

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Imo State: June-July 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 April-June 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 2), Imo was one of the least violent states in the Niger Delta during this period. Incidents reported in the state during this period included cult violence, criminality, communal conflict, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

Cult Violence: In April, three members of the Aiye confraternity were reportedly killed during a clash with a rival cult group 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. In May, gunmen reportedly killed a 19-year old female student and kidnapped two persons in Isiala Ngwa LGA.

Communal Conflict: In May, two boys were reportedly killed by herdsmen in Uratta, Owerri North 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.

Human Trafficking: In May, 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. In June, a Cameroonian woman was reportedly arrested for attempting to sell a 6-year old boy in Owerri Municipal LGA.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, other 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.

Other Fatalities: In June, three persons were

reportedly killed by a bomb explosion in Eziorusu community, Oguta LGA. The explosion occurred when one of the victims mistook an abandoned bomb for a scrap and tried to compress it.

Protest: In June, there was a protest by some local government chairmen and councilors at the premises of the State House of Assembly in Owerri the state capital, over alleged plans by the state government to terminate their tenure.

Recent Incidents or Issues, July 2019

Incidents during the month related mainly to criminality, sexual violence, and violent protest.

Criminality: During the month, security operatives reportedly killed three kidnapping

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State

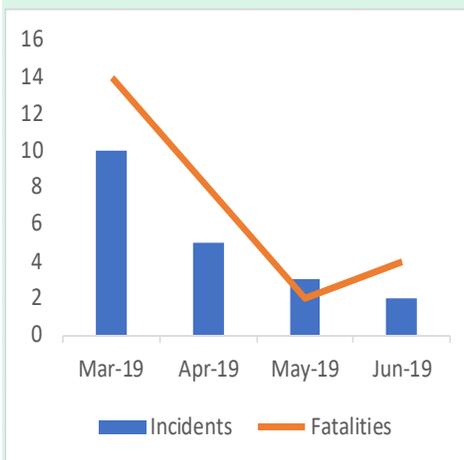
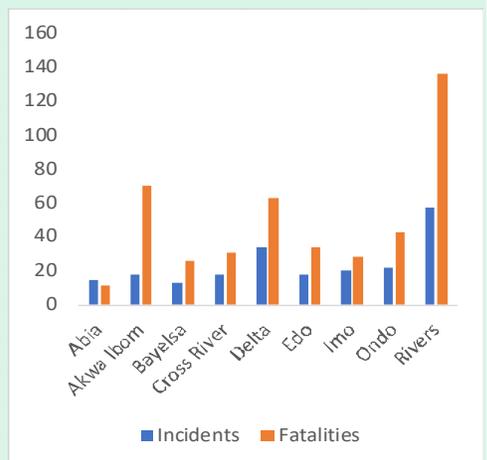


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (March - June 2019)



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

suspects and rescued seven kidnap victims from a hideout of kidnapers in Lille Forest, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. Separately, residents reportedly caught a herdsman with 88 life bullets in Obudi Agwa community, Oguta LGA. The suspect was handed over to the police.

Sexual Violence: A 25-year old man reportedly raped and murdered a 27-year old female member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Mgbidi community, Oru West LGA. The suspect later buried the victim in a shallow grave.

Other Fatalities: A policeman reportedly shot dead a young man during a disagreement at a restaurant in Otoko community, Obowo LGA. Following the incident, the youths of the community set a police station ablaze and freed some detainees.

Prognosis

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

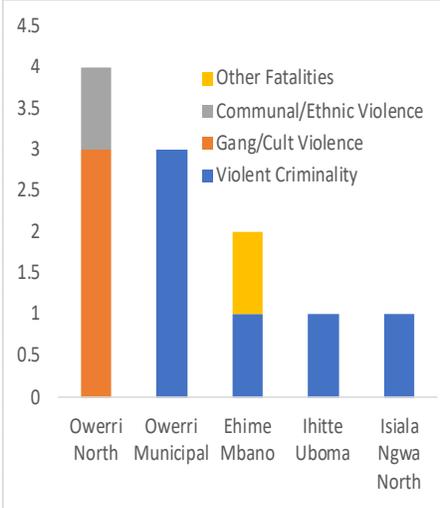
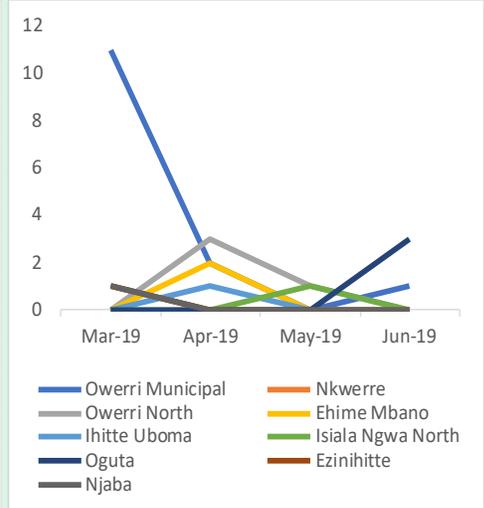


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



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



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org