

Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2022

Executive Summary

The Niger Delta peace and conflict landscape was relatively stable in 2022 compared to 2021. Lethal violence decreased by 0.62% from 1,297 reported fatalities in 2021 to 1,289 fatalities in 2022, as peace actors continue to leverage local capacity for early warning and peacebuilding to catalyze proactive interventions to mitigate the numerous drivers of conflict and instability in the region.

Diverse conflict risk factors contributed to the dynamics of conflict and insecurity during the period. This report examines the trends and patterns of conflict risk and lethal violence, and identifies the drivers and pressures on peace and stability at the regional, state and local levels. Data sources include ACLED (www.acleddata.com), Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), CIEPD (<https://ciepdwc.crowdmap.com>), IPDU SMS early warning system, and others.

According to data (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), organized criminality and communal violence were the primary drivers of conflict and insecurity during the period. Criminality caused 679 reported fatalities during the year, even though there was a 35% and 11% decrease in reported incidents of

criminal violence and related fatalities in 2022 compared to 2021. In contrast, communal violence and related fatalities increased by 60.4% and 24.5% respectively in 2022 compared to 2021. Communal violence caused 200 fatalities in 2022 as against 151 reported fatalities in 2021.

The most prevalent conflict risk and security issues in 2022 include kidnapping, separatist agitation, clashes between government security forces and criminal gangs, mob violence, rival cult clashes, communal conflict over land/boundary disputes including clashes between herders and farmers, political violence, robbery, sexual violence, natural disasters/disease outbreak, domestic violence and killing for organ trafficking and ritualistic purposes.

Illegal oil bunkering/artisanal refining, natural disasters/disease outbreak, clashes between rival cult gangs, separatist agitation, communal conflict, and organized criminality were the most lethal forms of violence in 2022, as measured by the number of fatalities per incident. According to data (see second chart on page 4), on average, every incident of illegal oil bunkering/artisanal refining related violence resulted in at least 22

fatalities. This was followed by natural disasters/disease outbreak and clashes between cult gangs with an average of four fatalities per incident.

Overall, the most prevalent lethal conflict issues during the year involved organized crime including robbery and killings for ritualistic purposes with more than 360 incidents and over 560 fatalities. This was followed by communal violence and illegal oil bunkering/artisanal refining with over 190 reported fatalities during the period.

There was a decrease in reported incidents of separatist agitation, clashes between cult gangs, and violence against women and girls, while there was an increase in mob violence, political violence, and kidnapping for ransom in 2022 compared to 2021. However, separatist agitation caused more fatalities during the year even though there was a decrease in reported incidents compared to 2021.

There were no significant changes in the Niger Delta peace and conflict landscape in 2022 compared to 2021. According to data (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), the most violent States during the period, based on the number of reported conflict fatalities, were Imo, Delta and Edo respectively.

Regional Dynamics of Conflict Risk and Insecurity

The Niger Delta of Nigeria is highly diverse with over 40 ethnic groups who speak more than 100 languages and dialects. The region comprises 185 out of the 774 local government areas and covers nine 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 area contains vast reserves of oil and gas, which play an important role in the Nigerian economy. In spite of these abundant natural resources, the Niger Delta is marked by poverty, economic underdevelopment, inequality, environmental degradation, and violent conflict. Historical tensions and the proliferation of armed groups (militant, criminal, and ethno-sectarian) contribute to the changing conflict and security dynamics in the region.

There were no major changes in the Niger Delta peace and security landscape in 2022. However, reported incidents of conflict and insecurity increased by 19.8% while fatalities decreased by 0.62% in 2022 compared to 2021. Conflict issues during the year include organized criminality, communal tensions, political competition, gang violence and resource-based conflicts. Incidents include robbery, kidnapping, gang/cult supremacy clashes, communal violence, land disputes, sexual violence, mob violence, separatist agitation,

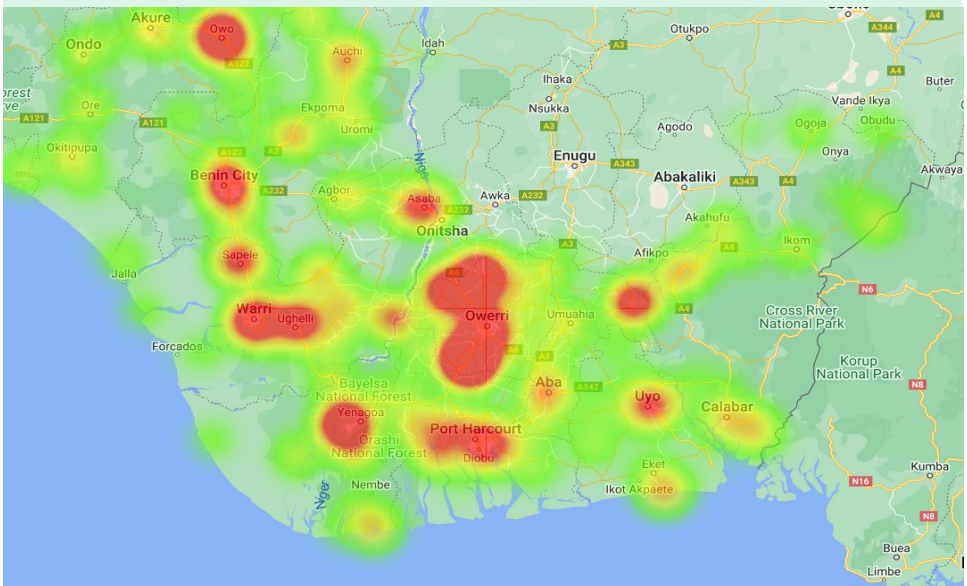
targeted attacks on government security facilities and personnel, attacks on election facilities, extrajudicial killings, politically motivated killings, human trafficking, violent protests, and killings for human organ trafficking and ritualistic purposes.

According to data (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), cult clashes, separatist agitation, communal conflict over land/boundary disputes, disasters/disease outbreak, organized crime and illicit economic activities including oil bunkering were the major causes of lethal violence in 2022. Data sources include ACLED (www.acleddata.com), Nigeria Watch (www.nigeriawatch.org), VAWG (focused

on Violence Against Women and Girls), the IPDU SMS early warning system, CIEPD, and others.

This annual report looks at the trends and patterns of conflict risk factors and incidents of violence, and the related pressures on peace and stability in the Niger Delta. The report is not designed as a conflict analysis, but rather it is intended to update stakeholders on the annual patterns and trends in conflict risk and lethal violence. An understanding of the deeper conflict drivers and related impact, allows stakeholders to proactively address emerging trends rather than only reactively respond to conflict incidents.

Fatalities Heat Map of Lethal Violence in the Niger Delta



Heat Map shows geographical concentration of conflict fatalities reported in the Niger Delta from January - December 2022. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2022

The Niger Delta peace and conflict landscape was relatively stable in 2022 compared to 2021. There were no significant changes in the level of conflict risk and lethal violence during the year. Lethal violence decreased by 0.62% from 1,297 reported fatalities in 2021 to 1,289 in 2022. According to data (www.p4p-nigerdelta.org), criminal violence and communal tensions were the primary causes of conflict fatalities during the period. Criminality and communal violence caused 679 and 200 reported fatalities respectively during the year.

