

CONFLICT BRIEFING NOTES

CONFLICT BRIEFING NO. 45, February 2017

KEY MESSAGES	PAGE
1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
2. NATIONAL CONTEXT ANALYSIS	3
POLITICAL	3
HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY	5
SOCIAL	6
ECONOMIC	8
3. IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMMING IN NSRP TARGET STATES	8

*Disclaimer: The contents of this briefing note do not necessarily reflect the views of DFID or the UK Government.

** All reports are based on anonymous NSRP sources.



Executive Summary

In the month of February, security challenges remain with continued acts of violence committed against the people of Borno State by JAS despite the Nigerian military press briefings on their counter-insurgency operations. While international attention remains focused on the North-East, the displacements, humanitarian situation, and vulnerability of the people in the region remains. New allegations of collusion and collaboration of local leaders with JAS continue to present challenges to social cohesion at the community level.

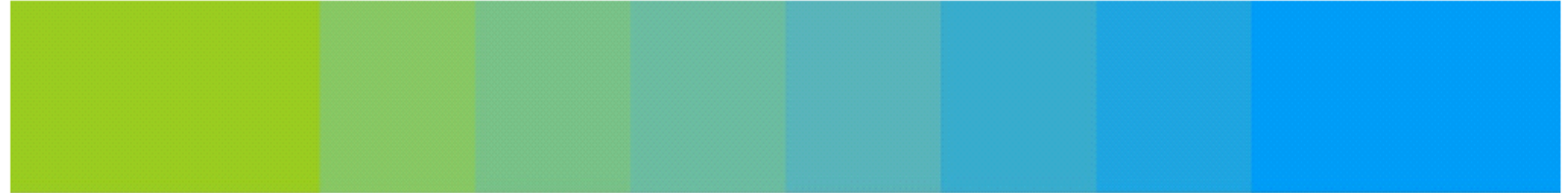
The All Progressives Congress (APC) won every seat in the local government elections conducted in Yobe State on Saturday 11th February, 2017; however, very few voters turned out for the election due to lack of awareness. Also, an overwhelming majority of the elected persons contested unopposed. These two challenges to the LGA elections were made publicly by the Executive Governor of Yobe State during the swearing-in ceremony confirming to onlookers that inclusion and internal democratic processes may not be observed in Yobe State by the APC in the upcoming 2019 governorship election.

Political conflict continues in Kano State due to the persistent crisis between the former governor Kwankwaso and the incumbent Ganduje threatening the development and political future of the state. During the north-west zonal meeting of state APC leaders, Senator Kwankwaso was accused of mobilising his supporters to rally around him during the meeting which has been described as part of his campaigning for the 2019 presidential election. Because of the meeting, the Kano state party leadership loyal to the incumbent governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, decided to form an investigative committee to look into the allegations brought against Ganduje by Senator Kwankwaso and some of his supporters during the meeting.

The Plateau State government has awarded a N5 billion road construction contract to address governance challenges in the state. The provision of road infrastructure in the selected areas of Jos North Local Government Area (LGA) is intended to strengthen and consolidate the ruling party's political control of Jos North LGA. The LGA has the largest electorate votes in the state.

In Southern Kaduna, new and continuing incidents of communal violence persisted unabated despite the effort of government to deploy more security forces in the zone, aerial surveillance, mobile forces and more intelligence gathering. This incessant and perennial vicious circle of violent killings, maiming and destructions in Southern Kaduna continues to threaten peace and security in the state and it continues to reinforce inter-group suspicion and mobilisation in the zone. Another source of tension in the inter-group relations in Southern Kaduna is the escalation of inflammatory statements and speeches from religious and political leaders in the zone that has the potential of escalating the conflict situation rather than deescalating it. The security situation in southern Kaduna defied immediate solutions as the unknown gunmen persisted in their attacks despite the increases in the numbers of Military and Police personnel in the zone.

