The Nigeria Electoral Early Warning System or NEEWS 2015 is a mechanism set up to monitor early warning signs and incidents of electoral violence in the run-up to the 2015 elections. The system includes information collected from crowd-sourced citizen observers, media reports from the News Agency of Nigeria, and trained observers deployed in every local government area as part of the Transition Monitoring Group’s (TMG) Quick Count 2015. This document contains Search for Common Ground’s own analysis and does not necessarily represent the views of TMG.

Adamawa State

TMG Observers deployed to each LGA in the country send reports every two weeks answering a checklist of questions about the pre-election environment in their LGA. Observers have submitted nine reports covering the period between November 14 and March 16. The data, while not statistically representative, provides some information on key indicators and early warning signs of election-related violence.

The chart above depicts the % of LGA observers in Adamawa state reporting that they directly witnessed or heard reports of incidents relating to six key early warning indicators of election-related violence across the nine reporting periods.

Observers Report an Increase in Attacks on Candidates or Supporters While other Violence Indicators Decline After Election Postponement

During the period following the Independent National Election Commission’s (INEC) announcement of the postponement of the election, there was a decrease in the number of LGA observers reporting attacks on rallies and the vandalism or the destruction of property belonging to a candidate or their supporters. However, during that same period, the LGAs observer reporting an initial decrease in attacks on candidates or their supporters before increasing again. This mirrors the escalation of indicators seen before the original poll date, indicating that tensions may continue to rise in advance of the rescheduled polls. It is critical that civil society and community leaders use this period immediately before the election to spread messages of nonviolence. In addition, political party leaders and candidates should abide by the Abuja Accord signed by political parties to promote peaceful elections. Political leaders should urge their supporters to refrain from violence as campaigns round up and particularly after the election results are announced.
Hate Speech Based on Religion

Throughout the election period, observers in Adamawa state have reported high levels of hate speech directed at a candidate or supporter based on their religion. While in the rest of the country the level of observers reporting has remained relatively constant, since the beginning of February the number of observers reporting directly hearing or hearing reports of religious hate speech in Adamawa have climbed to over half (12 of the 21 observers) in each of the last two reporting periods. It is important that religious and community leaders counter these messages and encourage their followers and constituents to not allow politics to ferment divisions based on religion, as this has the potential for tensions to escalate.

Movement of People In and Out of LGAs

On average across the reporting periods, half of the observers (10 to 11 of 21 LGAs) in Adamawa State have reported witnessing and hearing of reports of movements of large number of people (100 or more) moving into their LGA to take up residence and moving out of the LGA to take up residence elsewhere. This movement is likely attributed to the activities of Boko Haram. Reports of movement out of LGAs came from areas in the northern part of the state where Boko Haram has at one point of time occupied large portions of the areas. Reports of movement into the LGAs came from observers from LGAs north and east of the capital, Yola, suggesting that internally displaced persons (IDPs), both from the northern Adamawa LGAs as well as from other states, are settling in these areas. While INEC has made provision for the distribution of permanent voters’ cards (PVCs) and establishing polling units within IDP camps, more voter education is needed to ensure that these individuals are aware of where and how they will vote.

Buying of Voters’ Cards

Throughout the pre-election period, a higher than average percentage of TMG observers in Adamawa state have reported witnessing or hearing reports of individuals buying voters’ cards. While most of the observers indicated that they heard reports of rather than directly witnessed these acts, it is still significant that information is circulating about the occurrence of voters’ cards being bought and sold. This has the poten-
Help us track and prevent election-related violence

The NEEWS 2015 system collects information from a number of sources including trained election observers, media sources and citizen observers like you. As stakeholders in the peace process, it is our collective responsibility to work together to promote peaceful elections. You too can contribute by reporting early warning signs or incidents of election-related violence.

What should you report?

You should report any warning signs – such as threats, rumors, inflammatory language, or tensions – or incidents of violence related to the election such as:

- Attacks or threats of violence against election officials, election observers or voters including voter intimidation;
- Attacks or threats of violence committed by or against political party agents, candidates, their supporters, or their property;
- Increased tensions between or attacks on groups and communities related to communal conflict that may be influenced by or influence the elections; or
- The use of inflammatory language or hate speech, especially directed at candidates or their supporters based on their gender, age, disability, where they are from or their religion.

How do you report?

Send an SMS to one of the following numbers:

**MTN** – 09035419841

**GLO** – 08155529646

**Airtel** – 07083648546

**Etisalat** – 09098385657

or

Tweet about it using the hashtag

#NEEWS2015report