



## Country Context and Background

This report focuses on conflict in North East, North Central, and South South Nigeria. Each of these three geopolitical zones has a unique history and context of conflict.

**NORTH EAST NIGERIA** comprises six states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe. This zone has been the most severely affected by conflict of any zone in Nigeria over the last decade. Conflict and violence in North East Nigeria is primarily attributable to Boko Haram, the terrorist group responsible for human rights abuses across Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. The violent radicalization of the Boko Haram members and the resulting military operations have reportedly affected nearly fifteen million people since 2009. This conflict has triggered an acute humanitarian and forced displacement crisis, with devastating social and economic impacts on the population, further deepening underdevelopment and regional inequalities. The most affected states are the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. The most affected groups are women, children, and youth. Boko Haram's tactics have included multiple modes of attack, including suicide bombings, seizure and destruction of entire villages, forced displacement, abductions, sexual violence targeting women, and forced recruitment of men. Although Boko Haram-held territory has reduced in size over the last few years, the group continues to perpetrate consistent attacks in North Eastern states.

**NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA** consists of the states of Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau, as well as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In recent years, conflict in the North Central zone has both escalated and expanded as tensions between farmers and herders have risen. This conflict is multi-faceted and complex. The conflict centers around agricultural households and nomadic cattle-herding groups who come into conflict over land access. As the population in North Central Nigeria increases, the amount of land used for farming also increases, often into areas that have traditionally served as cattle grazing areas. At the same time, climate change and the Boko Haram insurgency reduce the amount of land suitable for grazing in North East Nigeria, forcing herding communities to expand their routes into increasingly Southern areas. This competition over land and resources is compounded by religion and ethnicity – herders are most members of the minority Fulani ethnic group and are generally Muslim. Farmer-herder conflicts often consist of attacks by one group and subsequent retaliation from the other community. Although attention to this issue is growing, to date there has been little response directed towards affected parties and few resources allocated towards reconciliation and prevention of future conflict.

**SOUTH SOUTH NIGERIA** is made up of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers states. This area is renowned as Nigeria's source of oil wealth; widely perceived as the economic force driving Nigeria forward. Nevertheless, this resource wealth has not translated to economic success for most inhabitants of these states. Instead, the region suffers from ecological degradation as a result of oil spills, high rates of youth unemployment, and extensive inequality between the local population and employees of oil companies. These issues are compounded by ethnic and political tensions in the region. In particular, ethnic minority groups have frequently clashed in competition for oil wealth; political tensions in this zone also run high. All of these factors have resulted in high levels of crime. Militant and pirate groups have operated in the region for decades, targeting oil companies, pipelines, and individuals. Killings, abductions, and robberies are not uncommon, and many people have been displaced from their homes or communities as a result of the violence.

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## Assignment

Write an essay on violent conflict on a geopolitical zone in Nigeria.

Ans

### Results by Geopolitical Zone

#### \* North East Nigeria

- Conflict levels peaked in 2014 in North East Nigeria, but remained relatively high through 2017
- \* - From 2010 to 2017, 49% of households in the North East experienced at least one event of conflict or violence against a household member
- \* - More than two-thirds of conflict events in the North East Nigeria were caused by Boko Haram
- Only 8% of conflict-affected households report having received an assistance

#### \* North Central Nigeria

- Conflict and violence events in North Central Nigeria have remained steady since 2013 to 2016
- 25% of households experienced any type of conflict event from 2010 to 2017
- More than half of all reported conflict event (55%) were caused by <sup>disputes</sup> ~~of~~ ~~conflict~~ ~~affected households~~ ~~report~~ ~~having~~ ~~received~~ ~~any~~ ~~assistance~~
- Only 2% of conflict-affected households report having received any assistance
- 33% of conflict-affected households had at least one member displaced as a result.
- 34% of the events of conflict in North Central



Nigerians were never reported to any authorities

### \*South South Nigeria

- The proportion of households affected by violence in Nigeria South South has risen steadily each year from 2010 to 2016

- One-fifth of households (22%) have been directly affected by conflict events or violence since 2010.

- 87% of conflict events in communities are attributed to criminals, cultists and individuals

- Nearly one-third of conflict-affected households had at least one member who was displaced or migrated (33%)