

Monthly Memo #5

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

November 12, 2014

■ In September, for the third month in a row, the NSRP Sources filter generated more reports about Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) than any other source integrated onto the platform, an indication that the data collection effort is filling an important gap in the information landscape. There are now 43 self-identified Agents of Peace focusing on issues of gender in the NSRP states, ranging from nine in Rivers State to zero in Yobe. Quantitative data suggests that although the month of September was slightly improved in terms of the number of VAWG incidents in the eight NSRP states (for the second month in a row), on an annualized basis, 2014 is on track to be the worst year since 2009. This memo focuses specifically on the month of September (data coding and uploading lags by a month) for the eight NSRP focus states: Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta.

In keeping with the format of the three previous monthly memos, this project seeks to accomplish **four general objectives**:

1. Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities in the eight NSRP focus states. For overall levels, we use Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.
2. 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.
3. Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other deployments of the tool, including the P4P Digital Platform. For this we use Google Analytics to track traffic to the map application.
4. Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response. If this project accomplishes the first three general objectives, NSRP will be in a good position to support the efforts of the Observatory Steering Committee (OBSTEC) in their targeted interventions for the mitigation of violence affecting women and girls. To this end, the Observatory Platform identifies local Peace Agents focused on issues related to gender, and highlights opportunities for engagement by OBSTEC to collaborate and facilitate as appropriate.

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

Objective 1: Measure Trends in Violence Affecting Women and Girls as Compared to Overall Levels of Violence and Fatalities in the Eight NSRP States

While the NSRP Sources filter is integrated with other sources for a qualitative overview of the types of VAWG issues being reported by state, Nigeria Watch data is used to quantify trends in violence for this memo. We utilize Nigeria Watch in this way because although it may have thinner coverage of a specific issues, such as VAWG, it applies a consistent methodology and is evenly distributed by date and location. The ability to use different source filters for their respective strengths and triangulate them accordingly is what the Observatory Platform is designed to do. All data is coded according to the VAWG framework tailored in the NSRP training and orientation workshops, thus far held in Kano and Kaduna, with two more soon to be conducted in Plateau and Rivers states. (Please see the next section of this memo for a deeper, qualitative breakdown of the findings by state, using the NSRP Sources filter as a primary source of information.)

Quantitatively, the month of September was slightly improved from July 2014 as far as the number of VAWG incidents reported, though slightly worsened, as a measure of overall violence (with July 2014 being the most violent month since January 2009.) Still, 2014 is on track to be the worst year since 2009, with over 500 incidents reported between the months of January and September. Already, the estimated number of overall fatalities in 2014 has far exceeded those recoded in the full 2013 calendar year.

Trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in 8 NSRP States

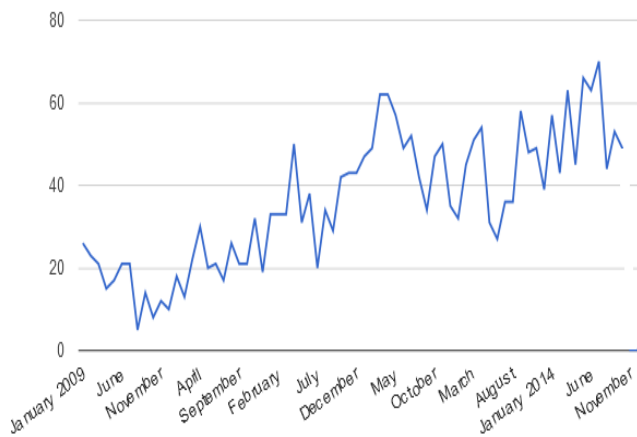


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to Observatory Platform

The Number of Incidents and Fatalities for Each Year

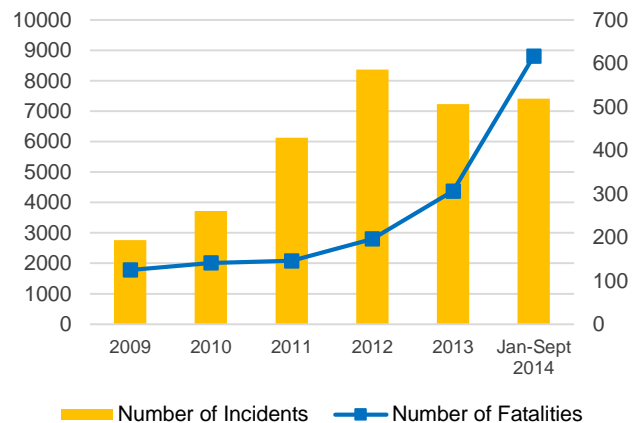


Figure 2: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped in Observatory Platform

Specifically, with regards to VAWG, the same deterioration can be seen on an annualized basis, with Delta state having the most incidents reported overall (see the green area in the chart below) and Yobe, the least. The states which have shown the most worsening in the last three years are Borno, Kano, and Plateau states.

