

# Nigeria Violent Conflict

(Bi-monthly Report)

Insights from the Nextier Violent Conflict Database

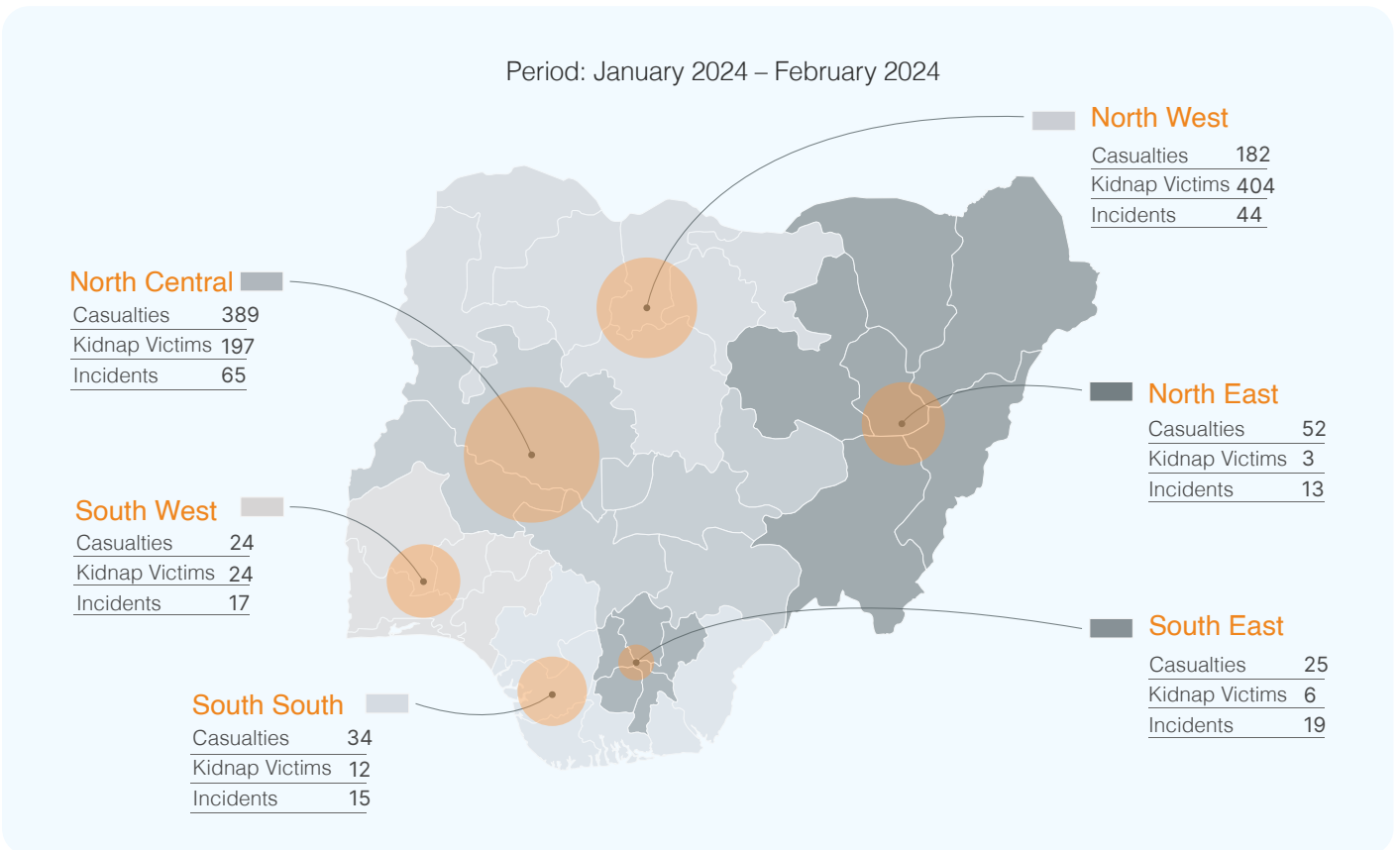
Volume 1, Issue 7

January 2024 – February 2024

