

# Violence Affecting Women and Girls in Select Nigerian States

Quarterly Report 5 (May-July 2015): Updates on 8 Target NSRP States

The top three themes related to VAWG during this period were insurgency, sexual violence, and domestic abuse. Other themes included abductions, intercommunal violence and gang-related violence.

## Insurgency

Trends in insurgency violence related to VAWG this quarter were consistent with trends seen over the past year of reporting. In the eight target NSRP states, the majority of reported violence was perpetrated by individuals believed to be associated with JAS (more commonly known as Boko Haram) in Borno, Kano, Kaduna and Yobe states in the Northeast and North Central parts of Nigeria.

Although the outlook at the beginning of May was generally positive, with the rescue of almost one thousand women and children from JAS-occupied camps, as well as other encouraging steps taken by the Nigerian Army, by month's end there was a spate of young female suicide bombers detonating explosives in crowded markets, killing themselves and dozens of others.

The reported incidents of young female suicide bombers spiked in June, with over twelve reports in Borno and Yobe resulting in almost 90 reported casualties. Incidents

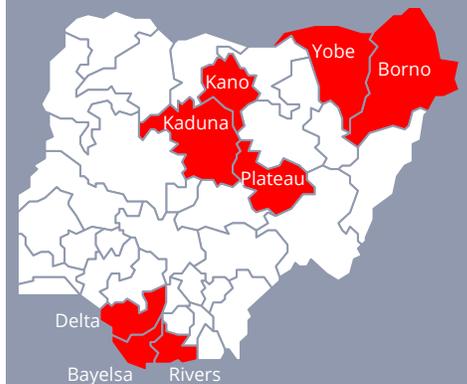
included an explosion by a female suicide bomber at a military check point that killed eight soldiers, the coordinated attack of three female suicide bombers in the Borno State capital of Maiduguri, a detonation by a pair of female suicide bombers at a crowded Maiduguri market, and a twelve year old who detonated her device and killed over 30 civilians. Also in June, in a violent encounter between JAS insurgents and a group of soldiers and vigilantes, over 40 were killed when the insurgents used women and children as shields.

Lastly, in July, seven of the eight reports related to JAS were of female suicide bombers, including one suicide attack carried out in Kaduna. Also, in Yobe, thirty-seven people were killed and dozens other were injured when a female suicide bomber attacked a school. In an attack, which included a girl assumed to be as young as ten years old, fifty civilians were killed at the screening area for Muslim worshippers. In an attack on a local market carried out by a young, mentally handicapped female, 15 civilians were reported dead with over 50 reported injured.

## Sexual Violence

Sexual violence continues to make up the majority of reported incidents outside of the Northeast. There were 56 reported

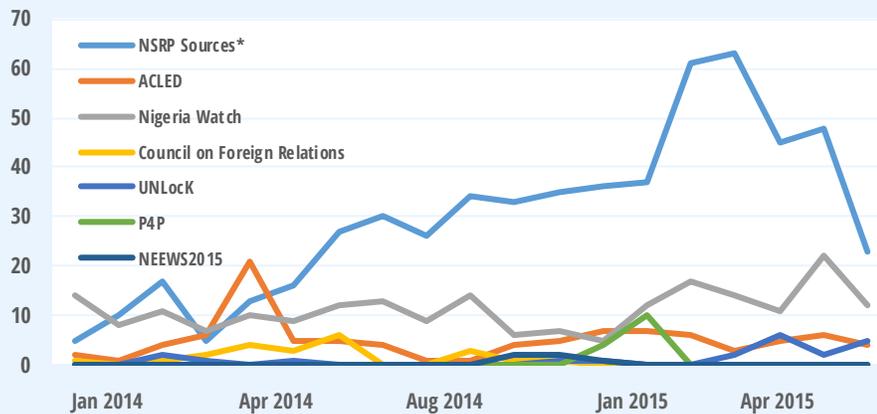
## NSRP Target States



This report summarizes the main findings as detailed in three memos produced during the fifth quarter of data collection and analysis. This quarterly report covers the time period from May to July 2015.

*Scope and Limitations: We recognize that the data collected in this project is not an exhaustive tally of all incidents of violence. However, to the extent that data are representative of the patterns and trends, findings are indicated in the report.*

## Monthly VAWG Reports by Source



Trend shows that monthly reports from NSRP Sources have increased steadily since the beginning of the project, far exceeding other sources integrated onto the Observatory platform. This indicates progress towards the project objective of breaking the culture of silence around issues of Violence Against Women and Girls.