The month of February witnessed a high level of social disconnect and conflicts which led to several violence and loss of lives in the Niger Delta region. In Ughelli North, suspected herders allegedly attacked a police team left two policemen dead and many injured. New cult clashes were reported in *Amassoma* while cult-related stealing has continued unabated in areas such as *Amarata, Ekeki, Okaka, Ovom, Agbura*,



Azikoro, Swali, otuokpoti, Otuasega, Imiringi, Okolobiri, Obuhagha and Polaku. Similarly, sea pirates have continued to attack travellers along the Nembe-Bras axis of the state. A noticeable trend is that sea pirates' attacks occur mostly during weekends when indigenes visit home for social activities and on market days of Swali Market, the main market in Yenagoa.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Protest in Lagos and Abuja over Economic Woes

Members of civil society groups protested in Lagos and Abuja against the current economic hardship in the country. In Lagos, the protest was put together by civil rights organisations: OneVoiceNigeria and United Action for Democracy (UAD). The early arrival of police officers who blocked all access to the venues with Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC) thwarted the protesters' efforts to gather at Gani Fawehinmi Freedom Park Ojota and the National Stadium, Surulere. But in a counter-arrangement, organisers mobilised protesters to converge on Ojuelegba under bridge and the entrance of the National Stadium from where they marched through Ikorodu road before rounding up at National Theatre, Iganmu Lagos. The protesters sang, jeered, and carried placards with various inscriptions denouncing the policies of Federal Government while calling for better deals for Nigerians.

Xenophobic Attacks; Nigerian retaliate, calls for protection of Nigerians in South Africa

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) gave a 48-hour ultimatum to all South African companies in Nigeria to relocate over the xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa. The students gave the ultimatum at a peaceful demonstration at some South African companies in Abuja on Thursday.

DSS arrests former governor over arms, land titles, cars

A former Governor of Benue State, Gabriel Suswam, was arrested yesterday by the Department of State Security (DSS) regarding illegal firearms, plots of land, designer watches and exotic cars. Suswam, a People's Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, is a former member of House of Representatives and two-term governor of Benue state. He was picked by the secret service on Saturday after a raid on an Abuja property said to belong to him. The weapons recovered from the former governor included a Glock pistol with two magazines and total of 29 rounds of ammunition; a mini-Uzi with two magazines containing 10 rounds and four rounds respectively; 42 extra rounds of ammunition; and one AK-47.


POLITICAL

Allegations against Borno State Officials Regarding Collusion with JAS

Commander of Operation Lafiya Dole had confirmed at a press conference at the headquarters of the Theatre Command that Nigerian troops have arrested some 3,332 JAS suspects and made an unprecedented capture of arms within the three weeks' period, an anti-aircraft gun was amongst the recovered weapons. He also disclosed that an army officer, Captain Adeosun, was killed in an IED attack. The Nigerian Army confirmed the arrest of three Chadians in Borno State as part of its on-going anti-terrorism war in the North-East. The Nigeria Army has killed six suspected suicide bombers in Maiduguri while attempting to enter the city at the Mafa checkpoint, 9 kilometres away. The deceased militants were said to have arrived the spot with three other suicide bombers who detonated their explosives at Muna Motor Park in the night before.

Elections and Political In-fighting Continue

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) won all the seats in LGA elections conducted in Yobe State on Saturday 11th February, 2017. As predicted, the elections were lacklustre as an overwhelming majority of the elected persons contested unopposed. Some residents of the state stated on the day of the elections that they were unaware of any election until on the day of the elections as there were no campaigns. The security



situation in the state made the election processes in Gujba and Gulani LGAs to be conducted, even for their respective wards, in the LGAs headquarters. Many citizens of the state stated that the money spent on the LGA elections would have been used for development projects in each of the local governments. Meanwhile, the elected LGAs chairmen took their oaths of office on Monday 20th February, 2017.

In the month of February, the political rivalry between the immediate past governor of Kano state and present Senator representing Kano central constituency, Engr Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso and the incumbent governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje has seriously deepened as both the political gladiators and their staunch supporters have been exchanging unprintable words over the various media outfits in the state. The state factional APC leadership under Abdullahi Abbas, which is loyal to the incumbent governor has constituted an investigative panel to consider the anti-party activities alleged to have been carried out by Kwankwaso faction in the state and beyond. Earlier in the month, the ruling APC conducted north-west zone mobilization congress in Katsina. The situation was not favourable for Kano state as members of the Kwankwaso faction were alleged to have conducted a separate meeting within Katsina, a situation that embarrassed the Kano state Governor while in Katsina.

The Plateau State government is still silent over the conduct LGA elections. It is widely held that the government awaits the amendment of the local government edict and the Plateau State Independent Electoral Commission's (PLASIEC) edict before proceeding with the conduct of the elections. A respondent from the civil society argued that, the government is concerned with salient grievances in some LGAs that could threaten the peaceful conduct of the elections. However, the position of the government is that election will be conducted in all the 17 LGAs. People are still hoping that the election will be conducted within first six months of the year.

