



Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #10 – February 2015 Data

April 15, 2015

In February, 50 self-identified Agents of Peace continued to make strides in highlighting issues of gender in the eight NSRP states. In February the trend of overall violence, including VAWG, rose again, approximately doubling in number in Nigeria Watch and NSRP data sources.

This memo covers the month of February 2015 (data coding and uploading lags by a month) for the eight NSRP States: Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta.

In keeping with the format of the 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

Overall trends in violence

With December reporting included, 2014 surpassed all previous years measured since 2009 in both incidents reported and fatalities. The significant jump in fatalities in 2014 is directly related to the number of mass casualties that took place over the course of the year in multiple bombings and large-scale, insurgency related attacks.

While there was a drop in reported incidents during January 2015, February saw increase in reports of overall violence. Main sources of violence prior to the planned election on February 14 stemmed from election-related unrest, and insurgency and counter-insurgency activities between Boko Haram and Nigerian security forces. Following the announcement on February 7 of the election postponement, the second half of February saw political-related incidents decrease and insurgency and communal-related violence incidents predominate. Using Nigeria Watch data as outlined in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below, fatalities and reported incidents rose significantly in February 2015 compared with the two previous months. The fatalities for February rose to a reported 1,915, compared with 1,329 fatalities reported in January. This is indicative of the surge in insurgency and counter-insurgency violence in the northern NSRP states, including mass attacks on villages. Similarly reported incidents from Nigeria Watch increased from 40 in January to 73 in February, stemming mainly from insurgency and pre-election tensions.

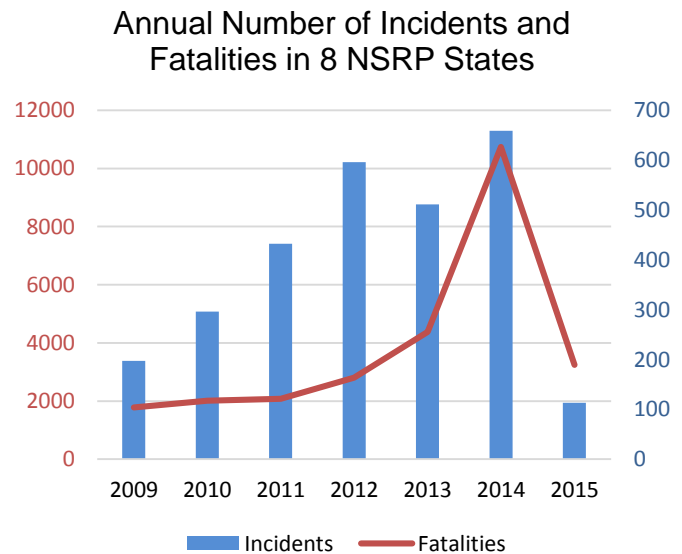
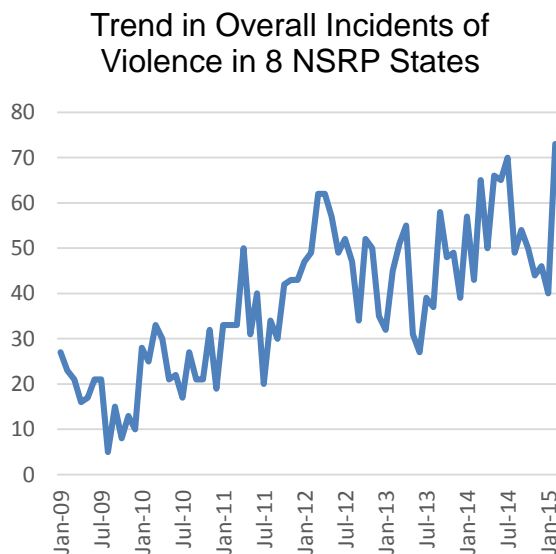


