

Niger Delta Quarterly Conflict Trends

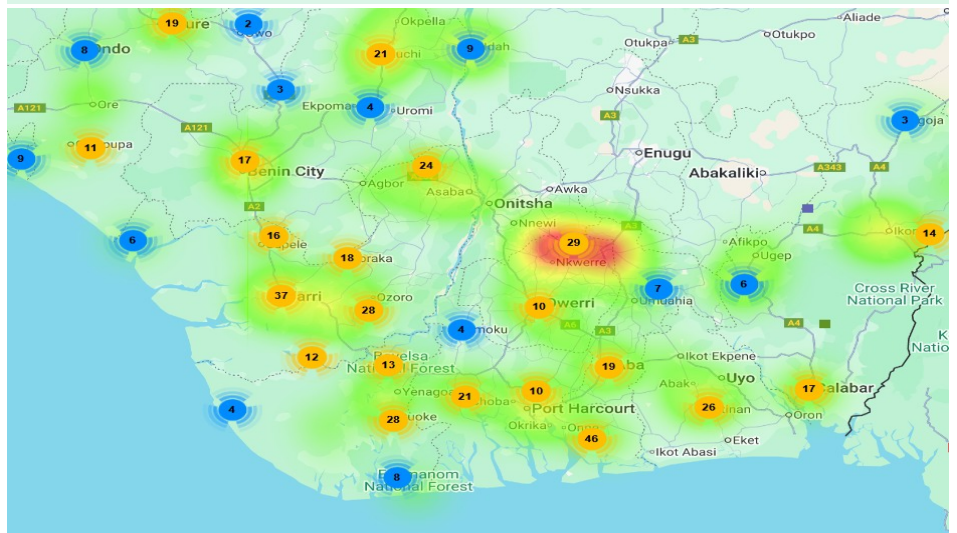
January to March 2026

The peace and security landscape in the Niger Delta remains highly dynamic. The situation deteriorated slightly in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026 compared to the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2025. Data indicate a 30.3% increase in lethal violence, with conflict-related fatalities rising from 76 in Q4 2025 to 99 in Q1 2026 (see page 2 for details). According to PIND's [P4P Peace Map](#), the main drivers of lethal violence during the period included criminal activities (particularly kidnapping for ransom), cult gang clashes, mob justice, communal conflicts, armed clashes between hoodlums and security forces, separatist agitation, violent protests, human rights abuses by vigilantes and state security actors, domestic violence, and natural disasters.

This quarterly tracker highlights trends in conflict risk and lethal violence, and their implications for peace and stability at the regional, state, and local levels. It provides stakeholders with updates on emerging violence trends rather than a comprehensive conflict analysis. Understanding the underlying drivers, impacts, and response options requires deeper qualitative analysis with relevant stakeholders.

Key conflict issues in the Niger Delta include organized crime, political competition, communal tensions, resource-based disputes, climate-related conflicts, and human rights violations. Reported incidents span a range of violent and criminal activities, including kidnapping, armed robbery, piracy, gang violence, political clashes, and land disputes. Other notable incidents include

Heatmap of Conflict Fatalities in the Niger Delta of Nigeria



Heatmap shows concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - March 2026.

Source: All data sources formatted on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

disasters, mob justice, separatist agitation, clashes between hoodlums and security forces, sexual and gender-based violence, drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, ritual killings, and violent protests. Key data sources for monitoring these trends include the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data ([ACLED](#)), [Nigeria Watch](#), Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) databases, and PIND's Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) Early Warning System.

The Niger Delta is a highly diverse region, home to more than 40 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages and dialects. It encompasses 185 of Nigeria's 774 local government areas (LGAs) across nine states: Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River,

Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo, and Rivers. According to the 2006 population census, the region had over 30 million residents, representing more than 23% of Nigeria's population, with an estimated population density of 265 people per square kilometer.

The Niger Delta, endowed with abundant oil and gas resources, remains central to Nigeria's economy. Despite this wealth, the region continues to face persistent challenges, including poverty, insecurity, and underdevelopment. Historical grievances and the presence of militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian armed groups have contributed to complex conflict dynamics, which are examined in the following pages.

Regional Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk — January to March 2026

Conflict risk and lethal violence in the Niger Delta declined steadily between Q2 and Q4 2025 before increasing slightly in Q1 2026. During the quarter, reported conflict incidents rose by 35.7%, from 84 incidents in Q4 2025 to 114 in Q1 2026, while conflict-related fatalities increased by 30.3%, from 76 to 99 deaths over the same period. Despite this uptick, the broader trend suggests an improvement in peace and stability across the region compared to earlier periods, particularly the years preceding general elections.

Fatalities from criminal violence, mob justice, gender-based violence, natural disasters, violent protests, and political violence increased during

the period. Deaths linked to criminal violence rose by 19.4%, from 62 in Q4 2025 to 74 in Q1 2026. Fatalities from gender-based violence increased from one to five deaths, while disaster-related fatalities rose by 88.9%, from nine to seventeen. Fatalities associated with violent protests increased from one to four deaths, and political violence recorded two fatalities compared to none in the previous quarter.

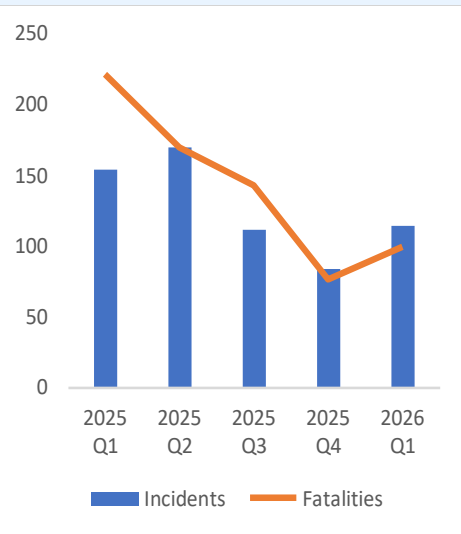
In contrast, fatalities from communal violence, cult gang clashes, and separatist-related violence declined. Separatist-related violence recorded the sharpest decrease, with fatalities falling by 60%, from five in Q4 2025 to two in Q1 2026. Fatalities

from cult gang violence also declined by 15.4%, from 13 to 11 deaths over the same period.

