

Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2025

Executive Summary

In 2025, the Niger Delta recorded a notable improvement in its peace and security landscape, with lethal violence declining by 15%, from 713 violent deaths in 2024 to 609 in 2025. This reduction reflects the positive impact of strengthened early warning systems and more coordinated responses to conflict risks by key stakeholders across the region. Despite this progress, incidents of violence and insecurity continued to occur in several locations, underscoring the fragility of peace and the need for sustained and targeted interventions to address the underlying drivers of conflict and instability.

Several risk factors shaped the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the Niger Delta during the year. This report examines the trends and patterns of these risks and their implications for peace and stability in the region. The analysis draws on multiple data sources, including PIND's P4P Peace Map (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) database (www.acleddata.com), PIND's early warning system, the Nigeria Watch project (www.nigeriawatch.org), and other relevant sources.

According to data, the main drivers of lethal violence and insecurity in 2025 were criminality, communal conflicts, cult gang clashes, disasters and disease outbreaks, separatist agitation, and human rights violations, including sexual violence and mob attacks. Criminal, communal, and gang-related violence accounted for 408, 134, and 101 reported deaths, respectively.

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

At the regional level, criminal and cult gang-related violence declined. Fatalities from criminal violence fell 20%, from 499 in 2024 to 408 in 2025, while deaths from cult gang clashes dropped 34%, from 143 to 101. Similarly, fatalities linked to mob violence and separatist agitation decreased 18% and 37%, respectively, from 62 to 52 and 87 to 60 during the period.

In contrast, communal violence surged significantly. Reported deaths rose 65%, from 68 in 2024 to 134 in 2025. Although communal violence occurred across the region, the highest fatalities were recorded in Ondo, Edo, Delta, Imo, and Cross River States, largely driven by inter-communal disputes over land and boundary issues.

At the state level, Delta, Edo, Imo, and Ondo recorded the highest levels of lethal violence in 2025. At the local government level, Okigwe (Imo), Oredo (Edo), Etsako East (Edo), and Akure North (Ondo) experienced the highest number of conflict-related fatalities during the year.

Overall, the Niger Delta experienced notable changes in its peace and security landscape in 2025, with lethal violence decreasing by 15%. This reduction is largely attributed 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 across the region.

Regional Dynamics of Conflict Risk and Insecurity

Nigeria’s Niger Delta region is highly diverse, 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 2025, the Niger Delta recorded a significant improvement in its peace and security landscape, with lethal violence declining by 15%, from 713 violent deaths in 2024 to 609 in 2025. This reduction reflects the impact of strengthened early warning systems, proactive conflict management by civil society and local peace actors, and coordinated responses by government security agencies, alongside targeted peacebuilding, community resilience and social cohesion interventions.

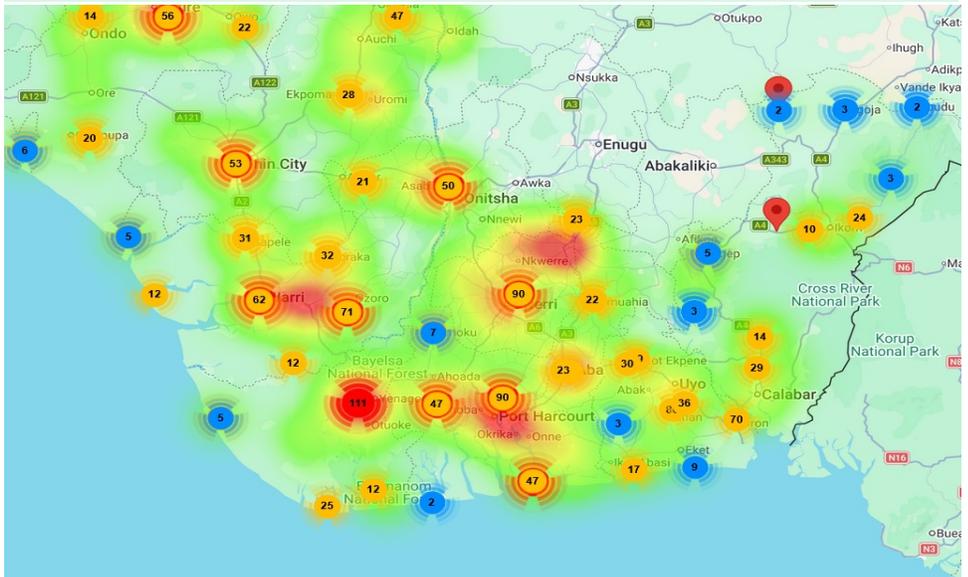
Despite this progress, multiple conflict dynamics persisted throughout 2025. Reported incidents included criminal and gang-related violence, political competition, communal tensions, disasters, and human rights abuses. These manifested in homicide, cult gang clashes, kidnapping for ransom, land disputes, communal and domestic violence, election-related violence, mob attacks, disease outbreaks, separatist agitation, and confrontations between hoodlums and government security forces.

According to data (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), the major causes of lethal violence in 2025 included communal conflict, cult clashes, mob violence, disasters, separatist agitation, and organized crime, such as kidnapping for

ransom and ritual killings. Data sources include Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) (www.acleddata.com), Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), PIND’s P4P Peace Map (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), PIND’s SMS early warning system, and others.

This annual report provides an overview of trends and patterns in conflict risks and violent incidents across the Niger Delta, highlighting their implications for peace and stability. While not a comprehensive conflict analysis, it serves as a yearly update for stakeholders on shifts in conflict dynamics and lethal violence. By offering deeper insights, the report supports informed decision-making and proactive responses, rather than reactive interventions.

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 2025. 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 2025

In 2025, the Niger Delta experienced a comparatively more stable security landscape, recording tangible gains in peace and overall stability relative to 2024. According to data (www.p4pnigerdelta.org), lethal violence declined by 15%, with reported conflict-related fatalities dropping from 713 in 2024 to 609 in 2025. Despite this improvement, several drivers of violence persisted. The leading causes of conflict-related deaths in 2025 were criminal violence, communal tensions, cult clashes, disasters, separatist agitation, and mob violence. Other key conflict issues included violence against women and girls (VAWG), political tensions, ritual killings and protests.

