

# Nigeria Violent Conflict

(Bi-monthly Report)

Insights from Nextier's Nigeria Violent Conflicts Database

Nextier

Volume 1, Issue 8

March 2024 - April 2024

## General Overview of Violent Conflict in Nigeria (March 2024 and April 2024)



Incidents  
**163**



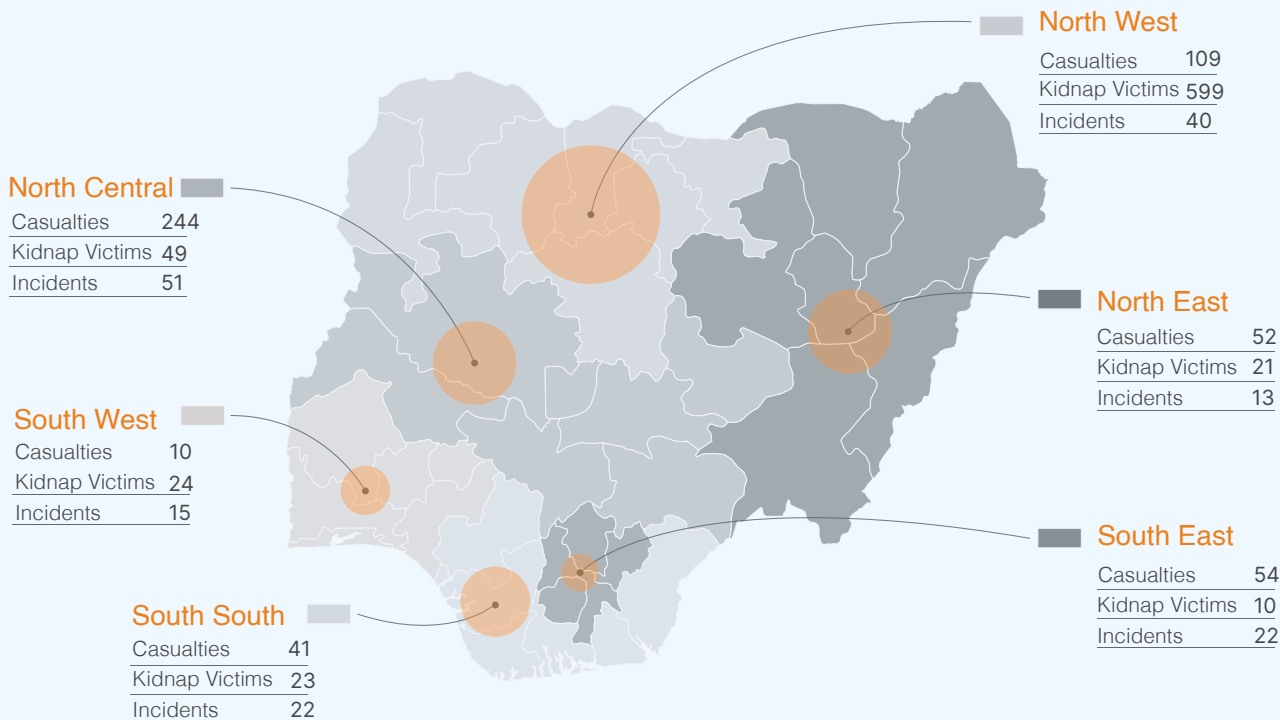
Casualties  
**510**



Kidnap Victims  
**726**

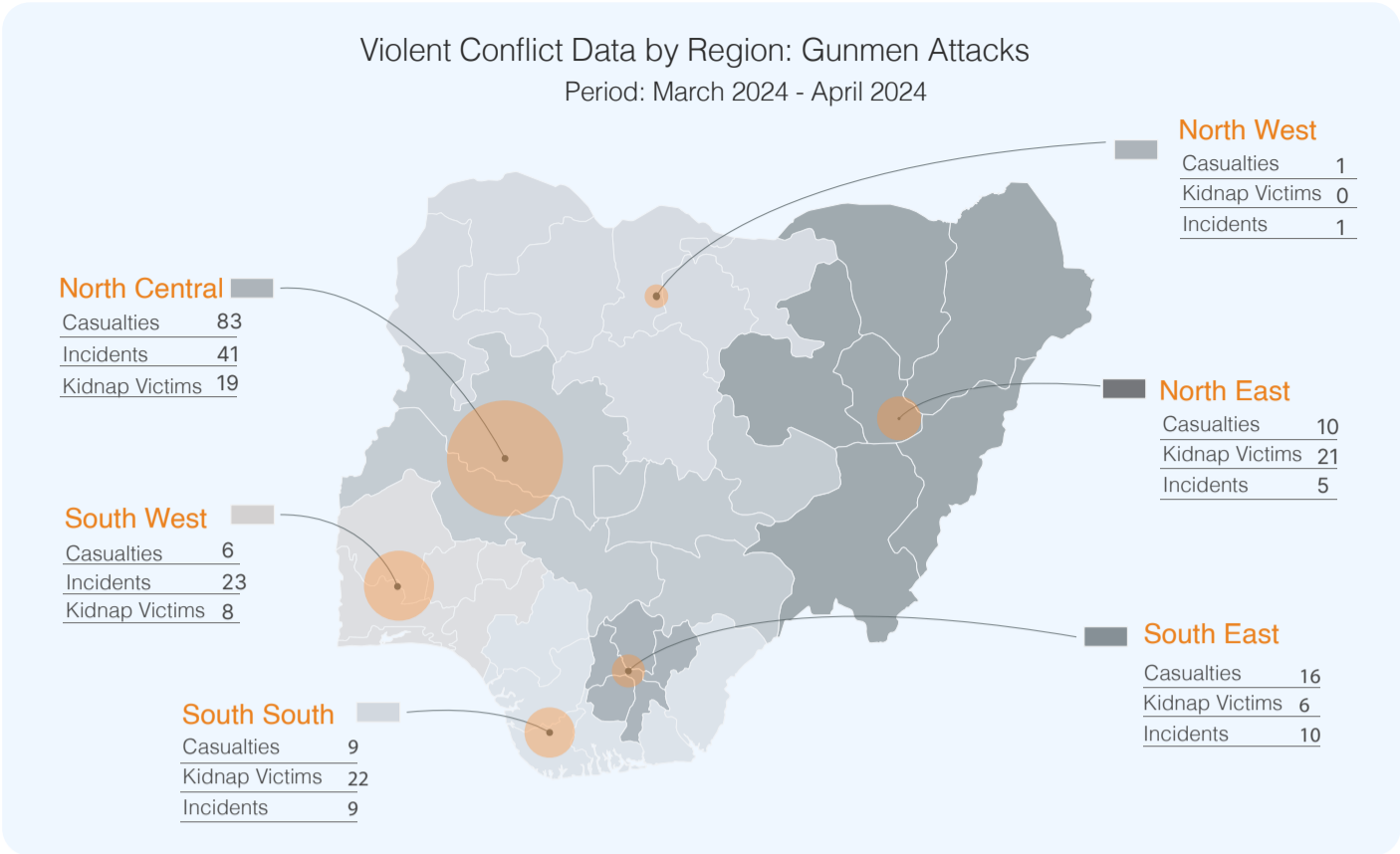
## Violent Conflict by Region

Period: March 2024 – April 2024