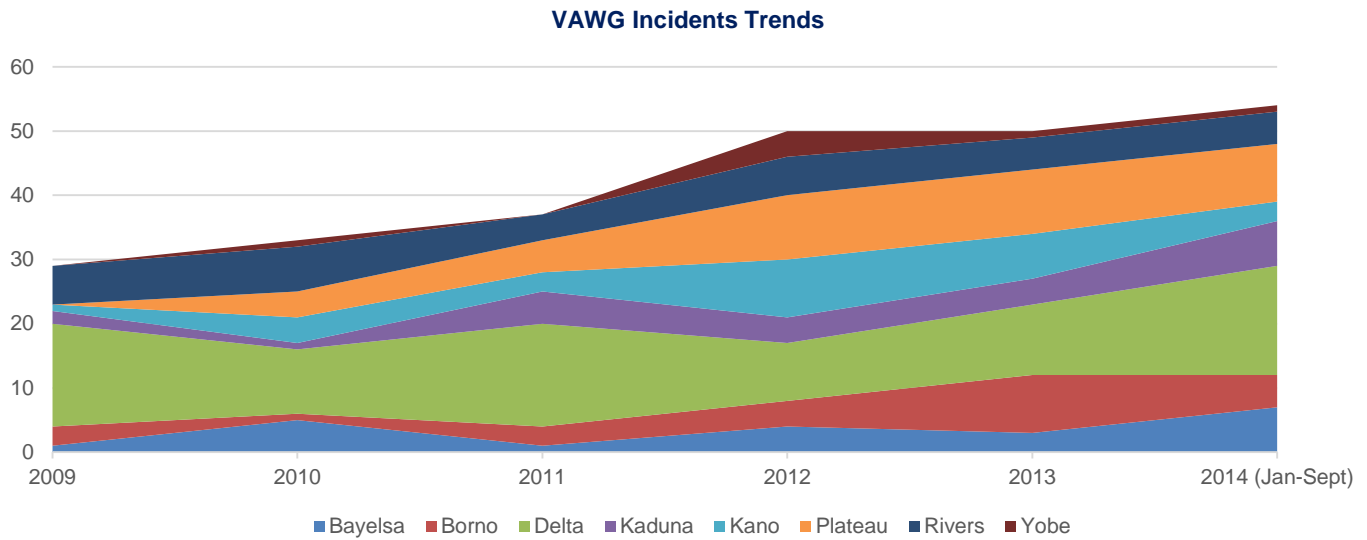


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

September Incidents by NSRP State

Below is a breakdown of issues reported in the month of July by each NSRP target state.

Borno State: In past memos, most VAWG incidents in Borno related to the JAS insurgency. This month, by contrast, reports related to child defilement and incest. Two child abuse incidents were reported in Maiduguri LGA in Borno State. In one case a father allegedly raped his 10 year-old daughter. In another one, a man was arrested by the police for reportedly raping a 3 year-old girl.

Yobe State: As was the case in August, there were no reported incidents from Yobe for the month of September.

Kano: While in August, most reported VAWG issues related to early marriage and child abuse in Kano, September's reports were predominately connected to domestic violence. In one case, a man hit his 37 year-old his wife with his car. In another, a 25 year-old woman was reportedly beaten by a family member over a sum of money. The case was settled by the elders of the family. Two incidents of child abuse were also reported. In one case, a 26 year-old man raped a 3 year-old girl in his shop. The victim was taken to the hospital; the alleged perpetrator is in the court custody. Also, community members found the body of an abandoned baby girl in a gutter. Lastly, an incident was reported, where a 20 year-old woman died undergoing a medical procedure without the written consent of any family member.

Kaduna: As in previous months, communal conflict was a key driver of VAWG in Kaduna. In one case, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen invaded three communities and killed a number of people, including a pastor, four expectant women, children, and some soldiers. In another, a group of women, threw mud and stones at the Governor's convoy in protest of recent violence and perceived lack of effective government response. Separately, a girl was reportedly killed and mutilated.

