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 represents the views of TMG.

**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 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Attack on rally</th>
<th>Destruction of property</th>
<th>Inciting violence</th>
<th>Attack on candidate or supporters</th>
<th>Hate speech based on origin</th>
<th>Hate speech based on religion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 1 Nov 14-27</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2 Nov 28 - Dec 12</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 3 Dec 13 - 22</td>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 5 Jan 9 - 22</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Period 7 Feb 6-19</td>
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<td>39%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 8 Feb 20 – Mar 5</td>
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<td>43%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 9 Mar 6 – Mar 16</td>
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<td>17%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Increasing Indicators of Election Related Violence**

TMG observers in Kaduna state have increasingly reported witnessing or hearing reports of election-related violence in their LGAs. During the early stages of the election process, the level of violence reported by Kaduna state observers remained at or just barely above the average seen in other states across the country. However, during the periods following the postponement of the polls, an increasing number of observers have witnessed or heard reports of attacks on rallies and attacks on candidates or their supporters. In the last reporting period, nearly half (11 of the 23 observers) reported witnessing or hearing reports of these attacks. This indicates and increase in tension and the potential for violence as the polls approach. Given the experience of post-election violence in Kaduna state following the 2011 presidential elections, it is critical that actors take measures to ensure a peaceful and democratic process.
to ensure that tensions do not continue to rise as the elections approach as well as in the immediate post-election period. All political party leaders and candidates should abide by the agreements outlined in the Abuja Accord to promote peaceful election, and should call on their supporters to conduct themselves peacefully and not resort to violence under any circumstances.

**Intercommunal Violence**

Observers in Kaduna state also reported witnessing or hearing reports of intercommunal violence – fighting between different religious or ethnic groups – at relatively low levels given the state’s history of violence between religious and ethnic groups. However, this does not mean that actors should lower their guard, as election violence spilling over into intercommunal violence remains a threat. For example, whereas all but one observer reported of only hearing of intercommunal violence during the first five reporting period, three observers reported directly witnessing intercommunal violence (Soba, Zaria, and Sanga LGAs) in the sixth period,* which shows that underlying tensions can erupt at any time. Election periods are particularly vulnerable periods for areas with existing tensions between religious and ethnic groups. Political party leaders and candidates should ensure that their rhetoric does not take on religious or ethnic dimensions, while community, traditional and religious leaders should make efforts to dampen any tension that could possible be enflamed by the election process.

*While TMG observers are trained to verify reports, checklist reports are not independently verified. Verified reports are presented as Critical Incident Reports below.

**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 by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). These reports are then mapped. View the full map and more details about the incidents at [https://neeews2015.crowdmap.com/](https://neeews2015.crowdmap.com/)

Of the 227 verified critical incident reports sent by TMG observers as of March 16, four reports came from Kaduna state. On February 6, a TMG observer reported violence directed towards the APC gubernatorial candidates and supporters following a rally in Lere LGA. One report recounted a verbal attack by youth on a House of Assembly candidate in Birnin-Gwari LGA in late November ahead of the party primaries. The other two reports came from the TMG observer in Sanga LGA on December 16 and 27. Both reports chronicled intercommunal violence between members of the farming and herding communities.

NAN also confirmed intercommunal violence in

![NEEWS 2015 CrowdMap—Kaduna State, March 16, 2015](https://example.com/crowdmap-kaduna-state.png)
Sanga in a report on January 4. In addition, on January 28, NAN reported on an attack on Yangal village in Zangon Kataf LGA resulting in four deaths. While the identity of the attackers is unknown, NAN quoted a police source as saying the perpetrators were “miscreants” trying to create tensions ahead of the elections.

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.

Find out more about NEEWS 2015 by:
Visiting our website: www.neews2015.org
Liking us on Facebook: SFCG Nigeria
Following us on Twitter: @NEEWS2015