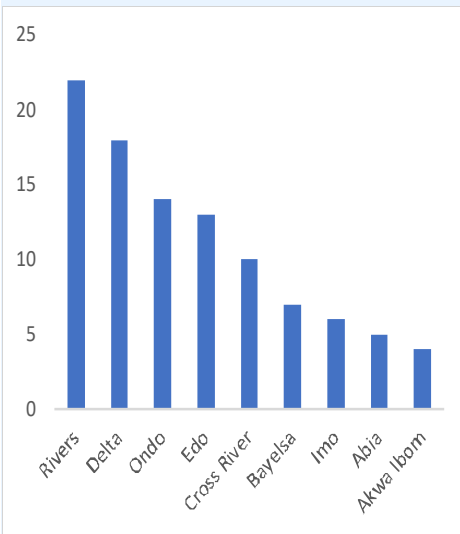
Based on reported fatalities, Rivers State recorded the highest level of lethal violence during the quarter, followed by Delta State. At the local level, Akure North LGA in Ondo State, Etsako West LGA in Edo State, and Ughelli North LGA in Delta State recorded the highest numbers of conflict-related deaths.

The following pages present a state-by-state overview of the key conflict issues reported during the quarter, highlighting emerging trends, patterns, and developments over time.

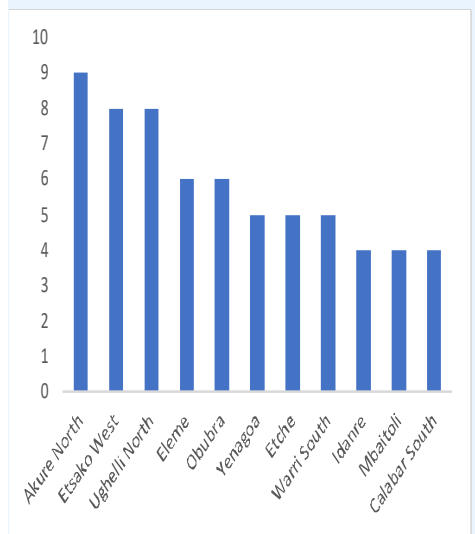
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta Quarterly (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January - March 2026)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

About this Conflict Tracker

This tracker provides stakeholders with timely information to support analysis and joint planning efforts to promote sustainable peace in the Niger Delta.

To ensure the tracker is comprehensive, please contribute your knowledge by reporting any verified incident of conflict to PIND's IPDU Early Warning System by texting a message to any of the hotlines: **091 2233 4455**.

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

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Abia State

In Abia State, conflict risks and insecurity followed a mixed trajectory during the quarter. While the number of reported incidents remained relatively stable, violent fatalities increased by 150%, rising from two in Q4 2025 to five in Q1 2026. Despite this increase, data (see page 2) indicate that Abia remained among the states with the lowest levels of violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter. The main drivers of insecurity included criminal activities, communal conflict, clashes between cult gangs, and human rights abuses, particularly violence against women and girls. Ohafia and Umuahia North recorded the highest number of violent fatalities in the state during the period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence remained a major driver of conflict risks and insecurity in Abia State during

the quarter. In January, a community leader and former president-general of the National Association of Ohafia Students was reportedly shot dead in his hometown of Okon-Aku Ohafia in Ohafia LGA. The killing reportedly sparked protests among aggrieved youths, leading to widespread arson and the destruction of the residences of traditional rulers and other community property.

Also in January, a 35-year-old man was reportedly shot dead by armed assailants who allegedly stole his motorcycle in Uturu, Isuikwuato LGA. In a separate incident during the same month, a 19-year-old man was reportedly killed by gunmen at Nunya Junction along the Port Harcourt–Enugu Expressway, also in Isuikwuato LGA.

In February, several passengers were reportedly kidnapped by gunmen suspected to be herders along the Umuahia–Isuikwuato Road in Isuikwuato

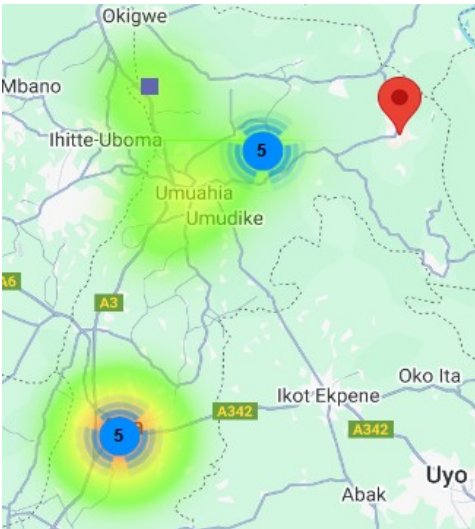
LGA. In March, a young man was reportedly shot dead by suspected cult militants on Udi Street, off Enugu Road, in Umuahia town, Umuahia North.

Violence Against Women & Girls

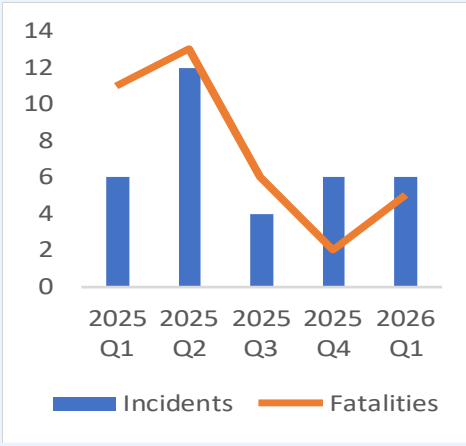
In addition to the broader impacts of criminal violence, gender-based violence posed significant risks to women and girls during the period. In February, a young woman was allegedly killed by her boyfriend following a domestic dispute in Okagwe, Ohafia LGA.

Other Incidents

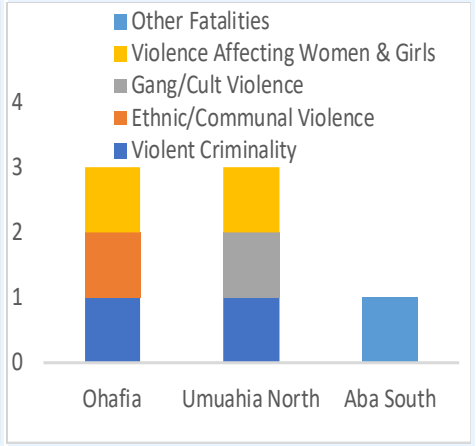
In February, a woman reportedly stabbed her husband, an immigration officer, to death during a domestic dispute in Umuihi, Umuogba Ekeoba, Ohuhu, Umuahia North LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Abia State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Abia State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Akwa Ibom State

There were no significant changes in the level of conflict risk and lethal violence in Akwa Ibom State between Q4 2025 and Q1 2026. Overall, the security situation remained relatively stable during the period. Data (see page 2) show that Akwa Ibom recorded the lowest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Criminal activities remained the primary driver of insecurity, accounting for most of the reported incidents and fatalities. Most of the conflict-related deaths were concentrated in Ikot Abasi LGA.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including armed robbery, kidnapping, and cult-related activities, remained the primary driver of conflict risks and insecurity in Akwa Ibom State during the quarter. In January, a suspected armed robber was reportedly killed during a gun battle with police along Ikot Ekpene Road near Ikot Ekang Junction in Abak LGA. The confrontation reportedly occurred when police

engaged a six-man gang that was attempting to rob attendants at a fuel station in the area.

