Over the three months of November 2015 to January 2016, there were 150 reported incidents of VAWG across the eight NSRP focus states coming from all deployments of the online platform. As with previous quarters, the major reported themes of VAWG incidents were child sexual abuse, and domestic violence. In the Northeast, while reported violence continues to be centered around the insurgency and counter-insurgency, there has been an increase in reports of domestic violence with the establishment of the Borno Observatory service point. All data sources were used in the analysis of this report.

Child Abuse

There were 47 counts of child sexual violence reported during the time period of November 2015 to January 2016. Reports of abuse are not localized to one area but are spread across the country. In the majority of reported cases, the survivors were attacked by men they did not know. When looking at the incidents being reported, it is important to remember the role of stigma in reporting; mainly, sexual abuse inside the home appears to be reported far less than abuse happening outside of it.

Child abuse that isn’t simultaneously classified as sexual abuse is less often reported. There were eight counts of child abuse, not also reported as sexual abuse, during this period. Physical abuse, when reported, is often severe enough that the survivor must be hospitalized. When corporal punishment is viewed as a legitimate form of discipline, it becomes unclear when it should be reported as child abuse.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is reported with high frequency across all states, particularly those with service points. It is less often reported in states that rely primarily on media for reporting. When it is reported, such as incidents of physical abuse against children, it is usually severe enough to cause lasting injury. The more domestic violence is reported and the more that it is viewed as abuse, the easier it will be to break the culture of silence that exists around violence in the home.

Spousal abandonment has been reported with more frequency in the last quarter. Wives are being left with their children, often with no way to support themselves. Often this is classified as gender-based human rights abuses because there isn’t necessarily physical abuse involved. When a woman has been a housewife, and that is her whole life experience, being left by her significant other puts her in a very vulnerable position.

Insurgency

In the Northeast, insurgency and counter-insurgency continues to have a major impact on the lives of women and girls. As overall violence in the region has dropped, violence affecting women and girls has increased. The shift of the JAS insurgency to using women and girls as suicide bombers as well as the shift towards attacking soft targets, like markets and bus stations, puts woman and girls at far greater risk.
During this quarter there were also many reports of counter-insurgency efforts made by the Nigerian military rescuing women and children from JAS strong holds.

Other Incidents

General crime targeting women is a widely reported theme in the Niger Delta region. Women are a vulnerable population and are seen as easy victims for crimes of opportunity, including purse snatching, sexual assault and general harassment. Incidents of forced marriage are being reported in the North Central Region and in the Northeast. Girls under the age of 18 are reportedly being forced to marry men 20-40 years their seniors with regularity.

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.

Borno had the highest number of reported fatalities and had the fourth highest reported incidents overall. Throughout the Northeast, but especially in Borno, the JAS insurgency as well as government counter-insurgency operations have driven reporting over the past quarter. The number of female suicide bombers thought to be affiliated with JAS continued to be a rising trend in the state.

Maiduguri

Maiduguri experienced several suicide bombings over the last quarter and also witnessed an increase in reporting of domestic violence as well as sexual violence incidents.

On January 22, two JAS affiliated suicide bombers killed an estimated 15 people. The first explosion occurred when a female suicide bomber detonated an explosive in the midst of a crowded checkpoint. The second attack was carried out by a young girl on a bus near a military checkpoint. The second attack was carried out by a young girl on a bus near a military checkpoint.

Another pair of suicide attacks occurred on January 27. In what is believed to have been a coordinated attack, there was an explosion at a mosque which killed 25 people and injured 85 others. Approximately 130km to the west of that incident, a second attack was perpetrated by a pair of female JAS suicide bombers who detonated themselves near a petrol station, killing 19.

Due to the heightened security on January 27, in a separate location, Nigerian forces...
shot and killed what were believed to be seven suspected suicide bombers who were attempting to gain access into the city.

There were three domestic violence incidents reported in December. In the first report, a man threw acid on his wife because she did not cook dinner for him and in the second incident an anonymous caller said that a husband was severely beating his wife. A case of wife battery was recorded on December 30, which was then reported to the police and later settled out of court.

Finally, there were four reported incidents of sexual violence. All the incidents were also cited as child abuse cases; all the victims were under 12 years of age. The youngest victim was a three-year-old girl who was assaulted by a 22-year-old man.

Biu

Biu LGA experienced heavy attacks by JAS insurgents and suicide bombers last quarter. The terrorist group attacked a village on November 26 and killed four people and abducted several teenage girls. In December, two suicide attacks by JAS insurgents killed five people. One of the suicide bombers targeted a market but the explosive detonated prematurely. The second bomb was detonated by a female suicide bomber at a security checkpoint.

