

Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2024

Executive Summary

In 2024, the Niger Delta experienced relative stability, with a notable decline in conflict risk and lethal violence compared to the previous year. Data indicates a 30% reduction in lethal violence, with reported fatalities dropping from 1,019 in 2023 to 713 in 2024. However, despite this progress, incidents of violence and insecurity persisted across the region, underscoring the need for sustained efforts to address the underlying drivers of conflict and instability.

A variety of conflict risk factors shaped the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the Niger Delta during the year. This report examines trends and patterns of these risk factors and violent incidents, highlighting their impact on peace and stability in the region. Data sources include PIND's P4P Peace Map (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), Armed Conflict Location and Event Data ACLED (www.acleddata.com), PIND's SMS early warning system, Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), and other relevant sources.

According to data (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), the primary causes of lethal violence and insecurity included criminality (such as kidnapping), cult clashes, disasters (such as flooding and fire outbreaks), separatist agitation, communal tensions, and mob violence. Criminal violence, cult clashes, and disasters accounted for 488, 143, and 118 fatalities, respectively, during the period.

The most lethal conflict risk factors and security issues, based on average fatalities per incident, included disasters and disease outbreaks, ritual killings, mob violence, clashes between separatist militias and security forces, and cult gang clashes.

At the regional level, criminal violence increased by 11%, rising from 401 reported incidents in 2023 to 445 in 2024. This surge was primarily driven by kidnapping for ransom, homicides and clashes between security forces and hoodlums. However, fatalities linked to criminal violence declined by 27%, from 647 deaths in 2023 to 475 in 2024.

Similarly, communal violence declined by 8%, with fatalities dropping from 74 in 2023 to 68 in 2024, even as communal tensions rose by 25%, from 52 incidents in 2023 to 65 in 2024. Cult clashes also declined by 19%, with fatalities dropping from 177 in 2023 to 143 in 2024, although clashes remained prevalent in Edo, Rivers, and Delta states.

At the state level, Delta, Imo, and Rivers recorded the highest levels of lethal violence in 2024. At the local government level, Oredo (Edo), Ughelli North (Delta), and Ohaji/Egbema (Imo) experienced the highest number of conflict-related fatalities.

Overall, the Niger Delta experienced significant changes in its peace and security landscape in 2024, with lethal violence decreasing by 30%. This reduction is attributed mainly to the combined efforts of civil society organizations, international development partners, local peace actors, security agencies, and government interventions aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

Regional Dynamics of Conflict Risk and Insecurity

The Niger Delta is a highly diverse region, home to over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region comprises 185 of Nigeria’s 774 local government areas (LGAs) and spans nine of the country’s 36 States: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. According to the 2006 population census, the region has over 30 million people, accounting for more than 23% of Nigeria’s population, with an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer.

The Niger Delta area contains vast oil and gas reserves which are critical to Nigeria’s economy. However, despite these abundant resources, the region faces significant challenges, including insecurity, poverty, and underdevelopment. Historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups, including militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian factions, contribute to complex conflict dynamics in the region.

In 2024, the Niger Delta experienced a significant shift in its peace and security landscape, with lethal violence decreasing by 30% from 1,019 violent deaths in 2023 to 713 in 2024. This improvement was primarily driven by the conflict management efforts of civil society organizations, local peace actors, and government security forces. Stakeholders implemented various peacebuilding, social cohesion, conflict, and security management interventions, contributing to overall regional stability.

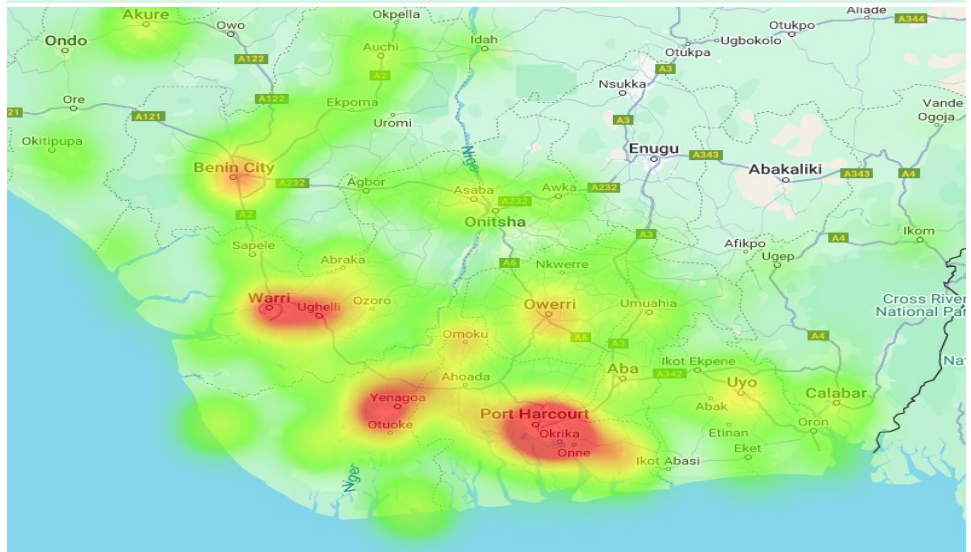
Reported conflict issues in 2024 included criminal violence, gang violence, political competition, communal tensions, and disasters. Specific incidents ranged from kidnapping for ransom, cult gang clashes, and land disputes to communal violence, disease outbreaks, separatist agitation, election-related violence, mob attacks, and clashes between hoodlums and security forces.

According to data (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), the major causes of lethal violence in 2024 included mob violence, disasters, separatist agitation, cult clashes, and organized crime, such as kidnapping for ransom and ritual killings. Data sources include PIND’s P4P Peace Map (www.p4pnigerdelta.org),

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) (www.acleddata.com), PIND’s SMS early warning system, Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), and others.

This annual report provides an overview of trends and patterns of conflict risks and violent incidents in the Niger Delta, highlighting their impact on peace and stability. While not a complete conflict analysis, the report serves as an update for stakeholders on yearly shifts in conflict risks and lethal violence. Offering deeper insights into these dynamics, enables stakeholders to anticipate emerging trends and adopt proactive measures, rather than merely reacting to conflict incidents.

Fatalities Heat Map of Lethal Violence in the Niger Delta



Heat Map shows the concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - December 2024. Source: All data sources formatted for PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2024

The Niger Delta was relatively peaceful and stable in 2024, with significant improvements in overall security compared to 2023. According to the P4P Peace Map data (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), lethal violence decreased by 30%, with reported conflict-related fatalities dropping from 1,019 in 2023 to 713 in 2024. The primary causes of conflict-related fatalities in 2024 included criminal violence, cult clashes, disasters, separatist agitation, communal tensions, and mob violence. Other major conflict issues were political tensions, violence against women and girls (VAWG), ritual killings, and violent protests.

Criminal violence caused 488 deaths, gang violence 143, and disasters 118 in 2024, severely affecting communal stability and livelihoods while endangering women and girls.

