

# Niger Delta Annual Conflict Report

January to December 2023

## Executive Summary

The Niger Delta was relatively peaceful in 2023. Lethal violence decreased by 25% from 11,035 fatalities in 2022 to 8,329 in 2023. Stakeholders, including civil society organizations, international development organizations, local peace actors, and government security agencies implemented several interventions that helped to mitigate the numerous drivers of conflict and instability in the region during the period.

A variety of conflict risk factors contributed to the dynamics of conflict and insecurity in the region in 2023. This report analyzes the trends and patterns of conflict risks and lethal violence, and highlights the drivers and pressures on peace and security at the regional, state and local levels. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)), Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), CIEPD (<https://ciepdcwc.crowdmap.com>), PIND's SMS early warning system, and others.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), criminal violence, clashes between cult gangs, separatist agitation, communal tensions, and natural disasters were the major drivers of violent conflict and insecurity during the year.

At the regional level, communal violence decreased by 63% from 200 fatalities in 2022 to 74 in 2023. However, at the state level, fatalities caused by communal violence increased by 52% in Cross River during the period. Criminal violence increased by 4.8% during the year, even though related fatalities decreased by 17.7% from 772 fatalities in 2022 to 635 in 2023. Cult and gang related violence increased by 19.6% from 148 fatalities in 2022 to 177 in 2023.

The most prevalent conflict risk and security issues in 2023 were general criminality including robbery and kidnap for ransom; clashes between hoodlums and government security forces, clashes between cult gangs, separatist agitation, political/election violence, communal conflict over land/boundary disputes including clashes between herders and farmers, natural disasters/disease outbreaks, and violence against women and girls including sexual violation and domestic violence.

Natural disasters, clashes between government security forces and separatist militias, clashes between cult gangs, criminal violence, and communal conflict were the most lethal forms of

violence in 2023, as measured by the number of fatalities per incident. According to data (see chart on page 4), on average, every incident of natural disaster and separatist agitation resulted in at least four fatalities.

The most prevalent lethal conflict issues during the year mainly involved organized criminality including robbery and kidnap for ransom which caused over 635 fatalities in more than 390 incidents. This was followed by gang violence with 170 reported fatalities during the period.

There was a decrease in reported incidents of communal violence, separatist agitation and violence against women and girls, while political/election violence increased by 288% from 17 reported fatalities in 2022 to 66 fatalities in 2023.

Overall, there was a decline in violent conflict and insecurity in the region in 2023 compared to 2022. According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), lethal violence decreased by 25% during the year. Rivers, Delta and Imo states recorded highest level of lethal violence, while Oguta (Imo), Emohua (Rivers) and Oredo (Edo) were the LGAs with the highest number of fatalities during the year.

## 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 significant changes in the Niger Delta peace and security landscape in 2023. Lethal violence decreased by 25% from 11,035 fatalities in 2022 to 8,329 fatalities in 2023. While the improvement in the peace and security situation could be attributable to diverse factors, the trend was largely driven by conflict management efforts of civil society organizations, local peace actors and government security forces during the period. Stakeholders implemented several peace building and security management interventions during the

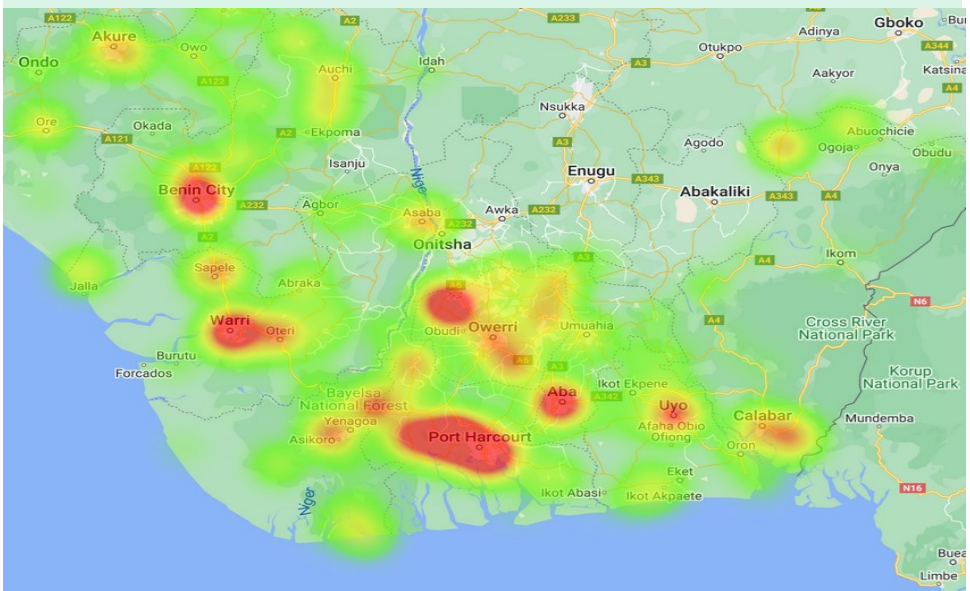
period. Reported conflict issues during the year included criminality, gang violence, disasters, political competition, and communal tensions. Incidents included kidnap for ransom, separatist agitation, clashes between cult gangs, political/election violence, mob violence, communal violence, land disputes, and clashes between hoodlums and government security forces.

According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), cult clashes, natural disasters, separatist agitation and organized crime including kidnap for ransom were the major causes of lethal violence in 2023. Data sources include ACLED ([www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)),

Nigeria Watch ([www.nigeriawatch.org](http://www.nigeriawatch.org)), PIND 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 2023. Source: All data sources formatted for the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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

The Niger Delta was relatively peaceful in 2023. There was a decline in the level of conflict risk and insecurity during the year compared to 2022. Lethal violence decreased by 25% from 11,035 fatalities in 2022 to 8,329 fatalities in 2023. According to data ([www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)), criminal violence, clashes between cult gangs, communal tensions, separatist agitation, and natural disasters/disease outbreaks were the primary causes of conflict fatalities in 2023. Criminality and gang violence caused 635 and 177 fatalities respectively during the period.

The most violent month during the year was June, with 154 reported fatalities. In June, for instance, over 30 persons were reportedly killed in a series of clashes between government security forces and members of the Eastern Security Network

(ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Izombe community in Oguta LGA, Imo State.

According to data, the States with the highest number of lethal violence during the year were Rivers, Delta and Imo, while the LGAs with the highest number of lethal violence were Oguta (Imo), Emohua (Rivers) and Oredo (Edo). Criminal violence caused over 250 fatalities in Rivers and Delta States. Clashes between separatist militias and government security forces caused over 80 fatalities in Imo State during the period.

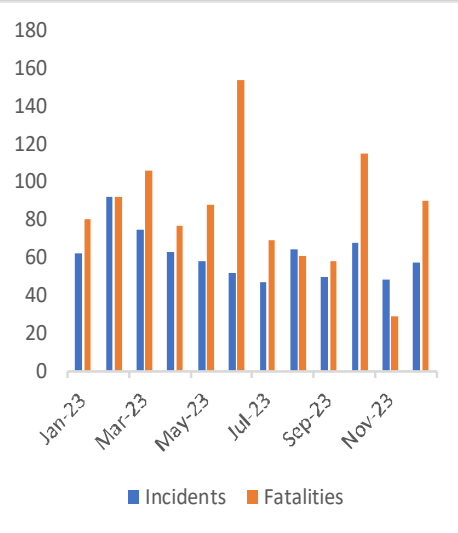
Disasters including artisanal oil refining related fire outbreaks were prevalent, and caused over 150 fatalities during the period. Also, Political/election violence caused over 60 fatalities during the year.