The most violent month during the year was April, with 249 reported fatalities. In April, for instance, over 100 persons were reportedly killed in a fire outbreak caused by an explosion at an illegal artisanal oil refinery in Abaezi community in Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State. Separately, in April, more

than 10 persons were reportedly killed during a clash between Ilaje and Ibeno ethnic communities at Mkpnanak village in Ibeno LGA, Akwa Ibom State.

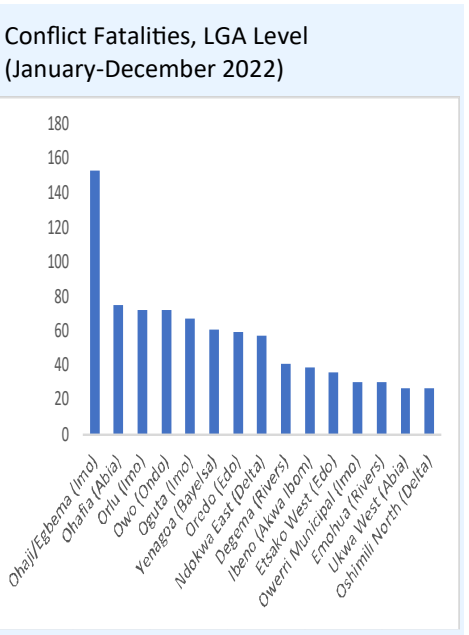
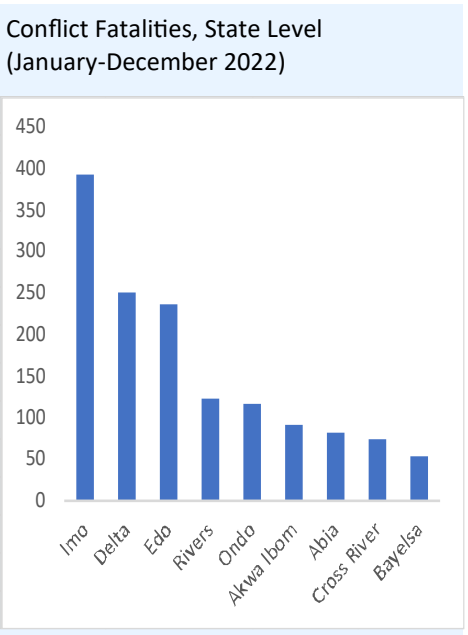
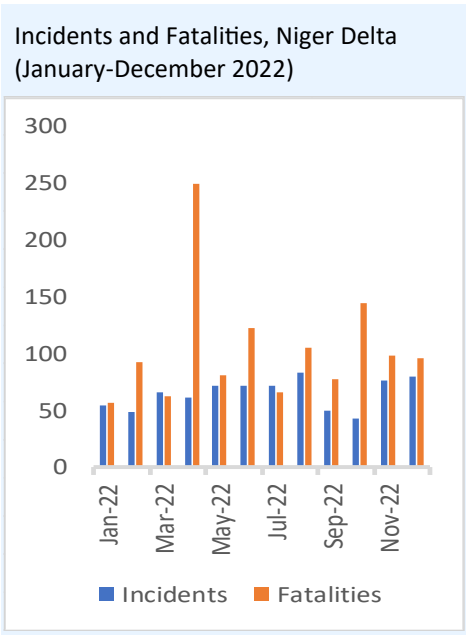
According to data, the States with the highest number of lethal violence during the year were Imo, Delta and Edo, while the LGAs with the highest number of lethal violence were Ohaji/Egbema (Imo) and Ohafia (Abia). Gun violence caused more than 430 fatalities in Imo and Delta. In addition, clashes between separatist militias and government security forces intensified and caused over 140 fatalities in Imo State.

Disasters and disease outbreak as well as illegal artisanal oil refining related fire outbreaks caused over 200 fatalities in the region during the period. At the regional level, there was 18.7% decrease in

cult and gang related violence from 182 in 2021 to 148 in 2022. However, cult and gang related violence was prevalent in Delta and Akwa Ibom. Clashes between rival cult gangs caused over 90 fatalities in Delta and Akwa Ibom during the year.

Human rights violations including sexual violence and extra-judicial killings as well as mob violence were prevalent during the year. Sexual abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls caused more than 30 fatalities during the period. In addition, many of the criminal and communal violence during the period adversely impacted the livelihoods and safety of women and girls.

The following pages provide a summary of the prevalent conflict risk as it relates to the main conflict issues and drivers reported in 2022.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Trends and Patterns in Conflict Risk and Violence — January to December 2022

The Niger Delta peace and security landscape in 2022 was dominated by organized criminality (incl. kidnapping, robbery and ritual killing), communal conflict (incl. land disputes and farmer/herder clashes), illegal oil bunkering related violence, cult and gang violence, separatist agitation (incl. clashes between government security forces and separatist militias), natural disasters/disease outbreak (incl. flooding, Lassa fever and cholera), and human rights violations (incl. sexual violence, extra-judicial killing and mob violence).

The most lethal conflict issues in 2022, based on the average number of fatalities per incident were illegal oil bunkering, disasters/disease outbreak,

gang/cult supremacy clashes, separatist agitation, communal conflict and organized criminality.

Illegal oil bunkering, artisanal crude oil refining and associated violence including fire outbreaks caused over 200 fatalities in 2022, particularly in Imo, Abia and Rivers. Natural disasters and outbreak of infectious diseases including Lassa fever and cholera were major drivers of conflict risk and insecurity in the Niger Delta and they caused more than 100 fatalities during the period.

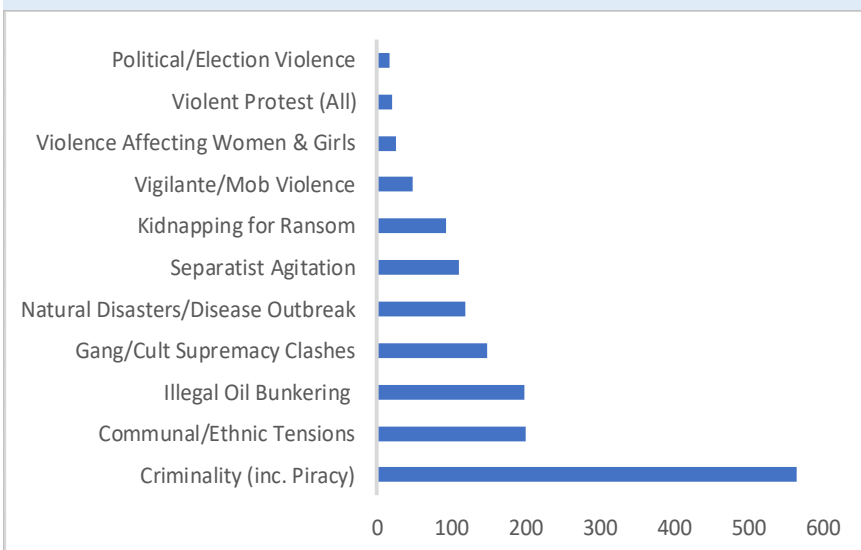
Gang violence caused over 200 fatalities during the period. It was prevalent in Akwa Ibom, Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa, and was driven mainly by

battles for supremacy among rival cult gangs. Organized criminality was also prevalent and caused over 500 fatalities during the period.

