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.

Yobe 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 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 to the left depicts the % of LGA observers in Yobe 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.

Increase in Violence Indicators as Election Approaches

Yobe state has not seen as high of violence indicators as seen in other states in the region through most of the election period. However, since the postponement of the polls in early February, an increasing number of LGA observers in Yobe state have reported witnessing or hearing reports of key indicators of election violence including attacks on rallies, vandalism or the destruction of property belonging to parties or candidates, and attacks on candidates or their supporters. Violence not only results in the loss of lives and property, but it also deters participation in the democratic process. Political parties, candidates and their supporters should abide by the Abuja Accord signed by fourteen political parties, which commits the parties to peaceful campaigns and non-violent election.
Movement of People In and Out of LGAs

Consistently throughout the reporting periods, a large number of LGA observers in Yobe state have reported witnessing and hearing of reports of movements of large numbers 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. The LGA observers reporting that they witnessed the movement of a large number of people into the LGA are almost exclusively from the eastern most LGAs that share a border with Borno state, suggesting that these are the places where internally displaced persons are going. Similarly, those observers who have witnessed a large number of people moving out of their LGA are observers in LGAs near Damaturu and the north eastern part of the state. While INEC has made provision for distributing 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.

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://neews2015.crowdmap.com/](https://neews2015.crowdmap.com/)*

Of the 227 verified report sent by TMG observers as of March 16, six came from Yobe state. Two relayed intra-party tension during the political party primaries, while others detailed attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram including a bombing in Gulani LGA and two February attacks in Yunusari LGA. Also in February, the News Agency of Nigeria reported a suicide bombing in Damaturu on February 15. While this list of attacks is not necessarily comprehensive, it does demonstrate that the precarious security environment that could deter or outright prevent people remaining in these areas from participating in the polls. This further emphasizes the need for increased efforts to educate these voters who have fled their homes on where they can collect their voters’ card and where and how they will be able to vote on election day.
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
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