

2.1.5. Nasarawa

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Nasarawa state is comprised of the following 13 LGAs: Akwanga, Awe, Doma, Karu, Keana, Keffi, Kokona, Lafia, Nasarawa, Nasarawa Egon, Obi, Toto, Wamba. The capital city is Lafia.463

The main ethnic groups include Gwandara, Alago, Eggon, Gbagi, Egbira, Migili, Kantana, Fulani, Hausa, Kanuri, Tiv, Afo, Gade, Nyankpa, Koro, Jukun, Mada, Ninzam, Buh, Basa, Agatu, Arum, Kulere, Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa.464

UNFPA and the US Census Bureau projected the population at 2 886 022 in 2022, based on figures from the 2006 census.465

a) Conflict dynamics and main actors

For a general overview on actors in Nigeria, please see section 1.1 Main Actors.

Nasarawa state was affected by farmer-herder violence in the reference period.466 Violence between suspected armed herders and farmers was reported, for example, in January,467 March,468 April469 and June 2025,470 and killings by bandits were reported in February,471 and March 2025.472 Communal clashes were reported in July 2024 in Keana LGA473 and in January 2025 in Nasarawa LGA.474

Kidnappings were reported in August 2024475 and in February,476 March,477 April,478 May479 and July 2025.480 In some cases ransom money was demanded.481

The killing of a student by a ‘yet-to-be identified gang’ was reported in July 2024.482 In September 2024, soldiers were accused of killing a student ‘over allegations of cultism’.483

In January 2024, ISWAP reportedly claimed an attack on a shop in Karu LGA, killing four Christians.484 Other media reports also mentioned the attack, but not that ISWAP claimed responsibility.485

b) Security incidents and impact on the population

In the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 August 2025, ACLED recorded 98 security incidents in Nasarawa state, which resulted in 165 fatalities. Of these security incidents, 32 were coded as battles, 9 as riots and 57 as incidents of violence against civilians.486

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Figure 9: Evolution of security events coded as battles, explosions/remote violence, riots, and violence against civilians in Nasarawa state, 1 January 2024 – 31 August 2025, based on ACLED data.[487]

Security incidents were recorded by ACLED in 12 LGAs of the state, with the highest numbers documented in Toto (18 incidents), Karu and Lafia LGAs (16 incidents each), LGAs, Nasarawa (12 incidents) and Keana LGAs (10 incidents). No incidents were recorded in one LGA (Doma). According to ACLED, unidentified armed groups and Fulani ethnic militias (coded as either 'Actor1' or 'Actor2') were involved in the majority of incidents coded as violence against civilians.[488]

According to an April 2025 article by Nigerian newspaper The Sun, out of 578 people killed by bandits, herders and criminal groups across the North-Central states, 104 were killed in Nasarawa between November 2024 and April 2025.[489]

In July 2024, two Tiv farmers were killed in attacks over a land dispute between Tiv and Alago farming communities in Keana LGA.[490] In January 2025, seven people were killed in a communal clash between two Afo tribes in Udege, Nasarawa LGA.[491] In February 2025, bandits killed the son of a pastor and abducted his wife in Nasarawa LGA.[492] In March 2025, six people, including a pregnant women, were killed and many others wounded in clashes between farmers and herders in Nasarawa LGA.[493]

Conflict-related infrastructure damage - Destruction of property was reported in Nasarawa LGA in December 2024.[494] In January 2025, further properties and farm produce were reportedly damaged in communal clashes in Nasarawa LGA.[495] In March 2025, houses, shops, and vehicles were damaged during an attack in Nasarawa LGA,[496] while farms and farm produce and motorcycles were damaged in attacks in June 2025.[497]

Road security - An attack by armed men on commuters along the Nasarawa-Keffi Road,[498] and the abduction of students on Abuja-Nasarawa highway[499] were reported during the reference period.

Displacement, movement and return - As of February 2025, IOM estimated the number of IDPs in Nasarawa state at 23 913,[500] compared to 27 150 as of November 2024.[501] IOM lists communal clashes (53 %) and insurgency (33 %) as the main reasons for displacement in the state.[502]

In April 2025, Mdzou U Tiv, an association of the Tiv people, claimed that people were displaced after attacks by suspected herders in April[503] and June[504] 2025. An official of the State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) stated in June 2025 that the IDP camp at the Kadarko school in Keana LGA was 'already overwhelmed' by an influx of displaced victims from the June 2025 attack in Yelewata in Benue state.[505]

No information could be found on returns in Nasarawa state during the reference period.

c) State response in maintaining law and order

In April 2024, the state government reportedly banned all ethnic-based vigilante groups within the state's 13 LGAs and ordered them to hand over uniforms and weapons to the police.506 The Fulani association Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore Fulani had previously launched a vigilante group507 to fight banditry, kidnapping and cattle rustling.508 In December 2024, local lawmakers called on security agencies to deploy staff to Mararaba Udege in Nasarawa LGA to address violence. 509 In May 2025, the state government deployed security forces to border communities in response to attacks in Benue State,510 and in June 2025, the state government reportedly planned to establish security surveillance bases in cooperation with security forces.511 Media reported the rescue of victims of kidnapping,512 the arrest of suspected kidnappers,513 and the foiling of kidnappings by security forces,514 and in July 2025, the arrest of a suspected cultist by police.515

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