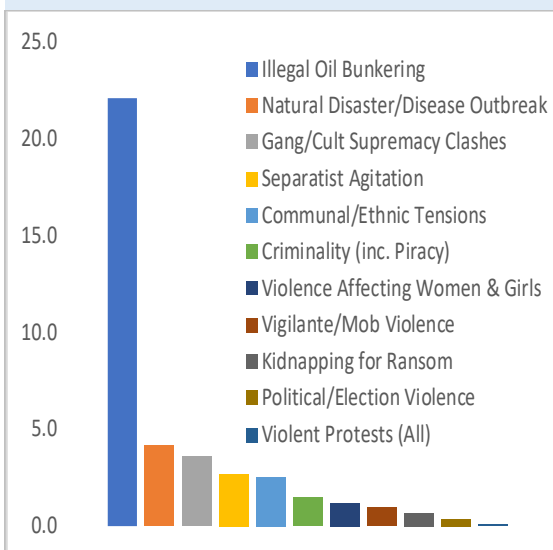
Separatist agitation caused over 160 fatalities during the period. There was an increase in violent separatist agitation including targeted killing of residents and clashes between separatist militias and government security forces in Imo and Abia.

Communal conflict caused over 300 fatalities during the year. It was prevalent in Ondo, Delta, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Edo, and was largely driven by tensions over land and boundary disputes, as well as the herder/farmer conflict.

Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2022)



Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2022)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Organized Criminality

Organized criminality was the most prevalent security issue in the Niger Delta in 2022. It was driven mainly by kidnapping for ransom, robbery, targeted criminal violence against government security forces, arms proliferation, illicit drug trafficking and abuse, and killing for organ harvesting and ritualistic purposes. Organized crime caused over 500 fatalities during the year. It was prevalent in Delta, Imo, Edo and Rivers.

Delta

Organized criminal violence was widespread in Delta State during the period, particularly in Ughelli North, Sapele, Ndokwa West, Oshimili North and Uvwie LGAs. It was mainly driven by kidnapping for ransom and clashes between government security forces and hoodlums. In February, for instance, the leader of a local vigilante group was reportedly ambushed and

killed by gunmen in Sapele community, Sapele LGA. In March, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus and abducted 18 passengers in Evwreni community, Ughelli North LGA. In July, gunmen reportedly attacked a police station, killed three officers, and stole weapons in Okpanam community, Oshimili North LGA.

Imo

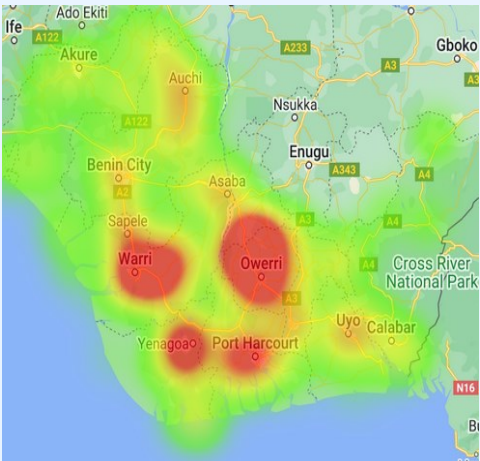
Criminality in Imo State during the period related mainly to targeted killings by unknown gunmen and attacks on government facilities by separatist militias, particularly in Orlu and Oguta LGAs. In April, for example, gunmen allegedly killed a staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) during a voter registration exercise in Nkwo Ihitte community, Ihitte Uboma LGA. In August, hoodlums reportedly attacked a divisional police

headquarters with petrol bombs and killed four police officers in Agwa community, Oguta LGA.

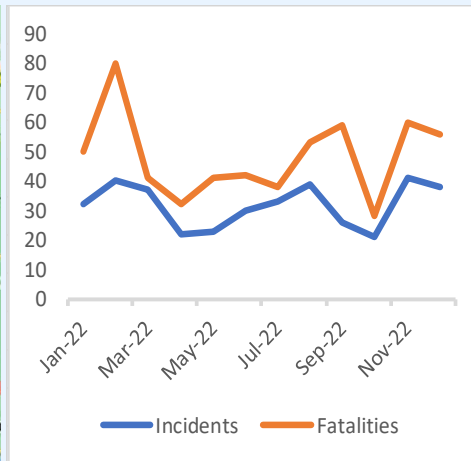
Edo

Criminal violence in Edo during the year related mainly to bank robbery, kidnapping and clashes between security operatives and hoodlums. In January, gunmen reportedly killed a police orderly and kidnapped an expatriate working with a construction company in Idegun community, Etsako West LGA. In February, robbers reportedly attacked five banks, killed six persons and stole a large sum of money in Uromi town, Esan North-East LGA. In June, a 41-year-old Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnapers in Ikabigbo community, Etsako West LGA. In September, a police officer was reportedly killed by gunmen in Igarra community, Akoko-Edo LGA.

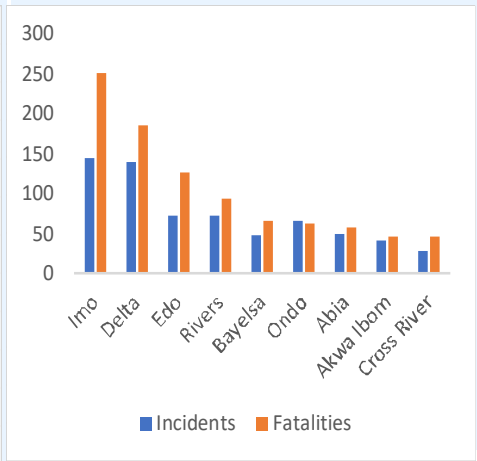
Fatalities Heat Map, Criminality



Incidents and Fatalities, Criminality - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Criminality



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Communal Violence

Communal violence was a dominant conflict risk and security issue in the Niger Delta in 2022. Communal violence caused over 180 fatalities during the year. It was prevalent in Ondo, Edo, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Delta States. Communal violence was driven mainly by inter and intra-communal conflict over land and boundary disputes, ethnic/religious tensions, and the herder/farmer conflict.

Ondo

Communal violence caused over 60 fatalities in Ondo State during the period, driven mainly by ethnic/religious tensions and clashes between herders and farmers. In January, for instance, three residents were reportedly killed and many villages and farmlands destroyed during a series of clashes between farmers and herders in Molege community, Ose LGA. In April, a male farmer was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen in Ago Panu community, Owo LGA. In June, gunmen suspected to be terrorists reportedly attacked a Catholic church and killed 38 worshippers including five children in Owo town, the headquarters of Owo LGA.

Edo

Communal conflict over leadership tussle and clashes between herders and farmers caused several fatalities in the State during the period. In March, for instance, seven persons including a soldier were reportedly killed during a clash between two rival youth groups over a leadership tussle in Obayantor community, Ikpoba Okha LGA. In April, herdsmen reportedly attacked some residents, destroyed crops and killed five persons in Odiguetue community, Ovia North East LGA.

Cross River

Communal conflict over land and boundary disputes caused more than 40 fatalities in the state during the year, especially in Obubra, Yakurr and Ikom LGAs. In March, for example, eight persons were reportedly killed, many others injured and several properties destroyed during a series of clashes over a land dispute between Alesi community in Ikom LGA and Ochon community in Obubra LGA. In June, more than seven residents were reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a lingering land dispute between Nko community in Yakurr LGA and Onyadama community in Obubra LGA.