Criminal violence remained the leading cause of fatalities with 408 deaths, followed by communal conflicts at 134 and gang-related violence with over 100. Beyond the

human toll, these incidents weakened communal cohesion, disrupted livelihoods, and heightened insecurity across affected communities.

The most violent months in 2025 were January, February, and March, with 67, 68, and 90 reported fatalities, respectively. In March, gunmen suspected to be herders reportedly attacked four communities in Akure North LGA, Ondo State, killing over 20 farmers.

Delta, Edo, and Imo States recorded the highest levels of lethal violence. At the local government level, Okigwe (Imo), Oredo (Edo), Etsako East (Edo), and Akure North (Ondo) experienced the most conflict-related fatalities. In Delta, criminal violence caused over 100 deaths; in Imo, clashes between separatist militias and security

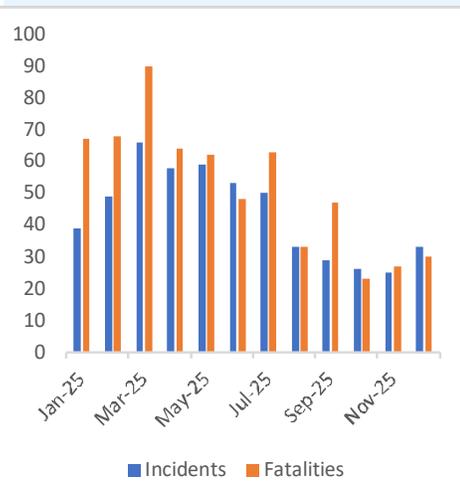
forces led to over 100 fatalities; while communal conflicts in Edo resulted in about 40 deaths.

Disasters, including disease outbreaks and fire incidents from illegal oil refining and oil and gas tanker explosions, caused over 70 fatalities during the period.

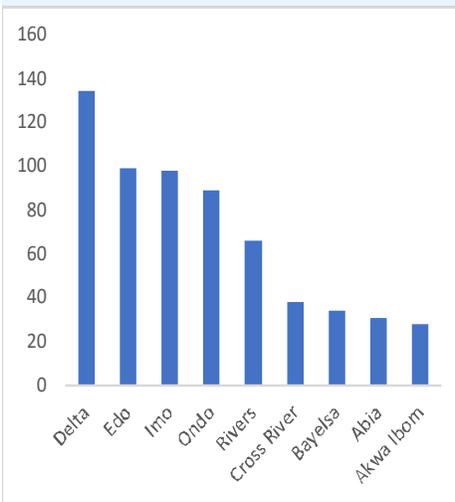
At the regional level, criminal and cult gang-related violence declined, with fatalities falling 20% and 34%, from 499 to 408 and 143 to 101, respectively. In contrast, communal violence surged by 65%, rising from 68 deaths in 2024 to 134 in 2025, and communal tensions increased 38%, from 65 reported incidents to 96.

The following pages provide a summary of prevalent conflict risks in 2025, highlighting the main issues and drivers.

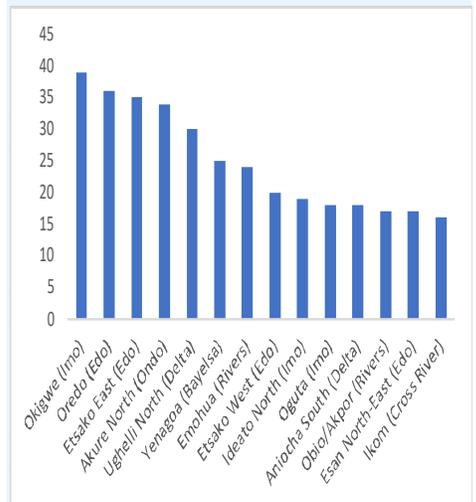
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January-December 2025)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January-December 2025)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January-December 2025)



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 2025

In 2025, the peace and security landscape in the Niger Delta was shaped primarily by organized crime (including kidnapping), communal violence (such as land disputes and farmer–herder clashes), cult gang clashes, confrontations between security forces and criminal groups, disasters and disease outbreaks (including flooding), and human rights violations such as sexual violence and mob attacks.

The most lethal conflict issues during the year, based on average fatalities per incident, included mob violence, separatist agitation (particularly clashes between militias and security forces), disasters and disease outbreaks, communal violence, cult gang clashes, criminal violence (including

homicide), ritual killings, illegal oil bunkering –related violence, and violence against women and girls, including sexual violence.

Vigilante and mob violence, both a cause and consequence of criminal activity, caused over 50 fatalities and were most prevalent in Delta, Imo, Ondo, and Edo States, reflecting community responses to insecurity and weak law enforcement.

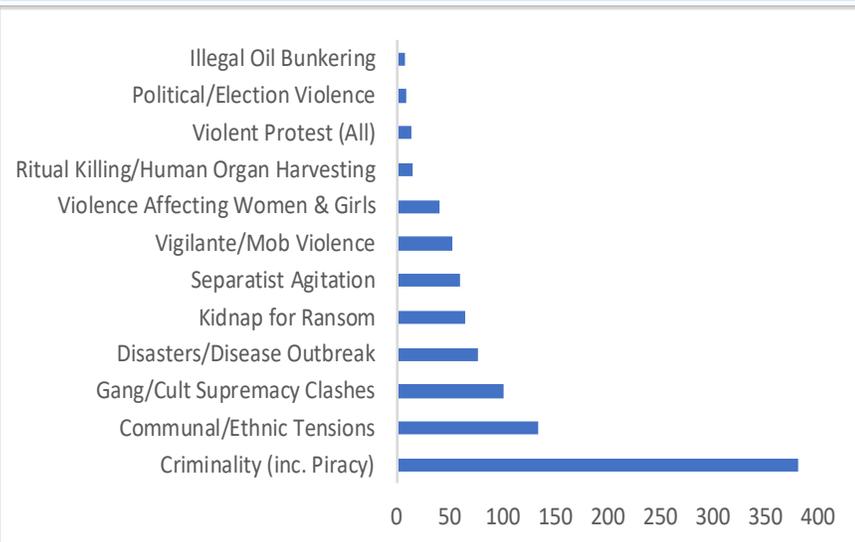
Separatist agitation, though concentrated in Imo and Abia States, remained a major driver of lethal violence, with spillover effects across neighboring states. However, Abia State recorded a notable decline in such incidents during the year.

