

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #8 – December 2014 Data

February 13, 2015

■ ■ ■ In December, the NSRP Sources filter continued to generate 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.

By the end of 2014 there were 50 self-identified Agents of Peace focusing on issues of gender in the NSRP states. As the project has continued, more organizations have stepped forward to be identified through the Observatory. Rivers continues to have the most Agents of Peace, with 17 organizations currently listed. On the other end of the spectrum, there are currently no self-identified Agents of Peace in Yobe, although we are currently working with NSRP to connect with partner CSOs focusing on gender issues. After a small dip in reported incidents in November, numbers rose again in December. The trend of increasing overall violence in 2014 has continued into December with 24 incidents of VAWG reported and a total of 204 VAWG-related fatalities.

This memo covers the month of December (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 four previous monthly memos, this project seeks to accomplish **four general objectives**:

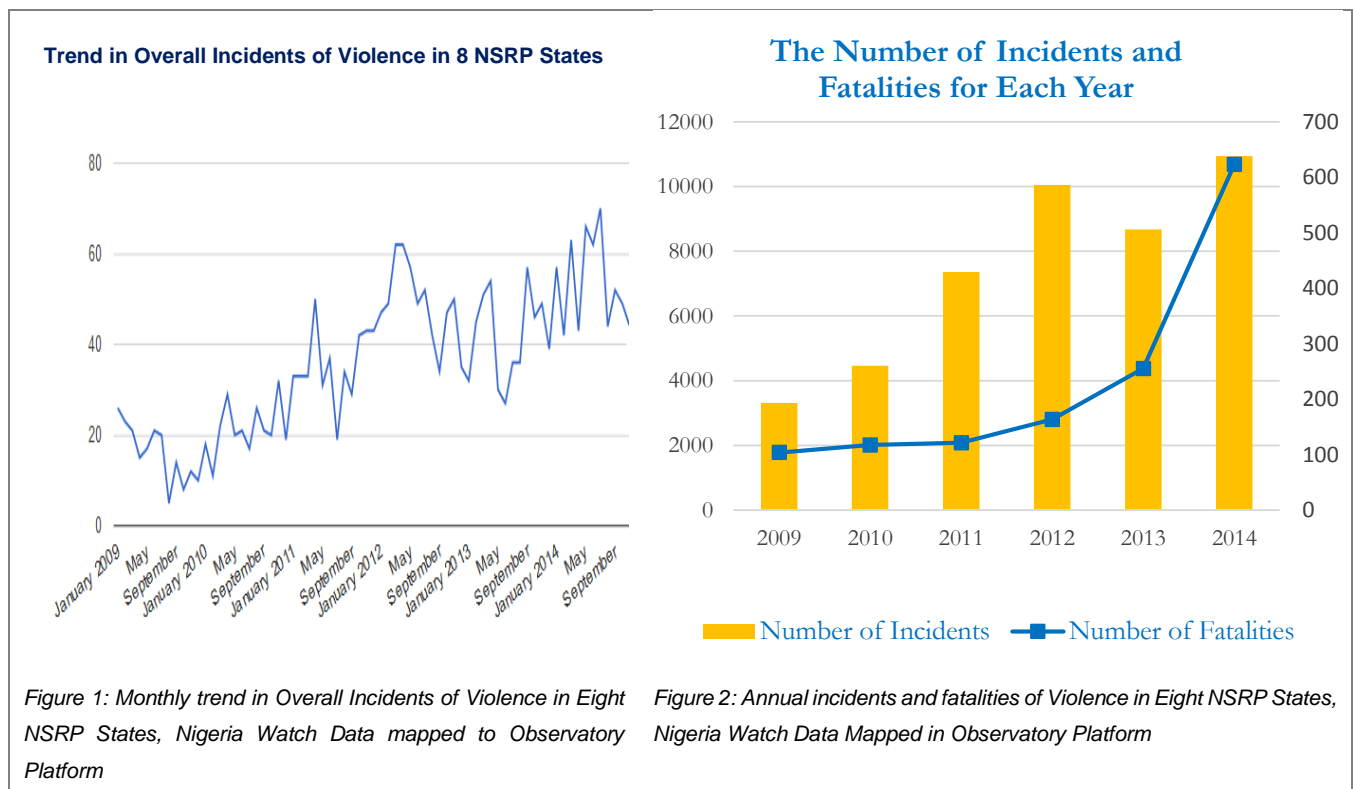
1. Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities in the eight NSRP focus states. For overall levels, we use Nigeria Watch data, which has a consistent methodology and an even distribution of coverage by time and location.
2. Break the culture 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 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, which have been held in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers States (although the newly designed sub-indicators for Plateau and Rivers will be integrated into next month's memo).

