

Nigeria Violent Conflict

(Bi-monthly Report)

Insights from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database

Nextier

Volume 1, Issue 6

November 2023 – December 2023

General Overview of Violent Conflict in Nigeria (November 2023 and December 2023)



Incidents
172



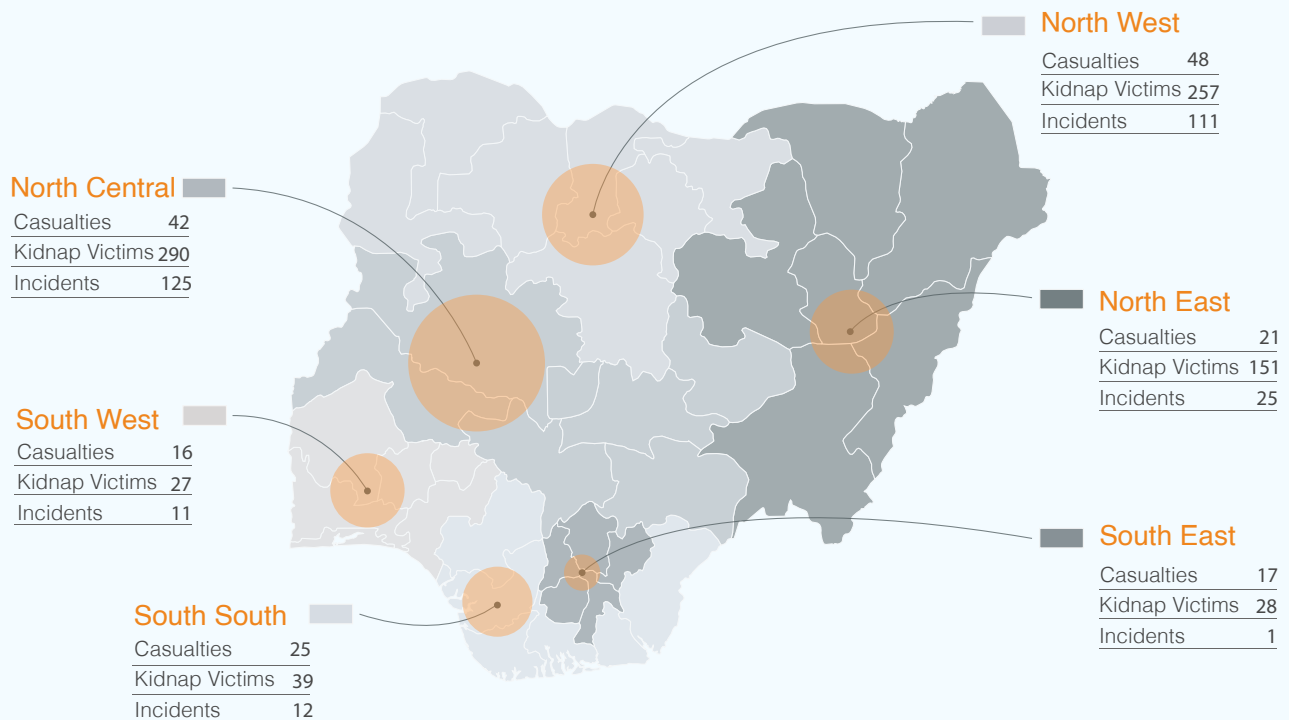
Casualties
792



Kidnap Victims
