

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Akwa Ibom State: June-July 2017

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 April-June 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in lethal violence in Akwa Ibom in June. Incidents reported during the period included communal tensions, criminality, cult violence, and labor strike/protests.

Communal Tensions: In April, over thirty people were reportedly killed in renewed clashes over a land dispute among communities in Ikot Offiong in Odukpani LGA, Cross River state and Oku Iboku in Itu LGA, Akwa Ibom state. In May, gunmen suspected to be ethnic militias attacked a fishing community and killed over 45 persons in Uruan LGA. The attack is reportedly related to a land dispute between communities in Itu and Uruan LGAs in Akwa Ibom, and communities in neighboring Odukpani LGA of Cross River state. In June, twenty were reportedly killed in a renewed clash over land dispute between Oku Ibokun community in Itu LGA of Akwa Ibom and Ikot Offiong in Odukpani LGA, Cross River state.

Criminality: In April, two expatriates were reportedly kidnapped from their hotel in Eket LGA. In another incident, a man was reportedly kidnaped at gunpoint from a church in Uyo, the state capital. In May, a photo journalist was reportedly shot dead by robbers who attacked his apartment in Uyo.

Gang/Cult Violence: In May, three were reportedly killed in a rival cult clash between Klansmen and Black Axe confraternities in Uyo. In June, a couple were reportedly shot dead by gunmen on a motorcycle in Etim Ekpo LGA. The incident is believed to be a revenge killing. The son of the deceased who is reportedly a cult leader was allegedly involved in the killing of the parents of a rival cult leader.

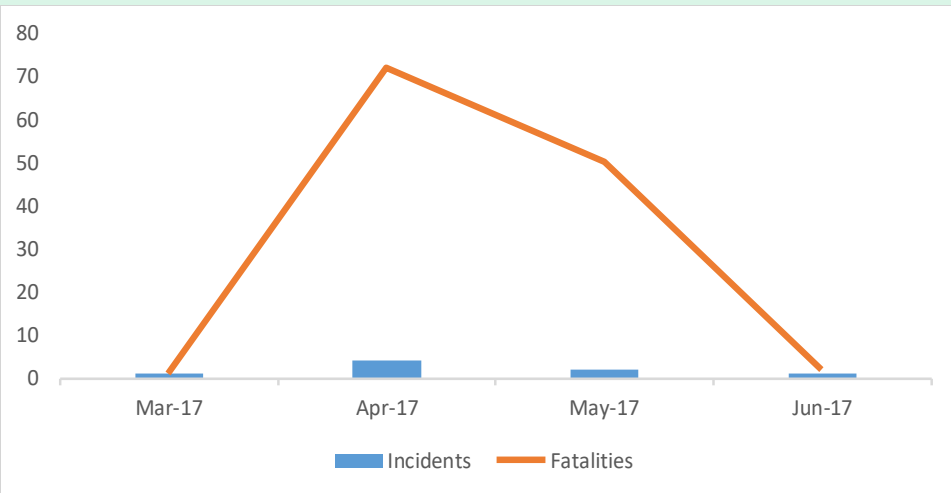
Labor Strike/Protest: In May, members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) embarked on a – day labor strike in Uyo, the state capital, in protest over oil companies' preference for expatriate workers over Nigerians.

Recent Incidents or Issues, July 2017

Incidents during the month included criminality and communal tensions.

Communal Tensions: During the month, militants and pirates reportedly attacked a fishing communities and killed over thirty five persons and displaced several others in Itu and Uruan LGAs. Separately, youths from a neighboring community in Cross River state

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State



Reported incidents and fatalities from March - June 2017 in Akwa Ibom State.

Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

reportedly killed a man who was fishing in a disputed river in Itu LGA.

Violent Criminality: Two, including a youth leader and a lawyer, were reportedly killed by gunmen in Ukanafun LGA. Separately, the vice principal of a community secondary school was reportedly shot dead by robbers in Ukanafun. The victim had earlier received a letter from the robbers asking him to either pay them a million Naira or be killed. In another incident, robbers reportedly shot dead a policeman attached to an expatriate in Uyo.

