

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in Select Nigerian States

Monthly Memo #34 – February 2017 Data



There were 29 incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) reported from all NSRP Observatory sources in February 2017. The Jama'atu Ahli Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) insurgency continued to play a role in the majority of reported incidents in Borno state. Consistent with previous months, many of these incidents involved female suicide bombers. Reports this month throughout the eight states related to insecurity, with kidnappings, crime and cult activity as the most salient reported issues within this category.

Kaduna state with five incidents. The Niger Delta region reported three incidents in Rivers, two incidents in Bayelsa and one in Delta, mostly related to criminal and cult violence. Three incidents of violence affecting boys were also reported by NSRP Observatory sources during the month, two in Borno state and one in Kano.

The following memo analyzes data for the focus states of Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta for February 2017.

Kano state had the highest number of VAWG-related reports this month, with seven incidents, followed by Plateau and Borno states with six incidents each, and

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

Figure 1: VAWG Reports from NSRP Sources

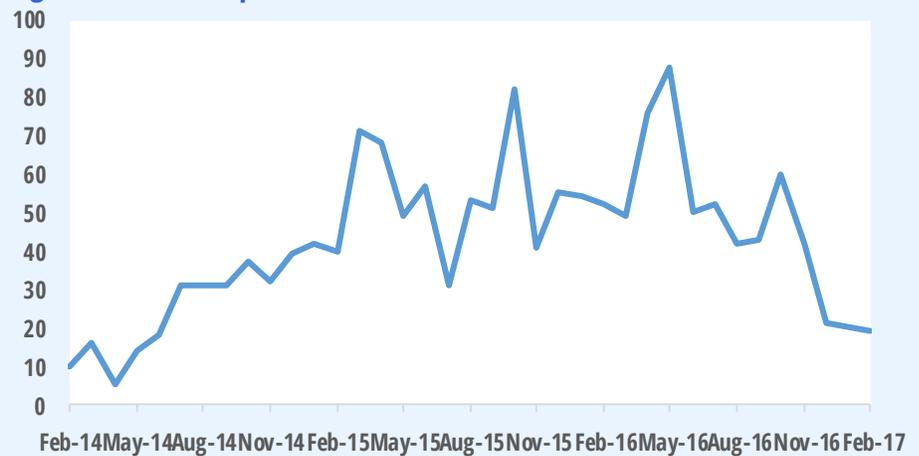


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls Reported by NSRP Sources—2014-February 2017



Objective 1

Trends in Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) are measured in comparison to overall levels of violence and fatalities in the eight NSRP focus states. Overall levels are measured based on Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.

Trends in Overall Violence

Broader trends in violence and insecurity in the eight focus states provide a contextual backdrop for which VAWG-specific trends can be mapped and analyzed.

General insecurity remained the most prevalent conflict risk factor this month across the eight NSRP target states. Borno state recorded the highest number of fatalities per capita, consistent with previous months. In Borno, the main driver of instability continued to be the JAS insurgency and Nigerian Armed Forces counterinsurgency operations. Borno reported 225 fatalities during the month, with most fatalities resulting from clashes between the Nigerian military and JAS. In one violent clash on the 1st of February, 41 JAS members were killed by Nigerian Armed Forces soldiers during a counterinsurgency operation in Damboa LGA. In recent years, the JAS conflict has seen a rise in the number of suicide bombers, and this trend continued in February. In one report from the 17th of February, three female suicide bombers detonated their explosives inside a motor park in Maiduguri Local Government Area (LGA), killing themselves and two internally displaced persons.