285

Violent Conflict by Region

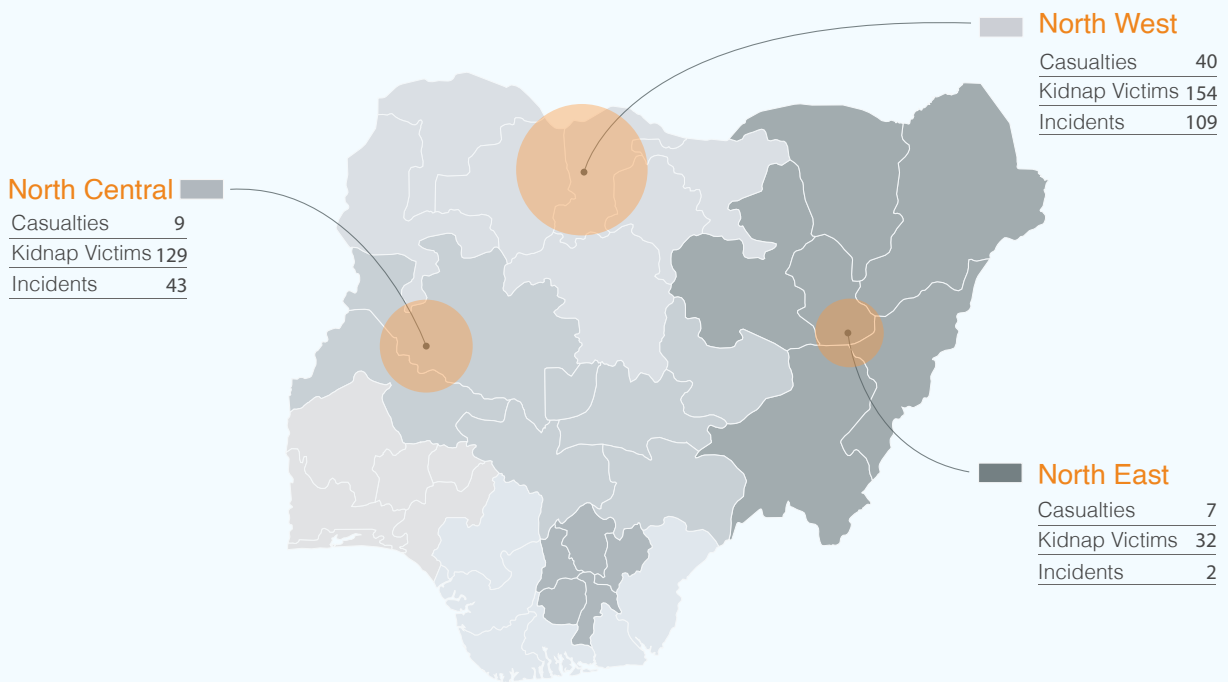
Period: November 2023 - December 2023



Bi-Monthly Spotlight

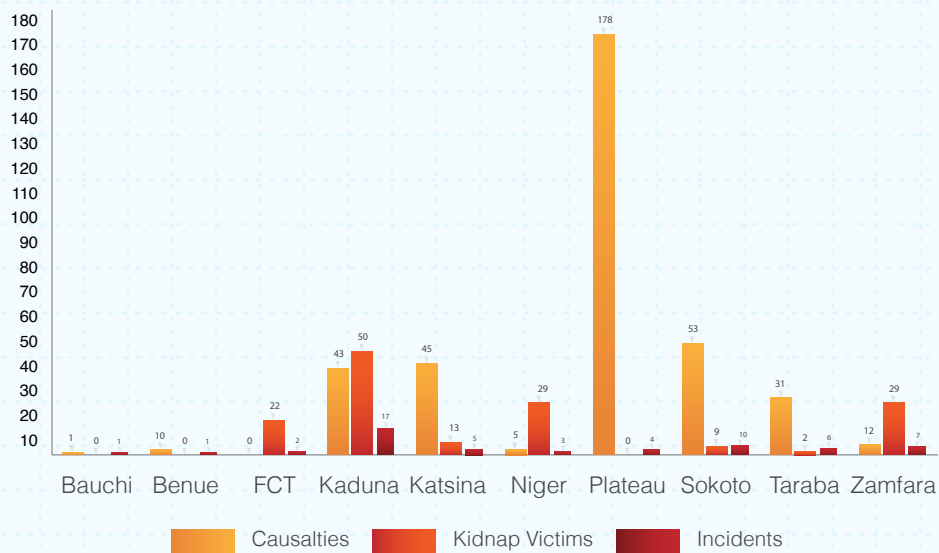
Violent Conflict Data by Region: Banditry

Period: November 2023 - December 2023



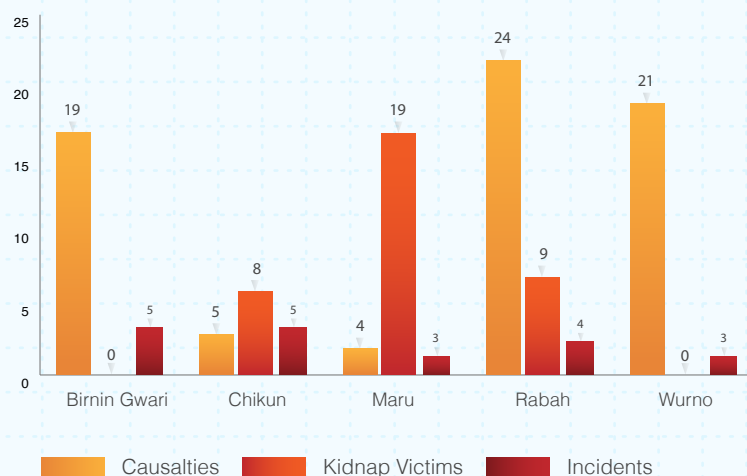
Banditry - Violent Conflict Data by State