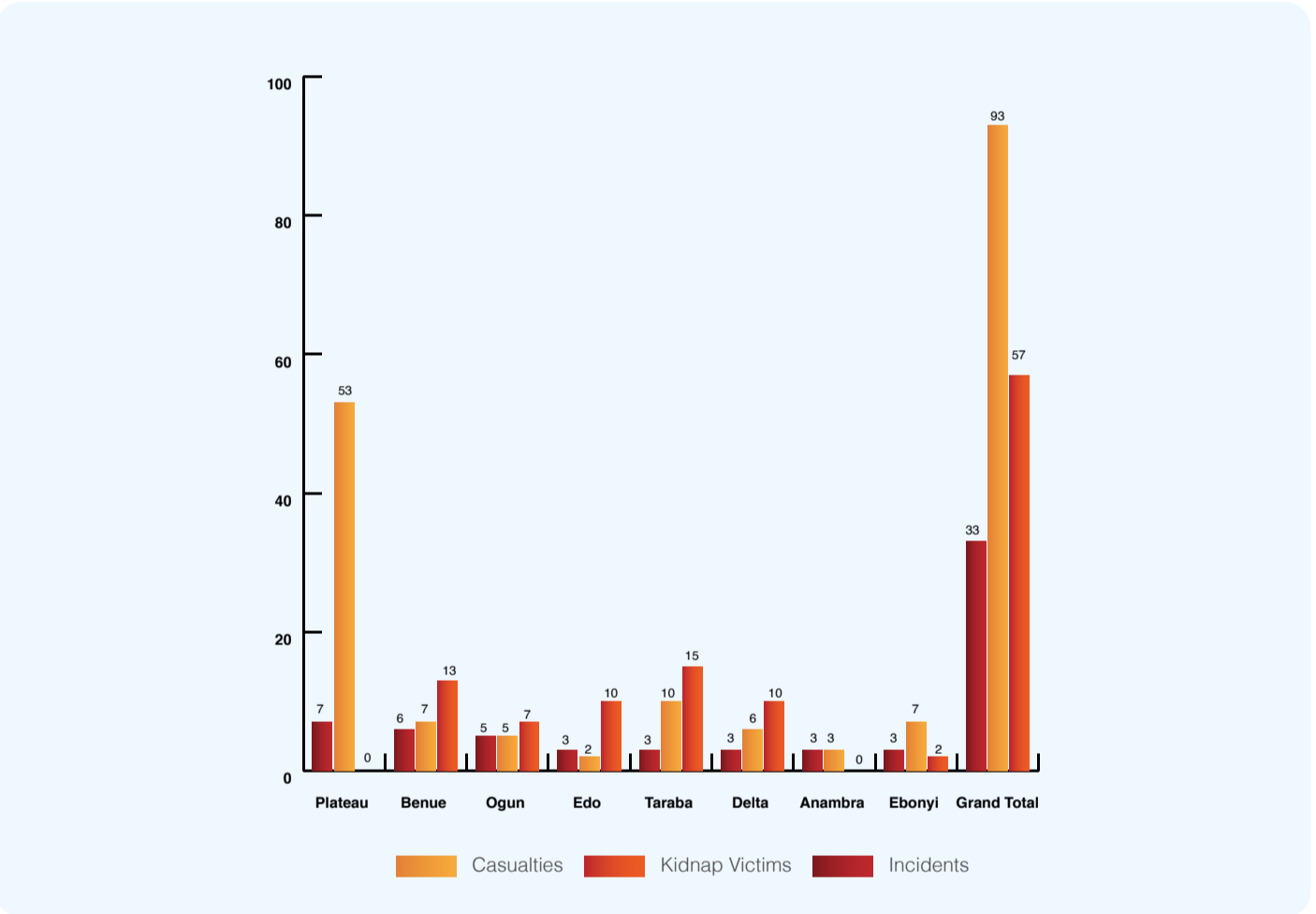
# Bi-Monthly Spotlight

## Gunmen Attacks - Violent Conflict in Nigeria



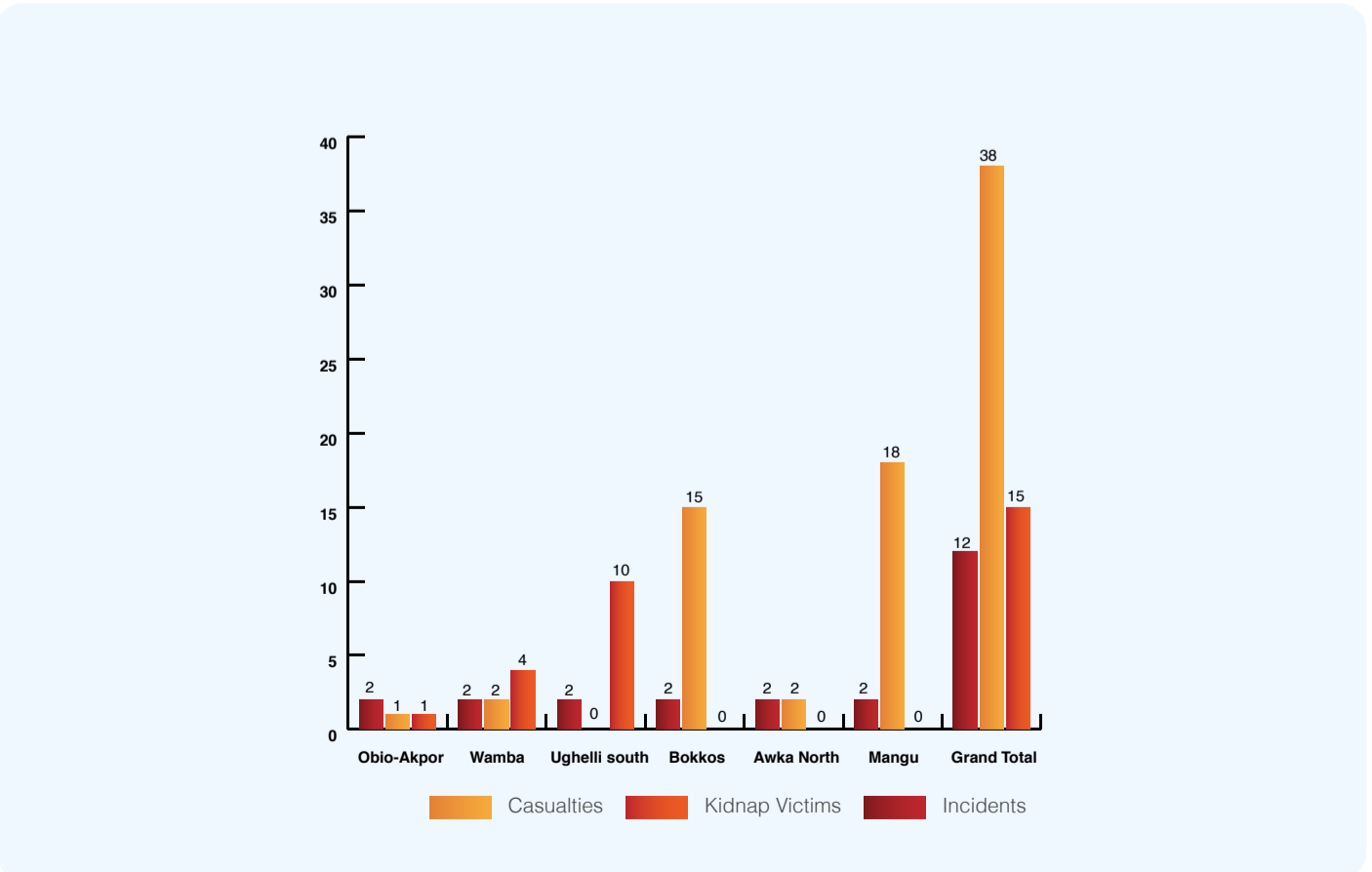
## Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected States

