

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: December 2017-January 2018

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 October-December 2017

According to Peace Map data, (see Figure 1) there has been a decrease in conflict risk and violent fatalities in Abia since October 2017. Reported conflict incidents during this period related mainly to mob violence, protests, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom.

Criminality: In October, four members of a vigilante group were reportedly killed by gunmen at a relaxation spot in Aba South LGA. Four others were injured during the attack. In November, a cleric was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Aba LGA. The victim was later rescued by soldiers in Obingwa LGA. In a separate incident, a 25-year old male apprentice was reportedly stabbed to death by his 21-year old colleague during a disagreement in Aba North LGA.

In December, an ailing 76-year old man was reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Aba South LGA. The police rescued the victim and recovered arms and ammunition from the kidnappers' hideout. The victim later died in

the hospital. Also, two of the suspects later died from injuries sustained during a gun battle with the police.

Criminality was a key driver of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the state during the period. In December 2017, for example, kidnappers reportedly killed a woman and stole her vehicle in Osisioma LGA. The victim is believed to have been killed while resisting an attempt by the kidnappers to abduct her.

Protest: In December, pensioners reportedly protested over non-payment of pensions in Umuahia, the state capital.

Others: In October, a middle-aged man was reportedly killed by a mob due to a dispute involving a woman in Bende LGA. Separately, a mentally ill teenage boy reportedly killed his parents in their sleep in Isiala Ngwa

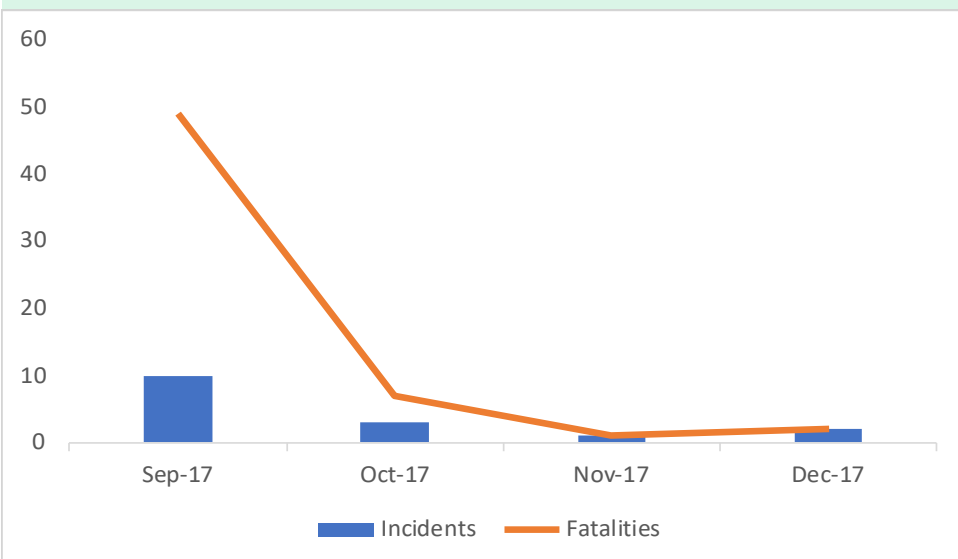
North.

Recent Incidents or Issues, January 2018

Reported incidents during this period related mainly to communal tensions and criminality.

Communal Tensions: During the month, communal tension was reportedly elevated in Umuahia North LGA following alleged threats by herdsmen to attack an agrarian community. The herdsmen threatened to attack the community for refusing to allow their cattle to graze on their farm land. The planned attack was averted by the intervention of a team of public security forces.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



Reported incidents and fatalities from September – December 2017 in Abia State.

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

Criminality: Hoodlums reportedly attacked and set ablaze a police station in Umuahia South LGA. A police patrol van and a commercial tricycle parked within the station were destroyed during the attack.

Child Trafficking: A 12-year old girl was reportedly arrested for kidnapping and trafficking her stepbrothers, aged two and three years in Aba South LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to communal tensions, criminality and mob violence. Criminality, particularly kidnapping, was a key issue during this period. Peace agents must continue to monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything significant 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?

Figure 2: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (October – December 2017)

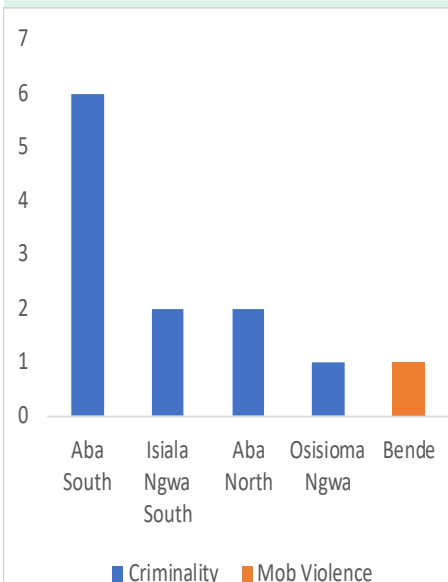
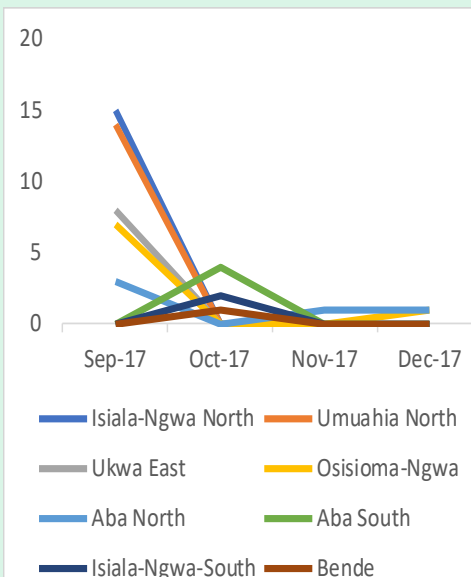
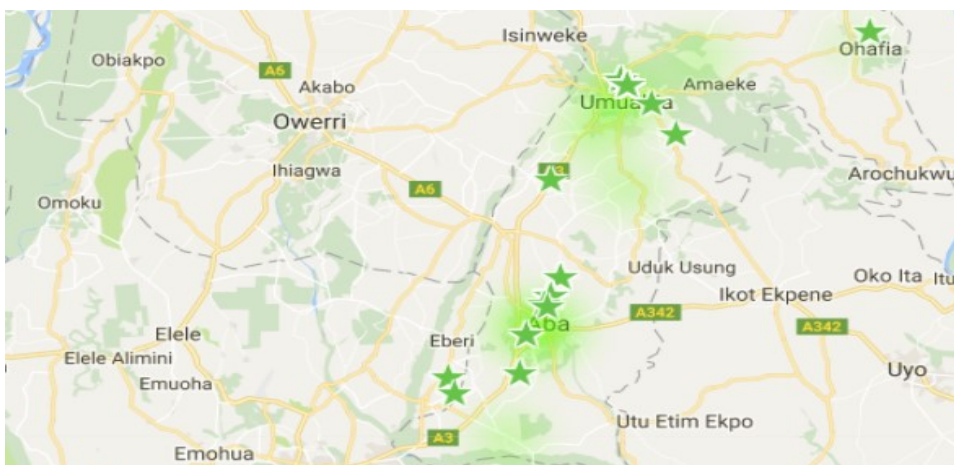


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (October – December 2017)



Reported fatalities show that Aba South, followed by Isiala Ngwa South and Aba North had the most violent incidents during the last three months. 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 Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from October–December 2017 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

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:
Text: 080 9936 2222

Contact Us



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