

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

## Monthly Memo #15 – July 2015 Data

September 21, 2015

July 2015

Reports received by the NSRP Observatory dipped in the month of July, following a spike in the previous month. Despite this decrease, reporting of VAWG incidents have continually increased from the commencement of the project nearly 18 months ago. Increased reporting is an indicator of success as it maybe could suggest a decrease in the fear and stigma associated with reporting such events. Another positive trend is the continued increase in the registration of organizations focused on gender issues as Peace Agents on the Observatory platform for scoping and networking. Since the start of this project, the number has almost doubled from 38 to 66 organizations. The increase in reports of VAWG over the last year has allowed for more open discussion and analysis of trends throughout the eight NSRP focus states. Previous trends held true this month with reports of violence affecting women and girls in July in the Niger Delta and Plateau entailing mainly sexual and domestic violence, while those in the Northeast have been linked with insurgency and counter-insurgency violence, particularly that of Boko Haram.

This memo analyzes data for the focus states of Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta for July 2015 (data coding and uploading lags by a month). The trend line below shows a dip in reported incidents generated by NSRP Sources over the course of the last month, despite a general upward trend in the reporting of VAWG.

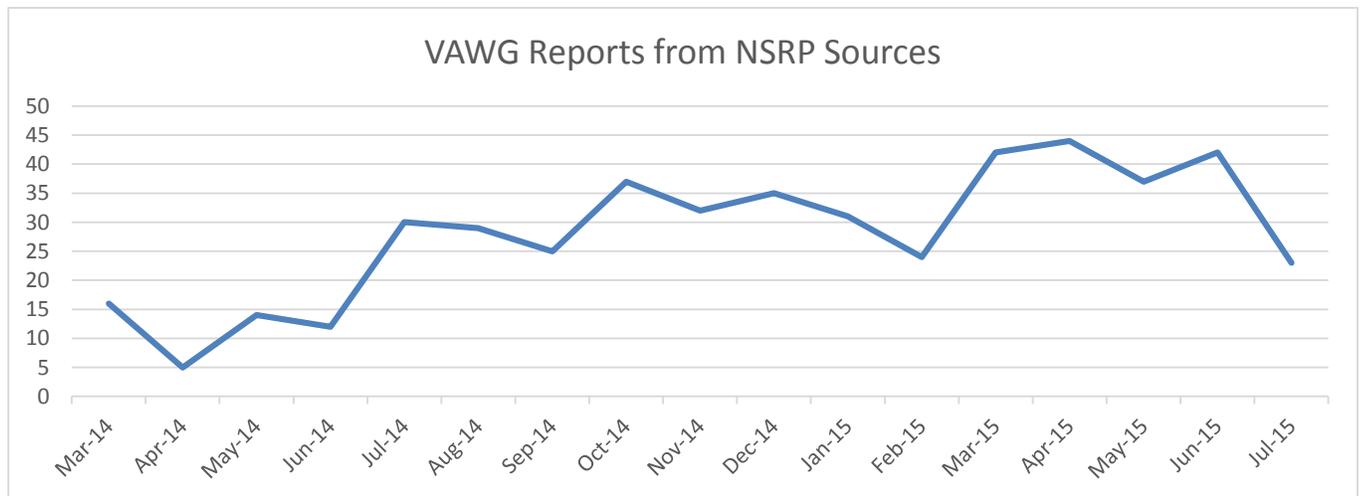


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources

*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.*

## 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. For overall levels, we use Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.

### Trends in Overall Violence

To provide a more complete and better understanding of VAWG trends throughout the eight NSRP States, it is necessary to also examine the data and findings regarding the overall levels and trends of violence in those states. Due to its consistency, this section analyzes data collected by Nigeria Watch exclusively.

In June, it appeared that the rate of fatalities across all eight states was decreasing since the beginning of the year. This trend has suddenly reversed. July has seen a significant jump in the number of fatalities across all eight states, rising from 498 in June to 1166 in July. The highest number of fatalities in July was 885 in Borno, followed by 91 in Plateau and 70 in Yobe. Borno suffered 573 more deaths from the previously reported number of 312 in June. The high number of fatalities in the Northeast states of Borno, Yobe, and Kaduna are the result of attacks linked with Boko Haram. Of the 69 overall incidents of violence, 34 reports fell under the sub-indicator of insurgency/counterinsurgency and took place mostly in Borno, Kaduna and Yobe. The second most frequently reported indicator was inter-communal tension or violence. Incidents primarily occurred as a result of tensions between Fulani herdsmen and local community members in Plateau state.

