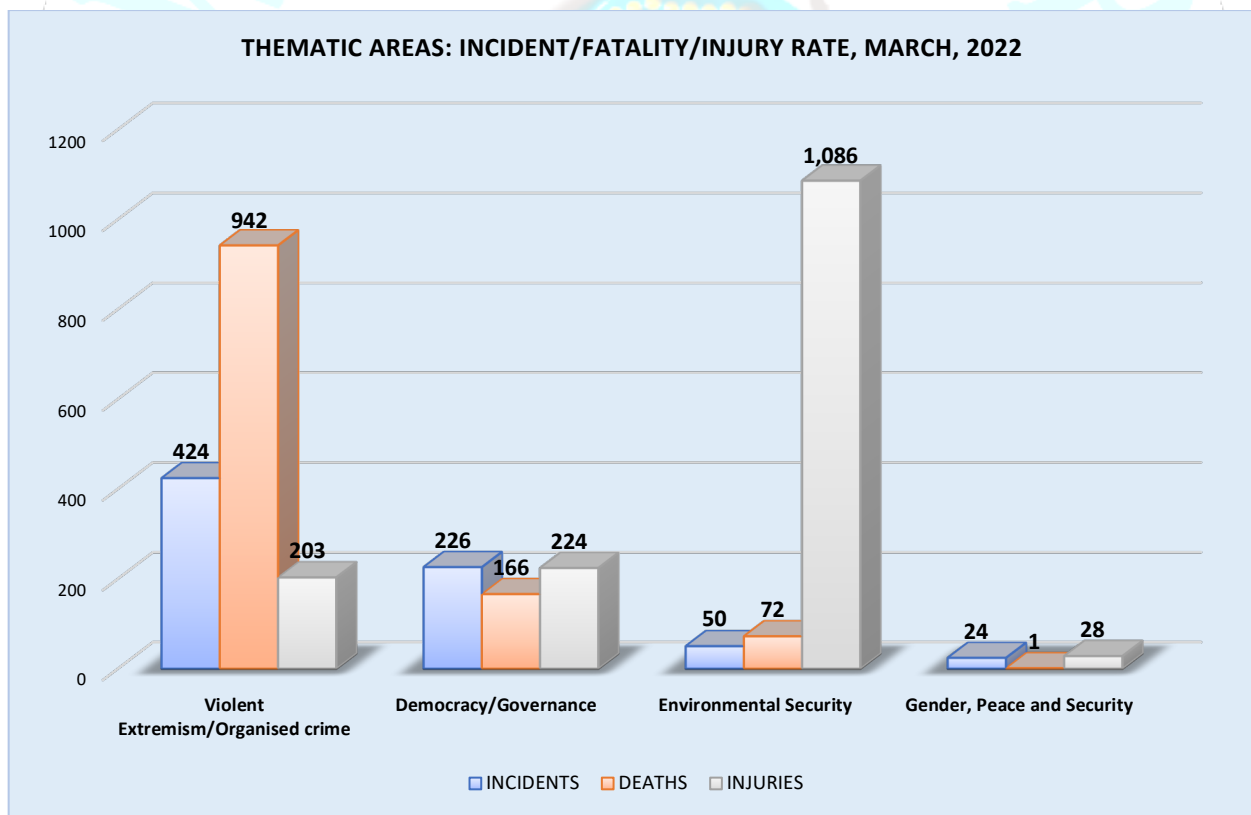




I. INTRODUCTION

As of March 2022, 724 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹. A cumulative fatality of 1,181 and 1,541 injuries/infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and incidents of environmental security including Lassa Fever and COVID-19 were recorded in March 2022². Out of the total fatalities (1,181) recorded across incidents in the thematic areas, COVID-19 recorded no fatality and 908 infected cases, while Lassa Fever resulted in the death of 28 people³.

As shown in the thematic grap below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 942 people, accounting for the highest fatality of the total number of fatalities (1,181) in the reporting period, while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 166 deaths⁴. Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 72 deaths and Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded one (1) fatality in the reporting period.⁵(see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁶.

¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

² Ibid.

³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

The *Monthly Bulletin* presents an analysis of the security challenges identified from monitoring trends of incidents through the WANEP NEWS and the mass media. It also offers recommendations for stakeholders' interventions and mitigation.