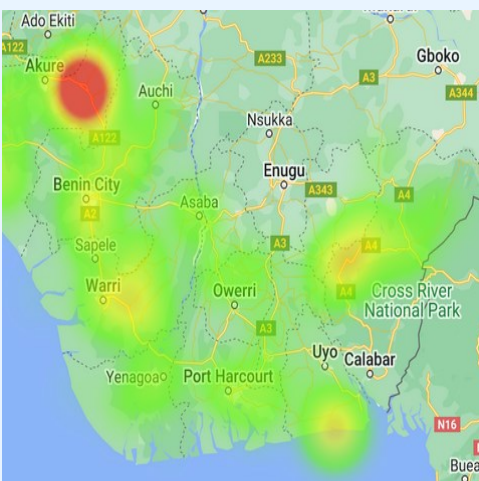
Akwa Ibom

Communal violence caused over 35 fatalities in the State in 2022, particularly in Ibena LGA. In April, for example, over 10 persons were reportedly killed and several houses destroyed during a clash between Ilaje and Ibena ethnic communities in Mkpanak village, Ibena LGA. In June, farmers reportedly protested over the destruction of their crops by herdsmen in Mbiafun Nkwongo and Nung Ukim Ikot Etefia villages, Ikono LGA.

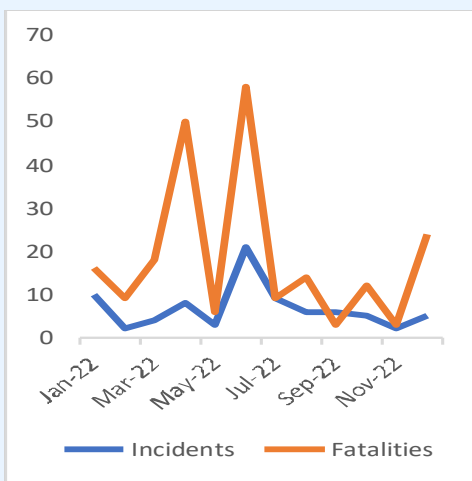
Delta

Communal conflict over land and boundary dispute, leadership tussle, and clashes between herders and farmers caused over 30 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, two persons were reportedly killed during a clash over a land dispute between Igbide and Okpolo-Enwhe communities in Isoko South LGA. In June, three residents were reportedly killed by herders in Obiaruku community, Ukwuani LGA. In September, a middle-aged man was reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a boundary dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South-West LGAs respectively.

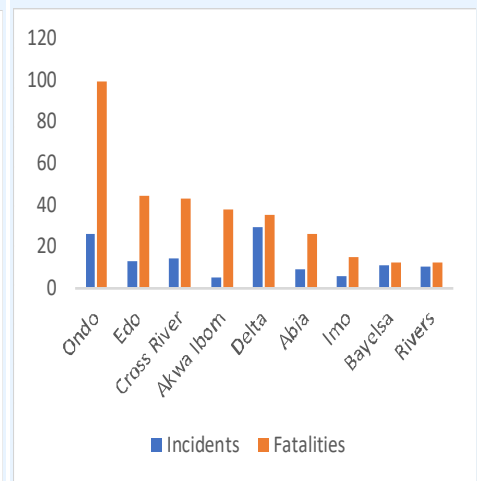
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Communal Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Communal Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Illegal Oil Bunkering Related Violence

Illegal oil bunkering related violence was a major conflict risk and security issue in the Niger Delta in 2022. It was a major cause of water and air pollution and soil contamination. Apart from the environmental and health impacts, illegal artisanal oil refining intensified organized criminal violence and the deployment of repressive countermeasures by security forces in the region. The use of joint security task forces to crackdown on illegal oil bunkering activities unintentionally exacerbated the environmental and security impacts of illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining in the region during the year. Destruction of artisanal refining facilities and illegally refined petroleum products by security forces sometimes cause fire outbreaks and environmental pollution.

According to data, illegal oil bunkering related violence caused more than 150 fatalities in the Niger Delta during the period. Many persons were reportedly killed and several properties destroyed by fire at illegal artisanal oil refineries in Imo, Rivers and Abia States during the year.

Imo

Illegal artisanal oil refining related violence and disasters caused over a hundred fatalities in the State during the year. In April, for instance, over 100 persons were reportedly killed and several vehicles burned in a fire outbreak caused by an explosion at an illegal artisanal oil refinery in Abaezi community, Ohaji/Egbema LGA. In May, two men were reportedly killed in an explosion at an oil flow station in Izombe community, Oguta LGA. The two men were allegedly attempting to bomb the facility when the improvised explosive device mistakenly detonated and killed them.

Rivers

Illegal oil bunkering related explosions and fire outbreaks caused more than 15 fatalities in the State during the period. In April, for example, more than 10 persons including a pregnant woman and two children were reportedly killed in a fire outbreak allegedly caused by illegal artisanal refined petroleum products at the Bonny-Bille-Nembe jetty in Port Harcourt LGA. The incident

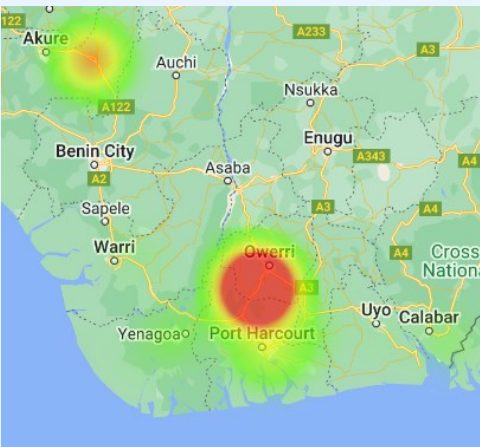
was reportedly caused by fire from a gas cylinder that exploded while some residents were off-loading illegally refined petroleum products also known as ‘Kpofire’ from a wooden boat.

In June, over seven residents were reportedly killed in a fire outbreak in Oru-Amaboko community in Degema LGA. The fire reportedly started from a boat allegedly conveying illegal artisanal refined petroleum products. The boat was allegedly set ablaze by government security forces. In August, a tanker that was allegedly used to transport illegal artisanal refined petroleum products reportedly exploded and killed six residents in Eteo community, Eleme LGA.

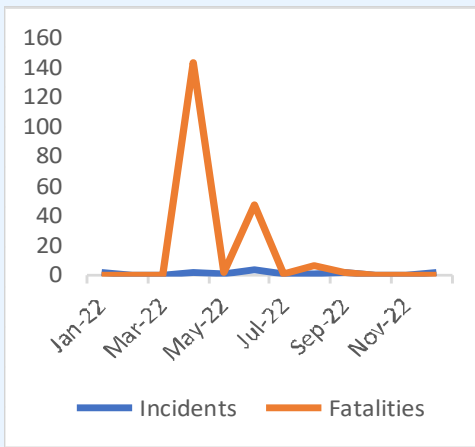
Abia

Illegal artisanal oil refining related fire outbreaks caused several fatalities and destroyed many properties in the State during the year. In August, for instance, six persons were reportedly killed in a fire outbreak at an illegal artisanal oil refinery in Owaza community, Ukwa West LGA.

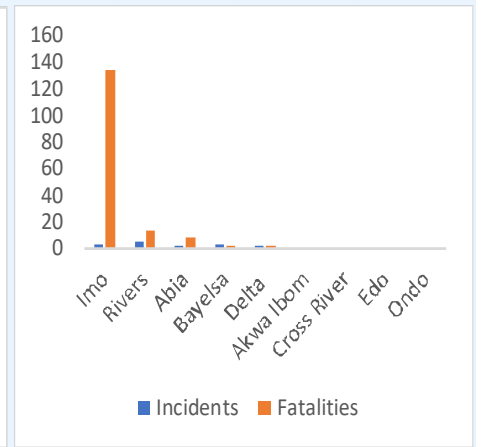
Fatalities Heat Map, Oil Bunkering Related Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Oil Bunkering Related Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Oil Bunkering Related Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Gang Violence

Gang violence was one of the most lethal conflict issues in the Niger Delta in 2022, even though there was a 40% decrease in reported incidents at the regional level during the year compared to 2021. Clashes between rival cult gangs were prevalent in Akwa Ibom, Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa, driven primarily by reprisal killings and supremacy battles among rival cult gangs, as well as general criminality. Gang and cult related violence caused over 140 fatalities in more than 40 reported incidents during the period.