Fatality rates in Yobe have remained higher than March-May rates and similar to June rates at 70 reported deaths. Fatalities in Plateau have spiked due to a devastating bombing at the Central Mosque in Jos that killed more than 50 people. The inter-communal violence between Fulani herdsmen and local community members in Barkin Ladi continues to decrease in the number of fatalities each month since the intense fighting in May. Fatalities increased in Kaduna mainly due to the suicide bombing at a biometric verification center in Sabon Gari. It should be noted that July witnessed a reduction of incidents in Birnin-Gwari which was plagued by violence in June. Reports of fatalities have increased in Rivers state from only 11 in June to 52 in July, as gang/cult violence and violent crime increase in prevalence and lethality. In the first seven months of 2015, there have been 437 incidents of reported violence in 2015 and 7279 observed fatalities.

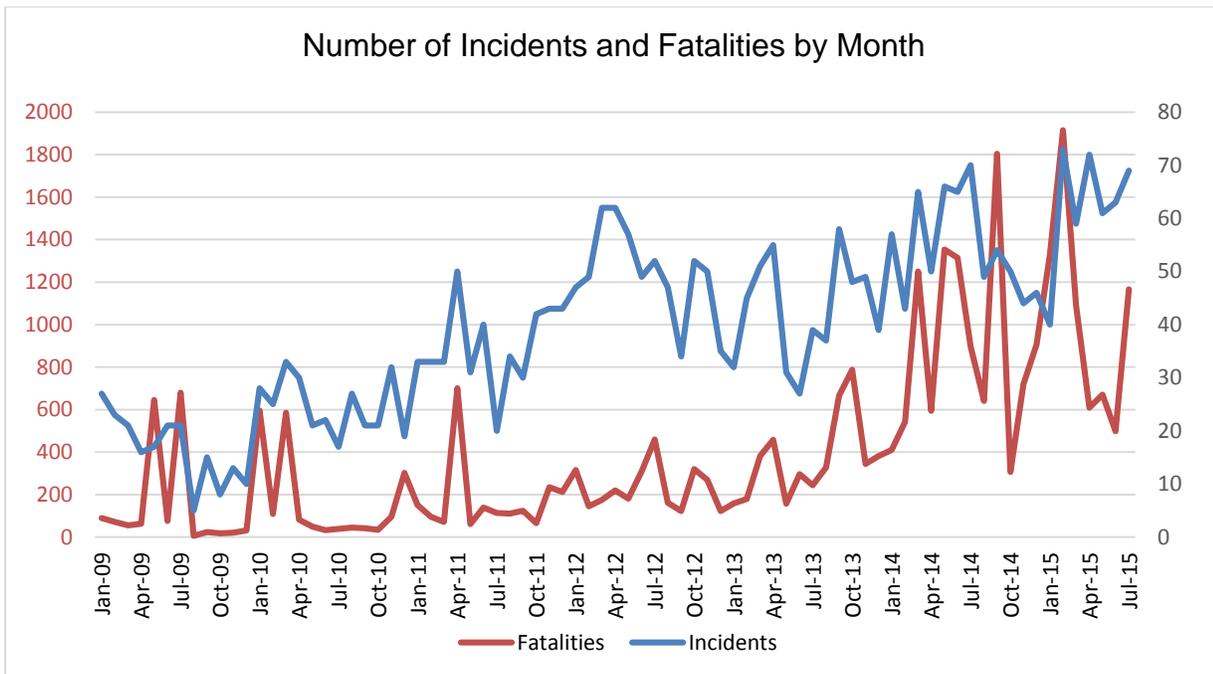


Figure 2: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence as well as Fatalities in Eight NSRP States, according to Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform. The number of fatalities are measured against the axis on the left, the number of reported incidents is measured off the axis on the right of the graph. The graph shows that although the number of incidents has been increasing steadily over the last six years, the number of fatalities spiked in 2014 before dropping in 2015. In 2012 there were a high number of less lethal incidents reported.

