

7 October, 2014

Monthly Memo #4: Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Background and Introduction

For the month of August, 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. In addition, since the publication of the last memo, there has been a mapping of five additional Agents of Peace focused on gender in Borno, a state where previously there had been no such self-identified actors in the database. These additional resources will help local peace actors with scoping and networking, thereby potentially increasing their effectiveness on the ground. Quantitative data suggests that although the month of August was slightly improved from July, in terms of the number of VAWG incidents in the eight NSRP states, on an annualized basis, 2014 is on track to be the worst year since 2009. This memo focuses specifically on the month of August (data coding and upload 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 August was slightly improved from July 2014 as far as the number of incidents reported—both in terms of overall violence and incidents of VAWG. Still, 2014 is on track to be the worst year since 2009, with over 450 incidents reported between the months of January and August. Already, the estimated number of overall fatalities in 2014 has exceeded those recoded in the full 2013 calendar year.

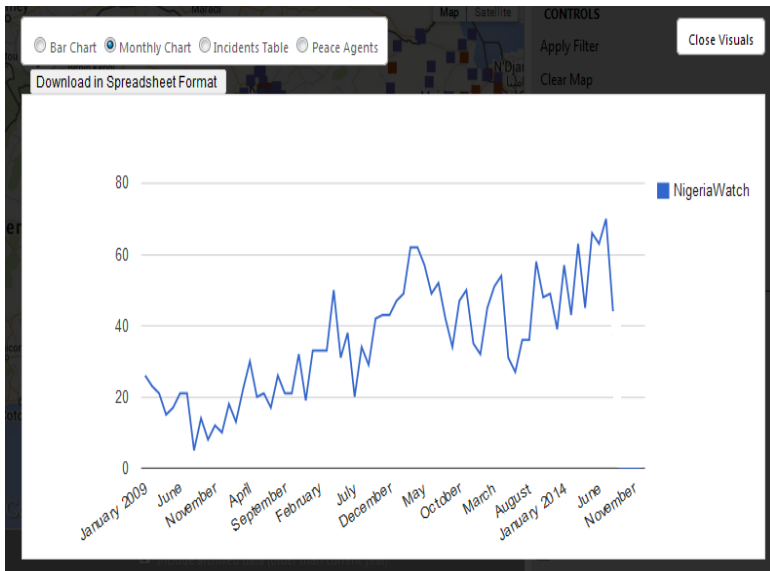


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to Observatory Platform

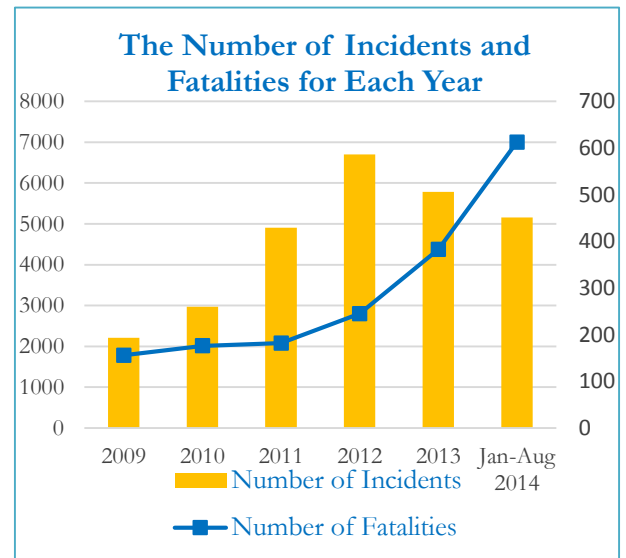


Figure 2: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped in Observatory Platform

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 map below) and Yobe, the least. The two states which have shown the most worsening in the last three years are Borno and Plateau states.