Period: March 2024 - March 2024



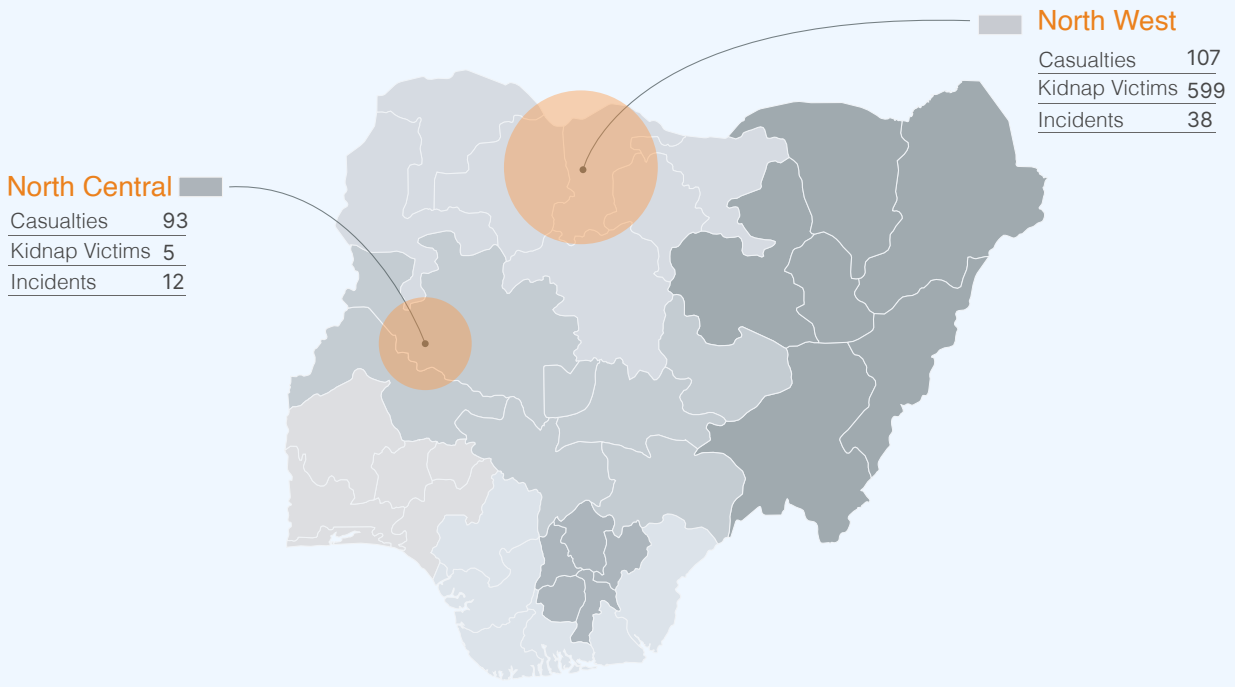
## Gunmen Attacks - Most Affected LGAs

Period: March 2024 - March 2024



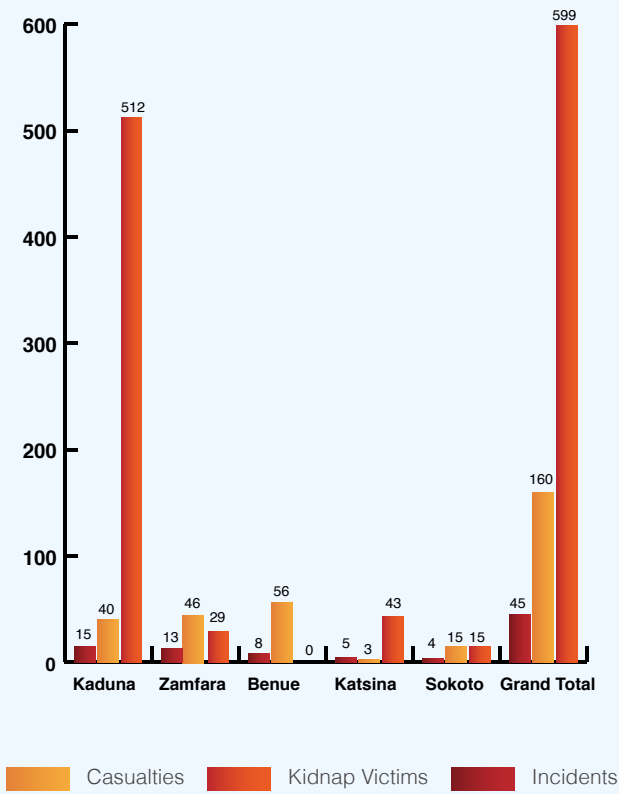