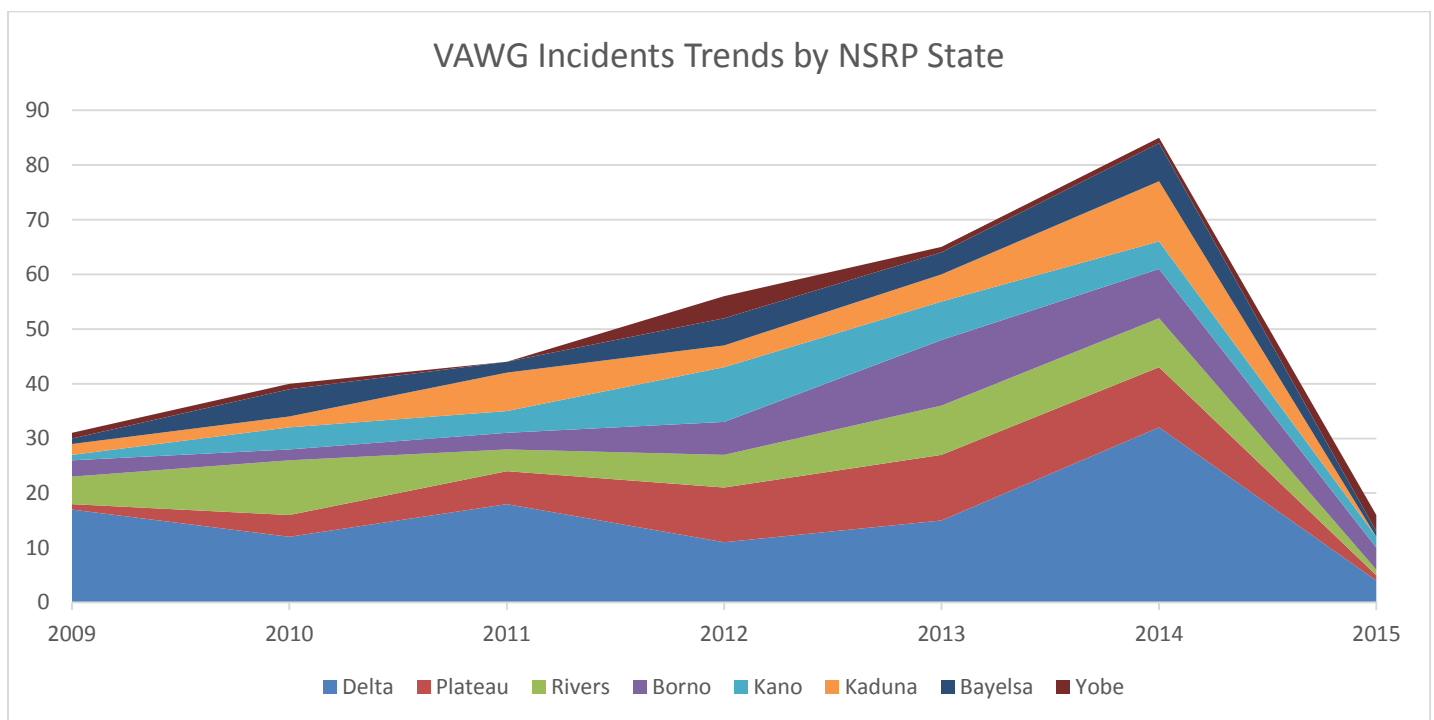
Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to Observatory Platform

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

Trends in VAWG

Specific incidents of VAWG for February 2015 in NSRP states related to domestic and communal violence, as well as victims of wider issues related to the Boko Haram insurgency and election-related tensions.

Yobe, Delta, and Rivers had the highest number of VAWG incidents per capita for February, followed by Borno and Bayelsa states. This was followed by Yobe, Plateau, Kano, and Kaduna as the least number of reported incidents per capita. Rivers state had the highest number of VAWG incidents reported for the month, while Bayelsa and Kaduna had the least. As noted in the January 2015 memo, given the high levels of insecurity with the insurgency and election period, this may have impacted on the ability of Peace Agents to collect and submit their data. It is anticipated that retrospective data for January and February 2015 may become available in coming months if insecurity levels decrease, enabling further reporting and insights into VAWG trends.



Insurgency-related violence

Consistent with the overall trends in violence in NSRP states, insurgency-related violence remains a serious issue affecting women and girls. In Borno and Yobe states, VAWG cases relating to female suicide bombings has become salient trend. Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for most of the suicide bombings carried out by young girls and women, with reports suggesting girls as young as seven years old have been used as perpetrators. In February, Borno state reported two cases of VAWG, which was consistent with the number of incidents reported in January. Both of these incidents involved female suicide bombers who detonated explosives in crowded public areas, killing themselves and causing civilian casualties. Similarly in Yobe state, February saw an increase in the number of reported VAWG incidents, with three reports compared to one incident per month since November. All three of these incidents involved young women carrying out suicide bombing missions for the Boko Haram insurgency.