At the regional level, communal violence reduced by 63% from 200 fatalities in 2022 to 74 in 2023. However, in Cross River State, communal violence increased by 52% from 25 fatalities in 2022 to 38 in 2023.

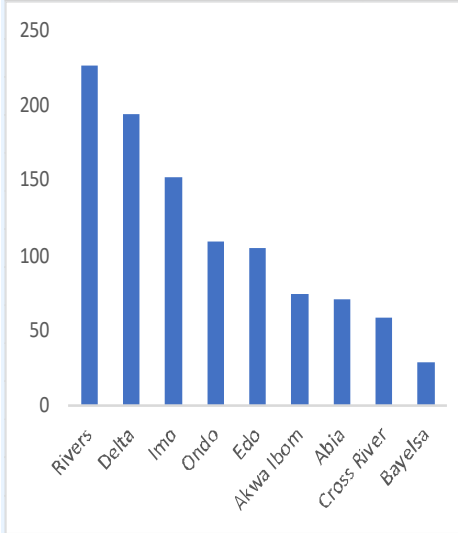
Cult and gang related violence increased by 19.6% from 148 fatalities in 2022 to 177 in 2023. Clashes between rival cult gangs were prevalent during the year, especially in Rivers, Edo and Delta. Gang violence caused over 80 fatalities in Rivers State. In addition, many of the criminal and communal violence during the period adversely impacted the safety and livelihoods 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 2023.

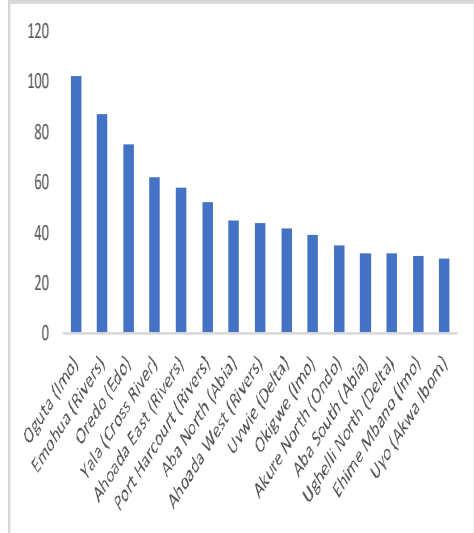
Incidents and Fatalities, Niger Delta (January-December 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, State Level (January-December 2023)



Conflict Fatalities, LGA Level (January-December 2023)



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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

In 2023, the Niger Delta peace and security landscape was dominated by organized criminality (incl. kidnap for ransom), clashes between cult gangs, clashes between separatist militias and government security forces, communal conflict (incl. land disputes and farmer/herder clashes), political tensions (incl. election violence), natural disasters/disease outbreaks (incl. Lassa fever and cholera), and human rights violations (incl. sexual violence, mob violence and extra-judicial killing).

The most lethal conflict issues in 2023, based on the average number of fatalities per incident were natural disasters/disease outbreaks, separatist agitation (incl. clashes between separatist militias

and government security forces), clashes between rival cult gangs, criminal violence, and communal conflict.

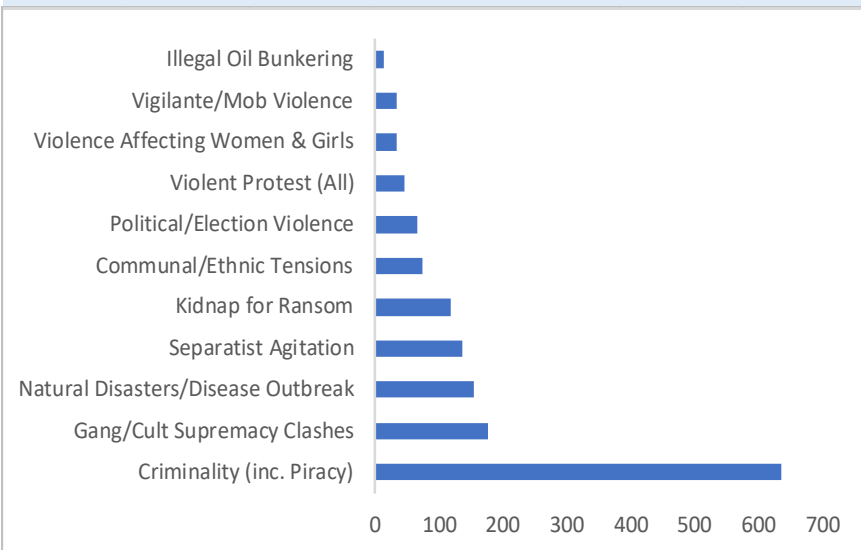
Natural disasters and disease outbreaks caused over 150 fatalities in 2023. Natural disasters and outbreak of infectious diseases including Lassa fever and cholera as well as illegal artisanal oil refining related fire outbreaks were major drivers of conflict risk and insecurity during the period, particularly in Rivers and Delta State.

Despite a drop in incidents of separatist agitation, there was an increase in the number of fatalities caused by separatist agitation during the period,

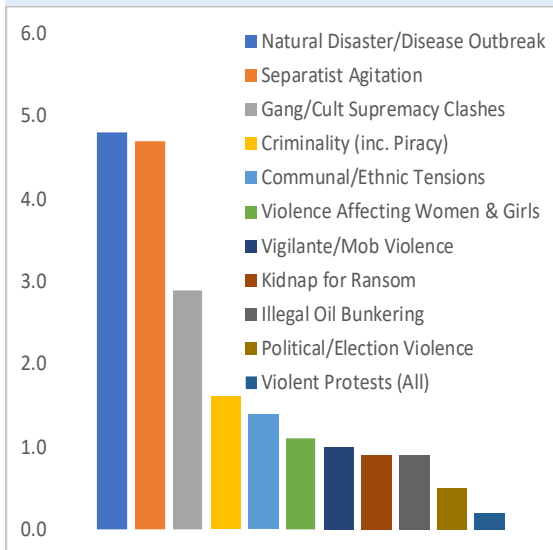
mainly during clashes between separatist militias and government security forces in Imo and Abia. Separatist agitation including clashes between separatist militias and government security forces caused over 130 fatalities during the period.

Clashes between cult gangs increased by 19.6% during the year and it was prevalent in Rivers, Edo and Delta. Gang violence caused over 170 fatalities during the period. Criminal violence was prevalent in all the states in the region, and it was largely driven by organized criminality and kidnap for ransom as well as clashes between hoodlums and government security forces. Criminal violence caused more than 630 fatalities during the year.

**Predominant Conflict Issues, Regional Level Fatalities (January-December 2023)**



**Most Lethal Conflict Issues, Fatalities Per Incident (January-December 2023)**



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Organized Criminality

**Organized criminal violence** was the most prevalent and lethal security issue in the Niger Delta in 2023. It was driven mainly by kidnap for ransom, robbery, arms proliferation, mob violence, and armed clashes between hoodlums and government security forces. Organized crime caused over 630 fatalities during the period. It was prevalent in all the States in the region but it caused more fatalities in Rivers, Delta and Imo.

