

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: March-April 2019

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns and trends in conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback and input for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends

January-March 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Abia state in March 2019. Reported incidents during this period related mainly to criminality, mob violence, domestic violence, and ethno-nationalism.

Criminality: In January, the chairman of the Abia state chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly abducted by hoodlums along the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway in Isiala Ngwa South LGA. In February, gunmen reportedly killed a policeman attached to a popular hotel in the commercial city of Aba. The gunmen made away with a rifle belonging to the policeman. In March, gunmen reportedly attacked a warehouse, killed a policeman and made away with a huge sum of money in Aba South LGA. Separately, a young man was reportedly beaten and burned to death by the son of his debtor in Amator Ukwu community, Osisioma LGA. The incident led to a violent protest by some youths in the community. Houses were reportedly destroyed during the protest.

Mob Violence: In February, a mob reportedly lynched and burned a suspected robber in Eziamma community, Aba North LGA. The suspected was reportedly a member of a gang of hoodlums that attacked and robbed residents of the community.

Domestic Violence: In March, a 26-year old man reportedly stabbed his 27-year old cousin to death during a disagreement in Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA.

Ethno-Nationalism: In January, some supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) reportedly attacked a church and attempted to beat up a pastor in Aba South LGA.

Others: In January, gunshots and canisters of tear gas were reportedly fired by public security forces during a debate organized for some governorship candidates at a hotel in

Umuahia, the state capital. The incident was caused by a confrontation between security aides to some of the politicians and students who besieged the venue of the debate. The security aides reportedly manhandled the leaders of the students who barricaded the gate. A stampede ensued as people struggled to escape from the venue.

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2019

Reported incidents during this period related mainly to criminality and cult violence.

Criminality: During the month, a woman was reportedly robbed and killed by a gang of robbers at a Federal Housing Estate, Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. Separately, a robber was reportedly killed and burned by a mob along Umule Road, Osisioma LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents & Fatalities, Abia State

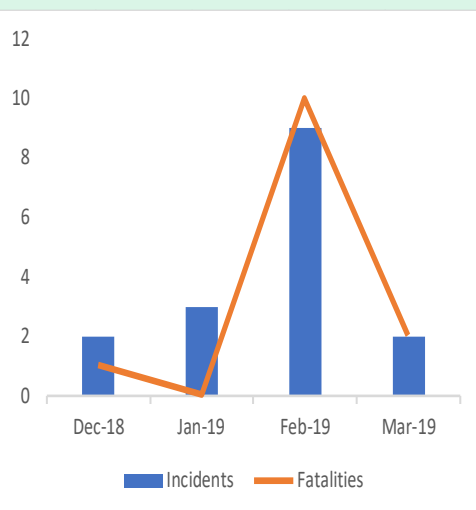
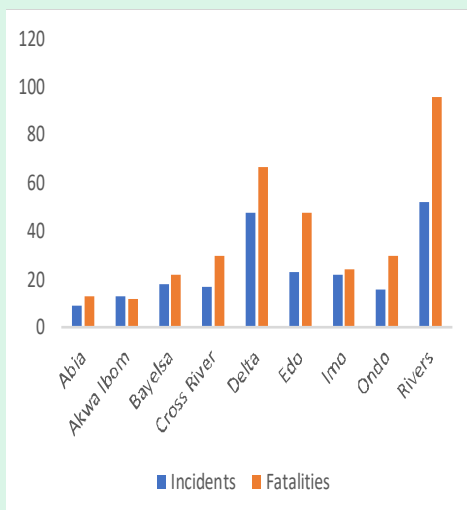


Figure 2: Incidents & Fatalities, Niger Delta (Dec 2018 - Mar 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2018 – March 2019 in Abia State and regional trends. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Cult Violence: A young man who was preparing for his wedding ceremony was reportedly killed by cultists during a visit to his parents at Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. Separately, a 29-year old cultists who doubles as a serial killer reportedly killed a rival cult member in Aba Town, Aba North LGA. The victim was reportedly chased into a church and killed in the presence of the congregation.