## General Overview of Violent Conflict in Nigeria (January 2024 and February 2024)

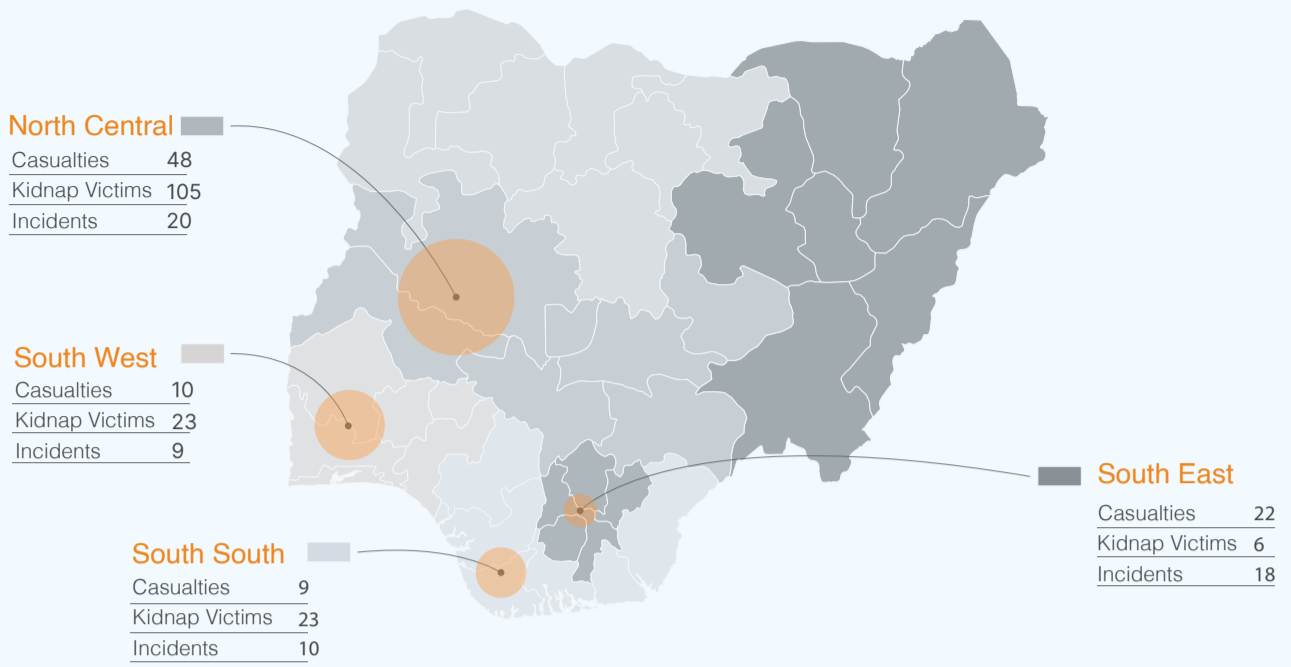


## Violent Conflict by Region



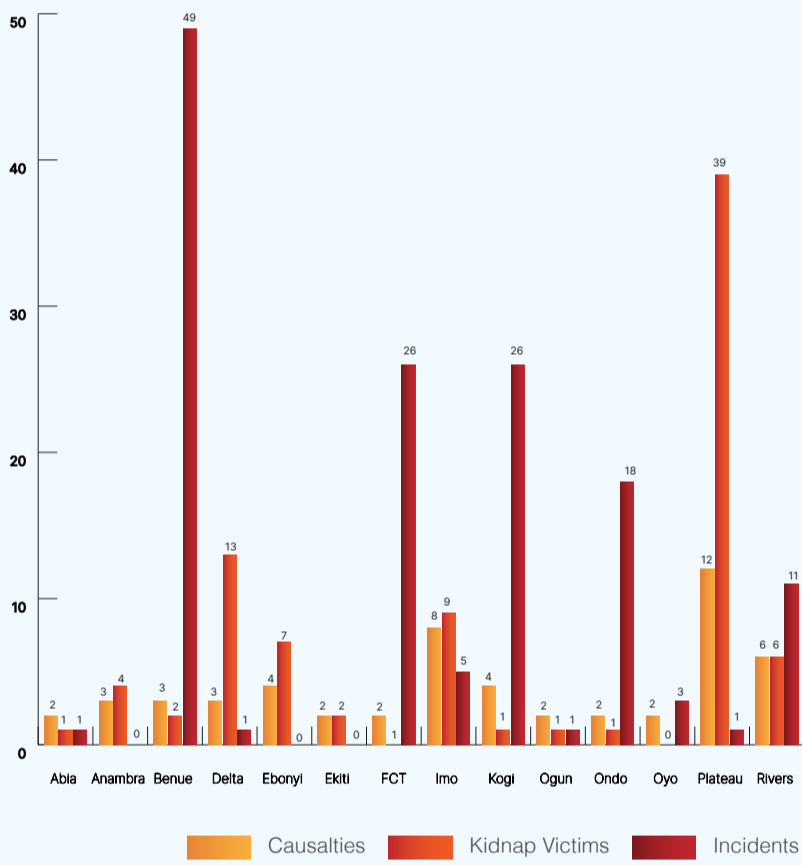
## Gunmen Attacks - Violent Conflict in Nigeria