In a response to the strategic gains made by the military in recent months, on December 18, JAS attacked a village that was the home of a leading military officer. They also attacked officer’s mothers village on December 10. The first clash killed fourteen individuals while no casualties were reported from the second incident.

Chibok

All incident reports from Chibok were of suicide bombings. The two reports cited that all six suicide bombers were female and believed to be connected to the JAS terrorist group. All the reported incidents occurred on the same day.

On January 27, there were two attacks on markets. In one incident 14 people were killed and 24 others seriously injured when two female suicide bombers attacked Chibok Market. In a second attack on a different market, three female JAS suicide bombers killed 12.

Another suicide bomber killed two further victims when they struck a military checkpoint.

Gwoza

The counterinsurgency operation conducted on December 6 by the Nigerian Army and the Air Force against the insurgent’s strong hold located in the Sambisa forest resulted in the rescue of women as well as children, although the precise number of freed hostages was not given.

While out on patrol, soldiers raided a camp and killed three JAS insurgents and rescued three women.

Other LGAs

The Nigerian military continued to report success in liberating communities from JAS occupation last quarter in various LGAs.

On November 3, the army infiltrated JAS camps in Askira/Uba, killing four JAS fighters and rescuing several women and children in the processes. In another counter-insurgency operation conducted on the same day in Bama, the military reportedly rescued several children and six women.

In mid-November, the military conducted a raid on JAS camps in an anti-terrorism campaign in Damboa. During the raid, several women and children were reported to have been rescued. On January 30, 100 JAS terrorists were killed by Nigerian army during a raid in Dikwa. About 1000 women and children were rescued during the operation.

In a report on December 21, an attack by three female suicide bombers, who were believed to be between the ages of 10-15, killed 11 people and injured over 30 others in Kaga.

On December 20, it was reported that in Jere a young girl was being forced to marry a man of 74 by her step mother.

Delta State

In the last quarter there were six incident reports involving VAWG in Delta state. Four out of the six reports occurred in Warri South.

Isoko South

On January 19, a group of women protested the arrest of a group of Okada riders who had been protesting in the area over operational tickets.

Sapele

A sexual violence incident was reported on November 11 stating that a 14-year-old girl was killed after having been raped by the 17-year-old pastor’s son.

Warri South

There were three incidents involving shootings. On January 6, a policeman shot a man who, with two other accomplices, attempted to commit a robbery. The second incident in Wari South reported that 20 cultists entered a community and began shooting sporadically causing the death of two girls. Two cultists were killed when vigilante members from the community returned fire. On January 22, a 24-year-old armed robber was killed by an angry mob after he robbed a woman.

On November 11, police intervened when two groups of youths clashed. The exact reason for the conflict was unknown, but it is assumed to have been over either a female acquaintance or the recent death of a Delta Labour Party candidate.
Kaduna Reports by LGA

Over the last quarter, reporting in Kaduna mainly detailed sexual violence, domestic abuse and general criminality. The sexual violence was primarily categorized as child abuse. There was one report of forced marriage, two shooting incidents, one domestic violence case and one gender-based human rights violation report.

Kaduna North/South

In November, an incident was broadcast by Freedom radio of a man who physically abused his wife and killed all four of his children including an infant in Kaduna North. In Kaduna South, a 53-year-old man murdered his four children and attempted to commit suicide.

In December, an incident report stated that a young woman who was seven months pregnant was being beaten regularly by her husband. Another incident reported to the police by a parent said that their young girl had been raped.

A gender-based human rights incident report from Kaduna South related that a man apologized to his wife and her family after he withdrew all the money from her bank account that had been given to her by her mother. He agreed to sign a document in which he promised to pay back the amount owed. In Kaduna South a 14-year-old girl who works for a madam claimed she was being beaten and starved.

All incident reports in January were from Kaduna North. In early January, a group of Shiite women protested in the region, calling for the release of Sheikh Ibrahim El-Zakzaky. In the second incident, which was reported on January 19, a man was caught in the act of sexually assaulting a child. The case was taken to court but the man was released on bail when the case was changed to ‘attempted rape’ because the hospital examination found no evidence of penetration or injury.

Chikun

All reports from Chikun occurred in November and December and were sexual assault cases. On November 17, a man lured a young girl into his room and raped her. A second incident report was filed by a relative of a four-year-old girl, stating that she had been raped by a neighbor.

