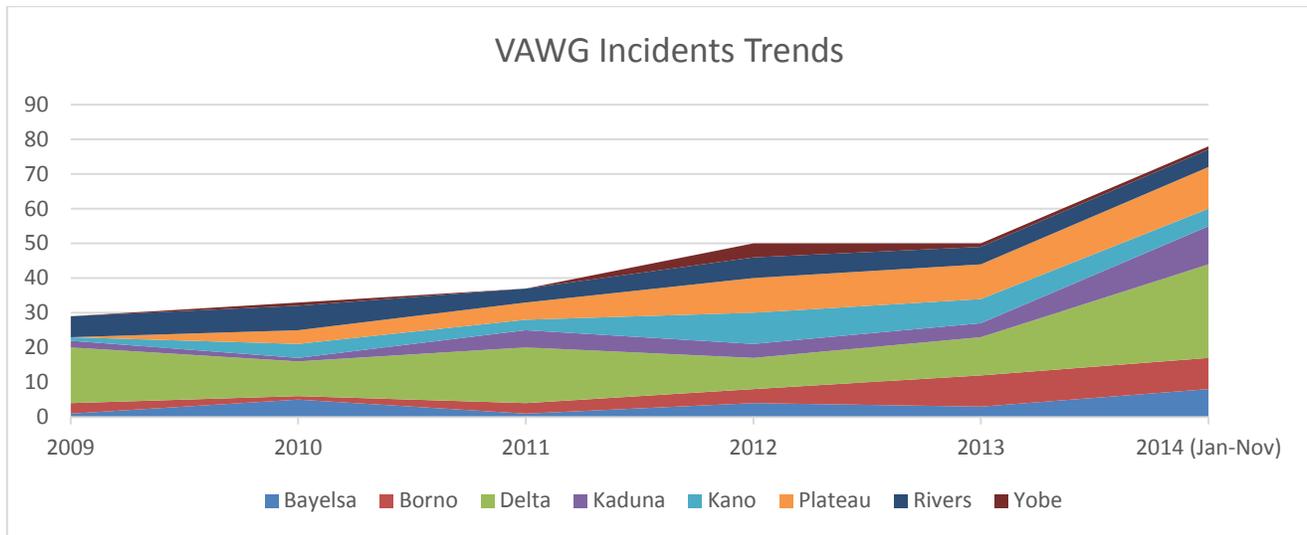


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

## November Incidents by NSRP State

*Below is a breakdown of issues reported in the month of November by each NSRP target state*

**Borno State: VAWG incidents were reported in Maiduguri and Damboa LGAs.** Incidents reported were mainly related to the insurgency, as consistent with previous months. In Maiduguri, two suicide bombers (at least one of whom was identified as female) detonated explosives at a market, killing at least 45 people. In a more rural Damboa, suspected Boko Haram gunmen abducted 13 women returning to their homes to harvest crops. Four of these women were reportedly carrying children.

**Yobe State:** There were no reported incidents from Yobe for the month of November.

**Kano State: VAWG incidents were reported in Dawakin Tofa and Nasarawa LGAs.** Issues were mainly related to child abuse and kidnapping. During the month of November, three incidents were reported. In one case, after reportedly being abandoned, a woman abducted the 10-year-old brother of her ex-husband and dumped him inside a well. In another incident, a 14-year-old housewife kidnapped and murdered her young brother-in-law to punish her mother-in-law for reported cruel treatment. Additionally, during the month it was reported that a woman was arrested for trafficking three children that she kidnapped from Hotoro village.

**Kaduna State: VAWG incidents were reported in Kaduna South and Chikun LGAs.** Similar to the previous month, VAWG reporting was mainly related to sexual violence. In November, three incidents were reported in Kaduna. In Chikun, a man who made an attempt to defile a little girl was caught. In the meantime, in Kaduna South, a very young girl who was given out in marriage to an old man escaped from her house after three years. In another incident in the same area, a man who disguised himself with hijab attempted to rape a young woman but was later caught.

**Plateau State:** A VAWG incident was reported in Jos North LGA, in which there was an attempted kidnapping of three women in Plateau that was averted by the security forces.