Pre-election tensions

As overall levels of violence in the pre-election period have risen in NSRP states, reported incidents of women and girls being targeted in political violence rose. This is in addition to the communal and domestic violence across the NSRP states that remained prevalent in February, as outlined in the section below. In Bayelsa, a woman was beaten in a political attack over money, compared with no VAWG incidents reported in January. Rivers state saw an upsurge in reported VAWG incidents related to piracy, violent political rallies and communal gang violence. In Plateau, the daughter of a Deputy Chairman of the People Democratic Party was injured when a gunman killed her father, while the wife of another party chairman was attacked in Rivers state.

February 2015 Incidents by State

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

Borno State: In February, VAWG issues were mainly related to the Boko Haram insurgency. In a Biu marketplace, a female suicide bomber detonated her bomb, killing herself and five others, and injuring 20. In Kaga, two female bombers killed themselves and two female bystanders when their bombs exploded. Boko Haram is believed to be responsible for attacks.

Yobe State: In Yobe state, instances of female suicide bombings were the most prevalent VAWG cases. In Damaturu, a female suicide bomber attacked a bus station, killing 13 and injuring 22. At a Sunday market in Potiskum, a female suicide bomber killed seven people and injured 42 when her bomb detonated. Some reports suggest that this suicide bomber was as young as seven years old. In a third instance, a female suicide bomber killed 19 people in a motor park explosion in Potiskum. As in the attacks in Borno, Boko Haram is believed to be responsible for all three of these cases.

Kano: In Kano, VAWG incidents were predominantly related to woman and child defilement. In Dala, a three year old girl was raped by a 20 year old man. In Tarauni, an eight year old boy reportedly defiled a two year old girl when her mother was not home. In Bichi, a ten year old girl who was visiting relatives in a village was shot by a policeman, with no known motive. In Kano, a seven year old girl was raped by a 50 year old man when she was sent to buy food from him.

Kaduna: In February, incidents of VAWG were primarily related to domestic violence. In Sanga, a husband reportedly beat his wife because she did not have dinner prepared in the evening. In Kaduna South, a girl was allegedly poisoned by her boyfriend because she was pregnant with his child and their parents did not accept the pregnancy.

Plateau: There were three total attacks against women/girls in February, each one in a different LGA and of a different type of violence. In one instance in Jos North, a man raped his brother's 3-year old daughter, while in Jos South, unidentified gunmen killed the deputy Chairman of the PDP of Sop Ward- Riyom Local Government Area- Plateau state and injured his daughter. The third incident, in Barkin Ladi, was a clash believed to be between herdsmen and a community which ultimately led to the death of a man and his wife.

Delta: While communal conflict is oftentimes a recurrent factor in Plateau and Kaduna, in Delta State, where a significant percentage of VAWG incidents occur, primary drivers often relate to domestic violence and criminality. There were seven total

incidents of violence in February. There were four instances of crime in Warri South, including the stabbing of a woman, an attack on a woman concerning election postponement, the kidnapping of two women (one woman later died), and an incident of hoodlums terrorizing women at the market. In Udu, cultists targeted women in an attack on a community. In Ughelli North, one woman was killed by a stray bullet when a cult group attacked a bar. In Isoko South, a woman went missing for several days, leading her family to believe she had been abducted and murdered to be used for rituals.

Bayelsa: There was one case of VAWG in which a woman was beaten in an apparent political attack over money.

Rivers: There were eight total VAWG incidents in February. In Obio/Akpor, a woman was thrown out of the house by her husband because she would not sign divorce papers, an 8-year old girl was raped by a 42-year old man, and a woman's car was attacked after a car accident. Similarly in Port Harcourt, one incident was of a man beating his wife and forcing her to leave and the other incident involved a small girl being raped by an unknown person. In Degema, a man beat his wife over a political disagreement and in Asari-Toru sea pirates attacked five women and a small girl was injured when a political rally turned violent.

