

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #13 – May 2015 Data

July 21, 2015

■ May 2015

The NSRP Observatory platform received fewer reports in May than it did in the previous months, although the past three months have had some of the highest levels of reported incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) since the Observatory was established last year. Reports continued highlighting moderate to high levels of violence affecting women and girls across most NSRP focus states. In the Niger Delta, reports of VAWG have been primarily focused on domestic and sexual violence, while in the north, VAWG has been tied to insurgency and counter-insurgency violence.

This memo covers the month of May 2015 (data coding and uploading lags by a month) for Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta. The trend below shows a steady increase in the number of reports generated by NSRP Sources over the course of the last year as the project has gained momentum.

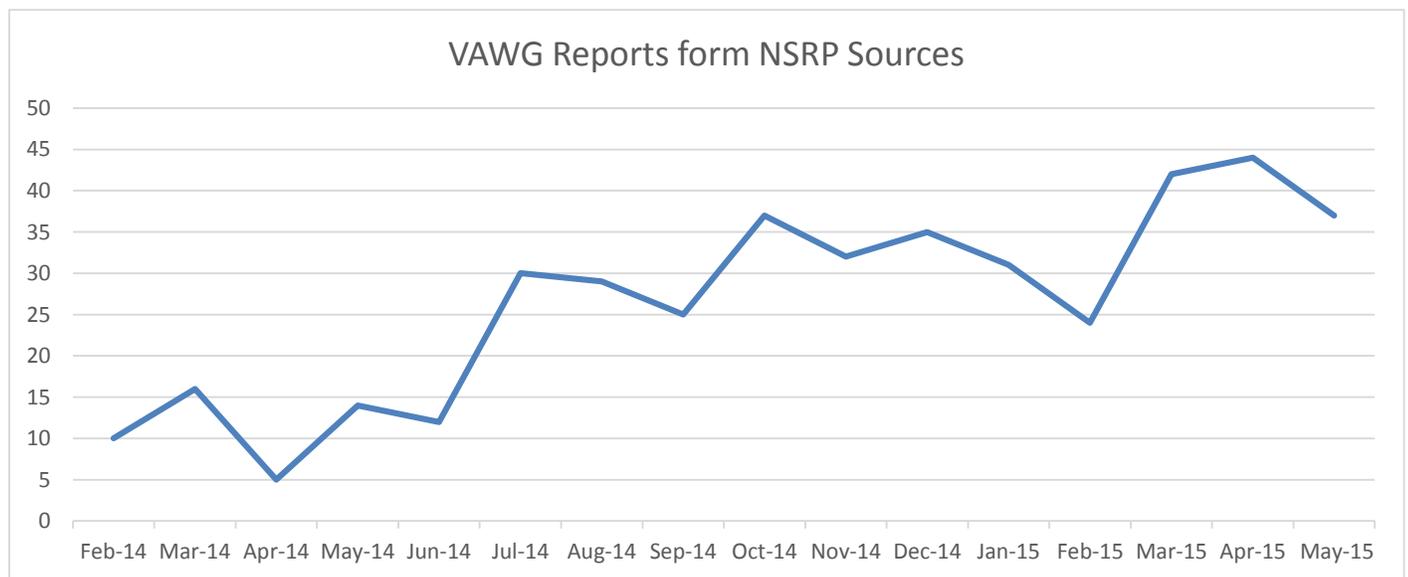


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources

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 understand the trends of VAWG across the eight NSRP States, it is important analyze the data in the context of the overall levels and trends of violence in those states.

With 387 fatalities, Borno had the highest levels of violence reported during the month, although the numbers there have been

decreasing sharply since February when there were over 1,900 fatalities reported. Meanwhile the number of fatalities in Plateau jumped from 6 in April to 190 in May, as communal violence increased in intensity and lethality, especially in Barkin Ladi and Riyom LGAs. In Rivers, political violence came down considerably in May after the contested April gubernatorial election, but fatalities remained at about the same level (43) due to clashes with cult groups and communal violence. Across all eight states, there were a total of 670 fatalities reported during the month, which was slightly higher than April but showing an improvement since the beginning of the year. In fact, this is the first two months in a row that the number of deaths has been below 700 since January and February of 2014. Still, the levels of violence remain high by historical standards as measured by the number of incidents reported.