Violent Conflict Data by Region: Gunmen Attacks  
Period: January 2024 - February 2024



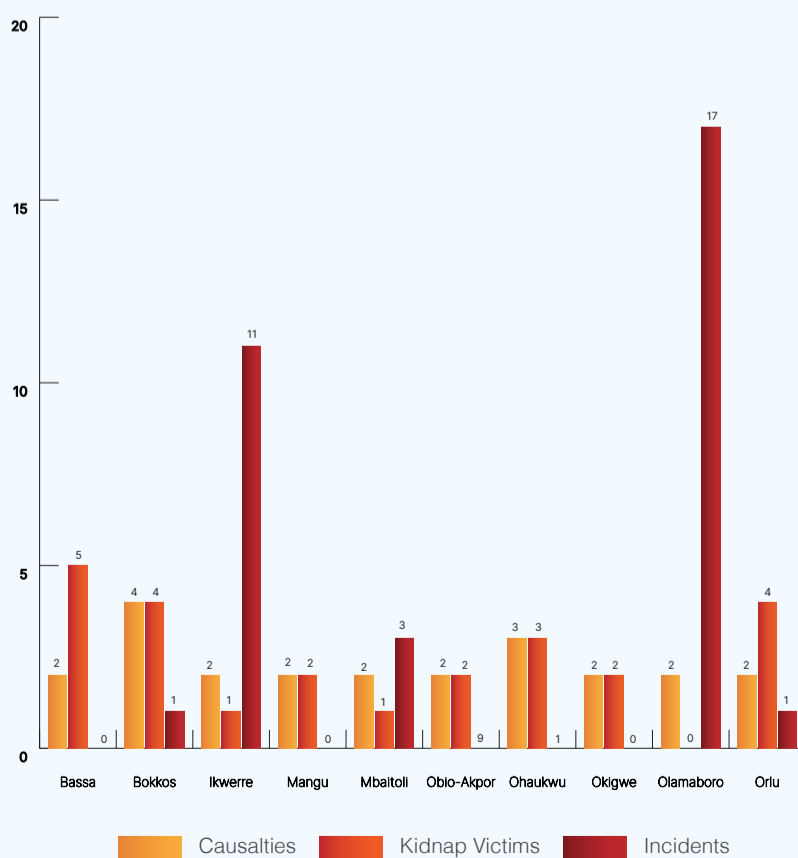
## Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected States

Period: November 2023 - December 2023



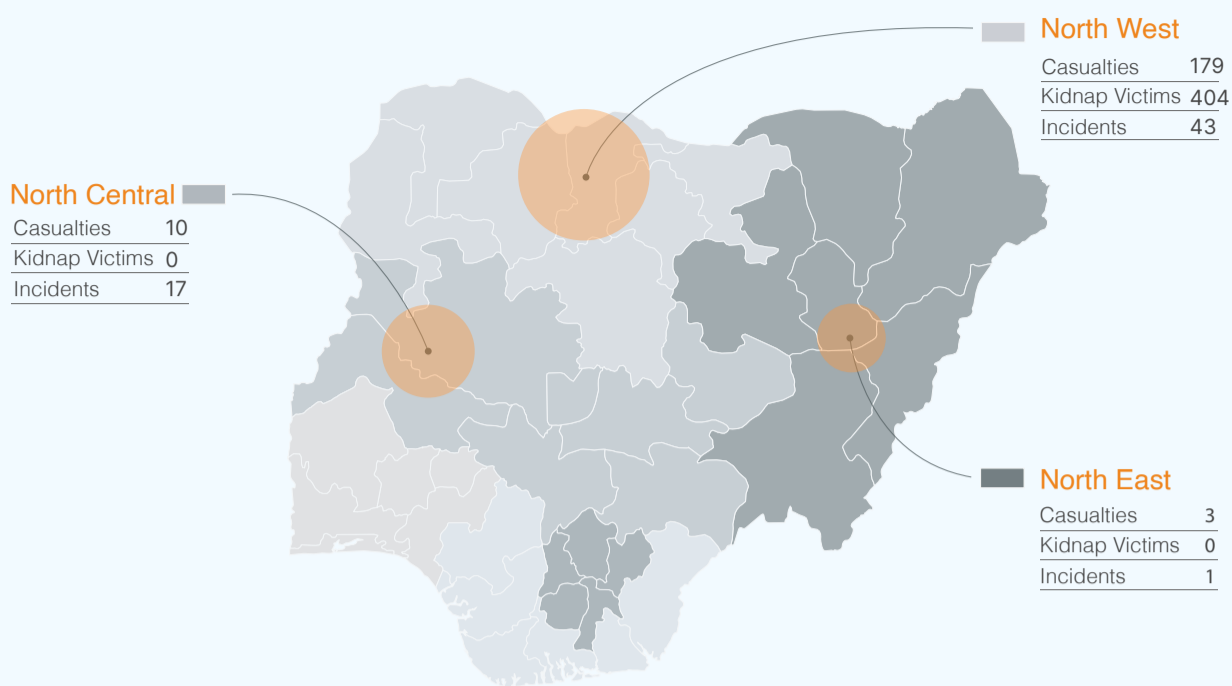
## Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected LGAs