The number of both reported incidents as well as the number of fatalities increased in December from the previous month. With December reporting included, 2014 surpassed all previous years measured since 2009 in both incidents reported and fatalities. Over the course of the year, 638 overall incidents were reported. 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. Borno state had the highest number both in terms of the total number of overall incidents as well as reports per capita. Delta state had the second highest numbers in both categories.



Reporting specifically on VAWG has followed the national trend, with the overall situation deteriorating during 2014. Delta state had the most reports overall as well as the most per capita. Bayelsa state followed Delta for the highest number of reports per capita for 2014. Plateau is third per capita annually in reporting on VAWG. The stacked graph below shows VAWG reports collected from Nigeria Watch since 2009, with reports divided by each NSRP State.

It is interesting to compare the Nigeria Watch data to other data coming in from all Observatory Platform sources. In November, Bayelsa had the most reports per capita for the year, which was then replaced by Delta once December numbers were tallied. Kano had the most VAWG reports overall, although dropped down to fifth when comparing reports per capita. Borno, fourth in overall reporting, was third in per capita reporting for 2014.

With very few reports coming from Yobe, it is hard to quantify the level of violence against women and girls in the state.

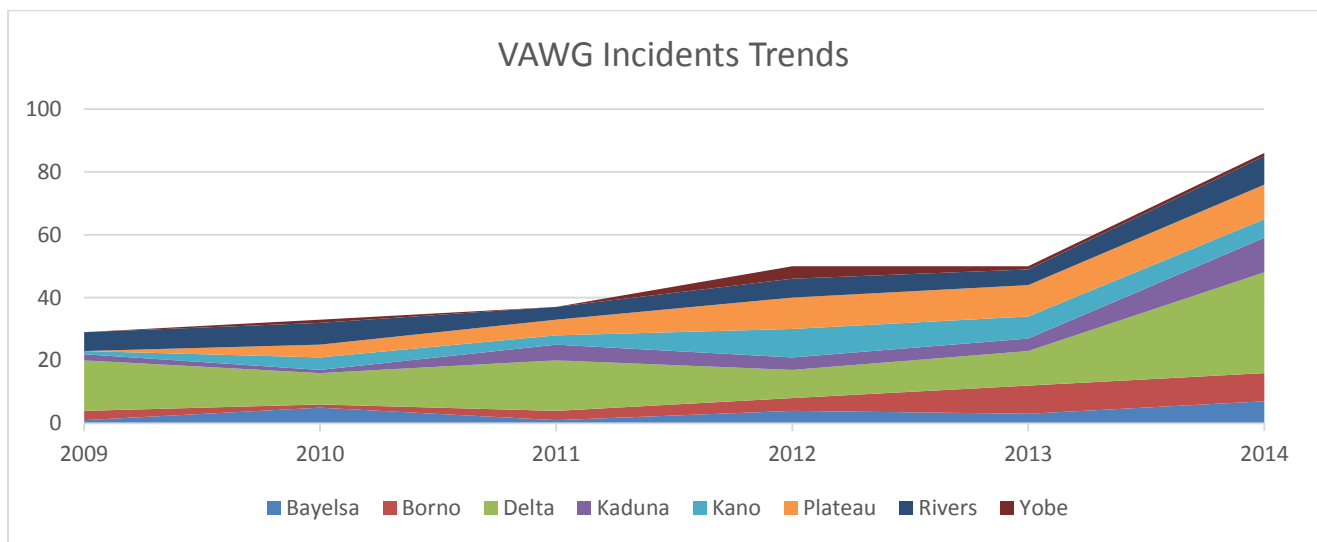


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

November Incidents by NSRP State

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

Borno State: In December, VAWG reports came from Maiduguri, Damboa, Askira/Uba, Gwoza and Kukawa LGAs. Maiduguri and Damoa remained the predominate areas of incidents, however, insurgency related casualties of women and children were also reported in Askira/Uba, Gwoza and Kukawa.

