1.2.2. Intercommunal conflicts, including between farmers and herders

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The country witnessed continued violence between herders and farmers[201] as well as deadly attacks on local communities by unidentified perpetrators.[202] In late May 2025, Amnesty International reported that at least 10 217 people had been killed in armed attacks in the states of Benue, Plateau (North-Central), Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara (North-West) and Edo (South-South) since the end of May 2023, with Benue accounting for most deaths (6 896), followed by Plateau (2 630).[203]

After high levels of lethal violence in 2023,[204] the year 2024 saw a drop in fatalities from herder-farmer violence as Nigeria Watch recorded 567 such fatalities over the year (compared to 860 in 2023), with the largest numbers recorded in Kaduna state, the FCT and Delta state.[205] However, in the second quarter of 2025, Benue and Plateau states witnessed a another ‘resurgence’ of the conflict,[206] involving a series of mass-casualty attacks by assailants linked to herders across Benue resulting in over 150 deaths[207] and several mass-casualty[208] /coordinated attacks in Plateau.[209] Government efforts to enhance security were hindered by a lack of police and military personnel and shortages in equipment, as Nnamdi Obasi, International Crisis Group’s senior adviser for Nigeria, told the Financial Times.[210]

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