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.

Bauchi State

Checklist Reports

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.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attack on rally</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Destruction of property</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidates inciting violence</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attack on candidates or supporters</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hate speech based on origin</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hate speech based on religion</td>
<td>45%</td>
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The chart above depicts the % of LGA observers in Bauchi 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.

Indicators Show a Potential for Increased Tensions as Polls Approach

Over the last two reporting periods, an increasing number of LGA observers in Bauchi state reported witnessing or hearing reports of election violence such as candidates inciting their supporters to violence, while a decreasing or the same number of observers reported on other indicators such as attacks on rallies; vandalism or the destruction of property belonging to candidates or political parties; and attacks on candidates or their supporters. Despite this mix in trends, there are still signs of the potential for increased tensions as the polls approach. Prior to the Independent National Election Commission’s (INEC) announcement of the postponement of the election, Bauchi State observers did report an increase in tension between Period 5 and Period 6. This previous increase in tensions shows the potential for a similar increase as the rescheduled polls approach. Therefore, it is still important for civil society and community leaders to spread messages of nonviolence, and political party leaders and candidates continue to urge their supporters to refrain from violence.
Out of the 227 critical incident reports sent by TMG observers through March 16, seven reports came from observers in Bauchi state. Two reports, one from Dass LGA and the other from Kirfi LGA, took place during the party primary season and involved intraparty clashes between supporters after candidates began sharing money. TMG observers also reported an instance where violence took place over the destruction of posters. On February 3, an observer from Ningi LGA reported a clash between APC and PDP over the destruction of posters. On February 12, an observer in Misau LGA reported that due to the destruction of posters belonging to them, PDP supporters responded by destroying posters belonging to the APC.

Bauchi state has also experienced terrorist acts. On November 16, observers reported a suicide bombing at a phone market in Zaki LGA, which made community members to destroy posters of the party they believed to be working with Boko Haram. This shows the potential for terrorist attacks to fuel existing political tensions, indicating the need for increased vigilance and information sharing with security forces as the elections approach.

**Hate Speech Based on Religion and Origin**

Throughout the pre-election period, a high percentage of TMG’s LGAs observers in Bauchi state have reported witnessing or hearing reports of hate speech or violence directed at candidates based on their religion or where they come from. At least 40% of observers (8 of the 20 LGAs) have reported witnessing or hearing reports of hate speech based on religion in all nine reporting periods. Immediately following the 2011 presidential elections, the violence in Bauchi state took on a religious dimension, with both mosques and churches attacked. Given the high level of religious hate speech, it is critical that religious and community leaders counter these messages and encourage their followers and constituents to not allow politics to ferment divisions based on ethnicity or religion and communities to agree that holy sites should remain safe places and not targets in any election violence.

**Critical Incident Reports**

*In addition to sending reports every two weeks, TMG’s Quick Count Observers send text message reports when an incident of election-related violence or an indication of tension occurs. Search for Common Ground is also monitoring media reports of violent incidents related to the elections from the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). These reports are then mapped. View the full map and more details about the incidents at https://news2015.crowdmap.com/*
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

About Search for Common Ground

We are an international non-governmental organization that works in 35 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States to transform the way the world deals with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative solutions. We have worked in Nigeria since 2004 and currently have offices in Abuja, Jos, Maiduguri and Port Harcourt. Find out more about us at www.sfcg.org and www.sfcg.org/nigeria.

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