Period: November 2023 - December 2023



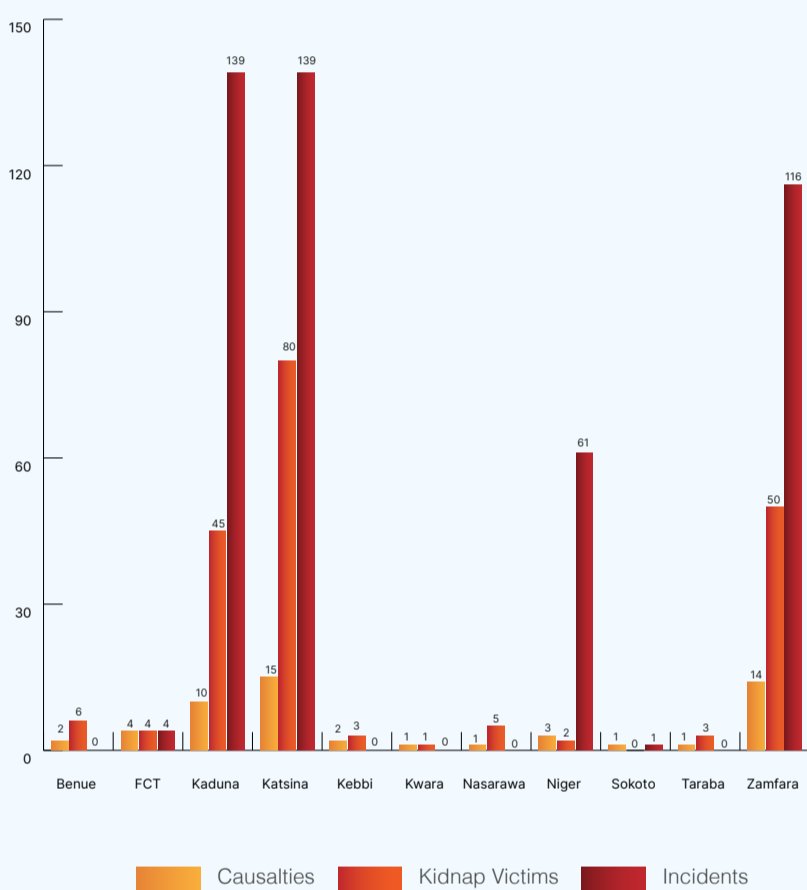
## Bi-Monthly Spotlight

### Violent Conflict Data by Region: Banditry Period: November 2023 - December 2023



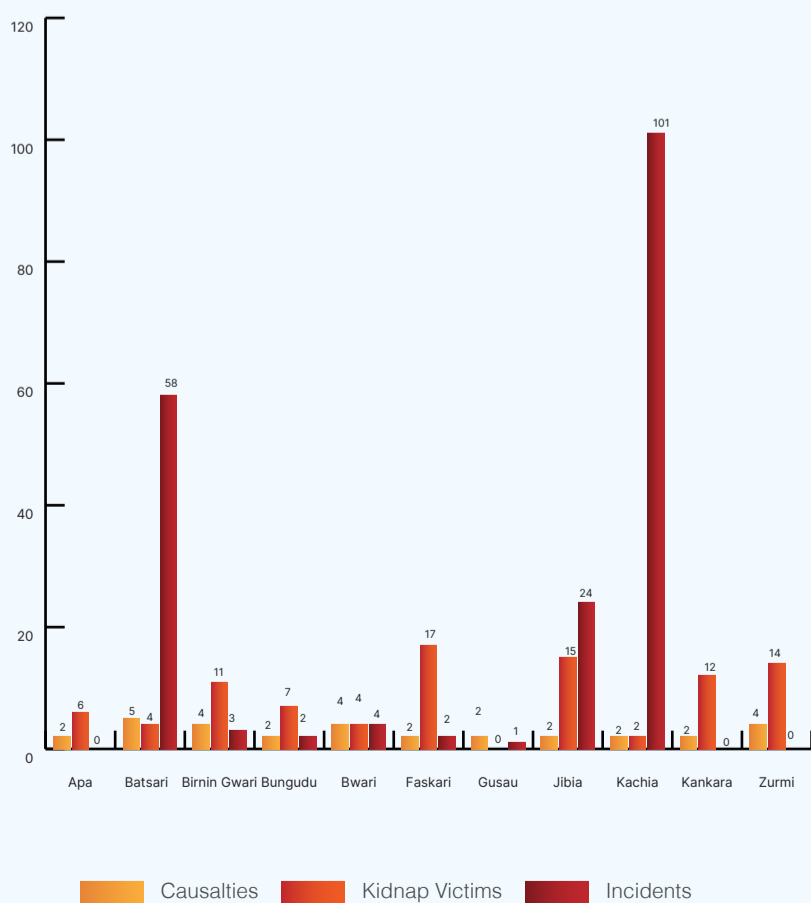
## Banditry - Violent Conflict Data by State