Communal Tension: A woman reportedly had her fingers cut off by herders at Ogbor Hill, Aba North LGA. The woman was reportedly attacked after she asked the herders to move their cattle from the front of her shop.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, ethno-nationalism, and mob violence. Peace agents must continue to monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (January - March 2019)

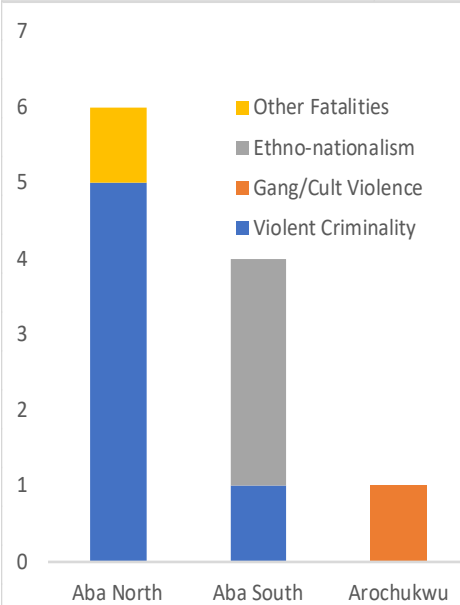
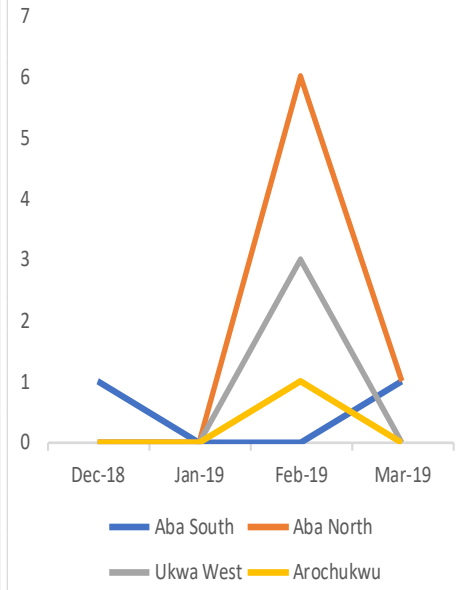
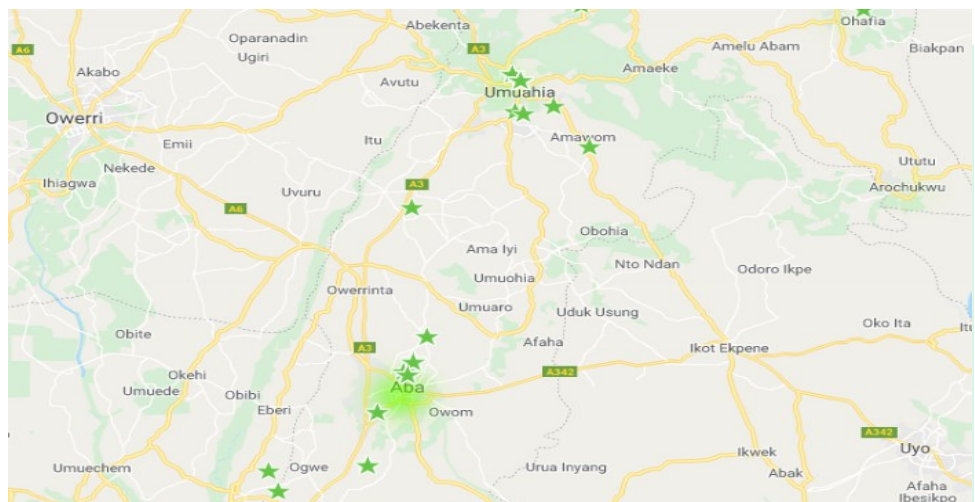


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Abia State this period show that Aba North had the most reported fatalities. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from January - March 2019 in Abia State; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue or potential conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a top priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the key stakeholders that have influence on the conflict?
5. What will you do to help mitigate the conflict in the short, medium, and long term?

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: 080 9936 2222

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description

Contact Us



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