

Conflict Incident Monthly Tracker

Edo State: April-May 2019

Background

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

Patterns and Trends February-April 2019

According to Peace Map data (see Figure 1), there was a decrease in lethal violence in Edo state in April 2019. Based on reported fatalities (see Figure 2), Edo was one of the most violent states in the Niger Delta during the period. Reported incidents included cult violence, protests, Violence Affecting Women and Girls, and criminality including kidnapping.

Criminality: In March, hoodlums reportedly attacked a Divisional Police Headquarters and killed four policemen in Afuze, Owan West LGA. Separately, a taxi driver was reportedly killed by gunmen in Akugbe, Ikpoba-Okha LGA.

Kidnaping: In March, a traditional ruler was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ukhiri community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. Separately, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) was reportedly abducted by gunmen and later found dead in a forest in Ubiaja, Esan South East LGA. In another incident, herdsmen reportedly abducted and killed three men including a retired Airforce officer in Ofosu, Ovia North-East LGA.

Cult Violence: In February, eight people were reportedly killed during a supremacy battle between two cult groups in Benin City, the state capital. In another incident, three people were reportedly killed during clashes between rival cult groups in a community in Benin City, Oredo LGA. In March, cultists reportedly killed a 23-year old student of a federal polytechnic in Auchi, Etsako West LGA. Separately, a 19-year old boy was reportedly killed during a battle for supremacy between two rival cult groups in Omozeghiam street, Oredo LGA. In another incident, a barber was reportedly shot dead by cultists in front of his shop in Idumwunowina, Ovia North-East LGA. In April, the state government reportedly closed down two secondary schools in Benin City, as a result of cult violence.

Protest: In April, there was a protest by students of the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Benin over a labor strike embarked by lecturers of the institution.

Recent Incidents or Issues, May 2019

Incidents reported during the month mainly related to cult violence, criminality, communal conflict, and protest.

Cult Violence: During the month, 11 people were reportedly killed following renewed cult violence in Benin City, the state capital. The killings took place during clashes between members of Eiye and Black Axe cult groups in different parts of the city.

Figure 1: Incidents and Fatalities, Edo State

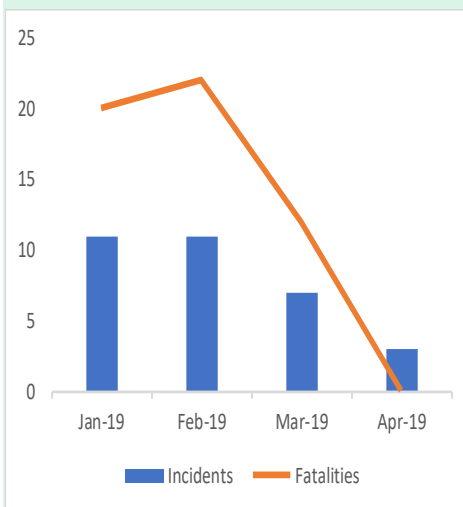
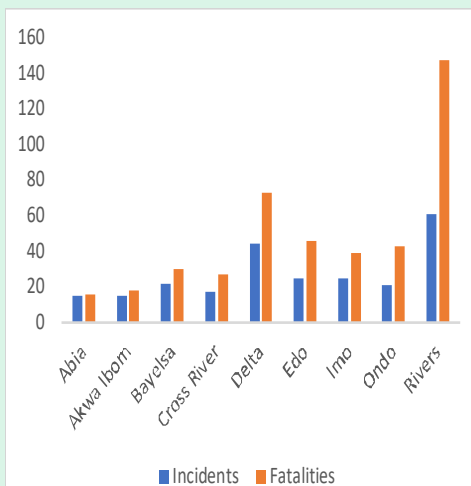


Figure 2: Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January - April 2019)



Reported incidents and fatalities from January – April 2019 in Edo State and regional trends. Sources: ACLED and Nigeria Watch data formatted on the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org.

Criminallity: Gunmen reportedly shot dead a man along Medical Road, Egor LGA. Separately, hoodlums reportedly robbed worshippers and kidnapped a pastor from a church in Ologbosere, Egor LGA.

