

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Rivers State: August-September 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 June-August 2018

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported during this period included criminality, gang/cult violence, political violence, and protests.

Violent Criminality: In June, kidnappers reportedly abducted, killed and buried a senior staff member of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in Oyigbo LGA. In July, gunmen reportedly killed three policemen and made away with their weapons in Rumuigbo community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, gunmen attacked a security checkpoint and killed a policeman and a civilian in Ozuoba community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In another incident, a Vice Chancellor of a university of education in the state reportedly raised the alarm about incessant harassment of students of the institution in their hostels by hoodlums in Ndele community, Emohua LGA.

In August, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus with 18 passengers and diverted it into a forest along Owerri-Port Harcourt road in Ikwerre LGA. Separately, kidnappers reportedly killed three people, comprising two policemen, and abducted an expatriate in Woji community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In another incident, a policeman and a driver were reportedly killed by kidnappers during an attempted abduction of an expatriate in Abua Odual LGA. In Oroazi community, Obio/Akpor LGA, gunmen reportedly killed four traders from the

northern part of the country. The victims were shot dead in front of their residence.

Cult Violence: In June, cultists reportedly attacked the hometown of a minister and former governor of Rivers State and disrupted a community market and a political rally in Ubima, Ikwerre LGA. In August, the chairman of a community vigilante group was reportedly ambushed and killed by cultists in Rumuolumeni community, Obio/Akpor LGA. Separately, a 90-year old man was reportedly burned to death by cultists in Egbeda community, Emohua LGA. The incident was linked to rival cult clashes between Icelander and Degbam groups in the area.

Criminality was key driver of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the state during the period.

Political Violence: In August, a State House of Assembly by-election conducted in Port Harcourt LGA was reportedly marred by violence characterized by sporadic shootings and hijacking of voting materials.

Protest: In July, protesting women and youths reportedly barricaded the entrance to the premises of an international oil

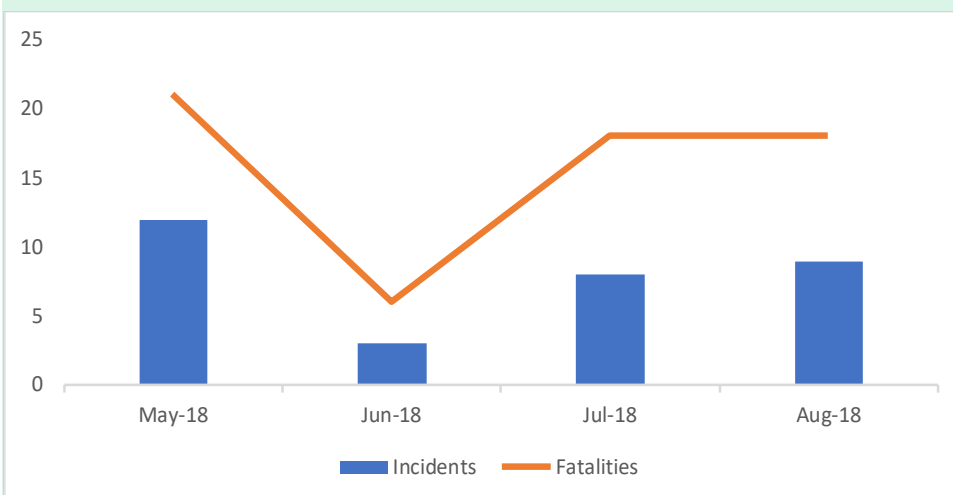
company over community development and employment issues in Ahoada West LGA. Separately, there was a protest by youths over alleged human rights abuses by security operatives in Port Harcourt LGA. In August, there was a protest by youths from Onne community, Eleme LGA, over an alleged planned relocation of the logistics supply base of an international oil company from Onne port to Lagos state.

Recent Incidents, September 2018

Reported incidents during the month mainly related to criminality, cult clashes, and protests.

Criminality: Gunmen reportedly ambushed and attacked the deputy national chairman of the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) and killed his driver along the East-West Road in Ikwerre LGA. The gunmen shot sporadically at the victims' vehicle. Separately, two members of a vigilante group were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be cultists along Ikwerre road in Port Harcourt LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State



Reported incidents and fatalities from May – August 2018 in Rivers State.

