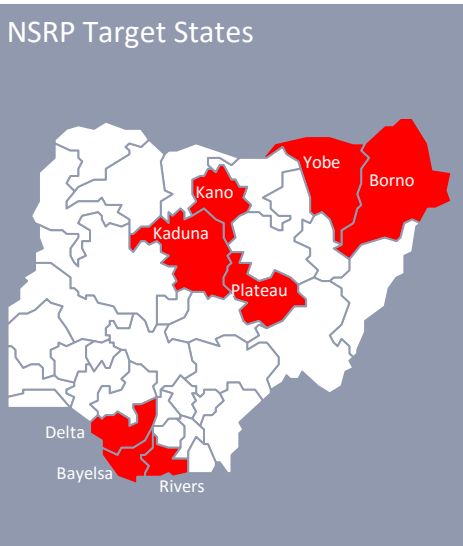


# Violence Affecting Women and Girls in Select Nigerian States

Monthly Memo #17 – September 2015 Data



Total reports of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) received by the NSRP Observatory decreased slightly in the month of September, following an increase in reporting in August. Despite the dip in September reporting, the number of reports of VAWG-related incidents has gradually increased since the beginning of 2014. Peace Agents focusing on gender issues continue to register on the Observatory Platform, showing an increased level of local engagement and community-based resources for women and girls affected by violence. The number of registered organizations has increased from 38 to 68 since the inception of the project. Consistent with patterns from previous months, reports of VAWG in September in the Niger Delta and Plateau were

mainly about sexual and domestic violence, while those in the Northeast have been linked with Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS) related insurgency and counterinsurgency violence.

The following memo analyzes data for the focus states of Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta for September 2015 (data coding and uploading lags by a month). The trend line below shows a decrease in reported incidents of VAWG generated by NSRP Sources over the course of September, decreasing from 47 in August to 35 in September.

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

## VAWG Reports from NSRP Sources

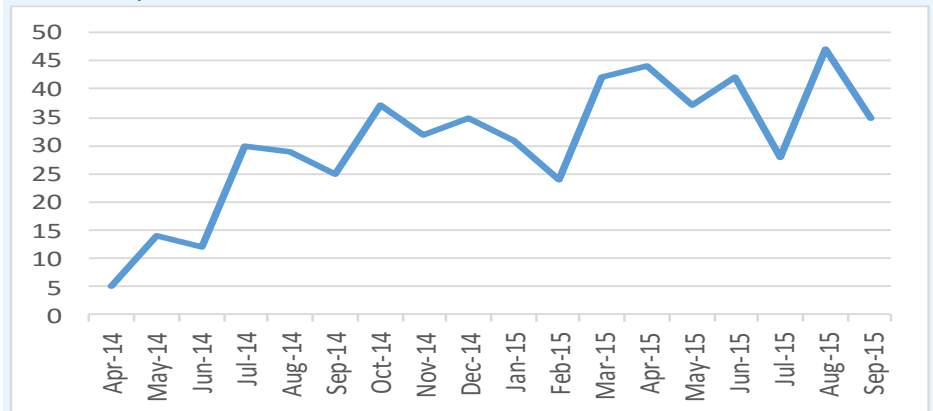


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources



## 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. For overall levels, we use Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.

### Trends in Overall Violence

To provide a more robust account of VAWG trends in the eight NSRP states, it is necessary to examine the overall trends of violence in those states. This section exclusively analyzes data collected by Nigeria Watch to construct a consistent narrative.

In contrast to the generally constant levels of reported general violence in the eight NSRP States since the beginning of 2015, there were fluctuations in reported fatalities, with 1915 reported fatalities in February and 1166 reported fatalities in July, respectively. September ended with the lowest levels of both incidents and fatalities since the beginning of the year. For the month of September, there were a total of 766 fatalities and 124 overall incidents. The increase in fatalities relative to incidents of violence were often related to individual attacks by JAS in Borno state, which were both recurrent and highly lethal. Throughout the year, Borno has had the highest levels of reported violence, followed by Delta and Rivers states. In September, there were 608 fatalities and 38 total incidents reported in Borno, 24 of which were related to insurgency or counterinsurgency efforts. In fact, all but one insurgency related event reported this month occurred in Borno. Combined incidents in Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers states totaled 43 this month.