Igabi

There was one incident of forced marriage and physical abuse of a woman in Igabi. Further details were unknown.

Ikara

A husband reported that his wife had been raped by a man on a motor bike when he came up from behind her and dragged her behind a bush.

Soba

It was reported that a man refused to pay a court ordered 20000 Naira fine after he was found guilty of raping and impregnating a young girl. The case was appealed to the High Court.
Kano had the highest number of incidents reported involving sexual violence perpetrated against children last quarter. Out of the total 28 reported incidents, 24 were categorized as sexual violence, two were domestic violence, one was terrorism and one was a shooting.

Nasarawa

Most of the incident reports in Nasarawa occurred in December and one in January. In December, a 13-year-old girl reported to the police that she was raped by a 29-year-old man. It was also reported that a 17-year-old boy that raped a 10-year-old girl, and lastly on December 7, it was reported that a 31-year-old man sexually harassed a four year old girl.

In January, a pregnant 14-year-old girl accused two men of raping her.

Dala

There were two sexual violence cases and one domestic violence report. In November, a 20-year-old man sexually assaulted a 6-year-old girl and in the following month it was reported that a 55-year-old man sexually abused a ten year old girl on two separate occasions.

On January 19, a woman accused her husband of beating her and fracturing her leg.

Doguwa

All incidents in the LGA were reported in December and were captured as sexual violence incidents. A father of a young girl reported to police that a 45-year-old man raped his daughter. A 20-year-old man lured a 6-year-old girl into an uncompleted building and raped her. Lastly, a five year old girl was sexually abused by a 20-year-old man.

Kano

All incidents reported in Kano occurred in November and December. On November 18, 50 people were killed when two female suicide bombers detonated bombs in a market place. Two days later, an incident was reported in which a seven year old girl was sexually abused by three men aged 53-43 and 21.

On December a 27-year-old man lured an 8-year-old girl into his house and raped her. The girl was taken to the hospital to receive medical attention and the perpetrator was later charged in court.

Ungogo

All incidents reported in Ungogo last quarter were sexual violence reports. In November a 30 year old man sexually abused a five year old girl while she was on her way to school. On December 10, a five year old girl was lured into a classroom by a 15-year-old boy who then raped her. In January, a 19-year-old women who was raped and killed in her home by unknown suspect. Reports say that her throat was cut after she had been raped.

Dawakin Kudu

All reports from Dawakin Kudu were sexual violence reports over the quarter. In December, a girl was on her way from school when a 23-year-old man lured her into his house and raped her. In the second reported incident, a 17-year-old girl accused her 27-year-old boyfriend and her 35-year-old step father of raping her and getting her pregnant.

Gwale

In November, a seven year old girl was sexually abused by an unknown man. On January 25, two teenage boys broke into a woman’s house and attempted to rape her. The police were contacted and the two boys were later arrested.

Other LGA’s

There were six additional sexual violence reports cited in five other LGA’s and suicide bombing incident and domestic violence report.

On January 21, a 50-year-old man was arrested in Bichi after he had beaten his 35-year-old wife who was taken to the hospital because of the injuries she had sustained.

On December 1, a 18-year-old boy raped two girls aged seven and eight. Three days later, a 30-year-old man raped a nine year old girl in Rimin Gado. A ten year old girl was raped by 20-year-old man at a market December 9 in Wudil. A 25-year-old man raped a five year old girl when she was out collecting fire wood for her mother in Garko. On December 29, it was reported a ten year old girl was raped by a 29-year-old man while she was selling water on the street.

Two suspected JAS female suicide bombers detonated explosives in Tarauni in November, killing 19 people and injuring 53.
Plateau had the second highest number of reports, both overall and per capita, this quarter. Sexual abuse of children incidents were the highest reported category. Overall, 21 of the 27 reports during the quarter were reported in the Jos area. Sexual violence was followed by the domestic violence in the number of reports.

Jos N/S/E

Reports of domestic violence in Jos were frequent and ranged across different kinds of abuse. Most of the cases involved the long term abuse of wives at the hands of their husbands. In several cases, children were involved as well.

In Jos North, a husband had been beating his wife and six children with a belt. He has allegedly strangled the wife on several occasions. In Jos South, although several family members and villagers were aware that a husband had been beating his wife for 20 years, nothing was done to stop it. It’s believed his five children were beaten as well.