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Despite significant progress made by the regional Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against terrorism in the North-East region of Nigeria, rural communities in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States remain at risk of terrorist attacks. The sustained aerial bombardment and intensive security clearance operation neutralised over 36 Boko Haram/ISWAP members with several terrorists arrested. Also, arms and ammunition were recovered and 30 abducted victims rescued during security clearance operations in the reporting period⁷. Between September 2021 and March 2022, 50,801 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists and their families have surrendered to the Nigerian Army. This comprises of 11,349 fighters, 15,289 women and 24,163 children⁸.

The reporting period also recorded incidents of violent clashes between Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists in Mobbar and Dikwa LGA's of Borno State which resulted in the death of 40 Boko Haram members⁹. The clash was in reprisal for the killing of a suspected ISWAP leader by the Boko Haram group. Additionally, incidents of kidnapping, arson, raids, shoot-outs and bomb explosions by terrorist groups were recorded resulting in the fatality of one soldier with several soldiers injured. Also, 2 people (including a medical doctor and a staff of an International NGO) were abducted with 74 houses set ablaze in Gubio LGA of Borno State¹⁰, amongst several other cases of arson and theft as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹¹.

Amidst the closure of Internally Displaced Person's camps in Maiduguri LGA of Borno State and the subsequent resettlement to their communities, about 12,486 IDPs of such resettled persons constituting about 3,000 households returned to the IDP camps in Monguno LGA of the State¹². Their return to the IDP camps have been attributed to the activities of terrorist groups in their communities, thus making it inaccessible for resettlement. Further reports by the Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly indicated the continued control of Guzamala and Kukawa LGAs by Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists¹³.

Likewise, proliferation of Small Arms and Lights Weapons (SALWs) remain a major threat factor undermining the peace and security of the country. The multiple threats of **Organised Crimes** including human/drug trafficking, arms trafficking, armed banditry, amongst other crimes have resulted in human casualties, internal displacements, loss of livelihoods and disruption in agricultural activities. In the reporting month, the WANEP NEWS recorded 865 fatalities (including 35 females, 23 children and 140 security officers) occasioned by **Organised Crimes**¹⁴. Out of the total fatalities (865), **shoot-outs between security operatives and criminal gangs**

⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁸ <https://punchng.com/50801-iswap-terrorists-surrender-stronghold-overrun-commander/>

⁹ <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2022/03/08/troops-vanquish-17-insurgents-as-boko-haram-iswap-clash-claims-scores-of-terrorists/>

¹⁰ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/03/boko-haram-iswap-abduct-only-existing-medical-doctor-in-borno-ig-razes-74-houses-in-gubio/>

¹¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

¹² <https://punchng.com/updated-12000-resettled-idps-return-to-borno-camps-says-aid-worker/>

¹³ <https://punchng.com/borno-council-still-under-iswap-control-says-assembly-speaker/>

¹⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

resulted in the death of 221 criminal suspects in Edo, Benue, Katsina, Ebonyi, Niger, Delta, Imo, Abuja-FCT, Zamfara, Kaduna, Lagos and Kwara States¹⁵.

The pervasive security challenges in the North-West Region of Nigeria continue to impact human security adversely. The attacks on both the train and Kaduna International Airport further reignited concerns about the public safety of populations in the country. The recurrent insecurity in the region has been partly ascribed to large ungoverned spaces around the forests. The forests of Sambisa, Alagarno, Kamuku, Kuduru, Kuyambana, Burwaye, Ajja, Dajin Rugu and Sububu have been identified as safe havens of terrorism and banditry¹⁶ offering quick retreat and buffer for attacks and raids.

The operations of armed bandits in the month resulted in the fatality of 366 people across communities in Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna, Kebbi, Katsina and Sokoto States with incidents of cattle rustling, arson and kidnapping, accounting for the highest fatality. Fatalities arising from **militia herders' attack/farmer-herders clash** accounted for the second highest fatality of 97 with several farmlands destroyed and cattle killed in Plateau, Bayelsa, Benue, Taraba, Niger, Delta, Jigawa, Kaduna and Enugu States, while incidents from **armed violence (including armed robbery, assassination)** led to 90 deaths as recorded in WANEP NEWS¹⁷. Also, incidents of **cult-related violence, extra-judicial killings and homicide** led to the death of 28, 21 and 17 people respectively.