**Delta State:** VAWG incidents were reported in Ndoka East, Aniocha South, Oshimili South, Sapele, and Isoko South LGAs. Two cases of sexual violence were reported in Delta State in November. In Isoko South, a man was arrested for raping his girlfriend’s two daughters. The man was also HIV positive. In another case, in Oshimili South, a man impregnated a teenage girl. Also in Oshimili South, a baby was stolen at a church by a woman and then returned 13 days later. In Aniocha South, a woman died after eating poisoned food meant for her husband. Also in Aniocha South, 3 cult members were killed in a clash with rival cults over their girlfriends. In Ndoka East, it was reported that raiding herdsmen killed a male teenager and abducted five people, two of whom were female. Lastly, in Sapele, over one thousand women protested at the SEPLAT Petroleum Development Company against issues of the company’s non-compliance with law.

**Bayelsa State:** There were no reported incidents from Bayelsa for the month of November.

**Rivers State:** There were no reported incidents from Rivers for the month of November.

## Objective 2: Breaking the Culture of Silence by Increasing the Level of Reporting on Issues of Violence Affecting Women and Girls

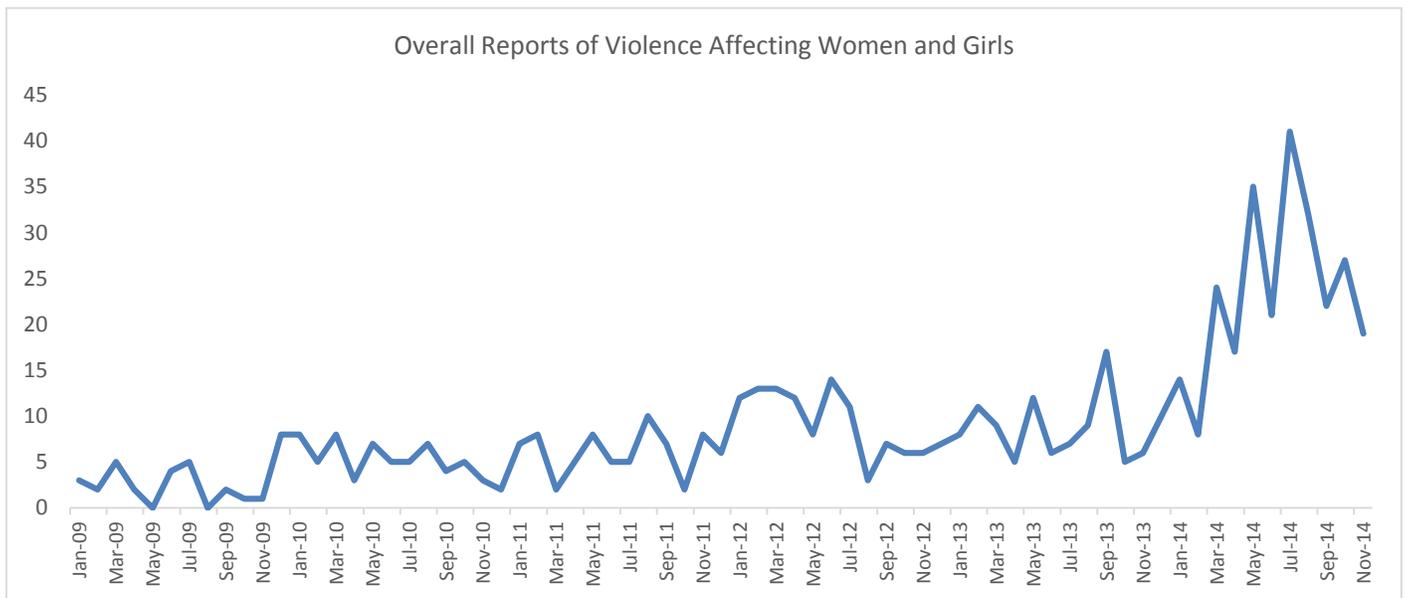


Figure 4: Trend in Reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

One of the objectives of this initiative is to break the culture of silence surrounding issues of VAWG and, as such, we consider an overall increase in reporting as a measure success, beyond the real-world trends in VAWG. In that objective, the Observatory has shown demonstrated some marked achievements. Integrating all datasets, including NSRP sources, media reports, and participatory conflict assessment forums involving local stakeholders, the trend in reporting has improved significantly since the beginning of NSRP’s VAWG project in April 2014. Nevertheless, there are still gaps in data collection which we hope to improve

as new service points in the Niger Delta and the Middle Belt come online in early 2015. As in Kano and Kaduna, we believe that as the local CSO partner begins to compile reports from the Peace Clubs and the OBSTEC in each location becomes fully operational, the number will continue to rise. If the strategic objective of this initiative is realized over time, we'd hope to see reports of incidents of VAWG decreasing as overall reporting of the issue increases.