### Rivers

Criminal violence was a major cause of conflict and insecurity in Rivers State during the year. It was mainly driven by kidnap for ransom, vigilante/mob violence, and targeted killing of government security personnel. In April, gunmen reportedly abducted the former president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and killed two of his aides along the East-West Road in Obio/Akpor LGA. In May, 12

members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were allegedly abducted by gunmen in Rumuji town, Emohua LGA. In December, gunmen allegedly ambushed a convoy, killed four soldiers and two civilians, and abducted two South Korean expatriates along the East-West Road in Ahoada East LGA.

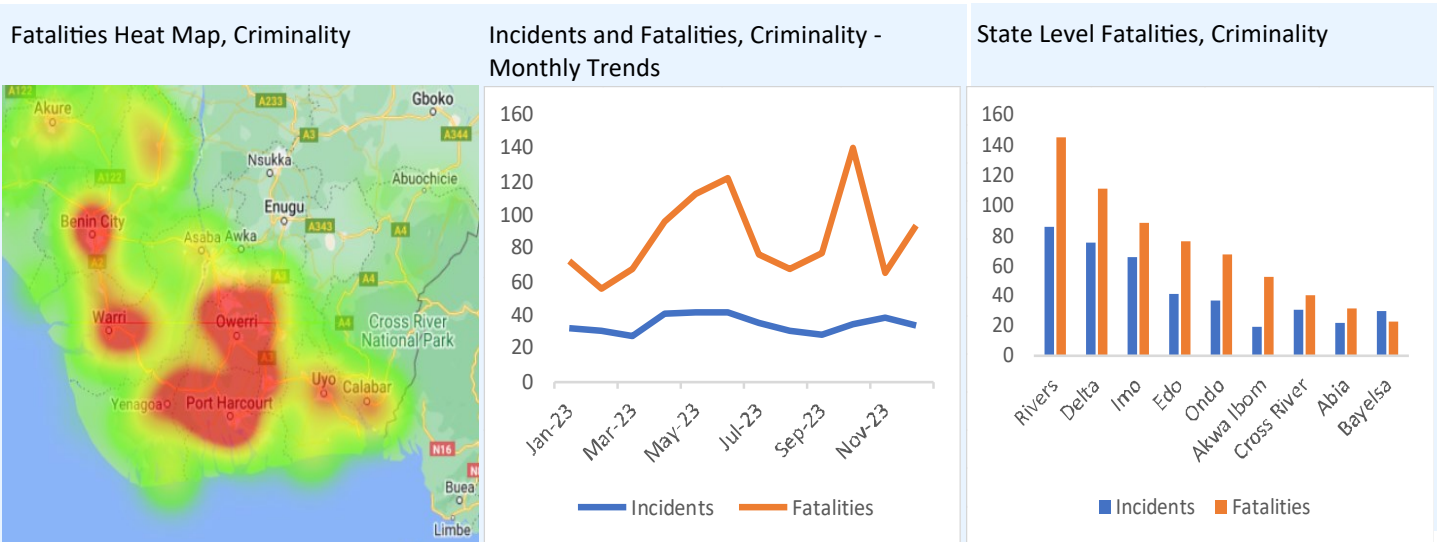
### Delta

Criminal violence was prevalent in the State during the period, particularly in Ughelli North, Sapele and Ethiope East LGAs. It was mainly driven by kidnap for ransom, vigilante/mob violence, and clashes between hoodlums and government security forces. In January, for example, gunmen allegedly killed four residents including a politician and two businessmen in Sapele town, Sapele LGA. In May, a 23-year-old man was reportedly killed during a clash between members of two rival local

vigilante groups in Eku community, Ethiope East LGA. In July, gunmen reportedly killed a police inspector and stole his rifle along the East-West Road in Ughelli North LGA. In October, kidnappers reportedly abducted a cleric, his wife and children along the East-West Road in Ewreni community, Ughelli North LGA.

### Imo

Criminality in Imo State during the period related mainly to killings by gunmen and targeted attack on security forces by separatist militias. In March, three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were allegedly killed by gunmen in Obiangwu community, Ngor Okpala LGA. In May, two community leaders were reportedly killed by gunmen in Izombe and Mgebe communities, Oguta LGA.



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://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 2023. There was a 19.6% increase in gang violence from 148 fatalities in 2022 to 177 in 2023. Clashes between rival cult gangs were prevalent during the period, especially in Rivers, Edo and Delta. Gang violence was driven primarily by reprisal killings and supremacy battles among rival cult gangs, as well as general criminality.

### Rivers

Gang violence was one of the most prevalent and lethal security issue in Rivers during the period. Clashes between rival cult gangs caused over 80 fatalities in the State, and was driven mainly by battles for supremacy, communal tensions and general criminality. Gang violence was prevalent in Port Harcourt, Ahoada East, Ahoada West, and Emohua LGAs. In February, for instance, nine persons were reportedly killed during a clash over a leadership tussle between two factions of a cult gang in Ikata community, Ahoada East LGA. In September, a prominent Divisional Police Officer

(DPO) was allegedly killed by members of a notorious cult gang in Odeimude community, Ahoada East LGA. Also, in September, a young man was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang in Rumuodumaya community, Obio/Akpor LGA. In November, members of a cult gang reportedly killed five persons in Odiemerenyi community, Ahoada East LGA.

### Edo

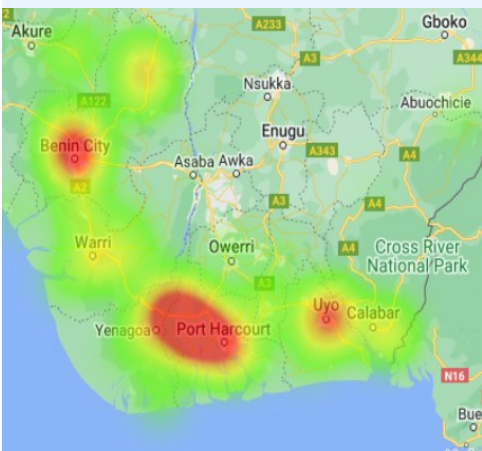
Gang violence was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the year, particularly in Oredo and Etsako West LGAs. It was driven mainly by struggle for supremacy and territorial control among rival cult gangs as well as vigilante violence, conflict over the collection of illegal levies, and general criminality. In April, for instance, a male student of the University of Benin was reportedly killed by members of a rival cult gang in a hostel in Ugbowo community, Egor LGA. In July, four persons were allegedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Auchi community, Etsako West LGA.

In August, about 10 persons were allegedly killed in a series of clashes between rival cult gangs at different locations in Benin City, the State capital. Also, in August, a revenue collector was allegedly killed during a clash between cult gangs in Auchi community, Etsako west LGA. In December, three persons including the leader of a local vigilante were allegedly killed during clashes between cult gangs at different locations in Oredo LGA. Also, in December, the head of a vigilante group was allegedly killed by a gang of cultists at a motor park in Ekosodin community, Ovia North East LGA.