Discontent over land ownership continue to trigger ethnic clashes creating divisions amongst communities and hampering social cohesion. Communal clashes in Cross-River, Nasarawa and Taraba States resulted in the fatality of 18 people with 3 others injured in Plateau State. In addition to the fatalities, the violent clash between Ikom and Obubra LGAs of Cross River States led to an internal displacement of 2,008 people¹⁸. Several other violent clashes in the reporting period in Edo and Oyo States led to the death of 9 people as recorded in WANEP NEWS¹⁹.

The WANEP NEWS further recorded 60 incidents of kidnapping across 21 States with 503 victims abducted in the month²⁰. Out of the 503 victims, 126 were females and 40 children²¹.

The graph below highlights the statistics of kidnapped victims across the affected States in the reporting period.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ <https://www.newsexpressngr.com/news/118048-UNCOVERED-Nine-forests-governed-by-bandits-Boko-Haram>

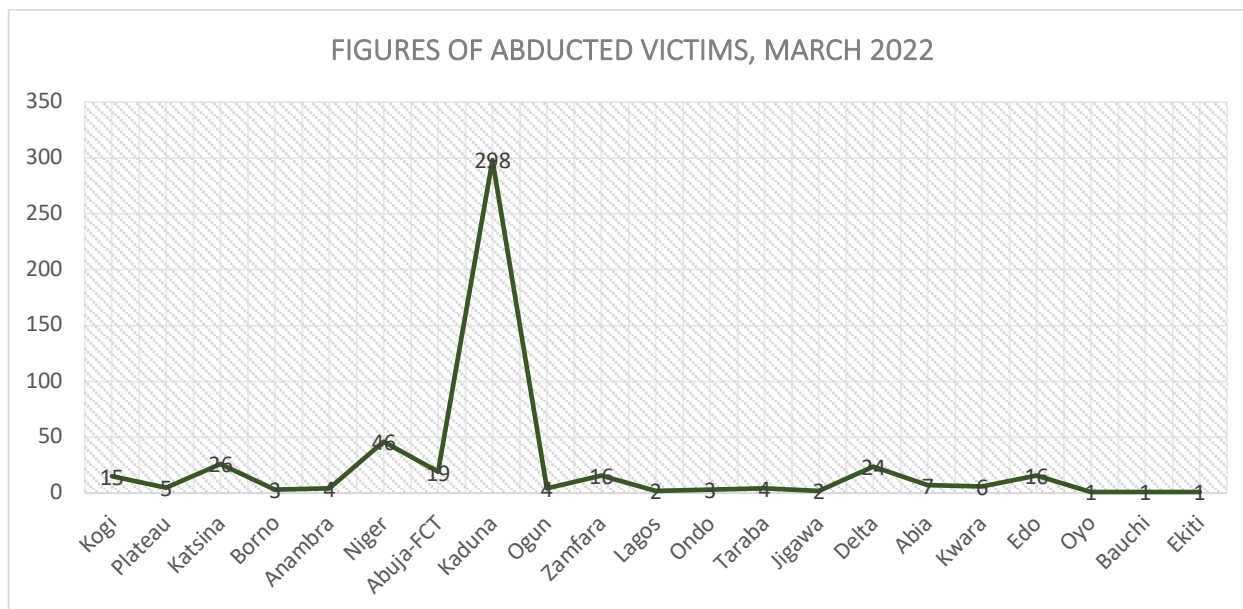
¹⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁸ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/518270-eight-people-killed-in-cross-river-communal-crisis-nema.html>