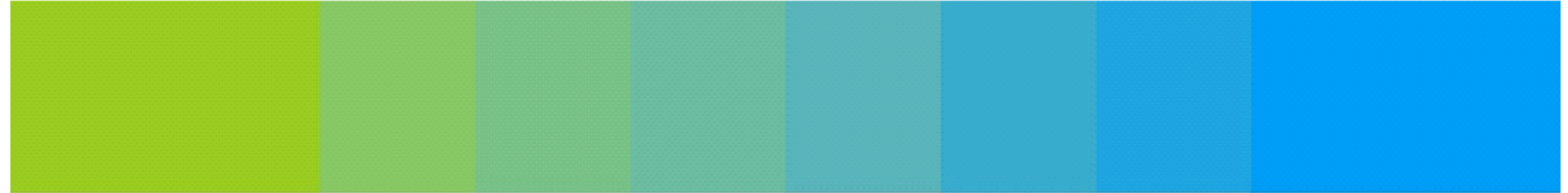
On Friday, 10 February, the Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike lost the battle to stop the Police Inspector General Abubakar Idris probe panel into the rerun election. An Abuja High Court which initially turned down Wike's request, later fixed Friday, 3 March for further hearing on the matter. A leaked INEC report indicted security agencies of "partisanship and wilfully obstructing" the December rerun election. The police authorities, especially, had denied the "allegation".

Elder Aniedi Ikoikwak, the Rivers State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) publicly announced that INEC would hold its rescheduled rerun/supplementary elections for Etche State Constituency 2 and Etche/Omuma Federal Constituency seats. The REC stated that for Etche it would hold in 147 polling units, while in Omuma it would hold in just one polling unit. The elections were held as announced by INEC and the PDP won the two seats. The turnout was poor (about 10%) and polls heavily militarized; though the security, especially the army, behaved better than during the last elections when they were alleged to have been involved in hijacking of election materials for a political party.

Investigations into Responsibility for Instability in Kaduna State and Niger Delta Ongoing

The Kaduna State Governor, Malam Nasir Ahmed El-Rufai has vowed to prosecute those behind the pogrom in southern Kaduna, just as he exonerated himself of any complicity in the violence and tensions in the zone. According to news report monitored early in the month, the Governor, made the observations while receiving the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Southern Kaduna led by Kabiru Gaya at the Sir Kashim Ibrahim Government House. The Governor described his accusers as mischievous. He maintained that no patriotic chief executive would allow his state to be on fire. The Governor regretted that the impasse has prolonged for more than three decades by the non-prosecution of the sponsors over the years.

The Kaduna State All Progressive Change (APC) has unravelled plots to cause unrest in the State. According to the Kaduna State Chapter of the All Progressives Change (APC), it has unravelled a plot by prominent members of the opposition party to cause sectarian crisis in the state. The party in Kaduna State, as monitored in news media, observed that the plotters are organising coordinated attacks on properties belonging to some individuals in society and attribute it to members of the APC especially in Southern part of Kaduna State. In a statement signed by Kaduna State APC, the party urged the security agencies to investigate the matter as a matter of urgency and take prompt action.



The negotiated truce between the Niger Delta agitators and the Federal Government still subsists. The past few months recorded progressive communication between the region's stakeholders and the Federal government geared towards finding a lasting solution to the region's crises. Respondents also noted that though, presently, the government's utterances and actions seem to portray good intention, however, all bureaucratic and political delay in the execution of the proposed 'master plan' of the region may send wrong signals capable of misinterpretation. In past years, similar developmental plans of the region by successive governments have always ended in the drawing room and this has been a major cause of the agitation.