Period: January 2024 - February 2024

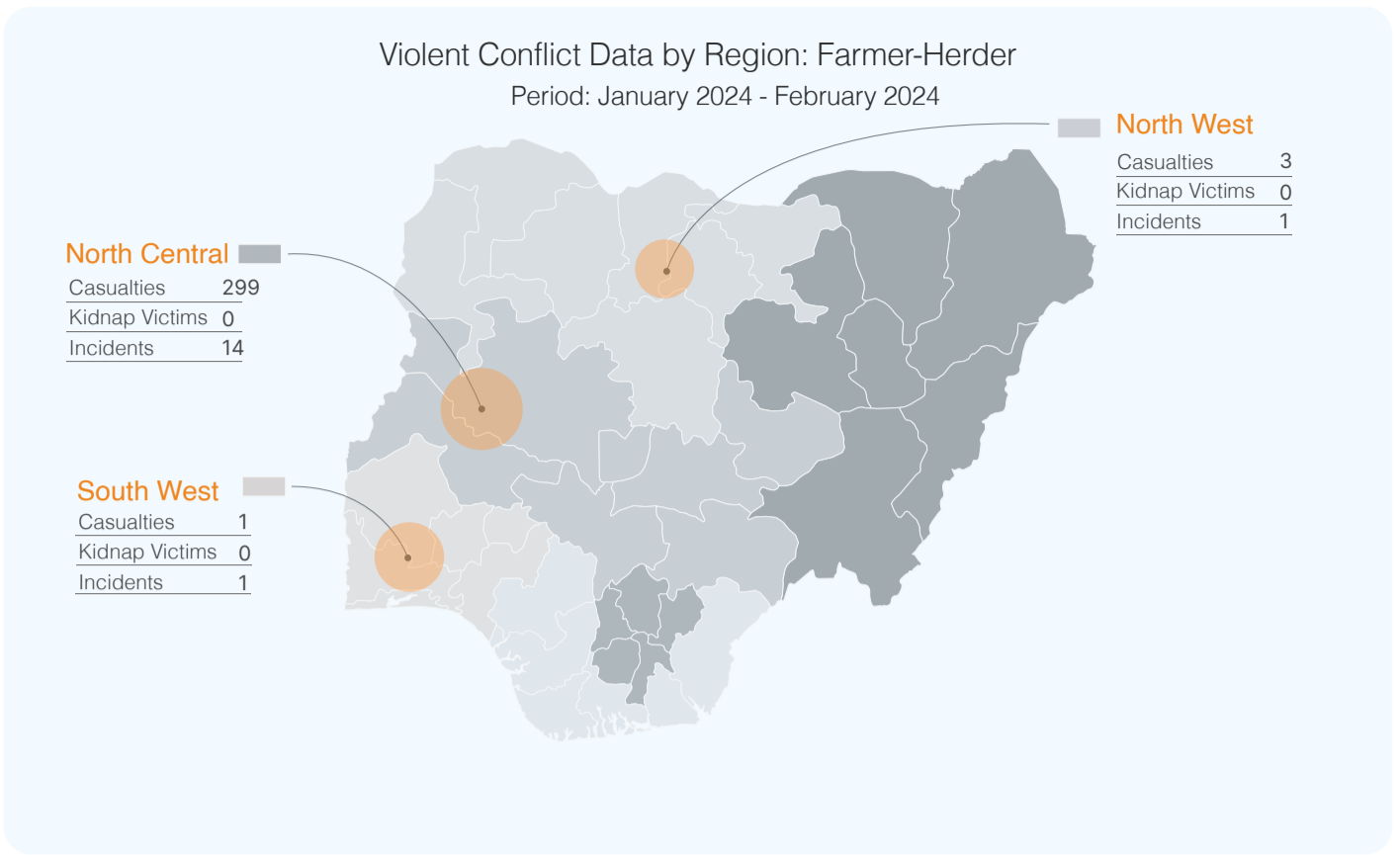


## Banditry - Most Affected LGAs

Period: January 2024 - February 2024

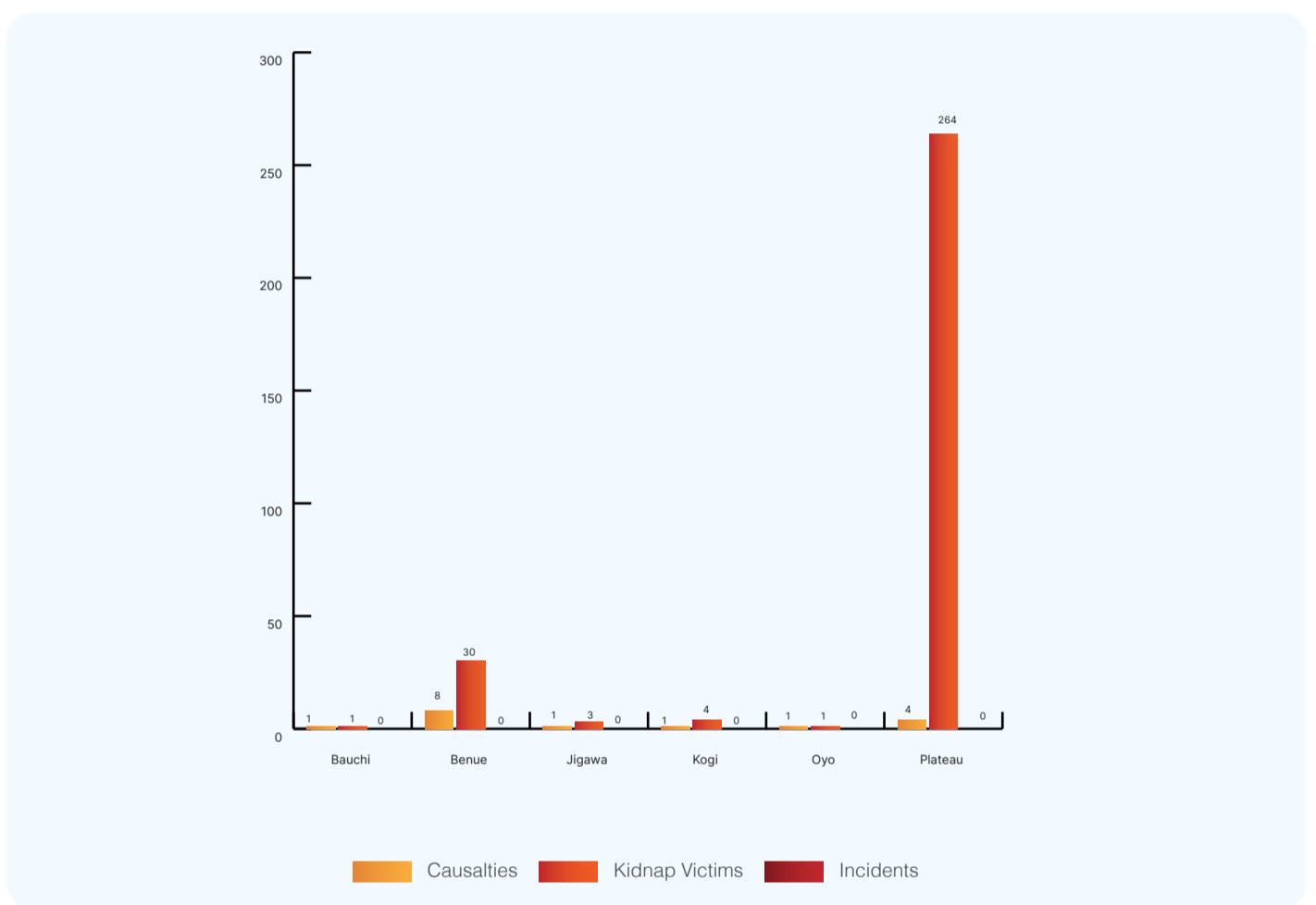


## Farmer-Herder - Violent Conflict in Nigeria



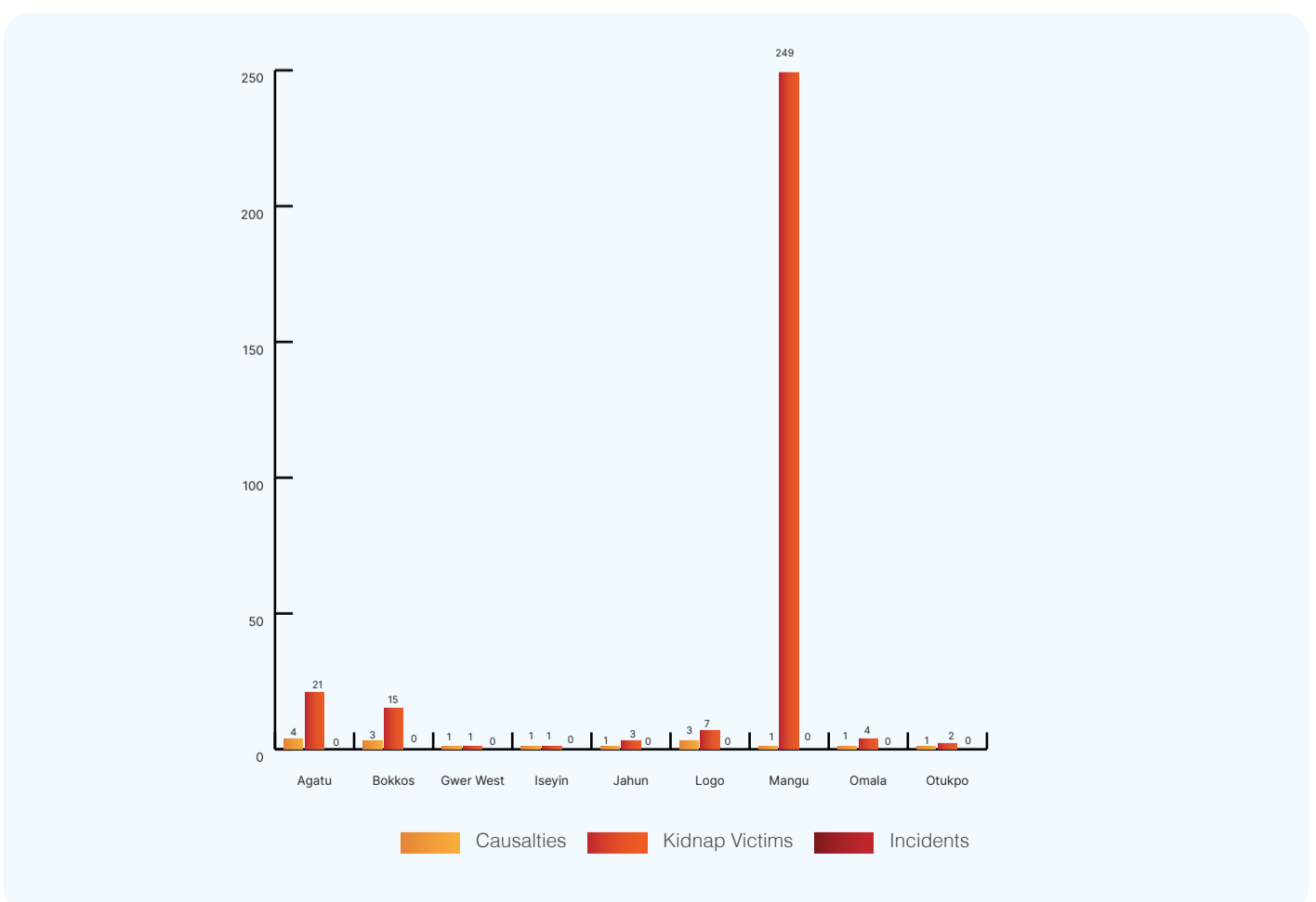
## Farmer-Herder - Violent Conflict Data by State

Period: January 2024 - February 2024



## Farmer-Herder- Most Affected LGAs

Period: January 2024 - February 2024



### Violent Conflict Analysis

As Nigerians grapple with the high cost of living stemming from the removal of fuel subsidy and unification of foreign exchange rates, the months of January and February, which kicked off the new year, were characterised by occurrences within the Nigerian border and other related continental issues. On the domestic front, [protests](#) rocked parts of the nation. On the regional continental front, Nigeria, as the ECOWAS bloc leader, faced the [withdrawal](#) of three Sahel nations. This move posed some immediate political and economic implications, but most significantly, it had stark security ramifications concerning the united fight against jihadist insurgencies.

Three key violent conflict types dominated Nigeria's violent conflict scene: banditry, farmer-herder conflict and gunmen attacks. The dominant conflict types within the period under review slightly differ from the previous bimonthly report, with incidents of farmer-herder conflict trumping kidnappings in Nigeria. Across the six regions in Nigeria, 173 incidents occurred within the period under review, with the North Central recording the most incidents from violent conflict, which stood at 65. The North Central region also recorded the highest casualty count, 389 casualties. The North West region followed with 44 incidents; however, it peaked all other regions on kidnap victims, which stood at 404.