# Banditry - Violent Conflict in Nigeria

Violent Conflict Data by Region: Banditry  
Period: March 2024 - April 2024



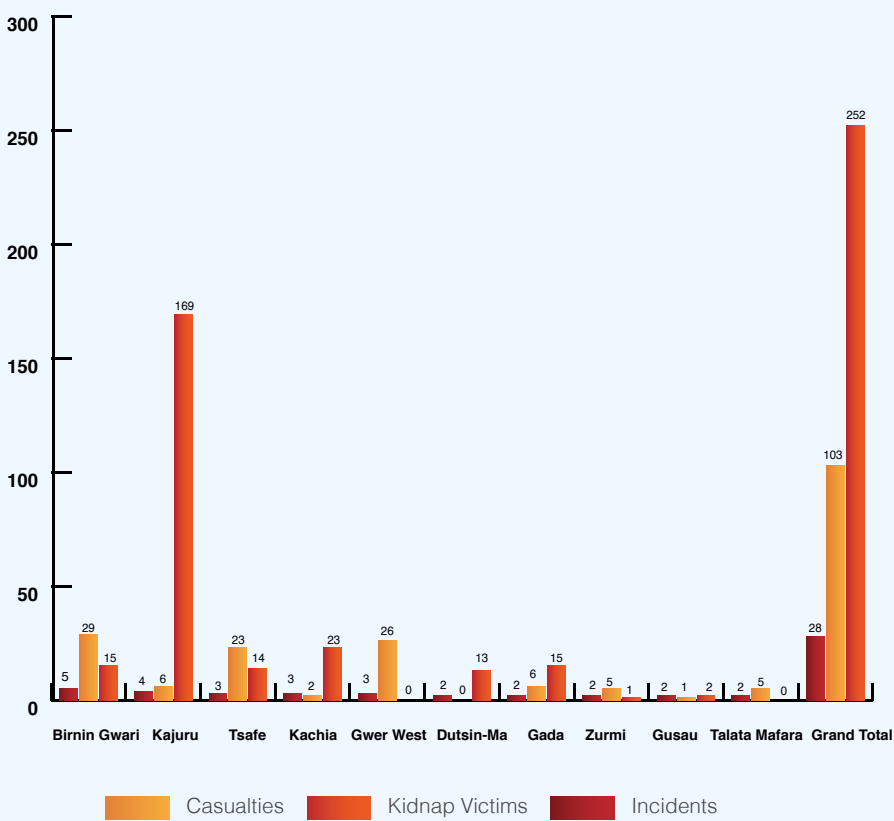
## Banditry - Violent Conflict Data by State