Civil Society and Government Protests Continue in the Niger Delta

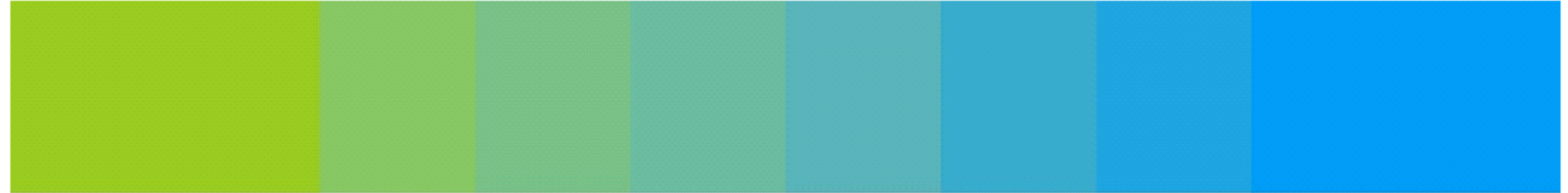
Also in Delta State, at least five members of the Independent People of Biafra (IPOB) were reportedly shot dead and others injured by men suspected to be officers of the Nigerian army. The incident occurred at Okwe town primary school, a suburb of Asaba Township. Sources reported that the IPOB members were holding their regular meeting when three Hilux vans loaded with men in army uniform stormed the venue and opened fire on them (women inclusive). It was further reported that at the time of the attack, the IPOB members were not armed. Other sources reported that at the time of the meeting, armed IPOB members were on guard at the venue. It was the presence of the armed guards that scared some residents of the area to alert the army. This assertion was refuted by another witness who averred that if the IPOB members were armed, they would have resisted the army's invasion. None of the security agencies has taken responsibility for the killing. Respondents noted that the incident has again raised fear of rights abuse and the need to adhere to due process of the law in the task of achieving social and political cohesion.

In Bayelsa, on February 14 2017, Civil Society Organisation and individual citizens gathered at the junction of the DSP *Alamieyeseigha* Road (popularly known as *Tombia* junction) and the Oxbow lake areas of the state to protest policies and inactions of the state government. The protesters demanded for the reversal of the gazing /ranch area policy, special attention for the Niger Delta University, regular payment of salaries and pensions, reversal of the policy which suspended promotions made in the public service since 2015, and the suspension of annual increment of salaries of public servants. The state government tagged it an opposition sponsored protests and probably for this reason, protesters were chased away or attacked by thugs allegedly hired by the state government. Sources claim that security operatives including the police and men of Operation Delta Safe (ODS) turned a blind eye as the protesters were allegedly beaten up. They however dispersed the protesters with tear gas and gun shots to prevent further violence.

HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY (Northeast)

The Borno State Governor has charged security operatives to arrest anyone linked to JAS, even if they are his children. Some public officials including a local government chairman have since been arrested for alleged links to the terror group. In a similar development, the governor expressed condolence to families of the victim's suicide bomb attacks and pledged continued support to security agencies and local vigilante. He further alleged that the failure and inaction of Sheriff to provide leadership in the state of his predecessor, Ali Modu Sheriff, led to the then JAS leader Mohammed Yusuf declaring a jihad that later led to the spread of JAS insurgents in the North East.

The month of February was characterized by the resurgence of attacks on unarmed civilians by suspected members of JAS network in Yobe State. Sasawa, a rural area located less than 30 kilometres from Damaturu the state capital, was attacked on Sunday 5th February, 2017. Sources confirmed that a life was lost while a lot of houses were razed by the insurgents. Similarly, there were reports from Gujba and Gulani Local Government Areas (LGAs) that mention fears related to suspected members of JAS that may be infiltrating the LGAs from Borno State. This is coming after the two attacks in the month of January which led to the suspension of business activities at Buni Yadi and Goniri markets in Gujba LGA for weeks. A month after the two attacks in the areas, despite the relative peace witnessed in Yobe State, there is still high apprehension among citizens of Yobe State and motorists traveling the Damaturu-Biu road because of the resurgence of these attacks.



Suspected members of JAS invaded Mifa community in Chibok LGA in early February, ↑ killing an unidentified Islamic scholar. The attackers also injured an unnamed boy in the same LGA. According to eye witnesses, the incident occurred around 9: 30 pm when about 30 JAS terrorists entered the village shooting repeatedly. Residents of the community have since deserted their homes for fear of being attacked by JAS.