The Middle Belt region also reported incidents of insecurity throughout the month of February. Many of the reports from Kaduna state related to conflicts between herder and farmer communities, which continued to be a main cause of instability in the state. In one case reported on the 19th of February, 18 people were killed and properties were destroyed in clashes between herder and farmer communities in Kaura LGA. Insecurity also affected Plateau state this month. In one

Figure 2: Number of Incidents and Fatalities by Quarter

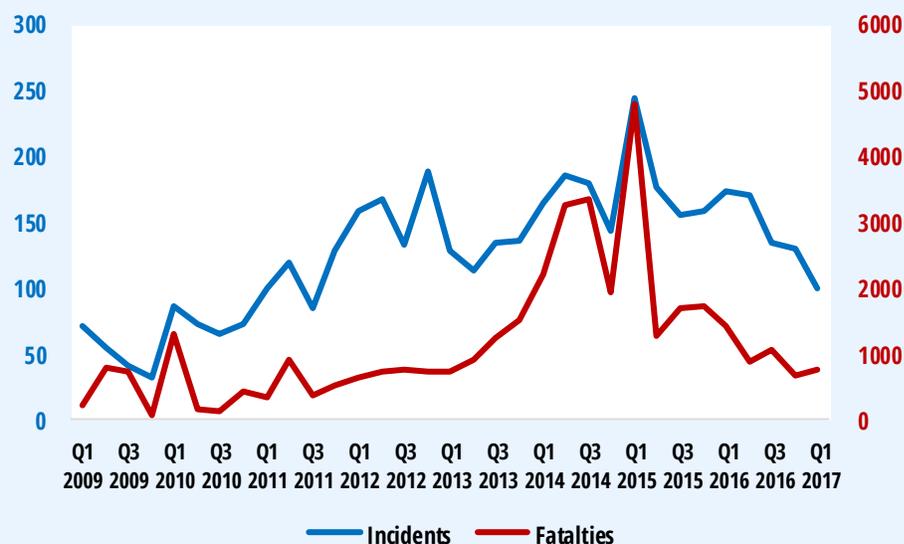


Figure 2: Quarterly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence as well as Fatalities in Eight NSRP States, according to Nigeria Watch and ACLED data mapped to the Observatory Platform. The number of fatalities are measured against the axis on the right, while the number of reported incidents is measured against the axis on the left. The graph shows that, although violence has is still higher than in 2009, levels of lethal violence have been dropping since Q2 2015.

Figure 3: VAWG Incidents Trends

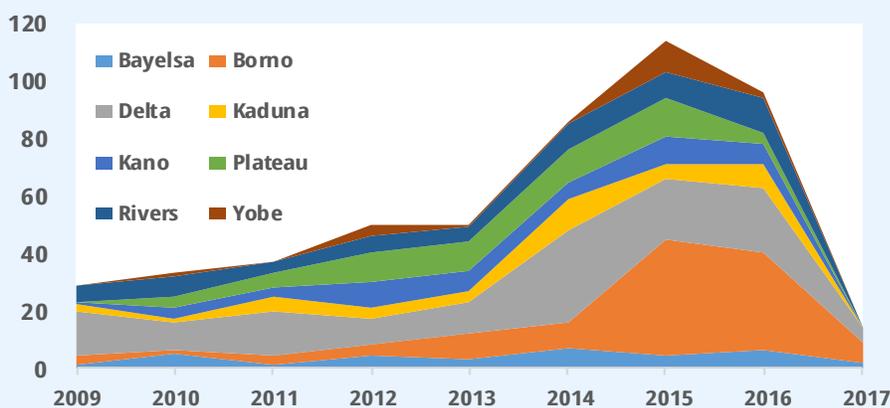


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing trends in VAWG incidents reported by NSRP State, according to Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents). The y-axis shows the cumulative, aggregate trends, while the x-axis shows the timeline from 2009 to 2017. The color blocks show the data disaggregated by state. Since 2017 only includes two months so far, there is a drop on the right hand side of the graph which will normalize as more months are added. Note that this graph captures trends in the number of incidents, not in the severity of those incidents.

case reported in Jos South, a 19-year-old man was killed by suspected members of a cult group while returning from a football game. In another incident in Bassa LGA, reprisal attacks between youth over illegal mining led to four fatalities.