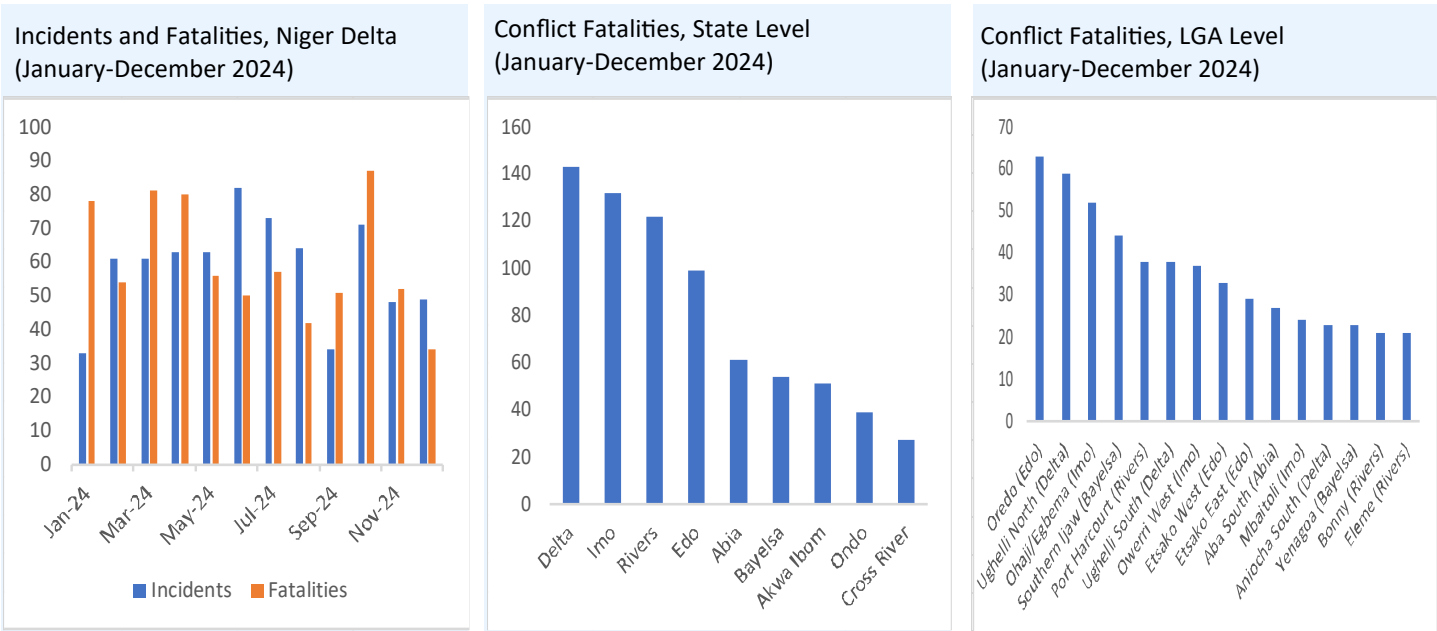
The most violent months of the year were March and October, with 81 and 87 reported fatalities, respectively. In March, for example, armed youths allegedly killed more than 15 soldiers who were responding to a distress call during clashes over a land dispute between Okuama and Okoloba communities in Ughelli South LGA, Delta State.

According to the data, Delta, Imo, and Rivers recorded the highest levels of lethal violence. At the local government level, Oredo (Edo), Ughelli North (Delta), and Ohaji/Egbema (Imo) had the highest number of conflict-related fatalities. In Delta State, criminal violence resulted in over 60 deaths, while clashes between separatist militias and government security forces in Imo State led to more than 100 fatalities during the period.

Disasters, including fire outbreaks linked to illegal artisanal oil refining and oil tanker explosions, caused over 130 fatalities during the period. Also, clashes between illegal oil refiners and security forces led to more than 25 deaths during the year.

At the regional level, communal violence declined by 8%, with fatalities dropping from 74 in 2023 to 68 in 2024, while communal tensions rose by 25%, from 52 reported incidents in 2023 to 65 in 2024. Similarly, cult gang-related violence decreased by 19%, with fatalities dropping from 177 in 2023 to 143 in 2024, though clashes remained prevalent in Edo, Rivers, and Delta.

The following pages summarize the prevalent conflict risks in 2024, highlighting the main conflict issues and drivers.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2024

In 2024, the Niger Delta’s peace and security landscape was primarily shaped by organized crime (including kidnapping for ransom), cult gang clashes, confrontations between security forces and separatist militias or criminals, communal violence (such as land disputes and farmer-herder clashes), political tensions (including election-related violence and power struggles), disasters and disease outbreaks (such as flooding, Lassa fever, and cholera), and human rights violations (including sexual violence and mob attacks).

The most lethal conflict issues in 2024, based on the average fatalities per incident, included disasters and disease outbreaks, ritual killings and

human organ harvesting, mob violence, separatist agitation (including clashes between separatist militias and security forces), cult gang clashes, and criminal violence, including violence against women and girls.

Disasters and disease outbreaks caused over 118 deaths during the year. Outbreaks of Lassa fever and cholera, as well as fire incidents linked to illegal oil refining were key drivers of insecurity, particularly in Rivers, Delta, Imo, and Bayelsa.

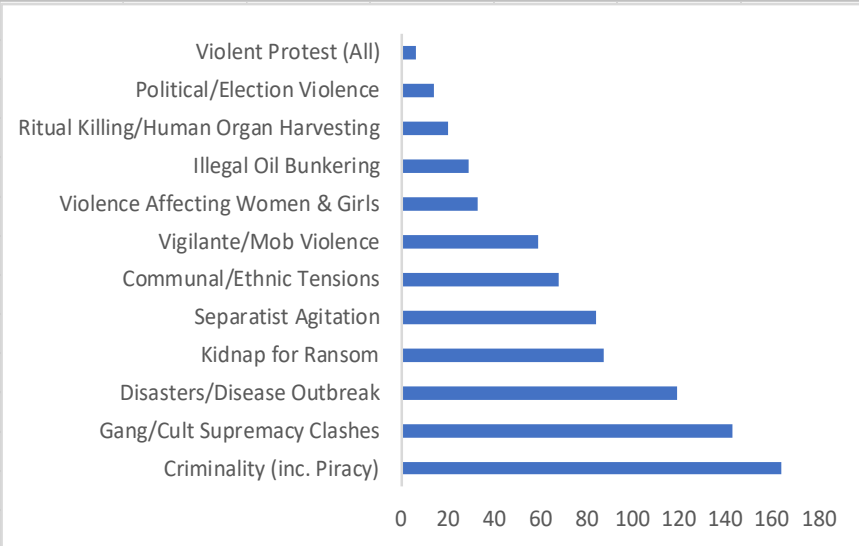
Mob violence and separatist agitation were major drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in 2024, causing 135 and 59 fatalities, respectively.

Separatist agitation was most prevalent in Imo and Abia, mainly involving clashes between militias and government security forces, though fatalities declined.

