

# Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

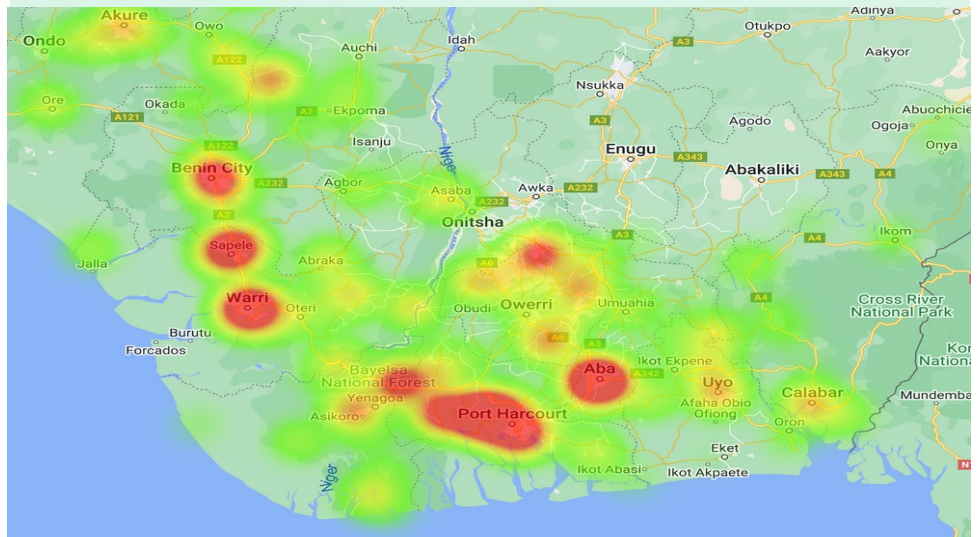
January to March 2023

The peace and conflict situation in the Niger Delta was relatively stable in the first quarter of 2023. There was a decrease in lethal violence during the period compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Data shows improvement in the overall security situation as peace actors continued to implement interventions to mitigate violent conflict including the deployment of multistakeholder conflict Early Warning/Early Response systems to identify and proactively respond to potential incidents and indicators of violence during the 2023 general elections. According to data on the P4P Peace Map ([www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)), organized criminality, communal conflict, clashes between rival cult gangs, political tensions, and ethno-national separatist agitation were the major causes of lethal violence during the period.

This quarterly tracker looks at the trends and patterns of conflict risk, lethal violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. It is not designed as a conflict analysis, rather it is intended to update stakeholders on the patterns and trends of violence. Understanding the deeper conflict drivers, implications, and mitigating options require a robust participatory qualitative analysis of these trends and patterns by stakeholders.

Prevailing conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized criminality, communal tensions, human rights abuses, political competition, and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include kidnapping, robbery, piracy, militancy, cult/gang violence, election violence, sexual violence, illicit drugs and

## Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - March 2023.

Source: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

human trafficking, ritual killing, mob violence, land disputes, separatist agitation, violence against security operatives, and natural disasters. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), VAWG Sources (focused on Violence against Women and Girls), CIEPD (<https://ciepdwc.crowdmap.com>), the IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

The Niger Delta region is highly heterogeneous, with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects, and whose traditional livelihood involved mainly farming and fishing. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government areas (LGAs) and covers 9 out of the 36 states of Nigeria: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa,

Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and Rivers. With over 30 million people, according to a 2006 population census, and an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer, the region accounts for more than 23 percent of Nigeria's population.

The Niger Delta contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. Despite these abundant natural resources, the region is marked by poverty, underdevelopment, environmental degradation, and insecurity. Historical tensions and a proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to many of the conflict dynamics described in the following pages.

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — January to March 2023

There was a decrease in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the first quarter of 2023. Conflict fatalities reduced by 18% from 338 in Q4 of 2022 to 278 in Q1 of 2023. Communal conflict and political tensions were mitigated through multistakeholder interventions implemented by peace actors during the period. Multistakeholder Early Warning/Early Response (EWER) systems were deployed to identify and proactively respond to potential incidents and indicators of violence during the 2023 general elections in the region. These interventions helped to mitigate violence by channeling grievances to specialized agencies, civil society organizations, and other local response actors for peaceful resolution.

There was a decrease in lethal violence during the February and March 2023 elections in the region compared to the 2019 election cycle. Data indicate a 32% decrease in election violence from 82 reported fatalities during the 2019 cycle to 56 fatalities during the 2023 cycle in the Niger Delta.

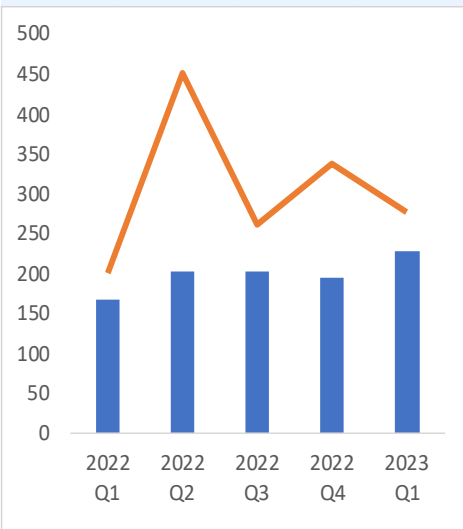
At the regional level, violent criminality decreased by 27% during the period as reported fatalities reduced from 146 in Q4 of 2022 to 107 in Q1 of 2023. However, criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity during the quarter. Also, communal violence decreased by 15% from 39 fatalities in Q4 of 2022 to 33 in Q1 of 2023. Similarly, violence

associated with ethno-nationalism and separatist agitation declined by 14% from 43 fatalities in Q4 of 2022 to 37 in Q1 of 2023. Conversely, clashes between cult gangs increased by 26% and caused over 35 fatalities in the region during the period.

