

# Violence Affecting Women and Girls in Select Nigerian States

Monthly Memo #35 – March 2017 Data



There were 28 incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) reported from all NSRP observatory sources in March 2017. Consistent with previous months, the Jama'atu Ahli Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) insurgency and counter-insurgency activities continued to be a primary source of VAWG, comprising the majority of reported incidents in March. Reports related to sexual and domestic violence, including child abuse, also continued to be salient issues.

incidents reported in Delta state and one incident in Bayelsa, mostly related to insecurity and physical abuse. Four incidents of violence affecting boys were also reported by NSRP Observatory sources in March. Two of these cases were reported in Delta state, and Bayelsa and Borno states each reported one case.

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

Borno state reported the highest number of VAWG-related incidents this month, with 12 incidents, followed by Kano with six incidents and Kaduna with five. The fewest number of incidents for the month of March came from the Niger Delta region, with four

*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-March 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 against which VAWG-specific trends can be mapped and analysed.

General insecurity remained the most prevalent conflict risk factor this month across the eight NSRP target states. Consistent with previous months, Borno state recorded the highest number of incidents and fatalities per capita. Borno did see a significant decrease in reported fatalities in March, with 52 fatalities reported compared to 225 reported in February 2017. The primary driver of instability in Borno continues to be the JAS insurgency and counterinsurgency activities by the Nigerian armed forces. The trend of JAS using suicide bombers continued in March as well. In one incident reported on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, 12 civilians were killed in multiple JAS attacks on farming communities in Maiduguri Local Government Area (LGA). The same day, a female suicide bomber who detonated her pack at a cemetery injured 23 people. In another incident reported in Maiduguri on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, three explosions left eight people dead, including five suicide bombers, and more than 20 people injured.

The Middle Belt and North Central regions also reported incidents of insecurity throughout the month of March, primarily relating to conflicts between herder and farmer communities. In one case reported on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the death of a farmer sparked clashes between soldiers and a herder community, resulting in 17 fatalities and more than 40 homes being burnt. In Plateau state, one fatality was reported on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March after youths attacked a

Figure 2: Number of Incidents and Fatalities by Quarter

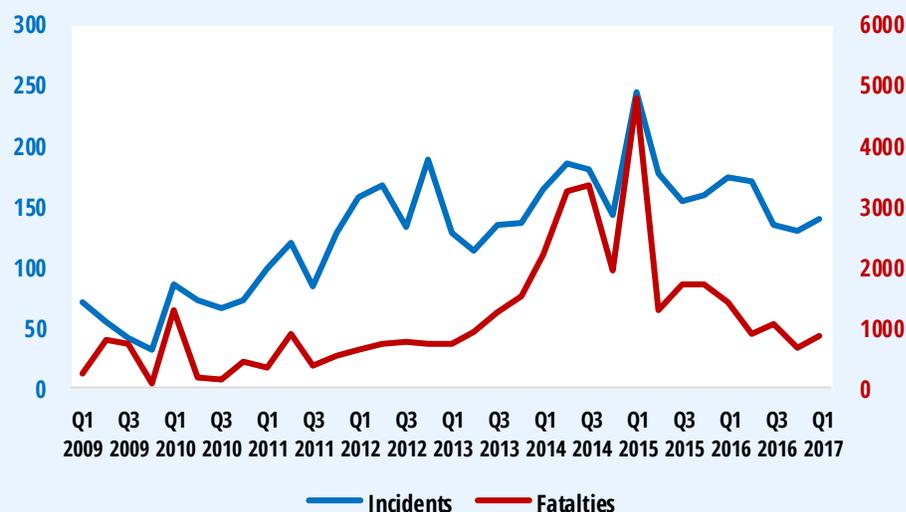


Figure 2: Quarterly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence as well as Fatalities in Eight NSRP States, according to Nigeria Watch and ACLED data mapped to the Observatory Platform. The number of fatalities are measured against the axis on the right, while the number of reported incidents is measured 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