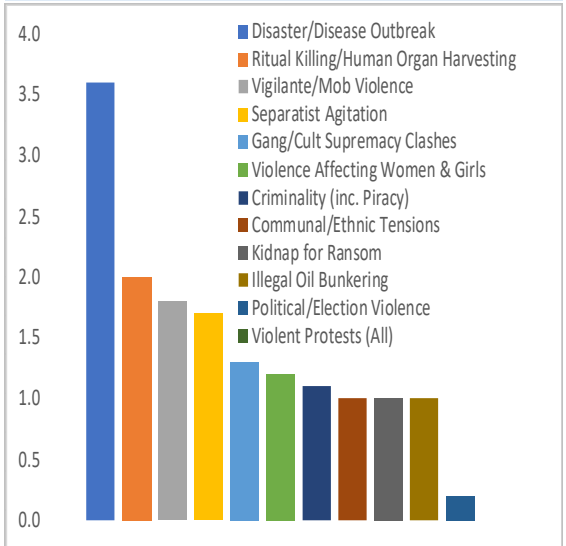
While cult gang clashes decreased by 19% at the regional level, they remained widespread, particularly in Edo, Rivers, and Delta, causing over 140 fatalities.

Organized criminal violence was widespread across the region during the year, resulting in over 160 fatalities. Major drivers included robbery, kidnapping for ransom, arms proliferation, and clashes between hoodlums and security forces.

Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2024)



Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2024)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Criminal Violence

Criminal violence, including clashes between hoodlums and law enforcement agencies, was the most prevalent conflict risk and security challenge in the Niger Delta in 2024. It was primarily driven by general criminality (such as robbery), arms proliferation, homicide, and clashes between bandits and security forces. Excluding incidents of kidnapping, mob violence, and illegal economic activities, criminal violence resulted in over 160 fatalities during the year. While it was prevalent across all states in the region, Delta, Imo, and Edo recorded the highest fatalities.

Delta

Criminal violence was a major driver of insecurity in Delta State during the period, resulting in over 60 fatalities. It was primarily fuelled by homicide, general criminality, and clashes between security forces and hoodlums. In March, six policemen

were reportedly killed during a clash with bandits in a forest near Ohoro, Ughelli North LGA. In July, a 33-year-old man was killed by assailants in Agbor, Ika South LGA, while a cleric was allegedly murdered by his son in Okpare-Olomu, Ughelli South LGA. In November, two robbery suspects were reportedly killed in a clash with the police in Effurun, Uvwie LGA.

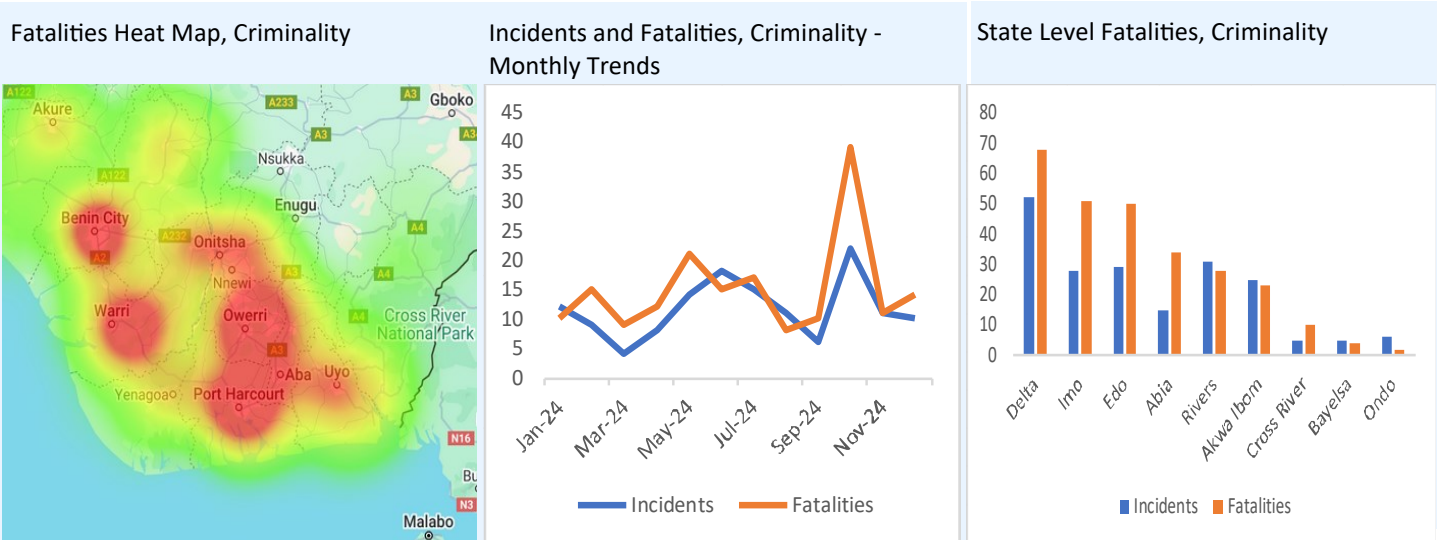
Imo

Criminal violence, including targeted killings of security personnel and civilians, was widespread in the state during the period, resulting in over 50 fatalities. The major causes were gun attacks and clashes between militias, local vigilantes and government security forces. For instance, in July, gunmen allegedly killed three local vigilantes and a passer-by in Afor Umuaka community, Njaba LGA.

In September, assailants reportedly killed two vigilantes and set vehicles and houses ablaze in Umuelemai, the headquarters of Isiala Mbano LGA. Similarly, in November, gunmen allegedly detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at an international market in Orlu LGA, killing two people and injuring several others.

Edo

Criminal violence, including homicides, was a significant source of insecurity in Edo State during the year, resulting in over 50 fatalities. For instance, in July, a 56-year-old man was reportedly killed by another man in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA. In September, a middle-aged man allegedly killed his elder brother during a dispute in Auchi, Etsako West LGA, after which a mob reportedly lynched the suspect.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Gang Violence

Gang violence was another significant cause of violent deaths and insecurity in the Niger Delta in 2024. Clashes between rival cult gangs resulted in over 140 fatalities, contributing to significant instability in the region. Cult-related violence and killings were most prevalent in Edo, Rivers, and Delta States, primarily fueled by supremacy battles over territorial control, disputes over illegal levy collection, and general criminal activities.

Edo

Gang violence was one of the most lethal security threats in the state during the period, resulting in over 80 deaths. Clashes between rival cult gangs and confrontations with local vigilantes were widespread, fueled by supremacy battles, competition over illegal levy collection, communal disputes, reprisals, and general criminal activities.

In March, a man was allegedly killed by members of a cult gang at a church in Benin City, the state capital. In April, three people were allegedly killed in a clash between rival cult gangs in Obagie, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In October, two gang members

were reportedly killed in a clash in Okpella, Etsako East LGA. That same month, eight people were killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at various locations in Upper Sakponba, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In November, cult members allegedly killed a would-be groom near Esigie Police Station in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

Rivers

Gang violence, particularly clashes between rival cult gangs, security forces, and local vigilantes, was a major driver of insecurity in the state during the period. Cult-related violence resulted in more than 40 fatalities across the state. In March, two residents, including a businessman, were allegedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at various locations in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA. That same month, a resident was reportedly killed in a clash between two factions of the Deebam cult group over control of an illicit market at Mile 1 in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA.