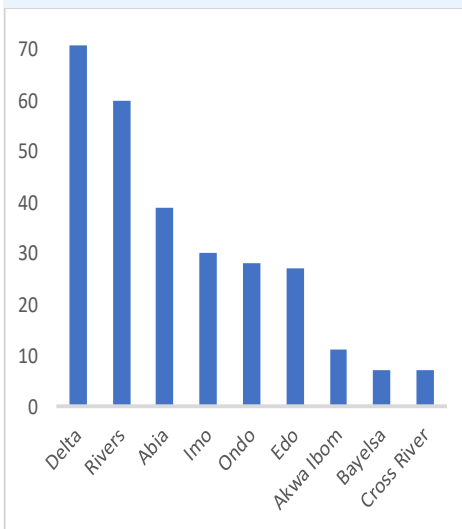
Delta, followed by Rivers and Abia States ranked highest in lethal violence during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. The LGAs with the highest number of conflict fatalities were Aba North (Abia), Uvwie (Delta), and Emohua (Rivers).

The following pages provide a breakdown by State as to the main conflict issues reported during the quarter and the trends in those issues over time.

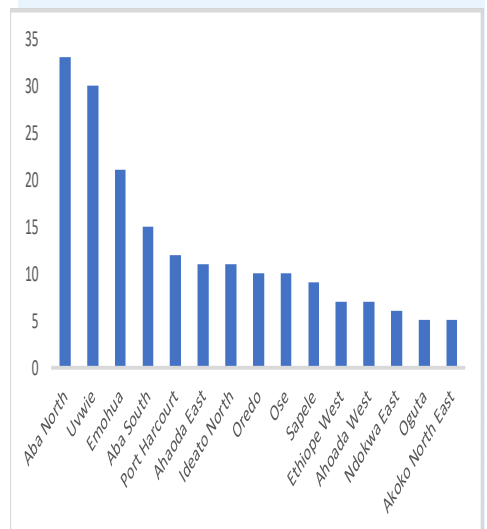
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q1 2022 - Q1 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January - March 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

### About this Conflict Tracker

We hope that this tracker provides stakeholders with information to inform the process of analysis and joint planning to promote sustainable peace in the Niger Delta.

To ensure that the tracker is comprehensive, please contribute your knowledge by reporting any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to **080 9936 2222**.

Kindly include the relevant State, LGA, town, date, and brief description of the incident. To read the latest conflict trackers and weekly updates, please visit: <https://pindfoundation.org/category/conflict-trackers/> OR [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org/peace-map)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Abia State

There was a rise in lethal violence in Abia State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Abia was one of the States that ranked very high in conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities. Lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the period were mainly driven by ethno-national separatist agitation, violent criminality and violent protests. Aba North and Aba South LGAs had the highest levels of lethal violence during the period.

### Separatist Agitation

Ethno-nationalism and separatist agitation were major drivers of insecurity in the State during the quarter. In January, for instance, a police officer and two separatist militias were reportedly killed

during a gun battle along Iheorji-Ohanku Road in Ukwa West LGA. In February, separatist militias reportedly attacked a police station, killed three police officers, and stole weapons from the armory in Nkporo community, Ohafia LGA. In March, five supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) were allegedly killed by government security forces during a street protest at Ama Ogbonna Junction along Osusu Road in Aba North LGA. The supporters of the separatist group were reportedly protesting the continued detention of their leader by the federal government.

### Political/Election Violence

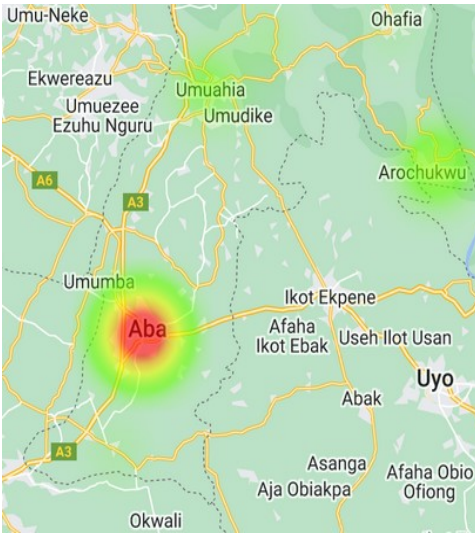
Two residents were reportedly killed by political thugs at a polling center during the February 25, 2023 presidential and National Assembly elections in Ndi Agwu community, Arochukwu LGA.

### Violent Criminality

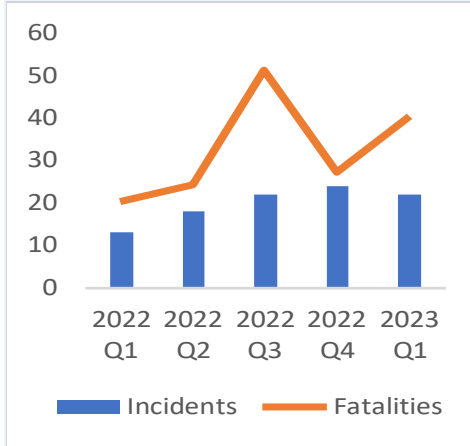
In February, three employees of the Abia State Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) were reportedly killed by gunmen along Faulks Road in Aba South LGA. Separately, in February, a 27-year-old man was reportedly killed by a member of the Abia Vigilante Service (AVS) over a missing phone at an eatery in Umuahia, the state capital.

### Other Incidents

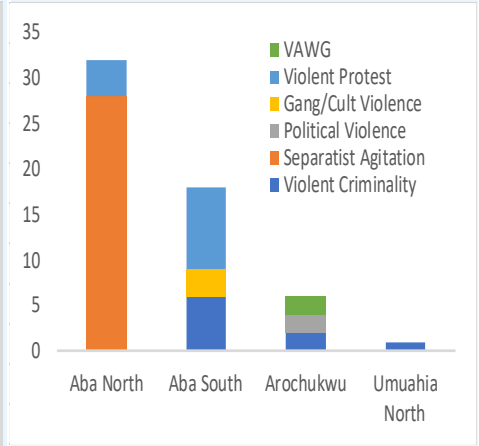
In January, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between government security forces and some residents who were protesting the scarcity of naira notes at the premises of a bank at Faulks Road in Aba South LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Akwa Ibom State

There was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Akwa Ibom was among the least violent States in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. Conflict and security issues in the State during the quarter were mainly related to criminality, political tensions, and violence against women and girls. Uyo LGA had the highest levels of lethal violence in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence caused a number of fatalities in the State during the quarter. Reported incidents of criminal violence during the period mainly related to homicide. In January, for instance, a 65-year-old man was reportedly killed by his 25-year-old son over allegation of witchcraft practices in Edebom community, Nsit Ibom LGA. Separately, in January, a middle aged man reportedly burned his

younger brother to death during a quarrel in Uyo, the state capital. In February, an 18-year-old girl reportedly buried her new born baby alive in Ifa Ikot Okpon community, Uyo LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly attacked a divisional police headquarters, killed two police officers and stole their weapons in Udung Uko community, Udung Uko LGA.