Period: November 2023 - December 2023

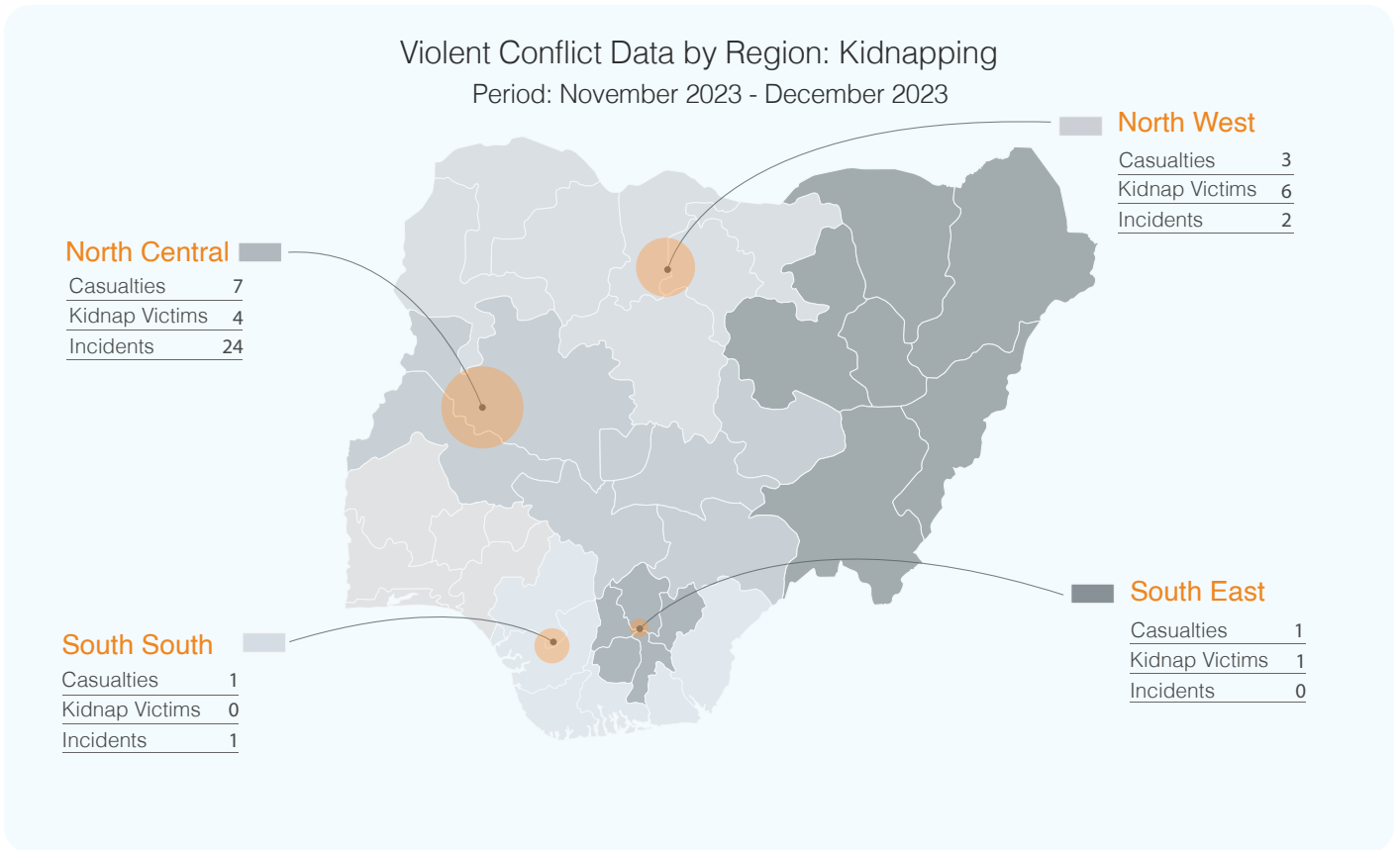


Banditry - Most Affected LGAs

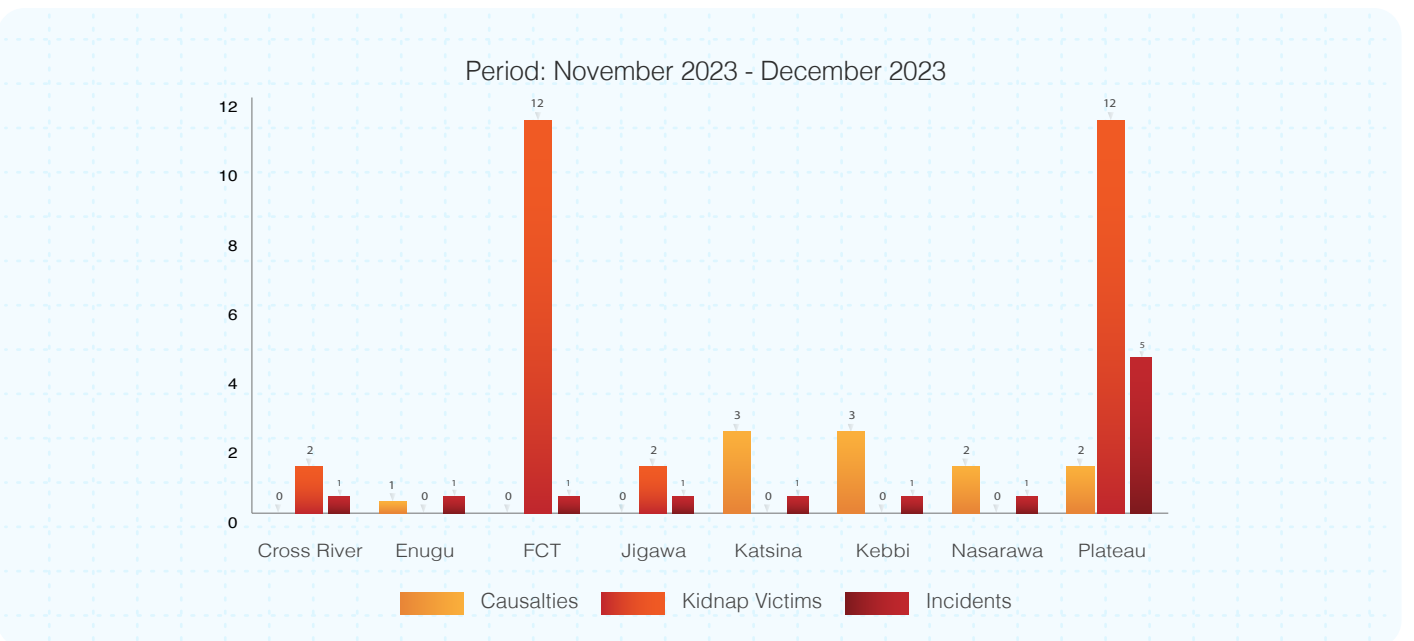