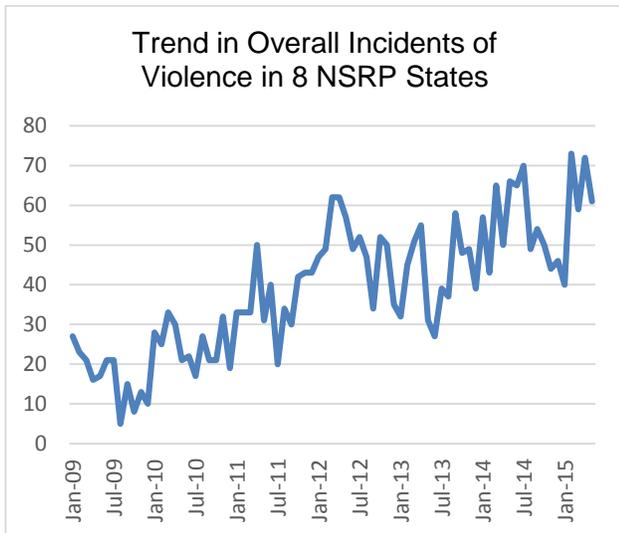


Figure 2: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform

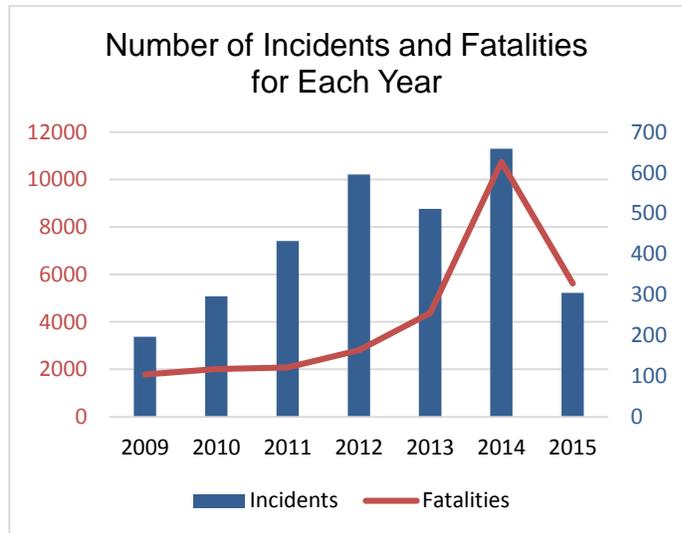


Figure 3: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped to the Observatory Platform

Trends in VAWG

So far this year, Borno and Delta States have had the most incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls as measured using Nigeria Watch data. Overall, the number of incidents in May was higher than the 2014 average, though slightly improved from March, when Nigeria Watch reported the highest number of monthly VAWG related incidents since before 2009.

For a qualitative assessment of patterns of violence, going beyond Nigeria Watch Data to include NSRP Sources, UNLock, and ACLED data, the most commonly reported issues were child abuse, domestic violence, sexual violence, and a number of abductions. In the Northeast region, JAS activities have continued to dominate the VAWG spectrum including the use of female suicide bombers in Borno and Yobe. On a positive note, over 100 more women and girls were reportedly rescued from JAS by the Nigerian Army in Sambisa forest.