Abductions of women and girls was highest in Damboa, where it was reported at least 185 women and children were taken by Boko Haram on 18 December. A further 20 girls were reported taken on December 8 from Askira/Uba, and a young female and her two-year-old child were abducted in Kukawa on December 18. Heightened risks of female suicide bombings remained a concern, with reports of 52 trained female suicide bombers at large in Maiduguri. One female teenage suicide bomber was detained in Maiduguri while another three females carried out two attacks in a busy Maiduguri marketplace areas, reportedly killing at least 18.

Yobe State: Though civilian casualties from overall insurgency-related violence were reported, there were no specific targeted incidents of violence against women and girls reported in Yobe for December. However, this does not mean they did not occur.

Kano State: For the month of December, VAWG incidents were reported in Doguwa and Shanono. Instances dealt mostly with rape. There were two instances of violence against women and girls in Kano during the latter part of December. The first instance was reported to be in Doguwa on December 21 and was the gang rape of a 22-year-old woman. The second instance was reported to be in Shanono on December 28 as the abduction and sexual abuse of a 15-year-old girl by a 37-year-old man. The girl reportedly became pregnant.

Kaduna State: A VAWG incident was reported in Kaduna South in December; specifically concerning domestic violence against a woman. The sole instance reported was of a middle-aged woman being cut by her husband with a machete.

Plateau State: There were no reported incidents related to VAWG from Plateau in December.

Delta State: VAWG incidents were reported in Oshimili South, Aniocha South, Ika South, and Ughelli North LGAs. One case of direct sexual violence was reported in Delta State in December. In Oshimili South, a trader apprentice of Ogbogonogo market was arrested for raping a 12-year-old girl. Also in Oshimili South, a food vendor chopped off her 10-year-old maid's finger for stealing a piece of meat from a pot of soup. Additionally, a man was arrested in Oshimili South for abducting two 13-year-old girls for ritual purposes.

In Aniocha South, three people including a pregnant woman were found dead with some of their vital body parts mutilated. In Ika South, a 10-year-old girl was murdered by armed robbers when they attacked her family house. Lastly, in Ughelli North three native doctors were arrested for performing illegal abortions on two female students of a secondary school.

Bayelsa State: There were no reported incidents related to VAWG from Bayelsa in December.

Rivers State: There was one VAWG incident reported in Abua/Odual LGA, in which a nursing mother and her child were killed in crossfire between cult groups.

