

Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls in the Niger Delta

November 26-December 02, 2023

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights gender-based violence (GBV) in the Niger Delta with a focus on violence against women and girls (VAWG). According to data (see map below), over 150 incidents of VAWG were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2021 and September 2023. Recent data shows the prevalence of violence against women and girls including sexual violation and targeted killing. In July 2023, for instance, a 53-year-old woman was reportedly killed in her farm by unknown persons in Ngwama community, Isiala Ngwa South LGA, Abia State. In August, a 19-year-old female student was reportedly killed by her boyfriend in Benin City, the Edo state capital. In September, a middle-aged woman was allegedly robbed and raped at gunpoint by a 22-year-old man in Bolorunduro community in Ondo East LGA, Ondo State. In October, a 4-year-old girl was allegedly defiled by a 46-year-old school principal in Agbor town in Ika LGA, Delta State. Also, in October, a 20-year-old female student was reportedly killed for ritual purposes by her ex-boyfriend in Ozuoba community, Obio/Akpor LGA, Rivers State.

Why it Matters

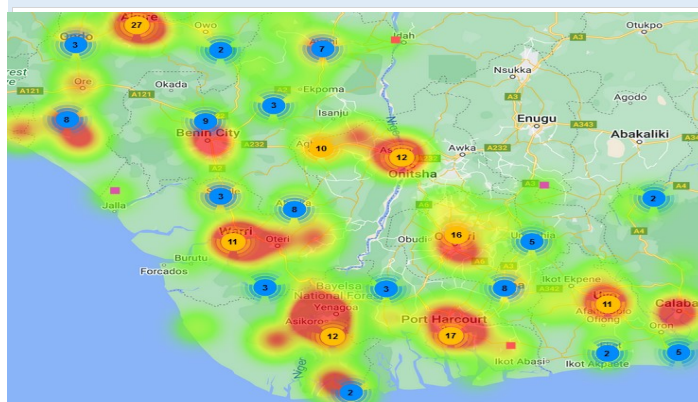
The growing prevalence of physical and sexual violence against girls and women is a serious threat to public health and human security in the Niger Delta. If not appropriately mitigated, the situation could intensify in ways that could reinforce harmful cultural beliefs and practices that could further undermine the human rights, health and safety of women and girls. This could bring about far-reaching socio-economic and political repercussions at the state and regional levels.

Social: Violence against women and girls is a major human rights and public health concern. Physical and sexual violence against women and girls could cause mental, sexual and reproductive health challenges including sexually transmitted infections, terminal injuries and death. Sexual violation is not only devastating for victims and their families, it could also have damaging effect on social wellbeing including a general feeling of insecurity, injustice, and communal instability.

Economic: Sexual and physical violence against women and girls could impose huge economic costs on families, communities and the government, including the costs of healthcare services, child welfare, elderly care, and psychosocial support for victims. It could also distort the overall development of the girl child, and undercut productivity of women. This could undermine the economic wellbeing of families.

Political: Violence against women and girls could hinder the active participation of women in politics and decision-making in society. This could undermine ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls which are prerequisites for the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Incidents Heat Map of Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG) in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of reported incidents of VAWG in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - September 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Violence against women and girls is a major human security issue in the Niger Delta. Stakeholders should collaborate with the relevant government and non-governmental agencies to address the underlying drivers, and develop appropriate punitive and preventive measures, including awareness raising to transform attitudes and behaviors that condone gender-based violence. Awareness raising and strategic engagement of traditional institutions and civil society organizations could help sustain efforts to mitigate the situation.

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.



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