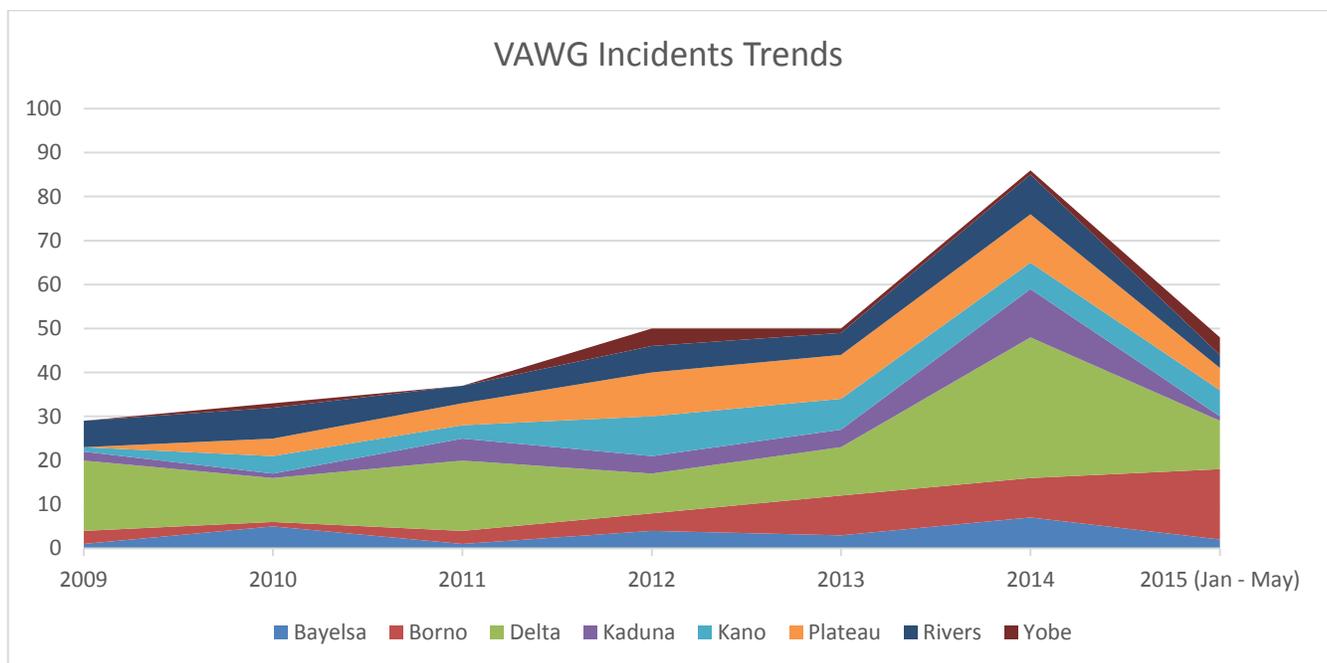


Figure 4: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

May 2015 Incidents by State

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

Bayelsa: In Bayelsa, tensions ran high as youths and women shut down gas stations that belong to Shell Petroleum in protest of an unfulfilled promise that electricity and other amenities would be brought to their community. A second incident involved a 40-year-old man stabbing his girlfriend to death in a fight.

Borno: As in past months, the main source of VAWG stemmed from Boko Haram activities. In mid-May, the insurgency group attacked Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri and 55 villagers were killed. In the attack, two disguised female suicide bombers faked distress in order to gather a crowd and detonate themselves. At least 23 women were killed both purposefully and accidentally

by the insurgents as the Nigerian army came upon the group for a rescue attempt. During the month, soldiers also raided Boko Haram camps in Sambisa forest, killed about 10 insurgents, and rescued 25 women and girls. In Maiduguri, close to one thousand woman and girls were rescued from JAS.

Delta: The sole reported VAWG incident in May for Delta involved a female armed robber being killed in a gun duel between her gang and the police.

Kaduna: In Kaduna this month, there were two reports of rape. In one case, a man raped his daughter in her room; in the other, a young girl was abducted, drugged, and gang-raped.

Kano: There were multiple reports of sexual assault, domestic violence, and abductions this month in Kano. Five out of the nine reports involved sexual assault by both strangers and known persons, and in some cases also involved abduction. A 14-year old girl, who was an IDP from Maiduguri, was abducted and forced into prostitution by her guardian, while a bride-to-be was gang-raped by five men and impregnated. An eight year old girl was abducted and held for a ransom of one million naira for two weeks, during which time she was sexually abused. Only one reported case of VAWG resulted in a fatality; an unknown assailant abducted two primary school students, one male and one female, stabbed both, and dumped them in the school's pit toilet. The female student died from the severe head injury.