incidents of sexual violence during the three month period of May, June and July, with the most incidents occurring in Rivers State. The most commonly reported incident was the rape and assault of young girls, some as young as seven, by family members and unknown attackers. Occasionally, groups of girls were also reported raped. In Jos, for example, a 72-year-old man was arrested for raping six girls and was later released from jail. In Rivers, an 11-year-old was raped by multiple men. Despite the frequent threats from their assailants that they would be harmed or killed if they reported being raped or assaulted, the increased levels of reporting of these incidents suggests that some victims were not deterred by these threats. For instance, in Bassa, a retired Major raped a girl twice on a farm and threatened to kill her if anyone found out. After two days of silence, the girl's aunt convinced her to report the incident. In certain cases, the rape was especially violent and resulted in either death or other permanent mental or physical disabilities. A seven-year-old girl was raped and burned by a man and later died of her injuries at a

hospital in Jos. Another incident in Jos involved an HIV-positive man raping, infecting, and impregnating a woman. In a final incident of note, a husband raped his wife despite medical instructions that she must temporarily abstain from intercourse, thereby causing the woman injury.

### Domestic Abuse

Consistent with previous trends, domestic abuse was reported throughout the country. In the three months examined, 25 of the 52 total reported incidents of domestic abuse occurred in Plateau state. Beatings, of women and daughters especially, were the most commonly reported incident type this quarter. In Jos, there was the beating of a woman accused of being a witch. Oftentimes, the victims sustained severe injuries. There were two separate incidents where women had their hands broken as a result of a beating. In another incident, a man set a young girl on fire. These abuses were commonly perpetrated by family members. In Riyom, a woman reported that her sister was beaten

by her husband and sustained a severe facial injury. Another husband severely beat his wife because she had failed to provide him with a son in Jos. Incidents of familial neglect were also reported. In late June, it was reported that a husband provided nothing for his family, forcing his wife and daughter to beg for their survival.

### Inter-Communal Violence

There were relatively few incidents of intercommunal violence as related to VAWG reported this quarter, with the majority of events occurring in Plateau state. All three events reported in Plateau state can be categorized as acts of inter-communal violence, usually involving herdsmen and farmers. In late June, when a group of herdsmen attacked a community farm, a girl and her mother were killed, and her brother sustained injuries. The following month, on 26 July, three women and a man were also killed by men on horses. An incident in Riyom resulted in an unspecified death toll following an attack during a community harvest. Women and children reportedly perished in the incident.

### Abductions

Reports of VAWG tied to abductions during this quarter took place throughout all three months in Bayelsa, Rivers, and Kano states. In Kano, all of the reported abductions took place in mid-May. Incidents included the abduction of a 22-year-old woman by a man she refused to marry (he was later arrested and prosecuted), two students (a boy and a girl) that were abducted and stabbed by an unknown assailant, and an 8-year-old girl was abducted for two weeks and sexually abused by two men reportedly from the State Fire Service, who demanded one million naira before releasing her. In what could potentially be a politically motivated incident in June, the wife of the former governor of Yenagoa LGA was abducted by unidentified persons in Bayelsa. Lastly, in

Rivers state in July, the wife of the former chairman of Eleme LGA was abducted and murdered by supposedly hired assassins in a politically motivated incident of VAWG.

## Gang Violence

In Delta State, gang violence remains the primary cause of reported incidents, where in June a 16-year-old and three others were killed by cultists. Also in Delta state, an armed female robber was shot and killed when her gang engaged police in a violent clash.

## Other Incidents

In May in Plateau, a woman was harassed and beaten in front of her children by people who accused her of witchcraft. Also in May, a woman in Rivers was beaten by both male and female police officers when she tried to intervene in the abuse of a bus driver. An array of other violent incidents relating to women and girls occurred in June in Plateau state, including an 18-year-old girl who was set on fire and ultimately killed by an older man who accused her of being a witch, two women who were shot and killed by Special Task Force members during a protest of a local road block, and a 13-year-old girl who had to drop out of school in order to be forcibly married. Individual reports of VAWG in July included the murder of a 16-year-old girl and her father by the girl's uncle with a machete in Delta state, and a woman who was threatened in Rivers by three men whose brother had been stabbed by her son.

*LGA level charts are provided for individual states where ten or more reports were received for the quarter. Where fewer than ten reports were received for a state, no chart is provided.*

## Bayelsa State

Throughout the quarter, abductions were the most frequently reported occurrence of VAWG in Bayelsa, making up half of the reported incidents. The other incident reported was related to domestic violence in the state. Women were also involved in protests this quarter in Bayelsa, mainly over the lack of access to public services. Most incidents reported occurred in Yenagoa LGA.

## Nembe

In late May, it was reported that a group of youth and women infiltrated and shut down production at two petroleum flow stations. The group was reportedly protesting the unfulfilled promise of regular access to electricity in the region. Of the seven protests that occurred in the state overall, three were related to energy infrastructure and public services.