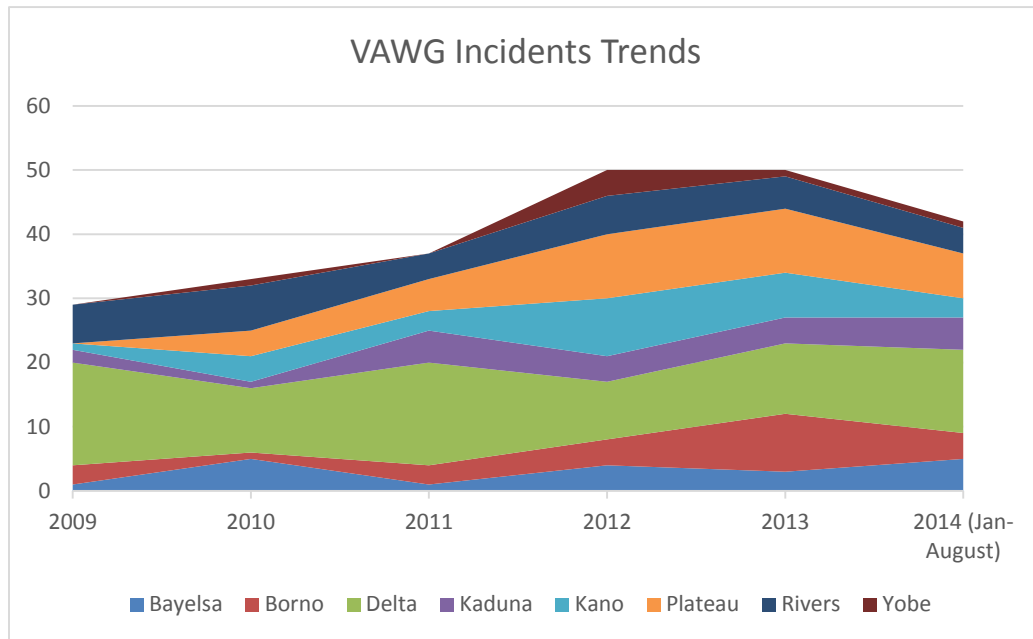


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

August Incidents by NSRP State

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

Borno State: Violence against Women and Girls in Borno State in the month of August was mainly related to the JAS insurgency. Chadian troops reportedly rescued women and boys kidnapped by insurgents in an attack on a Borno community and taken across the border. Fearing for the safety of their husbands, wives of Nigerian soldiers protested their deployment to fight the JAS insurgency. They reportedly burned tires and blocked the main gate to the Brigade headquarters. Also during the month, communal violence was reported when gunmen attacked a town, killing over a dozen of people, including women and children.

Yobe State: There were no reported incidents from Yobe for the month of August.

Kano: While in July, there had been multiple reports of girls being used as suicide bombers, this was not prevalent in the August data, aside from one incident in which soldiers arrested 16 girls who were believed to be would-be suicide bombers. Reportedly, these girls were bussed into Kano from Sambisa Forest in Borno State by JAS, where they were apprehended by security forces. Most incidents reported in August related to sexual abuse and the forced marriage of children. In one incident, a 29-year old man was reportedly arrested for abusing and impregnating two 14-year old girls. In a separate case, a community elder reportedly raped a seven year old child. Alleged perpetrators in both cases were taken to court. Also in August, a trial began for a young girl who was accused of poisoning a man she had been forced to marry. The court reportedly refused to transfer the case to a juvenile court, despite the fact that she was a minor.

Kaduna: In August, VAWG issues in Kaduna related to domestic violence and communal violence. In one case, a woman was reportedly beaten by her husband, resulting in injuries to her face. In another, gunmen reportedly attacked Gimi community in Sanga LGA, killing four people including one woman and three men, and injuring a baby girl. This

was the latest in a series of communal attacks in the area. It was also reported that a 21-year old woman was accidentally shot dead by police who were on patrol.

Plateau: In August, unknown gunmen reportedly attacked a community in Bassa LGA and beheaded a 41-year-old man and shot a 14 year-old-girl.

Delta: In August, as in previous months, VAWG issues in Delta State primarily related to criminal violence against women and girls, including one murder and three abductions. In Ukwuani LGA, a 25-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her boyfriend. It was also reported that the wife of a university lecturer was kidnapped during a robbery at their home. Three young children were abducted with their mother in Warri South LGA and later rescued by police. Police also rescued a kidnapped mother and her baby in Oshimili South.

Bayelsa: The only VAWG incident reported in Bayelsa during the month of August was one in which commercial tricycle operators, known as Keke Napep, protested against the alleged excessive use of force and extortion by police after a pregnant woman was reportedly injured during a traffic stop. Allegedly the officer had hit the woman while trying to strike the driver with the butt of his gun in the course of demanding a bribe. Other incidents relating to women and girls included a protest by women and youth over the hiring practices of an oil company, but no violence was reported.