During an update of the NAF miss fire incident at Rann, Theater Commander, Operation Lafia Dole has said during one of his press briefings recently in Maiduguri that the chairman of Kala Balge LGA actually told them that he was misled to give that figure, and he has apologised, adding that, contrary to the figure flying around on the number of casualty of the Airstrike in Rann, the total casualty figure recorded by the Theatre Command stood at 112 dead, while 97 were injured and are receiving treatment in various hospitals within the state. The council chairman of Kalabalge gave a wrong figure during the visit of the Chief of Army Staff to the scene of the incident when he told the COAS that they buried 234 people. While he thanked the federal government delegation led by the Chief of Staff to the President, Alhaji Abba Kyari and the Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed as well as the delegation led by the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Tukur Buratai, Gen. Irabor also appreciated the state government for the understanding and support given to the victims of the unfortunate airstrike in Rann.

A Nigerian Air Force (NAF) helicopter conveying personnel on medical outreach programme at Gwoza came under attack by members of the JAS group. Air Force spokesman, Group Captain, Ayodele Famuyiwa, in a statement said the Mi-17 helicopter was shot at severally by the insurgents. However, there was no casualty except for an airman that sustained bullet wound.

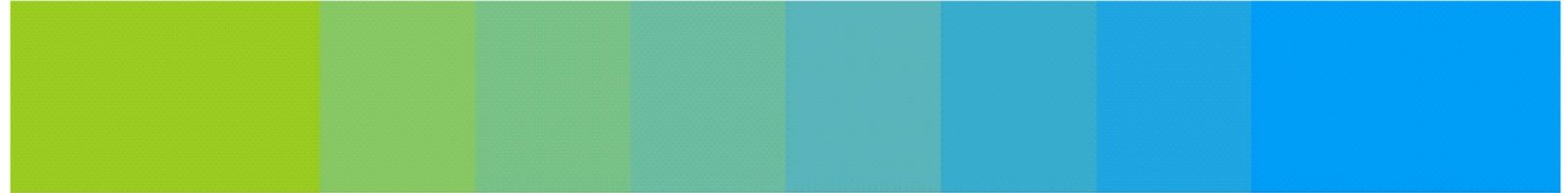
Over 14 loaded trucks with goods for export to Chad and the border communities were destroyed and commodities worth millions of naira burnt down by suicide bombers although no casualty was recorded. Corpses of the suicide bombers were evacuated to the State Specialist Hospital by NEMA and Borno SEMA team. CJTF operatives said a few hours after the Muna explosions, soldiers at Muna Dalti--a location about 1 kilometre away from the first explosion--shot six suicide bombers who were attempting to sneak into town at about 2am.

The Borno State Governor released statistics of deaths and material losses suffered by the state due to the JAS insurgency at the venue, in which he said the insurgency has led to the deaths of almost 100,000 persons, based on estimates by community leaders in the state over the years (this casualty figure is the highest ever provided by any government official from a state where remote areas which witness attacks by the insurgents are difficult to reach, adding the “Two million, one hundred and fourteen thousand (2,114,000) persons have become internally displaced as at December of 2016, with five hundred and thirty seven thousand, eight hundred and fifteen (537,815) in separate camps; 158,201 are at official camps that consists of six centres with two transit camps at Muna and Customs House, both in Maiduguri. “There are 379,614 IDP'S at 15 satellite camps comprising Ngala, Monguno, Bama, Banki, Pulka, Gwoza, Sabon Gari and other locations in the state. 73,404 persons were forced to become refugees in neighbouring countries with Niger having 11,402 and Cameroon having 62,002. “We have an official record of 52,311 orphans who are separated and unaccompanied. We have 54,911 widows who have lost their husbands to the insurgency and about 9,012 have returned back to various communities of Ngala, Monguno, Damboa, Gwoza and Dikwa,” the governor said.

SOCIAL

Poverty and Unemployment Challenges Drive Conflict

The high level of unemployment has placed non-indigenous residents of Yobe State at a perceived disadvantage when it comes to recruitment into the state government's ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs). It was observed that one of the primary requirements for one to secure employment MDAs in Yobe State is that one must be an indigene of the state. This is a complete departure from what was obtainable even in the recent past where qualified non-indigenes were offered appointments into the state MDAI. The case that generated a lot of comments in the state in the month of February is that of an ex-corps member who was recommended for employment by a state owned tertiary institution – Umar Suleiman College of Education, Gashua – but had the recommendation turned down because he is not an indigene of the state. Indigenes of Yobe State are divided in respect of the justification for the position taken.