## Trends in VAWG

Since 2009, the data from Nigeria Watch has reflected that Delta and Borno states have consistently had the most reported incidents of VAWG. Interestingly though, reports of VAWG incidents in both of these states decreased in July although it is impossible to know whether this reflects a drop in the actual frequency of reports or a lack of available data. Delta state did not have a single report of a VAWG incident and Borno only had one, which entailed counterinsurgency violence. Since the monitoring of VAWG began, Yobe has also had notable increases of VAWG incidents, with the highest levels reported between 2011 and 2012, and then increasing again in 2014. The number of reported incidents was also high in Plateau. When using all data sources, the most frequently reported VAWG incident was sexual violence, followed closely by domestic violence and then by child abuse. The Northeast region continues to mainly be affected by insurgency and counter-insurgency violence, especially involving suspected Boko Haram insurgents. The other regions tend to report sexual and domestic violence most often. The victims are likely to be females under the age of 18.

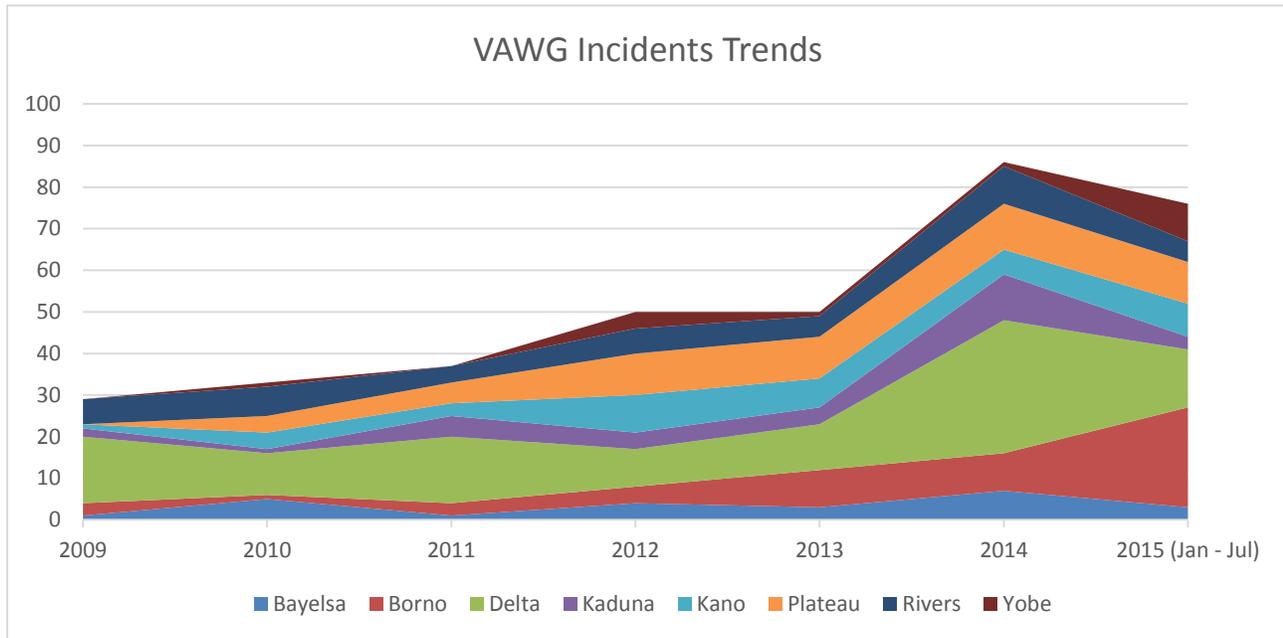


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing trends in VAWG incidents Reported by NSRP State, according to Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents). The y axis shows the cumulative, aggregate trends, while the x axis shows the timeline from 2009 to present. The color blocks show the data disaggregated by state. This graph shows that media reports collected by Nigeria Watch estimate more incidents of VAWG in Delta over the last six years than in other states and that across all eight NSRP states added together, the trend has been getting worse over time. Note that this graph captures trends in the number of incidents, not in the severity of those incidents.

## July 2015 Incidents by State

Below is a breakdown of issues reported in the month of July across all data sources by each NSRP target state.

**Bayelsa:** There were no VAWG incidents reported in Bayelsa in July.

**Borno:** The sole incident of VAWG reported in Borno this month involved a female suicide bomber associated with Boko Haram. Boko Haram has increased the use of female suicide bombers in recent months.

**Delta:** There were no incidents reported this month in Delta. Reporting of VAWG in Delta have been decreasing in recent months.