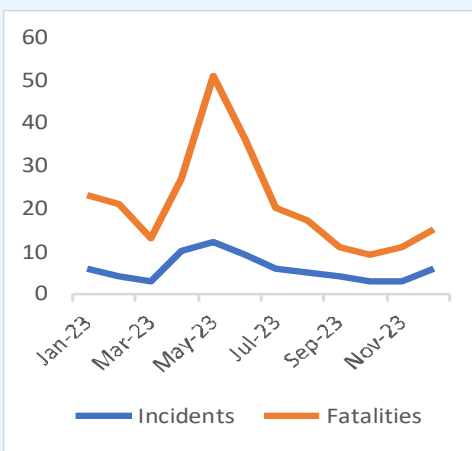
### Delta

Gang violence caused over 20 fatalities in the State during the year. Several incidents of gang violence were reported in the State, especially in Ethiope East, Sapele and Udu LGAs. In January, for instance, members of a cult gang reportedly killed four residents including two businessmen and a politician in Sapele town, Sapele LGA. In May, two persons were allegedly killed in a clash between cult gangs in Orhuwhorun community, Udu LGA.

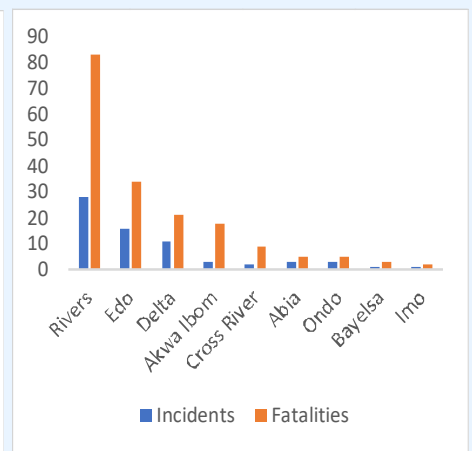
Fatalities Heat Map, Gang Violence



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Natural Disasters/Disease Outbreaks

**Natural Disasters / Disease Outbreaks** were major threats to public health and human security in the Niger Delta in 2023. Outbreak of cholera and Lassa fever caused several fatalities during the year, especially in Edo, Ondo and Cross River. Human-induced natural disasters including flood, explosions and fire outbreaks caused several fatalities as well as water and air pollution and soil contamination.

Artisanal oil refining caused many explosions and fire outbreaks during the period. Apart from the environmental and health impacts, illegal artisanal oil refining intensified organized criminal violence and deployment of repressive security strategies by the government. The deployment of joint security task forces to crackdown on illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining activities unexpectedly intensified the environmental and security impacts. Destruction of artisanal refining facilities and illegally refined petroleum products by government security forces sometimes resulted in fire outbreaks and environmental pollution.

Disasters and disease outbreaks caused over 150 fatalities in the region during the year. While outbreak of infectious diseases caused many fatalities in Ondo, Edo and Cross River, pipeline explosions and fire outbreaks killed several persons and destroyed many properties in Delta, Rivers and Abia during the year.

### Rivers

Illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining related violence and disasters caused over 40 fatalities in the State during the year. In March, for instance, 12 persons were reportedly killed in an explosion caused by artisanal refining activities in Rumuekpe community, Emohua LGA. In July, 16 persons including fishers were allegedly killed by fire while they were scooping spilled petroleum products at a Jetty in Okrika LGA. In August, security forces allegedly bombed several artisanal refineries and killed many oil thieves at different locations in Akuku-Toru, Bonny and Degema LGAs. In October, 35 persons were allegedly killed by fire at an artisanal refinery in Ibaa community, Emohua LGA.

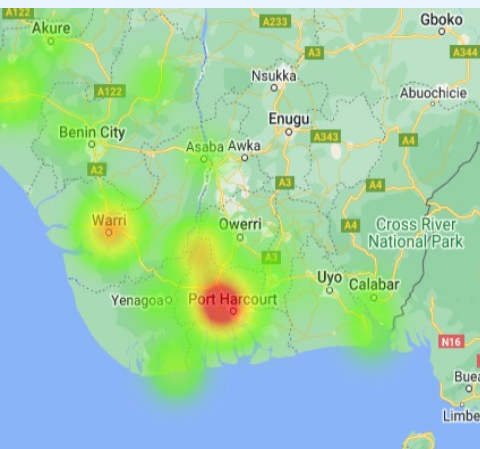
### Delta

Flooding and oil and gas related explosions and fire outbreaks caused over 60 fatalities in the State during the period. In February, for example, several persons were reportedly killed and many others injured as a result of an explosion at a gas station in Effurun community, Uvwie LGA. In April, six persons were reportedly killed and several houses destroyed as a result of heavy rainfall and flooding in Oko and Okpanam communities, Oshimili South LGA.

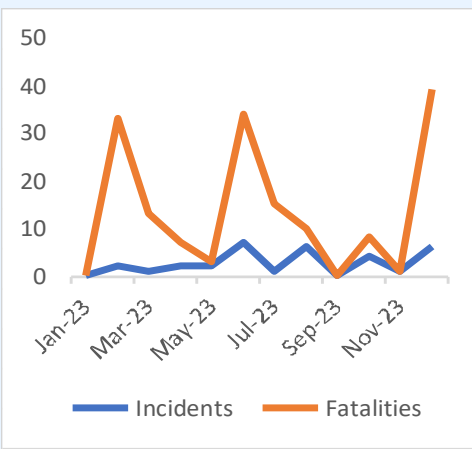
### Ondo

Natural disasters and diseases caused over 20 fatalities in the State during the year. In January, for instance, epidemiological data from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) shows outbreak of Lassa fever in the State. Flooding was also reported during the period. In June, a young man reportedly died after he was swept away by flood in Oba Ile community in Akure North LGA.

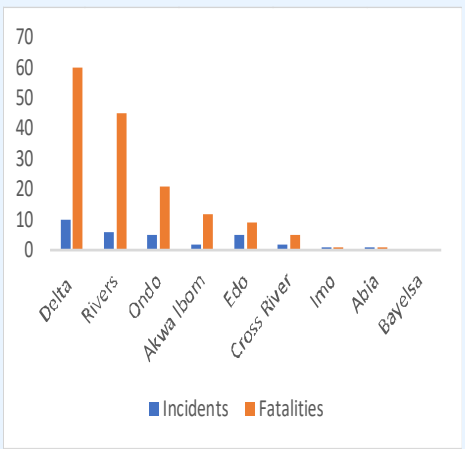
Fatalities Heat Map, Natural Disasters an Disease Outbreaks



Incidents and Fatalities, Natural Disasters an Disease Outbreaks - Monthly Trends



State Level Fatalities, Natural Disasters an Disease Outbreaks



Data for map and bar charts from ACLED and Nigeria Watch formatted and integrated on P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Separatist Agitation

**Separatist agitation** was among the most lethal security issues in the region in 2023. Separatist agitation caused over 130 fatalities during the period. Targeted violence by separatist militias including killings and attacks on public and private properties as well as clashes between government security forces and separatist militias was prevalent during the year, particularly in Imo and Abia States.