## Southern Ijaw

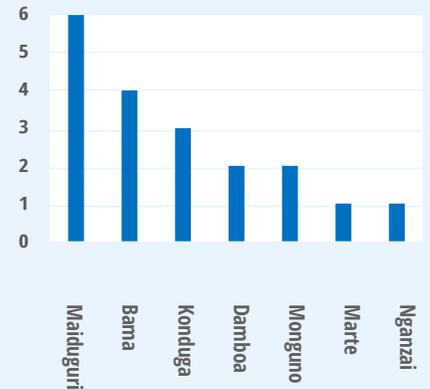
The only incident of VAWG reported in Southern Ijaw this quarter also reflects a growing trend of abductions in Bayelsa. In late June, three women were reportedly kidnapped from a market in Southern Ijaw by a group of gunmen. One bystander was killed attempting to prevent the kidnapping.

## Yenagoa

In early May, it was reported that a man attacked and killed his girlfriend following an argument over alleged infidelity. While previous trends have indicated that Bayelsa is more typically afflicted by cultist and gang violence, this quarter is characterized by domestic violence and abductions. One such incident occurred in late June when the wife of a former Governor was reportedly abducted. This incident followed a series of reported kidnappings in Yenagoa, an indication of a current and increasing trend in the area. It remains unclear whether the abduction was politically motivated.

## Borno State

### Borno Reports by LGA



VAWG reports for period by LGA. All sources.

As in previous bulletins, all reported incidents of VAWG in Borno state over the last quarter have been related to the JAS insurgency. Although there were successful initiatives by the Nigerian Army against the insurgency in early May with the rescue of over one thousand women and children from JAS camps in the Sambisa Forest, tensions were heightened throughout the quarter as sexual violence was reportedly perpetrated by insurgents and the number of young, female suicide bombers increased markedly. June and July also witnessed three times as many reported suicide bombings as the months of April and May, many of which were committed by young women. Of the 13 reported suicide bombings in June, eight were committed by women. As in past reports, most incidents occurred in Maiduguri LGA although attacks occurred throughout the state.

## Bama

Bama is one of several communities that was liberated from JAS occupation in early May. During the counter-insurgency operation, 26 female hostages were killed. Ten of the women were stoned by insurgents as military forces approached, ten were killed in an accident involving an Armored Military Personnel Carrier, three

were killed by a landmine, and three women were killed by crossfire. Days later, 25 more women were freed from nearby JAS encampments in Sambisa forest.

## Damboa

In mid-May, JAS insurgents attacked Giwi Barracks, killing at least 55 civilians. Two female suicide bombers also killed six individuals in the same attack. In early July, a female suicide bomber of approximately 23 years of age, detonated explosives in her vehicle, killing herself and four others at a military checkpoint in Sabon Gari.

## Konduga

In early June, three suicide bombers suspected of having ties to JAS were killed by police. The three female suicide bombers were reportedly attempting to attack Maiduguri.

In late June, two female suicide bombers who were suspected to have ties to the JAS insurgency were killed when their bombs detonated prematurely. It was reported that they were attempting to target crowded buses. In the beginning of July, at least 13 people were killed when two female suicide bombers with reported ties to JAS detonated explosives in two separate attacks on a local highway. The two bombers' alleged targets were markets along the road to Maiduguri.

## Maiduguri

In late May, JAS launched a coordinated assault on several villages in Maiduguri, which resulted in mass displacement as well as over fifty casualties. Although Nigerian military forces were able to repel the insurgent forces and many insurgents were killed, at least six vigilantes and three soldiers were killed when a pair of female suicide bombers detonated their explosives. In early June, a female suicide bomber

detonated explosives at a military checkpoint outside of Maiduguri, killing many, including eight soldiers.

Later in the month, two female suicide bombers attacked a market in Maiduguri in an attempted attack of a nearby mosque, resulting in at least 35 people killed and more than 50 injured. The two bombers reportedly waited until the afternoon prayer had begun to detonate their explosives.

## Marte

In early June, a female suicide bomber who is assumed to have had ties to the JAS insurgency detonated her explosive, killing herself along with two other victims.

## Monguno

In a massive attack which resulted in over sixty casualties, a bag containing explosives was accidentally detonated by members of a local vigilante group comprised of both young men and women. The bag is reported to have been abandoned by JAS insurgents as they withdrew from the town. Also in June, a female suicide bomber detonated her explosives, killing herself and two others, as well as injuring multiple bystanders.

## Nganzai

In mid-June, two civilians were killed in an attack by three female suicide bombers with alleged ties to JAS. Two of the suicide bombers boarded separate vehicles and killed themselves along with their drivers en route to a checkpoint. The third bomber detonated her explosives in an attempt to destroy a passing vehicle, killing herself. It is unclear if the driver of the passing vehicle sustained injuries.

## Delta State

While there was a reduction in the number of VAWG incidents reported in Delta this quarter, those that were reported reflect continued incidents of insecurity throughout the state. Evidence of group grievance was captured in incidents of violence by cultist groups. In addition, the violence perpetuated by gangs and an increasing number of clashes between rival groups continued to fuel instability in Delta. There was one incident each for the four reported LGAs in the quarter.