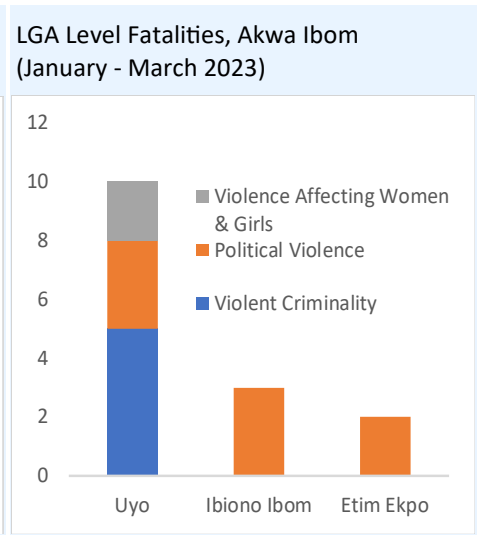
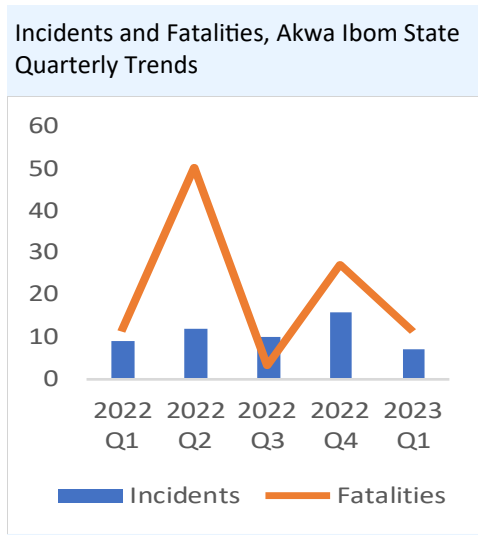
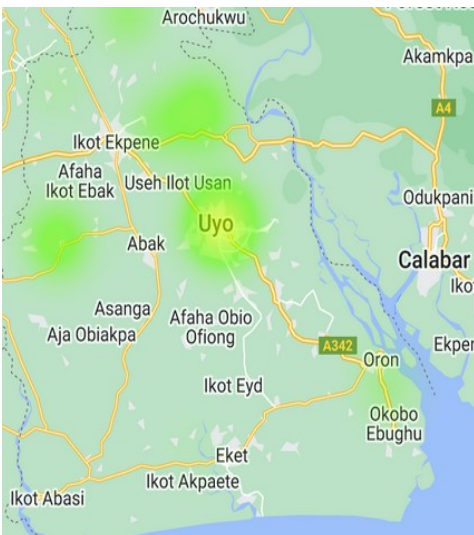
### Political/Election Violence

Election violence caused several fatalities in the State during the period. In February, two voters were reportedly shot dead and several others injured by gunmen suspected to be political thugs during the presidential and National Assembly elections in Etim Ekpo LGA. Separately, two persons were allegedly killed during a clash between hoodlums and government security forces at a polling center in Itak community, Ikono LGA. Also, in February, hoodlums reportedly inflicted machete cuts on two voters and hijacked voting materials in Onna LGA.

In March, gunmen suspected to be political thugs reportedly attacked the office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) during the governorship and State House of Assembly elections and killed three persons in Oko Ita community, Ibiono Ibom LGA. Separately, in March, six persons were reportedly killed during clashes between hoodlums and government security forces at different polling centers in Uyo, the state capital.

### Other Incidents

In January, six persons were reportedly injured during a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Uyo, the state capital. The clashes were reportedly triggered by the killing of a member of a rival cult gang during a battle for supremacy and territorial control in the area. The cultists allegedly shot sporadically and attacked several homes in search of rival gang members.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Bayelsa State

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Bayelsa State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Bayelsa was among the States with the least number of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on reported conflict fatalities. Conflict risk and violence during the period were mainly driven by criminality, communal conflict, and clashes between rival cult gangs. Nembe LGA recorded the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Several incidents of organized criminal violence were reported in the State during the period. In January, for instance, a policeman was allegedly killed by gunmen suspected to be robbers at the premises of a commercial bank in Yenagoa, the state capital. A gun belonging to the policeman was reportedly stolen by the gunmen. Separately, in January, gunmen reportedly killed a 45-year-old man in Azuzuama community, Southern Ijaw LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult gangs over battles for supremacy and territorial control caused several fatalities in the State during the quarter. In February, for instance, three persons including an aide to a community youth leader and his girlfriend were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs over a battle for supremacy and territorial control in Opu-Nembe community, Nembe LGA. Separately, in February, a young man was reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult gangs in Ogbia community, Ogbia LGA.

### Communal Violence

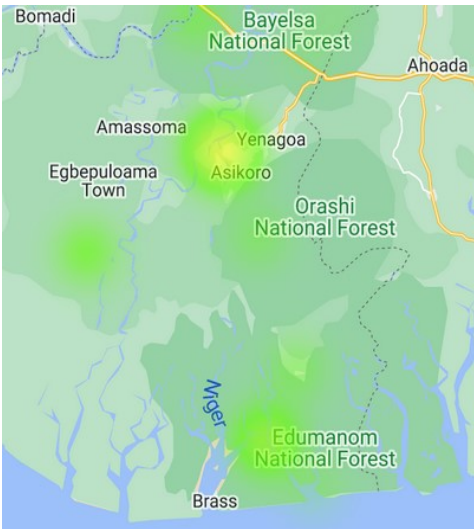
In March, two residents including a community leader were reportedly killed during clashes between herders and fishers in Okumoni and Zarama communities in Yenagoa LGA. The incident intensified communal tensions as it reportedly triggered a series of protests by residents.