### Imo

Targeted killing by separatist militias as well as clashes government security forces and separatist militias were prevalent in Imo State, particularly in Oguta, Ngor Okpala and Okigwe LGAs. Attacks by separatist militias caused over 80 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, for example, three persons were allegedly killed during a clash between government security forces and some members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the militant wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Agwa community, Oguta LGA. In February, separatist militias reportedly killed a customary court judge during a court session in Ejemekwuru community, Oguta LGA. In March,

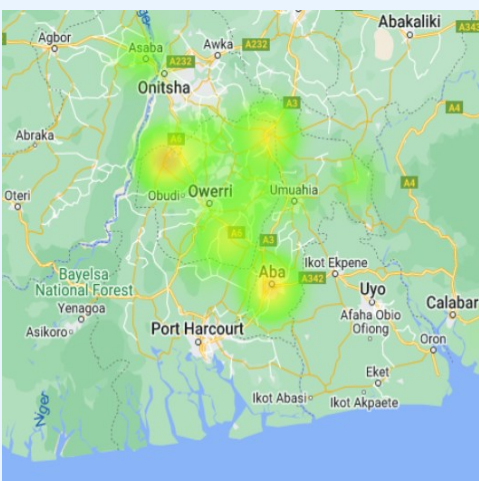
separatist militias allegedly killed three personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Obiangwu community, Ngor Okpala LGA. In May, the chieftain of a political party was reportedly ambushed and killed by separatist militias in Awomama community, Oru East LGA.

In June, over 30 persons were reportedly killed, more than 150 houses destroyed and several residents displaced following a series of clashes between government security forces and separatist militias in at Amakpurudere village in Izombe community, Oguta LGA. In September, eight government security personnel including soldiers and policemen were allegedly ambushed and killed by separatist militias in Umualumaku community, Ehime Mbano LGA. In October, the deputy registrar of a polytechnic was reportedly killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias in Ezeala/Ezike community, Ehime Mbano LGA. In November, a traditional ruler was allegedly abducted and killed by gunmen suspected to be separatist militias in Mbutu community, Aboh Mbaise LGA.

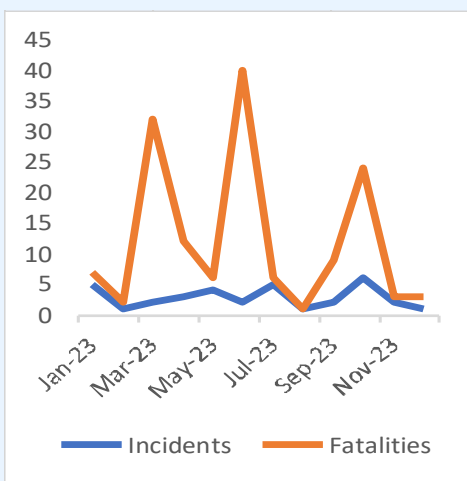
### Abia

Violent separatist agitation caused more than 35 fatalities in Abia State during the year, particularly in Ohafia, Ukwa West and Aba South LGAs. In January, for instance, a police officer and two separatist militias were reportedly killed in a gun battle along Iheorji-Ohanku Road in Ukwa West LGA. In February, separatist militias allegedly attacked a police station, killed three police officers and stole weapons from the armory in Nkporo community, Ohafia LGA. In April, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and government security forces in Osusu community, Aba North LGA. In May, separatist militias reportedly killed two brothers and burned their house for allegedly working as informants for the police in Ohanku community, Aba South LGA. In July, separatist militias allegedly abducted a commercial driver and burned his bus along Ngwa Road in Aba South LGA. In September, three members of the Biafra National Guards (BNG) were allegedly killed in a gun battle with government security forces at Igboro forest in Ohafia LGA.

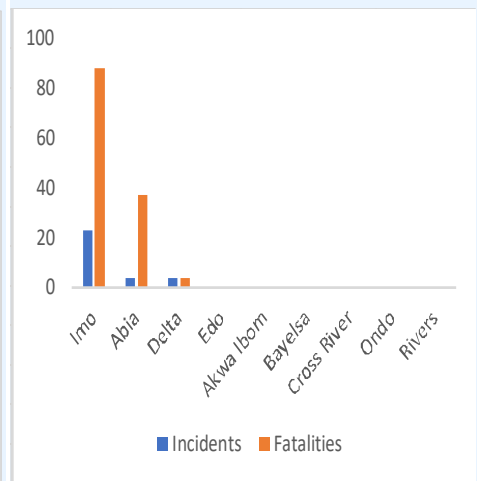
Fatalities Heat Map, Separatist Agitation



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org); [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)



## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Kidnap for Ransom

**Kidnapping for ransom** was one of the most prevalent causes of lethal violence and insecurity in the Niger Delta in 2023. According to data, there was a 27% increase in the number of fatalities associated with kidnapping in the region in 2023. Kidnapping related violence including armed clashes between kidnappers and government security forces caused 117 fatalities in the region in 2023 compared to 92 reported fatalities in 2022. Kidnap for ransom was prevalent in all the States in the region but it was more intense and lethal in Cross River, Rivers and Delta.

### Cross River

Kidnapping was a major security issue in Cross River during the year. More than 18 kidnapping incidents and over 25 fatalities were reported during the period. In February, for example, the convoy of the governorship candidate of a political party who was also a former Minister of the Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA) was allegedly attacked by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers along the Calabar-Ikom Highway in Biase LGA. The gunmen reportedly shot at his vehicle, killed two passengers and abducted two other persons.

In March, an Assistant Superintendent of Immigration was allegedly abducted by kidnappers along the Calabar-Ogoja Highway in Biase LGA. In June, two residents including a staff member of the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) were reportedly abducted by kidnappers in Calabar, the state capital. In September, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers reportedly abducted several residents including a pastor and his daughter at a satellite town in Calabar Municipal LGA. In November, kidnappers allegedly abducted a professor and demanded a ransom of 50 million naira in Calabar, the state capital. In December, gunmen allegedly abducted a traditional ruler and killed his aide in Akpabuyo LGA.

### Rivers

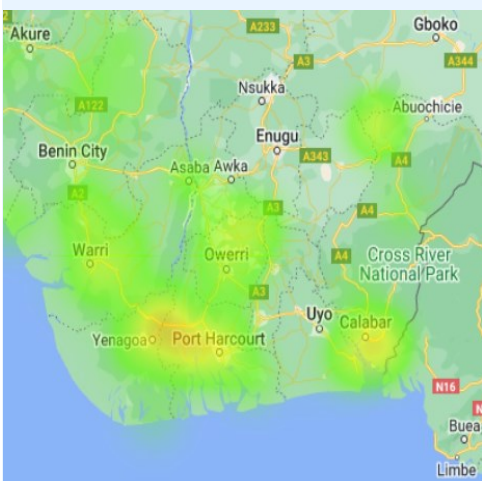
Kidnap for ransom was prevalent in the State during the period. Over 35 kidnapping incidents and more than 20 related fatalities were reported. In April, for instance, a gang of cultists who double as kidnappers reportedly killed three residents and abducted two others in Ubeta community, Ahoada West LGA. Also, in April, three persons including a female Federal Commissioner from Bayelsa State

were allegedly abducted by kidnappers at Ogbakiri Junction along the East-West Road in Emohua LGA. In May, 12 members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) were reportedly abducted by gunmen along the East-West Road in Rumuji community, Emohua LGA. In July, a female director at the Rivers State broadcasting corporation was allegedly abducted by kidnappers in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