Period: March 2024 - April 2024



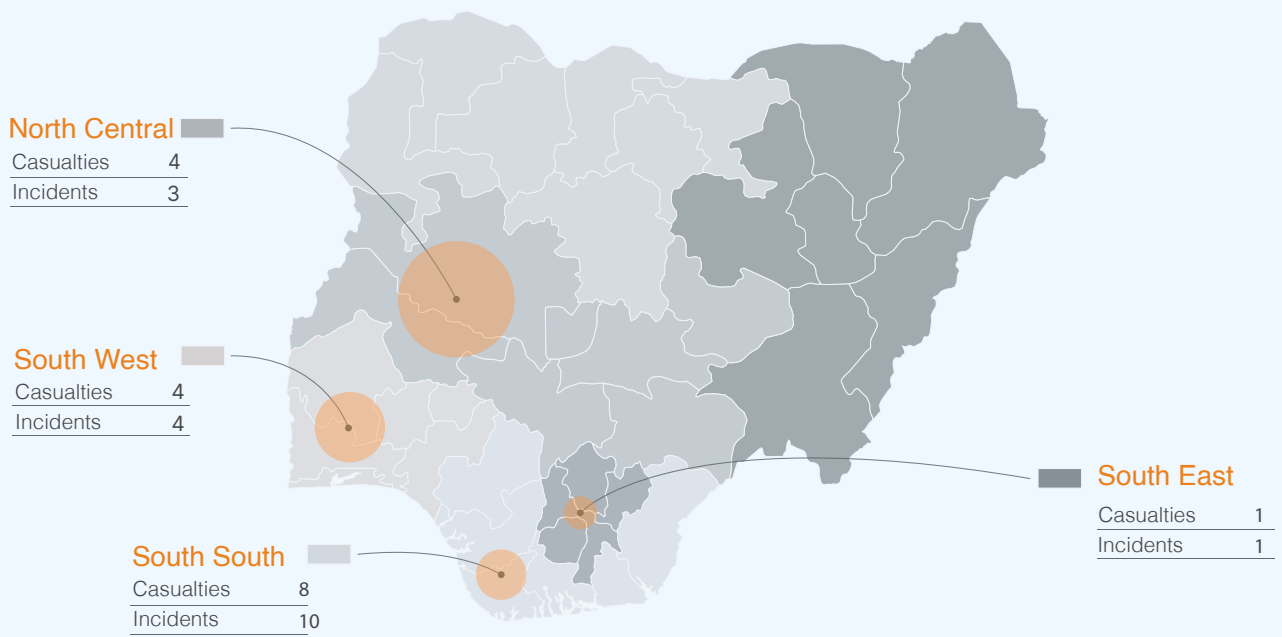
## Banditry - Most Affected LGAs

Period: March 2024 - April 2024



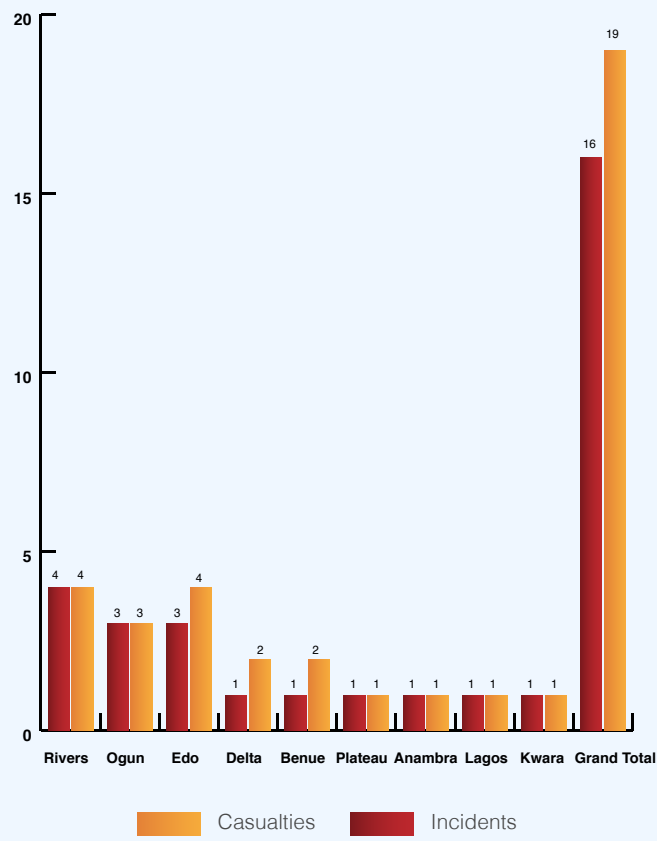
## Cult Clashes - Violent Conflict in Nigeria

