

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #11 – March 2015 Data

May 19, 2015

In March 2015, reports received continued highlighting moderate to high levels of violence affecting women and girls across many NSRP focus states. The trend of both overall violence and VAWG fell in March, though the number of reports from the NSRP sources filter rose, indicating an increasing awareness of the issue as well as successful outreach and reporting efforts on the ground.

This memo covers the month of March 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

In the previous report, tracking February’s numbers, there was a spike in overall violence from January. This month, however, indicates that incidents reported by Nigeria Watch dropped from 73 to 59 from February to March. Nevertheless, looking at Figure 1 below, the trend of overall reported violence in the eight NSRP States has risen steadily over the past six years. Figure 2 displays fatalities and reported incidents. It is telling to note that fatalities during the first three months of 2015 match the number of total fatalities for the entire year of 2013, making the first three months of this year very deadly.

In terms of overall violence in March, Borno led in reporting per capita by almost double that of the next state, Rivers. This reflects the ongoing insurgency and counter-insurgency violence taking place in the northern NSRP states of Borno and Yobe. With military forces moving in increasing numbers into Borno, conducting air raids as well as ousting Boko Haram from strongholds, the main forms of reported violence stemmed from issues of insecurity and group grievance. The Chadian and Nigerian armies positioned in the southeastern part of Niger launched a large scale air and ground offensive in early March across the border into the north while Cameroonian forces joined counter-insurgency efforts later in the month.

The trends in violence in the Niger Delta remain more criminal and political in nature than those in the North. The main reports coming out of Delta state were protests around public services and governance. Violence reported in Rivers had a number of abductions and general criminality. There were also small-scale clashes between different political youth groups.

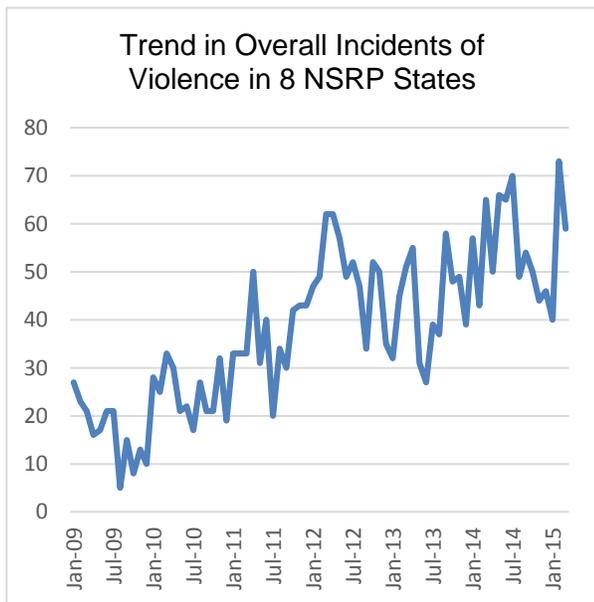


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform

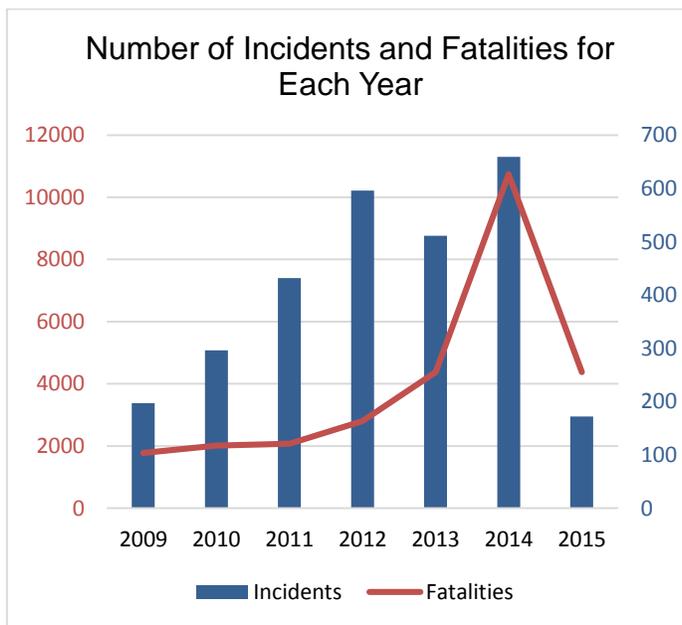


Figure 2: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped to the Observatory Platform