Period: November 2023 - December 2023



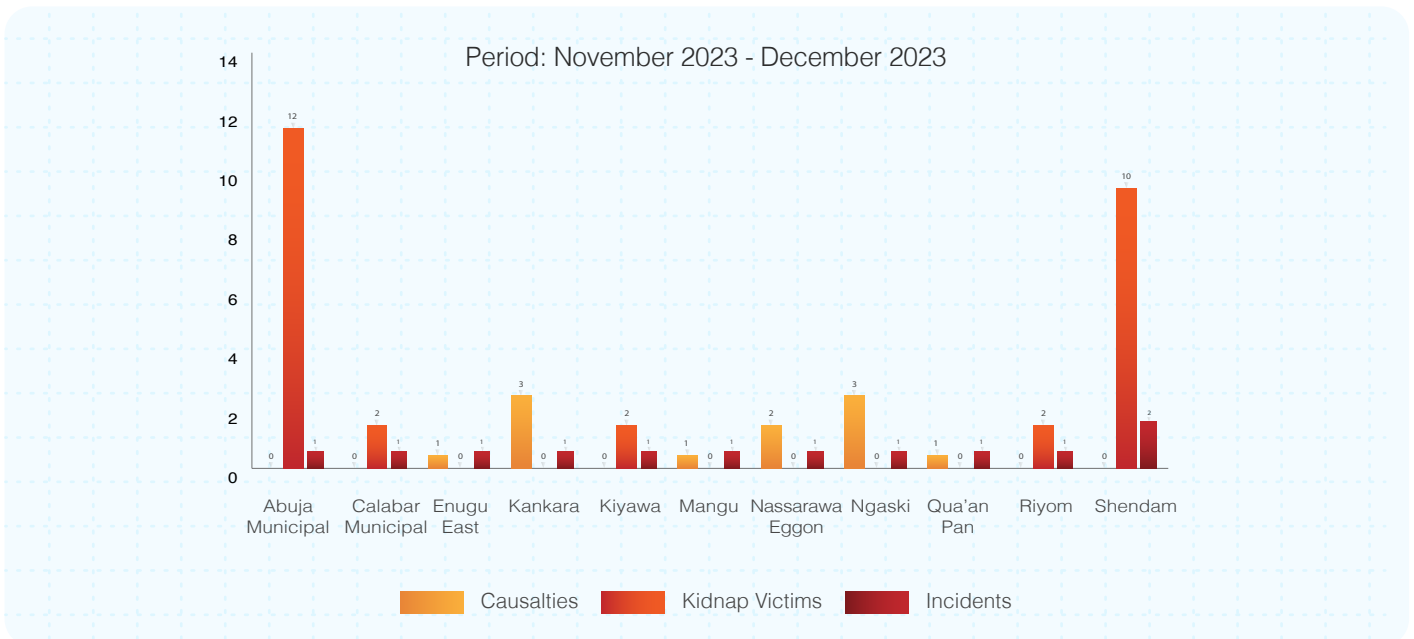
Kidnapping - Violent Conflict in Nigeria