Disasters and disease outbreaks also contributed to insecurity, causing over 70 deaths. Major public health threats included outbreaks of cholera, Lassa fever, yellow fever, dengue fever, and diphtheria, as well as widespread flooding across the region.

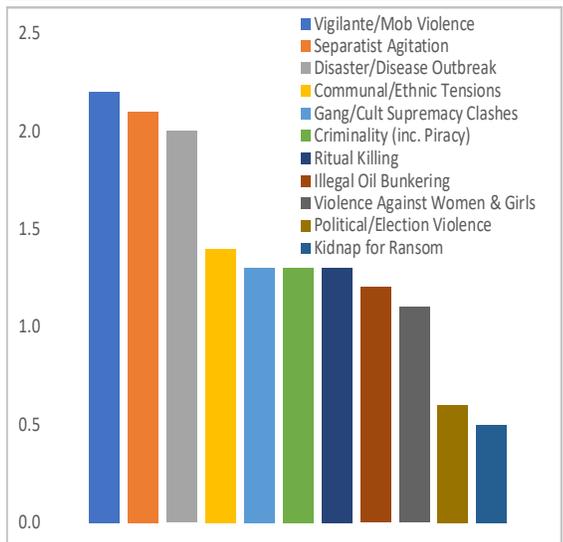
Criminal and cult gang-related violence declined by 20% and 34%, respectively, at the regional level but remained significant drivers of lethal violence, resulting in 408 and 101 deaths during the period.

Communal conflict was another major driver of lethal violence and insecurity, resulting in 134 reported deaths, a 65% increase compared to the previous year.

Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2025)



Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2025)



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 homicide and clashes between hoodlums and law enforcement agents, was the leading source of conflict and insecurity in the Niger Delta in 2025. It was primarily driven by armed robbery, arms proliferation, drug abuse, homicide, and clashes between criminal gangs and security forces, resulting in over 400 fatalities during the year. Although criminal violence occurred across all states in the region, Delta, Edo, Ondo, Imo, and Rivers experienced the highest number of associated fatalities.

Delta

Criminal violence was a leading driver of insecurity in Delta State during the period, resulting in over 80 fatalities. In January, a 71-year-old man was reportedly killed by his 23-year-old son, who was allegedly under the influence of drugs in Sapele LGA. In June, four people were reportedly killed

during a clash between armed herdsmen and a combined team of police officers, local vigilantes, and hunters in Abraka, Ethiope East LGA.

Edo

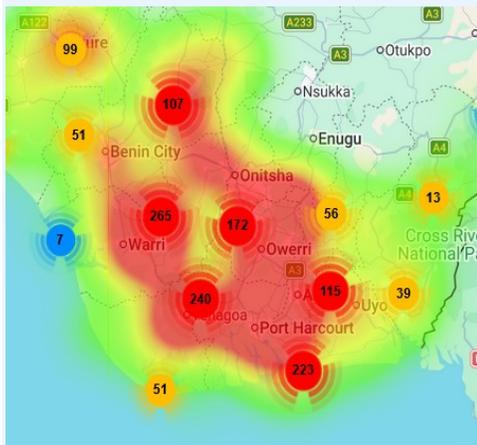
Criminal violence was widespread in Edo State during the period, resulting in over 65 fatalities. In February, a seven-year-old boy was reportedly killed and mutilated by a 45-year-old pastor and a 23-year-old accomplice in Irrua, Esan Central LGA. In March, a 43-year-old man was allegedly beheaded by suspected ritualists in Evbuotubu, Egor LGA. In May, police reportedly arrested a kidnap suspect and recovered firearms during a raid on a hotel in Benin City, the state capital. In July, a police officer escorting an expatriate was shot dead by armed robbers who ambushed them shortly after a cash withdrawal from a bank in Benin City. In September, gunmen allegedly ambushed a

convoy escorting Chinese expatriates in Okpella, Etsako East LGA, killing eight security operatives and abducting one.

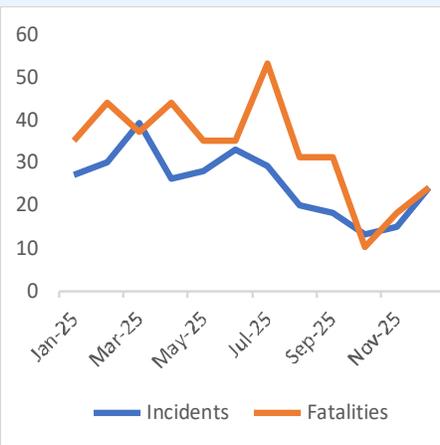
Ondo

Criminal violence, including homicides, was a major security challenge in Ondo State during the year, causing over 60 fatalities. In March, a 60-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a laborer she had hired to work on her farm at Laje Camp in Ondo West LGA. In April, a man was allegedly macheted to death by his 34-year-old laborer at Agbajo farm in Ilu-Abo, Akure North LGA. That same month, a popular socialite and hotelier was reportedly stabbed to death in his hotel room in the Arakale area of Akure town, Akure South LGA. In May, a commercial motorcyclist was reportedly shot dead by gunmen at Alafia Street, along the Ore-Benin Expressway in Odigbo LGA.

