

Violence Affecting Women and Girls in the Eight NSRP Target States

Monthly Memo #12 – April 2015 Data

June 15, 2015

In April 2015, the NSRP Observatory platform received the highest number of reports since the inception of the project twelve months ago. Reports continued highlighting moderate to high levels of violence affecting women and girls across most NSRP focus states. There are eight new Peace Agents focusing on gender issues identified in this memo. Reporting of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the Niger Delta has been primarily focused on domestic and sexual violence. In the north, VAWG is tied to insurgency and counter-insurgency violence. This memo covers the month of April 2015 (data coding and uploading lags by a month) for Borno, Yobe, Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta. It should be noted that this is the second month in a row that NSRP has hit a record number of reports.

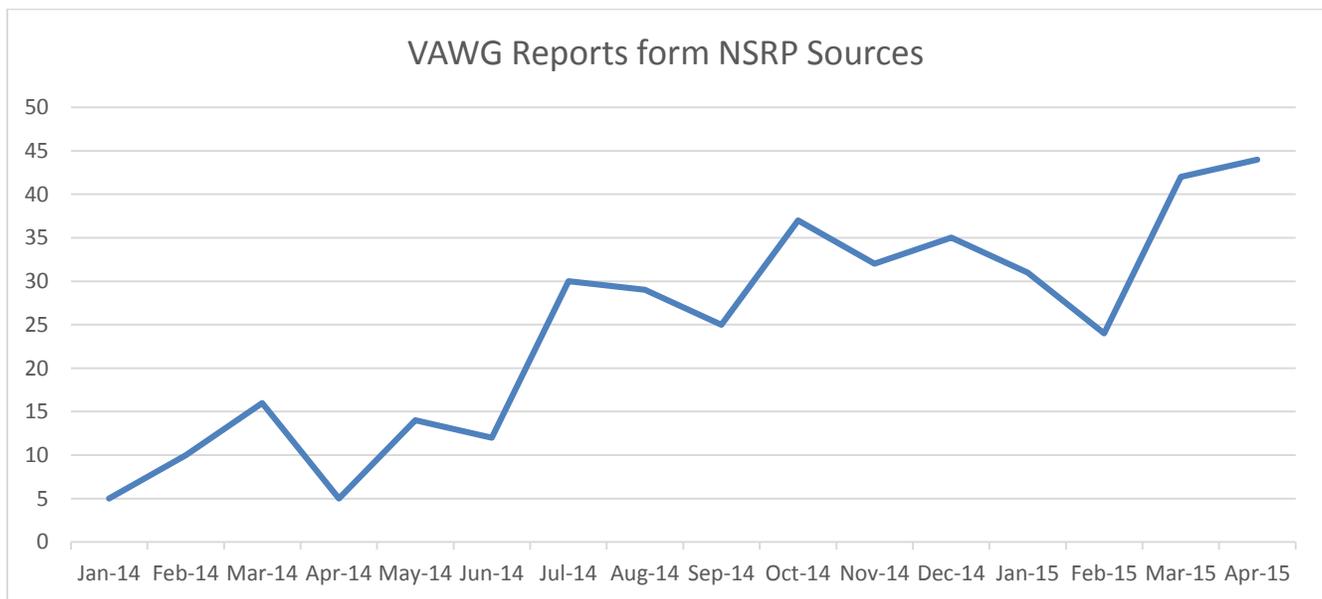


Figure 1: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence Reported by NSRP Sources

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 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.

Overall trends in violence

While analyzing VAWG, it is important to also look at the overall violence levels in each state. In April, Rivers state reported the most incidents of general violence per capita, followed by Borno state, while the reverse was true in March. For April, fatalities were still higher in Borno but there were a high number of non-lethal incidents surrounding the gubernatorial elections that took place 11 April. In Borno, violence

remained mostly related to insurgency and counter-insurgency efforts against suspected Boko Haram members and operations. Similarly, the violence in Yobe remains based in insurgency and group grievance as operations in and around the state continue to affect the overall security situation. Overall violence in the eight NSRP states rose in April although the number of fatalities fell by nearly half from last month.