Rivers: As in previous months, VAWG issues in Rivers State related to cult violence. In Khana LGA, two rival cult groups reportedly clashed, killing a young woman and two men. Since May, cult clashes in Rivers have been most predominant in the eastern LGAs of Khana and Etche.

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 around 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.

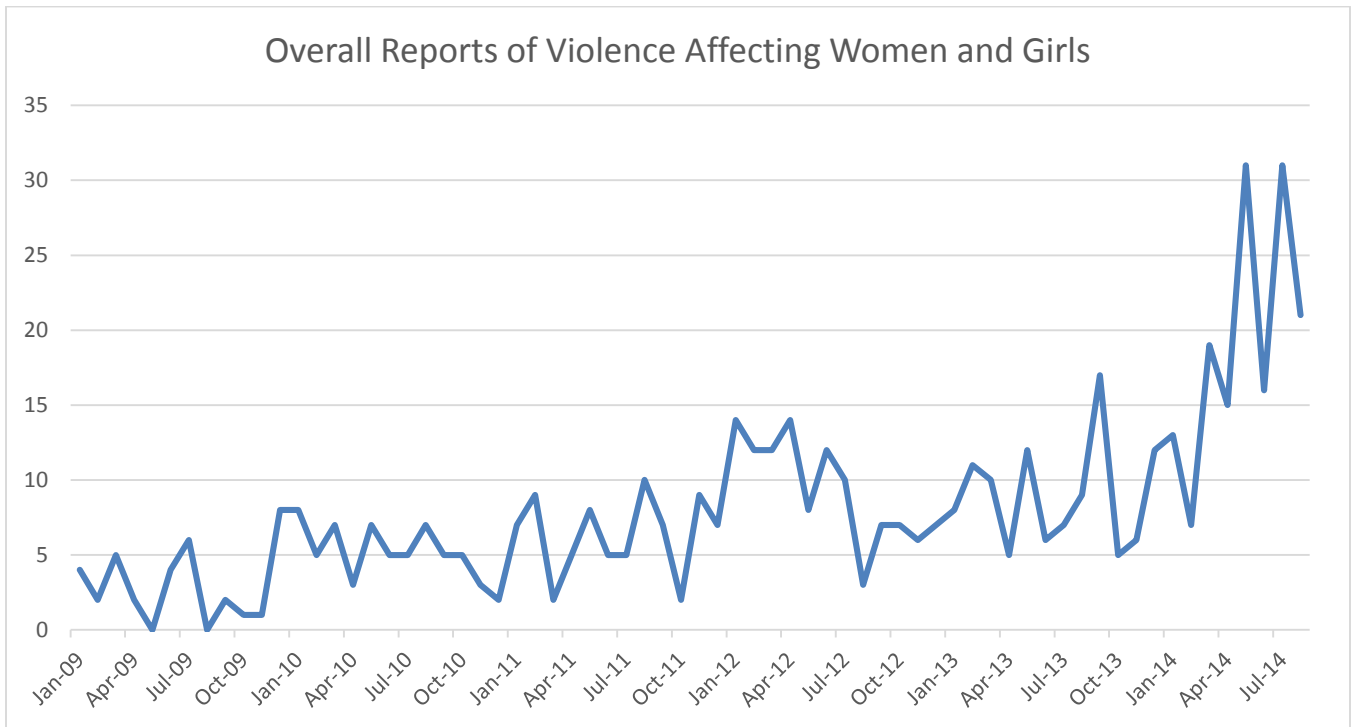


Figure 4: Trend in Reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

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 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.”