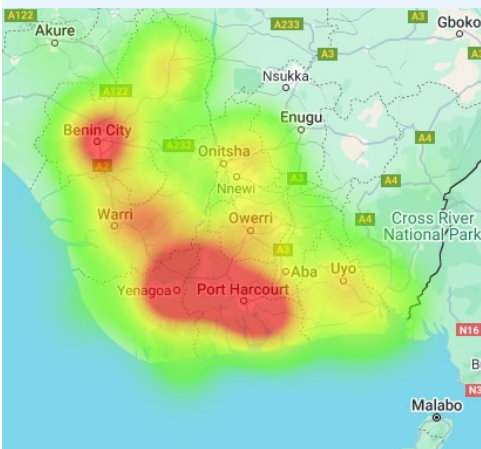
In April, two people were reportedly killed during a clash between the police and cult gang members

in Ogbologbo, Ahoada West LGA. In August, a confrontation between rival Vikings and Iceland cult gangs in Rumuolumene, Obio/Akpor LGA, resulted in a fatality. In November, members of a cult gang allegedly killed a local vigilante and injured four others, including the victim's brother, in Obele, Emohua LGA.

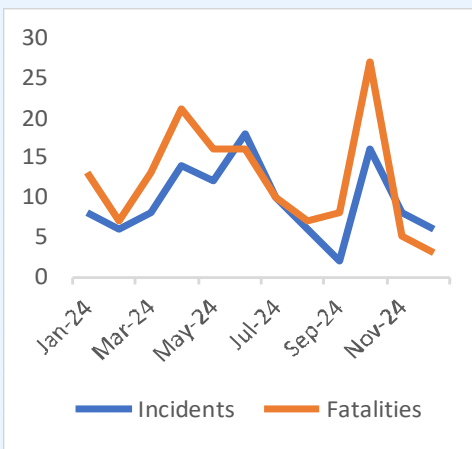
Delta

Gang violence claimed the lives of over 40 residents in the state during the year. In February, over six people, including a gang leader, were reportedly killed in a series of reprisal attacks in Ogwashi-Uku, Aniocha South LGA. The following month, cult gang members allegedly killed a man and his pregnant wife in the same community. In April, three individuals were reportedly killed during a clash between the police and cult gang members in Isah-Ogwashi, Aniocha South LGA. In August, four people were killed on the same day at different locations in Ughelli community, Ughelli North LGA, following violent clashes between the Aye and Bagger cult gangs.

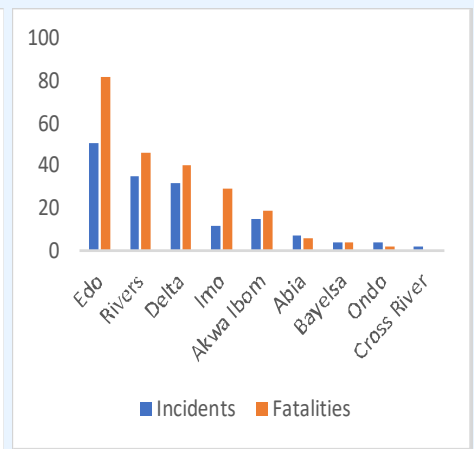
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Gang Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Gang Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Kidnapping for Ransom

Kidnapping for ransom declined in the region by 35%, from 135 reported incidents in 2023 to 88 in 2024. Despite this decline, kidnapping remained a major driver of violence and insecurity in 2024, resulting in over 80 fatalities, including more than 25 deaths in clashes between kidnapers and security forces. Kidnapping incidents primarily involved attacks on commercial buses and the abduction of travelers along major highways. While kidnapping was reported across the region, it was most prevalent in Delta, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, and Edo States.

Delta

Kidnapping resulted in over 50 fatalities across more than 40 reported incidents in the state during the year. Kidnapping for ransom was particularly prevalent in Ughelli North, Ughelli South, Aniocha South, Ika North-East, Uvwie, and Oshimili South LGAs. For instance, in February, herdsmen, who allegedly doubled as kidnapers, ambushed and killed nine policemen in Agadama, Ughelli North LGA. In April, gunmen reportedly killed over 10 people and abducted about 15 others in different communities, including Owa-

Ekei and Owa-Oyibu in Ika North-East LGA. That same month, kidnapers attacked a commercial bus and abducted 18 travelers along the East-West Road in Ewvreni, Ughelli North LGA.

In July, gunmen allegedly killed a police officer and abducted a former Delta State House of Assembly member in Asaba, the state capital. In September, three people, including two police officers, were reportedly killed by kidnapers in Jakpa, Uvwie LGA, during an attempted abduction of the wife of a Delta State House of Assembly member.

Rivers

Kidnapping for ransom remained a significant security issue in the state throughout the year, particularly in Port Harcourt, Ikwerre, Degema, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni, and Ahoada West LGAs. It accounted for over 20 violent deaths during the period. In April, a journalist working for a popular television station was abducted by kidnapers in Rumuosi, Obio/Akpor LGA. The perpetrators later demanded a ₦30 million ransom.

In May, gunmen reportedly attacked a passenger boat along the Onne Waterways in Eleme LGA,

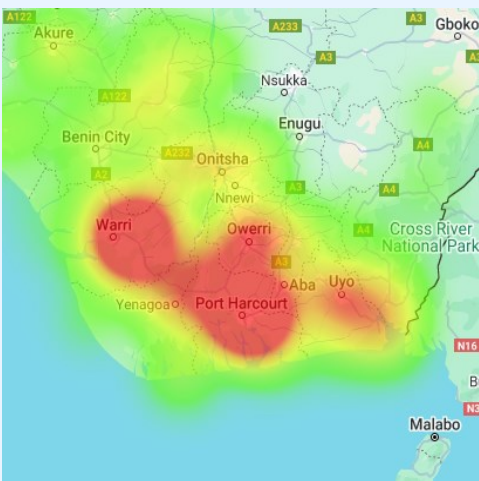
abducting seven travelers. In August, gunmen allegedly kidnapped the Director of the Rivers State Board of Internal Revenue Service at Okrika Waterfront in Port Harcourt LGA. In October, a commercial bus was attacked by gunmen along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA, with all passengers reportedly abducted.

Akwa Ibom

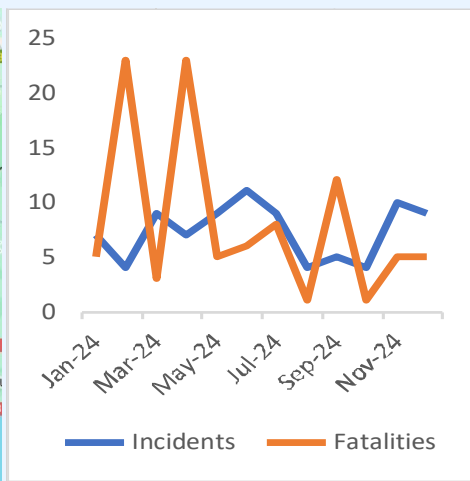
Over 18 incidents of kidnapping for ransom were reported in the state during the period, resulting in more than 16 fatalities. In March, a local government official and his wife were reportedly abducted in Uyo, the state capital. In April, kidnapers allegedly killed a businessman and abducted a woman along Airport Road in Uyo.

