

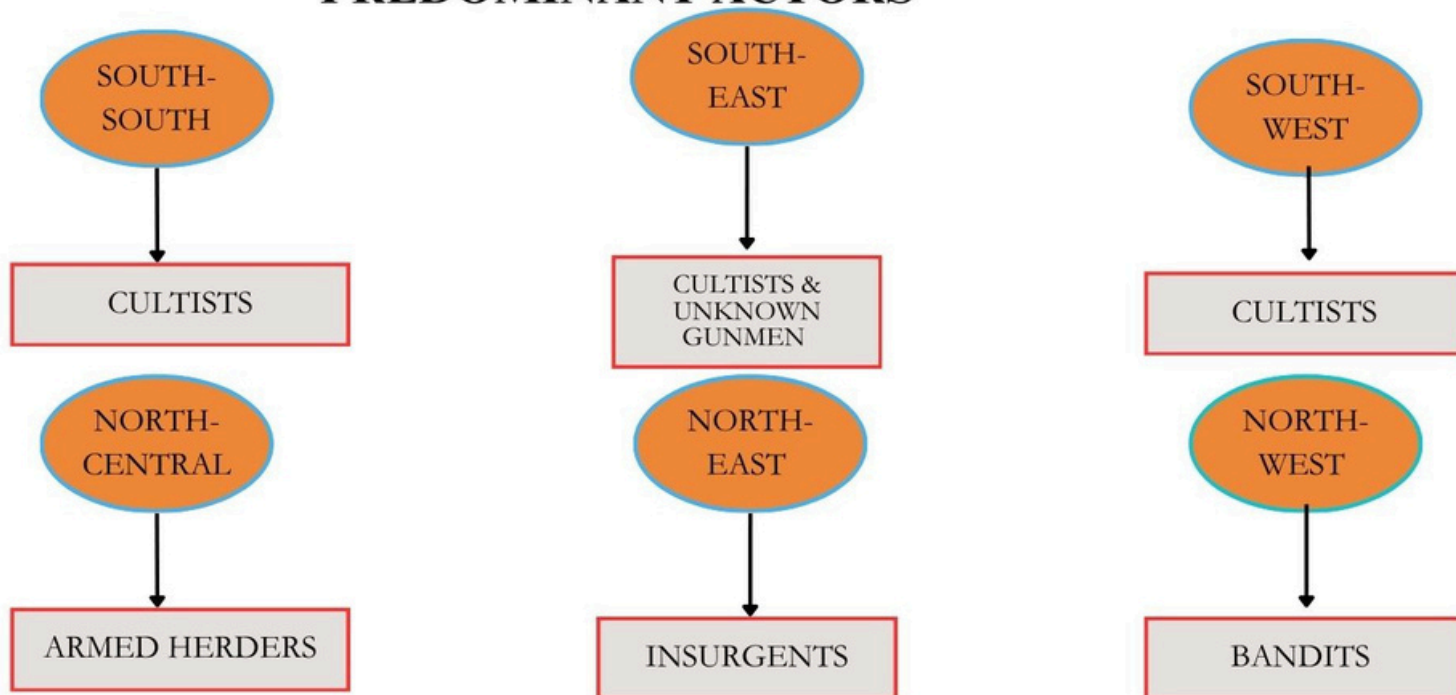


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# NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH; SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER, 2024

From September to October 2024, Nigeria experienced a deeply unsettling period characterized by widespread insecurity, socio-economic upheavals, and intensifying humanitarian crises. The country’s complex security challenges, spanning terrorism, separatism, banditry, and communal conflicts, continued to exacerbate vulnerabilities nationwide. The North-West faced relentless banditry, with armed groups imposing tributes on communities and disrupting livelihoods. In the Northeast, Boko Haram and ISWAP insurgents maintained their hold over key territories, challenging ongoing military operations. In parallel, the South East grappled with separatist violence, manifesting in targeted attacks on security operatives and civilians. At the same time, the Middle Belt witnessed an increase in violent farmer-herder clashes fueled by resource competition and population pressures. The South-West, though relatively stable, was not immune to the ripple effects of national economic instability, including sporadic protests over inflation and rising fuel costs.

## PREDOMINANT ACTORS



This tumultuous period also underscored Nigeria’s vulnerability to climate-related disasters, as heavy flooding displaced over 300,000 people and destroyed farmlands, compounding food insecurity and malnutrition. Cholera outbreaks swept through northern states, adding a public health dimension to the crisis, with thousands of cases reported. These overlapping challenges reflect the urgency for coordinated security, humanitarian, and governance interventions. Addressing the root causes of violence, fostering community resilience, and ensuring access to essential resources are critical for mitigating the widespread impact of these crises and setting a foundation for sustainable peace and stability.