¹⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

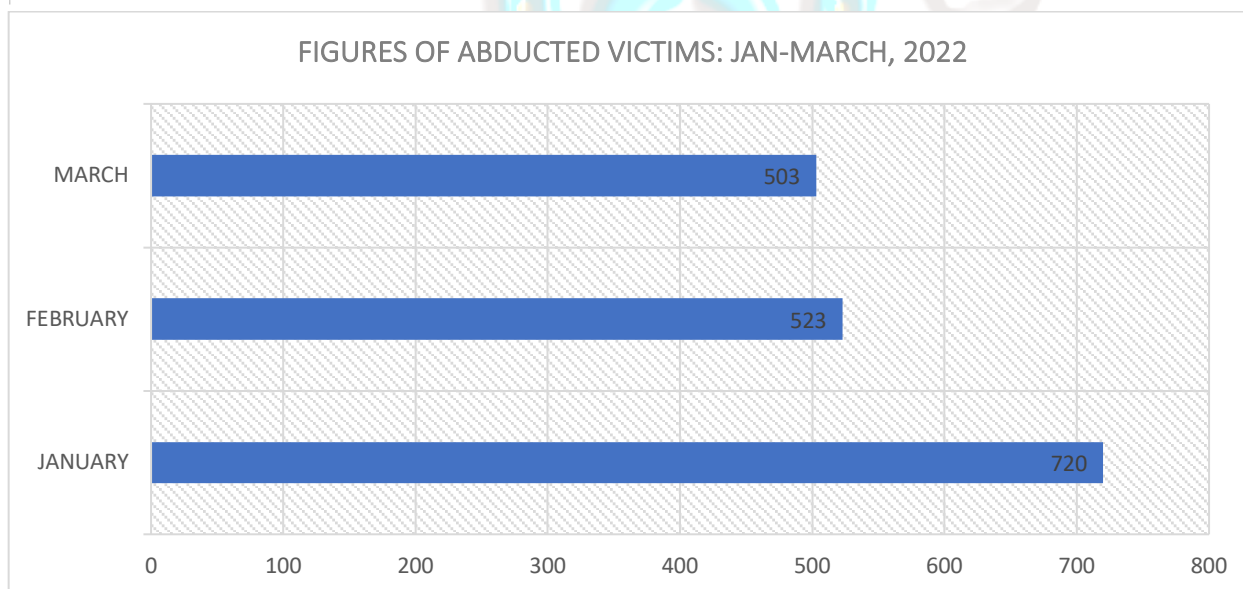
²⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²¹ ibid



Source: WANEP-NEWS²².

Within the quarter of January to March 2022, a cumulative total of 1,746 people were abducted in the period. Out of the 1,746 victims, 236 were females and 129 children. The graph below highlights the statistics of kidnapped victims from January to March 2022.



Source: WANEP-NEWS²³.

The reporting month reported incidents of arrest emanating from armed robbery, drug/human trafficking, extra-judicial killing, fraud, cyber-crime, armed banditry, terrorism, public

²² Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²³ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

demonstration, murder, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), arms trafficking and communal clash, amongst other crime²⁴.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The persisting security challenges across States in Nigeria has continued to raise concerns regarding the perceived inactions by the government on early warning signals from relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the dearth of security presence and inadequate security surveillance in rural communities compounds the fragility of States. The Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, had argued that the forests be ‘carpet-bombed’²⁵ as an option to end banditry and rural crimes in the State. This has generated mixed reactions due to its negative impact on the eco-system that supports livelihoods of communities. Instead, some citizens are of the view that the underlying drivers of conflicts should be adequately addressed to promote peaceful co-existence in vulnerable communities.

In addition to the multi-dimensional security threats, frequent strikes and public demonstrations relating to poor welfare conditions of teachers, university lecturers, law enforcement agencies and other civil service workers continue to affect public service delivery in the country. In the reporting month, junior police officers and officials of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) threatened to embark on a strike over poor salary structure and welfare conditions, lack of sophisticated weapons to fight crime, amongst other issues²⁶.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 47 incidents of public demonstrations and strike actions, out of which 6 deteriorated into violence in Delta, Oyo, Ogun and Imo States. In Delta State, 5 staff officials of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) sustained injuries during demonstration by community residents over the recurring power outage and high electricity bills. Other States recorded incidents of property destruction in the reporting period²⁷.

Other peaceful demonstrations recorded by WANEP NEWS include; protest in Kano State over the continued detention of Bureau De Change (BDC) operators by the Federal Government following allegations of terrorism²⁸; and the increasing spate of insecurity in Imo, Borno, Kaduna, Abuja-FCT, Kebbi and Ekiti State. Also, the rejection of Bills by the National Assembly resulted in series of demonstrations in Abuja-FCT which climaxed the yearly global commemoration of ‘International Women’s Day’ in the country.