In May, a four-month-old baby was reportedly abducted in Enen-Atai, Itu LGA, while the wife of a prominent politician was allegedly kidnapped in Oron community, Oron LGA. In July, gunmen reportedly abducted eight people, including a naval rating, in Ibaka, Mbo LGA. In November, gunmen abducted a businessman and killed his driver in Eket LGA.

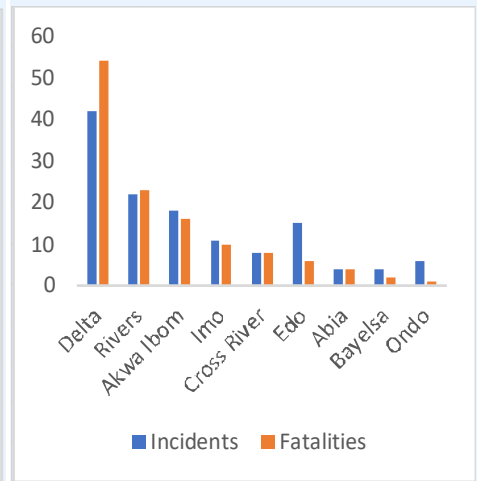
Fatalities Heat Map, Kidnap for Ransom



Incidents and Fatalities, Kidnap for Ransom - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Kidnap for Ransom



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation, including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, remained a major security issue in the region in 2024. While fatalities related to separatist violence declined by 38%, from 135 in 2023 to 84 in 2024, the number of incidents surged by 69%, rising from 29 reported cases in 2023 to 49 in 2024. Targeted violence by separatist militias - including the killing of civilians, attacks on public and private properties, and clashes with government security forces - was widespread during the year, particularly in Imo and Abia States.

Imo

Violence by separatist militias, including clashes with government security forces, resulted in over 100 fatalities in the state during the period. In January, separatist militias allegedly ambushed and killed two police officers along Gariki Road in Okigwe LGA. In February, a lawyer was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be militias along Okigwe/Uturu Road in Okigwe LGA. In March, a series of clashes between government security forces and separatist militias reportedly left 20 people dead in Orsu LGA. That same month, five

people were allegedly killed in a clash between security forces and militias in Ejemekuru, Oguta LGA. In May, militias allegedly killed two residents, including a former councilor, in Onuimo LGA.

In June, three people, including two police officers and a civilian, were allegedly killed by militias at a security checkpoint in Akabo, Ikeduru LGA. Also in June, militias reportedly attacked and killed six traders at Ama Hausa in Garki, Okigwe LGA. In July, militias allegedly killed four police officers and a woman in Irete, Owerri West LGA. That same month, separatist militias enforcing a sit-at-home order allegedly killed a man in Orji River, Owerri North LGA. In August, separatist militias allegedly attacked a meeting of community leaders in Umucheke Okwe, Onuimo LGA, killing seven people, including the President General.

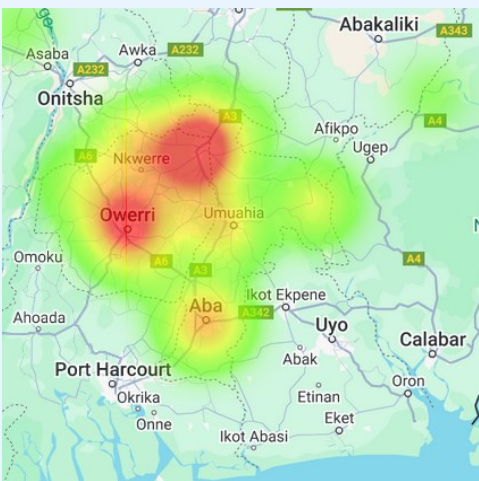
In September, militias reportedly attacked the divisional police headquarters in Umuaka, Njaba LGA, killing three people. Separately, in Umulogho, Obowo LGA, militias allegedly targeted a police station with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and killed an off-duty policeman in his home.

Abia

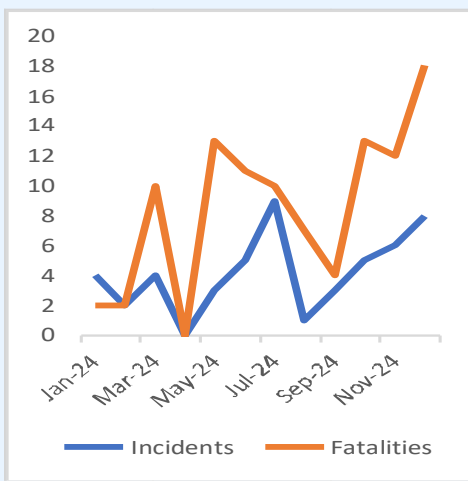
In 2024, the state experienced a resurgence of separatist agitation, with reported cases rising by 62%, from eight incidents in 2023 to 13 in 2024. Violence involving separatist militias, including clashes with government security forces, resulted in over 40 fatalities throughout the year. In May, separatist militias allegedly killed five soldiers at a security checkpoint at Obikabia Junction in Aba North LGA. Later that month, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly ambushed a military outpost near Milverton Avenue Junction in Aba South LGA, killing two soldiers.

The wave of violence continued in June, when separatist militias killed two police officers at a security checkpoint at Opobo Junction in Aba North LGA. In July, militias reportedly attacked a police patrol team along Ngwa Road in Aba, Aba South LGA, resulting in six fatalities, including three civilians and a police officer. In November, separatist militias allegedly attacked an army checkpoint near Ekenobizi community in Umuahia South LGA, killing two soldiers.

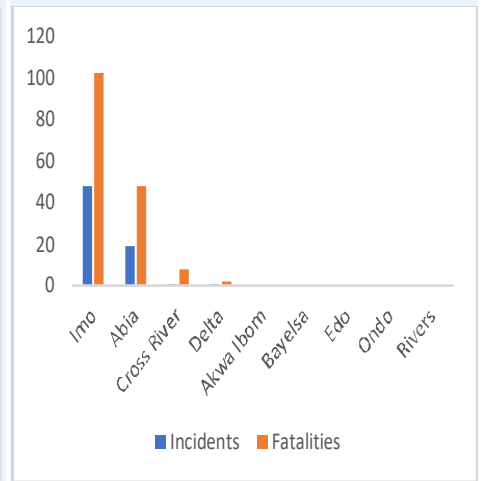
Fatalities Heat Map, Separatist Agitation



Incidents and Fatalities, Separatist Agitation - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Separatist Agitation



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Disasters/Disease Outbreaks

Disasters and infectious diseases posed serious threats to public health, human security, and livelihoods in the Niger Delta during the year. The region experienced multiple infectious disease outbreaks, including Lassa fever, cholera, and monkeypox. According to epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), as of March 2024, the Niger Delta accounted for over 46% of new confirmed Lassa Fever cases nationwide, with more than 35 fatalities. By June 2024, the region reported over 70% of 882 suspected Lassa Fever cases. Similarly, NCDC’s August 2024 [Update on Mpox Outbreak](#) indicated that 32% of all suspected cases in the country were recorded in the Niger Delta.