### Political/Election Violence

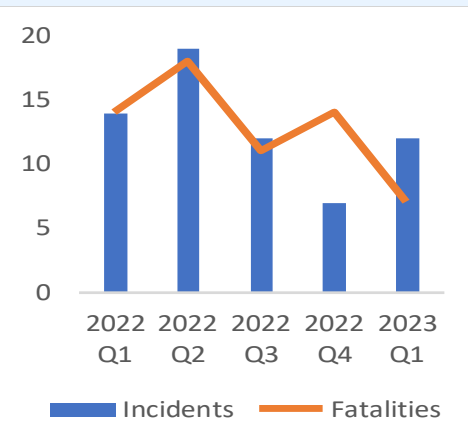
Political and election related violence were key security issues in the State during the period especially during the presidential and National Assembly elections. In February, for example, two women reportedly sustained gunshot injuries following sporadic shooting by political thugs at a polling center in Ofoni community, Sagbama LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

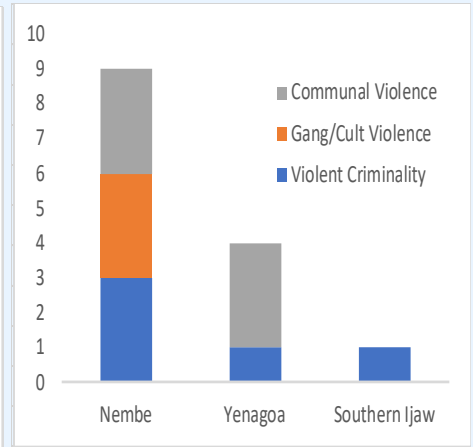
In addition to the impact of criminality and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other incidents of targeted violence against women and girls were reported in the State during the period. In January, for instance, a 22-year-old girl was reportedly beaten to death by her boyfriend in Ogobiri community, Sagbama LGA. In February, a 43-year-old pregnant woman reportedly died after she was hit during a fight with another woman in Ogboinbiri community, Southern Ijaw LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Cross River State

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Cross River State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the third and fourth quarters of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Cross River was the least violent State in the Niger Delta during the quarter, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities. Very few incidents of conflict risk and lethal violence were reported in Cross River during the period. Reported incidents related mainly to criminality, political tensions, and gang violence. Biase followed by Yakurr and Calabar Municipal LGAs had the highest number of reported incidents of conflict risk and lethal violence in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence was a major conflict risk and security issue in the State during the quarter. In February, for example, the convoy of the governorship candidate of a political party who was also a former Minister of Niger Delta Affairs was allegedly attacked by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers along the Calabar-Ikom Highway in Biase LGA. The gunmen

reportedly shot at his vehicle, killed two passengers and abducted two other persons.

In March, an Assistant Superintendent of Immigration was reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along the Calabar-Ogoja Highway in Biase LGA. The kidnappers allegedly demanded a 50 million naira ransom. Separately, in March, the deputy governorship candidate of a political party was reportedly abducted by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers along the Calabar-Ogoja Highway in Akparavuni community, Biase LGA. Also, in March, a professor of Political Science in the University of Calabar was reportedly found dead with multiple stabs at his residence in Duke Town, Calabar Municipal LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

Political tension was a major cause of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. Political violence caused several fatalities in the State especially in the lead-up to and during the 2023 general elections. In February, for instance, gunmen suspected to be political thugs allegedly attacked the homes of some chieftains of

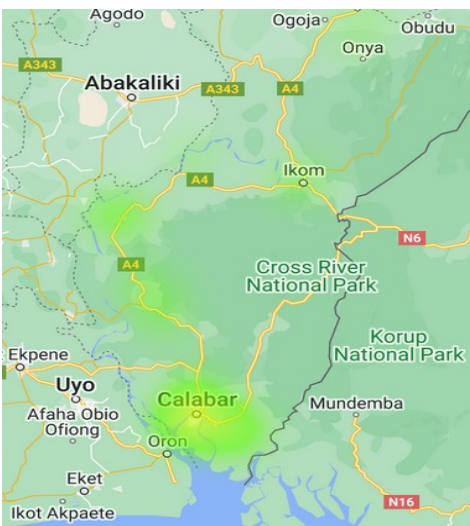
a political party and destroyed several properties including vehicles in Atimbo community, Akpabuyo LGA. In March, a man alleged to be political thug was reportedly killed by soldiers at a polling center in Mbube community, Ogoja LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

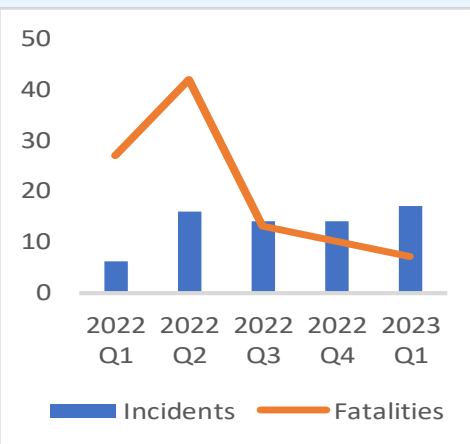
In February, a student of the University of Calabar was reportedly shot dead by members of a cult gang. The student was reportedly killed on the university campus in Calabar, the state capital.

### Other Incidents

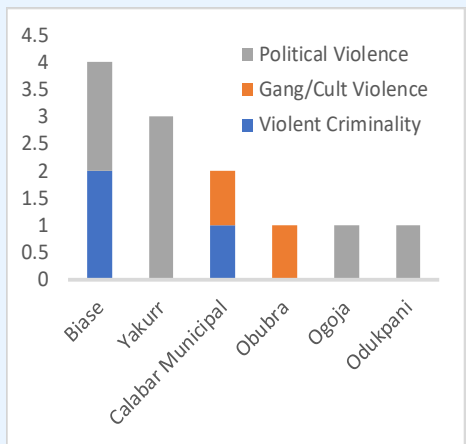
There was an outbreak of cholera in Cross River State during the quarter. According to epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), more than 20 persons were killed and several others hospitalized as a result of outbreak of cholera in the State during the period. As of January 21, 2023, over 150 cholera cases and more than 50 deaths were reported across several communities in Abi, Odukpani, Obubra and Yakurr LGAs.



Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Delta State

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Delta State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2) Delta State ranked highest in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. Over 65 conflict fatalities were reported in the State during the period. Conflict risk and insecurity during the period were largely driven by political tensions, criminality, and communal conflict.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence caused more than 25 fatalities in the State during the quarter. In January, for instance, kidnappers reportedly killed a man and abducted another in Mosogar community, Ethiope West LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed four persons including a politician, two businessmen and a sales girl in Sapele community, Sapele LGA. Also, in January, gunmen allegedly killed two members of a local vigilante group in Amukpe community, Sapele LGA.

In February, gunmen reportedly attacked troops of the Nigerian Army and killed four soldiers and a traditional ruler in Kwale community, Ndokwa West LGA. In March, two persons including a

security personnel were reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias affiliated with the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Ugbolu community, Oshimili South LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

In February, gunmen reportedly attacked a bus conveying officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), killed an electoral officer and injured two ad hoc staff in Ukwuani LGA. The electoral officials were allegedly attacked on their way to deliver election results. In March, security operatives reportedly killed two young men who allegedly attempted to hijack voting materials in Mosogar community, Ethiope West LGA. Separately, a suspected political thug was allegedly killed by soldiers at a polling center in Utagba-Uno community, Ndokwa West LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

In January, two persons were reportedly killed during clashes between two rival cult gangs in Egbokodo-Itsekiri and Ubeji communities, Warri South LGA. Separately, in January, four persons including a woman were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Sapele LGA.

### Communal Violence

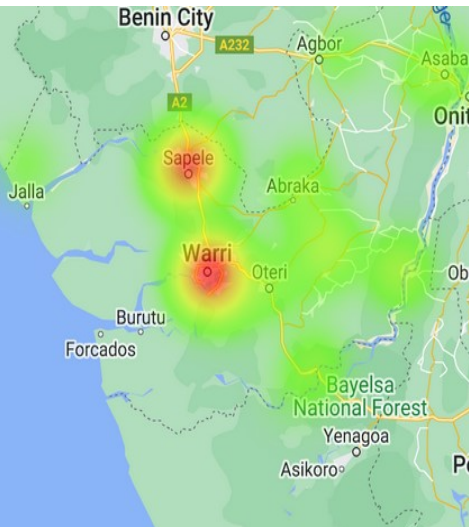
In January, herders reportedly killed three farmers and abducted several others in Toru-Angiama community, Patani LGA. Also, in January, two persons were reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South West LGAs respectively.

### Violence Against Women & Girls

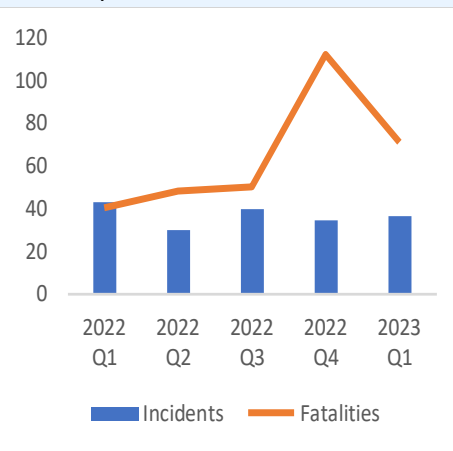
In addition to the impact of criminality and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were reported during the period. In January, for instance, a woman was reportedly beaten to death by her son in Kwale community, Ndokwa West LGA.

### Other Incidents

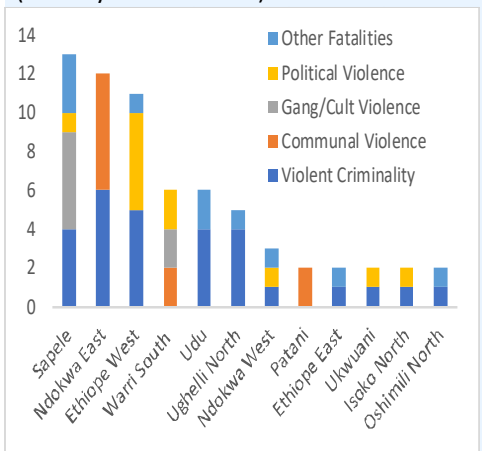
Protests over shortages of fuel and naira notes resulted in vandalism of properties and disruption of economic activities in the State during the period. In February, for example, two persons were reportedly killed and two Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) belonging to some banks were vandalized by a mob in Orhuwhorun community, Udu LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Delta State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Delta State (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Edo State

There was an rise in lethal violence and insecurity in Edo State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), over 25 conflict fatalities were reported in the State during the quarter. Insecurity during the period was largely driven by criminality, political tensions, communal conflict, and cult clashes. Oredo LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminality including kidnap for ransom was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In January, for example, kidnappers reportedly attacked a sub-station of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) and abducted about 20 persons including passengers and the station manager in Ekehen community, Igueben LGA. Separately, a former State House of Assembly member was reportedly kidnapped in Ubijaja community, Esan South-West LGA. Also, in January, a female president of a customary court was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ugoneki town, Uhumwonde LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

In January, a resident was reportedly shot dead and several others injured during a campaign rally by a major political party in Ewu community, Esan Central LGA. In February, three voters including a 41-year-old woman were reportedly killed by political thugs at different polling centers in Ogheghe community, Ikpoba Okha LGA.

### Communal Violence

In March, three residents were reportedly killed, several others abducted and properties destroyed during a clash between farmers and herders in Sobe community, Owan West LGA.

### Gang/Cult Violence

In January, four residents were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between members of the Black Axe, Aro Bagger, Eiye and Vikings cult gangs at different locations including Ekosodin, Erediauwa, Upper Sakponba and Eriaria communities in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, a male student of the University of Benin was reportedly abducted and killed by suspected cultists in Oluku community, Ovia North East LGA.