In February, a man was reportedly abducted by gunmen from a supermarket in Obotim Village, Afaha Obio Offiong, Nsit Ibom LGA. The kidnappers allegedly withdrew ₦1.9 million from the victim’s bank account and demanded a ransom of ₦30 million for his release. The victim was later rescued by the police. In March, a violent clash between soldiers and youths from Ukpe Ete in Ikot Abasi LGA reportedly resulted in the deaths of two people and left several others critically injured. The clash was reportedly triggered by allegations that diesel had been siphoned from equipment belonging to a petroleum and fertilizer company operating in the area.

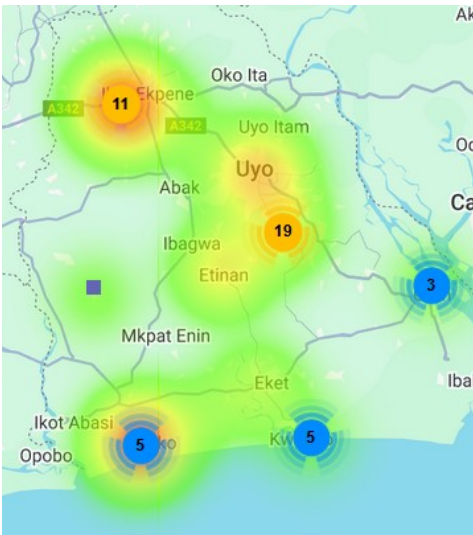
Gang/Cult Violence

Cult gang-related activities also contributed to insecurity during the quarter. In February, police reportedly arrested two suspected cult members

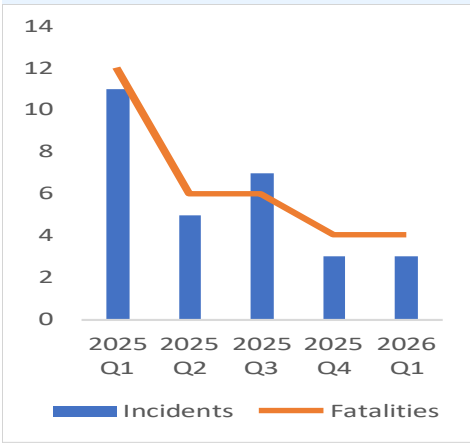
in Uyo, the state capital. The suspects, who were allegedly affiliated with the Neo Black Movement of Africa, were reportedly intercepted while planning an initiation ceremony at a secondary school. In March, police reportedly arrested four suspects, including a 70-year-old man, in Ikot Asukpong, Uruk Anam LGA, over alleged involvement in attempted murder and cult-related activities.

Other Incidents

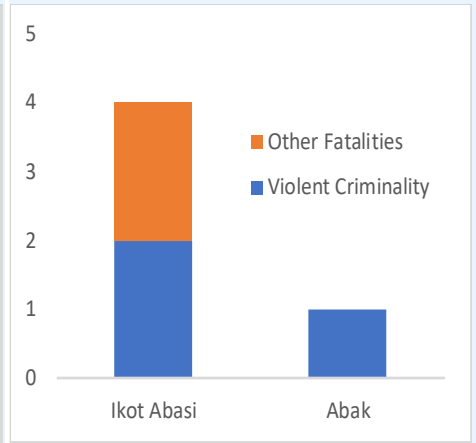
In January, a 13-year-old boy was reportedly fatally shot by a soldier on guard duty at a Chinese staff residential facility linked to Sterling Petrochemical and Fertiliser Limited in Ete, Ikot Abasi LGA. In March, more than 100 youths from six host communities—Etebi Idung Assan, Ntak Inyang, Orukin, Unyenghe, Udung Ukpo, and Akwata—reportedly barricaded the entrance of an oil palm company in Esit Eket LGA, alleging that the company had failed to fulfill its commitment to employ local youths.



Incidents and Fatalities, Akwa Ibom State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Akwa Ibom (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Bayelsa State

Conflict risks and lethal violence in Bayelsa State increased significantly in Q1 2026, with reported conflict-related fatalities rising by 600%, from one death in Q4 2025 to seven deaths in Q1 2026. Despite this increase, available data (see page 2) indicate that Bayelsa remained among the states with relatively low levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the period, based on reported conflict-related fatalities. Criminal activities and clashes between rival cult gangs were the primary drivers of insecurity, with most reported deaths occurring in Yenagoa, the state capital.

Gang/Cult Violence

Cult-related activities remained a major driver of insecurity in the state during the quarter. In January, security operatives reportedly arrested two suspects over an alleged plot by a cleric to hire cultists to assassinate a rival pastor in Ogbolomabiri, Nembe LGA. In February, three people were reportedly killed during a clash between rival cult groups in Igbogene, a suburb of

Yenagoa, the state capital. During the same month, a 30-year-old man was reportedly killed in a cult-related attack in Yenegwe, another suburb of Yenagoa.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence continued to pose security challenges in the state during the quarter. In February, an improvised explosive device (IED) allegedly planted by unidentified individuals exploded at the Bayelsa State Secretariat Complex in Yenagoa, though no casualties were reported.

Communal Violence

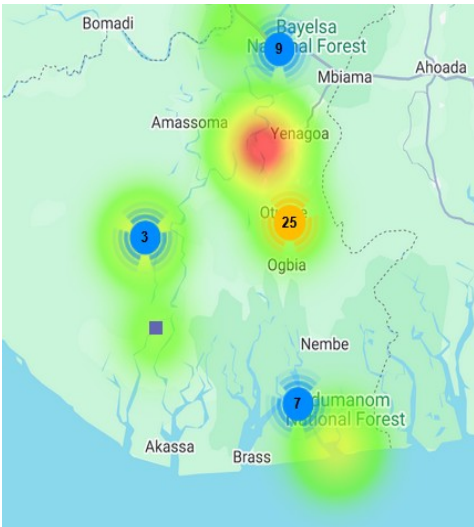
Communal conflict contributed to lethal violence and insecurity in the state during the reporting period. In January, a polytechnic student was reportedly killed by suspected armed herdsmen in Swali, Yenagoa LGA. The incident reportedly triggered protests by residents and community members.