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

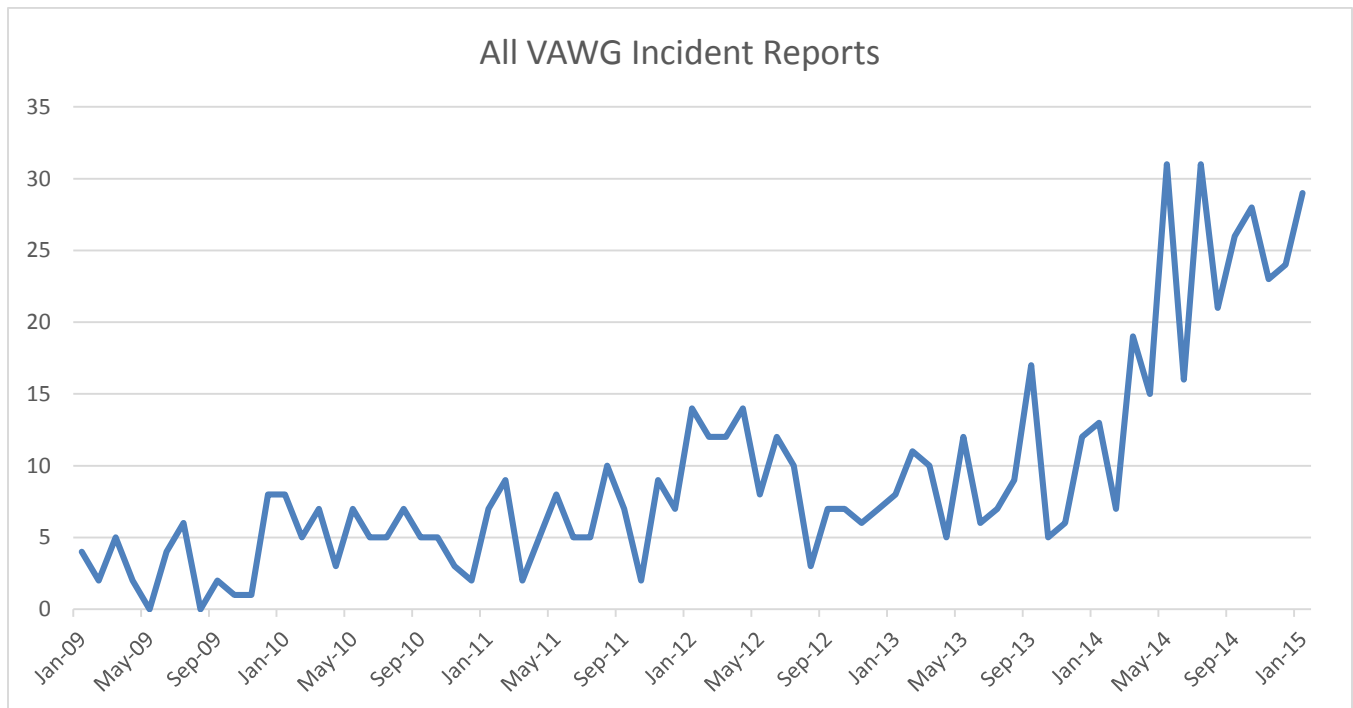


Figure 3: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

As outlined in Figure 4 above, the incident reporting surrounding violence affecting women and girls has risen steadily over the past six years. As the reporting process from all Observatory Platforms continues to be streamlined in 2015, and as the Peace Clubs become more active, we expect to receive more reports. While a comparatively moderate level of media (print and radio)



reporting exists in the Niger Delta on VAWG incidents, relying on media sources for the northern states is difficult, making direct reporting vital. In these instances, the solicitation of data from NSRP partners on the ground is exceptionally useful. While these organizations may not be specifically focused on VAWG, they often have access to information that is relevant and useful for the Observatory. This proved to be an important element of gathering data and mapping peace agents in Borno state.

The reporting levels from the state of Yobe rose in February, representing a positive improvement to the data. January reports consisted of two incidents and fatalities affecting women and girls that were reported for the first time since June 2014. This continued in February with three incidents and fatalities, all being female suicide bombers. While the security situation in the state has likely contributed to some of the challenges of gathering and organizing data, it is hoped that new initiatives to reach out to local partners will continue to be successful in filling this gap. A focus on collecting data in these northern states will be crucial to tracking the worrying emergent trend of Boko Haram’s training and deployment of young girls as suicide bombers.

