

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo 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), incidents reported in the state during this period included criminality, communal tensions, human trafficking, and protests.

Violent Criminality: In January, six hoodlums were reportedly killed during a shootout with the police in Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Separately, three kidnappers were reportedly killed in a gun battle with operatives of the police Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Njaba LGA. In February, a 95-year old man and his 13-year old granddaughter were reportedly kidnapped in Owerri West LGA. It is believed that the victims were kidnapped for a ransom because five of the old man's children reside outside Nigeria. Separately, operatives of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) reportedly arrested five suspects for illegal oil bunkering and vandalism in Oru West LGA. A truck load with petroleum products was recovered from the suspects. Also, in February, many criminals in the state reportedly accepted amnesty offered to them by the state government and

surrendered their arms in Owerri, the state capital. Some of the criminals included those that escaped from neighboring Rivers state after they were declared wanted by the government for crimes committed in the state.

Communal Tensions: In January, two people, including a female octogenarian, were reportedly killed in a clash between two masquerade groups during a festival in Oguta LGA. Members of a masquerade cult attacked masquerades from another village to avenge their colleague's death during a masquerade festival.

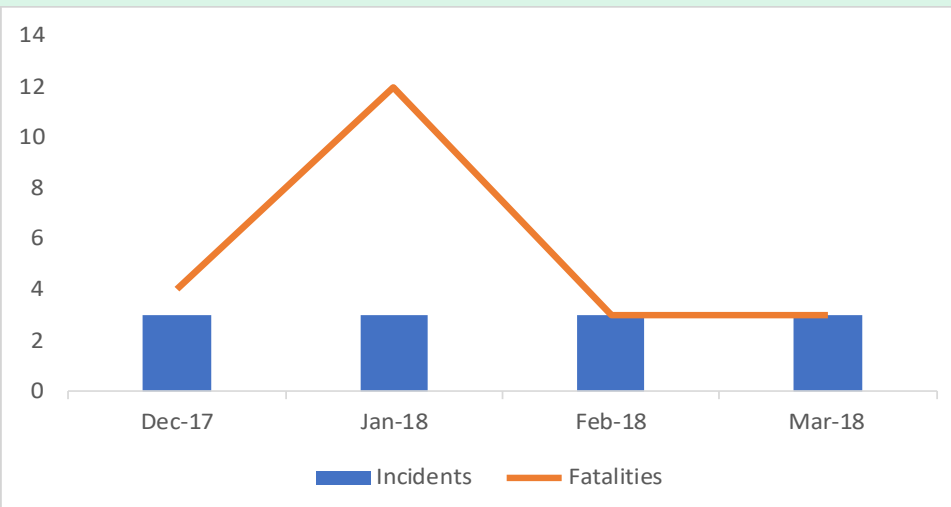
Communal violence and criminality during this period also involved violence affecting women and girls (VAWG). In February, for instance, a 13-year old girl was kidnapped in Owerri West LGA. Separately, over a

hundred women protested at the Imo State Police Headquarters in Owerri, the state capital, over insecurity in their community. The protesters complained of incessant kidnappings in their community in Okigwe LGA.

Child Trafficking: In March, two women reportedly stole a 5-year old girl and sold her to a 45-year old woman for three hundred and fifty thousand Naira in Owerri Municipal LGA.

Protests: In March, there was a protest by residents of several communities in Okigwe LGA over incessant attacks by herdsmen in the area. The protesters called on the state governor to direct the Bureau for Peace and Conflict Resolution to investigate the activities of herdsmen in the LGA and their relationship with host communities.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2017 – March 2018 in Imo state. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Others: In January, the official residence of the Imo state deputy governor in Owerri, the state capital, was reportedly razed by fire.

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2018

Incidents during the month related mainly to human trafficking and protests.

Criminallity: A former commissioner for Culture and Tourism in the current administration in the state was reportedly kidnapped by hoodlums in Owerri, the state capital. The victim was abducted while returning from a social function in the evening. He was taken away in his Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV).