### Aniocha South

On 9 July, a group of youths attacked and killed a policeman at the request of his ex-wife, who is also a member of the police force. While this is direct violence against women, it is showing a different type of violence that can affect women and girls.

### Ethiope West

In early June, three people - including a 16-year-old girl - were murdered by cultists. Cult violence has been an ongoing problem in Delta state and cults have recently been focusing their attacks in this community.

### Ika South

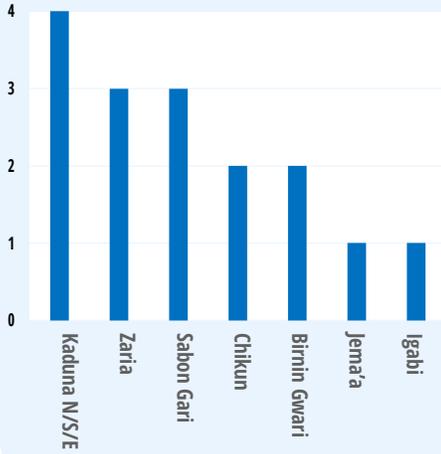
In July a 16-year-old girl and her father were murdered by the girl's uncle, who attacked them with machetes while they were sleeping.

### Isoko South

In Isoko South LGA in May, an armed female gang member was shot and killed in a shootout between her gang and police.

## Kaduna State

**Kaduna Reports by LGA**



VAWG reports for period by LGA. All sources.

Over the most recent quarter, reports of VAWG in Kaduna state followed the trend of the recent past and involved mostly incidents of sexual abuse and domestic violence. An incident purportedly related to the JAS insurgency illustrates the growing effect of the group on Nigeria as violence continues to spread from the Northeastern corner of the country.

### Kaduna N/S/E

In June, a father raped his daughter in Kaduna South, which was the only reported incident of sexual violence over the last quarter. The three incidents of domestic abuse that were reported included a woman who clubbed her husband to death for staying out late, a young woman who was repeatedly beaten and punished by her brother's wife, and a woman who reported abandonment and threats from her husband.

### Zaria

The two reported incidents of VAWG in Zaria LGA both involved cases of sexual violence. In May, a gang of men abducted, drugged, and raped a young girl. In July, a seven-year-old girl was sexually violated by a 27-year-old man who called her into his room.

### Sabon Gari

All reported incidents of VAWG from Sabon Gari LGA during the last quarter took place in the month of July. Two of the reports detailed incidents of sexual violence, including a child who was raped by a community resident who also stole three thousand naira from her, as well as a young girl who was raped by an older man whom she didn't know as he saw her passing on the street. In early July, a female suicide bomber thought to be affiliated with JAS, detonated her explosive at a school, which killed at least 37 people and injured 32.

### Chikun

In May, a man in Chikun LGA raped his young daughter in her room. This was the only incident of VAWG reported during the last quarter.

### Birnin Gwari

Consistent with previous reports from Birnin Gwari, the area continues to be the target of bandit raids. The only reported incident of VAWG in the LGA over the last quarter involved at least five women who were raped and killed by gunmen who had attacked their town.

### Jema'a

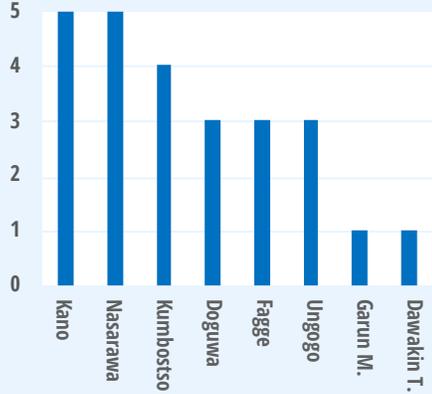
This quarter in Jema'a LGA, a young girl reportedly collaborated with a male coworker at a hotel in recruiting young girls into a commercial sex business.

### Igabi

In July, a widowed woman who lives with her children at her brother's house reported consistent incidents of disagreements resulting in violence against her perpetrated by her brother.

**Kano State**

**Kano Reports by LGA**



VAWG reports for period by LGA. All sources.

Consistent with previous trends, the majority of VAWG incidents reported in Kano this quarter entailed domestic violence and domestic abuse. There were multiple reports of assault and battery as well as child abuse. After a decrease in insurgency-related events last quarter in Kano, there was a report of a teenage female suicide bomber attacking a local mosque in Kano. Most incidents occurred in Kano and Nasarawa LGAs, followed by Kumbostso.

**Dawakin Tofa**

In Dawakin Tofa LGA an incident that involved the defilement of an eight-year-old girl by an older man was reported.

**Doguwa**

On 11 May, a man abducted a 22-year-old woman who had refused to marry him and married someone else instead. In another incident of violence, on 22 May, a woman reported that she had been raped by five men before her marriage. One of these men impregnated her and she gave birth two months after her marriage.

