

Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Sale and Trafficking of Babies in the Niger Delta

June 04-10, 2023

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights child trafficking in the Niger Delta with a focus on illegal breeding and selling of babies. According to data (see map below), over 200 child trafficking incidents were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2021 and March 2023. Recent data shows the prevalence of child trafficking in the region. In January 2023, for instance, the police reportedly arrested four suspected child traffickers and rescued 10 victims including pregnant teenage girls in Igwuruta and Omagwa communities in Ikwerre LGA, Rivers State. In April, the police reportedly arrested four members of a child trafficking syndicate and rescued two children in Ubima town in Ikwerre LGA, Rivers State. In May, the police in Rivers State reportedly arrested a suspected child trafficker and rescued six pregnant girls in Aluu and Choba communities in Ikwerre and Obio/Akpor LGAs respectively. Recently, on June 04, 2023, soldiers allegedly raided a house used for illegal breeding and trafficking of babies and rescued 21 pregnant girls and two babies in Umunkpeyi Nvosi community in Isiala Ngwa South LGA, Abia State.

Why it Matters

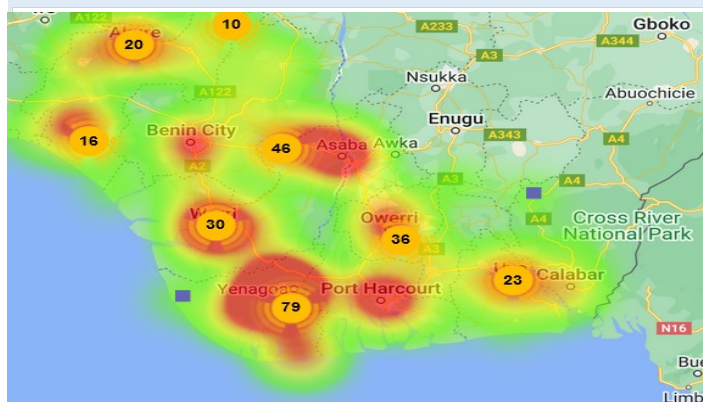
The growing prevalence of child trafficking is worrying, especially the proliferation of 'Baby-making Factories' - criminal enterprises disguised as orphanages or maternity homes where girls are made to deliver babies for 'Commercial Surrogacy' and illegal adoption. The situation could intensify in ways that could fuel the growth of transnational human trafficking networks in the Niger Delta. This could bring about far-reaching social, economic and political repercussions.

Social: Child trafficking including illegal breeding and selling of babies could have serious psycho-social, health and security consequences for families and society. Trafficked children could be adopted illegally or killed for ritual purposes. Illegally adopted babies could generate paternity disputes that can cause broken homes, child neglect and insecurity. Young girls in 'Baby-making Factories' could be exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, and babies could face serious health challenges due to early separation from their biological mothers.

Economic: The prevalence of child trafficking could fuel the growth of a thriving black market for human commodity. This could distort the local economy by diverting human and financial resources from legitimate businesses into criminal networks. Because of its clandestine nature, child trafficking could reduce government revenue from taxation and accordingly undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

Political: Child trafficking is a serious human rights violation with far-reaching political implications. Child trafficking is a violation of several international conventions and national laws such as the UN 'Convention on the Rights of the Child' and the national 'Child Rights Act'.

Incidents Heat Map of Human Trafficking in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of reported incidents of human trafficking in the Niger Delta from January 2021 - March 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The proliferation of 'Baby-making Factories' and the prevalence of child trafficking in the Niger Delta are mainly driven by poverty and growing demand for babies for illegal adoption. While the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) is striving to mitigate the situation, other stakeholders including civil society organizations should work with State governments to develop a multi-faceted anti-child trafficking strategy that combines advocacy and awareness campaigns with punitive and remedial measures.

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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