As the Niger Delta service point comes online in Rivers state, it will be similarly important to ensure that data from other states in the Niger Delta, including Bayelsa and Delta states, are reported as well. Delta has consistently had some of the highest levels of VAWG incidents and the ability to work with local partners to gather data at a more granular level will allow for the isolation of specific trends that will better inform strategies aimed at mitigation and response.

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

The current methodology used for measuring public awareness is via web-based analytics. In consultation with NSRP, we have developed an app that tracks traffic to all deployments of the Observatory map that use data from NSRP sources. This app gives a better representation of the extent to which the project is raising awareness than our previous M&E indicator, which was pulled only from Google Analytics for the P4P Peace Map. Limitations of this approach, however, are that data starts in 2015 and as of now, NSRP has not yet applied the upgrade to the platform, sent on March 9, 2015. When this is applied, the numbers will more accurately reflect the impact of the VAWG project.

| | January, 2015 | February 2015 |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Page views | 684 | 523 |

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

This project fills a critical gap in the mapping and data aggregation of gender-based violence in the NSRP states. Unique from any other platforms currently available, our integrated platform maps VAWG incidents, compares trends, and identifies specific Agents of Peace for each of the focus states.

Since the project’s inception, through training workshops and the mapping of NSRP partners, we continue to increase the number of Agents of Peace. These local organizations are first responders on the ground with a focus on gender violence.

The heat map shows the relative distribution of VAWG reports in the month of February 2015. The green stars show the location of self-identified Peace Agents focused on gender. In the table below 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 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.

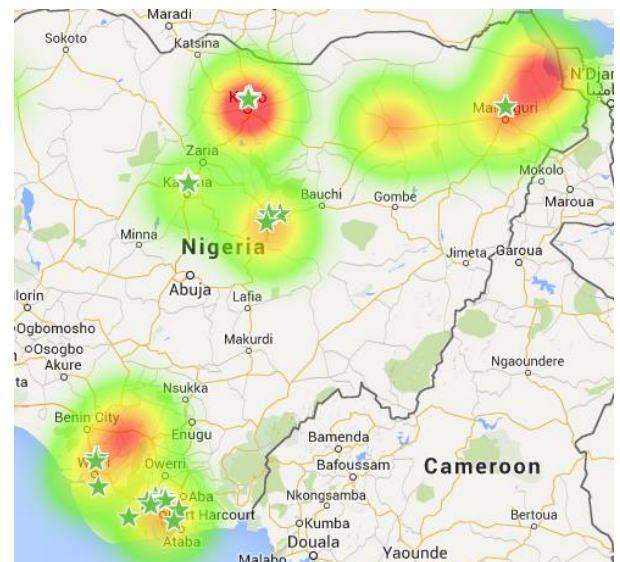


Figure 4: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – February 2015 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

As identified in prior reports, Yobe state remains underrepresented in terms of reporting as well as having no identified Peace Agents. However, outreach efforts are underway to solicit assistance and data from NSRP partners in the state so we anticipate a change in this status in next month’s bulletin.