Violence Against Women & Girls

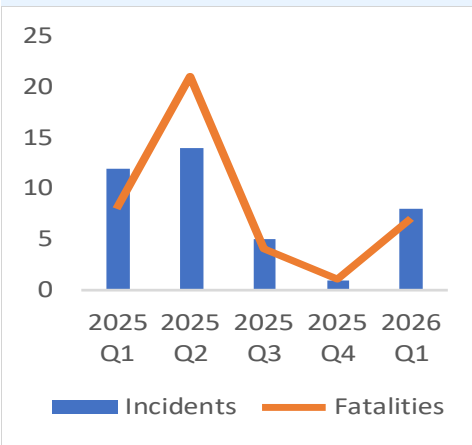
In addition to the broader impacts of criminal and gang violence on women and girls, specific incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In February, a middle-aged woman was reportedly murdered in her sleep by unidentified assailants in Ndoro, Ekeremor LGA. In March, a 13-year-old girl was reportedly raped and impregnated by a pastor in Yenagoa.

Other Incidents

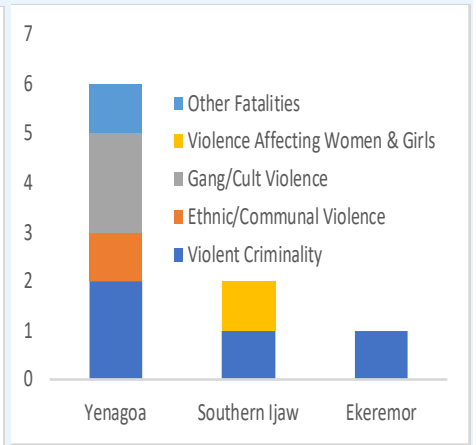
Other incidents underscoring insecurity and human rights concerns were reported during the quarter. In January, two brothers were allegedly beaten and tortured by local vigilantes reportedly hired by a social media influencer over accusations of cyberbullying in Yenagoa; one of the victims reportedly died days after his release. In March, a 47-year-old man reportedly collapsed and died in Ekeowe, Southern Ijaw LGA, after receiving 40 strokes of the cane as traditional punishment for allegedly raping a 10-year-old girl.



Incidents and Fatalities, Bayelsa State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Bayelsa State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Cross River State

Cross River State experienced a moderate increase in conflict risks and lethal violence in Q1 2026, with reported conflict-related fatalities rising by 150%, from four deaths in Q4 2025 to 10 deaths in Q1 2026. Available data (see page 2) also indicate that Cross River ranked among the Niger Delta states with relatively high levels of lethal violence during the period. Criminal activities, communal conflict, and human rights violations, including violence against women and girls, were the primary drivers of insecurity. Most reported incidents were concentrated in Obubra and Calabar South LGAs.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including mob justice, remained a major conflict risk and security concern in Cross River State during the quarter. In January, a suspected robber was reportedly killed by a mob in Calabar, Calabar Municipal LGA. In February, a 22-year-old man was reportedly lynched and burnt to death by a mob for allegedly attempting to vandalize an electricity transformer at Mayne Avenue, Calabar South LGA.

Communal Violence

Land and leadership disputes were key drivers of communal violence and insecurity during the quarter. In February, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash linked to a chieftaincy dispute in Odot Uyi, Odukpani LGA. Several houses were reportedly set ablaze and property destroyed. In March, youths reportedly killed two soldiers who were responding to a distress call during a clash between Isabang and Alesi communities in Obubra LGA over a dispute related to mining activities.

Domestic Violence

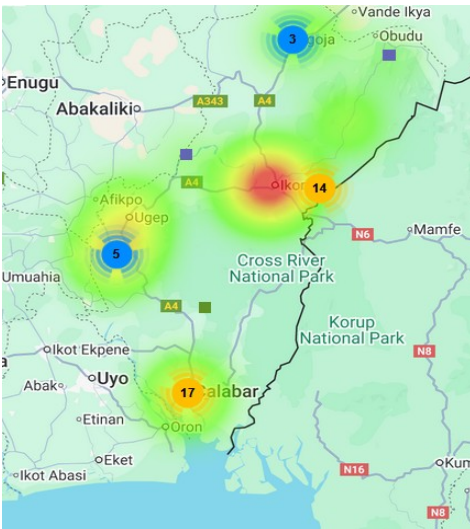
Several incidents of domestic violence were reported during the quarter. In January, a 24-year-old fuel vendor reportedly beat his 10-year-old daughter to death in Esit Ebom Street, Calabar South LGA, after accusing her of misplacing his fuel siphon pipe. In February, a 23-year-old man reportedly killed his father with a machete in Ugep, Yakurr LGA; the suspect was reportedly believed to have been under the influence of illicit drugs.

Violence Against Women & Girls

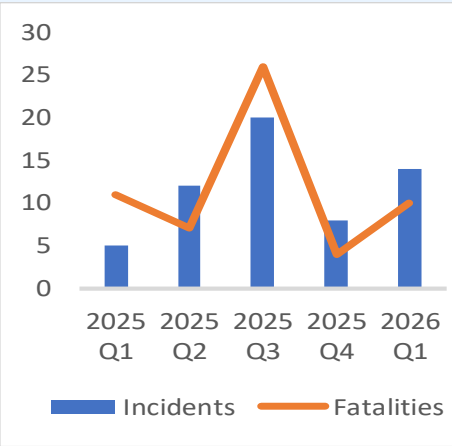
In addition to the broader effects of criminal violence on women and girls, specific incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In March, a 35-year-old man reportedly killed his girlfriend with a machete during an argument over a domestic issue in Nwang Village, Ekajuk community, Ogoja LGA.