Disasters, including flooding, explosions, and fire outbreaks, were widespread throughout the year. Heavy rainfall and ocean surges caused severe flooding, submerging homes, schools, and businesses, and displacing numerous residents. Coastal areas in Ondo, Bayelsa, Edo, and Rivers States were particularly affected.

Similarly, explosions of oil tankers and fires at illegal artisanal oil bunkering sites led to multiple fatalities and widespread destruction of property, with significant environmental and health consequences. Overall, disasters and infectious disease outbreaks resulted in over 120 fatalities in the region, particularly in Rivers, Bayelsa, Imo, and Delta States.

Rivers

Disasters, including oil pipeline explosions and fire outbreaks, resulted in over 40 fatalities in the state during the year. In January, a leaking gas pipeline owned by a multinational oil company allegedly exploded, destroying farmlands and economic trees in Obagi, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. That same month, a fire at the Bonny/Nembe/Bille Jetty along a creek in Port Harcourt LGA reportedly killed 11 residents, including five infants and six adults, and destroyed four boats. In April, a petrol tanker explosion along the highway in Eleme LGA reportedly claimed four lives, including that of a pregnant woman.

Bayelsa

Human-induced disasters, including environmental hazards, resulted in several fatalities in the state during the period. In May, seven residents, including university students, reportedly died after inhaling fumes from a power generator inside a music studio in Amarata, Yenagoa LGA. That same month, a young man was reportedly electrocuted while working on a high-tension electric pole in Ekeki, Yenagoa LGA.

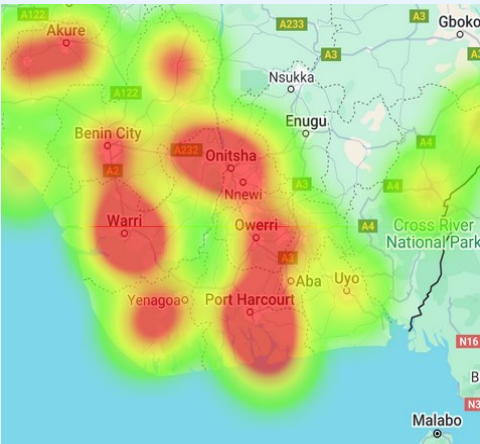
Imo

Disasters claimed over 30 lives in the state during the year. In January, for instance, over 20 people were reportedly killed when a petrol tanker, allegedly used for illegal oil bunkering, exploded at Obitti Rubber Estate in Ohaji/Egbema LGA.

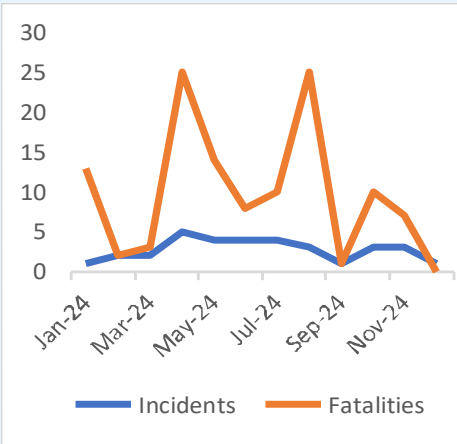
Delta

Disasters claimed over 20 lives in the state during the year. In July, a lightning strike during a thunderstorm struck footballers in Issele-Azagba, Aniocha North LGA, resulting in two fatalities.

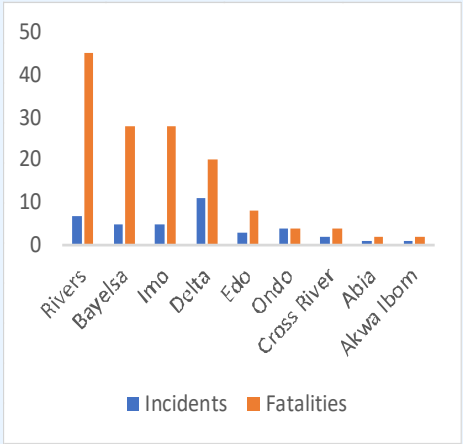
Fatalities Heat Map, Disasters and Disease Outbreaks



Incidents and Fatalities, Disasters and Disease Outbreaks - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Disasters and Disease Outbreaks



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Communal Violence

Communal violence was one of the primary drivers of tensions and instability in the region in 2024. However, fatalities related to communal conflicts declined during the period. According to the data, cases of communal violence increased by 25%, rising from 52 incidents in 2023 to 65 in 2024, while related fatalities decreased by 8%, from 74 deaths in 2023 to 68 in 2024. Despite the overall decline in fatalities at the regional level, communal conflicts resulted in several fatalities in Delta, Akwa Ibom, Edo, and Cross River States. The primary drivers of these conflicts were competition over land and inter-communal tensions, particularly between herders and farmers.

Delta

Communal conflict was a major driver of violence and insecurity in the state, resulting in over 50 deaths. In January, two youth leaders were allegedly killed in a clash over a leadership tussle in Mosogar, Ethiope West LGA. In March, youths reportedly killed 15 soldiers who were responding to a distress call during a clash over a land dispute between Okuama and Okoloba communities in Ughelli South and Bomadi LGAs, respectively.

In April, a member of a local vigilante group was allegedly killed in a clash with herders in Abavo, Ika South LGA. In May, a resident was reportedly killed, and three others were injured during a clash over a disagreement between Okuama and Akugbene communities in Ughelli South and Bomadi LGAs, respectively. In July, herdsmen reportedly attacked Okpe-Abavo community in Ika South LGA, killing a 55-year-old farmer, injuring his two sons, and abducting his wife.

Cross River

Seasonal outbreaks of communal conflict have been a major driver of violence and insecurity in the state. Clashes over communal land disputes led to multiple fatalities and widespread destruction of property throughout the year. In March, three people, including a 10-year-old girl, were reportedly killed in a series of clashes over a land dispute between Ofunokpan in Obubra LGA and Nnaorokpa in Ikom LGA.

In May, a female farmer was reportedly killed, and 10 others were injured during a renewed clash over land and boundary disputes between Isu community in Arochukwu LGA, Abia State, and

Ukwa Eburutu community in Odukpani LGA, Cross River State. The alleged discovery of a limestone deposit on the disputed land reportedly triggered the violence.