Another serious contentious social issue that generated mixed reactions amongst the people of Kano state is the proposed law seeking to stop poor men from establishing polygamous family. It was reported that the Emir of Kano Malam Muhammadu Sanusi II has constituted a very powerful committee full of renowned Islamic scholars, traditional leaders, judges and lawyers to consider drafting a bill to ban poor men from marrying more than a wife in the state. The committee is called Islamic Family Law Committee, according to the committee, the law is rather meant to guide Muslims faithful on how to conduct their family lives in line with the teachings of Islam. When passed into law, the law will help the judges and lawyers in discharging their duties as administrators of justice. It will also guide the community how resolve some family matters and it will equally prevent alien laws and culture from penetrating into the Islamic religion. According to the Emir, punishment for breaking the law is yet to be drafted as the law is just a way to sought family planning and reduce poverty in the North. Therefore, to prevent the social unrest that preventing poor from establishing polygamous marriage will cause, this law is an issue that needs wider consultation and public awareness campaign to let the common man understand the law vividly.

Armed Robbery and the associated killings and injuries have continued to rise as victims who resist or challenge the robbers are shot at close range. A significant dimension is the rising cases of day light robbery. Hitherto, such robberies were limited to places such as INEC Road, Tinacious Road, Arietallin Road, and Chief Gwewe Street. At the moment, however, it occurs across the state capital. Police response is slow and in most cases they arrive long after the event. The concern of citizens however is the indiscriminate arrests which follow when the police intervene. Similarly, the attacks on persons who withdraw large sums of money from banks have raised concerns pertaining to how the robbers get the information and their ability to attack unchallenged in broad day light. The use of Tricycles for robbery and other criminal activities have continued to be a menace and source of insecurity.

Conflict over Natural Resources Continues to Drive Conflict in the Middle Belt and Niger Delta

In Plateau State, the salient contest over land ownership between the Berom and Afizere in Jos North LGA is gradually generating tension as the Izere nation are alleged by the Beroms to be expanding their territorial frontiers shortly after the coronation of the Agwom Izere as paramount ruler. Some of the contending issues are already before the court over land ownership, names of places, traditional rulership and chieftaincy matters and contested historical accounts of some parts of Jos. The creation of districts and the appointment of office holders within some of the contested areas in Jos North LGA prompted the Beroms' to raise alarm and called for restraint on the part of Izere nation. The contested areas between the Beroms and Izeres include Kabong and Jishe (Tudun Wada) areas of Jos North LGA.

In Kaduna State, the protracted and internecine Inter-communal conflict between herders and indigenous communities of the Southern Kaduna zone of Kaduna State persisted all through the month of February. As a direct response to the crisis situation in Kaduna State, the associations of non-indigenes have called on all warring parties to end hostility in Southern Kaduna. The leadership of non-indigenes resident in Kaduna state has decried the incessant clashes in the state in the past 30 years, saying it has retarded developments in the State. In a monitored news report in Kaduna, the Igala, Igbo, Yoruba and Urohobo community leaders under the aegis of Community Leaders Forum, noted that till date, so many families were yet to recover from the numerous ethno-religious crises that rocked the state in the last 30 years or so.

In Delta, the lingering violent conflict between suspected herdsmen and Uwheru, Ohorho and Agadama communities worsened recently. It was reported that the suspected herders did not only destroy economic crops and attack farmers in the bush, but took the battle to the communities. Officers of the Nigerian police that visited the area to investigate the destruction of economic crops were ambushed and two got killed. Others survived the attack with grievous injuries. The police authorities confirmed the attack.

In Bayelsa, sources indicate that intra-community conflict may erupt in *Ebelebiri* community in *Ogbia* Local Government Area (OBALGA) if measures are not taken to prevent it. Contestation over community leadership is the crux of the matter. However, in *Ekowe* community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area (SILGA), the chieftaincy dispute which was reported in November 2016 over the sacking of the community chief by some youths has polarized the community and made it vulnerable to intra-community conflict.



ECONOMIC

Economic Hardships Continue to Drive Conflict

Scarcity of petroleum products in petrol filling stations in Yobe State continued in the month of February. Similarly, just as in the month of January, only the NNPC filling stations were selling at rate that were not above the official maximum pump price. It was observed that the prices of essential commodities continue to soar. Similarly, the prices of building materials are increasing. Despite the assurances from the government that the trend would be reversed for good, citizens of Yobe State continue to express their angst on the economic situation

In its efforts to reduce economic hardship and combat social vices among women and youth in the state, the Kano state government has distributed post training package and start-up capital worth over N130 million to over 1500 women and youth in the state. It was reported that the state government performed the gesture in order to make women and youth in the state self-reliant, in the same vein the state government extended the gesture to the rural farmers at it distributed farm tools and other irrigation farming equipment, including the start-up capital a thousands of farmers selected from across the state. These are all in line with the state government's commitment to combat crime and other social vices through poverty reduction initiatives.

