

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

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](#)

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

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;