

Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Targeted Violence Against Women and Girls in Ondo State

August 20-26, 2023

Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights gender-based violence (GBV) in the Niger Delta with a focus on targeted violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), over 60 incidents of VAWG and more than 25 related fatalities were reported in Ondo State between January 2021 and June 2023. Recent data shows a rise in incidents of VAWG including sexual violation and killing for ritualistic purposes. In May 2023, for example, an 80-year-old woman was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year-old man in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. Separately, in May, a 58-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a 29-year-old man who attempted to rape her in Akure, the state capital. Also, in May, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a middle-aged man in Igbokoda town, Ilaje LGA. In June, a 70-year-old woman was reportedly killed by armed robbers in her house at Sabo area in Ondo town, Akure North LGA. More recently, on August 06, 2023, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly tortured, killed and dismembered by her former boyfriend in Oke-Aro area, Akure South LGA.

Why it Matters

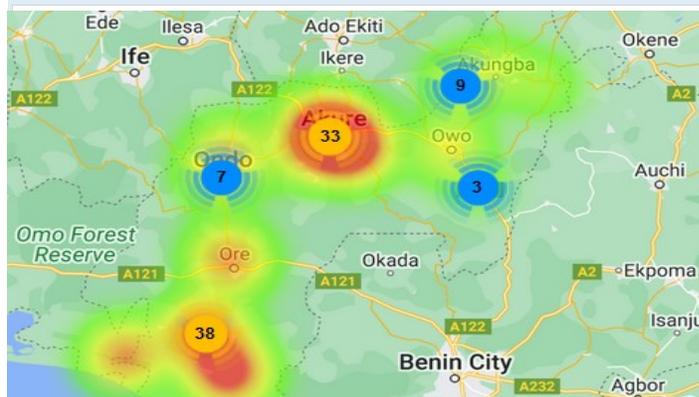
Physical and sexual violence against women and girls are becoming increasingly prevalent in Ondo State. The situation could intensify in ways that could undermine the wellbeing of women and girls in the State. Increased prevalence of violence against vulnerable residents such as teenage girls and aged women is a serious threat to human security with far-reaching socio-economic and political ramifications.

Social: The rising prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women and girls could have wide-ranging psychosocial and health impacts in society. It could cause mental, sexual and reproductive health challenges including sexually transmitted infections, life-threatening injuries and death. Targeted violence against women and girls could also have damaging impact on social wellbeing including a general feeling of fear, 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: The prevalence of violence against aged women and girls could trigger a series of violent protests and civil unrest which could disrupt governance and public services. Sexual and physical violence can also hinder the participation of women in politics and governance, and thus undermine government efforts to promote gender equality through the empowerment of women and girls in the State.

Incidents Heat Map of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of incidents of violence against women and girls in Ondo State from January 2021 - June 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Violence against women and girls is a major security challenge in Ondo State. Stakeholders should work with 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 targeted engagement of traditional institutions and civil society organizations could help strengthen efforts to address the structural drivers.

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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