Many of the reports from the Niger Delta states this month involved cult activity, militancy and conflict between herdsmen and farmers, with other reports centered on crime, abductions and economic grievances. Delta state reported the highest number of incidents and fatalities during the month, followed by Rivers state. In one incident

reported in Oshimili North LGA on February 12th, soldiers reportedly stopped a meeting of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), killing five people and wounding 20 others. In Bayelsa state, insecurity-related incidents included reports of abductions, governance grievances, militant activity and piracy were common.

Trends in VAWG

There were 29 incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) reported across all NSRP Observatory sources throughout the month of February 2017. Kano state had the highest number of VAWG-related reports this month with seven incidents, followed by Plateau and Borno states with six each and Kaduna state with five incidents. Three incidents were reported in Rivers state in February while Bayelsa and Delta states reported two and one incidents, respectively.

According to data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and Nigeria Watch, 11 VAWG-related fatalities were recorded this month, with the majority of these occurring in Borno state. While attacks involving female JAS-related suicide bombers were the primary cause of VAWG-related fatalities during the month, sexual and domestic violence, including child abuse, continue to account for the majority of VAWG incidents across all NSRP states.

Abductions, crime, cult group activity and government protests also affected women and girls in incidents reported for February.

February 2017 VAWG Incidents by State

Below is a breakdown across all data sources for each NSRP target state for February 2017.

Borno

Five VAWG incidents were reported in Borno state this month, two of which were directly related to the JAS insurgency. In one incident reported in Maiduguri LGA on the 7th of February, two female suicide bombers were intercepted by the Nigeria

Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). One of the women was shot and killed while the other was arrested and taken into custody. In a similar incident reported on the 17th of February, three female suicide bombers stormed a motor park, killing themselves and two civilians. The three other VAWG incidents reported this month all occurred in Jere LGA. On the 18th of February, a massive fire in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp caused the deaths of two children and destroyed the temporary housing of more than 400 families. One incident of rape and one incident of forced marriage were also reported, both involving underage girls.

Bayelsa

Two VAWG incidents were reported in Bayelsa state in February. In the first case, a teenage girl was kidnapped in Sagbama LGA. The second incident took place on the 10th of February in Yenagoa LGA. In this report, a 43-year-old woman was killed by a 22-year-old suspected cult member.

Delta

One VAWG incident was reported in Delta state during the month of February. On the 15th of February, a woman was killed on her farm and her body mutilated in Ughelli South LGA, reportedly for ritual purposes.

Kaduna

Five incidents of VAWG were reported in Kaduna state in February. In two incidents, women were forced from their homes by either their father or husband, and in one case the survivor was also physically assaulted. In Igabi LGA, the rape of a young girl was reported. A case of a young woman running away after being mistreated by family members was also reported in Kaduna-North LGA. The other reported incident was in Tudun Jukun Zaria LGA, where a 12-year-old girl was beaten by her aunt for misplacing 2,000 Naira.

Kano

Kano state reported seven incidents of VAWG in February. Six of these reports involved the rape of underage girls, with one of these cases resulting in pregnancy. In one incident from the 23rd of February, a

woman discovered that her six-month-old child had been raped by a neighbor's husband. Other incidents of sexual violence included the rape of underage girls between the ages of 4 and 16 years old. In one case, a 14-year-old girl was raped by a police officer in Kumbotso LGA. The other incident in Kano state this month involved a women's rights group from Kano Municipal LGA protesting at the Government House over recent abductions of teenagers in the state.

Plateau

Six VAWG incidents were reported in Plateau state in February 2017, all of which were incidents of domestic or sexual violence. Of the six reported incidents, four cases involved physical abuse by a family member. In one incident from Jos North LGA, a 36-year-old woman, who had been forced into marriage at age 16, reported that she and her children were subjected to domestic abuse. Another domestic violence incident in Jos South LGA involved the physical abuse of two young girls by their father. After noticing their injuries, a teacher notified social welfare workers. Other incidents reported in Jos North LGA this month, involved child sexual abuse. In one report, a six year-old girl was raped by her teacher, while the other incident involved the abduction and sexual abuse of a young girl.