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

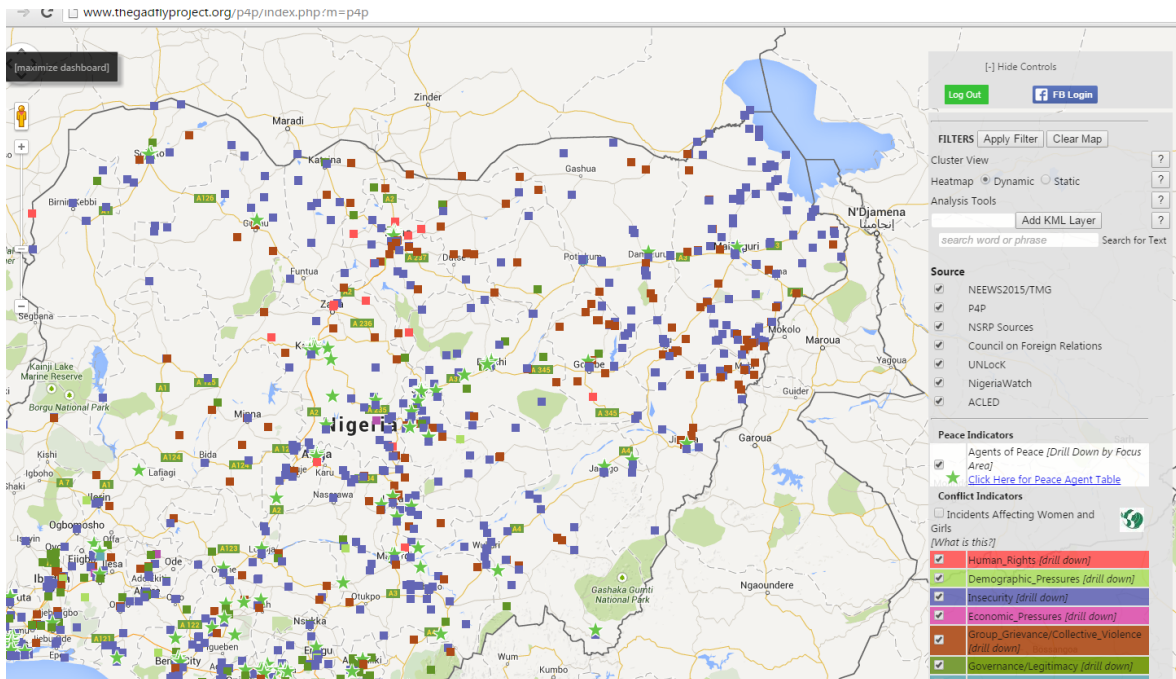
| State | LGA | Organization |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bayelsa | Ekeremor | Ekeremor Women Forum |
| Bayelsa | Yenagoa | National Orientation Agency |
| Borno | Maiduguri | Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) |
| Borno | 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 | Uvwie | Lite –Africa |
| Delta | Uvwie | Community Peace Development Initiative (CPDI) |

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Delta | Uvwie | Development Support Care Empowerment Foundation (DSCAEF) |
| Delta | Udu | Ideal Women Advancement Initiative |
| 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 South | African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI) |
| Kaduna | Kaduna North | "Youth CAN, Kaduna" |
| Kaduna | Kaduna North | Interfaith Mediation Centre |
| Kaduna | Kaduna South | Aid Foundation |
| Kano | Kano | Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC) |
| Kano | Kano | Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) |
| Kano | Kano | INTERGENDER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE |
| Kano | Kano | Women Advancement Initiative |
| Kano | Kano | Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network(WODEN) |
| Kano | Kano | "Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative." |
| Kano | Kano | Center for Documentation |
| Plateau | Jos North | JUSTICE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE COMMISSION (JDPC) |
| Plateau | Jos North | Manna Resource Development Centre |
| 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 | CHRISTIAN RURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (CRUDAN) |
| Plateau | Jos South | COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA |
| Plateau | Jos East | Jos University Teaching Hospital |
| Plateau | Jos | Inclusive Friends |
| Plateau | Jos North | Wiscod |
| Plateau | Jos North | National Human Rights Commission |
| Plateau | Jos | Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS) |
| Rivers | Abua/Odual | Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD) |
| Rivers | Abua/Odual | Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development |
| Rivers | Akuku Toru | Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD) |
| Rivers | Emohua | Kebetkache Women Development |
| Rivers | Etche | Women in Peace and Security Network |
| Rivers | Gokana | Kebetkache Women Development |
| Rivers | Ikwerre | Ikwerre Women Forum |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Center for Creative Arts Education |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Lokiakia Community Development Centre |