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

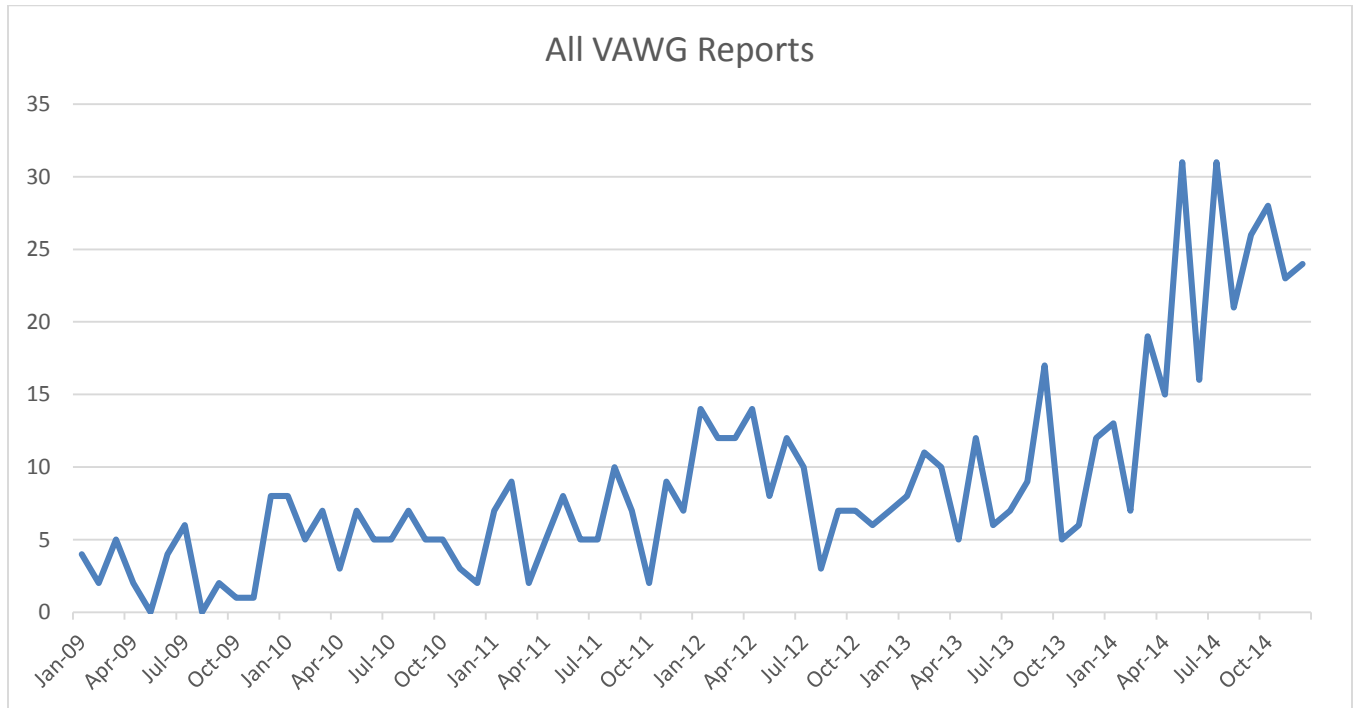


Figure 4: Trend in Reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

Overall, there has been a steady increase in the level of reporting since the launch of the Observatory in early May 2014. Kano and Kaduna in particular have come more fully online and, as the Peace Clubs become more active, we expect to receive more reports. In the other six states, there are varying degrees of reporting coverage which, until the new service points come online for the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta in February, are largely based on reporting from other sources, including the media. 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.

One marked gap in data is the state of Yobe. 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 be successful in filling this gap. Also, 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

Currently, the FFP relies largely on web-based analytics in order to measure public awareness. As FFP does not have access to Google Analytics for NSRP’s website at present, any information that could be provided would aid us in determining the level of public awareness using that tool. However, in the meantime, 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. While levels have decreased slightly since the May launch of the Observatory, they remain above levels previous to its inception. However, although there was a reduction in traffic during the months of October and November, it rose again in December. We expect this to continue to be the trend in January and February as the two new service points come online in the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta. Over the next few months, a focus on gathering information on other, local level initiatives to raise awareness of the Platform, the Peace Clubs, and the work of local CSO partners would further be useful in determining the spread of information hopefully leading to increased awareness on the ground.

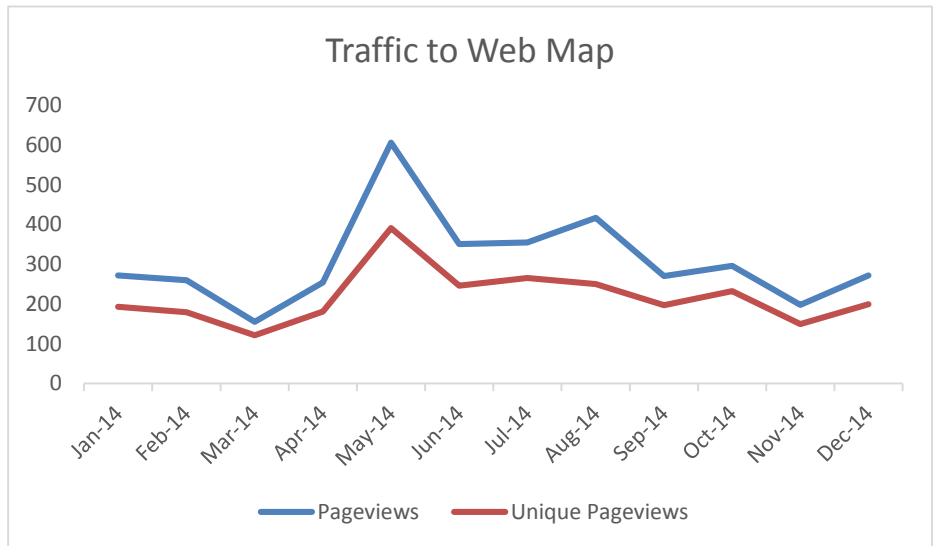


Figure 5: Monthly Traffic to Peace Map (Google Analytics)