Violent Conflict Data by Region: Cult Clashes  
Period: March 2024 - April 2024



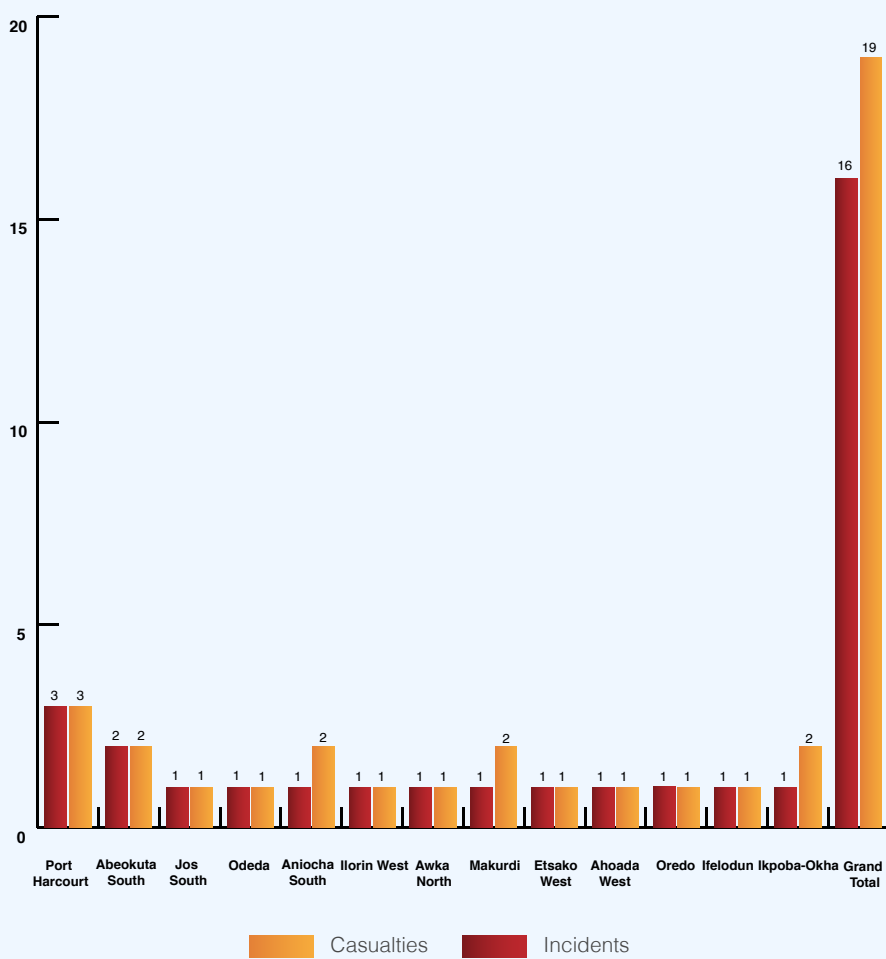
## Cult Clashes - Violent Conflict Data by State

Period: March 2024 - April 2024



## Cult Clashes - Most Affected LGAs

Period: March 2024 - April 2024



## Insights

Gunmen attacks, banditry and cultism characterised Nigeria's violent conflict theatre in March and April 2024. These incidents occurred as Nigeria braced through the high cost of living, the realities of the removal of fuel subsidy and the [hike in electricity tariff](#). The [murder of seventeen soldiers](#) in the Okuama community in March is one of the most gruesome incidents in the review period. It brought to the forefront the prevailing attacks on security forces. This incident ignited wide commentary and [condemnation](#) as well as spurred [reprisal attacks](#) within the community, in which the Nigerian army denied involvement. A similar [attack](#) on security operatives was recorded in Niger State on April 19, 2024. These incidents raise troubling questions about the rule of law in Nigeria.