### Objective 3: Increased Public Awareness of the Issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls

In order to measure public awareness, it is useful to use web-based analytics. FFP does not have access to Google Analytics for NSRP's website. Our web developer is working on an application that will track this traffic. However, in the meantime, given the shared data between the VAWG project and the P4P project, measuring traffic to the P4P website also serves as an indication of general public awareness as a result of this initiative. In the graph below, the sharp increase in May 2014 coincides with the launch of NSRP's VAWG initiative and the Observatory, demonstrating added public awareness of VAWG issues in Nigeria. While levels have decreased slightly since May, they remain above levels previous to the launch of the Observatory Platform. However, given the reduction in traffic during the months of October and November, we need to do more to raise the profile of the Observatory in coming months. One way we will achieve this is by continuing to improve the platform (see below for details on that), and by promoting the platform in upcoming workshops in Plateau and Rivers.

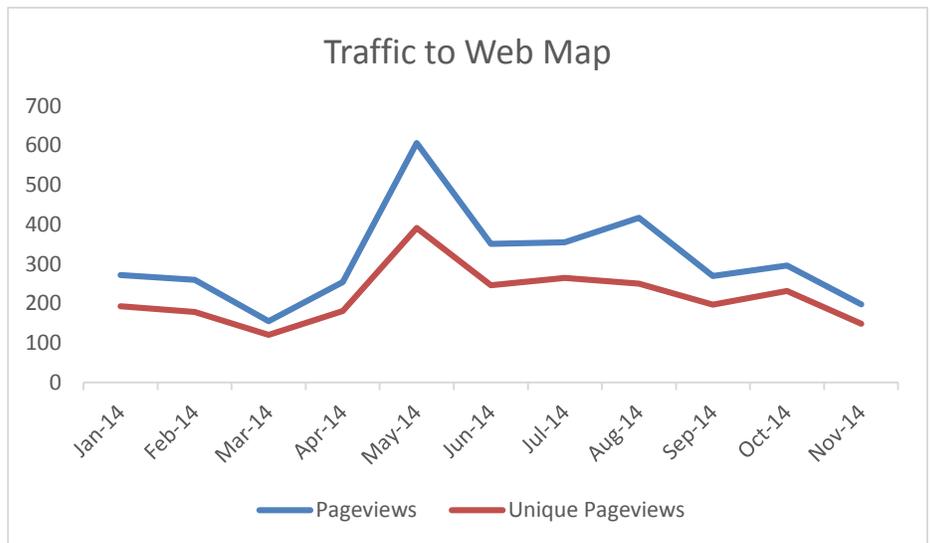


Figure 5: Monthly Traffic to Peace Map (Google Analytics)

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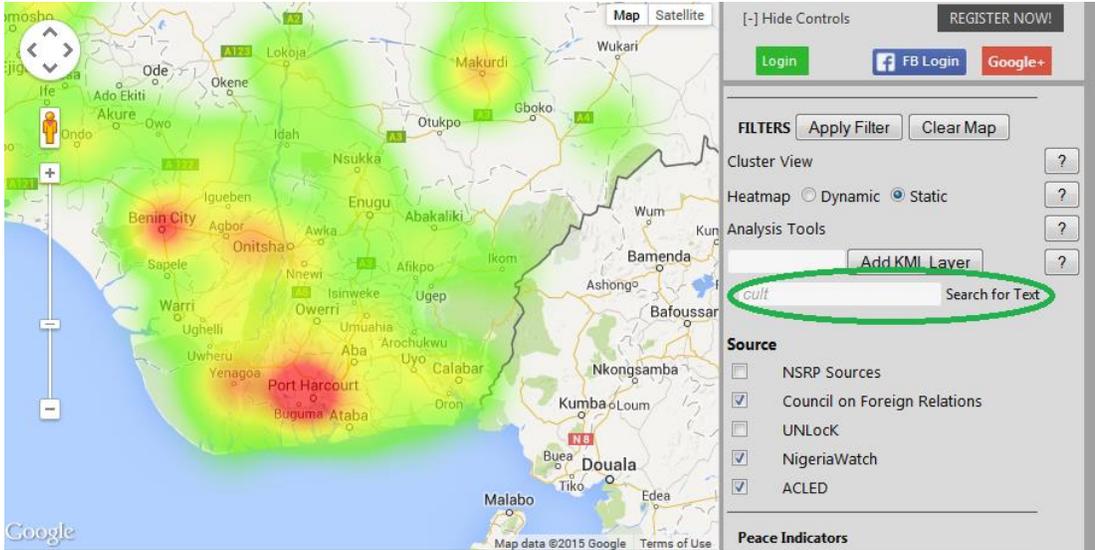