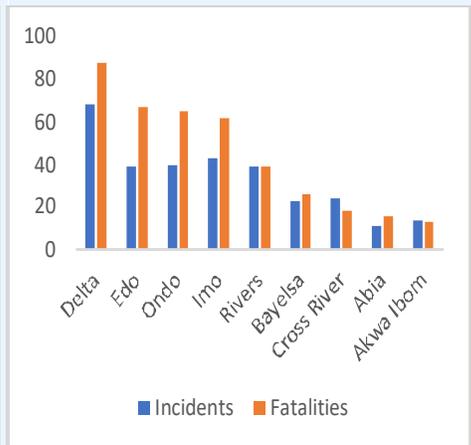
Fatalities Heat Map, Criminality



Incidents and Fatalities, Criminality - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Criminality



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 a major driver of tensions and instability in the region in 2025. Data indicate that communal violence increased by 38%, rising from 65 reported cases in 2024 to 96 in 2025, while fatalities surged by 65%, from 68 to 134 deaths over the same period. The primary drivers of these conflicts included inter-communal tensions over land disputes. While communal violence occurred across all states in the region, it resulted in the highest fatalities in Ondo, Edo, Imo, Delta, and Cross River.

Ondo

Communal violence was a major driver of insecurity in Ondo State, resulting in over 35 deaths during the period. In January, four people were reportedly killed in a land dispute between Gbalegi community in Idanre LGA and Akure community in Akure South LGA. In March, herders reportedly attacked four communities in Akure North

LGA, killing over 20 farmers. In April, herdsmen allegedly killed three farmers at Ajagbusi in Ala Elefosan, Akure North LGA. In November, farmers in Aponmu, Akure South LGA, protested against the alleged invasion of their farmland by land grabbers.

Edo

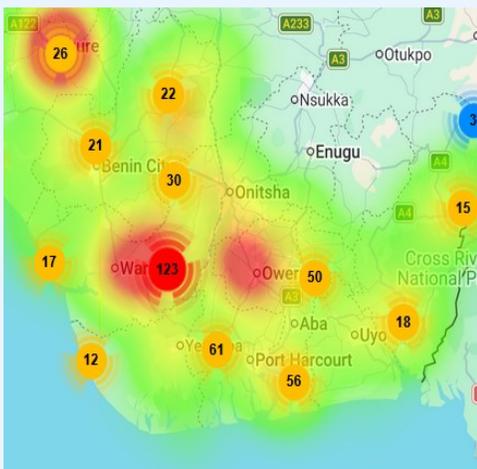
Communal violence in Edo State during the period was largely driven by land disputes, inter-communal tensions, and mob attacks. In February, a 50-year-old local vigilante leader was reportedly killed on his farm by herders in Erah, Owan East LGA. The same month, 22 people were reportedly killed in clashes between cocoa farmers and ethnic militias in Gbelemoti, Ovia South-West LGA. In March, tensions escalated in Uromi, Esan North East LGA, after local vigilantes and a mob lynched about 16 traveling hunters from northern Nigeria, reportedly mistaking them for bandits. In June, armed youths

allegedly opened fire during a meeting over a boundary dispute in Umegbe, Oredo LGA, killing one person and injuring four others.

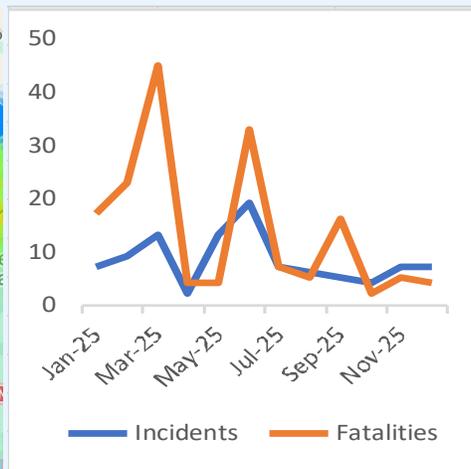
Delta

Communal conflict caused over 20 fatalities in Delta State during the period. In January, two people were reportedly killed in clashes between herders and youths in Mbiri, Ika North East LGA. In March, tensions reportedly escalated between Itsekiri and Ijaw communities in Benikrukru and Abiteye, Warri South-West LGA, following a court ruling on compensation payments by an oil company. In April, two persons were reportedly killed in a land dispute between youths from Edjekota and Otor-Ewu communities in Ughelli South LGA. In September, a community leader was reportedly shot dead during a clash between Itsekiri and Urhobo youths in Iyara, Warri South LGA.

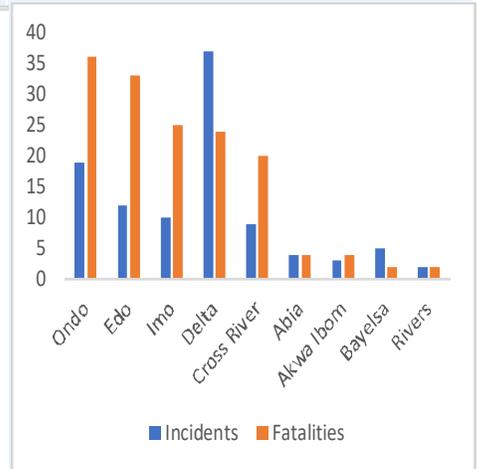
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



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 — Gang Violence

Gang violence remained a major source of insecurity in the region during the period, despite a 34% decline in related fatalities, from 143 reported deaths in 2024 to 101 in 2025. Clashes between rival cult gangs were reported in all states except Imo State, with the highest prevalence in Rivers, Bayelsa, Edo, and Ondo States. These clashes were primarily driven by reprisals, battles for territorial supremacy, disputes over illegal levy collection, and other criminal activities.

Rivers

Gang violence in Rivers State caused over 30 deaths during the period, primarily driven by battles for supremacy and territorial control among the state’s numerous cult gangs. In January, three people, including a notorious cultist, were killed in a clash between rival cult groups in Onne, Eleme LGA. In February, seven individuals, including a known cult kingpin, were reportedly killed in clashes between the

Deebam and Icelanders over control of levies from an oil company in Obelle, Emohua LGA. In May, suspected cultists allegedly killed a rival gang member during a territorial dispute at Mile 3, Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA. In June, a cultist allegedly killed a police officer and a local vigilante member in Ahoada town, Ahoada East LGA, while two Deebam factions clashed in Diobu, Port Harcourt LGA, during which a stray bullet reportedly killed a taxi driver. In July, a university student was allegedly shot dead by a rival cult gang in Rumuolumeni, Obio/Akpor LGA.