Prognosis

Incidents of conflict risk and violence during this period related mainly to communal tensions, criminality, cult violence, and labor strikes/protests. Peace actors should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately, especially in the context of the upcoming local government elections scheduled for November 2017.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything significant missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a 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?

Figure 2: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (April - June 2017)

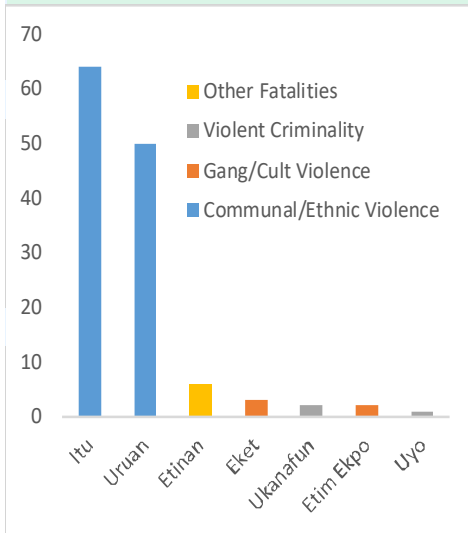
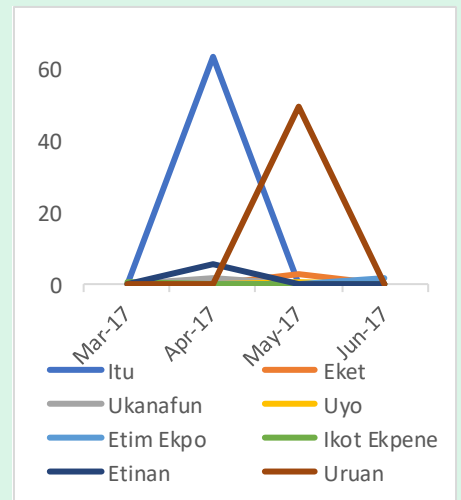
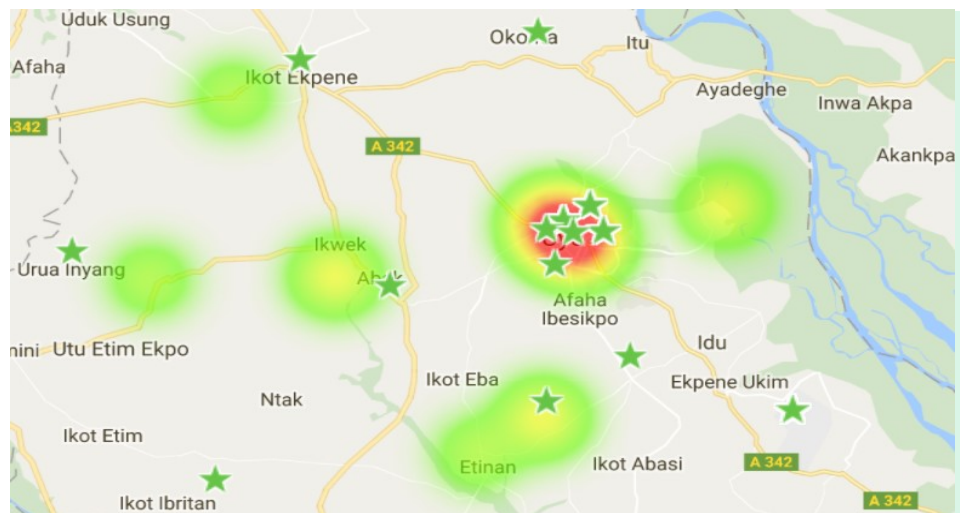


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) shows that Itu, followed by Uruan had the most reported lethal conflict during this period. Source (Figure 2): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 3): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Akwa Ibom State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from April-June 2017 in Akwa Ibom; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo,
IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595