<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna North	"Youth CAN, Kaduna"
<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna North	Interfaith Mediation Centre
<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna South	Aid Foundation
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	INTERGENDER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	Women Advancement Initiative
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network(WODEN)
<b>Kano</b>	Kano	"Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative."
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION (JDPC)
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Manna Resource Development Centre
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Justice Development Peace and Caritas
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos South	COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
<b>Rivers</b>	Abua/Odual	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
<b>Rivers</b>	Abua/Odual	Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development
<b>Rivers</b>	Akuku Toru	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
<b>Rivers</b>	Emohua	Kebetkache Women Development
<b>Rivers</b>	Etche	Women in Peace and Security Network
<b>Rivers</b>	Gokana	Kebetkache Women Development
<b>Rivers</b>	Ikwerre	Ikwerre Women Forum
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Center for Creative Arts Education
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Lokiakia Community Development Centre
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	"Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State branch"
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Gender and Development Action
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Kebetkache Women Development

## Improvements to the Platform

This past month, we made the following improvements to the platform, which have significantly increased the analytical power of the tool. In addition to some improvements to the control panel for ease of use, we made the following three additions.

1. A word search function allows the user to populate the map based on a customized search, developing their own indicators based on the scope and mandate of their respective programs and needs.



2. On the monthly chart there is now the ability to toggle between trends in fatalities and trends in incidents so that the degree of lethality can also be viewed in addition to the raw tally.



3. On the bar chart, users can now toggle between raw tallies of incidents and incidents per capita by state and LGA to control for cases in which there may be a disproportionate number of incidents due to high population.



## Conclusion and Recommendations

This past month, we have made progress with regards to data collection and analysis functionality for the Observatory but there is still much room for improvement. Specific project recommendations broken out by general objective for the next month are as follows:

- **Objective 1:** Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities. EVA, the local CSO partner for Kano and Kaduna, continues to network with the organizations listed on the map for improved collaboration and information sharing. This will help greatly with the collection of data as well as creating an enabling environment for mitigation of VAWG-related issues. Beginning in February, local CSO partners on the ground in Plateau and Rivers states will begin working directly with Peace Clubs as well as the OBSTEC to improve the quantity and quality of data gathered for the Observatory.
- **Objectives 2 and 3:** Break the culture of silence and increase the level of reporting and awareness on issues of violence affecting women and girls. Media outlets are frequently looking for content and subject matter to report on, whether by broadcast or print journalism. A canvassing of such media outlets that may broadcast radio programs or talk shows that do or could feature segments on VAWG would greatly increase the audience and potential level of awareness on this issue.
  - As per the recommendations from the October meeting in Abuja, we have tasked Gadfly to build an app that would allow for more detailed tracking of web traffic to the Observatory. This is being worked on now.

- Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response. If this project accomplishes the first three general objectives, NSRP will be in a good position to support the efforts of the OBSTEC in their targeted interventions for the mitigation of violence affecting women and girls. EVA and the new CSO partners will continue to work with OBSTEC in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers to facilitate structured workshops and meetings to use the data for the identification of priority concerns and develop plans of action. As noted above, the most immediate concern is adding data on Yobe State, where there remains a gap in information about peace agents focused on gender. As we organize the upcoming workshop in Rivers, we recommend including relevant stakeholders from Civil Liberties Organization, Female Development Initiative, IHRHL, Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development, Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative, and Kebetkache Women Development, as they are all already familiar with the Observatory mapping platform, and the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration and information sharing on these important issues.