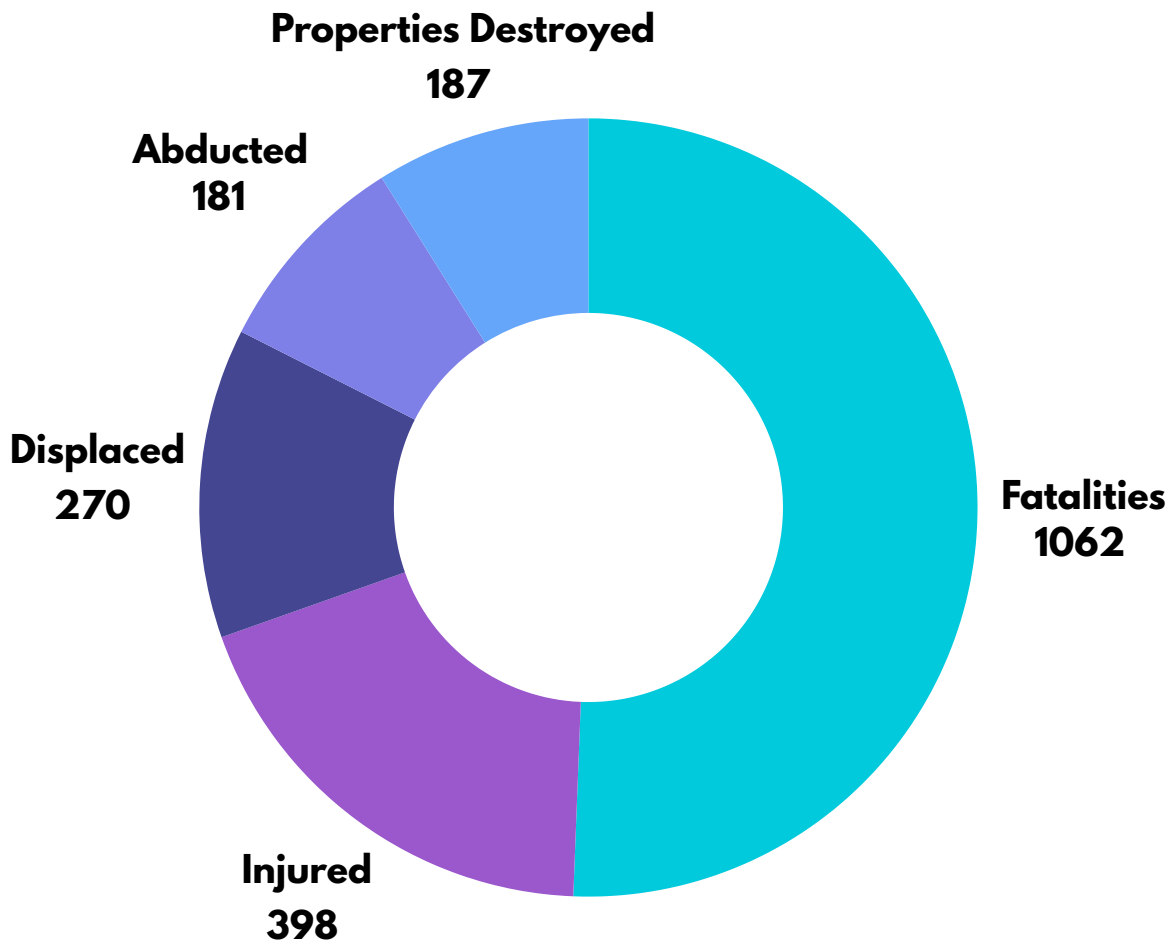


# NATIONAL CONFLICT WATCH – JANUARY 2025

## Overview

January 2025 was marked by escalating violence and insecurity across Nigeria’s six geopolitical zones. Armed conflicts, communal clashes, political tension, insurgent attacks, abductions, and targeted killings created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. While security forces intensified efforts to counter these threats, civilians bore the brunt of the violence, with mass casualties, property destruction, and large-scale displacement reported nationwide. This report provides a comprehensive conflict outlook, capturing key incidents and trends shaping Nigeria’s security landscape in the first month of the year.



## South-East: Rising Insecurity Amid Armed Groups and Communal Clashes

The South-East region saw boundary disputes, secessionist attacks, communal clashes, and targeted raids by security forces. A land dispute between Isu community in Abia and Ukwa Mbiabong Ukwa Eburutu in Cross River led to six deaths and seven injuries. In Anambra, armed secessionist groups clashed with security forces, leaving five dead, while an EFCC raid on internet fraudsters resulted in an officer's death and 37 arrests.