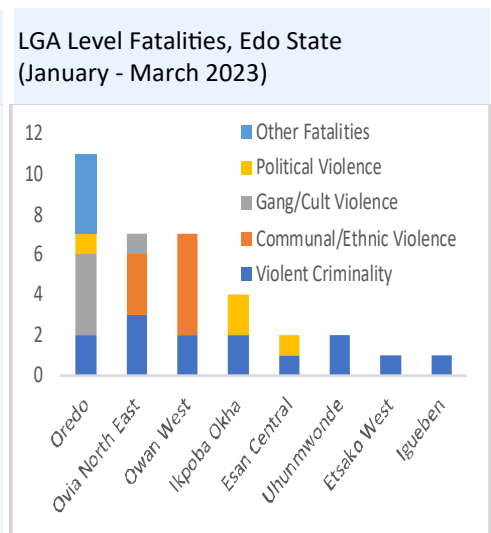
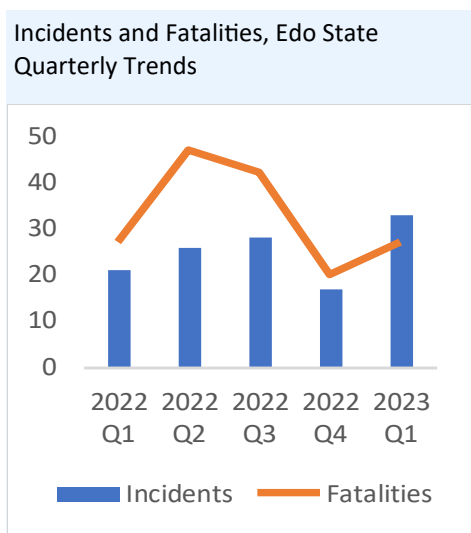
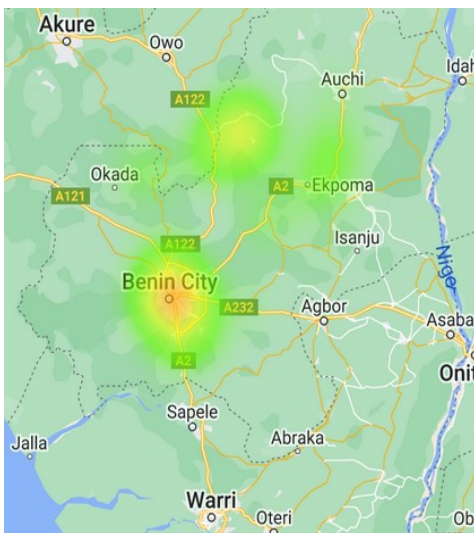
### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of criminality, political and communal violence on women and girls listed above, other violence against women and girls were reported. In March, for example, a 35-year-old woman was allegedly killed by her husband in South Ibie community, Etsako West LGA.

### Other Incidents

There was an outbreak of Lassa fever in Edo State during the quarter. According to epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), as of January 25, 2023, over 95 confirmed cases of Lassa fever and about 10 fatalities were reported across 11 local government areas (LGAs) in the State.

Also, violent protests over shortages of naira notes resulted in the disruption of business activities in the State during the period. In February, for instance, three residents were reportedly killed during a clash between government security personnel and protesters at different locations including the office of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in Benin City, the state capital.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)



## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Imo State

There was a decrease in lethal violence in Imo State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. However, according to Peace Map data (see page 2), Imo was one of the States that ranked very high in lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality, ethno-nationalist separatist agitation, and political tensions. Ideato North followed by Oguta and Ngor Okpala LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Many incidents of criminal violence were reported in the State during the period. In January, for instance, gunmen reportedly attacked the convoy of a former governor of Imo State and killed four police orderlies in Oriagu community, Ehime Mbanzo LGA. Also, in January, gunmen reportedly killed three passengers including an intending couple in Arondizuogu community, Ideato North LGA. In February, gunmen reportedly killed an aged woman and burned houses belonging to several community leaders and government officials in Amagu Ihube community, Okigwe LGA.

### Violent Ethno-Nationalist Separatist Agitation

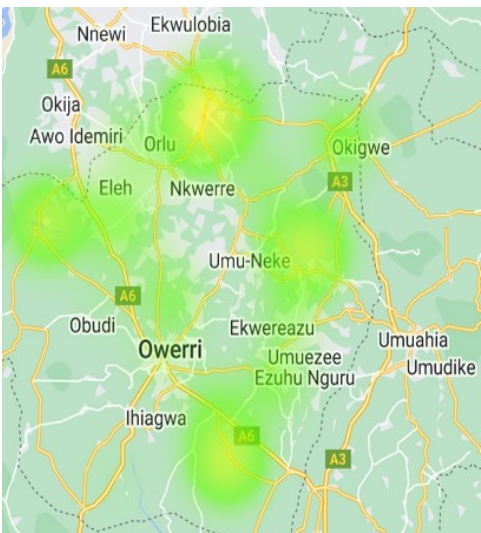
Separatist agitation related violence was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the period. Violent separatist agitation and clashes between government security forces and separatist militias caused more than seven fatalities in the State during the quarter. In January, for instance, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed two persons at a military checkpoint along Ubomiri/Nwaorieubi Road in Mbaitoli LGA. Separately, gunmen allegedly attacked a security checkpoint and killed two policemen and a Vehicle Inspection Officer in Umuagbom Ihitte community along the Owerri/Aba Highway in Ngor Okpala LGA. Also, in January, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between government security forces and some members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), in Agwa community, Oguta LGA.

In February, separatist militias reportedly killed a customary court judge during a court session in Ejemekwuru community, Oguta LGA. Separately, in February, gunmen suspected to be separatist

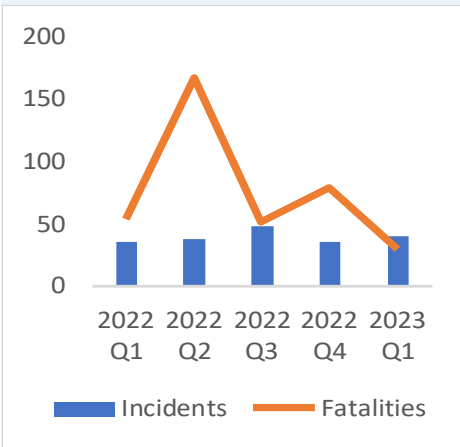
militias reportedly killed a policeman who was reportedly deployed to provide security for the presidential and National Assembly elections in Orlu community, Orlu LGA. In March, separatist militias reportedly killed three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Obiangwu community, Ngor Okpala LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

