

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: April-May 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 February-April 2019

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

Political Violence: 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, Nkwere LGA. In another incident, a man 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, Owerri West LGA.

Cult Violence: 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 Edele street, Owerri Municipal LGA. In April, three members of the Aiye confraternity were reportedly killed during a rival cult clash at Mechanic Village, Owerri North LGA.

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

Domestic Violence: In April, a man was reportedly stabbed to death by his younger brother during a disagreement over a

domestic issue in Umuezeakuneto, Ehime-Mbano LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, other specific incidents of violence against women and girls were reported during this period. In April, for instance, a widow was reportedly murdered in her farm in Lowa Okata community, 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.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State

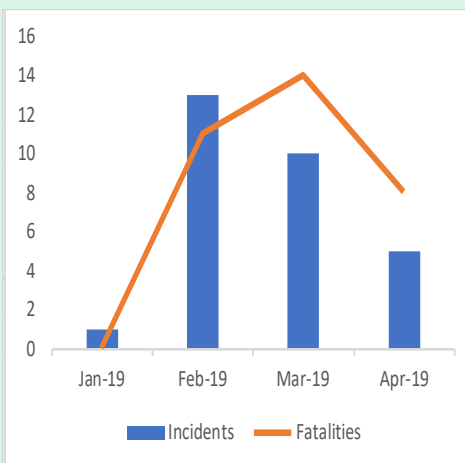
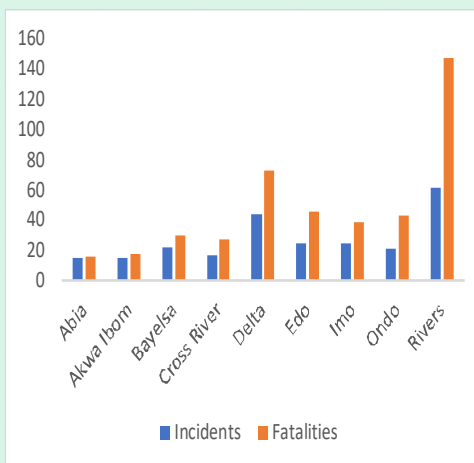


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January - April 2019)



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

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2019

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality and communal conflict.

Criminality: During the month, gunmen reportedly killed a 19-year old female student and kidnapped two persons in Isiala Ngwa LGA. The student was hit by a stray bullet while the gunmen were trying to kidnap a man in the area.

Communal Conflict: Two boys were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Uratta, Owerri North LGA. The boys were allegedly killed while they were trying to stop the herders from grazing their cattle in their farmland.

Other: A 23-year old woman was reportedly arrested for selling her newborn baby boy for eight hundred and fifty naira in Nekede, Owerri West LGA.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and lethal violence in Imo state during this period were driven mainly by political and cult violence, communal violence, criminality, domestic violence, 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 (February - April 2019)

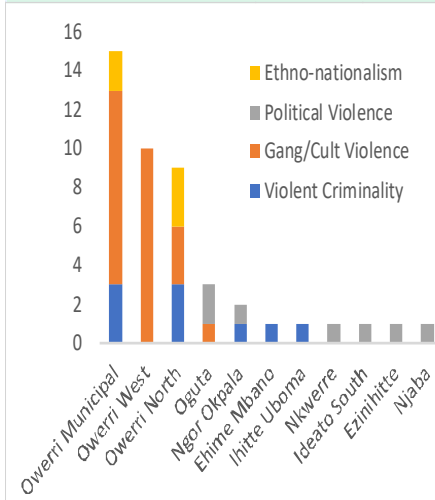
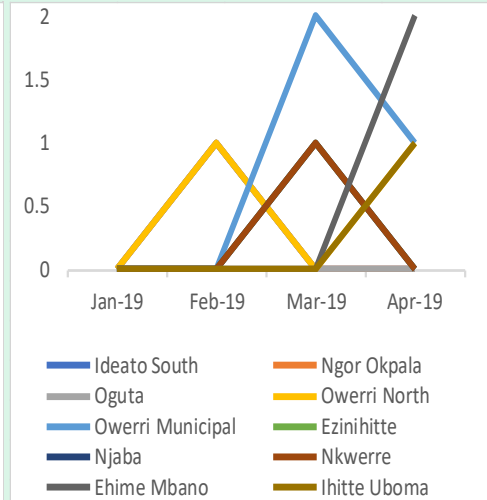
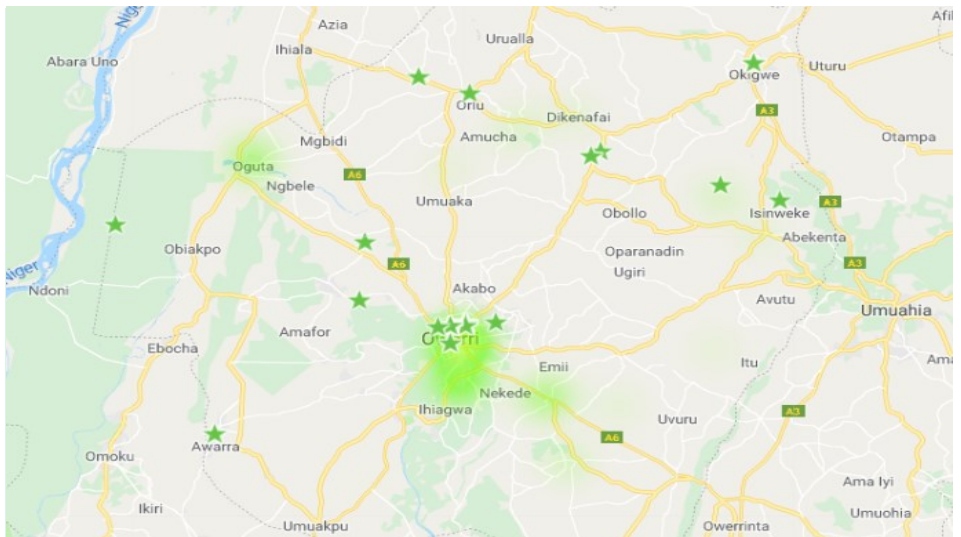


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Imo State shows that Owerri Municipal, followed by Owerri West and Owerri North, 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 February – April 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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