The Nigerian military, assisted by the Cameroonian, Nigerian and Chadian militaries, continued to move through the northern part of the country in their counter insurgency efforts, ousting Boko Haram from former strongholds such as the Sambisa Forest. To date, there have been nearly 275 hostages reportedly rescued from the forest although Boko Haram reportedly continued to stage regular attacks in retaliation throughout the month of April.

In the Niger Delta, reports concerned general criminality and insecurity related to the delayed National Assembly elections. A number of reports detailed domestic violence as well as sexual abuse in Rivers state, while a series of robberies resulted in deaths. Protestors reported to number in the thousands gathered in Port Harcourt during the elections causing delays in opening voting booths. Additionally, reported killings took place between members of the PDP and the APC, mostly surrounding the gubernatorial and House of Assembly elections, leading to political protests, clashes, and the theft of electoral materials. In Delta state, the Ughelli Branch chairman was killed in a suspected act of political violence.

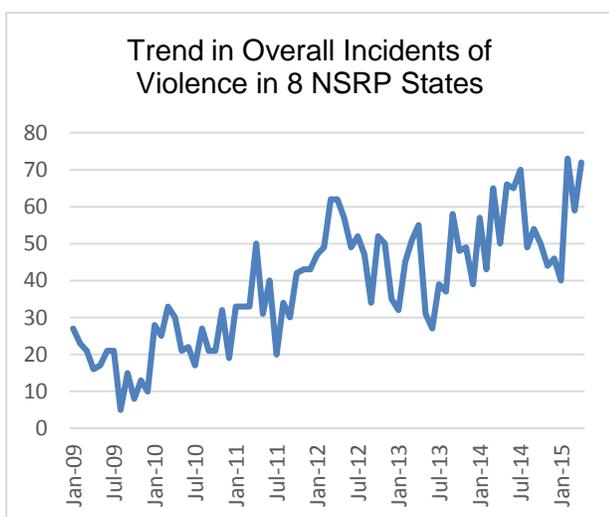


Figure 2: Monthly trend in Overall Incidents of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data mapped to the Observatory Platform

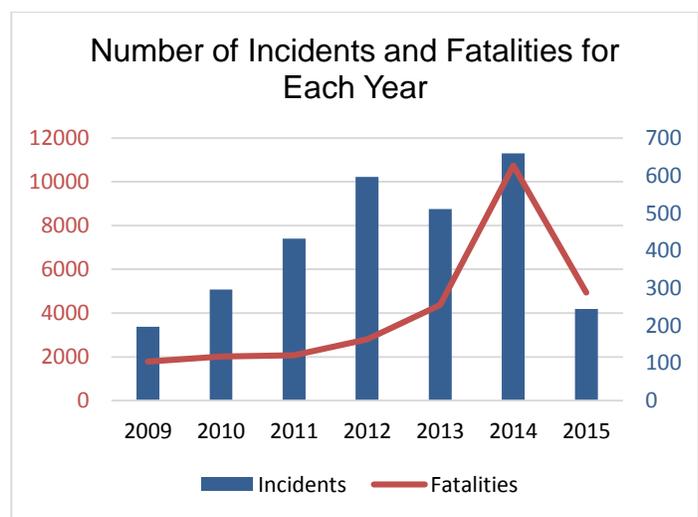


Figure 3: Annual incidents and fatalities of Violence in Eight NSRP States, Nigeria Watch Data Mapped to the Observatory Platform

Trends in VAWG

In terms of VAWG, the number of incidents per capita reported by Rivers state almost tripled that of the following state, Kano. Borno, Delta, and Plateau states all reported around the same level of incidents per capita for the month, while Yobe and Bayelsa had no reported cases of VAWG. In Rivers state, the majority of cases involved sexual violence and domestic abuse, while Kano's incidents detailed child abuse and conflict between religious and political parties.

