

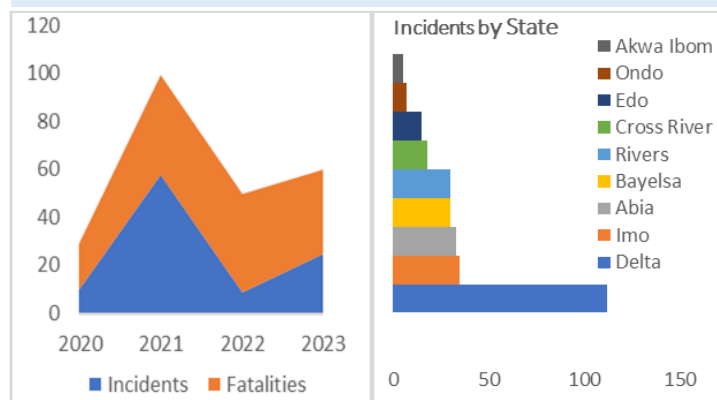
Niger Delta Weekly: Spotlighting the Proliferation of Illegal Arms in the Niger Delta

August 11-17, 2024

Background

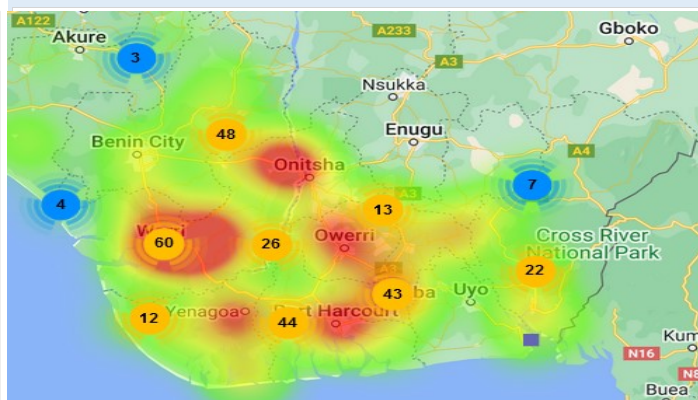
This special edition of the weekly update spotlights the proliferation of arms and ammunition in the Niger Delta with a focus on the illegal procurement and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the region. According to data (see map below), more than 200 incidents of illegal arms trafficking were reported in the Niger Delta between January 2020 and June 2024. Recent data indicate an increase in the proliferation of illicit arms and ammunition in the region. In March 2024, for instance, a 24-year-old man was reportedly arrested by the police for illegal possession of arms and ammunition in Ekpoma, Edo State. A Beretta pistol with 13 rounds of live ammunition were allegedly recovered from the suspect. Separately, in March, the Nigerian Army reportedly uncovered an illegal gun manufacturing factory in Onicha Olona community, Aniocha North LGA, Delta State. Recently, on June 21, 2024, a 40-footer container loaded with 844 units of assorted rifles and 112,500 pieces of live ammunition were reportedly intercepted by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) at the Onne Port in Eleme LGA, Rivers State.

Key Facts and Figures: Trends and Dynamics of Illegal Arms Proliferation in the Niger Delta



Data shows that Delta State had the highest number of reported incidents of illegal arms proliferation during the period. Sources: Nigeria Watch and ACLED data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Incidents Heat Map of Illegal Arms Trafficking and Proliferation in the Niger Delta, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents of illegal arms trafficking and proliferation in the Niger Delta from January 2020 - June 2024. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Why it Matters

The relative peace and security in the Niger Delta could be undermined by the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition in the region. Illegal arms proliferation could intensify organized criminal violence and cause instability by fueling communal conflicts and social strife. The availability of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) could embolden criminal gangs and cause a breakdown of law and order. This could bring about significant socio-economic, political, and security consequences at the state and regional levels.

Anticipated Trends and Dynamics

The proliferation of illegal arms could badly affect the dynamics of violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta, especially against the backdrop of political tensions in the lead-up to forthcoming off-cycle governorship elections in the region and economic hardship in the country. Stakeholders should continue to collaborate with law enforcement agencies and relevant civil society actors to deploy an integrated strategy to mitigate and prevent the proliferation of illicit arms, including a thorough mop up of illicit arms in the region.

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 2222/0912 233 4455**

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



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