Plateau: As in previous months, communal conflict was a key driver of VAWG in Plateau. In one case, unknown gunmen suspected to be herdsmen reportedly attacked a community in Bokkos LGA and killed five people including a woman and her two children.

Delta: While communal conflict is a recurrent factor in Plateau and Kaduna, in Delta State, where a significant percentage of VAWG incidents occur, primary drivers relate to domestic violence and criminality. In September, three cases of domestic violence were reported. Two women were killed by their husbands in Ughelli-South and three persons were arrested in Ika-South for their alleged involvement in the death of their brother’s wife. In Ethiope-East, a person was arrested for the alleged rape and robbery of a woman. In another case, an abducted woman from Asaba was rescued by the police in Oshmili-South LGA.

Bayelsa: In Bayelsa, there were no reported cases of VAWG. The only related case involved the denial of medical treatment to a woman involved in an automobile accident on suspicion that she may have had Ebola.

Rivers: VAWG issues in Rivers State related to gang violence and gender based violence. Reportedly, a woman hired a gang in Port Harcourt to abduct her daughter and sons.

Objective 2: Breaking the Culture of Silence by Increasing the Level of Reporting on Issues of Violence Affecting Women and Girls

As evidenced in the first section of this memo, beginning in 2012 violence appears to have worsened in NSRP’s eight focus states, especially Borno and Plateau. One of the objectives of this initiative is to break the culture of silence surrounding these issues. A measure of success in this objective is an overall increase in reporting, beyond the real-world trends in VAWG. In that objective, the Observatory has shown some success. Integrating all datasets, including NSRP sources, media reports, and participatory conflict assessment forums involving local stakeholders, the trend in reporting has improved significantly since the beginning of NSRP’s VAWG project in April 2014. As EVA begins to compile reports from the Peace Clubs, that number will continue to rise. If the strategic objective of this initiative is realized over time, we’ll see Nigeria Watch reports of VAWG decreasing as overall reporting of the issue increases.

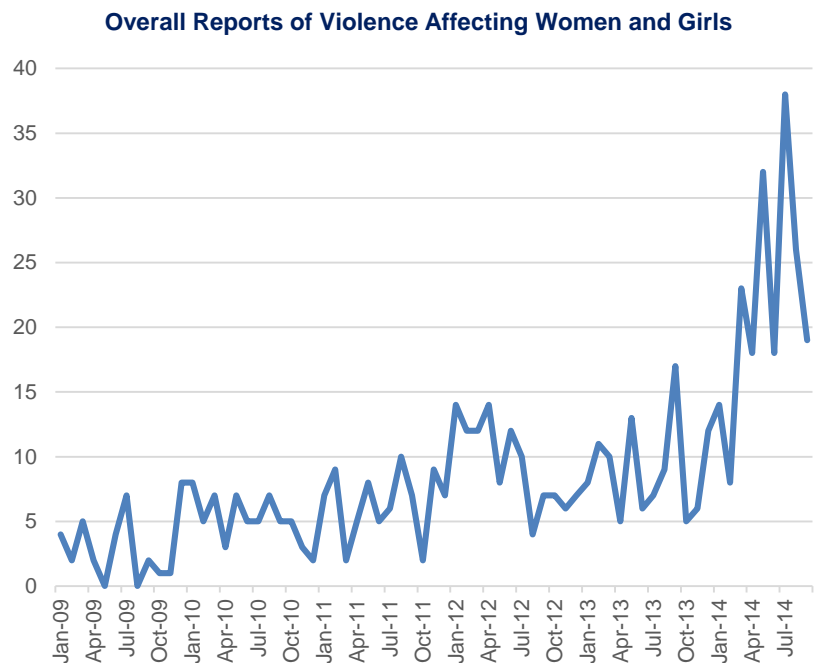


Figure 4: Trend in Reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

Objective 3: Increased Public Awareness of the Issue of Violence Affecting Women and Girls

In order to measure public awareness, it is useful to use web-based analytics. FFP does not have access to Google Analytics for NSRP’s website. However, given the shared data between the VAWG project and the P4P project, measuring traffic to the P4P website also serves as an indication of general public awareness as a result of this initiative. In the graph below, the sharp increase in May 2014 coincides with the launch of NSRP’s VAWG initiative and the Observatory, demonstrating added public awareness of VAWG issues in Nigeria. While levels have decreased slightly since May, they remain above levels previous to the launch of the Observatory Platform. However, given the reduction in traffic during the month of September, we need to do more to raise the profile of the Observatory in coming months. In the month of October, there was a slight uptick in the traffic which will be captured in Monthly Memo #6.