With the military continuing its insurgency campaign against Boko Haram in the north of the country, many hostages have reportedly been rescued. In April, it was reported that over 275 hostages were rescued from the Sambisa Forest, many thought to have been part of the Chibok abduction that took place in April 2014. In the Middle Belt and South-South, respectively, criminality, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and political violence are more often reported than the levels of overall insecurity experienced in the northeast of the country.

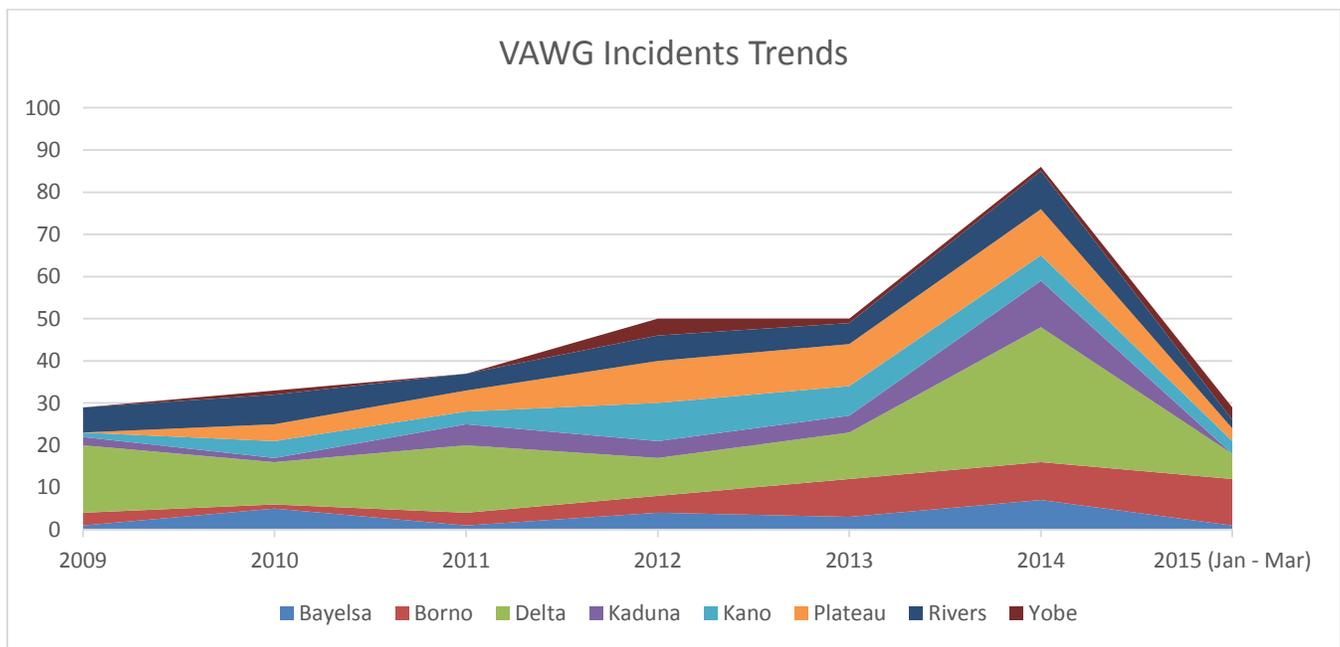


Figure 4: Stacked Area Chart showing Trend in VAWG Incidents Reported by NSRP State, Nigeria Watch data (larger area=more incidents)

April 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.

Bayelsa: There were no reports of VAWG from Bayelsa during April.

Borno: In April, VAWG was generally related to reported Boko Haram activities, particularly surrounding the rescue of hundreds of women and girls by Nigerian military forces. In Bama, seven soldiers were reportedly killed by women (who were being held hostage) who opened fire as they came to rescue them. This incident also reportedly resulted in the death of over two dozen

women who were caught in the crossfire or killed trying to flee. Reported indicated that hundreds of decomposed bodies were found in Mobbar, suspected to have been killed by Boko Haram for attempting to flee. In another media report, the military was praised for rescuing 234 women and girls in Gwoza.