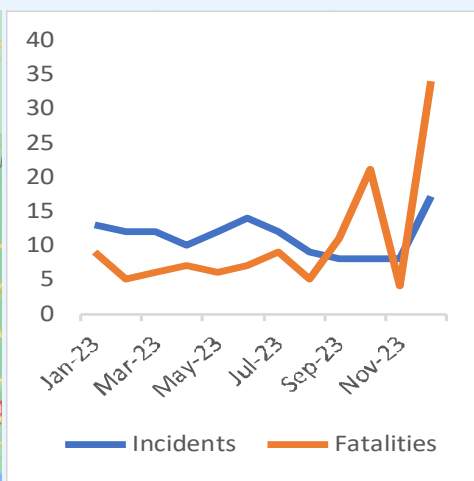
### Delta

Over 20 kidnapping incidents and more than 25 related fatalities were reported in Delta State during the period, especially in Ughelli North, Ethiope West and Warri North LGAs. In January, for example, kidnappers reportedly killed a man and abducted another in Mosogar community, Ethiope West LGA. In April, gunmen reportedly attacked a commercial bus, killed a passenger and abducted eight others along a road between Ndemili and Oliogo communities in Ndokwa West LGA. In July, kidnappers reportedly abducted a 60-year-old woman from her home and killed her after a ransom was allegedly paid in Tamigbe community, Burutu LGA.

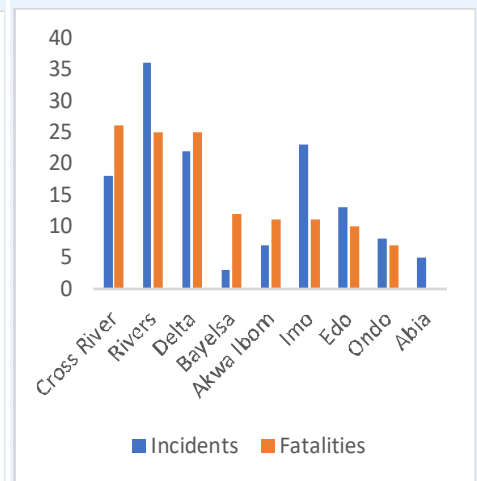
Fatalities Heat Map, Kidnap for Ransom



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org); [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)

## Regional Drivers of Conflict Risk and Violence — Communal Violence

**Communal violence** was a key security issue in the region during the year even though there was a decrease in fatalities associated with communal violence. According to data, there was a 63% reduction in the number of fatalities caused by communal violence from 200 fatalities in 2022 to 74 in 2023. Communal violence during the period was driven mainly by inter and intra-communal conflict over land and boundary disputes, herder/farmer conflict, and leadership tussles. Several incidents of communal violence were reported in Cross River, Delta and Ondo during the year.

### Cross River

Communal violence was prevalent in Cross River State during the year. Conflict over land and boundary disputes caused over 35 fatalities in the State, especially in Yala LGA. In August, for instance, a family head was reportedly killed by a group of armed youths allegedly led by a youth leader from a neighboring community during a meeting in Bebuatswan village in Obudu LGA. In September, over seven persons were reportedly killed, many others injured and more than 15 houses destroyed during a series of clashes over a

boundary dispute between Ijiegu-Yache community in Yala LGA, Cross River State and Mbaaka community in Konshisha LGA, Benue State. Also, in September, several persons were reportedly injured during a clash between youths from Njua and Ndok communities in Ogoja LGA. Separately, in September, gunmen suspected to be local militias reportedly attacked residents and killed three persons across several communities including Utanga in Obalinka LGA.

### Delta

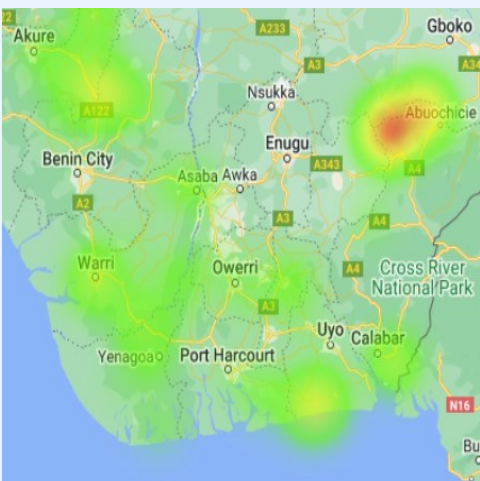
Conflict over land and boundary dispute, leadership tussle and clashes between herders and farmers caused over 12 fatalities in the State during the year. In January, for example, herders allegedly killed three farmers and abducted many others in Toru-Angiama town, Patani LGA. Also, in January, two persons were reportedly killed during renewed clashes over a land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South-West LGAs respectively. In April, a man was reportedly shot during a clash between fishers from Oboro community in Burutu LGA and Alota community in Ughelli South LGA. In May,

communal tensions were reportedly elevated following an alleged planned attack by local militias over a lingering land dispute between Aladja and Ogbe-Ijoh communities in Udu and Warri South-West LGAs respectively. In September, a resident was reportedly killed during a clash over a leadership tussle in Ewu community, Ughelli South LGA.

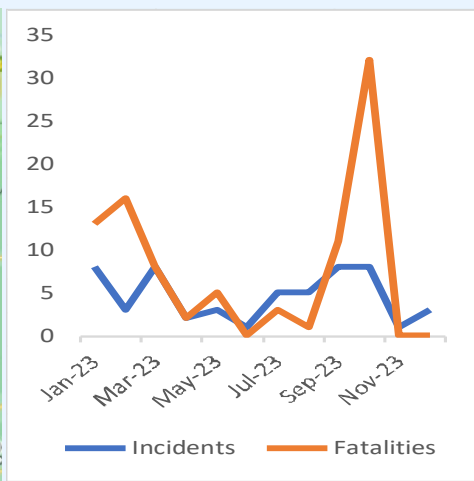
### Ondo

Communal violence including leadership tussle and clashes between herders and farmers caused over 12 fatalities in Ondo State during the period. In January, for example, five residents were reportedly killed and properties destroyed in a clash between rival youth groups during a festival in Ikare-Akoko community, Akoko North East LGA. The youths were allegedly loyal to two warring community leaders. Also, in January, a resident was allegedly killed during a clash between Hausa and Fulani traders at a market in Ogbese community, Akure North LGA. In April, a 50-year-old farmer was reportedly killed by herdsmen at Ala Forest Reserve in Ago-Oyinbo community, Akure North LGA.

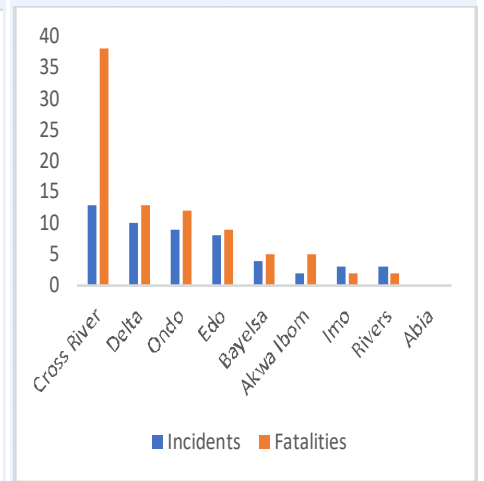
Fatalities Heat Map, Communal Violence



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org) ; [www.acleddata.com](http://www.acleddata.com)

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

**Political Tensions and Election Violence** were major security issues in the Niger Delta during the period. Political tension was elevated in the lead-up to, during and after the 2023 general elections in the region. According to data, political and election related violence increased by 288% from 17 fatalities in 2022 to 66 in 2023. Over 140 incidents of election related violence were reported during the period. During the 2023 general elections several incidents of politically motivated killings were reported in the region, especially in Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Imo and Delta.