Akwa Ibom

Gang violence was a major conflict risk and security issue in Akwa Ibom during the year. Clashes between rival cult gangs caused over 50 fatalities in the State during the period, and was driven mainly by battles for supremacy, communal tensions and criminality. Gang violence was prevalent in Oruk Anam, Uyo, Ibeno and Ukanafun LGAs. In April, for instance, a clash between rival cult gangs reportedly sparked off violent clashes between Yoruba residents and indigenes of Ibeno

community in Ibeno LGA. Five persons were reportedly killed and several properties destroyed during the ethnic conflict. In May, a youth leader was reportedly killed by members of a cult gang in Ikot Andem community, Ukanafun LGA. In December, five persons were reportedly killed and many others injured during a clash between two rival cult gangs at a sport betting shop along Ikot Ekpene Road in Uyo, the state capital.

Delta

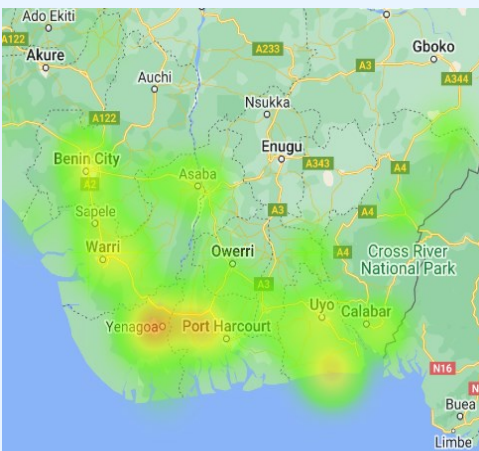
Gang violence was a dominant security issue in Delta State in 2022. It caused more than 35 fatalities in the State during the year. It was driven mainly by battle for supremacy among rival cult gangs, communal tensions and criminality. Gang violence was prevalent in Aniocha South, Ethiope West, Ughelli North and Warri North LGAs. In February, for example, five young men were reportedly killed in a series of clashes over a battle for supremacy between Black Axe and Eiyee cult gangs in Agbarho community, Ughelli North LGA. In April, four persons were reportedly killed during

a series of clashes between rival cult gangs in Ogwashi-Uku community, Aniocha South LGA. In June, a man was reportedly killed during a fight between members of two rival cult gangs in Sapele town, Sapele LGA.

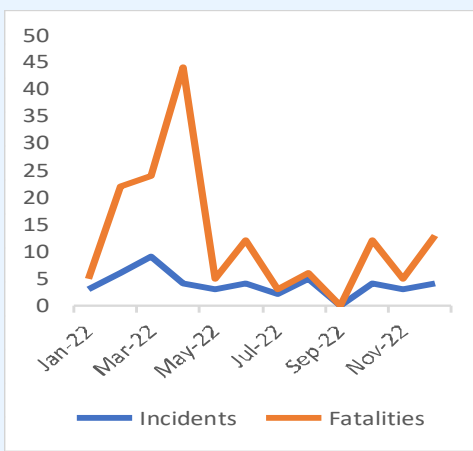
Rivers

Gang and cult violence caused over 30 fatalities in the State during the year, driven mainly by battle for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs. Cult clashes were prevalent in Emohua, Ahoada East and Ahoada West LGAs. In March, for example, three persons were reportedly killed during clashes between two rival cult gangs in Oshie and Idu-Ekpeye communities, Ahoada West LGA. In April, the leader of a local vigilante group was reportedly killed by a member of a cult gang in Obelle community, Emohua LGA. In November, five persons were reportedly killed during a series of clashes over a battle for supremacy and territorial control between Greenlander and Icelander cult gangs at a housing estate in Ahoada town, Ahoada East LGA.

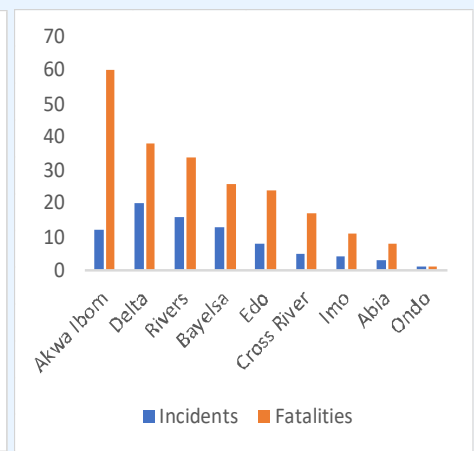
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Gang Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Gang Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Separatist Agitation

Separatist agitation was among the most lethal and devastating security issues in the Niger Delta in 2022. Separatist agitation related fatalities increased by 3% while reported incidents decreased by 34% in 2022 compared to 2021. Violent separatist agitation including targeted killings and attacks on public and private properties as well as clashes between government security forces and separatist militias caused more than 150 fatalities in the region during the year, particularly in Imo, Abia and Delta States.

Imo

Violent separatist agitation including targeted abduction and killing of residents was prevalent in Imo State during the year, particularly in Orlu, Oguta, Owerri Municipal and Owerri North LGAs. Targeted attacks by separatist militias as well as clashes between militias and government security forces caused over 140 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, for instance, gunmen suspected to be members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN) - the security unit of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) - reportedly attacked a divisional police station, killed a police

inspector and injured another officer in Mgbidi community, Oru West LGA. Separately, in January, 25 young men were allegedly killed and over 60 houses destroyed during a series of clashes between government security forces and separatist militias in Atta, Obor, Umutanze and Okporo communities in Orlu LGA.

In February, separatist militias allegedly attacked a police station with firearms and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), killed two police officers and wounded another in Umundugba community, Isu LGA. In March, two prison officers were allegedly ambushed and killed by separatist militias in Umulolo community, Okigwe LGA. In May, separatist militias reportedly killed and decapitated a military couple at an unknown location in Orlu LGA. In November, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly killed a traditional ruler during a meeting at his palace in Obudi Agwa community, Oguta LGA. In December, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias reportedly vandalized and set ablaze the office of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Orlu LGA.

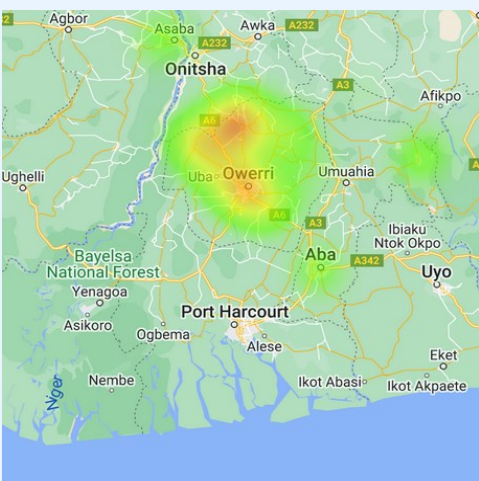
Abia

Separatist agitation caused over 20 fatalities in Abia State during the year, particularly in Ohafia, Ukwa West and Aba South LGAs. In February, for example, five residents including a former woman leader of a political party and her daughter were reportedly killed by separatist militias in Amangwu community, Ohafia LGA. Separately, in February, suspected separatist militias allegedly attacked a cattle market and killed eight persons and about 50 cows in Omuma Uzor community, Ukwa West LGA. In May, four persons were reportedly killed during a clash between soldiers and separatist militias at Uratta in Aba North LGA.

