

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Bayelsa State: March-April 2019

Background

This monthly tracker is designed to update Peace Agents on patterns of conflict risk and violence, as identified by the Integrated Peace and Development Unit (IPDU) early warning system, and to seek feedback for response to mitigate areas of conflict.

Patterns and Trends January-March 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in conflict risk and lethal violence in Bayelsa state in March 2019. Incidents reported during this period included communal tension, political violence, cult violence, mob violence, criminality, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG).

Communal Tension: In January, 12 riverine communities from Ekeremor and Southern Ijaw LGAs reportedly threatened a showdown with the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) over alleged harassment of local fishermen by a security firm working for the oil company in the area.

Cult Violence: In January, a policeman was reportedly killed during a clash between members of Icelanders and Greenlanders confraternities in Gwegwe and Otiotio communities in Yenagoa LGA. The clash was allegedly triggered by the killing of the leader of one of the cult groups.

Political Violence: In February, a ward chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bayelsa state government house photographer were reportedly killed

by gunmen suspected to be political thugs in Oweikorogha, Southern Ijaw LGA.

Criminality: In January, a lawyer who was also a human rights activist was reportedly killed by robbers who made away with his 2 million naira in Opolo, Yenagoa LGA. In March, two male members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were reportedly killed by gunmen in Swali community, Yenagoa LGA. Separately, gunmen reportedly killed two policemen guarding a hotel and made away with their rifles in Yenagoa LGA. In another incident, two robbers were reportedly arrested by the police in Biogbolo community, Yenagoa LGA.

Mob Violence: In March, a mob reportedly killed and burned a suspected cultist in Akenpai community, Yenagoa LGA. The suspect was caught while trying to dismember the corpse of a young woman he had killed for ritualistic purposes.

Violence Affecting Women and Girls

(VAWG): In addition to the impact of criminality on women and girls listed above, killing of women for ritualistic purposes was also reported in the state during this period. In January, for instance, a female fish seller was reportedly killed by unknown assailants in Akenfa, Yenagoa LGA. The killers reportedly took away the underwear and some vital organs of the victim.

Recent Incidents or Issues, April 2019

Incidents reported during this period related mainly to criminality, mob violence and domestic violence.

Violent Criminality: During the month, the father of a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Sagbama LGA.

Figure 1: Incidents & Fatalities, Bayelsa State

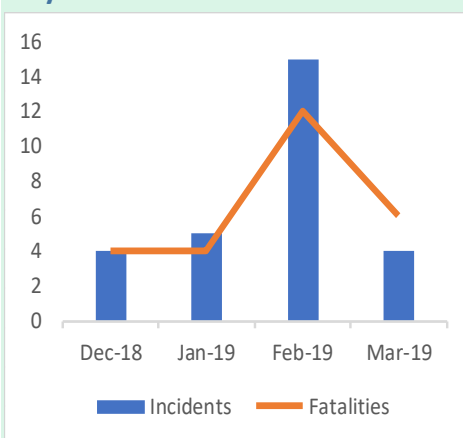
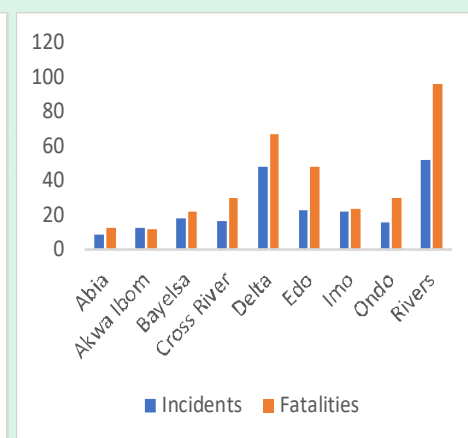


Figure 2: Incidents & Fatalities, Niger Delta (Dec 2018 - Mar 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from December 2018-March 2019 in Bayelsa State and regional trends. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Separately, a member of a robbery gang was reportedly killed by one of his colleagues during a disagreement over the sharing of loot in Yenagoa LGA.

Mob Violence: A mob reportedly killed two robbers who attempted stealing a child in Edepie community, Yenagoa LGA. Separately, two robbers were killed by a mob in Biogbolo community, Yenagoa LGA.

Domestic Violence: A man reportedly shot dead his girlfriend over issues relating to infidelity in Oluasiri community, Nembe LGA.

Prognosis

Reported incidents during the period related mainly to criminality, political violence, communal tensions, cult violence, mob violence, and Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Agents should monitor the security situation closely and respond appropriately.