Bayelsa

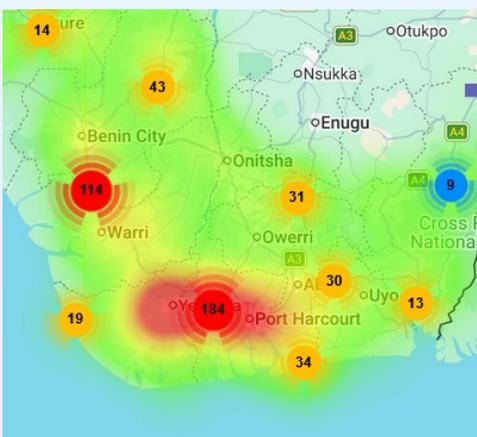
Clashes between rival cult gangs were a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in Bayelsa State during the period, resulting in over 20 fatalities. In January, three people were reportedly killed in a clash between the Greenlanders and Bobos over control of a new motor park in Igbogene, Yenagoa LGA. In February, a woman was reportedly

killed by a stray bullet during a cult clash at Swali Market, Yenagoa. In March, a 30-year-old man was reportedly killed in a cult clash in Yenagoa. In April, four people were reportedly killed in Swali, Yenagoa LGA, during a violent clash over market revenue, while a cult leader was allegedly murdered by members of his own gang in Azikoro during a leadership dispute.

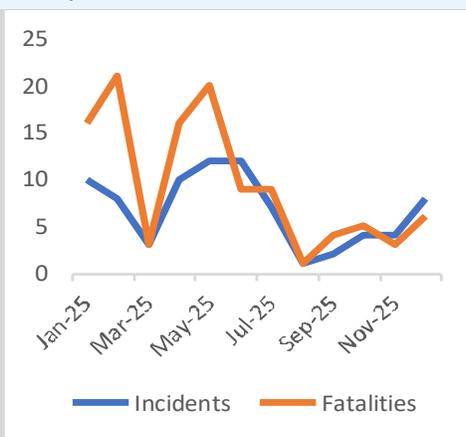
Edo

Cult-related clashes continued to drive fatalities and insecurity in the Edo State during the period. In April, four people, including a realtor, a local vigilante, and a physiotherapist, were reportedly killed in a series of reprisal attacks across Benin City, Oredo LGA. In May, cultists allegedly murdered a man in Auchi, Etsako West LGA, for renouncing his membership. In August, a young man allegedly died in Auchi, Etsako West LGA, following repeated physical drilling during a cult initiation process.

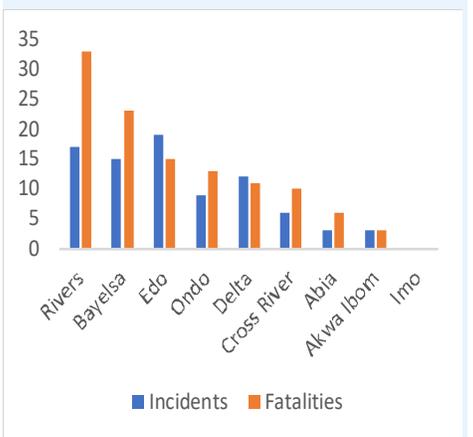
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



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 — Disasters/Disease Outbreaks

Disasters and disease outbreaks

caused serious threats to human security, public health, and livelihoods in the Niger Delta during the year. The region experienced multiple infectious disease outbreaks, including cholera, Lassa fever, yellow fever, dengue fever, and diphtheria. Epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) indicated that the Niger Delta accounted for over 50% of all confirmed Lassa fever cases nationwide in 2025. Ondo and Edo States recorded the highest burden, accounting for 35% and 16% of confirmed cases respectively, with 53 and 31 reported deaths.

Natural and human-induced disasters were also widespread during the year, including flooding, gas and oil tanker explosions, and fire outbreaks, all of which had significant environmental and public health impacts. Heavy rainfall and ocean surges caused severe flooding that submerged homes and

displaced numerous residents across the region. Overall, disasters and disease outbreaks resulted in over 70 reported fatalities, particularly in Rivers, Delta, Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Cross River States.

Rivers

Disasters, including gas explosions and fire outbreaks, caused over 20 fatalities in Rivers State during the year. In January, a gas explosion at a refilling shop in Orazi community, Obio/Akpor LGA, reportedly killed five people and left more than 20 others with severe injuries. In April, five people were also feared dead following a fire outbreak at an illegal petroleum storage site in Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA. In November, a night fire reportedly caused by a cooking stove in Rumuola, Obio/Akpor LGA, killed two siblings aged between 5 and 9 and destroyed more than 27 homes.

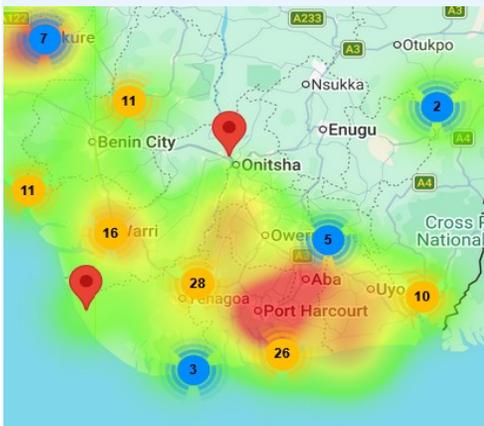
Delta

Human-induced disasters, including gas explosions and boat mishaps, caused over 10 fatalities in Delta State during the period. In February, a collision between two speedboats reportedly left at least five people dead and about 20 others missing in Gbaramatu, Warri South-West LGA. In March, two people were reportedly killed and several others injured following a gas explosion at a welding company in Enerhen Junction, Uvwie LGA.

Abia

In May, five young men reportedly drowned when a canoe carrying them capsized in the Aba River at Umunkama village, Ovom Amasaa community, Obingwa LGA. Also in May, a commuter allegedly died and several others were injured after a large billboard collapsed during heavy rainfall along Aba-Owerri Road in Aba, Aba South LGA.