Delta: In Delta, the three reported incidents of VAWG in April consisted of abductions, criminality and cult-related violence. A woman was robbed and shot dead while heading to a market in Anichoa South, and two people (including a pregnant woman) were killed by suspected cultists in Ika South. Lastly, a woman working for a local magazine was kidnapped and later reported killed.

Kaduna: The four reported cases of VAWG in Kaduna were predominantly related to domestic violence and sexual assault. In Igabi, a woman was abducted and gang raped, and a young woman was attacked by a gang member and killed with a sharp object. In two cases, a young wife was denied her basic needs and beaten and a two year old child was raped to death.

Kano: The eleven incidents of VAWG in Kano in April consisted of sexual assault, child-abuse, and violence between political and religious groups. In Kumbotso, there are multiple accounts of child abuse and rape, as well as the story of a wife of a 30 year old man who was abandoned with no form of livelihood. A young girl in Bebeji reported her family for forcing her to work rather than attend school, and a seven year old girl was raped by a police officer in Nasarawa. In Rogo, a Baptist church was set on fire in an effort to kill a Muslim convert, which resulted in the death of the pastor's daughters. Lastly, the Kano State Resident Electoral Commissioner and his family were killed when their residence was set on fire by suspected political opponents.

Plateau: There were three reported incidents of VAWG in Plateau in April. A young woman reported being forced to marry a Muslim man although she was Christian and still in school. In Jos South, an HIV and hepatitis positive pastor reportedly raped a girl and a mobile petrol station attendant was killed by a mob of three men and three women.

Rivers: Of the 21 reported cases of VAWG in Rivers, the majority involve domestic abuse and sexual violence. Eight women and girls reported abuse throughout the region, including a 22-year old who is consistently beaten by her boyfriend, even during pregnancy. Seven women were abandoned or thrown out of their houses, leaving them (and in some cases their children as well) with no source of income. In Port Harcourt, a woman was thrown out of her house after being accused of committing a sacrilege, and was additionally denied support for herself and her children. Also in Port Harcourt, three rapes and one attempted rape were reported, including a 13-year old girl who was raped by her uncle.

Yobe: There were no reports of VAWG from Yobe during April.

Objective 2:

