

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: March-April 2019

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 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), incidents reported in Imo state during this period included election/political violence, cult violence, and protests. Some of the incidents during this period involved Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Political Violence: In February, a ward chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was reportedly killed by gunmen during a political meeting at his residence in Ngor Okpala LGA. In March, a youth was reportedly shot dead by a soldier during a clash between supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Obizi Agwa, Ezinihitte LGA. Separately, an agent of the PDP was reportedly killed during a clash between rival political thugs in Umudim Umuwala community, Nkwerre LGA. In another incident, a man who returned from Mozambique to participate in the general elections was reportedly killed by political thugs during the elections in Amiyi community, Njaba LGA. In a separate incident, security operatives reportedly

arrested three suspects with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) at a voting center in Iho community, Ikeduru LGA.

Also, in March, three people were reportedly killed by political thugs in Umuoma Nekede community, Owerri West LGA. The killings reportedly occurred during a disagreement over the sharing of money for mobilization of voters during the elections.

Cult Violence: In February, two cultists were reportedly killed by soldiers during a clash between rival cult groups at the venue of a political rally in Ejemekwuru community, Oguta LGA. In March, 10 students were reportedly killed during a clash between Aye and Baggers cult groups at a federal polytechnic in Nekede, Owerri West LGA. The incident occurred as a result of battle for supremacy between the two rival cult

groups. Separately, a young woman was reportedly killed by cultists at Edede street, Owerri Municipal LGA.

Protest: In January, there was a violent protest by youths over the demolition of some houses belonging to a politician who is a member of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) in Oguta LGA.

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2019

Incidents during the month related mainly to cult violence, criminality and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Criminality: During the month, two kidnappers including a dismissed policeman were reportedly killed during a gun duel with the police in Owerri Municipal LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State

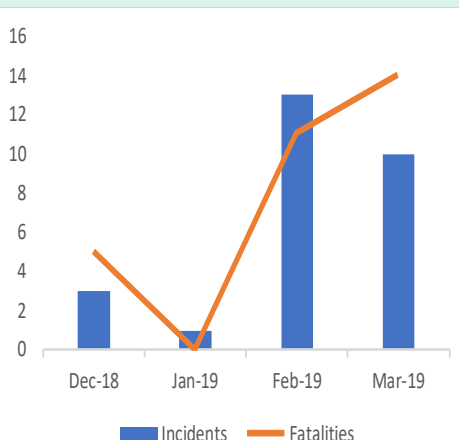
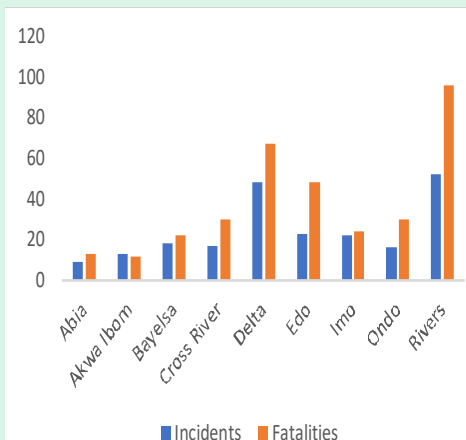


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (Dec 2018 - Mar 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2018 – March 2019 in Imo state and regional trends. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls

(VAWG): A widow was reportedly murdered in her farm in Iowa Okata, Ihitte/Uboma LGA. Separately, an 18-year old girl was reportedly killed by unknown persons in Ezuofoke community, Onuimo LGA. In another incident, a female secondary school student was reportedly stabbed to death by her 16-year old male classmate in Umuoli Ikpem community, Ehime-Mbano LGA.

Others: Three members of the Aiye confraternity were reportedly killed during a rival cult clash at Mechanic Village, Owerri North LGA. A man was reportedly stabbed to death by his younger brother during a disagreement over a domestic issue in Umuezeakuneto, Ehime-Mbano LGA.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period related mainly to political violence, cult violence, criminality, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents must continue to monitor the situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything 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 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (January - March 2019)

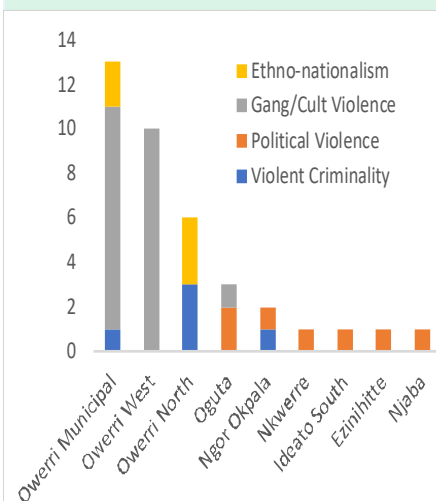
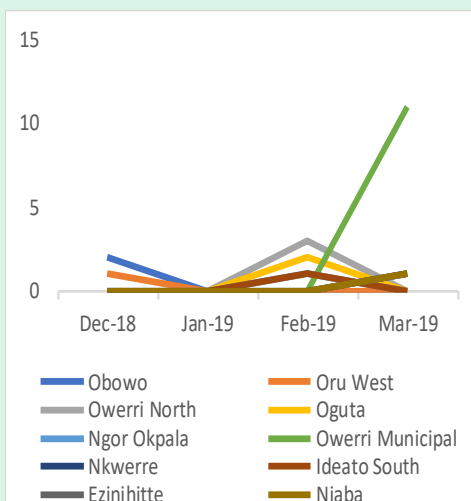
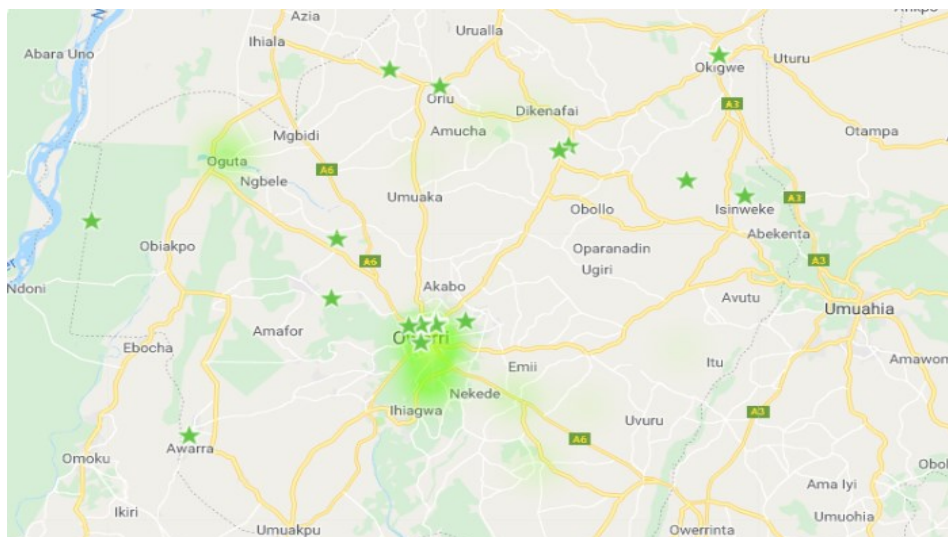


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri Municipal, followed by Owerri West, had the highest level of violent fatalities and conflict risk in the state during the period. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Imo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from January – March 2019 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



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