Plateau: While the majority of cases of VAWG in Plateau involved sexual violence and domestic abuse, there were also two examples of inter-communal violence. In a reported reprisal attack by the military, over 50 unarmed civilians were killed over the death of six military members. Additionally, women and children were killed in a clash between local farmers and Fulani herdsmen. Among the five reports of sexual violence against underage girls, an HIV positive man impregnated a young girl and passed the virus along to her. Along with four reports of husbands beating their wives, there was also a report of a father beating his daughter over her involvement in a relationship that he did not approve of. A women and her family were beaten and harassed because the mother was accused of witchcraft.

Rivers: The reported incidents of VAWG in Rivers in May involved sexual violence, domestic abuse, and other general reports of criminality. There were four reports of young girls being raped by older men, one of whom was selling household appliances in their neighborhood. In another incident, it was reported that a boy threatened to rape his 16-year old sister. Three women were beaten by their husbands, as well as a woman who was abandoned by her husband and was left with no livelihood. A woman poured hot water on her 11 year old maid, and a woman was beaten by police officers during a clash on a bus. Lastly, a female radio presenter was shot and robbed while boarding a bus for a trip.

Yobe: In Yobe, the two events of VAWG in May were both instances of young female suicide bombers suspected to have a connection to Boko Haram. In the first, a ten year old detonated her explosive in a market, killing nine people. The second involved a twelve year old who detonated her explosive at a bus depot, killing seven or eight people and injuring over 30.

Objective 2:

