

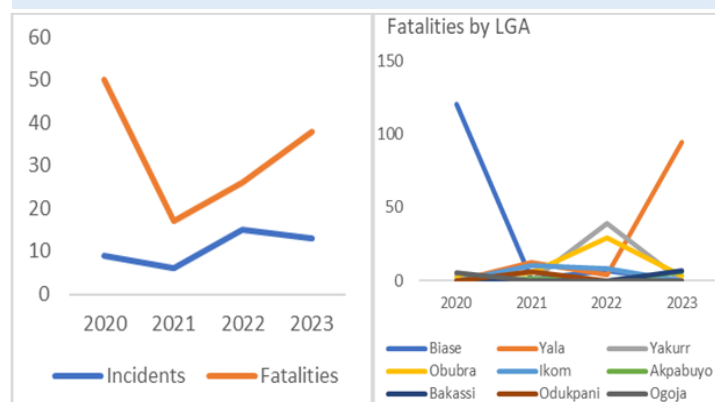
Niger Delta Weekly: Preventing Communal Violence over Land Disputes in Cross River State

March 10-16, 2024

Background

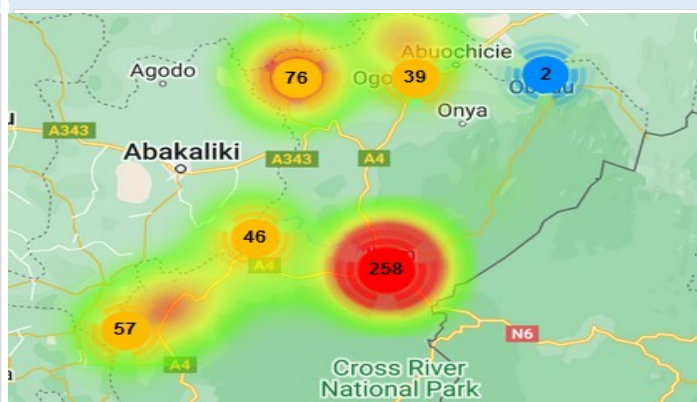
This weekly update spotlights communal conflicts in the Niger Delta with a focus on inter-communal clashes over land and boundary disputes in Cross River State. Seasonal outbreak of communal conflict over land ownership has been a major cause of lethal violence and instability in the State. According to data (see map below), communal conflict over land ownership and boundary disputes caused more than 400 fatalities in Cross River State between January 2020 and December 2023. During dry season farming in October 2023, for instance, several residents were reportedly killed, many others displaced, farmlands destroyed and over 300 houses damaged in a series of clashes over a disputed farmland between Ovonom and Ofatura communities in Obubra LGA. Recently, communal tensions reportedly escalated following renewed clashes over land disputes in the State. On March 10, 2024, for instance, three persons including a 10-year-old girl and a student were reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a lingering land dispute between Nnaorokpa community in Ikom LGA and Ofunokpan community in Obubra LGA.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends of Inter-communal Land Conflicts in Cross River State



Data shows that Biase and Yala LGAs had the highest number of fatalities caused by communal land conflicts during the period. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Fatalities Heat Map of Communal Violence over Land Disputes in Cross River State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported fatalities caused by clashes over land disputes in Cross River from January 2020- December 2023. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The seasonal outbreak of communal violence over land disputes has the potential to intensify communal tensions and hostilities in ways that could negatively impact the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the State. Also, the recurrence of communal violence over land disputes could be economically devastating, especially given that land is the mainstay of the local economy. It could hinder farming by limiting access to agricultural land. This could disrupt livelihoods and agro-allied businesses, and thus cause food insecurity in the State.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

Communal conflict over land disputes remains prevalent in Cross River State with periodic outbreak of lethal violence. Stakeholders should work with the State government to develop appropriate policies to holistically address the underlying conflict drivers. Peace actors should work with the relevant government agencies and community leaders to establish community-based early warning systems and set up conflict resolution committees to proactively identify and respond to potential triggers of communal violence.

Contact Us

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What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)

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 2222/0912 233 4455**

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief incident description.



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