Ebonyi recorded a communal clash in Ikwo LGA, leaving one dead, 15 injured, and 10 houses burned. In Enugu, unknown gunmen kidnapped three soldiers and over 30 civilians, killing one victim. Imo State saw 18 deaths from gunmen attacks, and a police raid on an IPOB/ESN hideout resulted in six fatalities and several arrests.

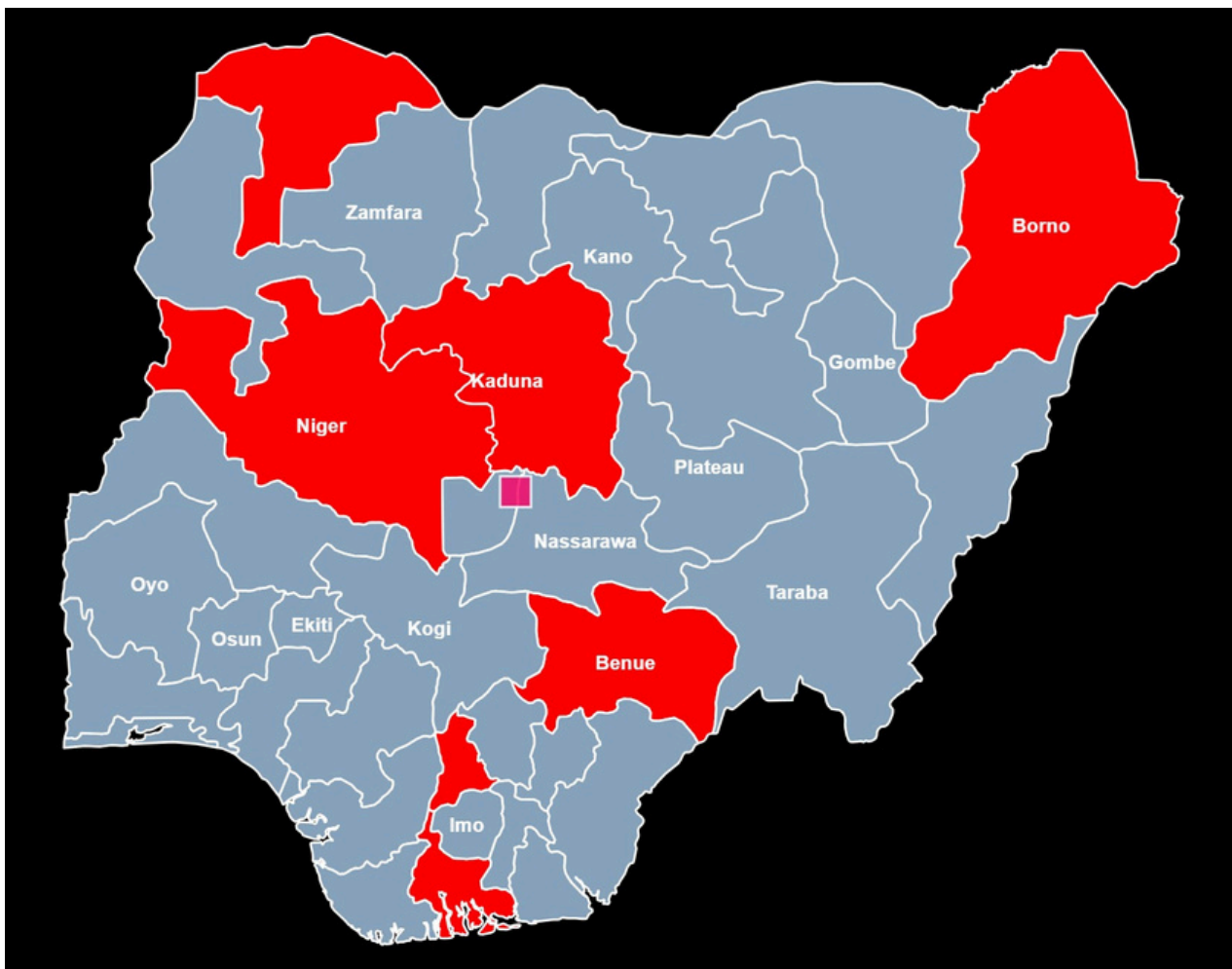
### **South-South: Armed Clashes, Abductions, and Political Unrest**

The South-South saw cult-related violence, kidnappings, political tension, and communal conflicts. Rival cult groups, including Eiye, Vikings, Bobos, Greenlanders, and Icelanders, engaged in bloody confrontations in Rivers, Edo, Bayelsa, and Delta.