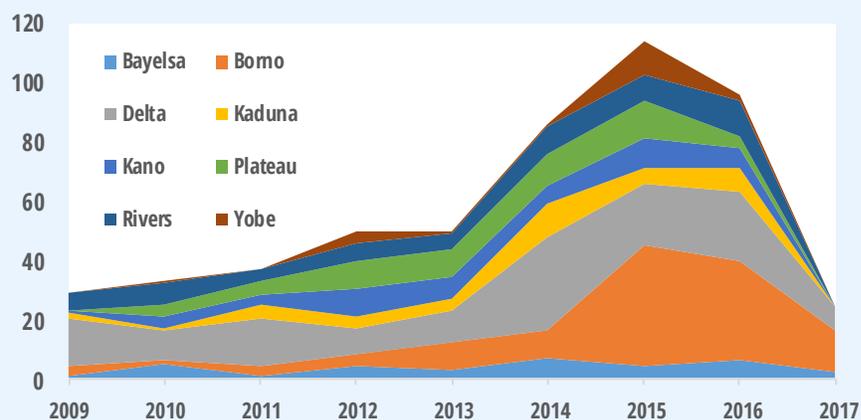


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing trends in VAWG incidents reported by NSRP State, according to Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents). The y-axis shows the cumulative, aggregate trends, while the x-axis shows the timeline from 2009 to 2017. The color blocks show the data disaggregated by state. Since 2017 only includes three 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.

police station in Jos. Plateau also reported multiple fatalities stemming from the collapse of an illegal mine.

The Niger Delta states reported incidents related to cult activity, militancy and conflict between herdsmen and farmers this month,

as well as cases of crime, abductions, and protests. Consistent with the previous month, Delta state reported the highest number of incidents and fatalities in March, followed by Rivers state. In one incident reported in Delta state on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, clashes between herder and farmer communities left three people dead and six

wounded. In another incident reported in Rivers state on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, clashes between the Iceland and Degbam cults groups in Port Harcourt resulted in three fatalities.

## Trends in VAWG

There were 28 incidents of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) reported across all NSRP Observatory sources throughout the month of March 2017. Borno state reported the highest number of VAWG-related incidents this month, with twelve incidents, followed by Kano with six incidents and Kaduna with five. The fewest number of incidents for the month of March came from the Niger Delta region, with four incidents reported in Delta state and one incident in Bayelsa.

According to data from Nigeria Watch, 40 VAWG-related fatalities were recorded this month, with the majority of these occurring in Borno state and involving female JAS-related suicide bombers. In addition to insecurity, sexual and domestic violence, including child abuse, remain salient issues across the eight NSRP target states.

Abductions, crime, and protests also affected women and girls in incidents reported for March.

## March 2017 VAWG Incidents by State

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

### Borno

Twelve VAWG incidents were reported in Borno state this month, all of which related to the JAS insurgency and counter-insurgency activities. Six of these reports involved female JAS suicide bombers. In one incident reported in Maiduguri LGA, a female suicide bomber detonated her pack at the village cemetery, injuring 23 people. In another report from Jere LGA, two female suicide bombers, one of whom was pregnant, were shot and killed by soldiers after refusing to stop at a military

checkpoint. There were also two reports of women and girls being abducted by JAS members in the course of attacks on their communities, and one report documenting the release of more than 300 women and girls from a JAS camp. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March it was also reported that thousands of women who had been displaced by JAS attacks led a protest calling for improved conditions in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps.

### Bayelsa

One VAWG incident was reported in Bayelsa state in March. In this case, a mother beat her 11-year-old daughter to death.

### Delta

Four VAWG incidents were reported in Delta state in March. Two of these cases related to general insecurity. In one case reported in Oshimili South LGA, a woman was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen. In the other case, a woman and her son were arrested over the murder of a member of the community's vigilante group. Two cases reported in Delta state this month also related to the health system. In one case reported in Sapele LGA, a woman died following complications from an abortion procedure, after her husband allegedly plotted her death with a nurse. In another case, a woman in Aniocha South LGA reportedly died due to a doctor's negligence after giving birth to twins.

### Kaduna

Kaduna state reported five incidents of VAWG during the month of March. Three of these reports involved physical or sexual violence. Two cases, both reported in Kaduna North LGA, involved husbands beating their wives. One case of child sexual abuse was reported in Kaduna South, in which a four-year-old girl was raped by a neighbour. One case of forced marriage and one case of denied inheritance were also reported during the month.

### Kano

Kano state reported six incidents of VAWG during the month. Five of these incidents involved sexual abuse of underage girls. In one case reported in Ungogo LGA, four

underage girls were raped by a teacher. In another case reported in Bichi LGA, a 14-year-old girl was raped by a 73-year-old man while returning home from her farm. In the one incident reported in Kumbotso LGA, a 12-year-old girl was found drugged and unconscious on the street.

## Violence Affecting Boys

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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.

Four reported incidents from NSRP Observatory data sources were related to violence affecting boys in March. Two of these cases were reported in Delta state. In one case, a young boy was attacked with a razor blade by unknown perpetrators. In the other case, an 18-year-old boy was shot dead by a member of a vigilante group.