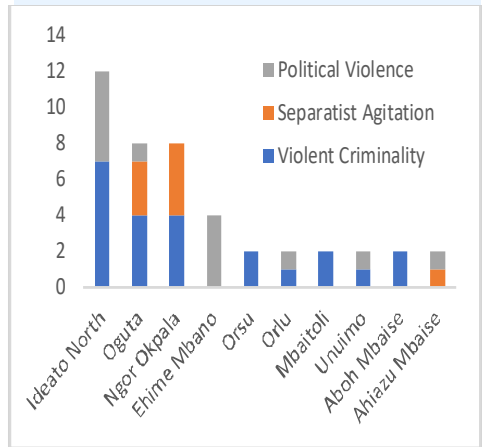
Political violence was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the quarter. In January, for example, gunmen reportedly killed the ward chairman of a political party in Ibeme community, Isiala Mbanzo LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly abducted and killed the sole administrator of a local government council in Imoko community, Ideato North LGA. In another incident, gunmen reportedly attacked a voter’s card collection center, killed a police officer and injured several residents in Afor-Oru community, Ahiazu Mbaise LGA. Also, in January, gunmen suspected to be political thugs allegedly attacked the residence of the spokesperson of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) and killed four persons including his uncle in Akokwa community, Ideato North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Ondo State

There were no significant changes in the levels of conflict risk and lethal violence in Ondo State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), more than 25 conflict fatalities were reported in Ondo State during the quarter. Conflict risk and lethal violence during the quarter were mainly driven by criminality and communal conflict. Ose followed by Akoko North East and Akure South LGAs had the highest number of conflict fatalities in the State during the period.

### Violent Criminality

Organized criminality including kidnap for ransom was a major security issue in the State during the quarter. Several incidents of criminal violence were reported during the period. In January, for instance, a 40-year-old male cocoa farmer was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnappers in Oko Oparun community, Ondo East LGA. In March, bandits reportedly abducted a 19-year-old girl from her residence in Imoru community, Ose LGA.

### Communal Violence

Communal conflict including clashes between herders and farmers was a major driver of lethal violence and insecurity in the State during the quarter. In January, five residents were reportedly killed and properties destroyed during a clash between rival youth groups at a festival in Ikare-Akoko town, Akoko North East LGA. The youth groups were alleged to be loyal to two warring community leaders. Separately, in January, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash between Hausa and Fulani traders at a market in Ogbese community, Akure North LGA.

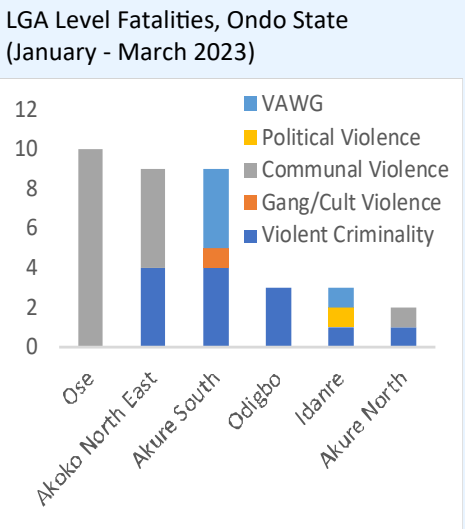
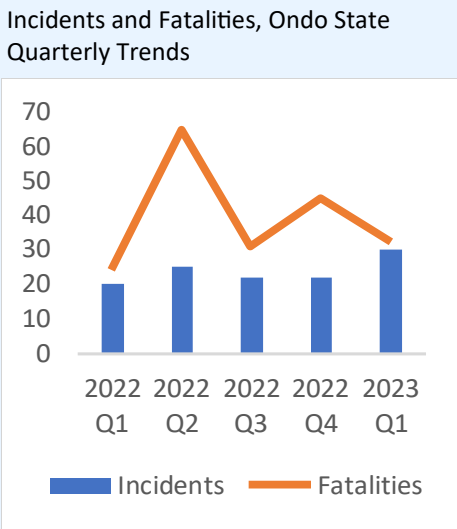
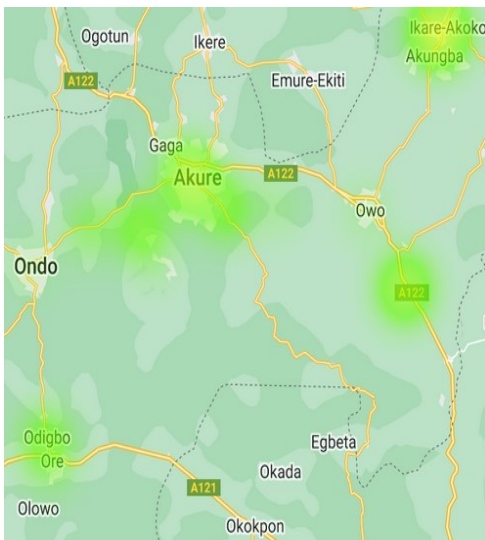
In February, six persons including farmers and traders were allegedly killed and over 30 hectares of farmland destroyed during clashes between herders and farmers in Arimogija, Molege and Ute communities in Ose LGA. In March, three residents were allegedly abducted by armed herdsmen in Ayede-Ogbese community, Akure North LGA. The incident triggered a series of protests by residents.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

In addition to the impact of communal violence and criminality on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported during the period. In January, for instance, a woman was reportedly murdered by unknown assailants in Kajola community in Akure, the Ondo State capital. In March, a nursing mother was reportedly raped and killed by a 37-year-old pastor in Alade community, Idanre LGA.

### Other Incidents

In January, a man was allegedly killed and dumped in a gutter by a cult gang in Oke-Aro community, Akure South LGA. In February, a resident was reportedly shot dead by a security personnel at a result collation center during the presidential and National Assembly elections in Idanre community, Idanre LGA. In March, a grandmother reportedly burned to death her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild in Oponmu community, Akure South LGA.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — Rivers State

There was an increase in lethal violence in Rivers State in the first quarter of 2023 compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. According to Peace Map data (see page 2), Rivers was one of the States that ranked high in conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported conflict fatalities. Conflict risk and lethal violence in the State during the period were mainly driven by organized criminality, political tensions, and clashes between cult gangs. Emohua followed by Ahoada East LGA had the highest number of conflict fatalities during the period.