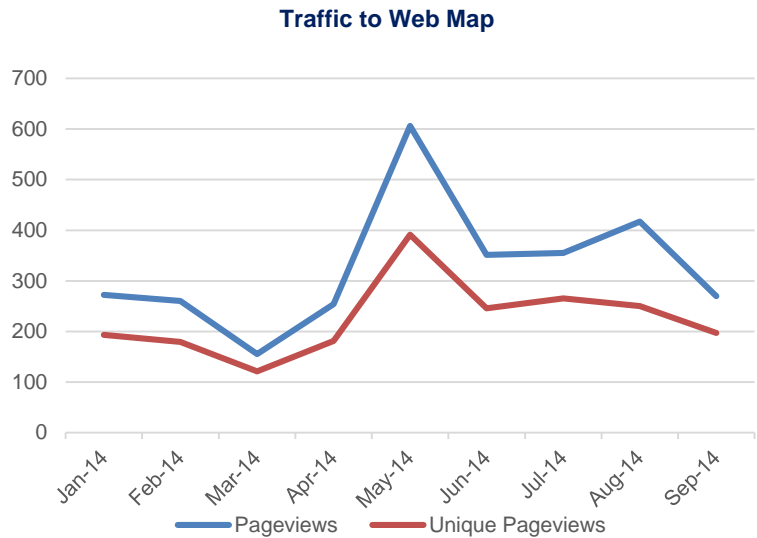


Figure 5: Monthly Traffic to Peace Map (Google Analytics)

As indicated in the last memo (#4) in the month of September, FFP worked for outreach and awareness of the platform internationally through several presentations and lectures, including one presentation on the web platform at American University and a Nigeria Conflict Mapping and Assessment Roundtable at FFP, co-facilitated with the Council on Foreign Relations. Organizations in attendance were CFR, FFP, Wilson Center, Creative Associates, IRI, NDI, Search for Common Ground, State Department, Georgetown University, and the Foundation for Niger Delta Partnership Initiatives. On October 1 we sent an email blast to 3,101 people highlighting the NSRP VAWG project with a YouTube video of two women telling their stories about being affected by violence. The subject of the email was “Nigerian Independence Day: Remembering Women.”

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

For the OBSTEC to be effective in its preventative response, it needs to know not only where the hot spots are, but also who is working on these issues at the local level so that they can support and leverage those efforts. To that end, one useful feature of the Observatory is the ability to map the locations of organizations and initiatives focused on gender and peacebuilding. The heat map below shows the relative distribution of VAWG reports in the month of September 2014. The green stars show the location of self-identified Peace Agents focused on gender. There are still no organizations mapped in Yobe, however. We recommend that an effort be made to identify organizations working in Yobe and invite them to add their details to the map as soon as possible. Below the map is a full list of gender-focused organizations and initiatives in the eight NSRP states. We recommend including some level or representation from all or a few of these organizations whenever possible and appropriate in all NSRP VAWG workshops and activities. To that end, it would also be highly beneficial to be in contact with these organizations in order to solicit their assistance in the possible sharing of data.

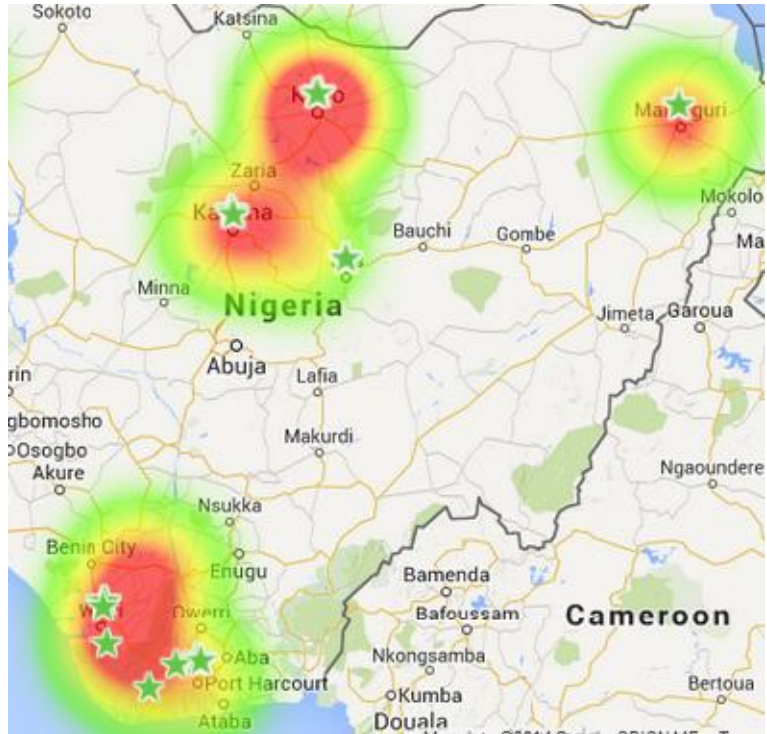


Figure 6: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – September 2014 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