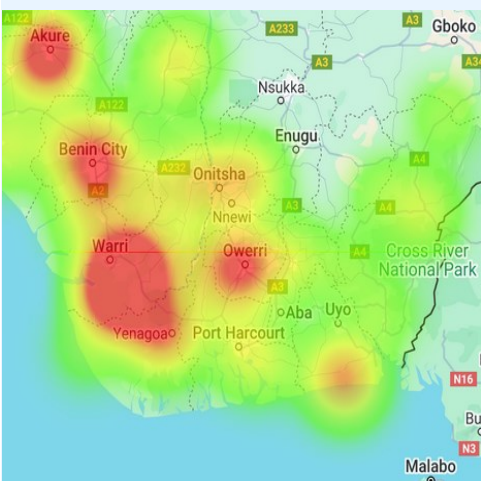
Akwa Ibom

Communal land disputes were a major driver of lethal violence and instability in the state during the year. In February, two residents were allegedly killed, several others injured, and numerous houses, including a church, were destroyed in Iwuochang, Ibeno LGA, during a series of clashes over a land dispute involving communities in Eket, Esit Eket, and Ibeno LGAs.

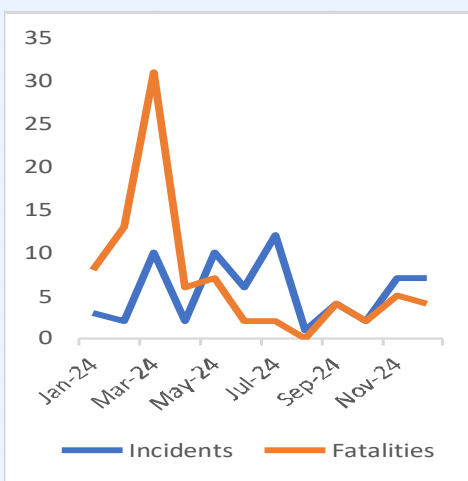
Edo

Several incidents of communal violence, including land disputes and herder-farmer clashes, were reported in the state during the year, resulting in more than 15 fatalities. In March, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen reportedly killed a middle-aged man on his farm in Ubune-Ivbiaro, Owan East LGA. In April, three people were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Amagba and Obagie communities in Ikpoba-Okha LGA.

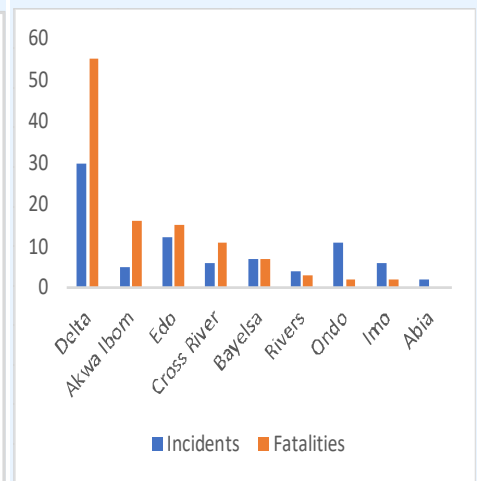
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Communal Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Communal Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Vigilante and Mob Violence

Vigilante and mob violence were major security concerns in the Niger Delta in 2024, primarily driven by rising criminality and the proliferation of local vigilante groups and other informal security outfits. The growing number of these groups stems from increasing insecurity and a lack of public trust in the ability of government law enforcement agencies to protect lives and property. Additionally, weaknesses in the judicial and penal systems have contributed to the spread of vigilante and informal security outfits. Vigilante and mob violence resulted in over 50 fatalities across the region during the year, particularly in Edo, Delta, Rivers, and Imo States.

Edo

During the period, vigilante and mob violence were prevalent in the state, posing significant law enforcement and security challenges. These incidents resulted in more than 30 fatalities. In January, a local vigilante reportedly killed a commercial motorcyclist during a disagreement at a security checkpoint in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, two policemen were allegedly lynched by a

mob in Ikpeshi, Akoko Edo LGA. In September, a middle-aged man was reportedly lynched by a mob after allegedly killing his elder brother during a dispute in Auchi, Etsako West LGA.

In October, a mob of youths allegedly set a police station ablaze in Agenebode, Etsako East LGA, in response to claims that the police were shielding a suspected kidnapper captured by the community. The mob stormed the police station, seized the suspect, and forced him to lead them to their hideout. They then attacked and killed three other individuals allegedly involved in kidnapping, murder, and human organ harvesting.

Delta

Mob violence resulted in more than 10 deaths in the state during the year. In March, a robbery suspect was reportedly lynched and set ablaze by a mob at Igbudu Market, Warri South LGA. In July, a suspected cultist was allegedly lynched by a mob after killing a man in Ogume, Ndokwa West LGA. In September, a mentally ill man was set ablaze by youths in Ewvreni, Ughelli North LGA, after allegedly killing his son and a nursing mother.

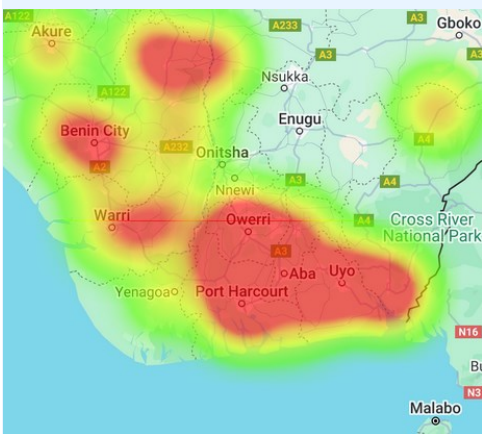
Rivers

Vigilante and mob violence were major security concerns in the state during the period, driven by criminal activity and clashes between local vigilantes, cult gangs, and hoodlums. In February, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between youths and local vigilantes at a funeral in Degema LGA. In March, two suspected carjackers were allegedly lynched by a mob along Stadium Road, Port Harcourt LGA. In April, a local vigilante was reportedly killed during a clash with members of a cult gang in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA. In November, a suspected burglar was lynched by a mob at Ikoku Market, Port Harcourt LGA.

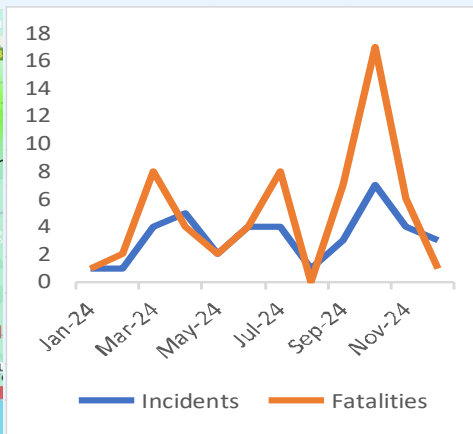
Imo

Vigilante and mob violence posed significant law enforcement challenges in the state during the period. In April, a resident was reportedly killed by a local vigilante in Uratta, Owerri North LGA. In September, a mob in Orogwe, Owerri West LGA, allegedly lynched and burned a couple to death after accusing them of attempting to steal a motorcycle.