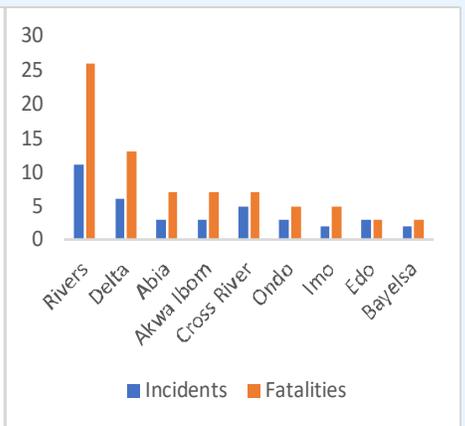
Fatalities Heat Map, Disasters and Disease Outbreaks



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 — Kidnapping for Ransom

Kidnapping for ransom was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta in 2025, resulting in over 60 fatalities, including more than 25 deaths during confrontations between kidnapers and security forces. Available data show a 31% increase in kidnapping incidents, rising from 96 reported cases in 2024 to 131 in 2025. However, associated fatalities declined by 33%, from 91 to 65. While kidnapping occurred across the region, it was most prevalent in Delta, Edo, Ondo, and Rivers States.

Delta

Over 35 kidnapping incidents and more than 15 associated fatalities were reported in Delta State during the period. In April, gunmen reportedly abducted five people from their residences in Issele-Azagba, Aniocha South LGA. In the same month, kidnapers abducted a woman and her

three-month-old baby in Eku, Etiope East LGA, and demanded a ransom of 25 million for their release. In May, three suspected kidnapers were reportedly killed in a shootout with police along the Ughelli-Patani Road in Ughelli North LGA. In August, police reportedly killed three suspected kidnapers in Otulu, Aniocha South LGA. In September, an Army officer was allegedly abducted by gunmen in Kpakiamma, Bomadi LGA.

Edo

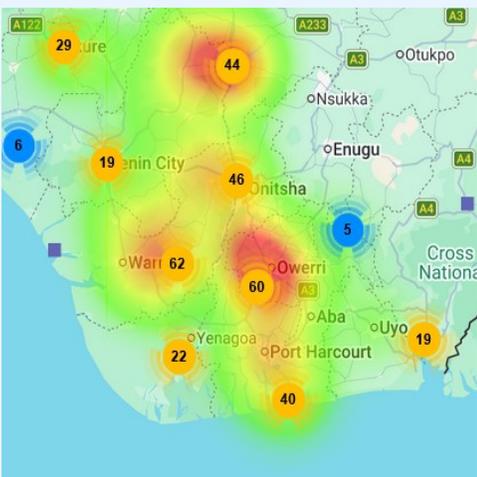
Kidnapping for ransom was a major security threat in Edo State during the year, resulting in over 20 deaths. In March, gunmen reportedly abducted a Catholic priest and a seminarian in Iviukwe, Etsako East LGA. The seminarian was later reportedly killed by the kidnapers. In July, gunmen allegedly killed two people and abducted several others, including a 12-year-old girl who was later

killed during a rescue operation at Obe Hill in Etsako East LGA. Also in July, gunmen reportedly attacked a Catholic seminary in Agenebode, Etsako East LGA, killing a security officer and abducting three seminarians. In November, five residents of Ivianokpodi, Etsako East LGA, were reportedly kidnapped on their way to the farm, with the abductors demanding a 50 million ransom.

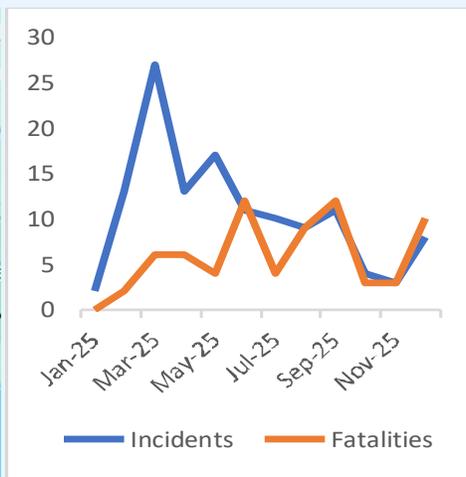
Imo

Kidnapping was a major source of lethal violence and insecurity in the state during the period. In February, gunmen allegedly abducted the President of the Ohanaeze Youth Council in Owerri, the state capital. In May, gunmen reportedly hijacked an 18-seater bus and abducted all the passengers along the Aba-Owerri Road in Ulakwo, Owerri North LGA.

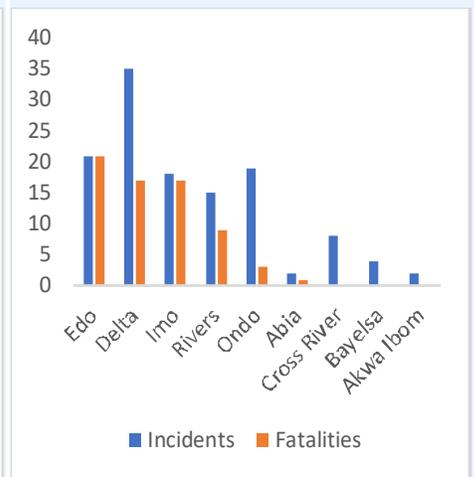
Fatalities Heat Map, Kidnap for Ransom



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 as well as targeted killings of residents, remained a major security threat in the region in 2025. However, available data show that fatalities related to separatist violence declined by 37%, from 87 in 2024 to 60 in 2025. Although separatist agitation was largely concentrated in Imo and Abia States, it remained a major driver of lethal violence, with spillover effects across neighboring states. Targeted attacks by separatist militias, including the killing of civilians, destruction of public and private property, and clashes with government security forces, were reported during the year, particularly in Imo State.

Imo

Separatist-related violence caused over 50 fatalities in Imo State during the year, driven primarily by targeted attacks on residents

and confrontations between separatist militias and government security forces. In January, about eight militias were reportedly killed, and weapons, including rifles and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), were recovered during a series of clashes between government forces and separatist militias allegedly affiliated with the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the paramilitary wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), in Ihube, Okigwe LGA.