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

State	LGA	Name of Initiative
Bayelsa	Ekeremor	Ekeremor Women Forum
Bayelsa	Yenagoa	National Orientation Agency
Borno	Maiduguri	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
Borno	Maiduguri	Healthcare Development Focus Initiative (HECADF)
Borno	Maiduguri	National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)
Borno	Maiduguri	Women in New Nigeria (WINN)
Borno	Maiduguri	University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association (UMMWA)
Delta	Udu	Ideal Women Advancement Initiative
Delta	Uvwie	Lite –Africa
Delta	Uvwie	Development Support Care Empowerment Foundation (DSCAEF)
Delta	Uvwie	Community Peace Development Initiative (CPDI)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Women for Peace in Nigeria (WOPIN)

Kaduna	Kaduna North	Global Initiative for Women and Children
Kaduna	Kaduna North	PAN AFRICAN LEADERSHIP LEAGUE
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Youth CAN, Kaduna
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Interfaith Mediation Centre
Kaduna	Kaduna South	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Aid Foundation
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
Kano	Kano Municipal	Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)
Kano	Kano Municipal	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
Kano	Kano Municipal	INTERGENDER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
Kano	Kano Municipal	Women Advancement Initiative
Kano	Kano Municipal	Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network(WODEN)
Kano	Kano Municipal	Center for and Documentation
Kano	Kano Municipal	Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative.
Plateau	Jos North	JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION (JDPC)
Plateau	Jos North	Manna Resource Development Centre
Plateau	Jos North	CHRISTIAN RURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CRUDAN)
Plateau	Jos North	Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria
Plateau	Jos North	Justice Development Peace and Caritas
Plateau	Jos North	National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS
Plateau	Jos North	Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)
Plateau	Jos North	The Nigeria Working Group
Rivers	Abua/Odual	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
Rivers	Abua/Odual	Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development
Rivers	Obio/Akpor	Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Center for Creative Arts Education
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Lokiakia Community Development Centre
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State branch
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)
Rivers	Port Harcourt	Kebetkache Women Development

Conclusion

This past month, we have made some progress with regards to data collection and analysis functionality for the Observatory but there is still much room for improvement. Specific project recommendations broken out by general objective for the next month are as follows:

- Objective 1: Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities. EVA has begun networking with the 43 organizations listed on the map for improved collaboration and information sharing. This will help greatly with the collection of data as well as creating an enabling environment for mitigation of VAWG-related issues. Consistent with user feedback and recommendations from Memo #4, we have also tasked the web developer with the request that he make four additional improvements to the platform in the next month:
 - Fatality tally (monthly chart)
 - Per-Capita calculation (bar chart) – to control for cases where there may be a disproportionate number of incidents due to high population density.
 - Improved visibility on Violence Affecting Women and Girls search function
 - Word search function—so that users can develop their own indicators, based on the scope and mandate of their respective programs and needs.

- Objectives 2 and 3: Break the culture of silence and increase the level of reporting and awareness on issues of violence affecting women and girls. Media outlets are frequently looking for content and subject matter to report on, whether by broadcast or print journalism. A canvassing of such media outlets that may broadcast radio programs or talk shows that do or could feature segments on VAWG would greatly increase the audience and potential level of awareness on this issue.

- Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response. If this project accomplishes the first three general objectives, NSRP will be in a good position to support the efforts of the OBSTEC in their targeted interventions for the mitigation of violence affecting women and girls. EVA works with OBSTEC to facilitate structured workshops and meetings to use the data for the identification of priority concerns and develop plans of action. In our October meeting with NSRP and EVA, we discussed the formatting of state-level briefs that FFP will deliver to EVA, which they can use in those workshops and meetings. This will be enormously beneficial to the OBSTEC as they meet and collaborate on response. At the October meeting, we also discussed the role that NSRP can play in identifying Peace Agents to be included on the map. The most immediate concern is adding data on Yobe State, where there remains a gap in information about peace agents focused on gender.