### Rivers

Several incidents of politically motivated violence and killings were reported in the State. Political and election related violence caused over 18 fatalities in the State during the period. In January, for example, two explosions allegedly occurred and injured three residents at the venue of a political campaign in Rumuwoji community, Port Harcourt LGA. Also, in January, a governorship candidate of a political party and his campaign team were reportedly attacked by political thugs

in Akinima community, Ahoada West LGA. In February, two residents including a pregnant woman and a local vigilante were reportedly killed at a polling center during the general elections in Ubumini town, Emohua LGA.

### Akwa Ibom

Election related violence caused over 15 fatalities in the State. In February, for instance, suspected political thugs reportedly killed two voters and several others during the presidential and National Assembly elections in Etim Ekpo LGA. Separately, two persons were allegedly killed during a clash between hoodlums and government security forces at a polling center in Itak community, Ikono LGA. Also, in February, hoodlums reportedly inflicted machete cuts on two voters and hijacked voting materials in Onna LGA. In March, six persons were allegedly killed in clashes between hoodlums and government security forces at different polling centers in Uyo, the State capital.

### Imo

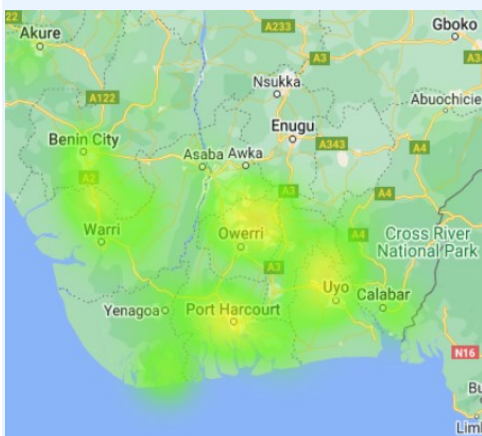
Political violence was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the year. Political and election violence caused over 13 fatalities in the State. In

January, for example, gunmen allegedly killed the ward chairman of a political party in Ibeme community, Isiala Mbano LGA. Also, in January, suspected political thugs allegedly attacked the residence of the spokesperson of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP), and killed four persons including his uncle in Akokwa community, Ideato North LGA. In August, in the lead-up to the November 2023 off-cycle governorship elections, the secretariat of one of the major political parties was reportedly vandalized by gunmen suspected to be political thugs in Owerri, the State capital.

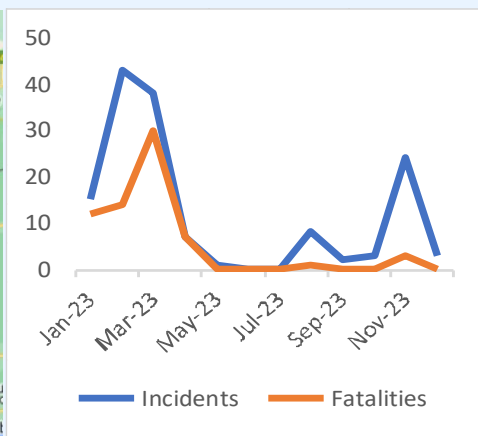
### Delta

Election violence was a major cause of insecurity in the State during the year. Election violence caused over nine fatalities in the State. In February, for example, gunmen allegedly attacked a bus conveying officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and killed an electoral officer in Ukwuani LGA. In March, government security operatives reportedly killed two young men who allegedly attempted to hijack voting materials in Mosogar community, Ethiope West LGA.

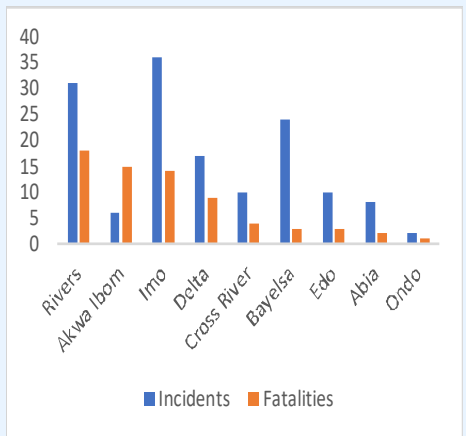
Fatalities Heat Map, Political and Election Violence



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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

**Violence Affecting Women and Girls** reduced in 2023 compared to 2022. According to data, violence affecting women and girls (VAWG) decreased by 6.2% from 32 reported incidents in 2022 to 30 in 2023. However, incidents of violence affecting women and girls were reported in almost all the States in the region during the period. Reported incidents mainly involved domestic and sexual violence, especially in Delta, Ondo, Rivers and Akwa Ibom States.

### Delta

Several incidents of VAWG were reported in the State during the period, especially domestic and sexual violence. In January, for example, a woman was allegedly beaten to death by her son in Kwale community, Ndokwa West LGA. In April, a 29-year-old woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her husband during a fight in Igbudu community, Warri South LGA. In June, a 45-year-old woman was reportedly killed by her lover during a quarrel at Okolor Inland community, Udu LGA. Also, in June, a 10-year-old girl was reportedly raped by a 37-year-old man in Ovwor-Olomu community,

Ughelli South LGA. In October, a 4-year-old girl was allegedly defiled by a 46-year-old male school principal in Agbor community, Ika South LGA.

### Ondo

Violence against women and girls during the year mainly involved sexual violation, domestic violence and targeted killing. In January, for instance, a woman was allegedly murdered by unknown assailants in Kajola community in Akure, the State capital. In March, a nursing mother was allegedly raped and killed by a 37-year-old pastor in Alade community, Idanre LGA. In May, an 80-year-old woman was reportedly raped to death by a 27-year-old man at a farm in Ore community, Odigbo LGA. Separately, a 58-year-old woman was reportedly killed by a 29-year-old man who attempted to rape her in Akure, the state capital. Also, in May, a 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a middle-aged man in Igbokoda community, Ilaje LGA. In August, a 45-year-old woman was allegedly tortured, killed and dismembered by her ex-boyfriend in Oke-Aro community, Akure South LGA.

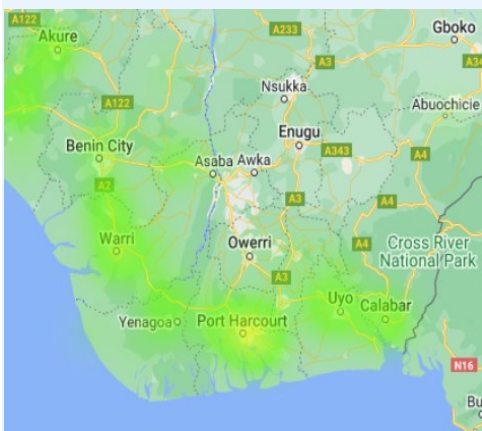
### Rivers

Incidents of violence against women and girls in the State during the period mainly involved sexual violation, child trafficking, and domestic violence. In January, for example, a young girl was allegedly strangled by her boyfriend during a disagreement in Kom-Kom community, Oyigbo LGA. In February, a woman was reportedly abducted and gang-raped to death by members of a cult gang in Abarikpo town, Ahoada East LGA. In May, the police reportedly arrested a child trafficker and rescued six pregnant girls in Aluu and Choba communities in Ikwerre and Obio/Akpor LGAs respectively.