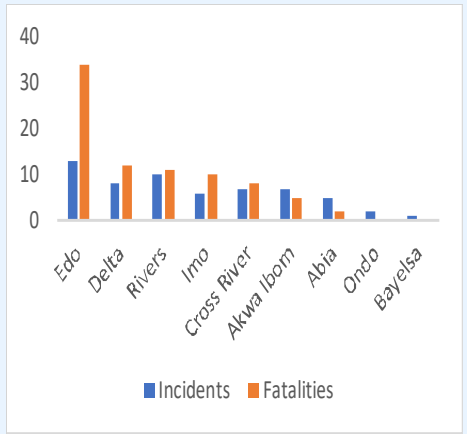
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

declined in the Niger Delta in 2024. According to data, incidents of VAWG decreased by 9.6%, from 31 reported cases in 2023 to 28 in 2024. However, VAWG was recorded in all states across the region, with the most prevalent cases in Delta, Edo, Ondo, and Imo States. Reported incidents primarily involved domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, child trafficking, and killings for rituals and human organ harvesting.

Delta

VAWG remained relatively prevalent in the state during the period, with domestic violence, child trafficking, ritual killings, and sexual violence being the most frequently reported cases. In February, gunmen reportedly attacked a hostel at a polytechnic in Ogwashi-Uku, Aniocha South LGA, killing a resident and raping three female students. In April, a woman was allegedly killed by her friend's husband during a disagreement in Asaba, Oshimili South LGA. That same month, a 19-year-old girl was reportedly killed by her 20-year-old boyfriend in Ozoro, Isoko North LGA.

In June, a 6-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her father for suspected ritual purposes in Agbarho, Ughelli North LGA. In July, a 50-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her 23-year-old son in Obiaruku, Ukwuani LGA. In October, a woman reportedly sold her 15-year-old daughter to a suspected sex trafficker in a hotel in Owase, Udu LGA. In November, a woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her son for suspected ritual purposes in Eku, Ethiope East LGA. In December, a 10-month-old baby was reportedly killed by her mother in Aviara, Isoko South LGA. Reports indicate that the mother threw the baby into a river after the child was labeled a "bastard."

Edo

Several incidents of VAWG were reported in the state during the period. In February, a 35-year-old man allegedly killed his 28-year-old wife and two children during a quarrel in Owegie, Ovia North-East LGA. In April, a 19-year-old girl was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnappers in Iru Egbede, Orhionmwon LGA. In June, a 22-year-old female graduate of the University of Benin was allegedly

raped and killed by some assailants in Iyowa, Ovia North-East LGA. In July, a woman was reportedly killed by her male neighbor during a dispute in Ugbiyoko, Egor LGA.

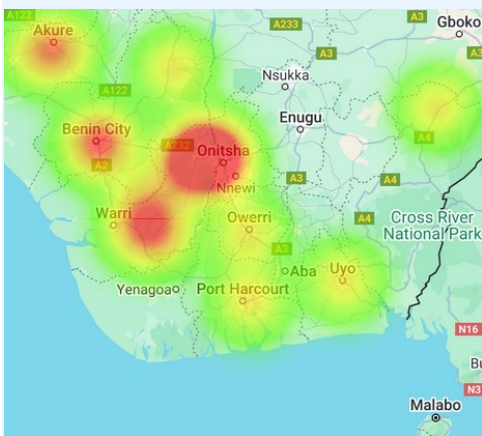
Ondo

Incidents of VAWG in the state during the period primarily involved domestic and sexual violence. In February, a well-known businessman allegedly killed his wife during a quarrel in Akure, the Ondo State capital. In March, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly raped and killed by an ex-convict in Lakere, Ondo West LGA. In May, a woman was allegedly killed by her husband during a quarrel in Akure town, Akure South LGA.

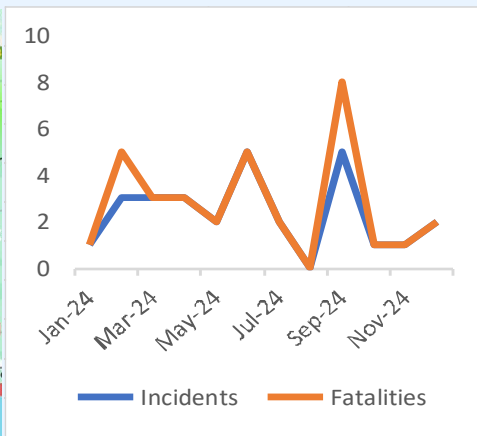
Imo

Some incidents of domestic and criminal violence against women and girls were reported in the state during the year. In April, a woman was killed by her husband during a quarrel in Nekede town, Owerri West LGA. In May, the body of a pregnant woman was reportedly found in a bush along Amaraku-Umudim Road in Isiala Mbanjo LGA.

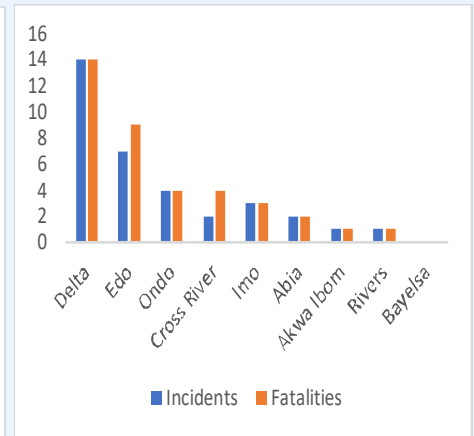
Incidents Heat Map, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Incidents and Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4pnigerdelta.org

About Us

PIND



The The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria’s Niger Delta through multi-stakeholder partnerships. PIND implements collaborative, market-based, and community-owned programs to mitigate conflict and expand economic opportunities for local businesses, ensuring that economic progress is systemic, inclusive, and sustainable. Headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria, PIND also has a Washington, D.C.-based counterpart, the Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (NDPI).

As part of its peacebuilding efforts, PIND has developed an interactive Peace Map to collect, validate, and triangulate conflict data for multi-stakeholder collaboration. With over 65,000 data points dating back to 2009, the Peace Map is one of the most comprehensive publicly available conflict datasets in Nigeria .

The Projects



P4P: Partners for Peace (P4P) is a network of peace actors dedicated to building social capital around peacebuilding by amplifying the voices of positive actors and collaborating on conflict early warning and prevention efforts. The network comprises stakeholders from community-based organizations, civil society, and the general public, all committed to promoting peaceful livelihoods.

IPDU: The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND’s Peacebuilding Program responds to emerging threats by mobilizing relevant actors and resources for preventive interventions. It provides operational support to stakeholders through research, capacity building, and applied learning, aimed at early identification and mitigation of potential drivers of conflict and instability.

Our Services

PIND’s Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) provides technical support to stakeholders and implementing partners in the public and private sectors. Leveraging our in-house team of subject-matter experts and a network of partners on the ground, and drawing on our over 10 years of experience in peacebuilding and archiving of conflict data and research, we offer technical support to both national and international stakeholders in conflict early warning and response, and production of data-driven conflict reports.

Contact Us

Contact Us

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Contacts: info@PINDfoundation.org +234 (0) 9 291 0454.

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 **091 2233 4455**

Incident Details: Include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief description.