### Gunmen Attacks

Nigeria has had to deal with a spike in the number of gunmen attacks that have brought devastating fear, destruction and deaths across several areas. A vast number of armed groups, such as separatist groups, insurgents, hoodlums and other violent actors, have launched these attacks, leading to anarchy in communities and shaking national security and stability. Gunmen attacks dominated the North Central region with 24 incidents while the South East, South South and South West recorded 18, 10 and nine incidents, respectively. Across the states, Plateau State recorded the most incidents, which stood at 12 and the most casualties, which stood at 39. However, kidnappings from gunmen attacks peaked in Benue State, with 49 kidnap victims within the period under review. The period reveals that despite the North Central region maintaining its status as the most affected, there has been more than a 55% reduction in attacks compared to the previous bi-monthly report. The [gunmen' attack](#) in Olamaboro Local government Area of Kogi state adds to the tally of targeted attacks on commuters. This incident recorded the highest kidnap tally, with 14 people abducted from two Abuja-bound vehicles. The most affected local governments during the period under review are Bokokos and Mangu, which are infamous for the Christmas day attacks captured in the previous bi-monthly report. During this period, the actors have been mainly gunmen and civilians, with some incidents involving informal security actors.

## Banditry

According to Nextier's violent conflict database, banditry has remained a recurrent conflict type manifesting in Nigeria between January 2023 and February 2024. The regions most affected are the North West, North Central, and North East, with a total of 54 incidents. North West peaked on incidents, casualties and kidnap victims, which stood at 43, 179 and 404, respectively. These bandit attacks have reduced by more than 50% compared to the previous [bi-monthly report](#), which recorded 109 incidents. Across the states, the spread of violence has affected Katsina, Zamfara, and Kaduna State. Katsina State recorded a significant increase in incidents, which stood at 15 compared to the previous bi-monthly, which recorded 5. Batsari Local Government Area in Katsina State is among the worst hit with five incidents. One of the [incidents](#) involved the invasion of over 60 bandits dressed in army uniforms in Tashar Na-Gulle village. The attack led to the kidnap of 29 persons. Also, bandit attacks along the Kaduna-Abuja expressway occurred within the period under review. Between January 4 and January 7, no fewer than 85 persons were [abducted](#) along the Kaduna- Abuja highway. The attacks were met with some police resistance.

## Farmer-Herder Conflict

The farmer-herder conflict is a longstanding issue in Nigeria's violent conflict theatre. North Central, North West and South West were the most affected regions within the period under review. The North Central region has remained a hotbed for farmer-herder conflict. With 14 incidents and 299 casualties, the North Central region trumps the North West, which follows distantly with one incident. This trend has been driven by the longstanding resource conflict that has defied most proposed solutions. While other conflicts have recorded some security actors, the actors in this conflict have been nomadic herdsman and farmers in largely agrarian states. Across the States, Benue State is the most affected, with eight incidents and 30 casualties, followed by Plateau State with four incidents. However, Plateau State recorded the highest casualty count, which was 264. According to Nextier's field researcher, suspected herders attacked Sabon Kasuwa, Kinat, Mairana, and Kwahaslalek communities in Mangu LGA, Plateau State, on January 23, 2024. In the aforementioned incident, 91 people died, 158 were injured, and several residential houses, businesses and churches were burnt down. Agatu LGA in Benue State recorded a resurgence of recurrent attacks, with the attack on January 20, 2024, resulting in 4 deaths and another incident resulting in the death of 15 people. The farmer-herder attacks have capitalised on the policing vacuum to perpetrate killings accompanied by acts of arson over time.

## Conclusion

Within January and February, banditry, farmer-herder conflict and gunmen attacks were commonplace in Nigeria. Despite the aforementioned being the most prevalent, other violent conflicts such as kidnapping, terrorism, and cultism occurred in various degrees across the country. The ongoing discussions on establishing state police remain a viable option, although certain technicalities must be considered for its effectiveness in addressing the insecurity in the country.

Conflict prevention is largely inexpensive than actual violence. Early warning systems in violence-prone areas will help to identify and escalate conflict signs and anticipate rapid response. There is also a need to address socio-economic conditions such as unemployment and poverty that push people into these violent conflicts. Beyond security measures, there is a need to employ non-combative measures such as dialogues, community engagements and other non-violent strategies for peace.

*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](mailto:info@thenextier.com) or call +234 913 1303 903. To access other publications, please visit: [www.thenextier.com/spd](http://www.thenextier.com/spd)*