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

Cult Violence: Two people were reportedly killed during a rival cult clash in Khana LGA. Several properties were destroyed during the incident. Residents deserted the community for fear of reprisal attacks.

Protest: There was a protest by some ex-militants along the East-West Road in Ahoada West LGA over payment of stipends and exclusion from the Federal Government Amnesty Program for militants. The protesters barricaded a section of the East-West Road. The protesters were later dispersed by a operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF).

Flooding: Two people were reportedly killed by flood in Ahoada West LGA. Over 30 communities were reportedly submerged by water in the area as a result of an increase in the water level at the bank of the River Niger.

Prognosis

Reported incidents in the state during the period related mainly to criminality, cult violence, political violence, protests, flooding, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents should monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issues are 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 (June - August 2018)

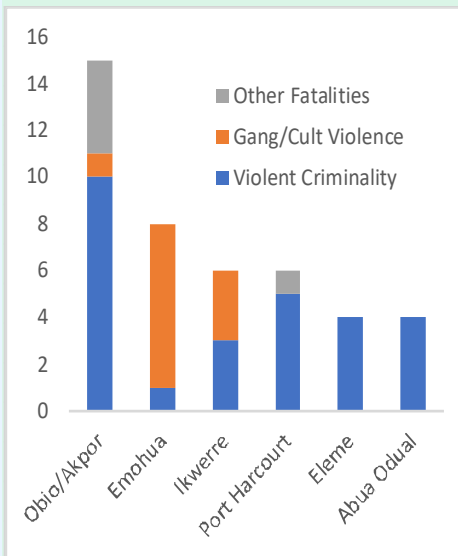
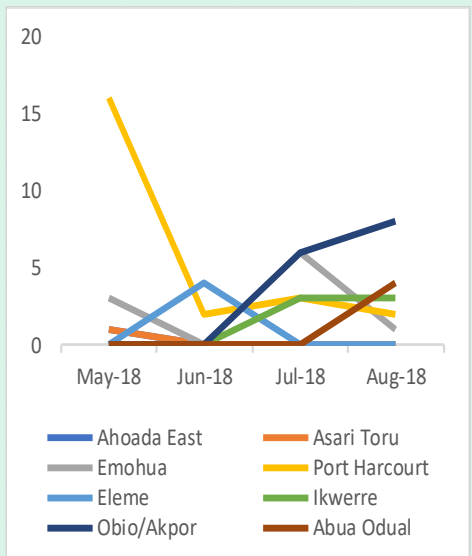
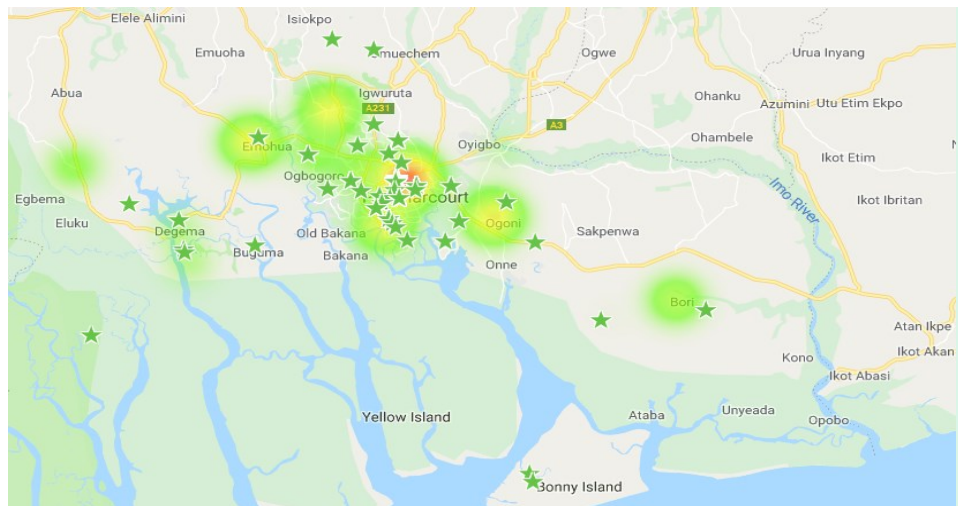


Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Rivers State this quarter shows that Obio/Akpor had the highest number of reported fatalities. 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 Rivers State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from June – August 2018 in Rivers; 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



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