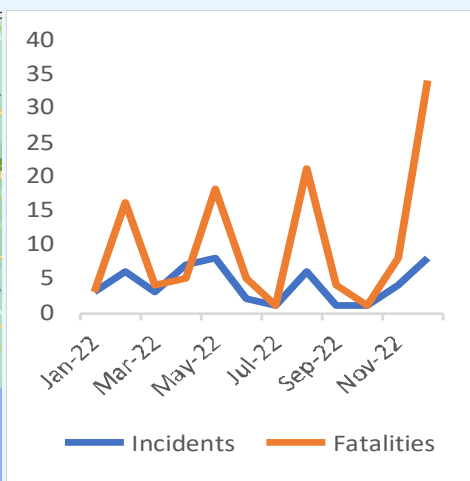
Delta

Separatist agitation caused a number of fatalities in Delta State during the year. In May, for instance, separatist militias reportedly killed a truck driver and set his vehicle ablaze in Ugbolu community, Oshimili North LGA. Separately, in May, gunmen suspected to be separatist militias allegedly attacked a police station, killed three police officers, stole weapons and set the station ablaze in Nsukwa community, Aniocha South LGA.

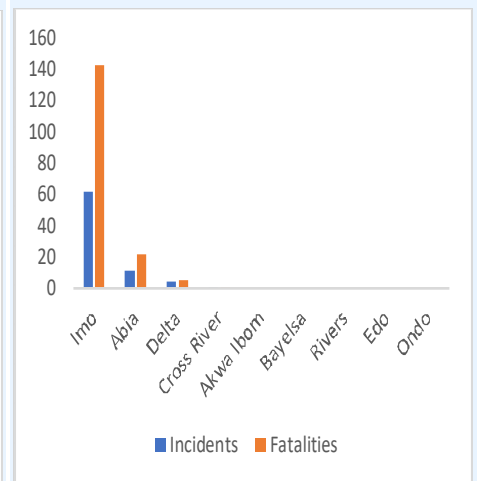
Fatalities Heat Map, Separatist Agitation



Incidents and Fatalities, Separatist Agitation - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Separatist Agitation



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Kidnapping for Ransom

Kidnapping for ransom was a predominant security issue in the Niger Delta in 2022. There was a 16% increase in reported kidnapping incidents in the region in 2022 compared to 2021. Kidnapping related violence including armed clashes between kidnappers and government security forces caused more than 90 fatalities in the Niger Delta during the period. Kidnapping for ransom was widespread in the region but it was more intense and lethal in Abia, Edo, Ondo and Delta States.

Abia

Kidnapping for ransom was more intense and lethal in Abia State during the year, based on reported incidents and associated fatalities. More than 50 kidnapping related fatalities were reported in the State during the period. In March, kidnappers reportedly killed two members of a local vigilante group and abducted a 4-year-old schoolgirl in Umukohia community, Obi Ngwa LGA. In May, kidnappers reportedly killed a bus driver and abducted seven passengers including students along Uturu-Okigwe Road in Isuikwuato LGA. In June, a 36-year-old tipper driver was allegedly kidnapped and killed by herdsmen in Umuorie

community, Ukwa West LGA. The incident reportedly sparked off a protest by residents. Two persons were allegedly killed during the protest.

Edo

Kidnapping was a major security issue in the State during the year. More than 30 kidnapping incidents and over 40 associated fatalities were reported in the State during the period. In January, for instance, kidnappers reportedly killed a police orderly and abducted an expatriate working with a construction company in Idegun community, Etsako West LGA. In June, a 41-year-old Catholic priest was reportedly abducted and killed by kidnappers in Ikabigbo town, Etsako West LGA. Two hunters who attempted to rescue the priest were also killed by the kidnappers. In July, six travelers were reportedly kidnaped by gunmen along Ibillo/Ikiran-Oke Road in Akoko-Edo LGA.

Ondo

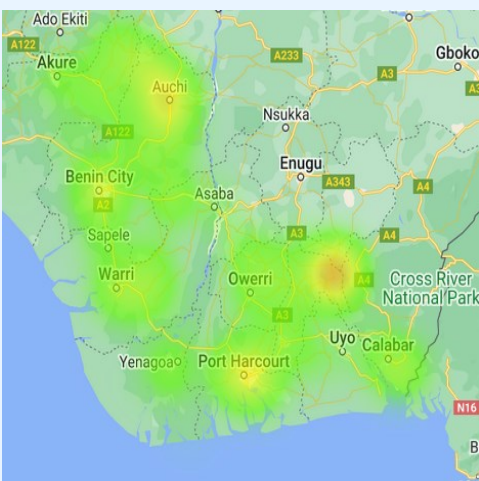
Over 25 kidnapping incidents and more than 15 related fatalities were reported in Ondo State during the period, especially in Akoko North-East, Akoko South-East, and Ose LGAs. In May, for

example, a cleric and his son were reportedly kidnapped by gunmen along Ifon/Okeluse Road in Ose LGA. In August, kidnappers reportedly abducted four persons including two community leaders and a chieftain of a political party along Owo-Ikare Expressway in Ago-Panu community, Owo LGA. In September, 32 passengers who were returning from a funeral were reportedly abducted by kidnappers along the Owo-Benin Highway in Ifon community, Ose LGA. The kidnappers allegedly demanded a 90 million naira ransom.

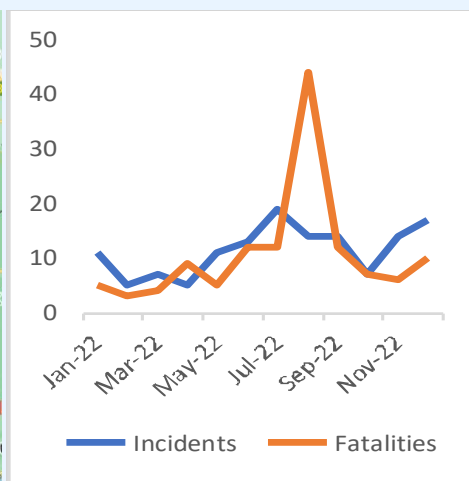
Delta

Kidnapping for ransom was widespread in Delta State during the period. In March, for instance, gunmen reportedly hijacked a commercial bus, killed the driver and abducted 18 passengers in Ewreni community, Ughelli North LGA. In May, 10 kidnappers who allegedly double as robbers were reportedly killed during a gun duel with the police in Kwale community, Ndokwa West LGA. In September, the Vice Chairman of a local government council was reportedly abducted by gunmen in Ogor community, Ughelli North LGA.