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

To date, we are aware of no other mapping and data aggregating platform that not only maps incidents of VAWG and compares them to overall trends, but that it also lists specific Agents of Peace located in each of the eight focus states. These are local organizations on the ground who have self-identified as first responders having knowledge and experience with VAWG issues in particular. Over the past eight months, through training workshops and the mapping of NSRP partners, we have increased the number of Peace Agents and expect that to continue as the project gains momentum and awareness is raised around specific activities, like the Peace Clubs. The heat map shows the relative distribution of VAWG reports in the month of December 2014. The green stars

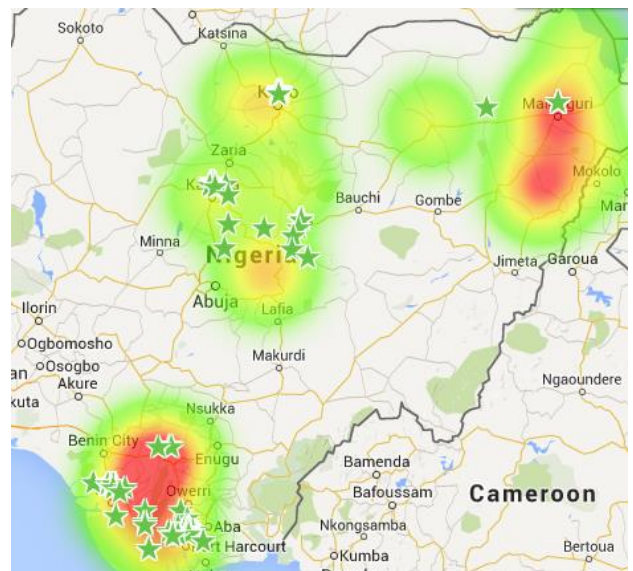


Figure 6: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – December 2014 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

show the location of self-identified Peace Agents focused on gender. 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 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.

As we have 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)
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."
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 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
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

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:** *Measure trends in violence affecting women and girls as compared to overall levels of violence and fatalities.* Overall, as indicated above, data collection efforts for Kano and Kaduna continues to improve, although opportunities for continued networking with organizations listed as Peace Agents, as well as other agencies identified by the OBSTEC in each states, should be more fully explored and engaged. This will help greatly with data collection as well as fostering an enabling environment for the mitigation of VAWG-related issues. Beginning in February 2015, local CSO partners on the ground in Plateau and Rivers states will begin 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 greatly 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.* In order to fill gaps in some of the states where the service points have yet to come online, or there is a general dearth of information due to the security situation or lack of access to communications, greater outreach efforts on the part of local CSOs as well as the OBSTEC in each state are critical. In addition, more direct engagement with media outlets who are receptive to VAWG content and subject matter, and might be interested in hosting shows on the issue, will contribute greatly to raising awareness. As discussed at prior meetings in October 2014 and most recently during a FFP trip to Nigeria, a canvassing of such media outlets that may broadcast radio programs or talk shows that currently do or could feature segments on VAWG could 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 and the new CSO partners in Plateau and Rives 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. With dramatically increasing levels of violence occurring and expected to continue in the north of the country, likely compounded by election tensions, it is more critical than ever to ensure that women and girls have the information needed to seek aid. Both Yobe and Borno states have been the epicenters of violence in the north and, particularly in Borno, also have many women and girls who now find themselves as IDPs due to the insurgency. This makes them particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and specific efforts to reach these populations should be considered. During the coming months, OBSTEC will play a crucial role as will local peace agents and partners on the ground. Overall, the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration and information sharing cannot be underscored enough during this critical time.