There were several instances of spousal abandonment last quarter. In November, it was reported that a man in Jos North had not been paying welfare to a women who gave birth to his child for three years. In the same month, a man abandoned his wife at a hospital and took their two children to Benue. In Jos South a man threatened his wife and kidnapped their children but accused his wife for the act, while in another case a man hasn’t been providing food or clothing for his wife and children.

There were multiple reports of girls under the age of 18 being raped by both strangers and men that they knew. In Jos North, the two sexual assault incident reports cited the same offender, reportedly an evangelical preacher accused of raping two girls on separate occasions.

In Jos South a girl was allegedly raped by a pastor while she was cleaning his house on January 1. The second incident that happened on January 21, was an 8-year-old girl who was raped by a gateman who worked at her compound. In the third incident reported from Jos South a 15-year-old girl was raped by an adult male who lived in the same neighborhood.

Three reports from Jos South were captured as gender-based Human Rights Violations cases in November. In the first case a wife accused a woman for casting a spell on her husband. The second incident recorded on November 21 stated that a wife caught her husband having sex with a girl and claimed he had committed the same act with another girl as well. In the third report a women reported a pastor to the church leadership as he reportedly had sex with her when she came to his house looking for help, resulting in a pregnancy.

There were two reports of child abuse from Jos South. Both cases involved the flogging of girls under the age of 15.

There was one report of forced marriage in Jos, a girl of 15 was forcefully married to a herdsman as his second wife. In September, a widow was thrown out of her late husband’s house by his family. Her in-laws retained custody of her four children.

Other LGAs

The six reported incidents outside Jos took place in December and January.

In December, three reported incidents were captured in the categories of sexual violence, shootings and forced marriage. In Barkin Ladi two girls were attacked by five boys, and although one escaped the other girl was caught and raped. In Riyom gunmen attacked a village and killed about four people. Lastly, a young girl was forced to marry an older man against her will in Wase.

In January, there were two sexual violence reports and one gender based Human Rights Violation. On January 22, a woman was beaten severely by one of her colleagues in Barkin Ladi. In Bassa it was reported a girl was raped three times by a man when she was on her way to a relatives’ house on January 25. The final sexual assault report was recorded in Wase, where a young girl was raped by her aunt’s 40-year-old husband.
Rivers state has consistently had the highest number of reports overall as well as per capita and continued this trend over the time period of November, December and January. Reporting in Rivers was primarily categorized as sexual violence and domestic abuse.

Obio/Akpor

In total, 12 incidents of violence against women and girls were reported in Obio/Akpor during the quarter. The highest reported incidents were sexual violence incidents.

In November, a 22 year old woman was robbed and raped. In December two sisters aged 12 and 16 were repeatedly raped by their stepfather. On January a 12 year old girl and her four sister were sexually abused by their uncle, a 10 year old girl was sexually abused by two men, and a 15 year old girl was held hostage by her former boss for two days in which time he raped her several times.

There were also four cases of domestic abuse recorded last quarter in Obio/Akpor, one in November the other three in December. On November 30, a girl was severely beaten by her neighbor. In December three reports stated that husbands had severely beaten as well as threatened their wives.

The remaining two cases from the region were a gender based Human Rights violation incident and an abduction. On November 11, a man was reported for beating his pregnant wife while on December 8, a female doctor was kidnapped on her way to work.

Port Harcourt

Reports of domestic violence in Port Harcourt were frequent and ranged across different kinds of abuse. There were six reported cases of spousal abuse in November, December and January.

On November 11, a woman was beaten by her brother and husband because she was allegedly unable to conceive, while on November 30, a report said that a naval officer had beaten his wife and that the police had intervened. In December, two reported cases revealed that a husband had been beating his wife while also denying her access to their children, and a separate incident report said a woman initiated separation proceedings after her husband beat and threatened to kill her. In January, two further incident reports cited domestic abuse due to spousal violence and abandonment.

The three remaining domestic abuse cases concerned a 15-year-old girl who was assaulted by her neighbor, a young man who beat his girlfriend who lived with him and a father beat and stripped his 16-year-old daughter naked because he accused her of having sex.

There were several reports of sexual abuse over the three month time period. In November, a 15-year-old girl was raped repeatedly by a tailor apprentice and, in a separate incident, a 23-year-old woman was raped by four cultists.

In December, a 16-year-old girl was raped by a 36-year-old man, a two year old girl was raped by a 16-year-old boy, and a girl was raped by multiple boys when she was lured into a building by her boyfriend. Lastly, a seven year old girl was raped by a 45-year-old man.