Following trends of the previous months, the majority of reported incidents of violence in Borno and Yobe in September were related to JAS. In addition to incidents of robbery and intercommunal competition in Kano and Kaduna states, which together reported 20 incidents, 15 of which detailed domestic or sexual violence, insurgency violence spread into the Northwest region when suspected insurgents were killed by

### Number of Incidents and Fatalities by Month

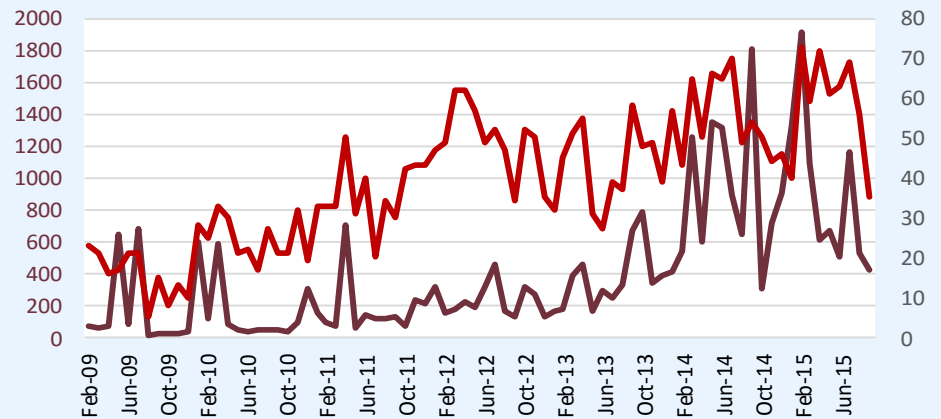


Figure 2: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence as well as Fatalities in Eight NSRP States, according to Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform. The number of fatalities are measured against the axis on the left, the number of reported incidents is measured against the axis on the right of the graph. The graph shows that, although the number of incidents has been increasing steadily over the last six years,

### VAWG Incidents Trends

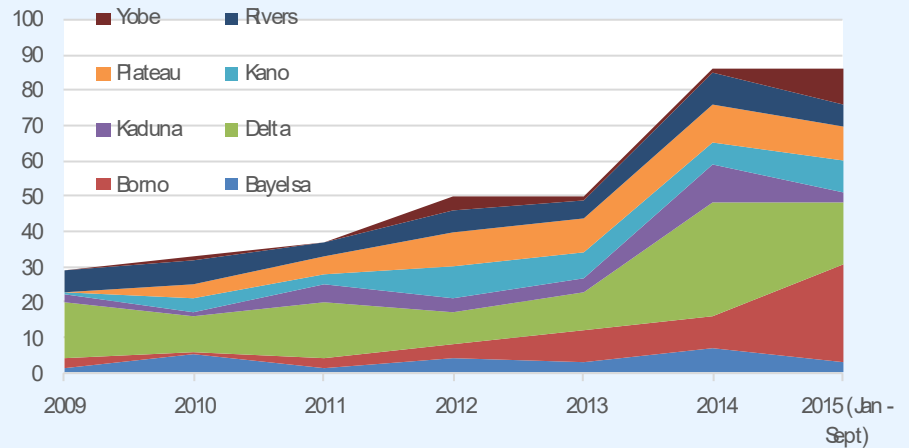


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing trends in VAWG incidents Reported by NSRP State, according to Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents). The y axis shows the cumulative, aggregate trends, while the x axis shows the timeline from 2009 to present. The color blocks show the data disaggregated by state. This graph shows that media reports collected by Nigeria Watch estimate more incidents of VAWG in Delta over

members of the Nigerian Army in Kaduna. In Delta and Rivers states, violence was carried out between communal groups such as herdsmen as well as rival cult groups. In Plateau, as in Delta state, violence continued to be carried out by communal groups, who attacked and killed civilians and livestock, while destroying property.