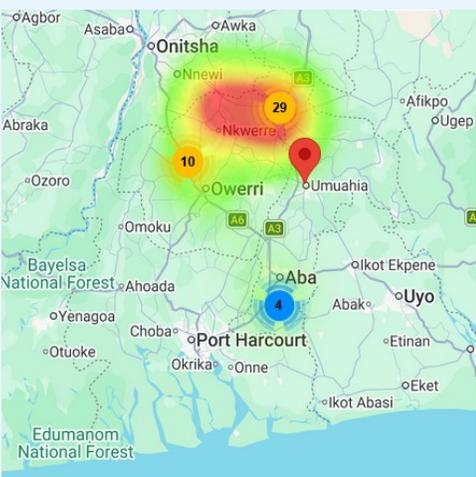
In May, separatist militias allegedly killed more than 15 people and set about 20 trucks on fire along the Okigwe–Owerri Road in Amuro, Okigwe LGA. In June, militias reportedly shot and killed two truck drivers and set their vehicles ablaze at Ogi Junction, Okigwe LGA. In July, militias attacked Ndi-Ejezie, Umualaoma, and Ndiakuwata Uno communities in Arondizuogu, Ideato North LGA, killing more than seven residents. Also

in July, militias allegedly ambushed and killed two police officers on patrol near Old Gariki along the Okigwe–Umuahia Road in Okigwe LGA. In August, separatist fighters allegedly killed two police officers attached to the Majority Leader of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly in Okigwe LGA. In September, a former local council chairman and ex-member of the Imo State House of Assembly was reportedly abducted by separatist militias in Onuimo LGA.

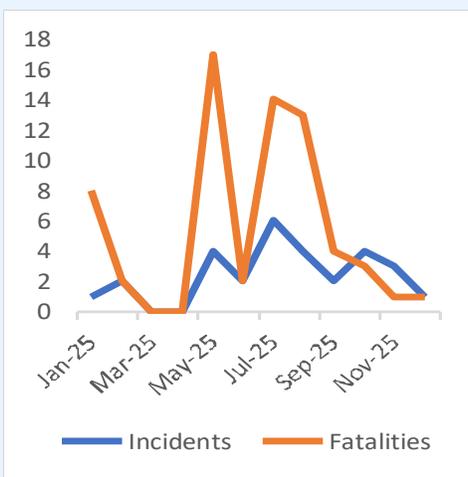
Abia

Abia State recorded a notable decline in separatist-related violence in 2025; however, such incidents remained a security concern. In May, one person was reportedly killed in a clash between separatist militias and government security forces in Ebubengwa-Abayi Nchokoro, Ugwunagbo LGA.

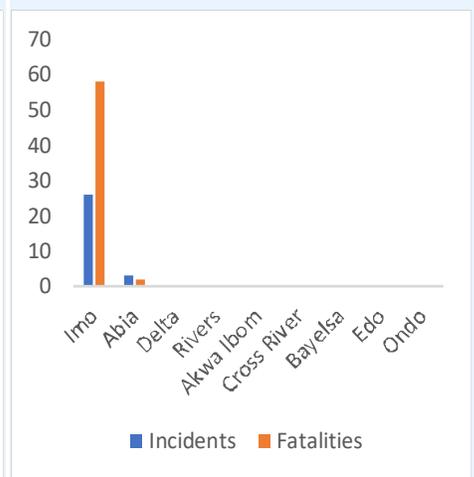
Fatalities Heat Map, Separatist Agitation



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 — Vigilante and Mob Violence

Vigilante and mob violence remained a major security concern in the Niger Delta in 2025, driven by rising criminality, limited public confidence in law enforcement, and the proliferation of local vigilante groups and other informal security outfits. Weaknesses in the judicial and penal systems further contributed to the spread of these informal groups. Although available data indicate an 18% reduction in vigilante- and mob-related fatalities, from 62 in 2024 to 52 in 2025, such violence continued to pose significant human rights challenges, particularly in Edo, Delta, and Imo States.

Edo

Vigilante violence and mob attacks resulted in over 20 fatalities in Edo State during the year. In February, an artisan was reportedly shot dead and his corpse set ablaze by a local vigilante member during a disagreement at a security checkpoint in Benin City,

the state capital. In March, communal tensions reportedly escalated following the alleged lynching of about 16 traveling hunters from northern Nigeria by local vigilantes and a mob in Uromi, Esan North East LGA, who reportedly mistook them for bandits.

Delta

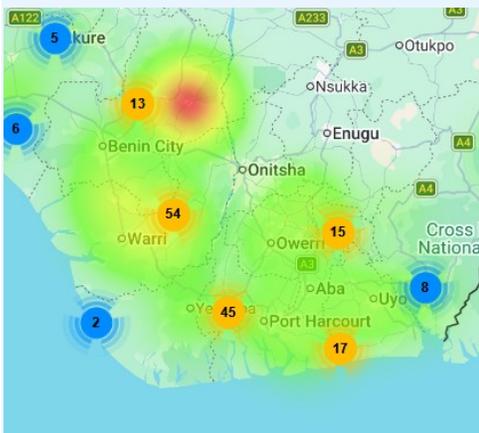
Mob attacks were a major source of lethal violence and insecurity in Delta State during the period. In January, a man was lynched by a mob in Amai, Ndokwa West LGA, after he allegedly killed a man and his daughter over a land dispute. Also in January, a 37-year-old internet fraudster, popularly known as a 'Yahoo boy,' was reportedly lynched by a mob for allegedly beheading a woman in Otor-Owhe, Isoko North LGA. In February, a mob reportedly set a man ablaze for allegedly beheading an elderly woman over a land dispute in Ukpiowin,

Udu LGA. In September, a mob attacked and killed a woman in Agbarho, Ughelli North LGA, over allegations that she attempted to abduct a seven-year-old child. The mob attack occurred against the backdrop of ongoing cases of child abduction in the community. In December, a violent clash involving local vigilantes and youths in Elume, Sapele LGA, resulted in four deaths.