Trends in VAWG

Incidents of VAWG reported in March trended toward domestic and sexual violence as well as violence surrounding the Boko Haram insurgency and the military counter-offensive. Military forces began sieges against Boko Haram targets in Bama following a series of air raids, which set in motion reprisal attacks by Boko Haram against many of the women they had taken hostage. As security remained a prevalent issue in the north as the military moved in, it is likely that a full reporting of incidents will lag by a month or two as has been the case in prior months as local actors often encountered hindrances to their free movement as well as general upheaval.

Borno, followed closely by Rivers, had the highest number of VAWG incidents per capita for March. They were trailed by Kano, Plateau and Bayelsa. Delta and Kaduna had the least number of VAWG-specific reports per capita, while there were no reports from Yobe in March. Rivers had the highest number of total VAWG reports for the second month running. Borno and Kano came in second and third in overall VAWG reports. Borno has had more incidents of VAWG reported in the first quarter of 2015 than the whole of 2014.

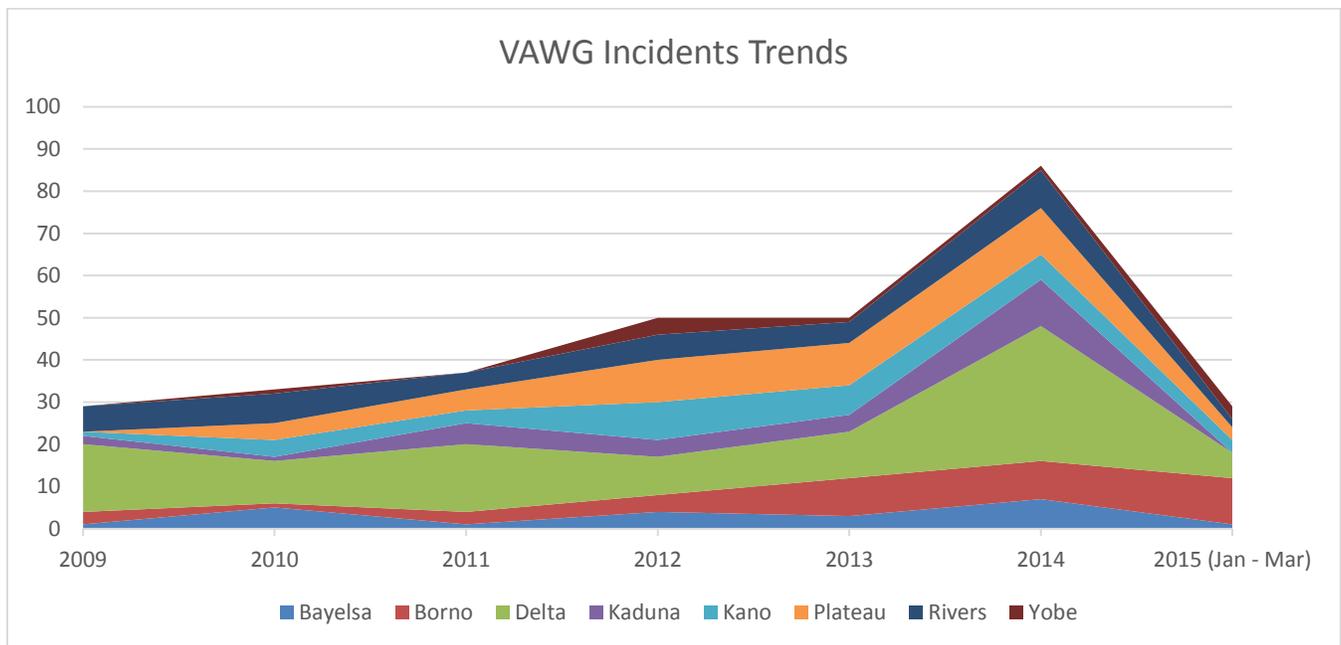


Figure 3: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

March 2015 Incidents by State

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

Borno State: In March, the VAWG reports from Borno continued to relate mainly to the Boko Haram insurgency. Violence continued as military forces began to oust Boko Haram from Bama. The rates of female suicide bombers is a trend that continues to grow with five incidents reported in March. In Maidurguri, a series of bombings, including at least one female attacker, killed at least 58 people. Three days later a second bombing by a suspected female Boko Haram suicide bomber killed at least 34 people at a crowded market. In Bama, an assumed 24 forced brides of Boko Haram insurgents were killed by their husbands to keep them from being taken by soldiers of the Nigerian Army. Also in Bama, bodies believed to be hostages of Boko Haram were discovered in water wells. They are thought to have been executed as the insurgents fled the community.