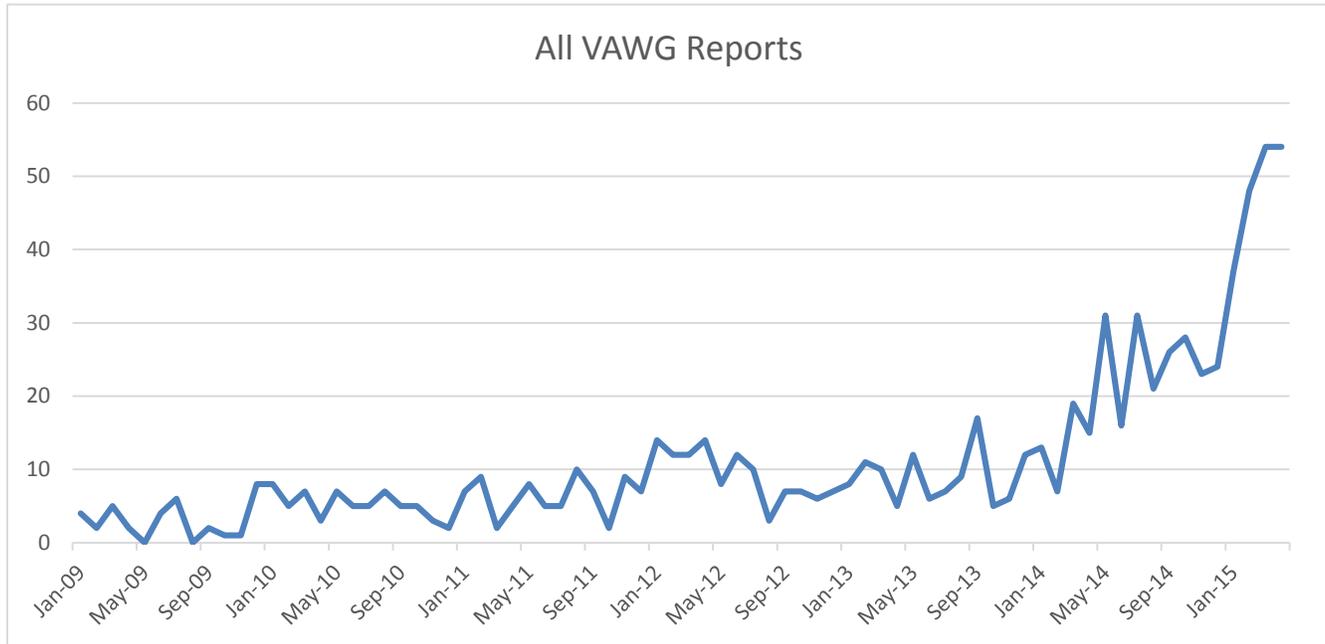


Figure 5: Trend in Incident reports of Violence and Conflict Affecting Women and Girls (All Sources)

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.

The figure above reflects the total number of VAWG reports across all sources, month-by-month, since January 2009. For the second month running, the NSRP sources filter has had the highest number of reports since the beginning of the project one year ago. This represents growing awareness of the issue and shows increasing impact and outreach by local partners and OBSTECs in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers. The total number of VAWG incidents reported in April was equal to the number in March, totaling over 50 each month. We continue to rely on a moderate level

of media reporting that exists, particularly for states where there are not direct service points. Overall, direct reporting gathered from partners' remains the most relevant and detailed data we receive.

The Rivers observatory service point continues to provide significant data for the state. As it did in March, data from Rivers constitutes close to half of all the reports made in April. There continues to be a low, but steady, level of data coming in from Delta and Bayelsa states. The states would benefit from additional outreach and increased effort to solicit VAWG reporting from organizations based in those states who have a gender focus. Kano and Kaduna also have a steady flow of data from our partner organizations. It continues to be difficult to collect direct observation data from Borno and Yobe. Borno benefits from a large amount of national and international media focus which contributes to the higher level of secondary reports obtained from this state. Yobe, however, remains one of the most difficult states to obtain information from overall, and on VAWG, specifically.

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. For this we use a tool developed to track Peace Map access through deployment

A web-based application has been developed that is able to track traffic to the Peace Map as a way to measure public awareness. The Peace Map is used by several projects operating in Nigeria and can be accessed through several deployments of the page. The analytics application is able to track which deployment of the platform is used to access the map as well as overall visits. This upgrade was applied to the NSRP deployment of the Observatory map during the second half of May. Moving forward we will be able to track overall visits to the Peace Map and visits originating through the

NSRP website, allowing us to measure the visibility of the project. As an M&E tool, this application will be able to highlight when public outreach and awareness campaigns are needed.

Since the creation of the application there have been 2,166 visits to the Peace Map.

	January 2015	February 2015	March 2015	April 2015
Page views	684	523	678	281

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 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.

The Observatory, especially through information gathered by the Peace Clubs and other sources by local organizations in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau and Rivers, continues to fill in missing data when it comes to the aggregation of gender-based violence reports in the NSRP states. We also continue to grow the number of self-identified Peace Agents focusing on gender and gender issues in the eight NSRP states. These local organizations that have been identified with the help of NSRP

and other local partners are the first responders on the ground focusing on gender violence. We continue to look for new connections and organizations willing to be identified on the Peace Map.

