

Niger Delta Weekly: De-escalating the Herder-Farmer Conflict in Ondo State

January 09-15, 2022

Description

This edition of the weekly update spotlights the herder-farmer conflict in the Niger Delta with a focus on renewed clashes between herders and farmers in Ondo State. According to data (see map below), the farmer-herder conflict caused more than 30 fatalities in Ondo State between January 2018 and November 2021. Recent incidents indicate an escalation of violent clashes and renewed hostilities between herders and farmers in the State. In January, 2022, for instance, three residents were reportedly killed and villages and farmlands destroyed during clashes between herders and farmers over access to land for grazing in Molege Community, Ose LGA. Several persons were also reportedly injured during a clash between armed herdsmen and some members of a local vigilante group during the incident. More recently, on January 10, 2022, five residents including two farmers and three community youth leaders were reportedly killed during clashes between herders and farmers at a farmland in Arimogija community, Ose LGA. Many residents were also reportedly injured and several others displaced during the incident.

Why it Matters

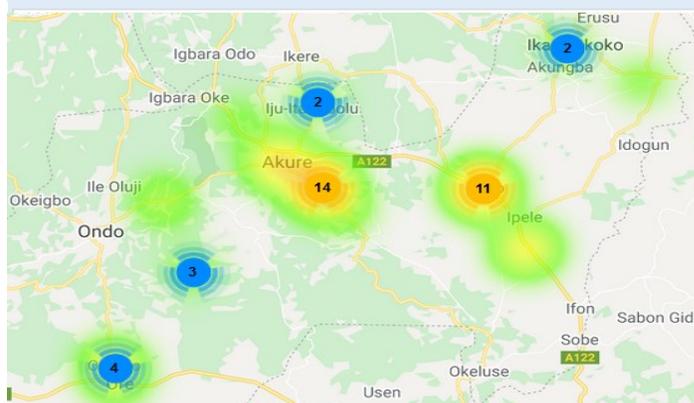
The current escalation of violence over the herder-farmer conflict is a serious threat to peace and security in the State. The prevailing situation could intensify communal tensions and hostilities. If not de-escalated, the conflict could compel aggrieved residents to resort to self-help including punitive reprisal attacks which could trigger a cycle of violent clashes and killings. This could bring about far-reaching social, economic, political and security consequences in the State.

Social: If not mitigated appropriately, the herder-farmer conflict could intensify communal hostilities and consequently undermine social cohesion at the state and national levels. Communal hostilities conflict could result in reprisal attacks and widespread destruction of property and human casualties. Recurrent clashes could also result in the proliferation of arms and multiplication of local militias and vigilante groups which could intensify communal and criminal violence.

Economic: The impact of the herder-farmer conflict could be economically devastating, especially as it is becoming increasingly persistent and lethal. The conflict could disrupt farming and livestock production, and consequently cause loss of livelihoods and occupational displacement. It could also reduce agricultural output and household income, and increase food insecurity and rural poverty in the State.

Political: The escalation of the herder-farmer could present additional security and political challenges for the state government. It could cause the proliferation of militias and vigilantes as self-help mechanisms. This could cause a breakdown of law and order in the State.

Fatalities Heat Map of Herder-Farmer Conflicts in Ondo State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported fatalities caused by the herder-farmer conflict in Ondo State from January 2018 - November 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Prognosis

The lingering herder-farmer conflict presents a serious threat to peace, security and communal stability in Ondo State. Peace and security actors should work with the state chapters of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) and the All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN) to de-escalate the conflict, and work with community leaders to establish a Farmer-Herder Conflict Early Warning System. Stakeholders should also create participatory platforms for dialogue, restitution and peacebuilding.

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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