Protest: There was a protest against an oil company over community development and other issues relating to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Kolokolo, Ikpoba Okha LGA. Separately, youths and women protested over a plan by the state government to develop a residential estate in their community in Gelegele, Ovia North-East LGA.

Prognosis

Conflict risk and violence in Edo state during this period were driven mainly by cult violence, protest, and criminality including kidnapping for ransom. Many of the reported incidents during the period also involved Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG). Peace Actors should monitor the 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 top 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 (February - April 2019)

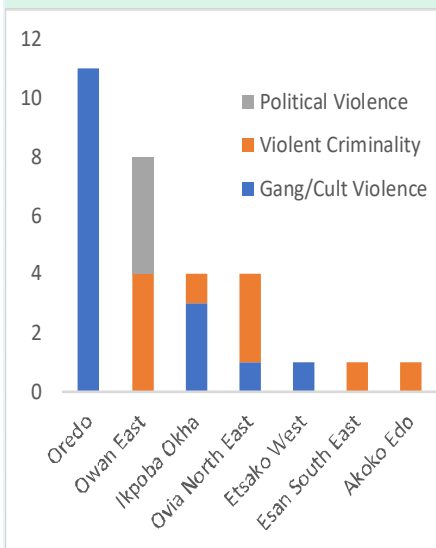
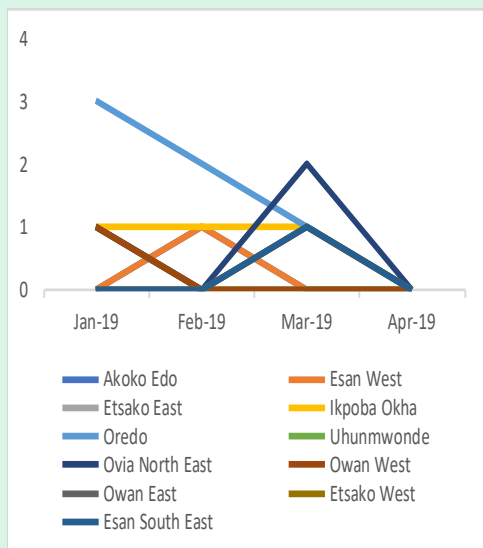
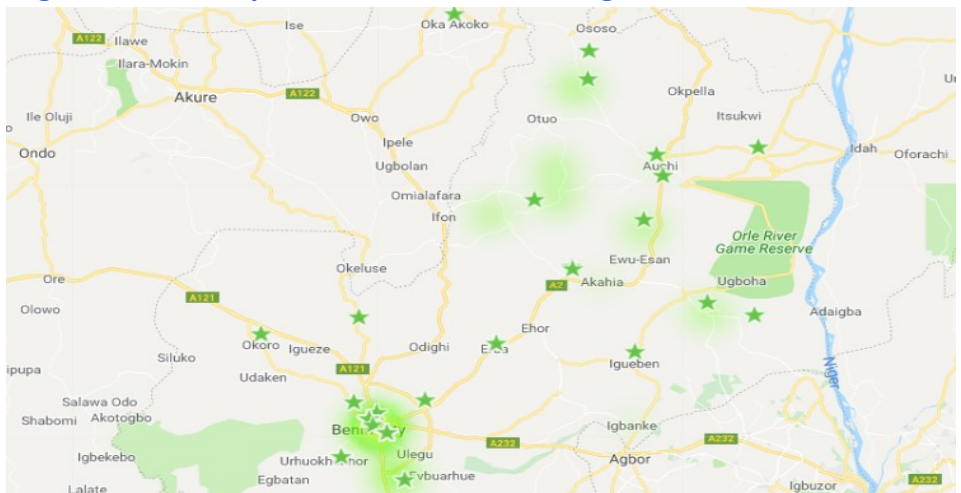


Figure 4: Conflict Fatalities by LGA



Reported incidents by Local Government Area (LGA) in Edo State during this period show that Oredo, followed by Owan East, had the most reported conflict fatalities in the state. 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 Edo State



Heat Map shows concentration of incidents reported from February - April 2019 in Edo State; 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



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