Consistent with previous trends, four incidents of the 19 total reported in Plateau state, for example, were related to clashes involving herdsmen, which resulted in 68 deaths.

In the first nine months of 2015, there were a total of 617 incidents and 8573 fatalities.

## Trends in VAWG

Although previous reports have noted a high regularity of VAWG incidents in Borno and Delta states since the project's inception, over the past three months, VAWG reports from these states have been lower. The incident of VAWG reported in Delta state this month described the kidnapping of a woman by three men; namely, a shoot out with police where three kidnappers were killed and the woman was able to escape. In Borno, there were three VAWG incidents reported in September, all of which were related to JAS insurgency or counterinsurgency attacks.

The data for this project is highly dependent on direct observation and media coverage of incidents. Such reporting may be difficult or impossible in areas experiencing high levels of conflict and violence. Previous reports show that Borno is prone to violence associated with the JAS insurgency and thus it is unclear whether the drop in the number of reported VAWG incidents originating from Borno is due to a lack of events or an environment that isn't conducive to reporting. As the project has continued and expanded over time, a general trend that has been observed is that the number of VAWG incidents being reported in Yobe state has increased markedly. However, the reports from September seem to counter this trend with no VAWG reported. Continuing from previous months, Plateau and Rivers states have high levels of reporting of VAWG incidents. This month, Rivers state reported more incidents than any other state. The fourteen occurrences of VAWG in Rivers mostly detailed accounts of domestic and sexual violence, which is consistent with trends shown in earlier reports.

Using all data sources, the most reported VAWG incident category in September was sexual violence, followed closely by domestic violence. Insurgency and counterinsurgency violence continues to afflict the northeast region,

encompassing Yobe and Borno states. JAS insurgents are suspected to be the main perpetrators of this violence. The other regions tend to report sexual and domestic violence most often, although this month there were also multiple reports of child abuse. Young girls are the primary victims of VAWG incidents.

## September 2015 Incidents by State

Below is a breakdown of issues reported in the month of September across all data sources by each NSRP target state.

### Bayelsa

There were no VAWG incidents reported in Bayelsa in September.

### Borno

Two of the three incidents of VAWG reported in Borno this month occurred in Bama LGA and entailed counterinsurgency efforts executed by the Nigerian military. On 15 September, a group of women and children were rescued from JAS, commonly known as Boko Haram. A week later, on 22 September, military forces rescued 241 women and children from JAS. A third incident of VAWG was reported within Kaga LGA on 18 September. At least forty people, including one woman, were killed when JAS insurgents attacked a local bus station. As a northeastern state, Borno continues to be afflicted by insurgency related violence, aligning with the trends noted in previous reports.

### Delta

The incident of VAWG that was reported in Delta on 13 September in Okpe LGA involved the kidnapping of a woman by three gang members for unknown reasons. An exchange of gunfire between the kidnappers and police resulted in the deaths of the three men and allowed the woman to escape without being harmed.

### Kaduna

The incidents of VAWG reported in Kaduna this month all entailed rape, domestic abuse, and child abuse. On 3 September, in Chikun LGA, a man denied that he was the father of his girlfriend's unborn child. Later in the month, also in Chikun, there was a report of a woman being beaten by her husband and an incident wherein a woman was attacked and raped by a group of men while doing errands at night. Reports of sexual violence were common elsewhere in Kaduna as well. In Kaduna North, a ten year old was sexually assaulted by her 47-year-old neighbor and was caught by the girl's sister. In Jaba LGA, a woman found out that her ex-husband was having sex with their 17-year-old daughter. Finally, on 16 September, in Kaduna North, a woman was denied the right to custody of her children and her late husband's inheritance.