Three key violent conflict types dominated Nigeria's violent conflict scene: gunmen attacks, banditry and cultism. Compared to the previous [bi-monthly report](#), cultism replaced farmer-herder conflict as one of the top three violent conflicts of the period. Across the six regions in Nigeria, 163 incidents occurred within the period under review, with the North Central recording the most incidents from violent conflict, which stood at 51. The North Central region also recorded the highest casualty count, 244 casualties (deaths and injuries). The [North West](#) region followed with 40 incidents and 109 casualties; however, it peaked all other regions on kidnap victims, which stood at 599.

### Gunmen Attacks

Between March and April 2024, gunmen attacks were commonplace across Nigeria. According to the Nextier Violent Conflict Database, the North Central region recorded 19 incidents of gunmen attacks with 83 casualties and 41 kidnap victims. The [South East](#) follows as the second most affected region with ten incidents, 16 casualties and six kidnap victims. Compared with the bi-monthly report of January - February 2024, the North Central region recorded a 5% decrease in gunmen attacks while the South East recorded a 44% decline. Gunmen attacks have primarily had civilians as actors; however, security forces and farmers have also been recorded in the conflict during the period under review. For instance, six policemen on a [rescue mission](#) in Delta State were ambushed and killed, while six went missing.

Plateau state has established a notoriety as a hotbed for gunmen attacks. As such, it has remained the most affected state, with two incidents each in the Mangu and Bokkos Local Government Areas. A standout incident in Wase Plateau State involved a combined operation between security agents and vigilantes of Kampani Zurak in Wase LGA, Plateau State, with bordering villages of Taraba State (Nextier agent). This attack led to the killing of 18 gunmen, including some local traditional rulers, Sarkin Yaki Kampani and Wambai Kampani, who were suspected to be accomplices of the heinous actions of the gunmen over time.

### Banditry

Relative peace has eluded the North West and North Central regions as acts of banditry have dominated the regions within the period under review. North West recorded the highest number of incidents of banditry, which stood at 38, with 107 casualties and 599 kidnap victims. In comparison with the previous bi-monthly report, there has been a 12% drop in incidents of banditry in the North West; however, based on casualties and kidnap victims, there has been a 40% decrease and 48% increase,

respectively. Kaduna, Zamfara and Sokoto State have historically been besieged by this violent conflict, of which the incidents in these states have culminated in the region recording the highest incident tally. Actors in this violent conflict have been bandits and civilians. 43% of bandit activities within the period have occurred in Birnin Gwari, Kajuru and Kachia Local Government Areas of Kaduna State. A standout incident of banditry was the attack on LGEA primary school in Chikun LGA, Kaduna State, which culminated in the abduction of over 200 pupils and teachers.

## Cult Clashes

Cult clashes are episodic in many Nigerian streets. Multiple gang actions and reprisal attacks lead to the deaths of gang members and residents in theatres of violence. In Nigeria's Violent Conflict theatre, four regions recorded cultism incidents: South-South, South West, North Central and South East. The South-South region hosting most of the Niger Delta states, such as Rivers, Edo, and Delta states, recorded four, three and one incidents respectively, making the region the most affected.

Cult groups in the Niger Delta [feed off the high-stake politics](#) for control of the "commanding heights" for economic resources in the region. These acts of violence are either [community-based or built around specific charismatic individuals who serve as rallying points for members](#). As Nwokolo and Aghedo (2018) argued, "many of the power elites in the area have become cogs in the wheel through their activities, which are inimical to durable peace-building". The South-South region recorded most cases of cult clashes, double of the tally from the South West, which came second in the regional incidents count. Ogun State in South West recorded three out of the four incidents in the region.

## Conclusion

The months of March and April 2024 recorded a continued violent conflict across Nigeria. However, banditry and gunmen attacks have decreased holistically compared to the previous [bi-monthly report](#). One striking prevalence within the months has been the attacks on security forces and attacks on schools fast becoming all too common, which requires rapid attention. The presence of cultism among the top three conflicts indicates a slow but steady resurgence of cult attacks.

In light of the attacks, especially on security agents by gunmen, the government should strengthen the police force and only sparingly deploy military assistance as a reinforcement, factoring in the dynamics of each conflict area. As bandits continue to rampage northwest Nigeria, especially their attacks on schools, there is a need to combine kinetic and non-kinetic measures to improve safety in schools and communities. Furthermore, enhancing security collaboration with civilians will foster community trust, encouraging them to share vital information regarding security threats with relevant authorities. Failure of prompt and strategic government interventions to address gunmen attacks, cultism and banditry, exacerbated by various political and socio-economic challenges, will predispose the country to more woes.

*The data presented in this report are from Nextier's Nigeria Violent Conflicts 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)*