**Fagge**

Incidents involving abductions were the most common VAWG incident reported in Fagge this quarter. On 20 May, a man abducted a male and female student from the primary school, stabbed them, and left them in a latrine pit. The girl later died from her wounds. Three days later, it was reported that a man had previously abducted a 27-year old mentally ill woman and taken her to his house where he repeatedly sexually assaulted her over a two year period.

**Garun Mallam**

An incident reported in Garun Mallam involved three girls between the ages of seven and twelve who were all assaulted by a 15 year old boy.

**Kano**

The types of VAWG incidents reported in Kano were highly varied this quarter. On 24 May, there was a report of a husband beating his wife. On 6 July, a female suicide bomber detonated an explosive near a mosque, but was the only victim of the attack because the worshippers had already left. On 25 July, security agents shot and killed a taxi driver and his female passenger when they didn't stop for environmental inspections. Two days later, a woman beat her 12-year-old daughter with electric wire to the point of nearly blinding her because the daughter "refused to go to school and went out constantly."

**Kumbostso**

There were three VAWG incidents in Kumbostso, all of which involved sexual violence. An eight-year-old girl was abducted and sexually assaulted by two members of the fire service in May. Later that month, a nine-year-old girl was raped by a family member. Exactly one month later, an 11-year-old girl was raped by a Keke Napep driver.

**Nasarawa**

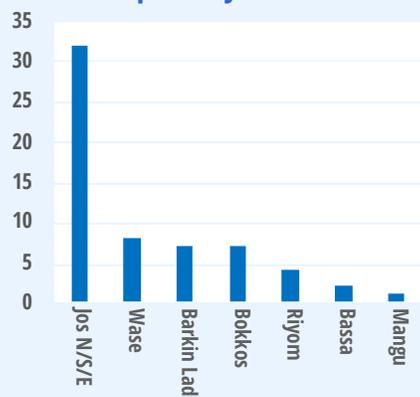
The incidents of VAWG over the last quarter involved both sexual and domestic violence. In May, a 14-year-old girl, who was displaced from Borno State due to JAS-related violence, was abducted and forced into prostitution by an older woman. Also in May, a young girl with injuries all over her body, indicated that she was brutally beaten by the woman she works for. The following month, a woman was reportedly abused and abandoned by her husband because she asked for clothes for their children.

**Ungogo**

In June in Ungogo LGA, a 45-year-old man reportedly defiled and raped a 13-year-old girl. During the same month, a woman was killed by her husband in a domestic dispute.

## Plateau State

### Plateau Reports by LGA



VAWG reports for period by LGA. All sources.

As in previous quarters, the majority of VAWG incidents in Plateau for May, June, and July mainly entailed sexual violence and/or domestic violence and abuse. Rape was a particularly common incident this quarter with 21 cases reported. Jos North, South and East LGAs by far had the most reports of VAWG for the quarter.

#### Bassa

The two VAWG incidents reported in Bassa both involved rape. In mid-July, an retired Major raped a girl twice at a farm and threatened to kill her if she reported the incident. Later that month, a girl was beaten and sexually assaulted by a relative.

#### Barkin Ladi

The seven VAWG incidents reported in Barkin Ladi this quarter both entailed violence and abuse. In mid-June, a man set an adolescent girl on fire after accusing her of being a witch. Days later, a woman reported that her sister had received severe facial injuries from domestic violence inflicted by the victim's husband. Also in June, two women were shot by members of the Special Task Force during a protest of recent roadblocks that had been put up in their village. In both June and July, multiple women and girls were murdered by suspected Fulani herdsmen over land and

cattle conflicts. In what seemed to be random acts of violence, a man, woman, and their eight-year-old daughter were murdered by unknown assailants in June, and violence escalated so much in the month of July that a local health clinic was turned into an operational base following the murder of many women and children.

#### Bokkos

Consistent with previous trends, all of the VAWG incidents in Bakkos for May, June, and July involved domestic and sexual violence. There were two incidents of domestic abuse perpetrated by husbands with substance abuse issues. There were another two incidents of beatings resulting in severe injuries. In mid-June, a woman fled her home to escape her husband who had beaten her severely. Late in June, a woman's hand was broken during a domestic dispute with her husband. An episode of sexual violence occurred when a husband raped his wife, despite medical instructions requiring that she was not to engage in sexual activity for limited time period.

#### Jos N/S/E

In the last quarter, there were 11 reported incidents of rape, with the majority of victims being young and adolescent girls. In May, a seven-year-old was raped and burned by an unknown attacker and later died of her injuries. An older man raped a young girl and infected her with HIV, and a 14-year-old was raped by a middle-aged man in the same month. In the following two months, an 8, 10, and 16-year-old girl were raped in separate incidents. A young boy raped a girl while she was retrieving water at a well, there was a gang rape of a teenage girl, and a 72-year-old man was arrested for raping six girls, but was later released.