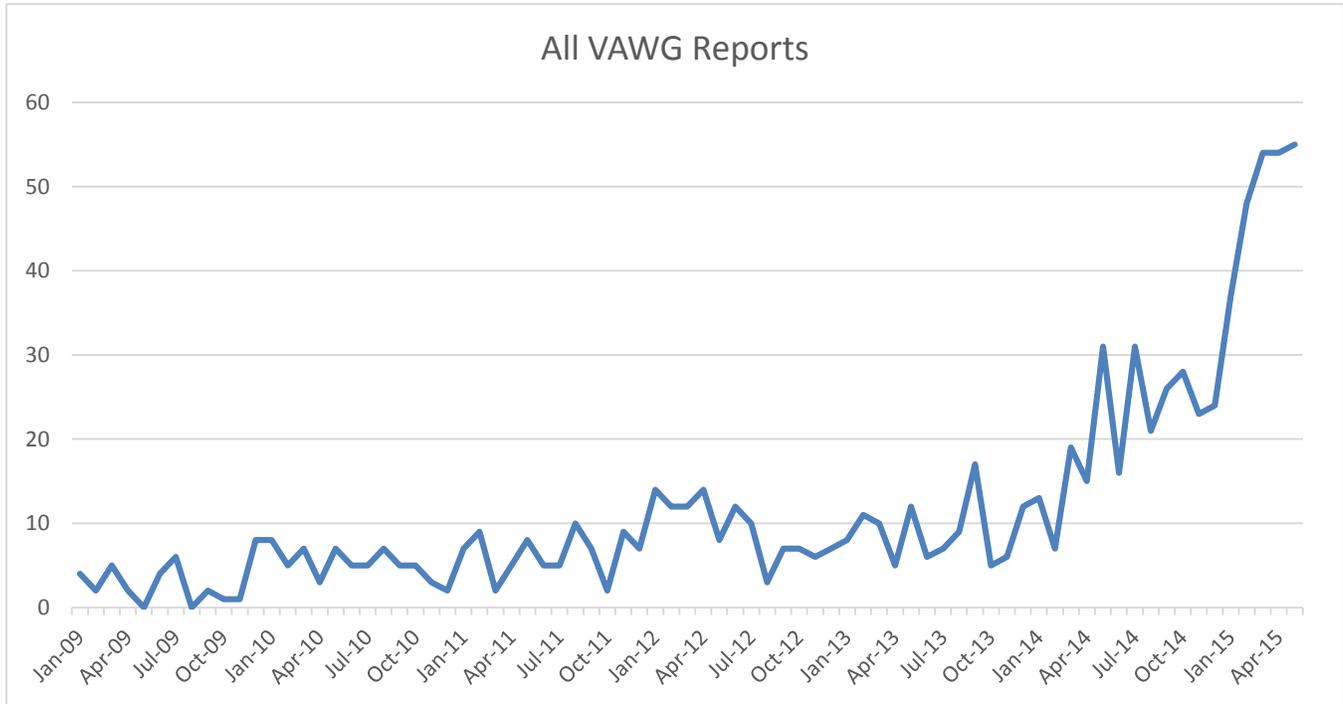


Figure 5: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

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.

The figure above reflects the total number of VAWG reports across all sources, month-by-month, since January 2009. Notably, although the overall reports of violence decreased between April and May, the number of VAWG instances reported increased. This demonstrates growing awareness of the issue and shows increasing impact and outreach by local partners and OBSTECs in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers. There were 55 total reported incidents of VAWG in May, one more than there was in April. We continue to rely on a moderate level of media reporting that exists, particularly

for states where there are not direct service points. For instance, Yobe, Delta and Bayelsa had no reported cases of VAWG from NSRP Sources in May, although there were incidents reported in those states from other sources, which were integrated onto the Observatory platform.

Overall, direct reporting gathered from NSRP partners' remains the most relevant and detailed data we receive. The Rivers observatory service point continues to provide significant data for the state; however, this month, Kano exceeded the number of reports from Rivers. It continues to be difficult to collect direct observation data from Borno and Yobe. Borno benefits from a large amount of national and international media focus which contributes to the higher level of secondary reports obtained from this state. Yobe, however, remains one of the most difficult states to obtain information from overall, and on VAWG, specifically.



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 developed that is able 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 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. As a multiplier effect, integrating VAWG data from NSRP sources on all Peace Map deployments accomplishes more toward this objective than if it were visible on the NSRP website alone.

	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015	May 2015
Page views through all Platforms	684	523	678	281	553

May 2015	
Page Views through NSRP	30 *platform update allowing this was executed near the end of May, data will be more complete next month.

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, especially through information gathered by the Peace Clubs and other sources by local organizations in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers, continues to fill in missing data when it comes to the aggregation of gender-based violence reports in the NSRP states. We also continue to grow the number of self-identified Peace Agents focusing on gender and gender issues in the eight NSRP states. These local organizations that have been identified with the help of NSRP

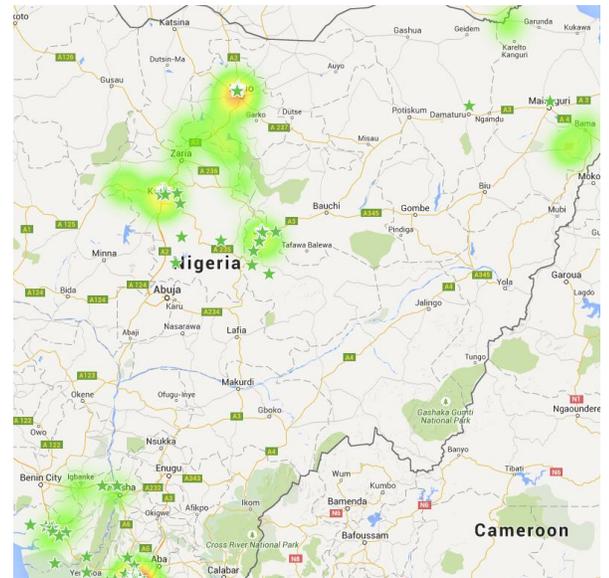


Figure 6: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – May 2015 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

and other local partners are the first responders on the ground focusing on gender violence. To further promote scoping and networking, new organizations are registering to be included on the map every month.

Figure 6 shows a heat map highlighting the distribution of VAWG Reports during the month of April. The peace agents that have registered to be shown on the map, are identified by green stars. The table below is a list of gender-focused organizations in the eight NSRP states. There are currently 65 organizations focused on gender that appear on the Peace Map. Eight new organizations have been identified over the past month. A relatively new feature on the map allows registered users to endorse one another as a means of validation and verification. As this functionality is more widely utilized, it will aid in facilitating effective collaboration for preventative response and violence mitigation.