In November and December, there were four reported cases of child abuse. In November, two incidents revealed that a 15-year-old girl and a 10-year-old were being flogged by their step mothers. In the third incident, a 12-year-old girl and her sibling were thrown out of their house by their father because he had lost his job and could not provide for them any longer. In December, a woman accused her drug addicted husband of failing to provide for her and their son.

There were six reported incidents of gender based human rights violations. In November, a 28-year-old woman was assaulted by her neighbor when a fight broke out and a 25-year-old woman was attacked and beaten by unknown men.

In December, a husband abandoned his wife and daughter, a woman was beaten by a man because she demanded he pay her back owed money, and a husband packed abandoned his wife while also taking valuables and legal documents with him. Lastly, a woman was slapped repeatedly by an unknown man because she refused to let her son carry the man’s water.

The remaining three incidents from the region were two abductions and one report petty illegal trading.

Other LGA’s

In Abua/Odual, a woman and her children were denied access to her late husbands’ inheritance by her in-laws. A woman was beaten by her husband and family because they accused her of witchcraft in Bonny. It was also reported that two members of a community were shot dead when gunmen attempted to abduct a member of the Degema local government in late December.

In Ikwerre, the body of a nine year old girl was found. It is believed that she was abducted by some boys while running an errand for her mother and was raped to death by her abductors. Lastly, four kidnappers were killed by the police during the rescue operation Khana.
Yobe State

Similar to Borno, the main incident reported in Yobe during the time period of November, December and January was connected to the JAS insurgency. This report was captured by using Nigeria Watch data.

Geidam

Five JAS insurgents were killed by soldiers on December 10. It is reported that 210 persons, including elderly men, women and children were rescued during the operation.
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 November 2015 to January 2016, FFP produced three monthly memos looking at trends of VAWG in the eight NSRP focus states. Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Plateau and Rivers states all have Observatory Service points. These states consistently have the most detailed and nuanced data. The gap in the conflict landscape this data fills is essential to creating effective mitigation strategies.

As with other quarters, data from Yobe, Delta and Bayelsa continues to be sparse. The data in these states is coming from other deployments on the Observatory Map including Nigeria Watch and ACLED. It is also supplemented by news reports collected by FFP. To have an even distribution of data across all eight NSRP focus states, new resources for information gathering need to be explored.

As can be seen by the top graph, over all fatalities reported by Nigeria Watch, have gone down over the past three quarters. This is tied the reduction of incidents in overall violence.

Objective 2

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

The number of VAWG incidents reported during the quarter fluctuated from month to month. Incidents that are reported through the NSRP Observatory service points each month often include data coming from previous months. As more of this data is reported to the platform, it shows a willingness to talk about issues of VAWG. When these incidents are being reported, even when they are being reported late, it shows a potential change in awareness.

The graph in Figure 8, measures VAWG reported by Nigeria Watch data only because it is one of the longer running projects. It is able to look at data over a longer time period. As the graph measures data on a yearly basis, there is a sharp decline into 2016, given that only one month of data is included.

Objective 3

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

The online web application allows FFP and NSRP to track how many times the Observatory Platform Map has been viewed. It measures both the total number of visitors to the map as well as which deployment of the platform they used. Each month since the web application was executed, views through the NSRP deployment of the map has increased. By tracking the number of site visits made to the Observatory platform through NSRP, we are able to measure awareness of the project and the platform in general.
Objective 4

Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

There are 72 self identified Peace Agents who focus on gender registered on the online platform. This number has doubled since the beginning of the project. The continual self-identification of organizations focused on gender continues to build a stronger network for response mechanisms. Reaching outside of organizations focused on gender broadens the conversation and enables more dynamic interventions. It also works to break the culture of silence around women’s issues.

There continues to be less visibility of VAWG issues in states that do not have Observatory services points. There are less registered Peace Agents focused on gender as well as less reported incidents. To fill the gaps in knowledge and information, it will be important to reach out to civil society working in those states.

Improvements to the Platform

In January, the analysis tools on the online platform were upgraded. The line graph function, which previously could only show incidents and fatalities by month, is able to graph both reported incidents and fatalities by month, quarter and year. The ability to look at trends across the three different time periods enhances the online platforms functionality, giving the user access to more dynamic tools to assess trends and patterns of VAWG in Nigeria.

Another function that was improved during the update is the “Search for Text” application. If there is a theme that is not singled out in the indicator list, phrases or words can be entered into the “Search for Text” bar, all incidents including that word or words will be singled out when the “Apply Filter” button is pressed.