Concerning domestic violence, there were 20 incidents reported in the three-month time period. The majority of the incidents involved husbands and other family members beating their wives and children.

In mid-May, one woman sustained severe injuries and had her hand was broken by her husband. Another husband beat his wife because she had failed to produce a son. In another May incident, a woman was beaten after facing accusations of being a witch. On 23 June, an incident of child abuse and neglect was reported after it was discovered that a man did not provide for his family, thereby forcing his wife and daughter to beg for their daily needs. Two days later, it was reported that a woman beat her maid to death with a pestle.

#### Mangu

The sole reported incident of VAWG in Mangu this quarter was the rape of a girl by a middle aged man, which occurred in late May.

#### Riyom

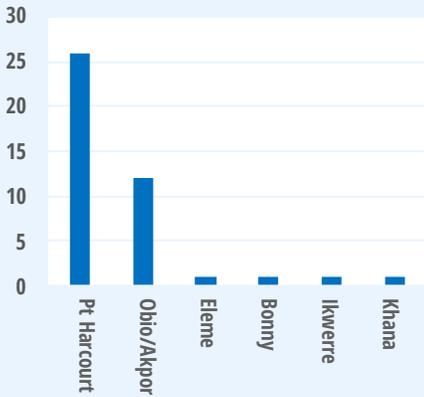
In Riyom, there was one VAWG incident in the quarter. In early June, a 24 year old raped a girl. He was arrested and later released on bail.

#### Wase

The majority of the reported incidents in Wase entailed rape of young girls by older men. In mid-May, a man raped a young girl after requesting that she retrieve water for him. The remaining four of the five total VAWG incidents reported in the quarter occurred in mid-June. An 11-year-old was raped by a 40-year-old man, a 14-year-old was raped by a 50-year-old, and a 60-year-old man was caught engaging in intercourse with a young girl in a public market. A reported incident of domestic abuse occurred in mid-June, when a woman beat her younger sister with a pestle and encouraged the other siblings to beat the younger sister as well. In late June, a forced marriage was reported involving a 13-year-old girl who was removed from school.

## Rivers State

### Rivers Reports by LGA



VAWG reports for period by LGA. All sources.

Consistent with trends from previous quarters, the majority of reports of VAWG during the months of May, June, and July in Rivers State involved domestic violence and sexual abuse. As in Plateau, rape was a commonly reported incident this quarter with more than 12 cases, with most incidents being reported in Port Harcourt LGA.

#### Bonny

In Bonny LGA in June, a four-year-old girl was repeatedly defiled by both her grandfather and her half-brother.

#### Eleme

In May, a female radio personality was killed when armed robbers opened fire on the bus she has boarded in Eleme LGA.

#### Ikwerre

Over the last quarter, an incident of VAWG took place in late June when a man raped a pair of twin sisters on their way back from their mother's shop.

#### Khana

In the last quarter, the two reported cases of VAWG in Khana LGA took place in June when a thirteen-year-old girl was abducted and subsequently raped for three days and in mid-June when a 15-year-old was gang raped by three men.

#### Port Harcourt

In Port Harcourt LGA alone, there were thirteen reports of sexual violence during the three-month period of this quarter, many of which involved the rape of young girls by much older men. In May, a young man threatened to rape his 16-year-old step-sister, and an 11-year-old girl was raped by multiple men. The following month, a seven-year-old girl was sexually assaulted up to four times by her 45-year-old neighbor, who threatened to kill her if she reported it to anybody, and a baby was molested by a 49-year-old man. In the month of July, two more incidents of rape were reported, and in both cases the victims were under the age of seven.

The nine reports of domestic violence in Port Harcourt over the last quarter all involved wives being abused by their husbands. In June, a woman was beat up and kicked out of her house by her husband for alleged misconduct, while in July a woman was abused and abandoned for taking money in order to feed her children. Also in July, a man beat up his pregnant wife, and a woman who confronted her husband about extramarital relationships was abused and injured. Also in July, the wife of the former chairman of the Eleme LGA was abducted and murdered by men who were suspected to be a hired assassin in what was assumed to be a politically motivated incident.

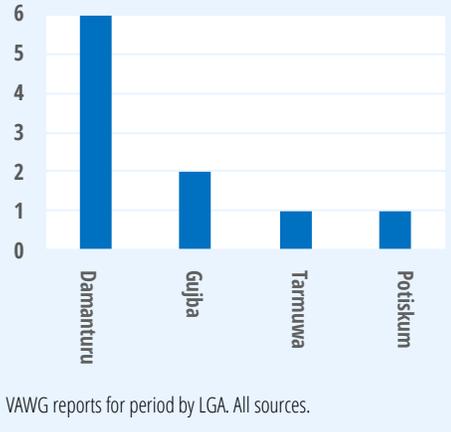
#### Obio/Akpor

The trends of sexual abuse and domestic violence in Rivers state were continued in Obio/Akpor LGA during this quarter. In May, an eight-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a 38-year-old vendor in her neighborhood and a 14-year-old girl was raped by a man twice her age. In June, a nine-year-old girl was repeatedly raped and threatened by a 40-year-old family member.