Other Incidents

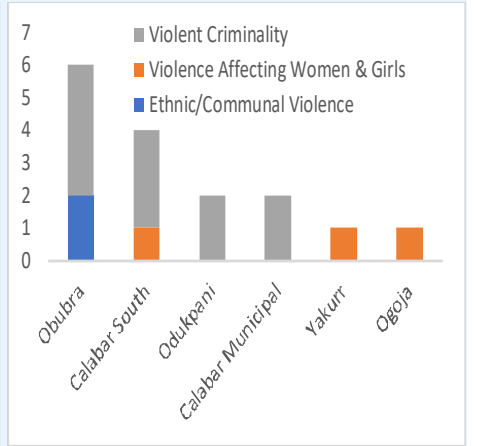
Several other incidents highlighted broader security and public safety concerns in the state during the quarter. In January, two middle-aged men reportedly died following a knife fight in Akpap-Okoyong, Odukpani LGA. In the same month, a mob reportedly attacked and injured five personnel of the Federal Fire Service in Calabar Municipal LGA over an alleged delay in responding to a fire outbreak. In March, a gas plant explosion in Edibe, Calabar South LGA, reportedly killed many people and injured several others.



Incidents and Fatalities, Cross River State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Cross River (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Delta State

Delta State experienced a marginal decline in conflict risks and lethal violence in Q1 2026. Reported incidents decreased by 30%, from 20 in Q4 2025 to 14 in Q1 2026, while conflict-related fatalities fell by 41%, from 31 to 18 deaths over the same period. Despite this decline, available data (see page 2) indicate that Delta remained among the three states with the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Organized criminal activities, cult-related gang violence, communal clashes, and gender-based violence were the primary drivers of insecurity. Ughelli North LGA recorded the highest number of violent fatalities, followed by Warri South LGA.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence, including armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, and homicide, remained a major security concern in Delta State during the quarter. In January, police reportedly killed a suspected kidnapper and recovered firearms and ammunition in Agbarho and Oviri-Ogor, Ughelli North LGA. During the same month, a 28-year-old suspected internet fraudster ("Yahoo Boy") reportedly killed his friend over a dispute involving \$1,000 in Ughelli. Also in January, a suspected

kidnapping kingpin was reportedly killed by police during a shootout in Sapele town, Sapele LGA. In a separate operation, security forces reportedly dismantled a 13-member criminal gang, arrested several suspects, and recovered weapons in Ibusa, Oshimili North LGA.

Gang/Cult Violence

Clashes between rival cult groups and associated criminal activities remained a major driver of insecurity in the state during the period. In January, three persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between members of the Eye and Vikings cult groups in Ugbugwangwe and Odion, Warri South LGA. During the same month, a resident was reportedly killed in a clash between rival cult groups in Ughelli, Ughelli North LGA.

Communal Violence

Communal tensions, including herder-farmer clashes and intra- and inter-ethnic disputes, remained a key driver of lethal violence and insecurity during the quarter. In January, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash linked to a youth leadership tussle in Ogidigben, Warri South-West LGA. In February, suspected herdsmen reportedly killed a palm wine tapper on

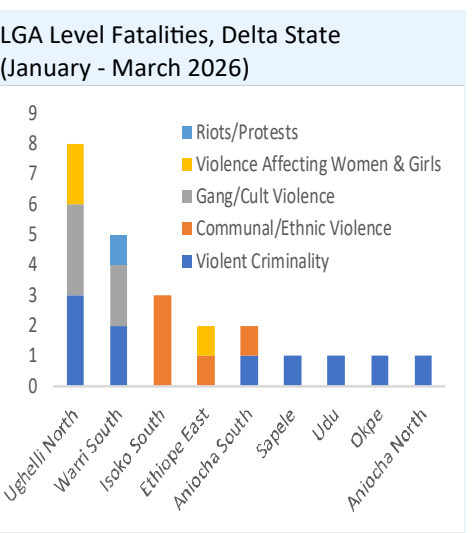
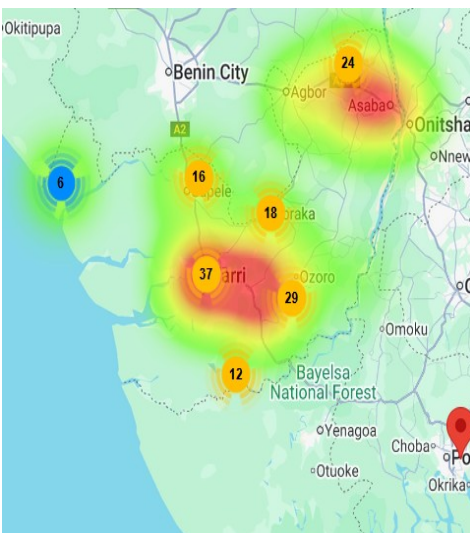
his farm in Ubulu-Uku, Aniocha South LGA, following a dispute over land use. In March, three residents were reportedly shot dead during a clash with armed herdsmen in Okpolo-Enhwe, Isoko South LGA.

Domestic Violence

Several incidents of domestic violence were reported during the quarter. In January, a young man allegedly set his elderly father on fire while reportedly under the influence of drugs in Oghior, Udu LGA. Also in January, a woman reportedly killed her husband and another woman and injured a third person during a domestic dispute in Ighwre-Ovie, Ughelli North LGA. In February, a middle-aged man reportedly stabbed his 23-year-old son to death during a disagreement in Osubi, Okpe LGA.

Violence Against Women & Girls

In addition to the broader impacts of criminal and communal violence on women and girls, incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In February, suspected herdsmen reportedly killed a woman with a machete while allegedly attempting to rape her in Okpara Waterside, Ethiope East LGA.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND's P4P Peace Map www.tgpcloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Edo State

In Edo State, conflict risks and lethal violence increased in Q1 2026. Reported incidents doubled, rising from 11 in Q4 2025 to 22 in Q1 2026, while conflict-related fatalities increased by 62.5%, from 8 to 13 deaths over the same period. Available data (see page 2) indicate that Edo remained among the states with the highest levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Criminal activities were the primary drivers of insecurity, with Etsako West LGA recording the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the state.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, particularly armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom, remained a major source of insecurity in Edo State during the quarter. In January, armed robbers reportedly killed a 38-year-old Point-of-Sale (POS) operator at Upper Uwa Junction in Benin City, Oredo LGA. During the same month, two brothers, both medical doctors, were reportedly kidnapped in Etsako West LGA; one later died in captivity, and his body was subsequently recovered by security

personnel. Also in January, a medical doctor who was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Auchi, Etsako West LGA, regained freedom after two weeks following the payment of a ₦50 million ransom. In a separate incident, a youth was allegedly killed by kidnapers in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA, triggering protests by students and other youths in the area. Also in January, gunmen reportedly abducted a man and his sister-in-law from their residence in Ekpoma, Esan West LGA, and demanded separate ransoms for their release.