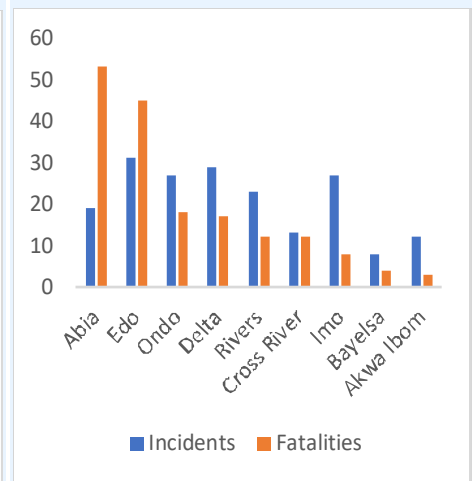
Fatalities Heat Map, Kidnap for Ransom



Incidents and Fatalities, Kidnap for Ransom - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Kidnap for Ransom



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org ; www.acleddata.com

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Vigilante and Mob Violence

Vigilante and mob violence were major conflict risks and security issues in the Niger Delta in 2022. They were driven mainly by criminality and mob justice as well as the proliferation of vigilante groups and other informal security outfits in the region. Several local vigilante and informal security outfits have been established in the Niger Delta as a result of growing insecurity and a lack of citizen’s trust in the capacity of government law enforcement agencies to protect lives and properties. The proliferation of local vigilantes is also driven by the seemingly weaknesses in the judicial and penal system in the country. Vigilante and mob violence caused over 80 fatalities in the region during the period. Mob violence was prevalent in Delta, Imo, Cross River and Akwa Ibom States.

Delta

Several incidents of mob violence were reported in Delta State during the year, particularly in Ughelli North and Warri South LGAs. Vigilante and mob violence caused over 20 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, for instance, a

suspected ritual killer was reportedly burned to death by a mob in Otovwodo community, Ughelli North LGA. In February, a woman was reportedly beaten to death by a mob over alleged witchcraft practices in Mbiri community, Ika North East LGA. In March, three male robbery suspects were reportedly burned to death by a mob in Ufuoma community, Ughelli North LGA. In August, three robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Ekiugbo community, Ughelli North LGA.

Imo

Vigilante and mob violence caused several fatalities in Imo State during the period. In January, for example, a robbery suspect was reportedly killed by a mob along Mgbabano-Umuaka Road in Eziama Obaire community, Nkwerre LGA. In July, operatives of ‘Ebubeagu’ - the South-Eastern Nigeria regional security outfit - reportedly killed a 25-year-old man in Amaeshe community, Oguta LGA. Separately, in July, ‘Ebubeagu’ operatives allegedly killed seven young men who were returning from a marriage ceremony in Awomama community, Oru East LGA.

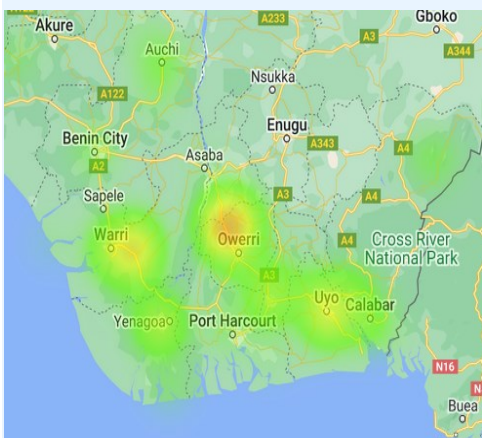
Cross River

Mob violence caused over eight fatalities in Cross River State during the period. In August, for instance, a mob reportedly tortured and killed two widows over alleged witchcraft practices in Ebbaken community, Boki LGA. The women were reportedly accused of initiating a member of the community into witchcraft. In September, a young woman was reportedly stoned to death by mob at Eleven-Eleven Roundabout in Calabar, the state capital.

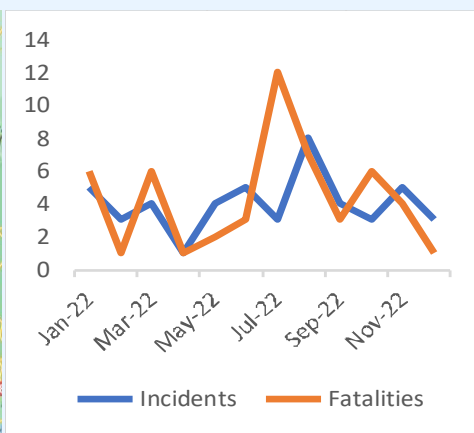
Akwa Ibom

Many incidents of mob lynching were reported in Akwa Ibom State during the year, particularly in Uyo, the state capital. In March, for instance, a robbery suspect was reportedly lynched by a mob at Itam Market in Itu LGA. In April, a suspected electricity cable vandal was reportedly killed by a mob in Obot Idim community, Ibesikpo Asutan LGA. In June, a member of a cult gang who doubles as a robber was reportedly killed by a mob in Uyo, the state capital.

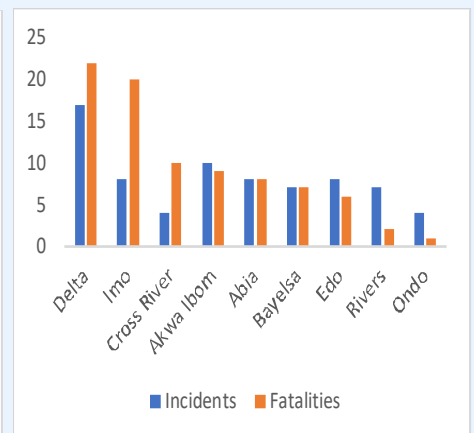
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Vigilante and Mob Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Violence Affecting Women and Girls (VAWG)

Violence Affecting Women and Girls

decreased significantly in the Niger Delta in 2022. According to data, there was a 47% decrease in incidents of violence against women and girls in 2022 compared to 2021. However, incidents of violence affecting women and girls was reported in almost all the States in the region during the period. Reported incidents involved mainly sexual violence and girl child abuse, especially in Ondo, Cross River, Delta and Imo States.

Ondo

Reported incidents of VAWG in Ondo State during the year were mainly related to sexual violation, child abuse and domestic violence. VAWG caused more than seven fatalities in the State, and was prevalent in Akure South, Okitipupa, Ilaje, Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo, and Ondo West LGAs. In January, for instance, a middle-aged woman was reportedly raped to death in her farm in Igbokoda town, Ilaje LGA. In July, a 30-year-old man reportedly killed his girlfriend during a quarrel in Owo community, Owo LGA. In August, a 66-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her 23-year-old grandson in

Ondo town, Ondo West LGA. In September, a woman was reportedly strangled by her 18-year-old son during a disagreement in Ikakumo Akoko community, Akoko North-East LGA. Separately, in September, a 2-year-old girl was allegedly killed by her stepfather in Akungba-Akoko town, Akoko South-West LGA. In October, a 42-year old man reportedly killed his wife during a disagreement in Oke Aro community, Akure South LGA.

Cross River

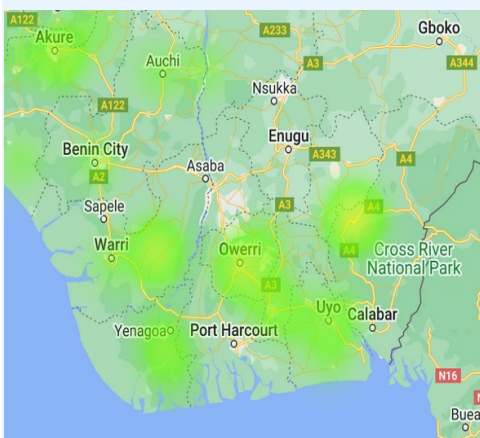
Several incidents of VAWG were reported in Cross River State during the year. Reported incidents involved mainly sexual violence, domestic violence, mob violence and criminality including killing for ritualistic purposes. In January, for instance, more than 10 girls were reportedly killed for rituals in Ogoja community, Ogoja LGA. Some vital body parts of the victims were allegedly removed. In August, a 24-year-old female student was reportedly abducted from her residence by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers in Ikot Ansa community, Calabar Municipal LGA. Separately, in August, two women were reportedly tortured to

death by a mob over alleged witchcraft practices in Ebbaken community, Boki LGA. In September, a young woman was reportedly stoned to death by a mob in Calabar, the state capital.