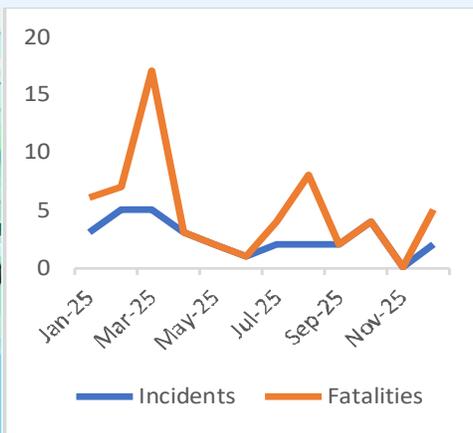
Imo

Vigilante and mob violence resulted in more than 10 deaths in Imo State during the year. In January, for instance, a 35-year-old man was allegedly set ablaze by his kinsmen over allegations of theft in Nnebugwu, Oguta LGA. In May, a 21-year-old man was reportedly killed by a mob for allegedly stealing a power bank used for charging phones in Owaelu Uratta, Owerri North LGA.

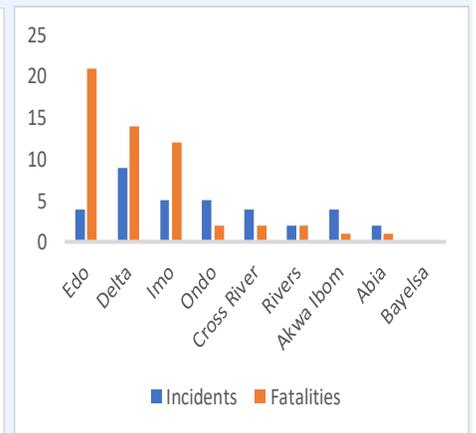
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



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) increased in the Niger Delta in 2025. Available data show that related fatalities increased by 31%, from 11 deaths in 2024 to 15 in 2025. Incidents of VAWG were recorded across all states in the region, with the highest prevalence in Delta, Ondo, Edo, Akwa Ibom, Abia, and Rivers States. Reported cases primarily involved domestic violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and killings linked to ritual practices and human organ harvesting.

Delta

Violence affecting women and girls remained a major security and human rights concern in Delta State in 2025, resulting in over 10 fatalities during the period. In January, a young woman was reportedly raped and killed in her home by unidentified assailants in Asaba, the state capital. In the same month, a 10-year-old

girl was allegedly kidnapped and killed for ritual purposes in Orhoakpo, Ethiope East LGA. In March, two elderly women were reportedly killed and their bodies mutilated for ritual purposes in Ujewwu and Obubu, Udu LGA. In September, a 13-year-old girl was allegedly killed and secretly buried by her father in Ugbolokposo, Uvwie LGA.

Ondo

Several cases of violence affecting women and girls were reported in Ondo State during the period, resulting in over six deaths. In March, a 60-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a laborer she had hired to work on her farm at Laje Camp in Ondo West LGA. In May, a 22-year-old woman was reportedly stabbed to death by a 41-year-old man in Ode-Irele, Irele LGA. In July, a female student was allegedly killed by her boyfriend in Akungba-Akoko, Akoko South LGA. In September, a 16-year-old girl was

allegedly raped and impregnated by her 53-year-old uncle in Igbado, Ondo West LGA.

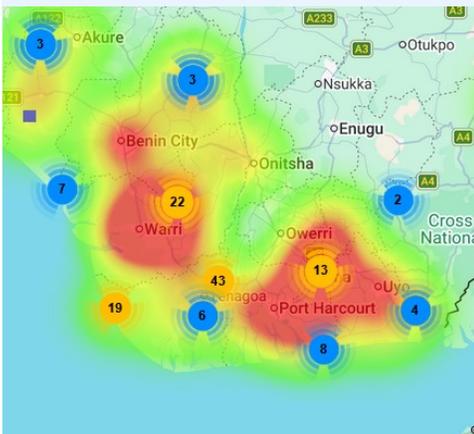
Edo

Violence affecting women and girls resulted in several fatalities in Edo State during the year. In February, a 38-year-old pregnant woman was allegedly killed by her husband during a domestic dispute in Benin City, the state capital. In May, a middle-aged man allegedly beat his wife to death following a domestic dispute in Ogbelaka, Oredo LGA.

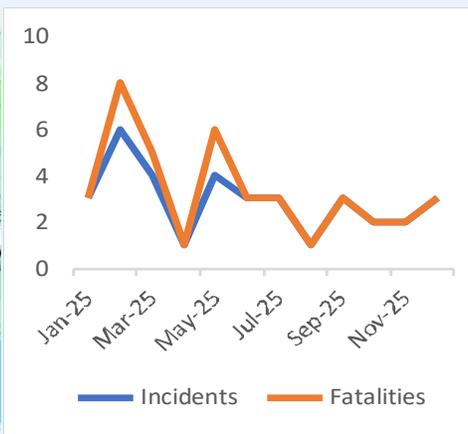
Abia

Domestic violence remained a key human rights concern in Abia State during the year. In February, a woman and her twin babies were allegedly killed by her younger brother in Ndagbo Afara, Umuahia North LGA. In June, a young man in Aba North LGA reportedly strangled his girlfriend during a fight.

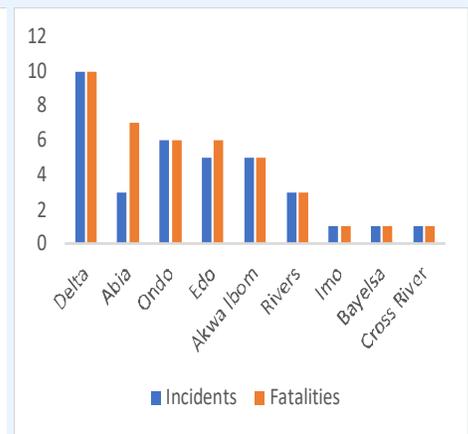
Incidents Heat Map, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



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 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

<p>Contact Us</p> <p>Inquiries: PINDfoundation.org</p> <p>Contacts: ✉ info@PINDfoundation.org 📞 +234 (0) 9 291 0454.</p> <p>What do you think about the report? - We value your feedback</p>	<p>Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System</p> <p>Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to 091 2233 4455</p> <p>Incident Details: Include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and brief description.</p>
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