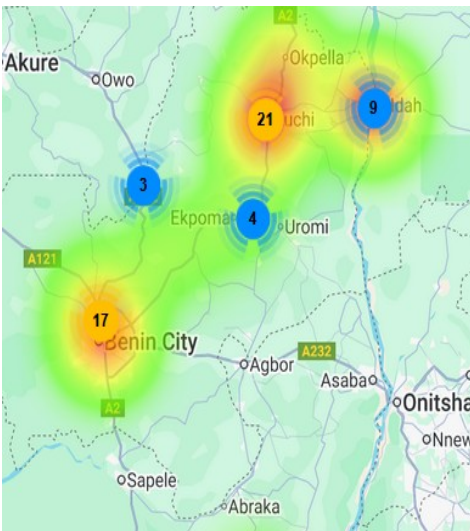
In February, a 42-year-old man who was reportedly kidnapped at Utese village near Udo in Ovia South-West LGA was later killed by his abductors. During the same month, armed kidnapers reportedly killed a community leader and abducted two of his daughters in Ido, Esan West LGA. In March, four suspects were reportedly arrested with two AK-47 rifles and magazines in Uselu and Ahor communities, Uhumwonde LGA. Also in March, a suspect was reportedly arrested for unlawful possession of firearms at Akara Junction in the Aduwawa axis of Ikpoba-Okha LGA.

Violence Against Women & Girls

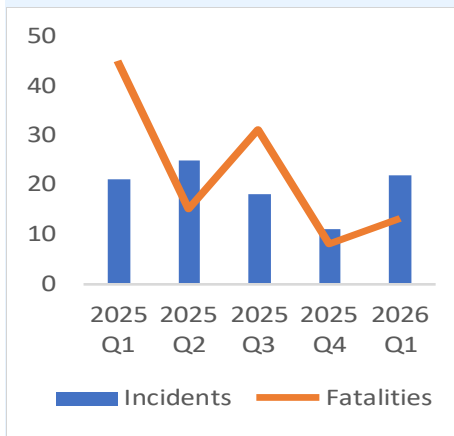
In addition to the broader impacts of criminal violence on women and girls, incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In January, a 42-year-old commercial bus driver allegedly killed his 32-year-old girlfriend following a disagreement inside his bus. Her body was later discovered by the roadside near a river in Ikpe, Ikpoba-Okha LGA.

Other Incidents

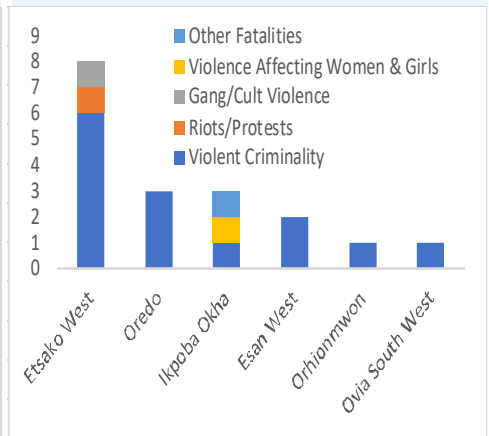
Several other incidents highlighted broader security and public safety concerns in Edo State during the quarter. In February, a man was reportedly killed during a dispute over park ticketing activities in Irhirhi, Oredo LGA. The victim was reportedly involved in illegal ticketing operations and was accused of failing to share proceeds appropriately. During the same month, the secretariat of a major opposition political party was allegedly vandalized by armed men in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, two children reportedly drowned at a floodwater collection site in Erediauwu Street, Ikpoba-Okha LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Edo State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Imo State

Imo State experienced a significant decline in conflict risks and lethal violence in Q1 2026. Reported incidents decreased by 69.2%, from 13 in Q4 2025 to four in Q1 2026, while conflict-related fatalities fell by 50%, from 12 to six deaths over the same period. Available data (see page 2) also show that Imo was among the states with the lowest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Criminal activities and violent separatist agitation, particularly confrontations between separatist militias and security forces, were the primary drivers of insecurity and lethal violence. Mbaitoli LGA recorded the highest number of fatalities during the reporting period.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence remained a major driver of conflict risks and insecurity in the state during the quarter, resulting in several fatalities and abductions. In January, the woman leader of a major political party and a man were reportedly attacked and killed by gunmen in Amosu Umulolo, Okigwe LGA. In March, a male Point-of-Sale (POS) operator was reportedly shot dead by gunmen in the World Bank area of Owerri West LGA. Also in

March, an armed group reportedly abducted three people along the Okigwe–Ihube Road in Okigwe LGA. Security forces responded to a distress call and rescued two hostages, while the abductors escaped with the third victim. In another incident in March, a young man was reportedly killed by his stepbrother during a dispute over a domestic issue in Umuezeala Nsu, Ehime Mbano LGA. Additionally, police reportedly arrested 75 suspected members of various armed groups in Owerri Municipal LGA and recovered three AK-47 rifles.

Separatist Agitation

Violent separatist agitation, particularly targeted attacks on civilians and clashes between separatist militias and security forces, remained a major source of insecurity in Imo State during the quarter. In February, gunmen reportedly linked to separatist militias killed a man and abducted two others along a road through a forested area in Okigwe LGA. During the same month, two separatist militants allegedly affiliated with the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the paramilitary wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), were reportedly killed during a clash with police in and around the Amaocha Afara, Umunoha, and

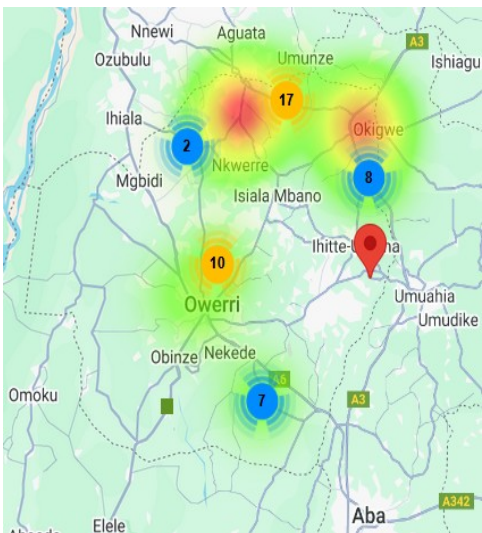
Ifakala communities in Mbaitoli and Njaba LGAs. Several other militia members reportedly escaped with gunshot injuries, while security forces recovered two pump-action guns, ammunition, and communication equipment.