### Kano

The majority of incidents reported in Kano involved sexual and domestic violence and child abuse, following the trends indicated in prior reports. There were three cases of sexual violence this month. In Ungogo LGA, on 17 September, a 70-year-old man sexually assaulted a 13-year old girl. A nine year old girl was raped by a security guard later in the month in Tarauni and was subsequently arrested. A woman was also raped by the husband of her hairdresser. Incidents of domestic violence and child abuse were also reported. A woman was beaten to death by her husband in Sulmalia LGA. In Dawakin Kadu, a five year old was beaten and seriously injured by her mother. Another incident of child abuse was reported in Gwale in which a ten-year-old girl ran away from the house where she served as a domestic help. An abduction of a teenage girl was also reported in Gwale. She was later found intoxicated.

### Plateau

Following the trends in prior reports, the majority of VAWG incidents reported in Plateau can be

categorized as sexual, domestic, or child abuse. On 5 September in Jos South LGA, a woman's in-laws took her four children and asked her to leave the house after her husband died. Three days later, in the same LGA, a case of sexual violence was reported in which a man raped a girl and ran away. Two cases of domestic violence were reported in Jos South as well. On 15 September, it was reported that a man became drunk and severely beat his wife, causing her injury in the process. A woman also reported that she has been beaten by her husband constantly for two years. The two incidents of VAWG reported in Jos North LGA were both cases of child abuse. On 2 September, it was reported that a man neglects his wife and three children regularly. Later in the month, another woman alleged that her ex-husband beats and neglects their children, and has even locked the thirteen-year-old son in the closet without food or water. On 15 September, an incident of rape of a seven-year-old by an older man was reported. According to members of the community in Wase, this is not the first time that this man has raped young girls.

#### **Rivers**

In September, Rivers had more reported incidents of VAWG than of any other state. The fourteen incidents are spread across multiple categories, with the most common being sexual violence. On 1 September, in Obio/ Akpor LGA, a 15-year-old was raped by four men. A week later, in Oyigbo, a 14-year-old was defiled by her neighbor. The three remaining cases of rape all occurred in Port Harcourt LGA. The capital has consistently had the most VAWG incidents reported within Rivers state. On 11 September, it was reported that a man sexually assaulted his 25-year-old female neighbor. On 26 September, it was reported that a man defiled his neighbor's daughter. Three days later, it was reported that a 14-year-old girl had been raped by a parental figure for four years. As a result of one rape, the girl became pregnant. Four accounts of domestic violence were reported in Rivers for September.

On 7 September, in Port Harcourt, a man reportedly forced his wife and seven-month-old child out of the house and threatened to kill his wife. Two weeks later, in Obio/ Akpor, it was

reported that a man impregnated and repeatedly beat a woman with whom he had been having a relationship, despite the fact that he was married to someone else. There were two domestic violence events that occurred on 30 September. In Etche, a woman complained that she was disrespected and beaten by her husband. Meanwhile, in Oyigbo, it was reported that a nine-year-old girl is beaten and forced to engage in heavy labor daily. Beatings that did not involve domestic violence also took place. In Port Harcourt on 9 September, a woman was beaten on the road. Ten days later, in the same LGA, a woman accused a truck driver of killing someone and was consequently beaten. On 25 September, in Port Harcourt, a woman was dragged from her car and beaten by police. There was an abduction of an 18-year-old woman reported in Obio/ Akpor LGA on 1 September. She was found in Abia state ten days later. At the end of the month, on 29 September in Port Harcourt, a group of cultists threatened to kill a woman selling food. The threat did not materialize into action.

#### **Yobe**

## Objective 2

### All VAWG Reports



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

There were no incidents of VAWG reported in Yobe during September.