In addition to women being abused by their husbands over the three month period, in an act of revenge for previous abuses, an 18-year-old girl murdered her mother with a plank. Lastly, in May, a woman was beaten by both male and female police officers while she was trying to intervene as a bus driver was being abused.

## Yobe State

### Yobe Reports by LGA



Over the last quarter, all reported incidents of VAWG in Yobe state were related to the JAS insurgency, the majority of which involved young female suicide bombers and occurred in Damaturu LGA. This continues a trend over the past year of JAS insurgents increasingly using young female suicide bombers in attacks.

#### Damaturu

Six of the ten reported incidents over the months of May, June, and July in Yobe took place in Damaturu LGA. In mid-May, a girl believed to be as young as twelve years old and suspected to be involved with JAS detonated a suicide pack near a crowded bus depot, killing eight and injuring over thirty. In July, the upward trend of female suicide bombers continued when fifty people were killed in an attack at the screening area for Muslim worshippers and in front of the former state secretariat. In another attack, assumed to have been linked with JAS twenty people were killed at a market when a ten-year-old female suicide bomber detonated her explosives.

#### Gujba

In Gujba, the two reported incidents of VAWG during the last quarter both involved young girls - believed to be in relation to JAS - detonating suicide bombs in crowded areas. This trend has been reflected more and more frequently in recent months throughout Northeastern Nigeria. In June, a twelve-year-old female suicide bomber detonated her explosive in a crowded market, which killed thirty people and injured many.

#### Potiskum

In July, a reported incident of VAWG in the Potiskum LGA involved a JAS-affiliated suicide bomber. Although the bomber in this incident was male, among the six casualties of the explosion were two women and their children. The bomb was detonated at a church and was targeting local worshippers.

#### Tarmuwa

In a clash between suspected JAS insurgents and Nigerian soldiers, women and young children were used as shields by the JAS members. Although the specific number of women killed was not reported, over forty people were killed in the incident.

## Project Objectives

### 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.*

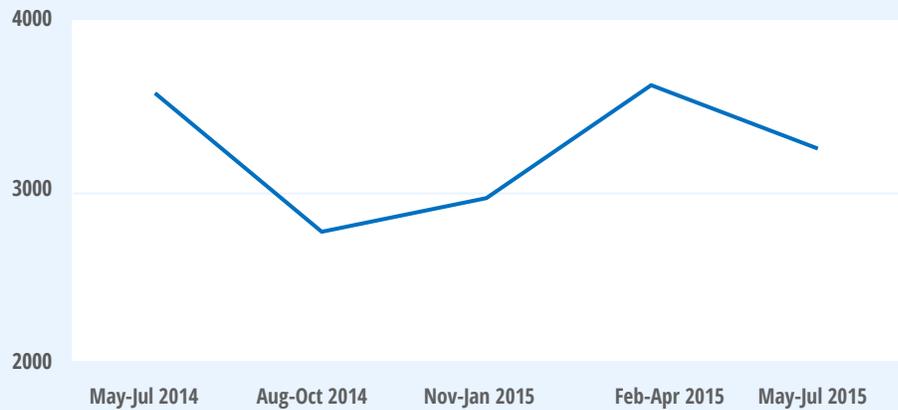
During the time period of May to July 2015, FFP produced three VAWG memos measuring trends across the eight NSRP states. Data from Observatory data points in Plateau, Rivers, Kano, and Kaduna continue to provide the largest number of highly- detailed reports on VAWG overall. As media coverage of the insurgency and other violent incidents has decreased in the Northeast region, however, the number of reports originating from Borno has reduced, while Yobe remains low. Reporting from both Delta and Bayelsa states have also decreased over the quarter and would benefit from either service points of their own, a hybrid model, or outreach from NSRP and/or its partners to collect more ground-level data. Later this year, NSRP will open a new Observatory point in Borno which should serve to provide more detail about incidents and trends in insurgency violence that afflict the Northeast.