Violence Against Women & Girls

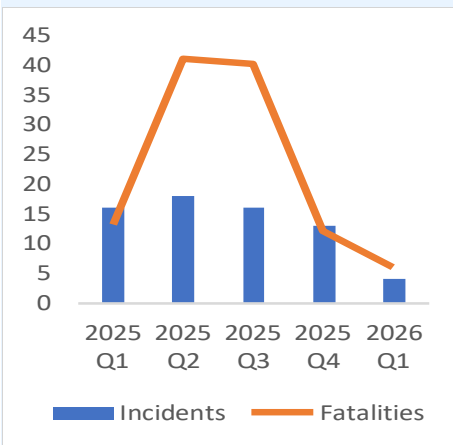
Beyond the broader impacts of criminal violence and separatist agitation, incidents of gender-based violence were also reported during the quarter. In February, a 29-year-old woman was reportedly fatally assaulted by her husband in Owerri, the state capital. The suspect was subsequently arrested by the police.

Other Incidents

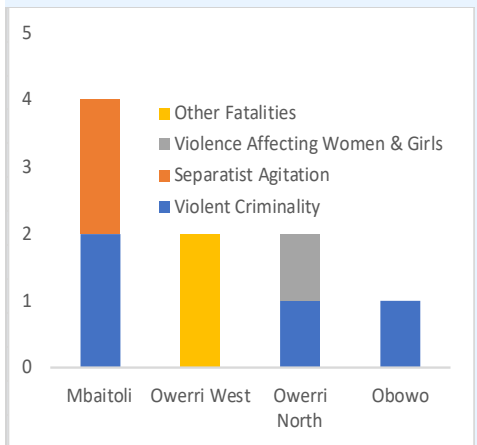
Other security-related incidents were recorded during the quarter. In February, law enforcement agents reportedly discovered a methamphetamine laboratory and recovered several illicit drugs in Isiozi Obiato, Njaba LGA. In March, two young men, reportedly students of a Federal Polytechnic, drowned while swimming with friends in a river in Otammiri, Owerri West LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Imo State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Imo State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Ondo State

Conflict risks, lethal violence, and insecurity increased moderately in Ondo State in Q1 2026, following a period of steady decline between Q2 and Q4 2025. Reported incidents rose by 72.2%, from 18 in Q4 2025 to 31 in Q1 2026, while conflict-related fatalities increased by 116.7%, from six to 13 deaths during the same period. Available data (see page 2) also indicate that Ondo remained among the states with relatively high levels of lethal violence in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Criminal activities, communal conflicts, and political tensions were the primary drivers of insecurity. Most of the reported fatalities occurred in Akure North LGA.

Violent Criminality

Organized criminal violence, particularly armed robbery and kidnapping for ransom, was a major driver of insecurity in the state during the quarter. In January, armed men reportedly abducted a woman in Ilu-Abo, Akure North LGA, four workers at a worksite in Eleyewo, Akure North LGA, and a political party chieftain along the Okonga–Olodo

Road in Igbokoda, Ilaje LGA. In February, gunmen allegedly killed a commercial motorcyclist and stole his motorcycle in Oba-Ile, Akure North LGA, while a community leader was reportedly abducted and killed in Agamo, Akure North LGA.

Communal Violence

Communal violence, particularly clashes between herders and farmers, remained a major source of lethal violence and insecurity during the quarter. In January, suspected armed herders reportedly attacked two farmers travelling on a motorcycle along Agunla Farm Road in Ayede-Ogbese, Akure North LGA, killing one of them.

Political Violence

Political violence also contributed to insecurity during the period. In February, an armed group reportedly killed two people and set vehicles ablaze during a political party ward congress in Idanre town, Idanre LGA. Separately, armed individuals allegedly attacked and injured party

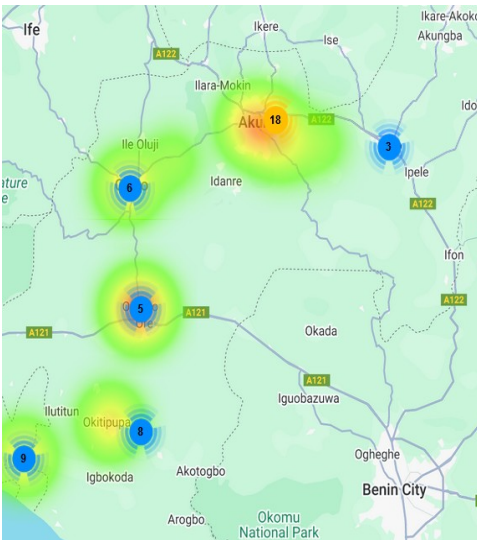
members during a stakeholders’ meeting in Akure town, Akure South LGA. .

Violence Against Women & Girls

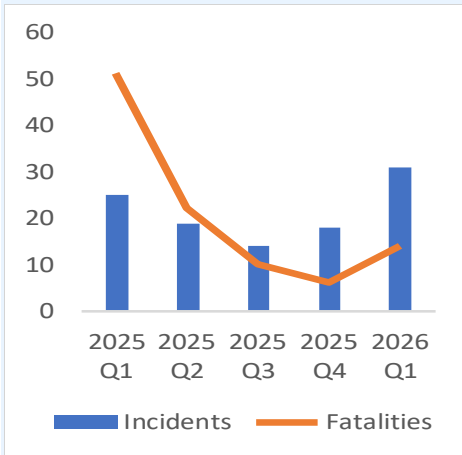
Several incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In January, a 28-year-old pregnant woman reportedly died following a botched delivery at an unregistered clinic in Orita, Odigbo LGA. During the same month, police arrested a 55-year-old man for allegedly engaging in unlawful sexual activity with a minor in Ilara-Mokin, Ifedore LGA. In February, a 27-year-old woman was reportedly killed by three young men at her residence in Fagun Estate, Ondo East LGA.