Protests: A group of persons with disabilities (PWDs) barricaded the entrance to the state government house in protest over vehicle branding charges in Owerri, the state capital.

Other: Two brothers, aged between 2 and 5 years were found dead in a car. The children were trapped and suffocated inside the vehicle while their parents were away.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, communal tensions, child trafficking, and protests. Peace Agents must continue to monitor the 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 suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you?
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 (January - March 2018)

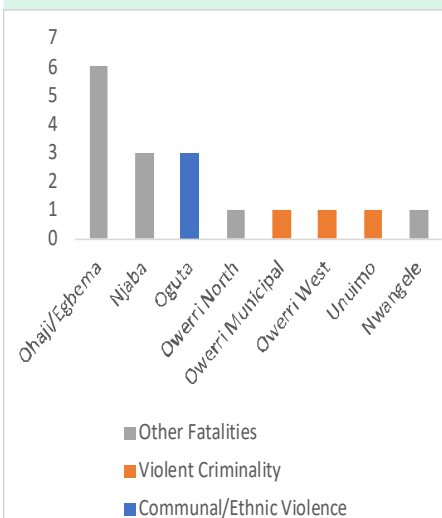
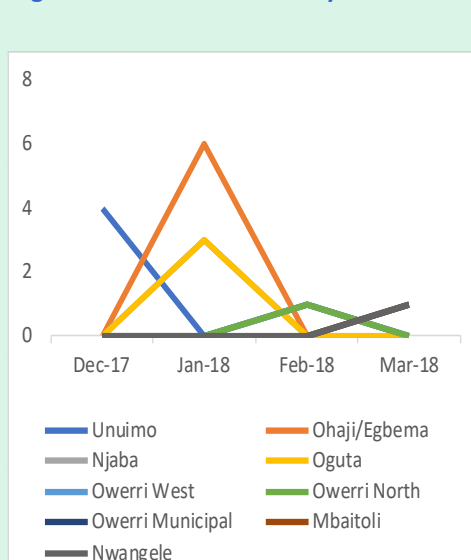
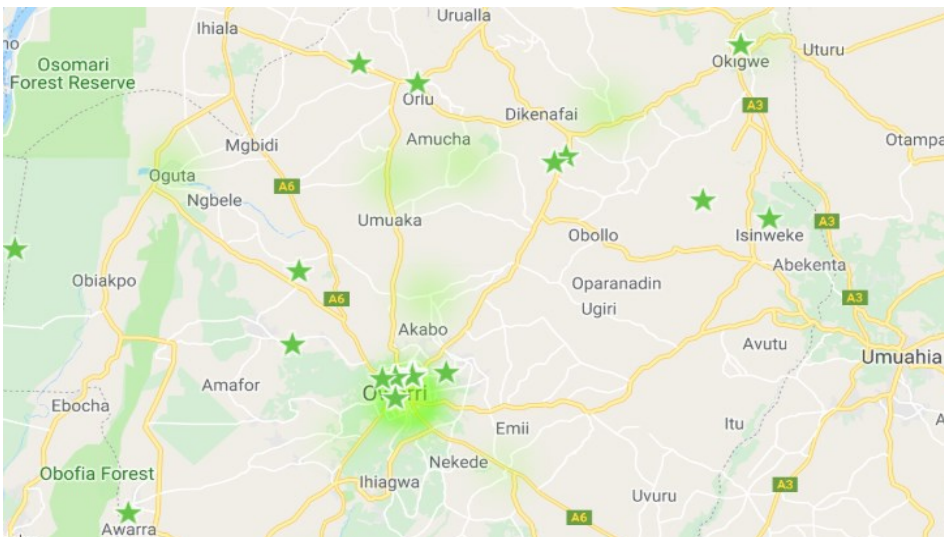


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Ohaji/Egbema had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state. Sources (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 Imo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from January–March 2018 in Imo 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

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

Contact Us



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org