MONTHLY NIGERIA VIOLENT CONFLICT BULLETIN



Volume 1, Issue 4

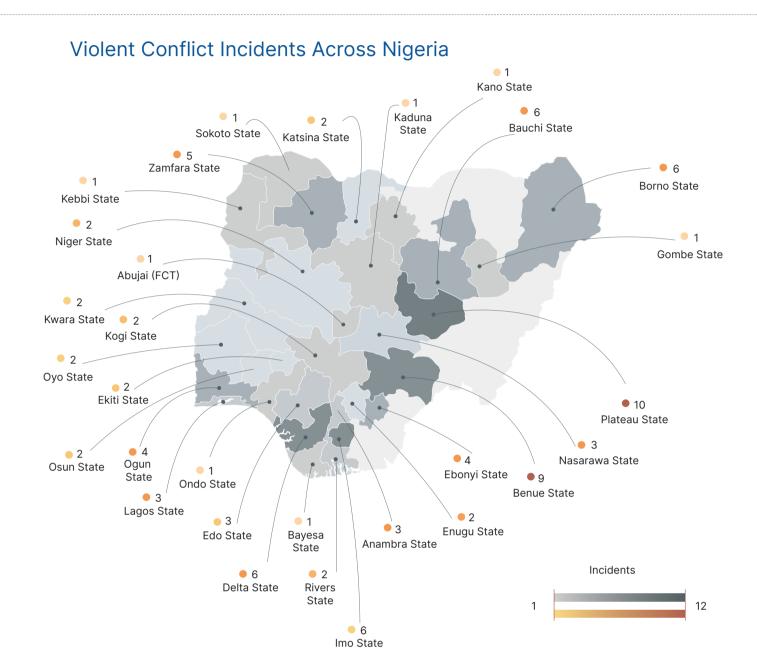
Insights from Nextier violent conflict Database