### Objective 2

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

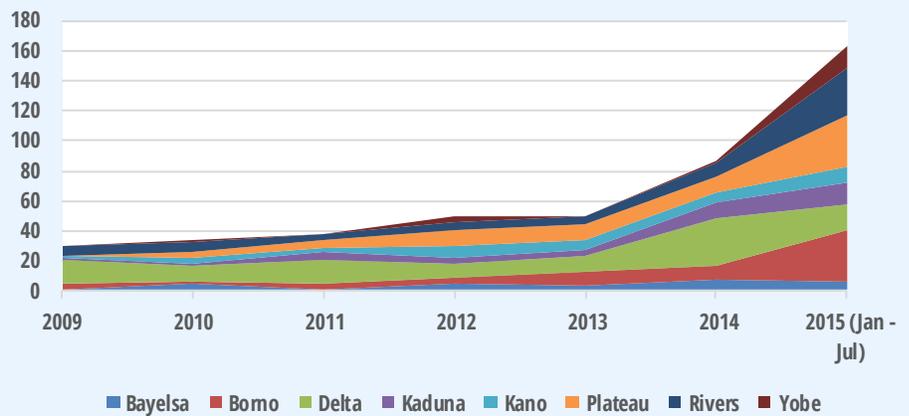
One of the objectives of this initiative is to break the culture of silence around incidents of VAWG. The general increased number of reports to the NSRP sources filter is indicative that overall reporting has increased as well, assuming a higher level of awareness, at least in several key states, of VAWG. The increased number of reports is perhaps an indication that the fear and stigma surrounding violence affecting women and girls has decreased as well. Even in months like July, where reporting

### All Reported Fatalities (Men and Women)



Trends in overall fatalities due to violence in the eight NSRP States as reported by Nigeria Watch data.

### Violence Against Women and Girls



Stacked Area Chart shows a sharp increase in VAWG in 2014-2015 as reported by Nigeria Watch data.

decreased slightly, the overall trend of increased reporting shows active involvement in the initiative.

### Objective 3

*Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other*

*deployments of the tool.*

A platform update in May allowed FFP and NSRP to begin tracking the number of visits to the Observatory Platform Map. In the short time that this functionality has been available, we have seen a general increase in the number of visits to the Map. NSRP is in the process of updating the link to the

Observatory web page. Through this update and joint efforts from all of our observatory partners, more traffic will be directed to the page, thereby increasing awareness further.

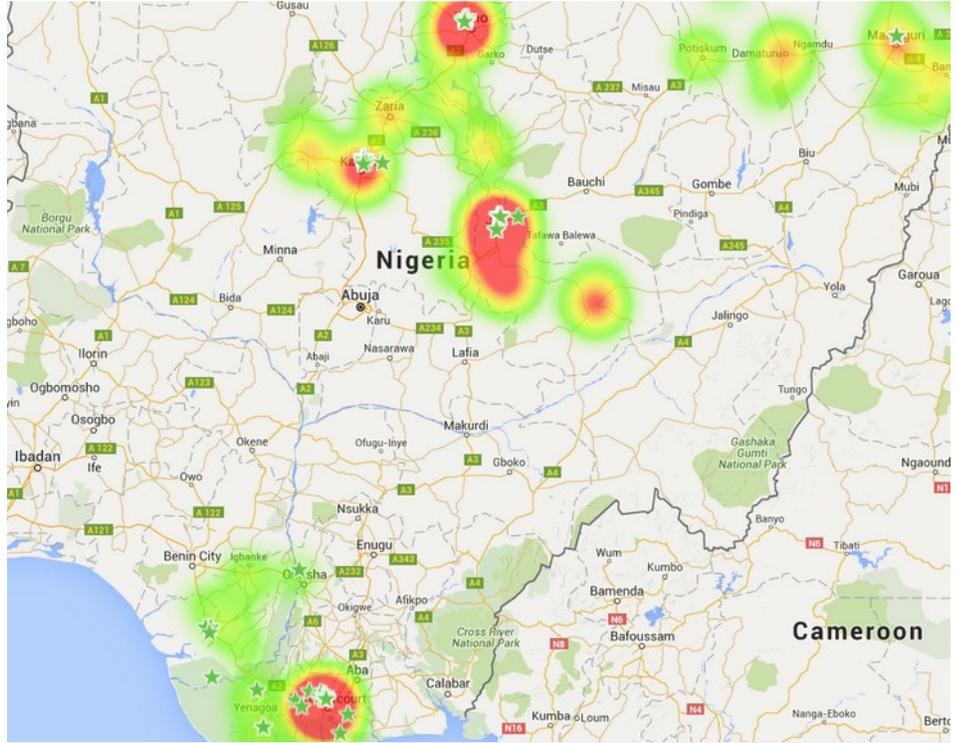
### Objective 4

*Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response*

Since the start of this project eighteen months ago, the amount of participation and the number of partnerships has continued to grow, providing hope that preventative response opportunities will also increase. Through the Observatory, multi-faceted cooperation has nearly doubled the number of Peace Agents registered on the Map focusing on gender issues, reaching 64 registered Agents in July. Further outreach is illustrated through social media efforts to increase awareness of VAWG incidents and reports.

### Improvements to the Platform

In the second half of May, a web-based application was developed that tracks traffic to the Map in terms of which deployment platform is used and overall visits. This application serves as a means of measuring awareness of the Observatory and associated objectives. 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 Map deployments accomplishes more toward this objective than if it were visible on the NSRP website alone.



Green stars represent Gender-Focused Interventions registered on the Observatory platform.



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