Kidnapping - Violent Conflict Data by State

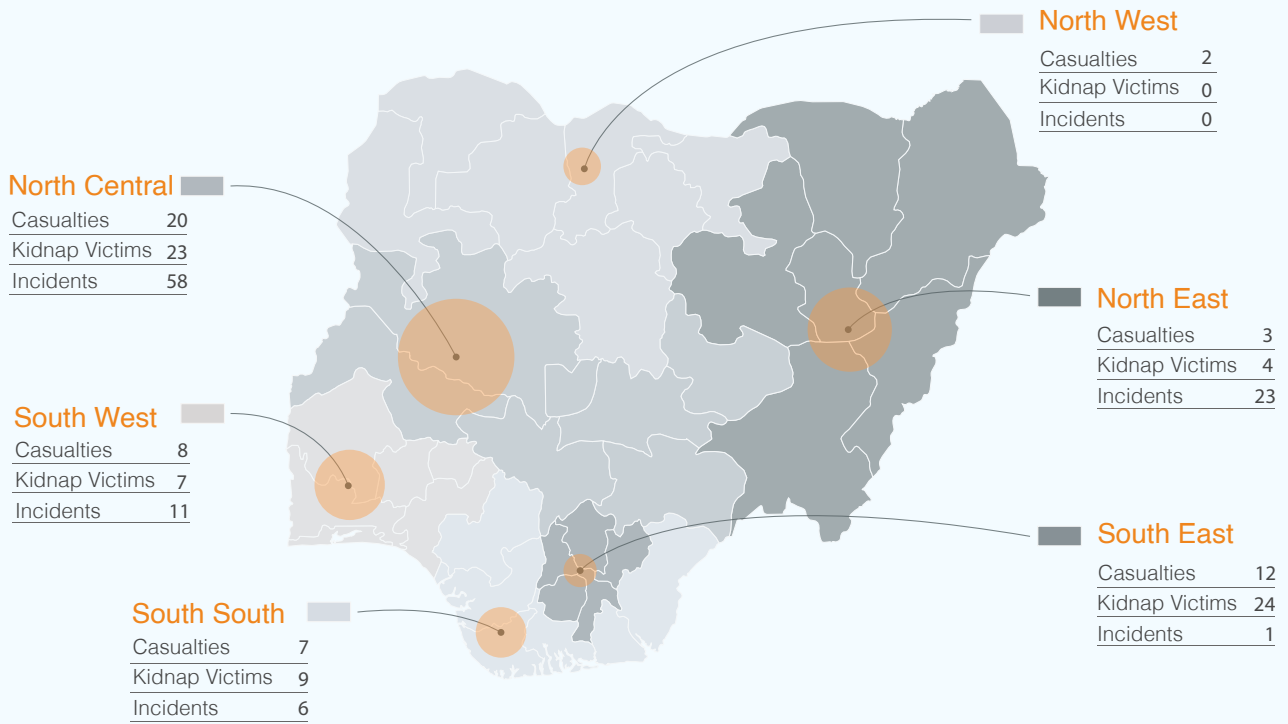


Kidnapping - Most Affected LGAs

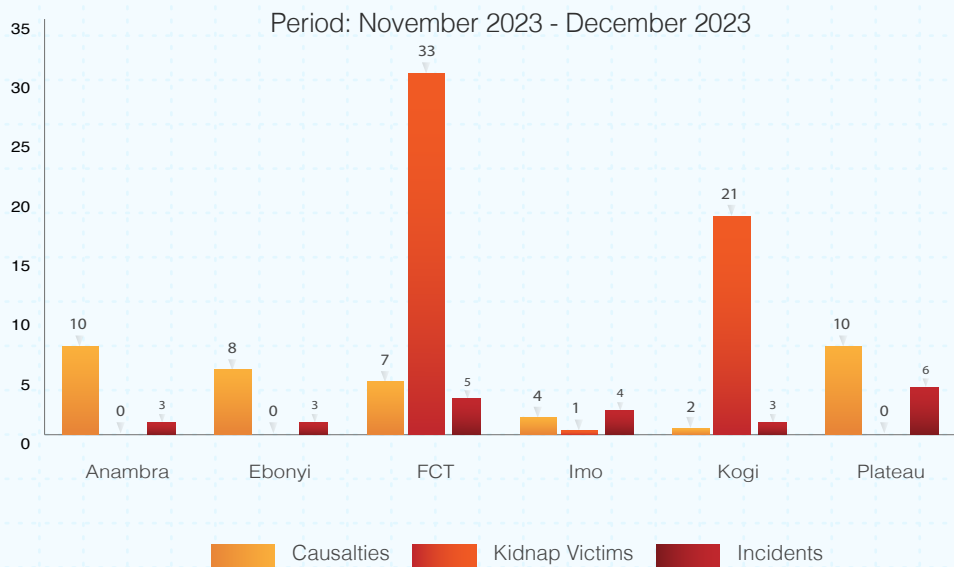