**Kaduna:** The VAWG incidents in Kaduna in July involved both domestic and sexual violence. There were two reports of child rape. One involved a two-year-old who was drawn in by money that her alleged rapist offered. In the other rape incident, a young girl was delivering a package for her mother when she was raped by a man on the street; an aid worker later reported the incident. An additional report of sexual violence involved the reported abuse of a seven-year-old girl by a middle-aged man. On July 27, an incident of domestic violence was reported, entailing the brother of a widow beating her after repeated disputes between the two.

**Kano:** As in previous months, the incidents of VAWG in Kano state all involved both child abuse and sexual violence. There was a reported incident of rape involving an eight year old girl who was accosted by a 52 year old male. There was also a reported incident where a mother beat her 12 year old daughter with electric wire, nearly blinding the girl in the process.



**Plateau:** VAWG incidents in Plateau involved domestic and sexual violence. There were five incidents of rape reported. On July 15, a man reportedly raped a girl in her mother's residence. In another incident, a man allegedly raped a girl twice and threatened to kill her if she reported the incident. She had been forced into silence until her aunt convinced her to tell the authorities. A 72 year old man was arrested and subsequently released for allegedly raping six girls. An additional case of rape entailed a 14 year old being raped by a middle-aged male, while yet another case involved a boy luring a girl away from a well and raping her. There were also three incidents of domestic violence and abuse reported in Plateau. On the first of the month, a mother beat her daughter, prompting the daughter to run away, and she was later found at the police station. A child was repeatedly beaten and accused of being a witch. In a different incident, a woman was beaten and injured by her husband.

**Rivers:** In July, reported incidents of VAWG in Rivers state involved domestic violence, sexual abuse, and an alleged politically motivated abduction. Throughout the month, there were six reported incidents of domestic violence, including the beating of a pregnant woman by her husband, a man who beat his wife when she used his money to cook for their family, and a woman beat her daughter for not leaving food for her to eat. In July, there were three reported incidents of rape of girls who were all under ten years old, including a seven year old who was raped by a family member. The wife of a prominent politician in the state was abducted and killed in what was reported to be a politically motivated incident.

**Yobe:** All of the reported incidents of VAWG in July in Yobe state were related to insurgency violence. On July 17, two females – reportedly an older woman and a ten year old girl – detonated suicide bombs at local praying grounds, killing over 50 people. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month, 20 people were reported killed following a suicide bombing at a local market carried out by a young girl. Reports of Boko Haram suicide bombings carried out by young girls have increased in recent months.

Objective 2:

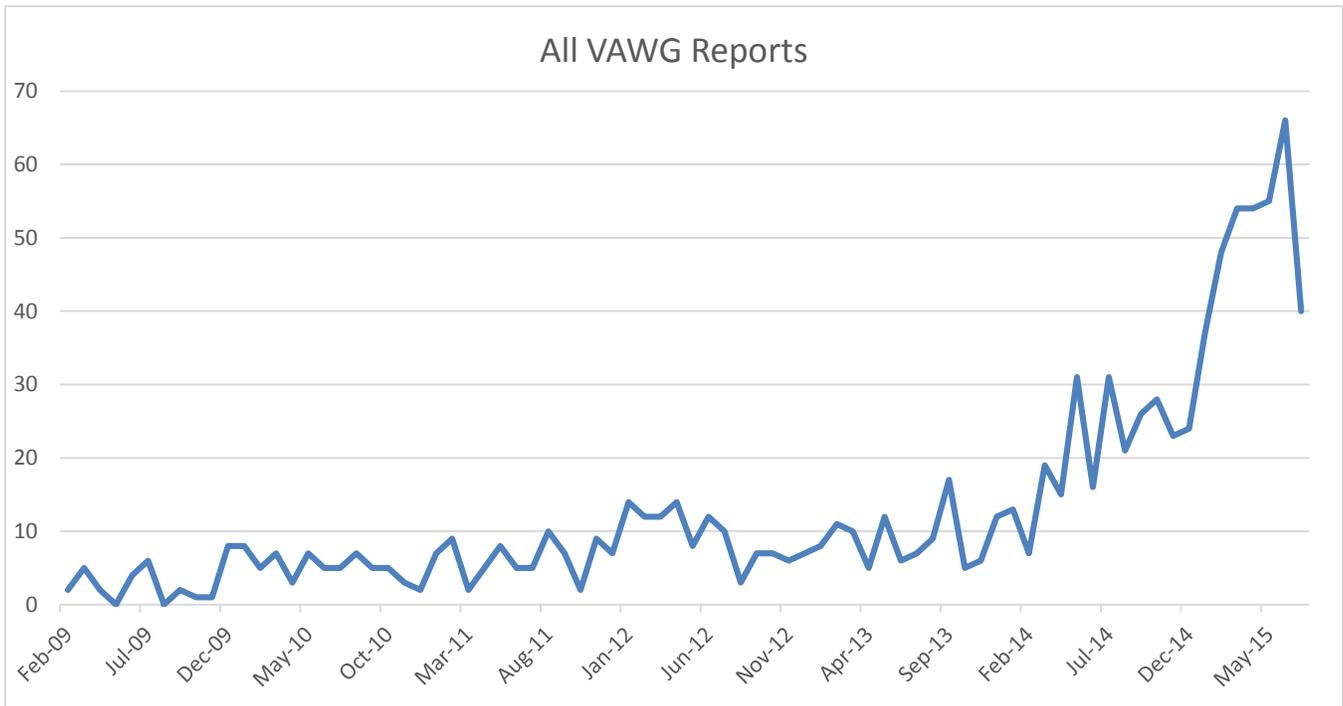


Figure 4: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

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.

Figure 4 reflects the total number of VAWG reports across all sources each month, beginning in January 2009. Despite the decrease in VAWG reports which dropped from 66 incidents in June to 40 in July, there was an overall increase in reported violence from 63 incidents in June to 69 in July. Awareness of VAWG related incidents appears to be growing as evidenced by the increased outreach and impact of OBSTECs and local partners in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, and Rivers, even though the reported number of

VAWG incidents decreased this month. For states without direct service points, we continue to rely on a moderate level of media reporting that exists to generate data and findings.

As indicated in previous reports, the most substantial and informative data we receive comes from direct reporting collected by NSRP partners. The Rivers Observatory service point continues to provide important data for the state. While the number of reports received from Plateau far exceeded the number of reports from Rivers in June, this month there was parity in the number of reports from both states.

### Objective 3:

Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other deployments of the tool, including the P4P Digital Platform.

A web-based application has been deployed to track traffic to the Peace Map as a way to measure public awareness. The Peace Map is used by several projects operating in Nigeria and can be accessed through various 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. NSRP is currently in the process of revising the link to the Observatory webpage which will likely drive more traffic and page views in the future.

	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015	June 2015	July 2015
<b>Page views through all Platforms</b>	684	523	678	281	553	470	291

	May 2015	June 2015	July
<b>Page Views through NSRP</b>	30 *platform update allowing this was executed near the end of May, data will be more complete next month.	78	71

### 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 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.

The Observatory and its local partners in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, and Rivers continue to collect information relating to VAWG incidents. This information helps to supplement reports and compensates for any missing data. The number of gender- focused peace agents within the eight NSRP states continues to expand as well.

Figure 5 is a heat map taken from the Observatory Platform, highlighting the distribution of VAWG Reports during the month of July. Self-Identified Peace

Agents are marked by green stars on the map. Agents are able to endorse one another through the map, acting as a means of validation and verification. Currently, there are 66 organizations that have identified with a focus on gender issues. This number is nearly double the 38 organizations that were identified at the beginning of the project. As organizations continue to identify themselves on the Observatory Platform, the potential for multi-stakeholder engagement grows.

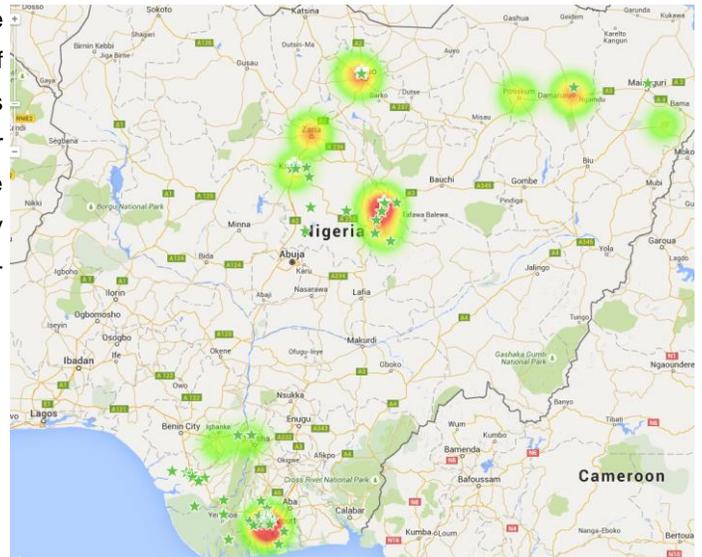


Figure 5: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – July 2015 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