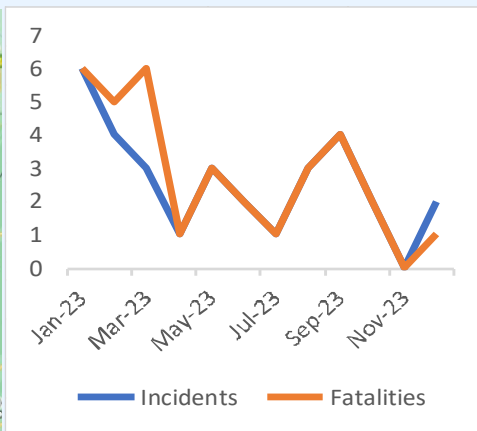
### Akwa Ibom

Violence against women and girls during the period mainly involved domestic violence and sexual violation. In July, for instance, a six-year-old girl was allegedly sexually violated by her father in Aka Itiam Etoi community, Uyo LGA. In September, a young woman was reportedly stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Ikot Inene community, Essien Udim LGA.

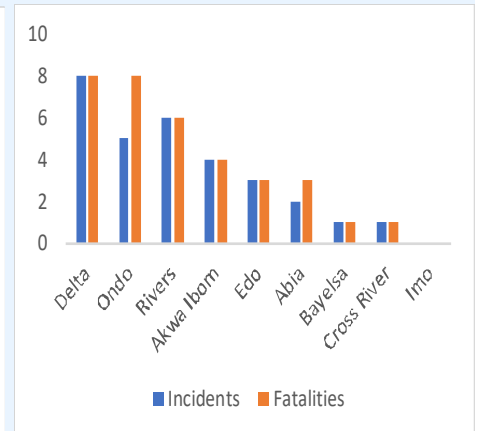
Incidents Heat Map, Violence Affecting Women and Girls



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](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

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

**Vigilante and mob violence** were prevalent in the Niger Delta in 2023. Mob violence was driven mainly by criminality and mob justice as well as the proliferation of local vigilantes and other informal security outfits in the region. Several local vigilante and informal security outfits have been established in the region as a result of rising insecurity and a lack of citizens’ trust in the capacity of government law enforcement agencies to protect lives and properties. The proliferation of local vigilantes and informal security outfits is also driven by apparent weaknesses in the judicial and penal system in the country. Vigilante and mob violence caused over 30 fatalities in the region during the year. Mob violence was prevalent in Delta, Abia, Ondo and Akwa Ibom States.

### Delta

Vigilante and mob violence were major law enforcement and security challenges in the State during the year. Mob violence caused over eight fatalities in the State. In January, for example, a robbery suspect was reportedly lynched by a mob in Agbarho community, Ughelli North LGA. Also, in

January, two residents were reportedly killed during a clash between gunmen and members of a local vigilante in Amukpe community, Sapele LGA. In February, two persons were reportedly killed and two Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) belonging to some banks were vandalized by a mob during a protest over shortages of fuel and naira notes in Orhuwhorun community, Udu LGA. In July, a robbery suspect was reportedly burned to death by a mob in Agbor community, Ika South LGA. Separately, in July, a robbery suspect was allegedly killed by a mob at Okumagba Layout in Warri South LGA.

### Abia

Vigilante and mob violence caused many fatalities in Abia State during the period. In February, for instance, a 27-year-old man was reportedly killed by a member of the Abia Vigilante Service (AVS) during an argument over a missing mobile phone at an eatery in Umuahia, the State capital. In May, three persons were reportedly killed during a clash between gunmen and members of a local vigilante in Etiti-Ohazu community, Aba South LGA.

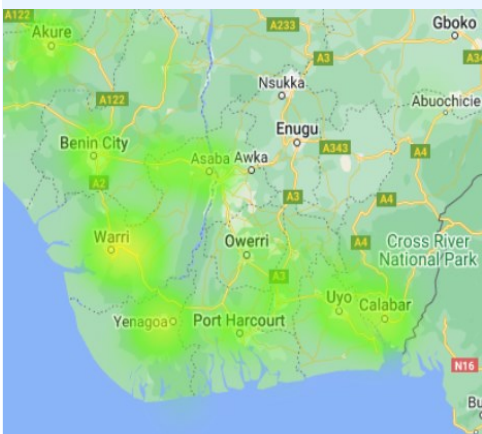
### Ondo

Mob violence was a major security issue in Ondo State during the period. In April, for example, a mob reportedly killed a 35-year-old taxi driver for allegedly killing two persons in a car accident at Ijoka area of Akure, the State capital. Separately, in April, a 36-year-old motorcyclist was allegedly killed by a private security guard at Alagbaka area in Akure, the State capital.

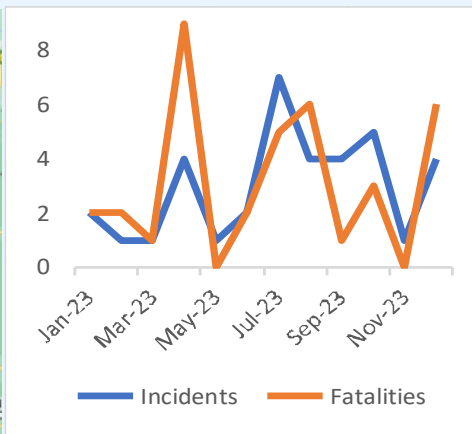
### Akwa Ibom

Several incidents of mob lynching were reported in the State during the period. In April, for instance, a robbery suspect was allegedly killed by a mob in Aka Uffot community in Uyo, the State capital. In July, a criminal suspect was reportedly set ablaze by a mob in Itam community, Itu LGA. In August, two robbery suspects were reportedly killed by a mob in Uyo, the State capital. Separately, in August, a village head was reportedly arrested by the police for allegedly leading a mob that killed a primary school teacher and his 10-year-old son in Ikpanya community, Ibiono Ibom LGA.

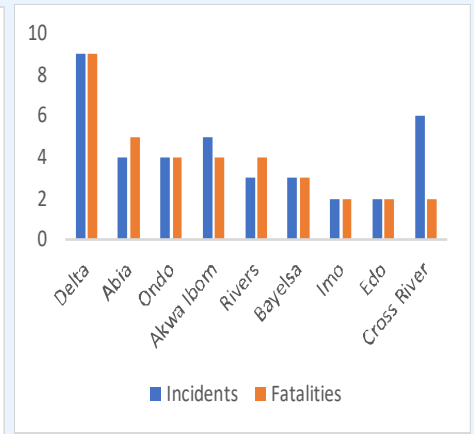
Fatalities Heat Map, Vigilante and Mob Violence



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](http://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

**Inquiries:** [PINDfoundation.org](http://PINDfoundation.org)

**Contacts:** [info@PINDfoundation.org](mailto:info@PINDfoundation.org) +234 (0) 9 291 0454.

**What do you think about the report? - [We value your feedback](#)**

### Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

**Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system:** Text report to **080 9936 2222 / 091 2233 4455**

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