Yobe State: There were no reports from Yobe during March.

Kano: In Kano, VAWG incidents were predominantly related to women and child defilement. There were ten incidents reported in March from all over the state. In Dala, a 45-year old man was accused of raping multiple girls, aged 11-14, while they were on their way to school. In Kumbotso, a 16-year old girl was repeatedly raped by her elder sister's husband when she would visit their home to get traditional medicine for her ill mother. A 30-year old woman in Doguwa who was administering polio vaccines to children was assaulted by a 45-year old man in one of the households she visited.

Kaduna: In March, the primary VAWG incidents reported in Kaduna were related to domestic and sexual violence. In Kaduna South, a police officer forcibly removed his children from his wife after an argument and set them up at his girlfriend's house. In Kaduna North, there were two reported incidents of rape; the first concerned a young girl who was raped by a neighbor while the second report detailed the gang rape of young bride-to-be.

Plateau: In March, there were a total of three incidents of VAWG reported in Plateau, two taking place in Barkin Ladi and the third in Jos North. In Jos, a young girl was photographed naked while sleeping and the photos were distributed. Both reports from Barkin Ladi focused on intercommunal violence, with attacks and reprisals reportedly concerning herdsmen. Overall, it was reported that six people, including women and children, were killed in two separate attacks by suspects in a pastoral/herding dispute. Two victims, suspected to be Funlani, were killed during a protest after several armed youth were arrested following the previous incident.

Delta: Reported VAWG incidents in Delta in the past have trended towards criminality and domestic violence and this continued in March. In Warri South, a young woman was shot and killed by indiscriminate gun fire from a member of a vigilante group while a 23-year old girl was robbed and killed by armed gunmen in Aniocha South.

Bayelsa: There was one case of VAWG reported when suspected cultists reportedly attacked and raped an 18-year old girl.

Rivers: With a total of 16 VAWG reports in March, Rivers State had the highest number of incidents. As in Delta and Bayelsa states, the violence in Rivers tends towards criminality and domestic violence. There were several reports of abduction in Obio/Akpor. A woman was kidnapped by unknown gunmen, beaten and brutalized, and then was released with the help of the police the next day. There were seven reports of child abuse with family members identified as the main perpetrators in several cases. In one report, a man was accused of habitually raping his eight year old daughter over a period of time.