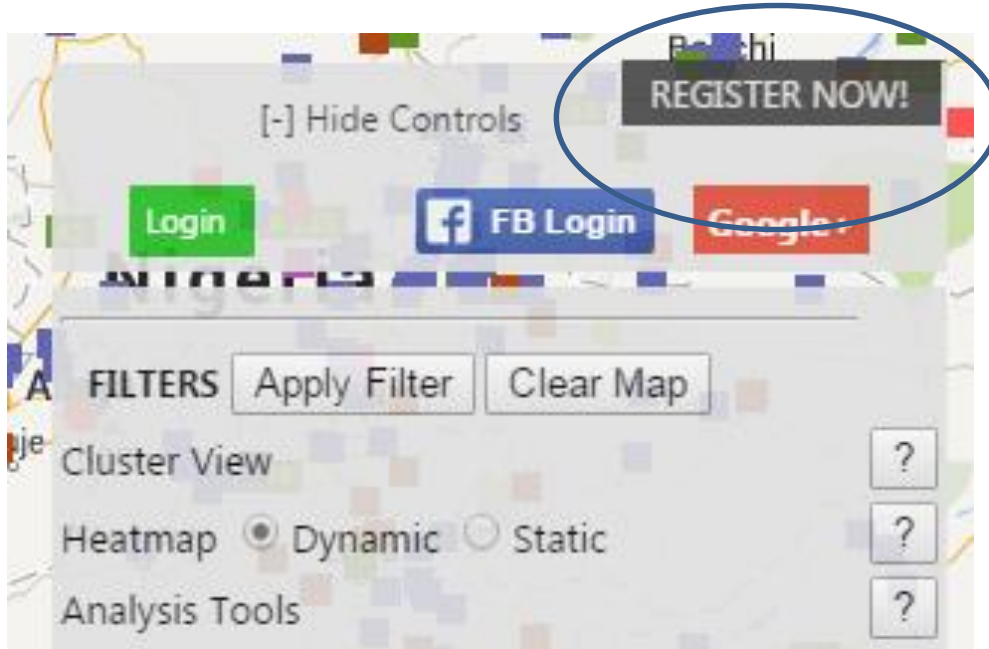
| | | |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC) |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | "Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State branch" |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET) |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Gender and Development Action (GADA) |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Kebetkache Women Development |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Rimwof Project |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Palmbits IPWC |
| Rivers | Bonny | Coalition of NGOs in Bonny for Human Rights and Sustainable Development |
| Rivers | Port Harcourt | Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN) |

Improvements to the Platform

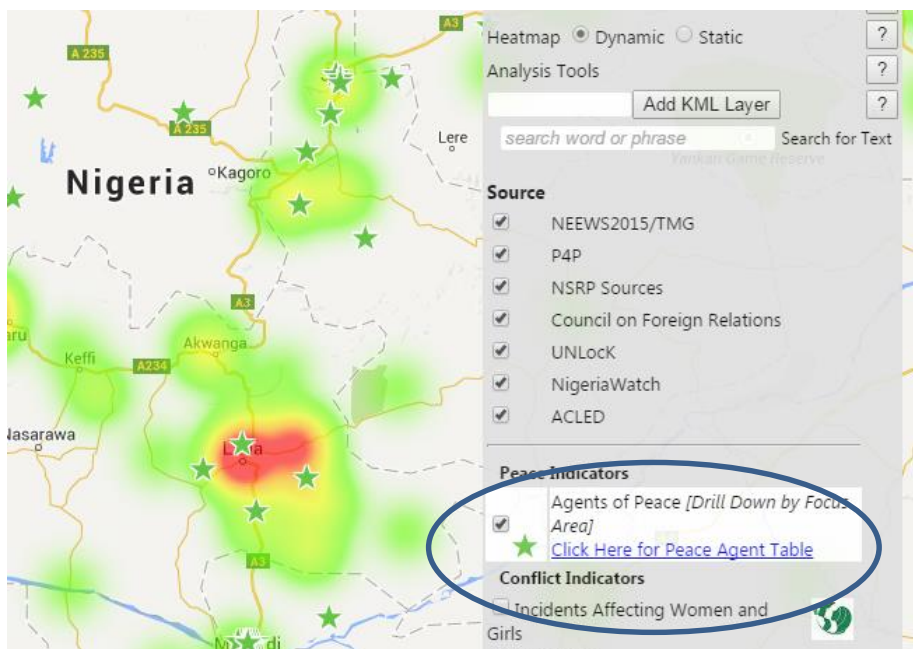
1. The map platform now pops out to a full screen visual. The larger screen gives a much better user experience, allowing more of the map to be visible at all times.