Rivers

Three VAWG incidents were reported in Rivers state this month, with two cases reported in Tai LGA and one case in Emohua LGA. All three of the reported incidents involved issues pertaining to insecurity, and two of the incidents resulted in fatalities. In Tai LGA, a woman was killed after being caught in the crossfire of a conflict between a suspected cultist and a 70-year-old man. In a separate report in Emohua LGA, a woman was found murdered on her farm. In the third report for the month, the 80-year-old mother of the Paramount chief in Tai LGA was kidnapped.

Violence Affecting Boys

While the culture of silence around sexual violence and abuse of girls still remains a salient issue in NSRP states, reported data on abuse of boys is often even more limited. Despite young boys often being as vulnerable to sexual abuse, particularly by those in positions of authority, the cultural norms around heterosexuality have the potential to further isolate male survivors from speaking out. A lack of reporting on abuse against boys can also risk perpetuating myths around boys not being vulnerable to violence, including sexual violence.

This month saw three reported incidents from NSRP Observatory data sources related to violence affecting boys. Two of these cases were related to the JAS insurgency in the Chibok LGA. In one report from the 9th of February, a five year-old boy was abducted by JAS, and in the other incident, the hands of a young boy were

broken by members of JAS during an attack on his community. The third report came from Kano state and involved child sexual abuse. In this case, a 37 year-old man was reported to have repeatedly raped a nine-year-old boy in a mosque after prayers.

To increase awareness of violence against boys, observatories are encouraged to continue to disaggregate gender information where possible in their reporting.

Objective 2

VAWG Reporting Across All Data Sources



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.

There were 29 incidents of VAWG reported in February 2017 across the eight NSRP focus states by all sources that contribute to the online Observatory Platform (this includes data from the NSRP Observatories as well as VAWG-related data from Nigeria Watch and ACLED). Though reporting numbers have decreased in the past year, the overall upward trajectory in reporting number since the project began in 2014 highlights the progress that has made in beginning to bridge the information gap that exists in VAWG reporting.

Bringing to light VAWG in communities across the eight NSRP focus states allows organisations working in those areas to begin addressing the violence that exists and allows them to continue talking about

the issues. The increased reporting on incidents related to violence against boys reinforces the important contribution the observatories make towards breaking the culture of silence and shame which often pervades sexual violence and abuse.

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.

In order to measure awareness of the project and the issues of VAWG that exist in the eight NSRP states, a web-based application was created to track all visits to the VAWG Observatory Platform. It is also able to track which deployment of the platform was used to access the map; for example, whether through the NSRP website itself or through another online source (i.e. the PIND P4P Peace Map).

It is important to continue to encourage both local partners and international actors to utilize the online tools.

Page Views Through All Platforms

Jan 2016	1129	Aug 2016	675
Feb 2016	991	Sept 2016	684
Mar 2016	1154	Oct 2016	1210
Apr 2016	621	Nov 2016	852
May 2016	1367	Dec 2016	727
June 2016	1010	Jan 2017	1550
July 2016	815	Feb 2017	1635

Page Views through NSRP

Jan 2016	215	Aug 2016	184
Feb 2016	121	Sept 2016	139
Mar 2016	107	Oct 2016	249
Apr 2016	83	Nov 2016	227
May 2016	144	Dec 2016	163
June 2016	131	Jan 2017	279
July 2016	153	Feb 2017	198

Objective 4

Locations of Incidents, Agents

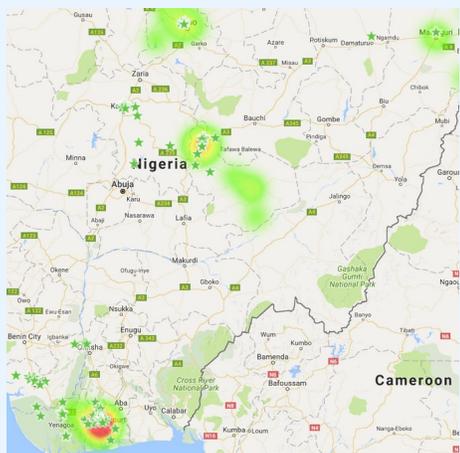


Figure 5: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – January 2017

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.