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

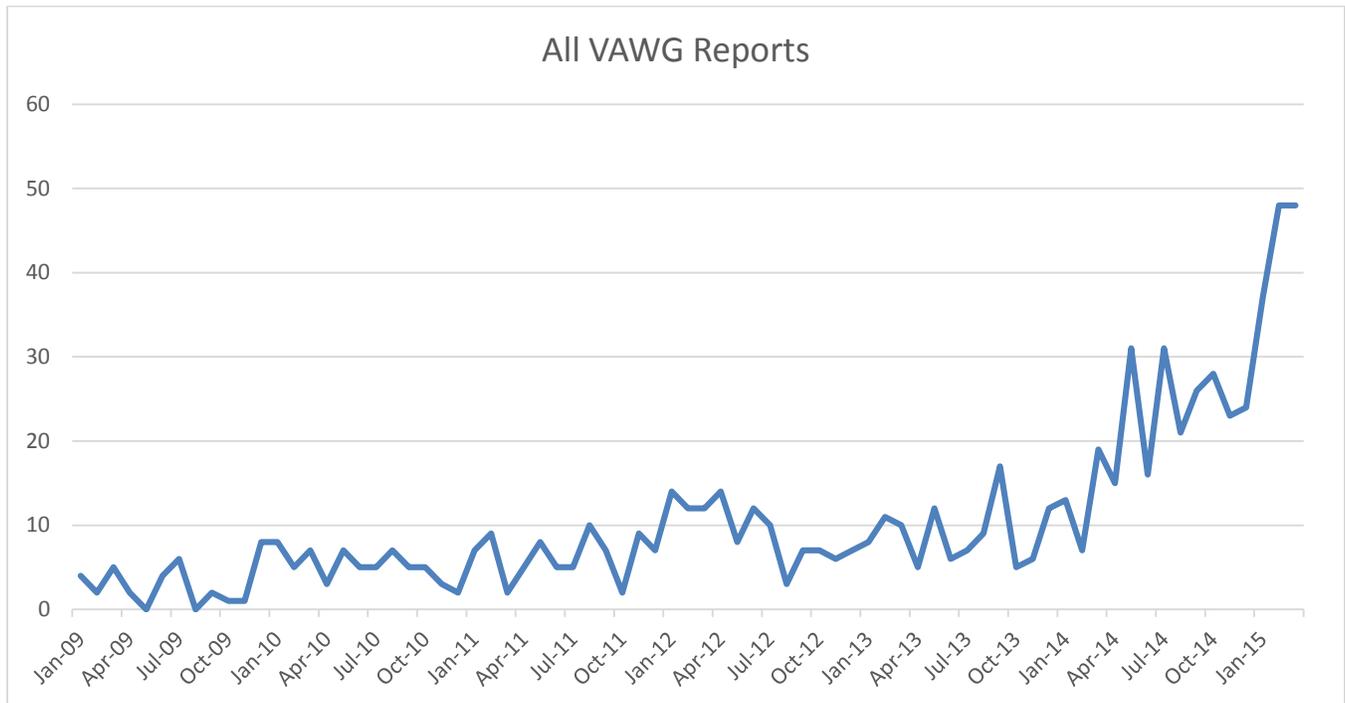


Figure 4: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

Figure 4 represents the reporting of incidents of VAWG across all data sources. As the Observatory and Peace Clubs become more active, we expect to receive more reports. However, it is important to note that in March, the NSRP sources filter had nearly the highest number of reports since its inception a year ago (and in the aftermath of Chibok). This is highly significant as it demonstrates a growing awareness of the topic as well as the successful outreach and data gathering of local partner organizations and OBSTECs in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers. Specifically, in February and March, there were a total of 96 reports of VAWG across all data filers, approximately 48 per state, per month. In March, 30 of out those 48 reports came from NSRP sources, the highest amount since last year. We have relied on moderate level of media reporting that exists, especially in states where there is not a direct service point, for VAWG reports but direct reporting gathered from partners remains the most detailed and relevant data we receive on a monthly basis.

In particular, with the coming online of the Rivers observatory service point, data from that state has increased significantly, this month constituting over half the reports coming from NSRP sources. Data from Delta and Bayelsa states, however, while steady, could likely increase with more outreach to those two states, particularly to NSRP partners or women's organizations working on VAWG issues. Similarly, while data from Kano and Kaduna continues to come in steadily from our partner organizations, more outreach to Borno and Yobe would allow for more nuanced data rather than a reliance on media and other secondhand reporting. In cases where we have been able to gather firsthand accounts of incidents occurring in those states, as well as Delta and Bayelsa, the degree of relevance and richness of data allows for more detailed analysis and, potentially, a more targeted

response. In the Niger Delta, other data sources (including UnLock) often fill in the gaps but it would be very beneficial if there was an increased effort to solicit similar levels of VAWG reporting from the two other northern Nigerian NSRP target states of Borno and Yobe.

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

We currently use web-based analytics to measure public awareness of this issue and the project. We have developed an application that tracks traffic to all deployments of the Observatory map that utilizes data from NSRP sources. . It gives a better representation of the project impact than our previous M&E indicator which was based on numbers from Google Analytics for the P4P Peace map. During the months of May and June, further upgrades are being made to the Map to improve its overall functionality and also ease of use. As of the writing of this report, however, NSRP has not yet applied the March 9th upgrade to the platform that will allow us to measure the number of times the map is accessed from their website, so this continues to limit our ability to calculate the actual traffic to the Observatory Map. When it is applied, the numbers will more accurately reflect the impact of the VAWG project. Also, until the upgrades are applied, any improvements to the functionality and appearance of the Map will not be visible on NSRP’s website, so we highly recommend these be implemented without delay.

