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 2017

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in lethal violence in Cross River state in August. Incidents reported during this period included communal violence, criminality, cult violence, and mob violence.

Communal Violence: In June, four were reported killed in a clash over land dispute between Akamkpa and Ojor communities in Akamkpa LGA. Separately, four were reported killed during a clash between Nsobo community in Obubra LGA, Cross River, and Ofunakpa Inyimagu community in Ikwo LGA, Ebonyi state. In July, eighteen were reportedly killed during a communal clash over a land dispute between Wanikade and Wanhimen communities in Yala LGA. In August, a primary school teacher was reportedly shot dead during a clash between Bette community in Obubra LGA, Cross River and Tiv communities in Vandeikya LGA, Benue state. Separately, tension was reportedly elevated over a land dispute in Biase LGA. Five communities allegedly teamed up and attacked another community over a disputed land.

Violent Criminality: In June, a man was reportedly shot dead in his shop by robbers in Calabar South LGA. In July, five robbers were reportedly killed in a gun duel with the police in Calabar South after stealing a man’s money as he stepped out of a bank. Separately, a former staff of the National Assembly was reportedly shot dead during a gun duel between the police and his kidnappers in Calabar Municipal. In a separate incident, a senior immigration officer was reportedly killed by robbers on his way from a night club in Calabar South. In August, a village head was reportedly killed in his residence in Bakassi LGA. The victim was a staff member of the audit department of the Cross River state Ministry of Finance. Separately, an 18-month old girl was reportedly killed for ritualistic purposes in Calabar South. The severed heart of the victim was reportedly found in a church.

Gang/Cult Violence: In June, six were reportedly killed in a supremacy battle between Italian and Vikings cult groups in Calabar South LGA. Separately, two were reportedly killed in a clash between Black Axe and Vikings confraternities at the palace of a traditional ruler in Yakurr LGA. In another incident, five were reportedly killed in a clash between Vikings and KKK cult groups in Ogoja LGA. In August, suspected cultist was reportedly shot dead by members of a rival cult group in Calabar South.

Other Incidents: In June, three suspects were reportedly lynched by a mob in Calabar Municipal after allegedly stealing a mobile phone belonging to a woman. In July, one person was reportedly killed during a clash between a group of militants and soldiers in Calabar South LGA. Separately, eleven were reportedly killed and several others injured during a fire outbreak in Calabar Municipal. The inferno was allegedly caused by the activities of illegal dealers in petroleum products.

Figure 1: Conflict Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State

Reported incidents and fatalities from May – August 2017 in Cross River State.
Recent Incidents or Issues, September 2017

Incidents reported during the month were related mainly to natural disasters.

Natural Disaster: During the month, several communities in the state were ravaged by flooding following days of heavy rainfall. In Boki LGA, over 12 communities were devastated by flood which destroyed over three thousand farmlands and hundreds rendered homeless.

Prognosis

Incidents during the period included communal conflict, criminality, militancy, protests, cult and mob violence. Peace Actors in the state should 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 as a Peace Agent?
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 and long term?

Contact Us

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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