

Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Ondo State

August 22-28, 2021

Description

This weekly update spotlights violence against women and girls in the Niger Delta with a focus on sexual violence against children in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), more than 30 incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation were reported in Ondo State between January 2018 and June 2021. Recent data shows an increase in reported incidents of child sexual abuse in the State. In January 2021, for example, a 17-year old girl was reportedly raped and impregnated by her 36-year old father in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. In February, a 10-year old girl was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year old man at a village in Igbotako community, Okitipupa LGA. In May, a 9-year old girl was reportedly defiled by a 35-year old man in Uso community, Owo LGA. In August, a 13-year old girl was allegedly abducted and gang raped by two men in Ikare-Akoko community, Akoko North-East LGA. More recently, on August 16, 2021, a 4-year old girl was reportedly sexually abused by a 29-year old man in Akure town, Akure South LGA. The minor was allegedly molested by the suspect who was a neighbor to her parents.

Why it Matters

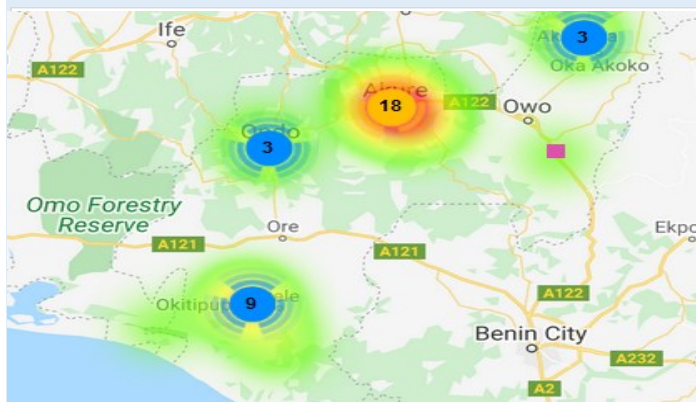
The growing prevalence of child sexual abuse is a serious threat to the human rights, health and safety of women and girls in the State. The prevailing situation could degenerate in ways that could undermine the human security and well-being of the girl child. This could bring about far-reaching social, economic and political consequences, unless appropriate preventive measures are taken by stakeholders.

Social: Child sexual abuse could have wide-ranging psychosocial and health impacts on victims and their families. It could cause bodily harm as well as sexual and reproductive health challenges, including urinary track infections, that could last into adulthood. Abused children could grow up to be frustrated and withdrawn, and they could develop age-inappropriate sexual behaviors, especially those abused by persons they know and trust, and whom they are dependent. Victims could also have difficulties with intimacy and social relationships.

Economic: Child sexual abuse could impose enormous financial burden on victims, families, communities, and government. These could be the costs of child welfare, healthcare, and psychosocial support. In addition, child sexual abuse can destabilize the overall development of the child, including education and physical well-being, which could reduce employment opportunities and productivity in adult life.

Political: Child sexual abuse could have significant implications for politics and governance in the State. The growing prevalence of child sexual abuse could provoke public outrage, mass protests and civil unrest. This could cause political instability and disrupt governance.

Incidents Heat Map of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported incidents of child sexual abuse in Ondo State from January 2018 - June 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

Child sexual abuse is increasingly becoming prevalent in the State, despite the recent enactment of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act by the government. Stakeholders should raise public awareness and educate parents and caregivers on the risk of child sexual abuse and work out appropriate preventive measures including parenting and child protection guidelines. Stakeholders should also devise applicable remedial and punitive measures, and develop strategies to improve reporting of incidents of child abuse.

Contact Us

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Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



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