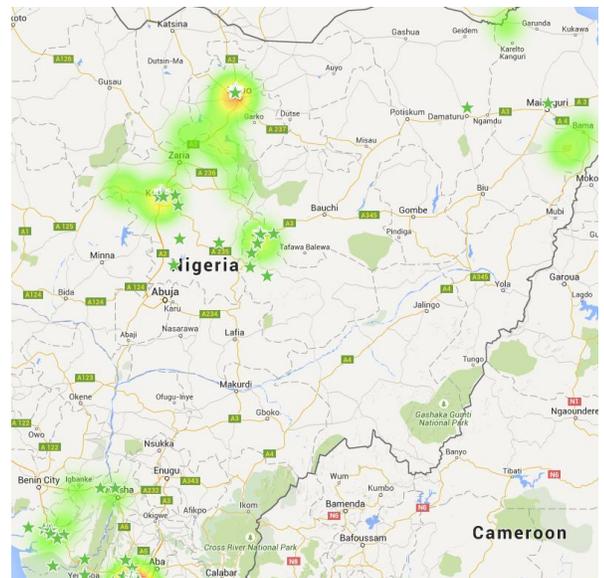


Figure 6: Heat Map of VAW Incidents and Location of Gender-Focused Peace Agents in Eight NSRP States – April 2015 (Screenshot of Observatory Platform)

Figure 6 shows a heat map highlighting the distribution of VAWG Reports during the month of April. The peace agents that have volunteered to be shown on the map, are identified by green stars. The table below is a list of gender-focused organizations in the eight NSRP states. There are currently 65 organizations focused on gender that appear on the Peace Map. Eight new organizations have been identified over the past month. A relatively new feature on the map allows users to endorse organizations that appear. As this functionality is more widely utilized, it will aid in facilitating effective collaboration for preventative response and violence mitigation.

We continue to recommend including representation from these organizations, when possible, in NSRP workshops and activities.

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 North	Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women (LEADS Nigeria)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Women in Need (A Women Empowerment Foundation)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative
Kaduna	Kaduna North	Interfaith Forum of Muslim and Christian Women`s Association (Women`s Interfaith Council)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	African Ethics and Theatre Reformation (AETRI)
Kaduna	Kaduna South	Aid Foundation
Kaduna	Chikun	Zamani 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)
Plateau	Jos North	The Nigeria Working Group
Plateau	Jos North	Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights (CAJR)
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.*

Direct observation data remains the most relevant and salient for analysis. This data is difficult to collect in high conflict areas and states without service points. While in the Niger Delta, media and data received from other sources, in addition to the NSRP sources filter, highlights the main incidents and trends occurring in those states, there is still a scarcity of information from Yobe. As mentioned above, the intense media focus on Borno state has resulted in a high number of reports collected but the lack of reports via local partner reporting/Peace Clubs may result in increasingly fewer numbers of reports if and when media attention wanes.

- Objectives 2: *Break the culture of silence and increase the level of reporting and awareness on issues of violence affecting women and girls.*

The number of overall reports on VAWG has continued to increase since the inception of the project. This, in turn, will hopefully lead to less overall stigma and fear about reporting and bringing to light issues of VAWG in the eight focus states.

- Objective 3: *Increased awareness through increased reports*

As we are able to track visits to the Peace Map through the NSRP webpage, it will be important to direct traffic there, an effort all Observatory partners should play a role in. As the numbers of reports received in March and April have shown, however, we are meeting the objective of increased reporting in many of the states, particularly in the Niger Delta and Middle Belt.

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

The value of multi-stakeholder collaboration is highlighted in this project through the use of the map and the continued direct participation of OBSTEC members and local partner organizations. In addition, each month we receive new applications from local organizations who request to be part of the Peace Map and ensure that their organization is listed as one dealing with VAWG and available for local response. Through presentations and briefings in Nigeria and Washington, DC, multilateral organizations have also been made aware of the Observatory as a resource and have been encouraged to participate and partner in supporting preventative response opportunities. In Kenya, recently, FFP staff gave a presentation on the Observatory that generated a lot of enthusiasm from Kenyan government officials and civil society organizations about creating a similar project in that country, as the culture of silence is similarly pervasive there.