Other Incidents

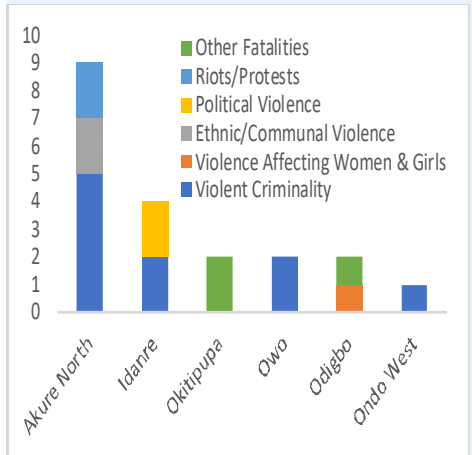
Other security-related incidents were recorded during the quarter. In January, tensions reportedly arose between the Molokun of Atijere Kingdom in Ilaje LGA and Eba in Ogun State over oil exploration activities on an island. In March, two children reportedly died in a residential fire in Ode -Aye, Okitipupa LGA.



Incidents and Fatalities, Ondo State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Ondo State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map www.tgpccloud.org/p4p/index.php?m=p4p

Patterns and Trends in Conflict Risk and Violence — Rivers State

Conflict risks and lethal violence increased markedly in Rivers State in Q1 2026 compared to Q4 2025. Reported conflict-related incidents rose by 62.5%, from eight to 13, while fatalities increased by 83.3%, from 12 to 22 deaths. Available data (see page 2) also shows that Rivers State recorded the highest number of conflict-related fatalities in the Niger Delta during the quarter. Criminal violence, communal tensions, and various cross-cutting conflict issues were the main drivers of insecurity. Most of the reported fatalities occurred in Eleme and Etche LGAs.

Violent Criminality

Criminal violence remained a major driver of insecurity in the State during the quarter, resulting in several fatalities. In January, armed youths suspected to be cultists and political thugs reportedly disrupted a live television broadcast at a hotel in Oroazi, Obio/Akpor LGA. The same month, two suspected kidnappers were reportedly killed during a gun battle with police along the Ozuzu–Apara Link Road in Etche LGA.

In February, gunmen suspected to be cultists reportedly killed two people, including a youth leader, at a drinking spot in Omoku, Ogba/

Egbema/Ndoni LGA. Also in February, the leader of a local vigilante group and two members were arrested for allegedly torturing a young man to death over accusations of stealing palm fruits in Okogbe, Ahoada West LGA. An operative of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was also reportedly killed during a raid on a drug enclave in Ama Hausa, Bonny LGA. In March, a female ushering manager was reportedly shot dead by gunmen along Odili Road in Port Harcourt LGA.

Communal Violence

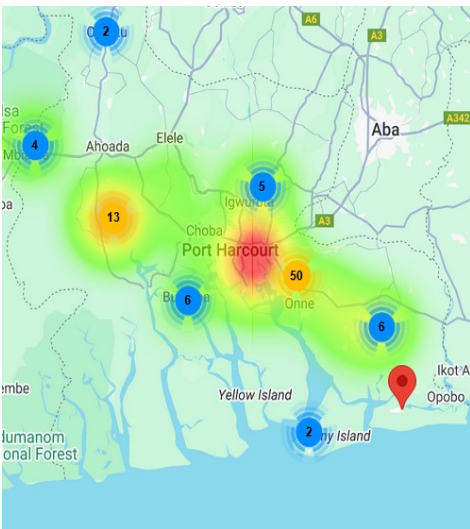
Communal violence also contributed to conflict risks and insecurity during the quarter. In February, a youth leader was reportedly killed during a clash between community youths and commercial motorcyclists, allegedly from northern Nigeria, in Igwuruta, Ikwerre LGA. The incident occurred while the victim was escorting a local vigilante team to hand over a robbery suspect to the police. Also in February, tensions heightened after a Hausa-speaking wheelbarrow pusher allegedly stabbed a trader from Benue State to death during a dispute over trading space at Oil Mill Market in Rumuokwurusu, Obio/Akpor LGA. The incident reportedly sparked tensions between Hausa and Benue communities in the area.

Violence Against Women & Girls

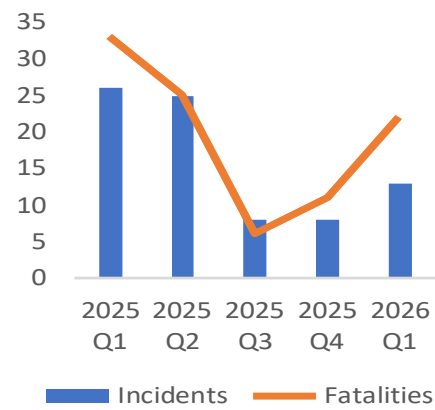
In addition to the broader impacts of criminal and communal violence on women and girls, incidents of gender-based violence were reported during the quarter. In February, a woman was reportedly killed by her husband following a disagreement at their farm in Amaji, Omuma LGA.

Other Incidents

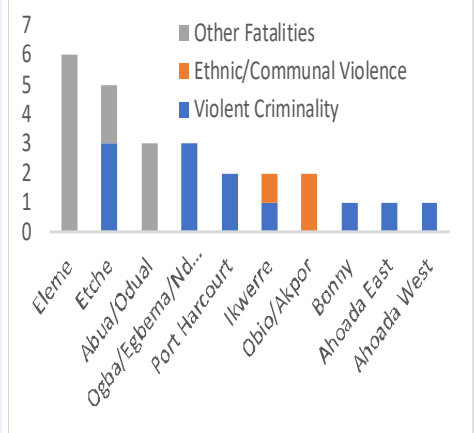
Other security-related incidents were also recorded during the period. In January, a police inspector allegedly shot two colleagues, killing one and injuring another at a supermarket in Trans-Amadi, Port Harcourt LGA. The same month, six members of a family reportedly died after inhaling generator fumes in Ogale, Eleme LGA. Also in January, residents from 17 Ogoni communities staged a protest in Bori, Khana LGA, against the planned resumption of oil exploration activities. In March, gunmen reportedly attacked a gathering of the Young Women Forum of a political party in Alesa, Eleme LGA, vandalizing property and forcing participants to flee. During the same month, another armed group reportedly set parts of a political party secretariat on fire in Ubima, Ikwerre LGA, and allegedly attacked the family residence of a former Minister of Transportation in the area.



Incidents and Fatalities, Rivers State Quarterly Trends (Q1 2025 - Q1 2026)



LGA Level Fatalities, Rivers State (January - March 2026)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on PIND’s P4P Peace Map 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



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.

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-level support to stakeholders through research, capacity building, and applied learning, all aimed at the 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/response, and production of data-driven conflict reports.

Contact Us

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

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

Report any verified conflict incident to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text report to **091 2233 4455**.

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