

Niger Delta Weekly: **Spotlighting Domestic Violence and Homicide in Akwa Ibom State**

October 08-14, 2023

Description

This weekly update spotlights lethal violence in the Niger Delta with a focus on domestic violence and homicide in Akwa Ibom State. Domestic violence and homicide are major conflict risks and security issues in the State. According to data (see map below), domestic violence and homicide caused more than 40 fatalities in Akwa Ibom State between January 2021 and August 2023. Latest data shows the prevalence of domestic violence and homicide in the State. In June 2023, for example, a 35-year-old man was reportedly killed by his father in Ikot Ndot community, Ukanafun LGA. Separately, in June, a young man reportedly sold his nine-year-old son for four hundred thousand naira in Ekit Itam Akpan Obong community, Itu LGA. In July, a middle-aged man allegedly sexually violated his six-year-old daughter in Aka Itiam Etoi community, Uyo LGA. In August, a 26-year-old man was reportedly killed by his father during a disagreement at a farm in Ebe Ikpe community, Essien Udim LGA. Recently, on September 05, 2023, a young woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Ikot Inene community, Essien Udim LGA.

Why it Matters

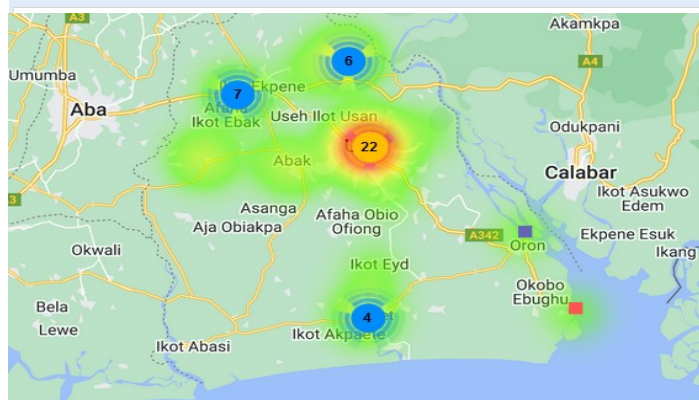
The prevalence of domestic violence and homicide has the potential to increase communal and interpersonal violence in the State. If not mitigated, the situation could intensify in ways that could adversely impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity. This could result in mob lynching, reprisal violence, protests and a breakdown of law and order, which could bring about socio-economic disruptions and political instability, with far-reaching security consequences in the State.

Social: The prevalence of domestic violence and homicide could bring about serious psychosocial and health consequences that could undermine communal stability and the social wellbeing of residents. Domestic homicide could destabilize families and cause social dysfunction. Increased cases of domestic homicide could cause a general feeling of insecurity that can cause public unrest and mob violence. This could intensify communal tensions and insecurity in the State.

Economic: The rising prevalence of domestic violence and homicide could impose enormous economic cost on families, communities and the government, including the costs of funeral for victims, healthcare services for survivors, psychosocial support for families, and legal expenses. Financial burdens imposed by domestic violence and homicide could destabilize families and reduce the productivity of households. This could undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: The prevalence of domestic violence and homicide could negatively impact governance and human security in the State. The situation could trigger public outrage, violent protests and civil unrest that could disrupt governance and public service delivery in the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Domestic Violence and Homicide in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows the geographical concentration of domestic violence and homicide in Akwa Ibom State from January 2021 - August 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Domestic violence and homicide are major conflict risk and security challenges in Akwa Ibom State. Stakeholders should work with the relevant government and non-governmental agencies to tackle the underlying drivers, and develop appropriate preventive measures including awareness raising to transform attitudes and behaviors that condone domestic violence. Awareness raising and targeted engagement of traditional institutions and civil society organizations could help strengthen efforts to address the structural drivers.

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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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