Gunmen Attacks - Violent Conflict in Nigeria

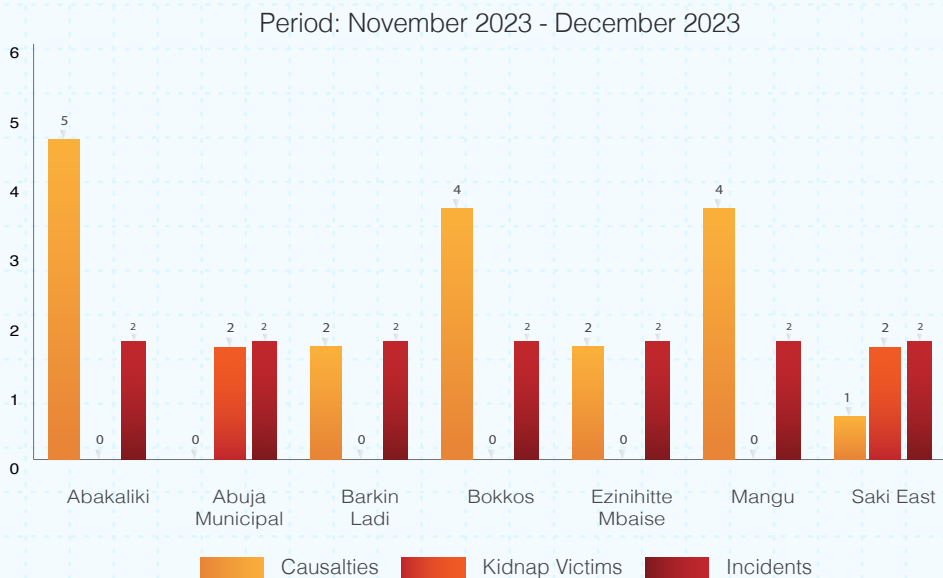
Violent Conflict Data by Region: Gunmen Attacks
Period: November 2023 - December 2023



Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected States



Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected LGAs



Insights

The months of November and December, which brought the year 2023 to a close, recorded three key violent conflict types: banditry, gunmen attacks and kidnapping. This is a slight shift from the previous [bi-monthly report](#), which had the prevalent violent conflicts of banditry, farmer-herder, and gunmen attacks. Across the six regions in Nigeria, 172 incidents occurred within the period under review, with the North West recording the most violent incidents. The North Central region followed with 45 incidents; however, it peaked all other regions on casualties and kidnap victims, which stood at 290 and 125, respectively.

Banditry prevailed in Nigeria's violent conflict theatre. The most affected region was North West Nigeria, with 40 incidents of banditry, followed by North Central and North East, with nine and seven incidents, respectively. On the state level, Kaduna was the most affected within the review period, with 17 incidents, followed by Sokoto and Zamfara, with ten and seven incidents, respectively. Kaduna is the most affected state in the region. A prominent incident was the [neutralisation](#) of seven bandits by security forces in the Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of the state, where [search operations](#) and patrols have proven efficient in neutralising bandits. Plateau State in the North Central region recorded a comparatively lower number of banditry incidents, although it trumped all other states in casualty count, at 178, followed by Sokoto at 53. The [massacre](#) in Barkin Ladi and Bokkos Local Government Area on December 24, 2023, marked one of the darkest chapters in the Plateau state's history, with over 170 people killed and communities displaced. The nature and scale of the attack have raised concerns about the repeated tragedies that have become all too common in Plateau state.

Gunmen attacks have become a recurrent conflict in Nigeria's conflict theatre, playing out between November and December. It was prevalent in the North Central region, peaking at 20 incidents, nearly doubling the incident count from the South East zone. The aforementioned regions which have been most affected by gunmen attacks continue from the previous [bi-monthly report](#). On a state level, Plateau State recorded six incidents of gunmen attacks, the highest between November and December, followed closely by the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, which recorded five [incidents](#) with seven casualties. Mangu Local Government Area (LGA) in Plateau State is a notorious hotspot, with four incidents of gunmen attacks recorded within the period under review. A standout incident, amongst others, occurred in the Gudum village of Mangu LGA, where gunmen killed four people. However, the intervention of security forces put a halt to the attack. Anambra and Ebonyi State in the South East recorded three gunmen incidents each. The killings in Abakaliki LGA by unknown gunmen on Christmas Eve cast a shadow over festivities in the state. Further [investigations](#) revealed a purported link to a cult-related clash.

Kidnapping has also played out within the review period. It peaked in the North Central region at seven incidents and 24 kidnap victims. This makes the North Central region the most affected region by violent conflict within the review period, as gunmen attacks have also occurred the most in the region.

The North West region follows the North Central region with three incidents, while the South East and South-South recorded an incident each in the review window. Across the states, Plateau State recorded 12 kidnap victims from 5 incidents in Shendam, Riyom and Mangu LGAs, making it the most affected state by incidents. However, FCT-Abuja recorded one incident, resulting in 12 kidnap victims matching the kidnap count in Plateau State. The incident in Lugbe, a residential district and town in the FCT-Abuja, led to the kidnap of 12 people, including children. This follows a string of attacks that have plagued the FCT-Abuja, with residents lamenting over the lackadaisical response to kidnappings that have become prominent.

The various regions in the country have experienced varying conflicts in varying degrees, with some more prominent than others. However, the North Central Region, particularly Plateau State, stands out with the most incidents of gunmen attacks and kidnappings while peaking in casualty count from banditry within the review window (November – December 2023). As repeated attacks by gunmen, kidnappers and, most especially, bandits persist, there is a need for the Nigerian Security apparatus to put as much focus on proactive measures as reactive measures. There is also a need to refocus on local policing as a more cost-effective approach to bringing security closer to the people by improving the existing structures.

The data presented in this report are from Nextier's Nigeria Violent Conflict Database which collates violent conflict incidents across Nigeria from field sources and media-reported violent conflict incidents. Nextier is an Africa-focused multi-competency public sector advisory firm. For enquires, please contact the firm at info@thenextier.com or call +234 913 1303 903. To access other publications, please visit: www.thenextier.com/spd