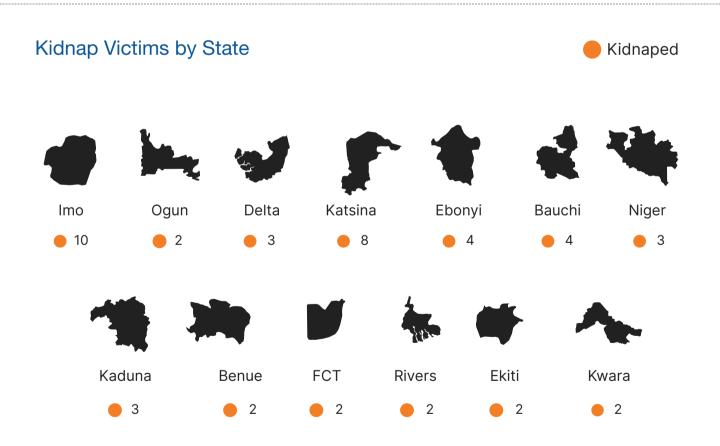
25th June 2023 - 24th July 2023



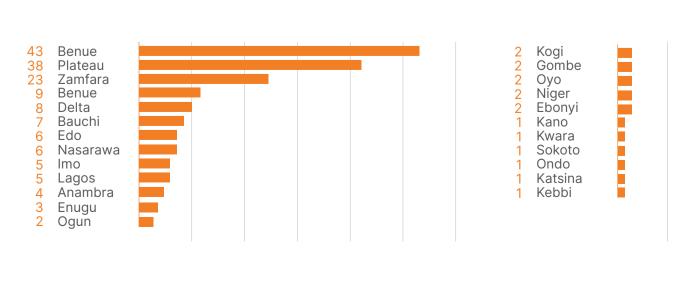




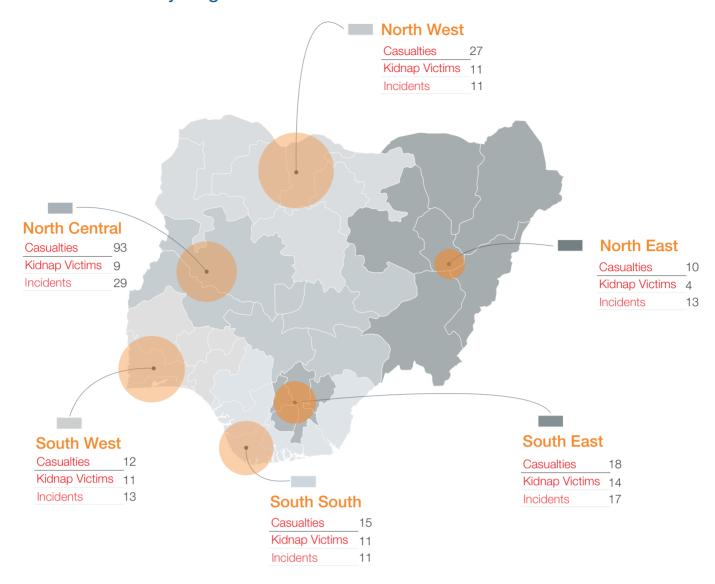




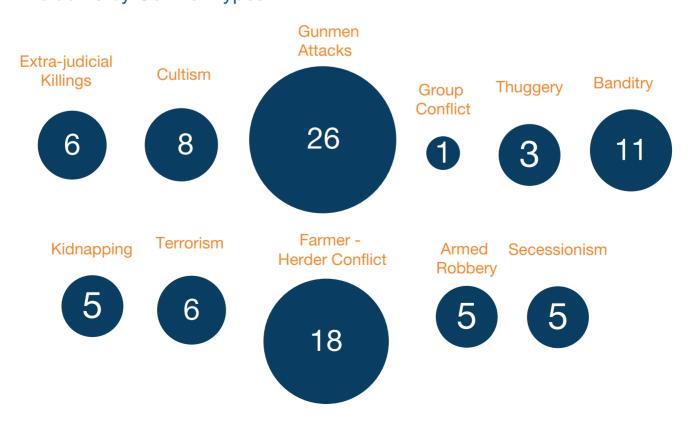
Casualty Count by State



Violent Conflict by Region



Incidents by Conflict Types



Key Findings

This review period (25th June to 24th July 2023) recorded 175 casualties and 60 kidnap victims from 94 violent incidents across 30 Nigerian states. All three indicators (incidents, casualties and kidnap victims) decreased compared to the previous month. Gunmen violence recorded the most incidents (26), while farmer-herder conflict recorded the most casualties (74).

Overall, the North Central region was the most troubled of the country's six regions recording 29 incidents that resulted in 93 casualties and nine kidnap victims. Plateau State recorded the most violent incidents, with ten occurrences of farmer-herder-related conflicts. Some hotspot Local Government Areas (LGAs) in State include Riyom, Jos North and Mangu. Eight of the ten violent incidents occurred in Mangu, making it the most volatile LGA.

Benue State accounted for 46.23 per cent of the recorded casualties in the North Central. For example, about <u>27 people</u> were killed in an attack by suspected armed herders on Ukum Local Government Area communities. According to some scholars, the recent increase in violence in Benue State results <u>from three immediate developments:</u> the growth of militias, an extended period of impunity, and the adoption of grazing prohibitions, which are unacceptable to herders.

Government Response

Despite the current administration's kinetic and non-kinetic measures to combat insecurity in the country, recent surges of existing security problems have plagued several states, such as Plateau. Most importantly, efforts have been made to curtail this surge in states like Plateau. For example, Operation Safe Haven's (OPSH) commander temporarily relocated the operation's headquarters to Mangu LGA. Also, the Chief of Army Staff visited Mangu LGA area to interface with relevant stakeholders and tackle recurring killings. The effort led to the creation of a new operation called "Hakorin Damisa" in the local government and the State.

Recommendations

- 1. The Nigerian government should make necessary efforts to mitigate the impact of the increase in fuel and other critical goods, as poverty could enhance the country's insecurity rate.
- 2. Public awareness of security initiatives is essential to keep citizens and key stakeholders informed. For example, the launched police-VGS Quick Emergency Reporting and Response System (QERRS) should be massively advertised across all traditional and new media platforms.
- 3. The government should deploy additional early warning systems to monitor conflict trends and track emerging security concerns.
- 4. Peacebuilding efforts should be maintained. All key community leaders, religious figures, and civil society organizations must consistently be included to ensure sustainable peace efforts.