Questions for Peace Agents

1. Is there anything missing from the tracker in terms of hotspots, trends, or incidents?
2. Which conflict issue suggested by, or missing from, this tracker is a priority for you (as P4P Chapter, Prevent Committee, or other stakeholder)?
3. What are some likely trigger events in the next 6 months that could escalate this conflict?
4. Who are the key stakeholders that have influence on the conflict?
5. What will you do to help mitigate the conflict in the short, medium, and long term?

Figure 3: Conflict Fatalities by LGA (January - March 2019)

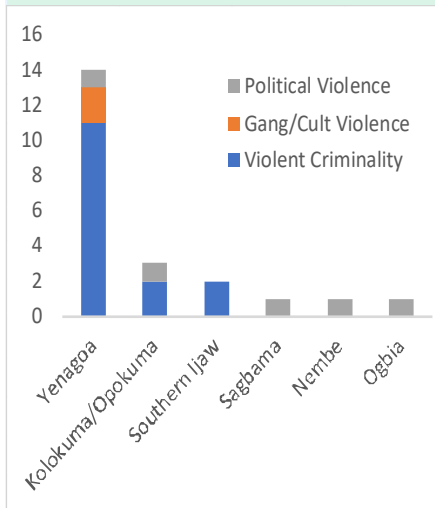
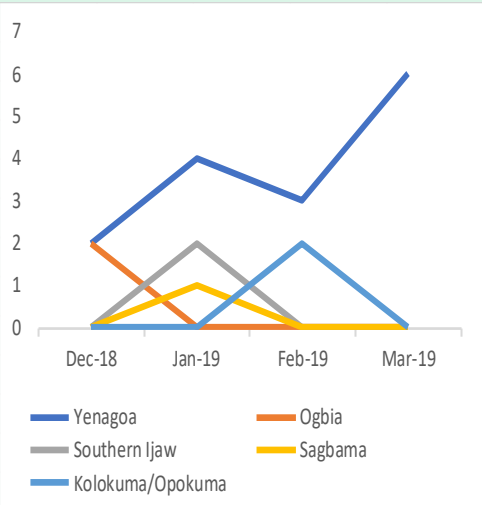
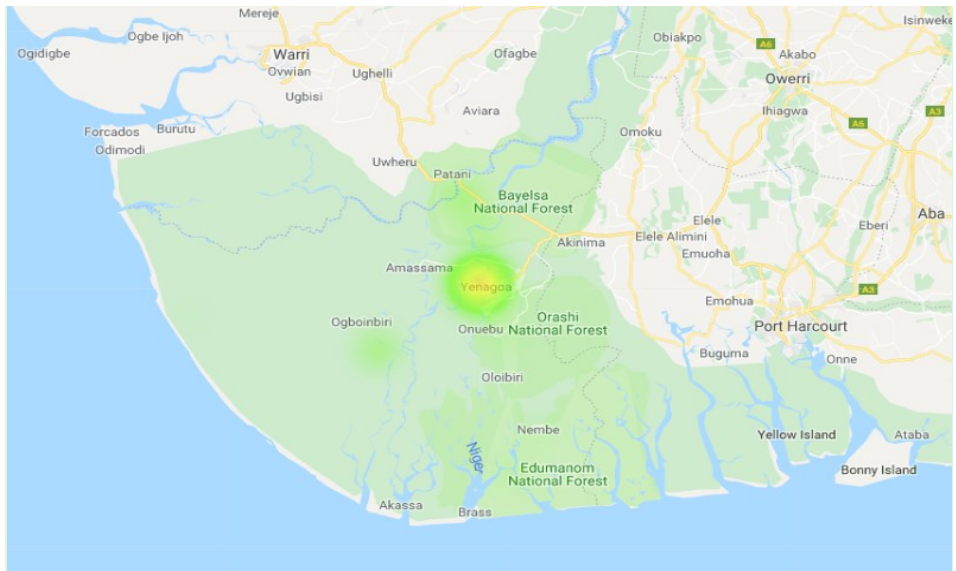


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported fatalities by Local Government Area (LGA) in Bayelsa State this period show that Yenagoa had the highest levels of lethal violence. Sources (Figure 3): ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map. Source (Figure 4): Nigeria Watch data formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Figure 5: Heat Map of Incidents and Peace Agents in Bayelsa State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from January - March 2019 in Bayelsa; with green stars representing the registered Peace Agents. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:

Text: 080 9936 2222

Incident Details: Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description

Contact Us



Inquiries: Afeno Super Odomovo, IPDU Research Coordinator

Telephone: 08172401595

Email: afeno@pindfoundation.org