### Gang/Cult Violence

There was a resurgence of cult and gang related violence and killings in the State during the period. Clashes between rival cult gangs over battles for supremacy and territorial control caused over 20 fatalities during the quarter. In January, for instance, an aged man was reportedly killed in a reprisal attack by a cult gang in Diobu community, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, the leader of a cult gang was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult group in Diobu community. In February, 10 persons were reportedly killed during a clash over a leadership tussle between two factions of a cult gang in Ikata community, Ahoada East LGA. In March, six persons were reportedly killed during a

clash between two rival cult gangs in Odiokwu community, Ahoada West LGA.

### Violent Criminality

Criminal violence including kidnap for ransom was a major security issue in the State during the period. In February, for instance, a member of a 5-man kidnapping gang was reportedly killed during a gun battle with the police at Ndoki Waterside in Port Harcourt LGA.

### Political/Election Violence

Political tensions and election violence were major security issues in the State during the period. In January, for example, two explosions reportedly occurred and injured three residents at the venue of a political rally in Rumuwoji community, Port Harcourt LGA. Separately, the governorship candidate of a political party and his campaign team were allegedly attacked by political thugs in Akinima community, Ahoada West LGA. Also, in January, political thugs reportedly attacked the campaign team of the governorship candidate of a major political party, shot sporadically, and abducted the party's campaign director in Opobo community, Opobo/Nkoro LGA. In February, two residents including a pregnant woman and a local

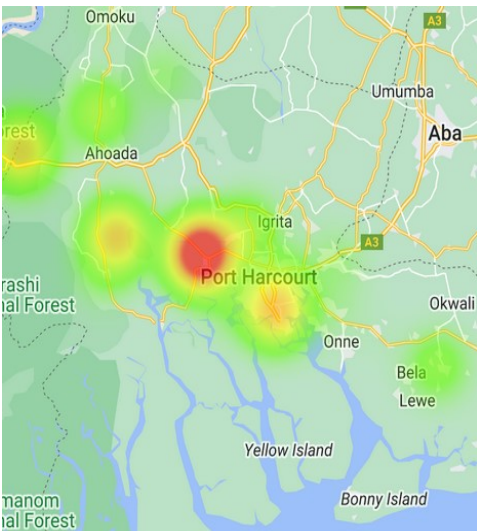
vigilante were reportedly killed at a polling center during the presidential and National Assembly elections in Ubimini community, Emohua LGA.

### Violence Affecting Women & Girls

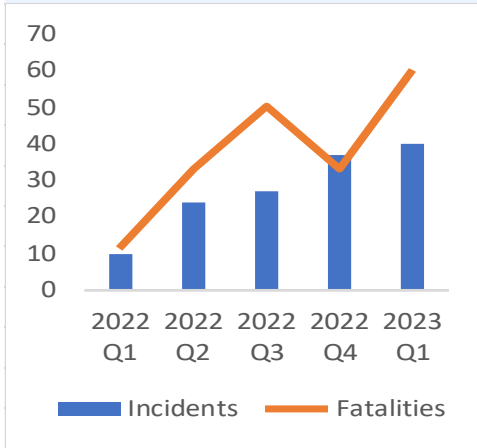
In addition to the impact of criminal, political and gang violence on women and girls listed above, other violence targeting women and girls were also reported during the period. In January, for example, a young girl was reportedly strangled by her boyfriend in Kom Kom community, Oyiabo LGA. In February, a woman was reportedly abducted and gang-raped to death by a cult gang in Abarikpo community, Ahoada East LGA.

### Other Incidents

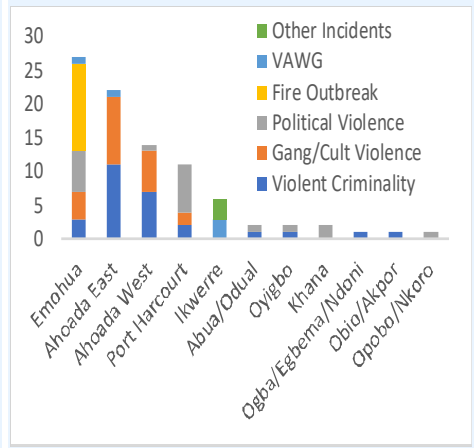
In February, a 44-year-old man was reportedly shot dead by his brother during a disagreement in Elele-Alimini community, Emohua LGA. Separately, in February, a storey building under construction reportedly collapsed, killed three persons and injured several others in Mbodo community, Ikwerre LGA. In March, an oil pipeline reportedly exploded and killed 12 residents in Rumueke community, Emohua LGA. The explosion was allegedly caused by illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining activities in the area.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (January - March 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p](http://www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p)

## About Us

### PIND



The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) is a nonprofit organization that promotes peace and equitable economic growth in Nigeria's Niger Delta region through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

PIND implements collaborative market-based, community-owned programs to mitigate conflicts and boost economic opportunities for local businesses, ensuring that economic progress occurs in a systemic, inclusive, and sustainable manner. Headquartered in Abuja, Nigeria, PIND also has a Washington, D.C.-based counterpart known as the Niger Delta Partnership Initiative (NDPI).

PIND has developed an interactive Peace Map to gather data on peace and conflict for validation, triangulation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. With over 55,000 data points on conflict that dates back to 2009, the Peace Map is one of the most comprehensive data set on conflict publicly available in Nigeria.

### The Projects



**IPDU:** The Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) of PIND's Peacebuilding Program responds to emerging threats and mobilizes appropriate actors and resources for preventive interventions. It provides

operational level support to stakeholders through: research, capacity building, and applied learning aimed at early targeting and mitigation of potential drivers of conflict and instability.

**P4P:** Partners for Peace (P4P) is a network of peace actors whose mission is to build social capital around peacebuilding by amplifying the voices of positive actors, and collaborating on activities for conflict early warning and prevention. The network includes stakeholders from community-based organizations, civil society, and the general public committed to promoting peaceable livelihoods.

## 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/response, and production of data-driven conflict reports.

### Contact Us

**Inquiries:** [PINDfoundation.org](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org)

**Contacts:** [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto: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 **080 9936 2222**

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