

<b>Country/entity</b>	Nigeria
<b>Region</b>	Africa (excl MENA)
<b>Agreement name</b>	Joint communique by the chairs of the ten (10) communities to resolve the farmer-herder conflict in Benue State
<b>Date</b>	26 Mar 2020
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/local conflict
<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Inter-group
<b>Peace process</b>	Nigeria - local agreements
<b>Parties</b>	Inter-communal communique issued by the chairs of ten communities in Benue state described as part of a mediation process.
<b>Third parties</b>	The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue are listed as Facilitating the joint statement.
<b>Description</b>	-

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**Agreement document** [NG\\_200326\\_Joint communique by the chairs of the ten \(10\) communities to resolve the farmer-herder conflict in Benue State.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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#### Local agreement properties

**Process type** Formal structured process

**Rationale** The agreement follows a practice of inter-communal dialogue, led by local representatives of communities to resolve farmer-herder conflict. In the Benue state this follows a similar type of locally led dialogues in this region and neighbouring states. The process is ongoing, with clear resolutions and with the support of the HD centre.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?** No

**Link to national process: articulated rationale** While the agreement conveys a sense for the need for national unity in the face of COVID-19, there is no reference in the text to the national process. There is also no clear presence of state officials supporting the agreement in any way.

**Name of Locale** Benue state

**Nature of Locale** Region

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)** 7.732145, 8.539443

**Participant type** Local armed group  
International or transnational actor  
Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

**Mediator, facilitator or similar** Mediator or similar referred to

**Mediator (references)** The agreement text refers to the ongoing dialogue process being facilitated by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

**Type of mediator/facilitator/similar** International or transnational actor

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## Local issues

**Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** Page 1, ... upon the declaration by the World Health Organization (WHO), that the Corona Disease (COVID-19) is a global pandemic affecting over 160 countries across the globe, and having infected several Nigerians, irrespective of their ethnic, religious or professional affiliation, hereby affirm thus:

**Grievance List** Page 1, ... Recognize that amidst the intra and inter-communal conflicts that range from clashes over fishponds; farmer-herder clashes; witchcraft; cultism; drug abuse/ consumption of illicit substances; extortion by youth and livestock guards; cattle rustling and theft, view a period of distress like this to unite and defeat a common enemy far beyond the limited differences within and outside our communities.

Page 1, ... Take cognizance of the disturbing misleading information on the COVID-19 (mainly abuse of liquor as a means of prevention to the COVID-19); poor sensitization of the pandemic at the grass roots and the social distancing affecting the cultural norms and beliefs;

**Cattle rustling/ banditry** Page 1, ... Recognize that amidst the intra and inter-communal conflicts that range from clashes over fishponds; farmer-herder clashes; witchcraft; cultism; drug abuse/ consumption of illicit substances; extortion by youth and livestock guards; cattle rustling and theft, view a period of distress like this to unite and defeat a common enemy far beyond the limited differences within and outside our communities.

**Social cover** Page 2, 6. Improve on the evolving issues to expose criminal members of our communities for the peace of the general society;