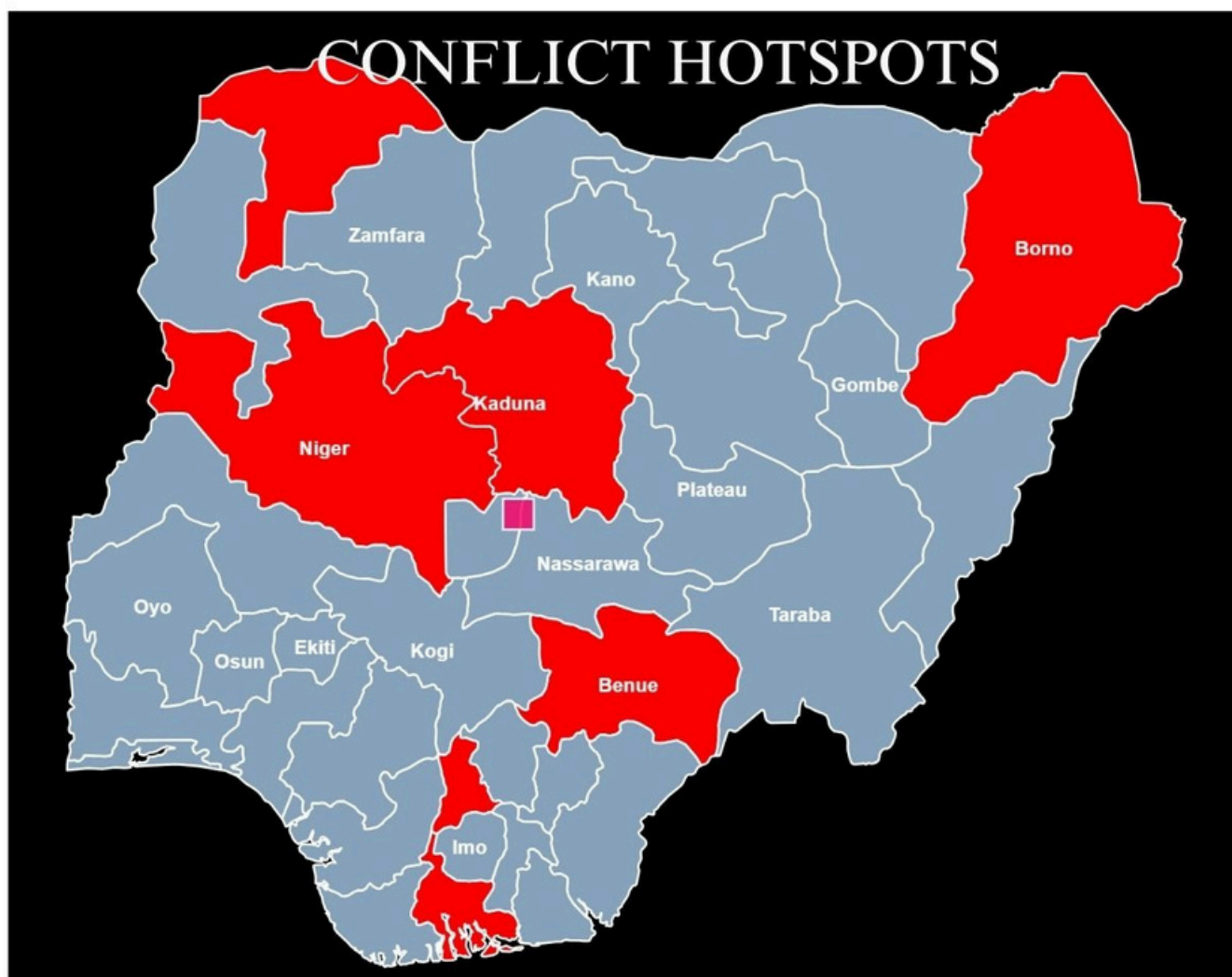


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## Northern Nigeria

The North continues to grapple with deep-seated insecurity stemming from banditry and insurgency. In Kebbi State, Ansaru militants intensified operations, killing 15 residents in a village in November, reflecting their growing influence in the North-West. These militants are reportedly infiltrating communities, exerting control over local economies, and installing rival traditional rulers to challenge state authority. In Borno and Yobe States, Boko Haram and ISWAP factions maintained their grip, targeting vulnerable communities and engaging in violent clashes with military forces. While the military reported some gains, the insurgents' resilience highlights the enduring challenges in the region.

Banditry further disrupted livelihoods in North-Central states, where armed groups imposed levies on farmers, obstructing agricultural activities and deepening food insecurity. In Zamfara State, for example, residents were subjected to forced tributes, exacerbating economic hardships in affected communities.



## South-East Nigeria

Separatist violence in the South-East intensified, with secessionist movements escalating attacks on security operatives and civilians. Key incidents included the killing of two soldiers in Umuahia, Abia State, and renewed farmer-herder clashes in Enugu State, which resulted in multiple fatalities. These clashes are fueled by long-standing political and ethnic tensions, further destabilizing the region.



## **Middle Belt**

The Middle Belt experienced an uptick in farmer-herder conflicts and inter-communal clashes, particularly in Benue and Plateau. Resource competition, stemming from limited grazing land and population pressures, led to violent clashes and significant displacement of families. The humanitarian needs in these regions have increased as communities struggle to recover from the impact of these conflicts.

## **South-West Nigeria**

The South-West remained relatively stable compared to other regions, but national economic pressures such as rising fuel prices and inflation triggered sporadic protests. Clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement were reported, highlighting the broader social implications of economic challenges.

## **Humanitarian and Economic Challenges**

Flooding across northern Nigeria displaced over 300,000 people and destroyed extensive farmland, compounding food insecurity and malnutrition. Cholera outbreaks in the North exacerbated public health crises, with over 14,000 suspected cases and nearly 400 fatalities reported as of mid-October, this is according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC). Efforts to curb the outbreaks, including vaccination campaigns, continued but faced logistical and resource challenges.

Rising malnutrition, especially among children, was reported nationwide due to displacement, disrupted farming, and climatic extremes. In the Northeast, recent assessments by (UNICEF) reveal that between September and October 2024, almost half of the children screened in temporary relocation sites were acutely malnourished, underscoring the gravity of the crisis.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

The period under review demonstrates the complexity of Nigeria’s security challenges, with terrorism, separatism, climate change and economic hardships fueling unrest across various regions. Effective responses require enhanced coordination among security forces, community leaders, and policymakers to address the root causes of violence. In addition, urgent humanitarian interventions are essential to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations and prevent further deterioration in food security and public health.

