

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Abia State: March-April 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

January-March 2018

According to Peace Map data, (see Figure 1), conflict incidents during this period related mainly to communal violence, child trafficking, mob violence, protests, and fire outbreak.

Communal Tensions: In January, 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.

Child Trafficking: In January, a 12-year old girl was reportedly arrested for kidnapping and trafficking her step-brothers, aged two and three years in Aba South LGA. In March, two women and a nurse were reportedly arrested by the police for child trafficking in Aba South LGA. The suspects were arrested with twin baby boys.

Mob Violence: In March, three policemen reportedly escaped being lynched by a mob in Aba South LGA. The mob attempted

lynching the policemen for chasing a commercial bus driver into a church premises during a church service.

Protest: In February, a group of lawyers protested over the manhandling of one of their female colleagues by the police in Umuahia South LGA. The police allegedly detained and tortured a female lawyer who visited a police station to bail a client.

Others: In February, fourteen shops and goods worth several millions of Naira were reportedly destroyed by fire at a market in Aba South LGA. Separately, fire destroyed two hostels at a high school in Aba South LGA. The fire consumed property belonging to students, who were on midterm holiday during the incident. In March, three policemen reportedly shot dead three youths in a community in Isiala Ngwa North

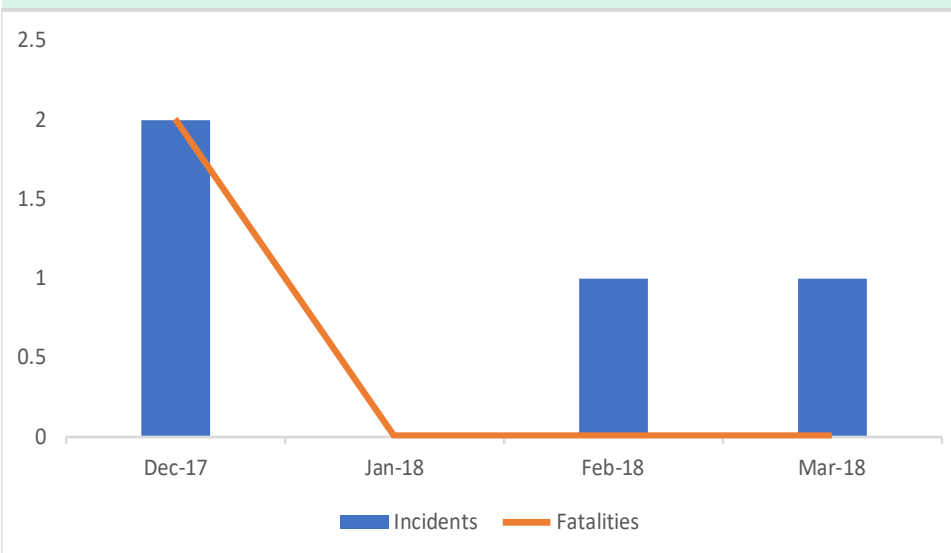
LGA. The youths were holding a meeting when the police arrived the community and killed three of them. Separately, a woman was reportedly killed by a stray bullet from the rifle of a female soldier along the Aba-Port Harcourt expressway in Aba. The soldier was struggling with a cart pusher when her rifle accidentally went off.

Many incidents during this period involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG).

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2018

Reported incidents during this period related mainly to criminality, communal conflict, human trafficking, political violence, and protests.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2017 – March 2018 in Abia State.

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

Communal Violence: During the month, 10 were reportedly killed in a clash over a boundary dispute between Isu community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia state and Utuma community in Biase LGA, Cross River state. The clash was triggered by the discovery of limestone in the disputed land by a construction company. Several houses were set ablaze during the incident and many residents were displaced.

Criminality: Hoodlums reportedly broke into a secondary school and robbed students in Aba South LGA. The hoodlums broke into hostels and beat up students. Over 40 students sustained injuries during the attack.

Human Trafficking: A couple were arrested for selling their baby girl for three hundred thousand Naira in Umuahia South LGA. The couple claimed that they sold the baby because of poverty. They also claimed that they sold the baby because she was tested HIV positive.

Political Violence: Several persons were reported injured during a clash between factions of the All Progressives Congress (APC) over the control of the party secretariat in Umuahia, the state capital. The clash was caused by a leadership crisis.

Labor Strikes/Protests: During the month, members of the Abia state chapter of the Academic Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), disrupted the matriculation ceremony of a polytechnic in Aba North. The lecturers who had embarked on a strike action, were protesting over payment of salary. Students of the institution also joined in the protest. The students called on the management of the institution to pay their lecturers. Separately, commercial tricycle operators protested in Aba South LGA over alleged extortion by revenue collection agencies and public security forces in the state.

Others: A female doctor and a baby reportedly died of Lassa Fever in Umuahia, the state capital. In Umueochi LGA, a community woman leader was reportedly striped by a mob over allegation of witchcraft practices. The mob comprising

women, paraded the victim around several communities, and attempted setting her ablaze before she was rescued by a resident.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to communal tensions, political tensions, criminality, child trafficking, mob violence, and labor strikes/protests. Many incidents during this period involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). 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 4: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Abia State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from January - March 2018 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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