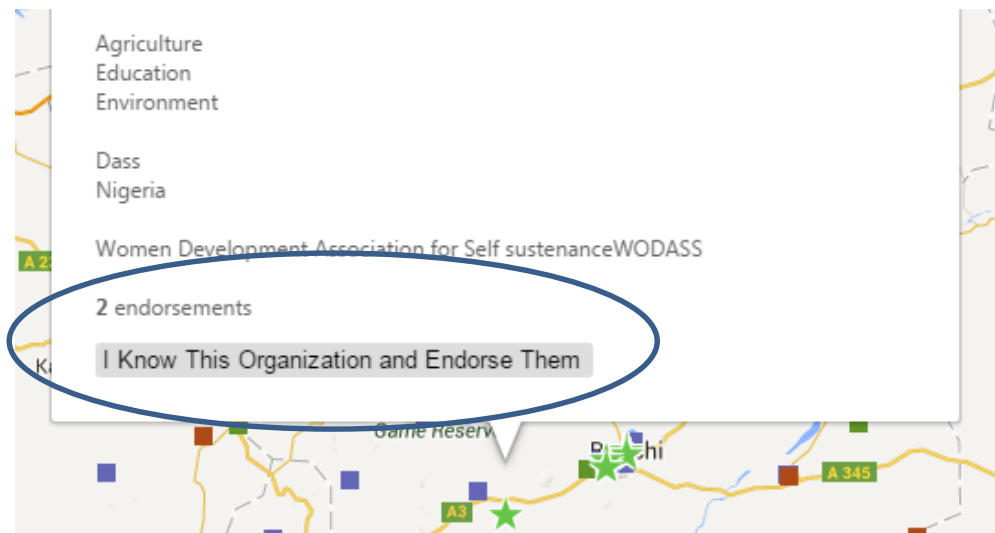
- We have added virtual registration for peace agents. Previously, for an organization to be added to the map of Peace Agents, they needed to attend a workshop and then be manually added to the map. People can now register their organization online and be visible on the map.



- It is now easier to access the list of Peace Agents. Rather than going through the Analysis Tools system, you can now select the Agents of Peace tab and then click the Peace Agent Table to the list, which can be sorted by location or focus.



- Users can now endorse other Peace Agents once they have logged into the system. A tally of endorsements appears on the Peace Agents Table.



Conclusion and Recommendations

While each month the data collection and analysis functionality continues to improve, there are still areas where efforts could be increased and strengthened. Specific recommendations broken out by general objective for the next month are as follows:

- **Objective 1:** *Continue to measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities.*

As has been mentioned in previous reports, while overall efforts to improve data collection across the eight focus states improves every month, further networking with organizations is crucial to the long term growth of the project. This can be achieved by connecting with new organizations listed as Peace Agents and other agencies identified by the OBSTEC in each state. Through enriching the data collection with new reporting sources, this will provide a more powerful platform to spread awareness of VAWG and explore mitigation strategies. Beginning in February 2015, local CSO partners on the ground in Plateau and Rivers states began working directly with Peace Clubs as well as the OBSTEC to improve the quantity and quality of data gathered for the Observatory. We expect this will continue to improve data collection efforts and also lead to the ability to dig more deeply into the data to isolate trends and corroborate patterns across the eight states.



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.

Greater outreach remains critical for areas which have limited or no current service points. This can be achieved through identifying and connecting with local CSOs as well as the OBSTEC, especially in states such as Yobe who has no online service points. Further engagement with media outlets to promote awareness of gender based violence is an effective vehicle for break the culture of silence.

To better capture the extent of traffic to all map deployments, including NSRP's we have developed a web application for administrative use on the site. This way we will not be constrained to use Google Analytics on the P4P Peace Map alone as a proxy for increased awareness.

To increase user-friendliness of the NSRP site, we recommend applying the executed upgrade which will allow the NSRP website to load more quickly and for the map itself to appear on a full page, rather than boxed by the iFrame as currently configured.

- Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response.

The project appears to be on course to accomplish the first three general objectives, and NSRP should in a good position to support the efforts of the OBSTEC in their targeted interventions for the mitigation of violence affecting women and girls. The CSO partners in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers states are critical in working closely with OBSTEC members in this area through the facilitation of structured workshops and meetings to use the data for the identification of priority concerns and develop plans of action. Particularly in this post-election period of transition, trends in violence throughout the country should be closely monitored, but particularly in relation to women and girls to see if there is any change in the nature and frequency of violent attacks in the north and Niger Delta states. As always, the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration and information sharing cannot be underscored enough during this critical time.