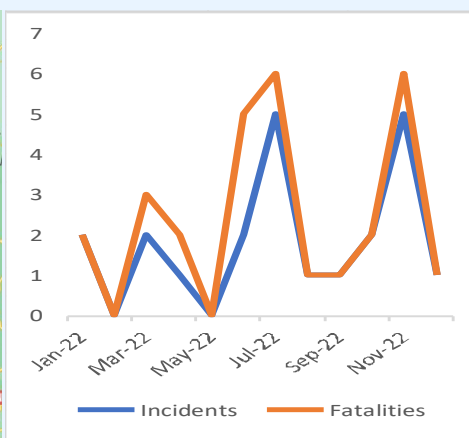
Delta

Incidents of VAWG in Delta State during the period mainly involved killing for ritualistic purposes, sexual violation and domestic violence. In January, for instance, suspected ritualists reportedly killed a young girl and removed her eyes in Ogwashi-Uku town, Aniocha North LGA. In February, an 80-year-old woman was reportedly killed and her body parts harvested for ritual purposes in Olomoro community, Isoko South LGA. In April, a young girl was reportedly murdered in a hostel in Ozoro community, Isoko North LGA. In June, an orphan was reportedly raped by a 35-year old man in Ebrumede community, Uvwie LGA. In September, a woman was reportedly killed by her husband in Ovirie-Ovu community, Ethiope East LGA. In November, a 3-year-old girl was reportedly flogged to death by her 25-year-old father in Aladja community, Udu LGA.

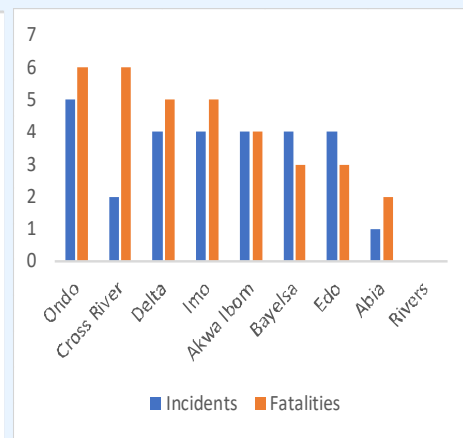
Incidents Heat Map, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Incidents and Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Political and Election Violence

Political and Election Violence increased in the Niger Delta in 2022. According to data, there was a 67% increase in political and election related violence in 2022 compared to 2021. In the run up to the 2023 general elections several incidents of politically motivated killings were reported in the region, especially in Rivers, Edo, Bayelsa, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Delta and Imo States.

Cross River

Many incidents of politically motivated violence and killings were reported in the State during the primary elections of the various political parties. In May, a policeman was reportedly killed during the primary election of a political party in Obudu LGA. Separately, in May, a youth leader was reportedly shot dead at the venue of the primary elections of a major political party in Calabar South LGA.

Imo

Several incidents of political and election related violence including attacks on political actors and election facilities were reported in the State during the year. In April, for instance, gunmen reportedly

attacked some staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) during a registration exercise and killed a registration officer in Ihitte Uboma LGA. In December, the State House of Assembly candidate of a political party was reportedly assassinated in Onuimo LGA.

Akwa Ibom

Many incidents of political violence and killings were reported in the State during 2022. In May, for instance, a youth leader was reportedly killed during the primary elections of a major political party in Ukanafun LGA. Separately, in May, the former chairman of the local chapter of a political party was reportedly assassinated by gunmen at his residence in Ekparakwa town, Oruk Anam LGA.

Rivers

Some incidents of political violence were reported in Rivers State during the year, especially in the run up to the 2023 general elections. In December, for instance, gunmen reportedly shot the youth mobilization officer of a major political party and allegedly forced him to renounce his support for the party in Aluu community, Ikwerre LGA.

Delta

Several politically motivated killings were reported in Delta State during the period. In May, a hotelier who was a local council chairman aspirant was reportedly assassinated by gunmen in Agbarho community, Ughelli North LGA. In July, a chieftain of a major political party who was also a special assistant to a prominent federal lawmaker was reportedly shot dead by assassins in Sapele LGA.

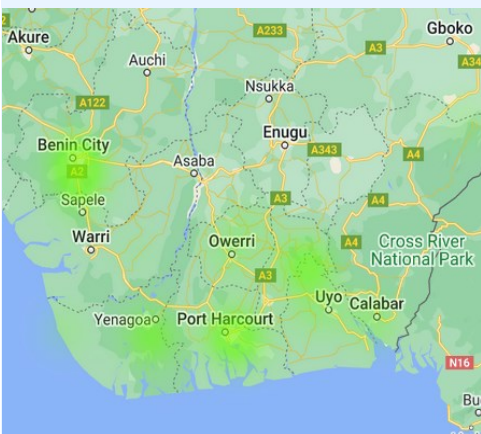
Edo

Some politically motivated violence and killings were reported in the State in 2022. In March, for instance, a chieftain of a major political party was reportedly beaten and shot dead by gunmen suspected to be political thugs at a drinking spot along Sakponba Road in Benin City, Oredo LGA.

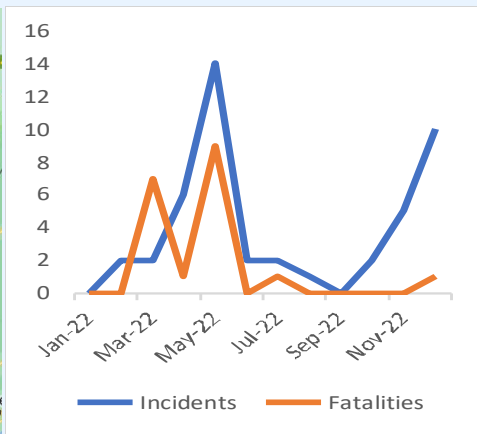
Bayelsa

Political violence was reported during the primary elections of the major political parties in the State. In May, a man was reportedly killed during the primary elections of a political party in Ogbia LGA.

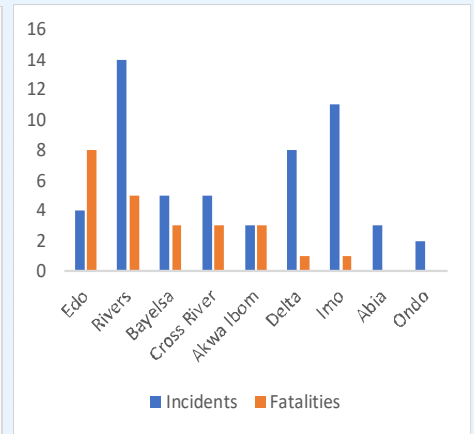
Fatalities Heat Map, Political and Election Violence



Incidents and Fatalities, Political and Election Violence - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Political and Election Violence



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map www.p4p-nigerdelta.org

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 59,000 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 and response, and production of data-driven conflict reports.

Contact Us

Contact Us

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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.