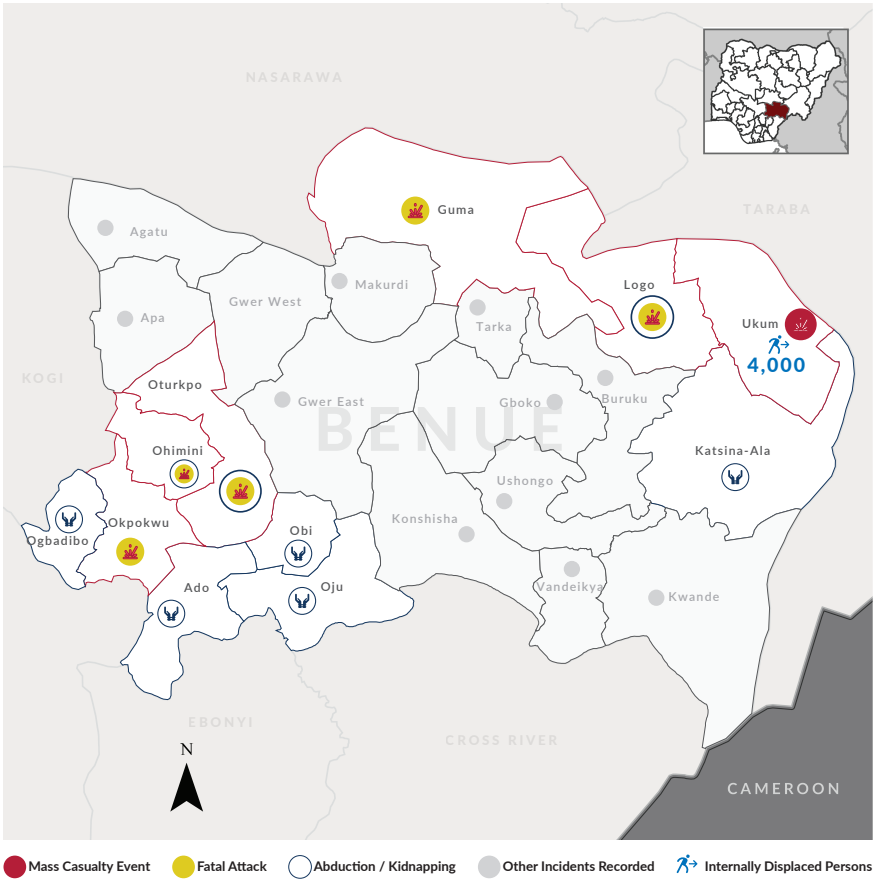
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Nigeria

BENUE
PROTECTION UPDATE
August 2026



4,000 People Newly Displaced

30 Communities Affected

76 People Killed

23 People Abducted

SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

INCIDENTS IN AUGUST 2026	27
Classified as Protection Incidents	26 (92%)
Attacks on Civilians	66%
Abduction/Detention	51%
Theft/Destruction & Forced Displacement	1%

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

1. Expand protection monitoring and early warning in emerging hotspots
2. Identify and assist newly displaced families.
3. Strengthen emergency response capacity & resilience

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Coordinated armed attacks on the communities of Ayaba, Ukpen, Bom, Aboajio and Yina in Mbazun Ward, Ukum LGA, killed **58 people** in August, in the deadliest single episode recorded in Benue this year.

A joint assessment by the Benue State Emergency Management Agency, the Nigerian Red Cross Society and UNHCR profiled more than 440 displaced families, with **total household displacement estimated at around 500** and verification continuing. four more residents were killed in a night attack on Abaushwa community in Guma, and further deaths were recorded in Logo, Okpokwu and Otukpo. Civilians remained at the centre of the crisis in August, with **92% of reported security incidents involving direct protection violations.**

Benue is facing a widening protection crisis. **Kidnappings reached their highest level of 2026 in August, with 14 incidents recorded across nine LGAs**, while escalating attacks continue to kill, displace and terrorize rural communities. The impact extends far beyond immediate casualties: families are being cut off from farmland during a critical agricultural period, displacement into host communities is increasing pressure on already scarce resources, and women and children face heightened protection risks. Despite the growing severity of the crisis, some of the most affected LGAs remain outside structured community-based protection monitoring systems, limiting early warning and timely humanitarian response.

Protection needs are rapidly outpacing available services.

Despite recording the highest death toll in the state during August, Ukum has no mapped protection presence. Unless response capacity is expanded, communities across the Sankera axis will remain exposed to recurring violence with limited access to protection monitoring, reporting mechanisms, or assistance.

Security incidents are classified under the 15 Global Protection Cluster protection risks.

Data as of: September 2026 Sources: UNHCR, Benue SEMA Feedback: nigabim@unhcr.org