

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in the Niger Delta

July 11-17, 2021

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights human trafficking in the Niger Delta. According to data (see map below), more than 200 human trafficking incidents were reported in the Niger Delta between 2018 and 2020. Recent incidents indicate the growing prevalence of human trafficking in the Niger Delta, including illegal breeding, kidnapping and sale of children for ritualistic purposes, illegal adoption and child labor. For instance, in February 2021, operatives of the Cross River State special security outfit code-named 'Operation Akpakwu' reportedly arrested two child trafficking suspects and rescued 35 victims including 24 pregnant women and 11 children in Anantigha, the headquarters of Calabar South LGA, Cross River State. In April, 26 persons including 19 children, a teenager and six women were reportedly rescued from human traffickers during an operation by law enforcement officials in Benin City, the Edo State capital. In June, the police reportedly arrested four child trafficking suspects including a medical doctor and rescued three trafficked children in Awomama community in Oru East LGA, Imo State.

Why it Matters

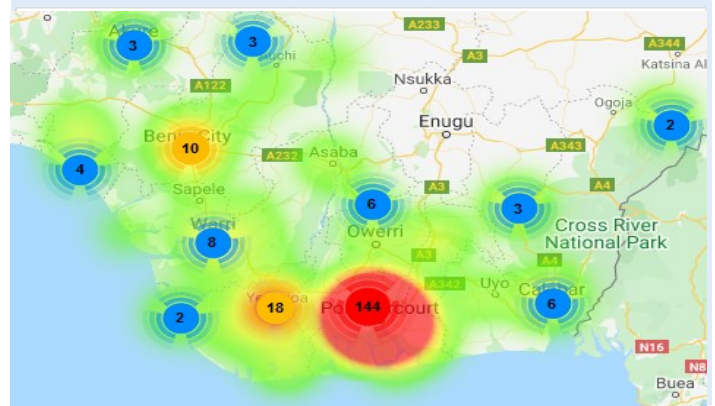
The growing prevalence of human trafficking in the Niger Delta is alarming, especially the proliferation of 'Baby Factories' - criminal enterprises disguised as maternity homes or orphanages where young girls and women are made to deliver babies for illegal adoption and 'Forced Surrogacy'. The prevailing situation has the potential to fuel the growth of transnational human trafficking and organized criminal networks at the state, regional and national levels. This could have wide-ranging socio-economic and political repercussions.

Social: Human trafficking could have devastating psycho-social and health consequences for victims and society. It can cause long-term adverse psychological effects including mental health problems, drug dependence, identity disturbance and social alienation. Victims of human trafficking could feel exploited and debased, and could end up as traffickers in the future. Child trafficking can also generate paternity disputes that can lead to broken homes and communal instability.

Economic: The prevalence of human trafficking could stimulate the growth of a thriving black market for human commodity. This could distort the economy by diverting human and financial resources from legitimate businesses into criminal networks. Because of its clandestine nature, human trafficking could also reduce government revenue from taxation and undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The prevalence of human trafficking is a serious threat to human rights, safety and security of residents. This could present major human security challenges for the government in the region.

Incidents Heat Map of Human Trafficking in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of human trafficking in the Niger Delta from January 2018 - December 2020. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The prevalence of human trafficking in the Niger Delta could stimulate the expansion of transnational human trafficking networks and organized criminal syndicates in the region. Stakeholders should collaborate with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigeria Police to improve coordination on law enforcement to identify victims, prosecute and convict traffickers. Stakeholders should also raise public awareness on human trafficking indicators.

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 report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



FOUNDATION FOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA



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