	January, 2015	February 2015	March 2015
Page views	684	523	678

Objective 4: Facilitate and Support Opportunities for Preventative Response

The four OBSTECs based in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers continue to fill in missing data in the aggregation of gender-based violence in the NSRP states. This unique platform with integrated data maps VAWG incidents, allows for the comparison of trends and identities specific Agents of Peace in each focus state.

The local organizations we have identified with the help of NSRP and our local partners constitute the first responders on the ground with a focus in gender violence. We are continually looking to make new connections with organizations willing to be highlighted on the map.

The heat map in figure 5 shows the distribution of VAWG reports in the month of March 2015. The green stars show the location of Peace Agents that have volunteered to appear on the map. In the table below is the list of gender-focused organizations in the eight NSRP states. As in previous reports, we recommend including representation from these organizations when possible

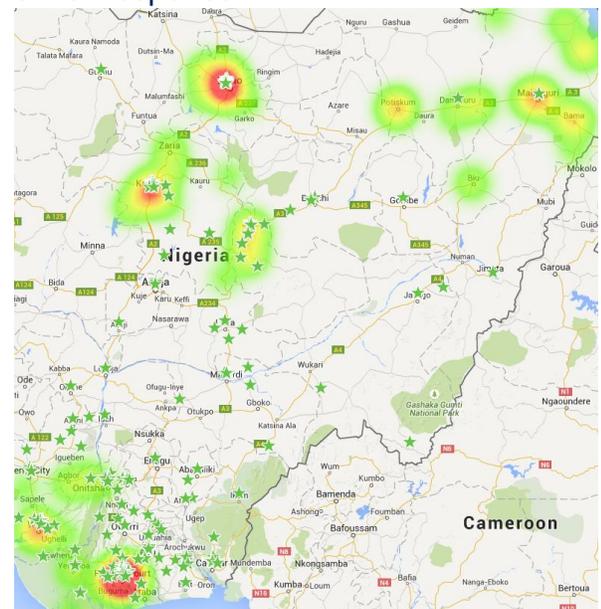


Figure 5: Heat Map of VAWG Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – March 2015 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

and appropriate in NSRP workshops and activities. Reaching out to them to solicit their assistance in the possible sharing of data could enrich the data available for analysis.

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)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Each month data collection, analysis and mapping functions continue to improve. However, there are still areas where efforts can be increased and strengthened.

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

While data collection continues to improve across the eight focus states, further networking with partners and organizations is critical to the growth of the project. Expanding the list of Peace Agents as well as connecting with other agencies identified by the OBSTEC in each state will make a stronger platform to spread awareness of VAWG and explore mitigation strategies. Connecting with new organizations and actors will also enrich the data collection, providing access to different groups. In particular, as noted above, the richness of the data now being received from partners in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers would be complimented by stronger outreach efforts (or the possible



establishment of an Observatory service point) in Borno and Yobe. While there are a plethora of reports out of Borno concerning overall violence, and many that focus on VAWG in particular, it would be wonderful to have access to the types of firsthand reporting we are receiving from the other four states. While this gap can and is being filled in the other Niger Delta states, more outreach to Delta and Bayelsa organizations focusing on VAWG would be beneficial as well. FFP can continue to ask P4P and UnLock partners to contribute VAWG-specific data but if NSRP could also do outreach to its partners on the ground that would likely also increase reporting most relevant to this project.

- 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.*

As mentioned in Objective 1, further outreach to areas with limited or no current service points continues to be critical for the success of the project. The OBSTEC can achieve this through identifying and connecting with local CSOs, especially in States such as Yobe, which currently remains the only state with consistently little to no reporting, month-to-month. Another recommendation is the continued engagement with media outlets to promote awareness of VAWG will be an effective method to break the culture of silence. To better measure the direct impact of the Observatory, we developed a web application that tracks visits to the peace map by platform deployment but upgrades to the NSRP webpage will be necessary for it to be effective.

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

The project is 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. As always, the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration and information sharing cannot be underscored enough, particularly in the post-election period and in the wake of the main military operations in the north of the country.