We continue to recommend including representation from these organizations, when possible, in NSRP workshops and activities.

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
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women`s Association (Women`s Interfaith Council)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Aid Foundation
Kaduna	Chikun	Zamani Foundation
Kano	Kano	Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)
Kano	Kano	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
Kano	Kano	INTERGENDER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Kano	Kano	Women Advancement Initiative
Kano	Kano	Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network(WODEN)
Kano	Kano	"Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative."
Kano	Kano	Center for Documentation
Plateau	Jos North	JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION (JDPC)
Plateau	Jos North	Manna Resource Development Centre
Plateau	Jos North	Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria
Plateau	Jos North	Justice Development Peace and Caritas
Plateau	Jos North	National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS
Plateau	Jos North	Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)
Plateau	Jos North	CHRISTIAN RURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CRUDAN)
Plateau	Jos South	COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA
Plateau	Jos East	Jos University Teaching Hospital
Plateau	Jos	Inclusive Friends
Plateau	Jos North	Wiscod
Plateau	Jos North	National Human Rights Commission

Plateau	Jos	Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)
Plateau	Jos North	The Nigeria Working Group
Plateau	Jos North	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)
Rivers	Abua/Odual	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
Rivers	Abua/Odual	Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development
Rivers	Akuku Toru	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
Rivers	Emohua	Kebetkache Women Development
Rivers	Etche	Women in Peace and Security Network
Rivers	Gokana	Kebetkache Women Development
Rivers	Ikwerre	Ikwerre Women Forum
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Center for Creative Arts Education
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Lokiakia Community Development Centre
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)
Rivers	Port Harcourt	"Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State branch"
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Gender and Development Action (GADA)
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Kebetkache Women Development
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Rimwof Project
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Palmbits IPWC
Rivers	Bonny	Coalition of NGOS in Bonny for Human Rights and Sustainable Development
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Each month data collection, analysis and mapping functions continue to improve. In the last month, for instance, NSRP was highlighted in a P4P Youtube video for their contribution to new upgrades on the platform (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wDntoT7tUM>). Latest upgrades include the ability of users to register as Peace Agents, and to reduce duplicates of incidents and fatalities across multiple sources, including NSRP sources. Upgrades such as these make the platform much more versatile and user-friendly for those with a stake in peace in Nigeria. Success stories and recommendations for further improvement to the VAWG program include the following:

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

Direct observation data remains the most relevant and salient for analysis. This data is difficult to collect in high conflict areas and states without service points. While in the Niger Delta, media and data received from other sources, in addition to the NSRP sources filter, highlights the main incidents and trends occurring in those states, there is still a scarcity of information from Yobe. As mentioned above, the intense media focus on Borno state has resulted in a high

number of reports collected but the lack of reports via local partner reporting/Peace Clubs may result in increasingly fewer numbers of reports if and when media attention wanes.

Data received from data points continues to be the most relevant and salient for analysis

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

A key success of the project is the fact that the number of overall reports on VAWG has continued to increase since the inception of the project. This, in turn, will hopefully lead to less overall stigma and fear about reporting and bringing to light issues of VAWG in the eight focus states.

- Objective 3: *Increased awareness through increased reports*

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.

May is the first month that we have been able to track.

Objective 4: *Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response.*

- The value of multi-stakeholder collaboration is highlighted in this project through the use of the map and the continued direct participation of OBSTEC members and local partner organizations. In addition, each month we receive new applications from local organizations who request to be part of the Peace Map and ensure that their organization is listed as one dealing with VAWG and available for local response. Through presentations and briefings in Nigeria and Washington, DC, multilateral organizations have also been made aware of the Observatory as a resource and have been encouraged to participate and partner in supporting preventative response opportunities. In Kenya, recently, FFP staff gave a presentation on the Observatory that generated a lot of enthusiasm from Kenyan government officials and civil society organizations about creating a similar project in that country, as the culture of silence is similarly pervasive there.