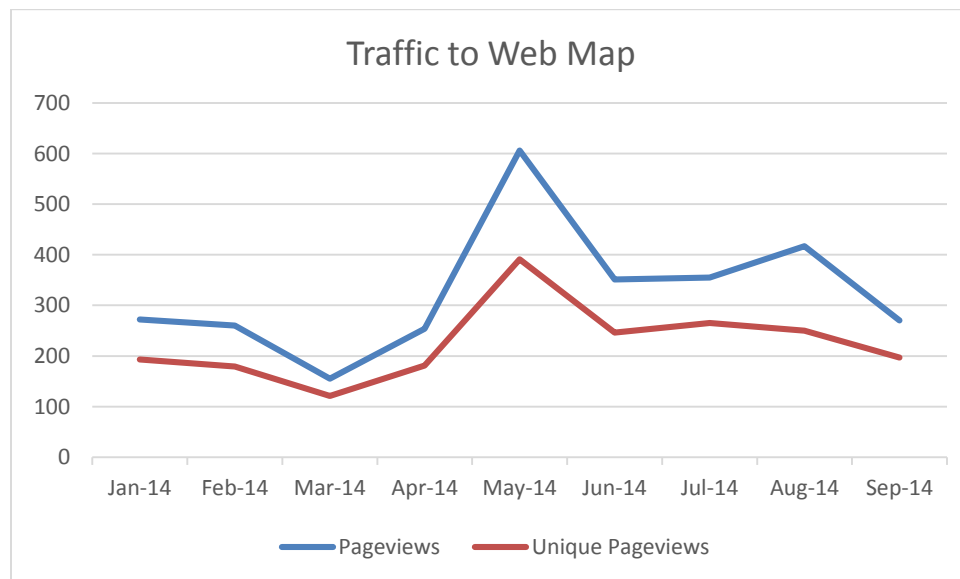


Figure 5: Monthly Traffic to Peace Map (Google Analytics)

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 August. The green stars show the location of self-identified Peace Agents focused on gender. *This month, five new Peace Agents have been mapped in Borno State, demonstrating an important step forward in the scoping and networking of those stakeholders focused on the reduction of Violence Affecting Women and Girls.* There are still no organizations mapped in Yobe, however. Below the map is a full list of gender-focused organizations and initiatives in the eight NSRP states. We recommend

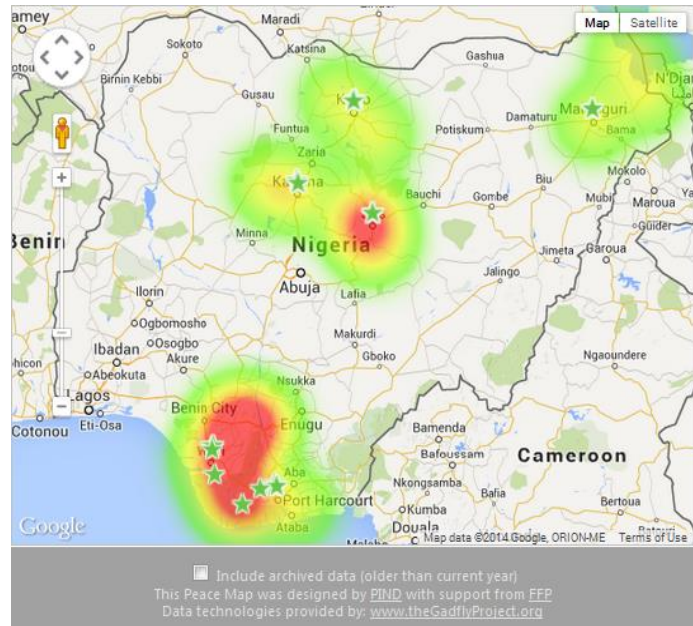


Figure 6: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

including some level or representation from all or some 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.

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 last month has been a good one with regards to progress in 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. Increased engagement at the local level with the self-identified Peace Agents for additional data would be highly valuable. We also recommend that the platform be improved to allow for per-capita analysis of trends by State and LGA, so that areas with larger populations are not automatically assumed to be hotspots merely by virtue of having a larger number of people in those areas. This would make the tool more analytically powerful and user-friendly.
- **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. Among the Self-Identified Peace Agents in Kaduna, not explicitly focused on gender, is the House of Justice radio program. *We recommend reaching out to Gloria Ballason to see if she would be willing to have a radio program on the issue and spreading the word about the Observatory and NSRP's VAWG initiative.* She is an excellent anchor and has been trained in the CAST methodology which underlies the Observatory framework. A canvassing of other 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. In addition to the quantitative and geo-spatial analysis of the Observatory platform, *we recommend that EVA facilitate a participatory qualitative assessment of the findings highlighted in these monthly memos* with the aim of a deeper understanding of the root drivers of VAWG, identifying potential flashpoints, pinpointing priority LGAs, and suggesting concrete solutions. This qualitative assessment would be enormously beneficial to the OBSTEC as they meet and collaborate on response. NSRP has been critical in helping to identify Peace Agents in Borno State, filling an important gap in resources for preventative response. If possible, we recommend that they do the same for Yobe State, where there remains a gap in information about peace agents focused on gender.