Mob justice was rampant, with a suspect burnt alive for beheading a woman in Delta, and another lynched in Amai for human head possession.

Communal tensions rose as Mbiri youths in Delta burned a Fulani settlement after suspected herders killed farmers. Security forces launched military raids on pirate hideouts in Brass (Bayelsa) and Rivers, neutralizing militants.

### **CONFLICT HOTSPOTS**



### **South-West: Cult Clashes, Political Violence, and Communal Disputes**

The South-West experienced cult wars, communal clashes, mob violence, and political unrest. Lagos, Ogun, and Ondo saw multiple deadly cult clashes, while land ownership disputes in Osun and Ogun escalated into violence.

Mob attacks surged, with a suspected witch lynched in Abeokuta and an NDLEA officer burnt alive in Lagos. Political rivalries intensified as APC and PDP supporters clashed in Osun, leading to assassinations. Protests over electricity supply and wage disputes erupted in Ibadan, Ogun, and Lagos.

High-profile attacks included land dispute killings in Ondo, the assassination of a pastor in Ogun, and a police raid on kidnappers along the Sagamu-Ijebu Ode expressway.



IPCR

### **North-Central: Militia Attacks, Farmer-Pastoralist Clashes, and Insurgent Activities**

The North-Central remained a hotspot for ethnic conflicts, insurgent activities, and criminal operations. In Niger, Boko Haram clashed with local militias, killing 20, prompting Nigerian troops to launch airstrikes in Shiroro.

Farmer-pastoralist clashes were deadly in Benue, Plateau, and Nasarawa, where armed Fulani herders killed at least 23 people, triggering retaliatory attacks. High-profile abductions targeted pastors, officials, and students in Benue, Kogi, Niger, and the FCT.

Cult violence also escalated, with Vikings and Black Axe cultists clashing in Makurdi, leaving multiple fatalities.

### **North-East: Insurgent Battles and Mass Casualties**

The North-East suffered relentless insurgent attacks, as ISWAP and Boko Haram (JAS faction) fought for dominance in Damboa, Mobbar, and Gwoza LGAs. Civilians were caught in the crossfire. ISWAP deployed drones, IEDs, and suicide bombers in military ambushes, killing 22–27 soldiers.

Security forces launched airstrikes and ground offensives, eliminating insurgents but causing collateral civilian casualties. Banditry surged in Taraba and Adamawa, while vigilante groups resorted to mob justice, leading to lynchings in Yobe.

### **North-West: Widespread Banditry, Abductions, and Security Crackdowns**

The North-West faced persistent banditry and militia violence, particularly in Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, and Sokoto, with large-scale abductions and retaliatory killings. Over 50 people, including women and children, were kidnapped in Zamfara's Bukkuyum LGA.

Security forces conducted air and ground offensives, neutralizing militants, including a high-profile commander. A counter-offensive in Jibia, Katsina, killed 80 militants, while another in Zamfara and Sokoto eliminated 25 fighters on January 21.

Additional violence included ethnic clashes, mob lynchings, and economic disruptions. Nine people died in Jigawa from Fulani-Hausa farmer clashes, while in Kaduna, a mob burned an NDLEA officer alive. In Katsina, over 100 livestock were stolen, triggering a military response that killed seven militants.

### **Conclusion**

January 2025 presented severe security challenges across Nigeria. This is driven by terrorism, banditry, communal disputes, and organized crime. Addressing these threats requires a multi-pronged strategy, including intelligence-driven security responses, enhanced community engagement, and socio-economic interventions to prevent further escalation.

### **Early Warning**

The trends observed in January indicators shows persistence of insurgent attacks in the North-East, the rise in communal disputes in the North-Central and South-East, and the ongoing banditry crisis in the North-West suggest a potential escalation if proactive measures are not taken. Timely intelligence gathering, increased community engagement, and improved security coordination will be crucial in mitigating the risks and preventing further instability.

# WEAPONS RECOVERED



**AK-47 rifles: 61+**

**PKT machine guns: 2**

**Dane guns: 5+**

**Magazines: 13+**

**Rounds of ammunition: 479+ (7.62mm special and NATO rounds)**

**Locally made guns: 5+**

**Ammunition: 10 rounds of 5.6mm caliber bullets.**

**Fabrique Nationale rifles: 1**

**Pump-action guns: 8**

**Magazines: 8+**

**K2 magazines: 1**

**Fabrique Nationale rifle: 1**

**Rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) Tubes: 12+**

**AK-47 Magazines: 24+**

**Surveillance Drone: 1 intercepted**

**IEDs: Multiple planted and detonated by insurgents**