**Organizations and Initiatives Self-Identified as Peace Agents with a Focus on Gender**

State	LGA	Organization
Bayelsa	Ekeremor	Ekeremor Women Forum
Bayelsa	Yenagoa	National Orientation Agency
Borno	Maiduguri	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
Borno	Maiduguri	Healthcare Development Focus Initiative (HECADF)
Borno	Maiduguri	National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)
Borno	Maiduguri	Women in New Nigeria (WINN)
Borno	Maiduguri	University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association (UMMWA)
Delta	Uvwie	Lite –Africa
Delta	Uvwie	Community Peace Development Initiative (CPDI)
Delta	Uvwie	Development Support Care Empowerment Foundation (DSCAEF)
Delta	Udu	Ideal Women Advancement Initiative
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Women for Peace in Nigeria (WOPIN)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Global Initiative for Women and Children
Kaduna	Kaduna North	PAN AFRICAN LEADERSHIP LEAGUE
Kaduna	Kaduna South	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	"Youth CAN, Kaduna"
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Interfaith Mediation Centre
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women (LEADS Nigeria)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Women in Need (A Women Empowerment Foundation)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative

<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna North	Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women`s Association (Women`s Interfaith Council)
<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna South	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna South	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
<b>Kaduna</b>	Kaduna South	Aid Foundation
<b>Kaduna</b>	Chikun	Zamani 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>Kano</b>	Kano	Center for Documentation
<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 North	CHRISTIAN RURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CRUDAN)
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos South	COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos East	Jos University Teaching Hospital
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos	Inclusive Friends
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Wiscod
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	National Human Rights Commission
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos	Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	The Nigeria Working Group
<b>Plateau</b>	Jos North	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)
<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 (GADA)
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Kebetkache Women Development
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Rimwof Project
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Palmbits IPWC
<b>Rivers</b>	Bonny	Coalition of NGOs in Bonny for Human Rights and Sustainable Development
<b>Rivers</b>	Port Harcourt	Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)

## Conclusion and Recommendations

**Objective 1:** *Continue to measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities.*

An issue of concern has primarily been the decrease in data and reporting from those states with no Observatory service points and where media coverage is thinning. This is mainly a concern in the Northeast as coverage of the insurgency and counter-insurgency campaigns has wound down although it cannot be assumed that VAWG trends have followed suit. At present, data from Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers tends to be richly detailed and, even when not plentiful, providing enough context to get a sense of overall trends and themes. In the future, NSRP plans to create future service points in Bayelsa and in the Northeast, which will undoubtedly help greatly. The lack of data from Delta state might be addressed with more outreach from the Rivers and Bayelsa services points (when the latter comes online later this year).

There was a significant increase in overall reports during the month of July as compared to reports focusing on VAWG. There was an increase of reports in the Northeast focusing on insurgency and counter-insurgency efforts while VAWG reports from Niger Watch data remained consistent, those coming in from NSRP sources fell in July from May and June.

In addition, and as per meetings with NSRP, FFP will begin to focus more directly on LGA-related trends and themes to provide more nuance beyond just the state level. This is all dependent on the amount of data received but it is believed that on a quarterly basis, enough data should be available to perform such analysis.

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

Although there has been a decrease in the number of reports received for July from the service points this month, it does not indicate less interest or involvement in the project as we continue to receive many reports from prior months. Multiple incidents being reported are dated going back to July 2014, filling in the gaps of past reporting and allowing for greater examination of trends and themes which should allow for more detailed analysis at the LGA level in upcoming reports.



Objective 3: Increased awareness through increased reports

NSRP is currently in the process of revising and updating the link to the Observatory webpage, which will likely drive more traffic and page views in the future. Despite the dip in reports directly from service points in June, however, overall reporting on VAWG continued to increase, showing a positive trend in overall increased awareness.

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

Nearly doubling the number of Peace Agents identified as focusing on gender issues through the Observatory platform demonstrates the amount of local outreach that has been done. It shows the strength of multi-stakeholder collaboration possible through the Observatory. With increased collaboration from community policing initiatives and other stakeholders, we believe that the opportunity for more collaboration for preventative response will increase.