


NEWS Quick Updates
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Farmer-Herders Crisis: 149 People Killed in Plateau, Benue, Edo, Ebonyi and Kogi States

BACKGROUND



- Nigeria continues to be affected by recurring violent conflict between farmer-herders in some States, posing a grave threat to national security and destruction of the stores of social and economic livelihood of people. Statistics generated from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) from January – 16th March 2018, put the figures of deaths arising from Farmer-Herders conflict at 528⁷. The figure suggests that the conflicts have increased in frequency, intensity and geographical scope with dire humanitarian, social, political and economic consequences.
- Inherent in this conflict is the issue of access to natural resources such as water and land for grazing or farming exacerbated by worsening climatic conditions due to Global Warming, see [Water-Herders Issues: History/Analysis on Agro-Pastoralist Conflict](#) (10.2, January 2016)
- The increasing availability of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) both locally produced and those smuggled in from other countries further compounds the crisis.

INCIDENT PROFILE

As at 16th March 2018, a cumulative fatality of 149 people including women and children were recorded in violent confrontations and attacks arising from the Farmers-Herdsman conflicts in Plateau, Benue, Edo, Ebonyi and Kogi States. Several people were allegedly injured with houses burnt down during the incidents. Residents have abandoned their ancestral homes to seek refuge in neighbouring communities and States for fear of attacks and safety.