*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.*

Figure 4 reflects the total number of VAWG reports across all sources each month, beginning in January, 2009. This month represented the lowest levels of reported incidents of VAWG since January, 2015, with 40 reported incidents in September in comparison to 57 reported incidents the month prior according to data from all sources. In contrast to overall levels of violence this year, which have generally plateaued, reported incidents of VAWG in 2015 have varied

from month to month, with a general upward slope. This general increase in reports of VAWG indicates the success of the NSRP partners in raising awareness of VAWG, which could illustrate a decreased social stigma surrounding reporting violence against women and girls.

As indicated in prior reports, the most comprehensive data that received is obtained through direct observation by NSRP partners at Observatory Service points. The reports provided at these locations offer highly detailed descriptions of incidents occurring at the state, LGA, and community levels allowing for a more accurate and nuanced understanding and analysis. Despite the changes in numbers of VAWG incidents reported over the last several months, reports in 2015 have increased significantly in comparison to previous years, possibly indicating an increased accessibility to reporting mechanisms.

## Objective 3

*Increase awareness of these issues with the use of the Observatory platform and other deployments of the tool, including the P4P Digital Platform.*

The Observatory Platform has a web-based application which is able to track traffic to the NSRP deployment of the Peace Map as a way to measure public awareness. The analytics application is also able track overall visits to the site. This upgrade was applied to the NSRP deployment of the Observatory Map during the second half of May and updated again at the end of September.

Page views to map from the NSRP deployment have held steady since the application was created, dropping slightly in September to 73 from

### Page Views Through All Platforms

Feb 2015	523	Jun 2015	470
Mar 2015	678	Jul 2015	291
Apr 2015	281	Aug 2015	223
May 2015	553	Sep 2015	326

### Page Views through NSRP

May 2015	30
	*platform update allowing this was executed near the end of May, data will be more complete next month.
Jun 2015	78
Jul 2015	71
Aug 2015	88
Sep 2015	73

an all time high in August of 88 views.

## Objective 4

### Locations of Incidents, Agents

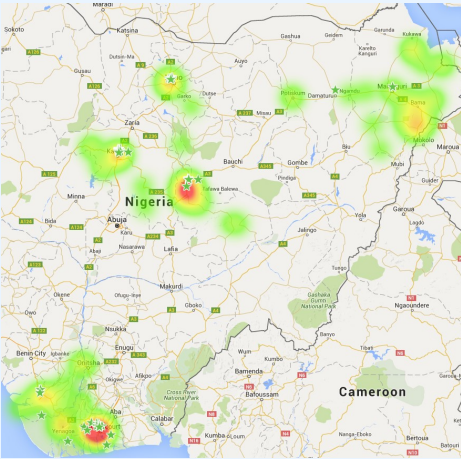


Figure 5: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – August 2015 (Screenshot of Obser-

*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.*

A key function of the platform is its ability to map not only incidents of VAWG across the eight target states but also map local resources identified as Peace Agents. They are self-identified local actors, NGOs or CBOs, who register with the project and then are mapped. They are a possible resource for women and girls affected by VAWG.

Figure 5 is a heat map taken from the Observatory Platform, illustrating the distribution of VAWG Reports according to state in September. Self-Identified Peace Agents are marked by green stars on the map. In addition to registering, Agents are able to endorse one another through the map, allowing them to validate one another. There are currently 68 registered Peace Agents who have

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

State	LGA	Organization	State	LGA	Organization
Bayelsa	Ekeremor	Ekeremor Women Forum	Kaduna	Kaduna North	Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative
	Yenagoa	National Orientation Agency Peacemaker International			Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women's Association (Women's Interfaith Council)
Borno	Maiduguri	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)	Kaduna South	Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women (LEADS Nigeria)	
		Healthcare Development Focus Initiative (HECADF)		Pan African Leadership League	
		National Council of Women Societies (NCWS)		Women for Peace in Nigeria (WOPIN)	
		Women in New Nigeria (WINN)		Women in Need (A Women Empowerment Foundation)	
		University of Maiduguri Muslim Women Association (UMMWA)		Youth CAN, Kaduna	
Delta	Udu	Ideal Women Advancement Initiative	Kano	Kano	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
	Uvwie	Lite –Africa Community Peace Development Initiative (CPDI)			Aid Foundation
	Development Support Care Empowerment Foundation (DSCAEF)	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)			
Kaduna	Chikun	Zamani Foundation	Kano	Kano	Center for Documentation
	Kaduna North	Interfaith Mediation Centre Global Initiative for Women and Children			Development Research and Project Centre (DRPC)
		International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)			Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
					Intergender Development Initiative Right Based Awareness Coalition (RIBAC)