FG extends N14billion entrepreneur loan to Plateau State along with other Northern States for the benefit of small and medium scale entrepreneurs. The scheme seeks to provide an interest free loan to various sectors, such as market women, artisans, farmers etc. through a cooperative system with a one off 5% for operational cost charged. The loan which ranges between N10,000 to N100,000 are to be repaid over a period of twelve months. It is designed to be a revolving loan to carter for different sets of beneficiaries every year. Prospective applicants are required to apply online for the category s/he is interested and qualified for. It is managed by the Federal government unit in charge of the project while the Bank of Industry provides the fund. The State government has equally funded the training of some youth and provided the beneficiaries with the start-up kits to go into business on completion of their training.

Implications and Recommendations for Programmes in the North East

It is recommended for particularly UN Agencies working on Protection Sector to focus on special protection (internationally accepted models) to the teeming vulnerable who are still being displaced, moving into camps (that has limited capacity). As the UN Security Council visits Nigeria next week on particularly North Eastern Nigeria and the Chad Basin, programmes that are scheduled to meet with them should advocate for an independent commission to review the situation in North East and the entire Chad Basin. We continue to recommend that programmes working on Peace Building to support the humanitarian assistance with improved conflict and gender sensitive strategies.

Programmes working on electoral reform and good governance need to organize sensitization town hall meetings for political office holders and politicians on the need for leadership recruitment, internal democracy and inclusion. Civil society organizations should be empowered to hold elected and appointed representatives accountable and intimate them on the implications of their actions. The State Conflict Management Alliance (SCMA) and the Community Peace Partnerships (CPPs) should identify and discuss drivers of conflict in the run-off to the 2019 election and sensitize the state government accordingly for appropriate action. Programmes working on humanitarian services in Yobe State should help the state government with data on the vulnerable. Government should be empowered on how to sensitize the populace on the modalities that would be followed for one to benefit from the 'dole system' planned by the federal government. The state government should make a case on the need for humanitarian assistance to be given to the vulnerable. However, CSOs should be empowered on how to hold the government accountable as the humanitarian services are provided.



Implications and Recommendations for Programmes in Kano

Considering the happenings in the month of February in the state, it is important to commend the efforts of the security agencies, especially the Nigeria Police, and other stakeholders under the auspices of the NSRP supported State conflict management alliances (SCMA) being convened by the Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training, Mambayya house, as well as the Kano Emirate Council. To ensure success is recorded in the move to reconcile the ex-governor Kwankwaso and the incumbent Ganduje, and make Kano forward, it is recommended that NSRP supports the initiative by all necessary means by collaborating with the Centre to actualise the dream. NSRP should support the efforts of the Centre to see end to this lingering crisis which, if not addressed will trigger violent conflict in the state, allowing the political rivalry to persist will greatly affect programme delivery by many development partners.

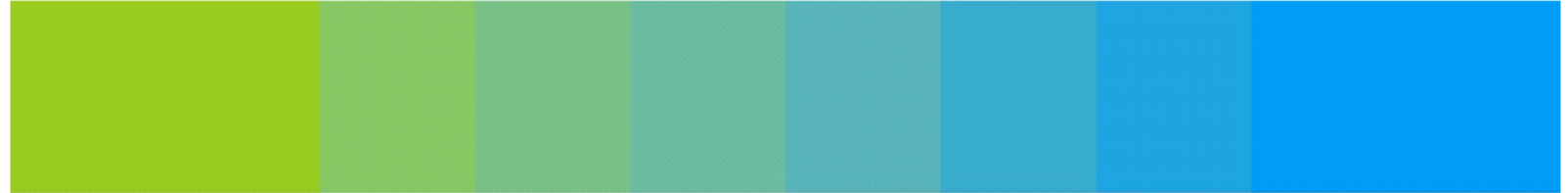
Implications and Recommendations for Programmes in the Middle Belt (Plateau and Kaduna)