One unique and important feature of the online platform is its ability to track both incidents of conflict as well local actors working to build peace in the NSRP focus states across Nigeria through self-identified Peace Agents. With each organization registering itself, they are able to receive notifications from the online platform about spikes in conflict.

There are 73 self-identified Peace Agents working on gender in the NSRP focus states. Overall, the online platform encourages organizations across all sectors of development and peace building to register themselves on Peace Agents on the map. As more and more organizations register on the map, the easier it is to understand what resources exist in a community; both for outside funders and those already operating within a community. It enhances the potential for collaboration.

Below is the list of Peace Agents currently focusing on gender in the eight NSRP states.

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

State	LGA	Organization	State	LGA	Organization	
Bayelsa	Ekeremor	Ekeremor Women Forum	Kaduna	Chikun	Zamani Foundation	
	Yenagoa	National Orientation Agency		Kaduna North	Interfaith Mediation Centre	
		Peacemaker International			Global Initiative for Women and Children	
Borno	Maiduguri	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)			International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)	
		Healthcare Development Focus Initiative (HECADF)			Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative	
		National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)			Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women`s Association (Women`s Interfaith Council)	
		Women in New Nigeria (WINN)			Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women (LEADS Nigeria)	
		University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association (UMMWA)			Pan African Leadership League	
		Peace FM Radio			Women for Peace in Nigeria (WOPIN)	
		WINN Youth Empowerment			Women in Need (A Women Empowerment Foundation)	
		FIDA International Federation of Women Lawyers			Youth CAN, Kaduna	
		KPPS				
Delta	Udu	Ideal Women Advancement Initiative	Kaduna South		African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)	
	Uvwie	Lite -Africa				Aid Foundation
		Community Peace Development Initiative (CPDI)				Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
		Development Support Care Empowerment Foundation (DSCAEF)				

Organizations and Initiatives Self-Identified as Peace Agents with a Focus on Gender (Continued)

State	LGA	Organization	State	LGA	Organization
Kano	<i>Kano</i>	Center for Documentation	Rivers	<i>Abua/Odual</i>	Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development
		Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)			Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
		Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)		<i>Akuku Toru</i>	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
		Intergender Development Initiative		<i>Bonny</i>	Coalition of NGOS in Bonny for Human Rights and Sustainable Development
		Right Based Awareness Coalition (RIBAC)		<i>Emohua</i>	Kebetkache Women Development
		Women Advancement Initiative		<i>Etche</i>	Women in Peace and Security Network
		Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network (WODEN)		<i>Gokana</i>	Kebetkache Women Development
Plateau	<i>Jos</i>	Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative	<i>Ikwerre</i>	Ikwerre Women Forum	
		Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)	<i>Obio/Akpor</i>	Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law	
	Inclusive Friends	<i>Port Harcourt</i>	Center for Creative Arts Education		
	<i>Jos East</i>	Jos University Teaching Hospital		Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State Branch	
	<i>Jos North</i>	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)		Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)	
		Christian Rural and Rural Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN)		Gender and Development Action (GADA)	
		Fahariya Adolescent Development Network		Kebetkache Women Development	
		Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria		Lokiakia Community Development Centre	
		International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Plateau State Chapter		Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)	
		Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)		Palmbits IPWC	
		Justice Development Peace and Caritas		Partners for Peace	
		Manna Resource Development Centre		Rimwof Project	
		National Human Rights Commission		Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)	
National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS			Women in Peace and Security Network		
<i>Jos South</i>	The Nigeria Working Group	Yobe	African Center for Peace and Development Nigeria		
	Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)				
	Wiscod				
	Country Women Association of Nigeria				