## Organizations and Initiatives Self-Identified as Peace Agents with a Focus on Gender (Continued)

State	LGA	Organization	State	LGA	Organization
		Women Advancement Initiative	<b>Rivers</b>	<i>Abua/Odual</i>	Academy for Cultural Rights and Human Development
		Women Support Development Sustainable Association formerly Women Development Network(WODEN)			Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
		Women, Widows and Orphan Development Initiative		<i>Akuku Toru</i>	Female Development Initiative (FEMLEAD)
<b>Plateau</b>	<i>Jos</i>	Christian Women for Excellence & Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)		<i>Bonny</i>	Coalition of NGOs in Bonny for Human Rights and Sustainable Development
		Inclusive Friends		<i>Emohua</i>	Kebetkache Women Development
	<i>Jos East</i>	Jos University Teaching Hospital		<i>Etche</i>	Women in Peace and Security Network
	<i>Jos North</i>	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)		<i>Gokana</i>	Kebetkache Women Development
		Christian Rural and Rural Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN)		<i>Ikwerre</i>	Ikwerre Women Forum
		Fahariya Adolescent Development Network		<i>Obio/Akpor</i>	Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
		Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria		<i>Port Harcourt</i>	Center for Creative Arts Education
		International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Plateau State Chapter			Civil Liberties Organization, Rivers State Branch
		Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)			Gender Advocacy and Empowerment Initiative (GANET)
		Justice Development Peace and Caritas			Gender and Development Action (GADA)
		Manna Resource Development Centre			Kebetkache Women Development
		National Human Rights Commission			Lokiakia Community Development Centre
		National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS			Medical Women's Association of Nigeria (MWAN)
		The Nigeria Working Group			Palmbits IPWC
		Youth Alive In Christ (YAC)			Partners for Peace
		Wiscod			Rimwof Project
	<i>Jos South</i>	Country Women Association of Nigeria			Women In Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC)
					Women in Peace and Security Network

## Conclusions and Recommendations

*Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response*

listed gender as a primary area of focus. As more organizations register through the Observatory Platform, it increases the opportunity for multi-stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

### Objective 1

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

Compared to August 2015, there were decreases in both VAWG and overall incident reports. Unlike the previous month, Nigeria Watch reported greater numbers of VAWG incidents than NSRP sources for September. With a new observatory points soon opening in Borno and increased efforts to gather more data in Bayelsa, Yobe, and Delta, numbers should rise again in upcoming reports.

### Objective 2

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

Despite the slight decreases in VAWG reports from July through September, relative to previous months, the service points and local partners remain committed to pursuing peace and are highly engaged in the reporting process, as exhibited by the continual increases in the number of peace agents being registered on the Peace Map. The number of these organizations devoted to gender issues is notable. The increase in registrations perpetuate awareness of VAWG incidents and counter the stigma that surrounds these issues. It must also be acknowledged that the quality and detail of the reports received, although perhaps fewer in number than previous months, continues to improve and help provide an accurate analysis of the types of incidents that are

happening and conditions within local communities. The quality of reports demonstrate the continued engagement and outreach efforts of local partners and the OBSTECs in each location.

### Objective 3

*Increased awareness through increased reports*

Traffic to the webpage should increase next month as the NSRP updates were applied at the end of September. Efforts to allow for data collection in conflict prone and violent areas are being explored to help mitigate the disparities in reporting among states.

### Objective 4