One case of violence affecting boys was also reported in Bayelsa state. In this case, reported in Ekeremor LGA, a boy was shot and killed by unknown gunmen. The final case reported this month took place in Borno state. A boy who was a suspected JAS suicide bomber was shot dead by soldiers.

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

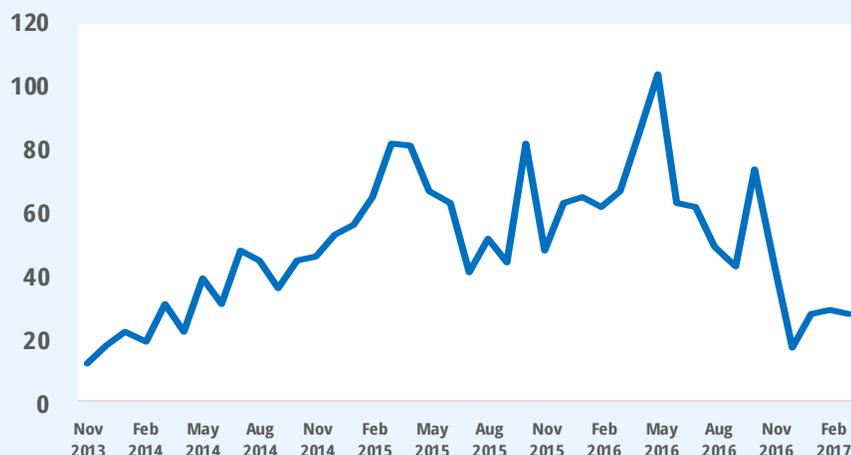


Figure 4: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

*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 28 incidents of VAWG reported in March 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	Sept 2016	684
Feb 2016	991	Oct 2016	1210
Mar 2016	1154	Nov 2016	852
Apr 2016	621	Dec 2016	727
May 2016	1367	Jan 2017	1550
June 2016	1010	Feb 2017	1635
July 2016	815	Mar 2017	1960
Aug 2016	675		

### Page Views through NSRP

Jan 2016	215	Sept 2016	139
Feb 2016	121	Oct 2016	249
Mar 2016	107	Nov 2016	227
Apr 2016	83	Dec 2016	163
May 2016	144	Jan 2017	279
June 2016	131	Feb 2017	198
July 2016	153	Mar 2017	175
Aug 2016	184		

## Objective 4

### Locations of Incidents, Agents

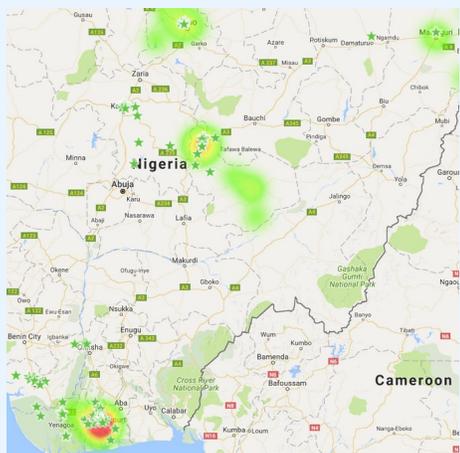


Figure 5: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – March 2017

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	
<b>Kano</b>	<i>Kano</i>	Center for Documentation	<b>Rivers</b>	<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>	Kebetskache 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>	Kebetskache Women Development	
		Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative		<i>Ikwerre</i>	Ikwerre Women Forum	
				<i>Obio/Akpor</i>	Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law	
				<i>Port Harcourt</i>	Center for Creative Arts Education	
<b>Plateau</b>	<i>Jos</i>	Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)			Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State Branch	
		Inclusive Friends			Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)	
	<i>Jos East</i>	Jos University Teaching Hospital			Gender and Development Action (GADA)	
					Kebetskache Women Development	
	<i>Jos North</i>	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)			Lokiakia Community Development Centre	
		Christian Rural and Rural Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN)			Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)	
		Fahariya Adolescent Development Network			Palmbits IPWC	
		Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria			Partners for Peace	
		International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Plateau State Chapter			Rimwof Project	
		Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)			Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)	
		Justice Development Peace and Caritas			Women in Peace and Security Network	
		Manna Resource Development Centre			African Center for Peace and Development Nigeria	
		National Human Rights Commission				
		National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS				
		The Nigeria Working Group				
		Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)		<b>Yobe</b>		
		Wiscod				
		<i>Jos South</i>	Country Women Association of Nigeria			