The contest over the ownership question of Jos North LGA and the attendant consequence of litigation on harmonious relationship in the community is an early warning sign as well as a threat to the relative peace regime that have been in place for some time now. The escalation of the docile disagreement over historical perspectives of ownership of land areas, land boundaries, traditional and chieftaincy rights amongst Beroms and Izere, Berom and Anaguta, and Izere and Anaguta is further polarising the conflict dynamics of Jos North LGA over issues of political control between Berom, Anaguta and Afisere as the indigenous group versus the Hausa / Fulani Muslim settler group. With the upcoming elections expected to hold for the 17 LGAs within the first six months of the year – 2017 and the general election in 2019, there is the need to broaden the scope of early warning monitoring, reporting and response system with the view to mitigating the disruption of the peace in the state. It is therefore recommended that programmes in peacebuilding such as NSRP, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Search for Common Ground, Centre for Peace Initiative and Development (CEPID), to look into the possibilities of promoting inclusive and coordinated platform for government and other stakeholders to carry out detail conflict analysis of the conflict and stakeholders mapping to ensure effective matching of required intervention to appropriate intervener(s). Some of the required intervention may include shuttle mediation to the core parties across various groups to agree to go into mediation or facilitated dialogue; midwife the buy-in of the government to the agreement reached between the parties and enacting enabling policy to pave way for their implementation and enlightening the political parties to also buy-in to the political arrangement for power sharing as may be agreed.

It is recommended that programmes working on social cohesion, inter and intra-religious dialogue, peace-building focus additional efforts on appreciating and addressing the vicious circle of violent killings attributed to socio-economic and political differences in the zone so as to deescalate the violence by addressing the grievances of groups perceived to have lost out to ensure that the conflict is managed non-violently. The violence in Southern Kaduna suggests that the resolution of the issues will require prioritisation among the various actors working on governance and peace building including International and Donor community. Programmes that are focused on internally displaced persons, trauma counselling, skills acquisitions and empowerment need to seriously consider adoption of a more coherent and rapid response that is more proactive and actionable that is more likely to cushion the effects of the violence and allows for a return to order and also serves as a form of compensation to victims. As the month recorded rising tensions in the region linked to intense perceived youth reactions to the perennial violence by attacking perceived enemies whether they are real or perceived, programmes working on governance and security reform (PERL, SAVI, SPARC, ESSPIN) may need to consider additional programming that seeks to enlightens and create awareness focused on the youths in the zone.

Implications and Recommendations for Programmes in the Niger Delta (Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta)

The continuing crises and violence pose serious threat to those implementing programmes in the communities. There is the urgent need for programmes to work with government towards overhauling the security arrangement in the affected communities to bring out peace, security and development. If the dangerous situation in most of these areas continues it will affect programme activities. Programme such as NSRP and PIND should deliberately promote peace in the communities and discourage young people from engaging in the violent and criminal gangs. In Delta state, the prevailing ceasefire and tender peace in the Niger Delta region require more efforts to be put toward building permanent peace as a catalyst for the needed development. All the parties involved in addressing the region's lingering crises must be sensitised



Programmes like DFID, USAID, FOSTER, NDI, PIND and others working on peace building, natural resources and good governance should support advocacy for peaceful negotiations, generation of sustainable development and participation in consensus building to strengthen collective decision making as a path to enduring peace in the Niger Delta.

Economic activities are dim for many farmers in some local government areas as their crops have been destroyed by suspected herders' cattle. Many still can't access their farms for fear of attack and harm. Programmes working on agriculture, natural resources, security and peace are recommended to initiate a campaign for productive economic activities where none exists. Programmes should also support advocacy to provide insight into the control of nomadic activities and gains of peaceful co-existence. It is recommended that the BSCMA pay an advocacy visit to the State House of Assembly to lobby for the passage of the cattle breeding area/market bill to help provide a legal framework for the policy. Furthermore, it will also be useful to visit the Ranch Management Committee; the State Conflict Resolution Committee headed by the State Deputy Governor, the Butchers Association, Arewa Community, and the Cattle Dealers Association, and follow it up with a meeting involving all these stakeholders. Other programmes on peacebuilding such as PIND, P4P, etc. can support this process by working with the BSCMA to convene the stakeholders meeting, lobby the State House of Assembly and as well engage in enlightenment programmes to educate citizens on the essence and benefits of the programme and measures to mitigate their fears and concerns.