Amid the ongoing strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), members of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Allied and Education Institutions (NASU) also declared a strike to agitate their demands in the reporting month²⁹. Recurrent labour strikes and demonstrations continue to disturb social services that sustain population’s lives in the affected areas.

²⁴ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²⁵ <https://www.thecable.ng/in-detail-1192-residents-killed-over-3000-kidnapped-in-kaduna-in-2021>

²⁶ <https://dailytrust.com/police-strike-jgp-meets-pacifies-officers-in-ogun>

²⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²⁸ <https://dailytrust.com/photos-families-of-arrested-bdc-operators-hit-the-streets-of-kano>

²⁹ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/519550-ssanu-nasu-to-commence-two-week-warning-strike-monday.html>

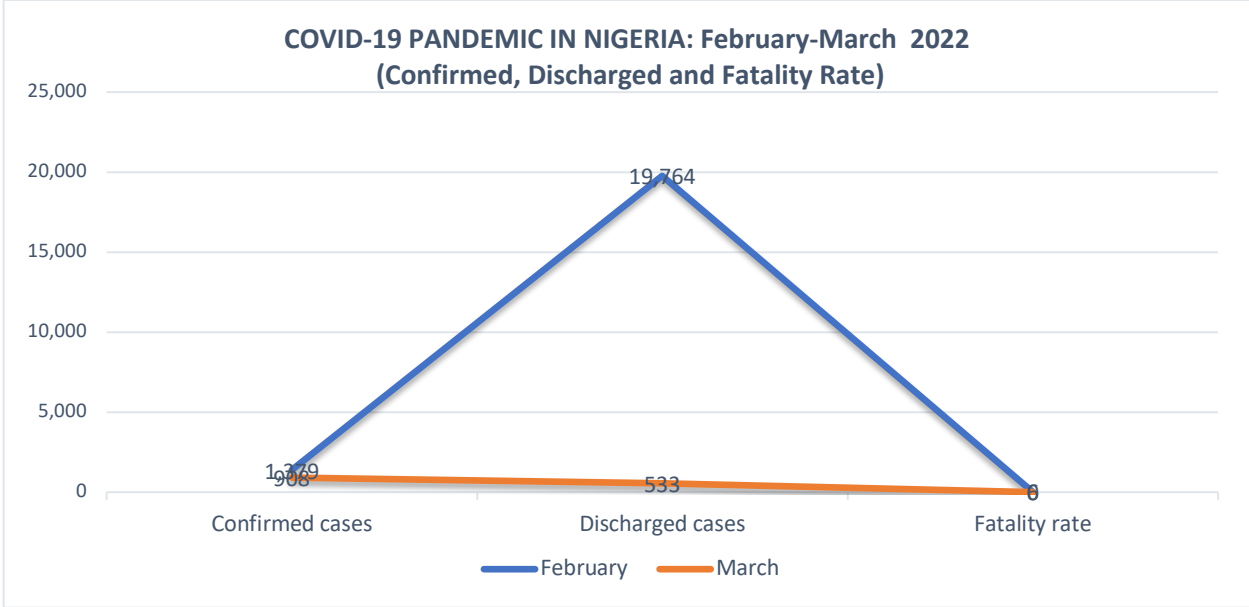
Furthermore, the reporting month recorded road/train accidents that resulted in the death of 138 people with over 186 injured victims as recorded in the WANEP NEWS³⁰. Disregard for road traffic signs by road users, overloading and overspeeding, amongst other causes have been attributed to road accidents in the States. Also, an instance of vandalization of rail tracks in Kaduna State was reported in the month, resulting in the death of one person³¹.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

The reporting month recorded confirmed cases of COVID-19 and Lassa Fever in the country. COVID-19 accounted for 908 infected cases with no fatality in the month compared to the 1,379 infected cases and 6 deaths recorded in February 2022³². Also, Lassa fever remains endemic in Nigeria with recurring confirmed cases and deaths. The month also recorded a decline of 28 deaths and 151 confirmed cases compared to the 50 deaths and 316 confirmed cases in February 2022.

As part of the Federal Government’s containment plan, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), World Health Organisation (WHO) and other health partners have activated a national Lassa fever multi-partner, multi-sectoral Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to coordinate response activities across States³³.

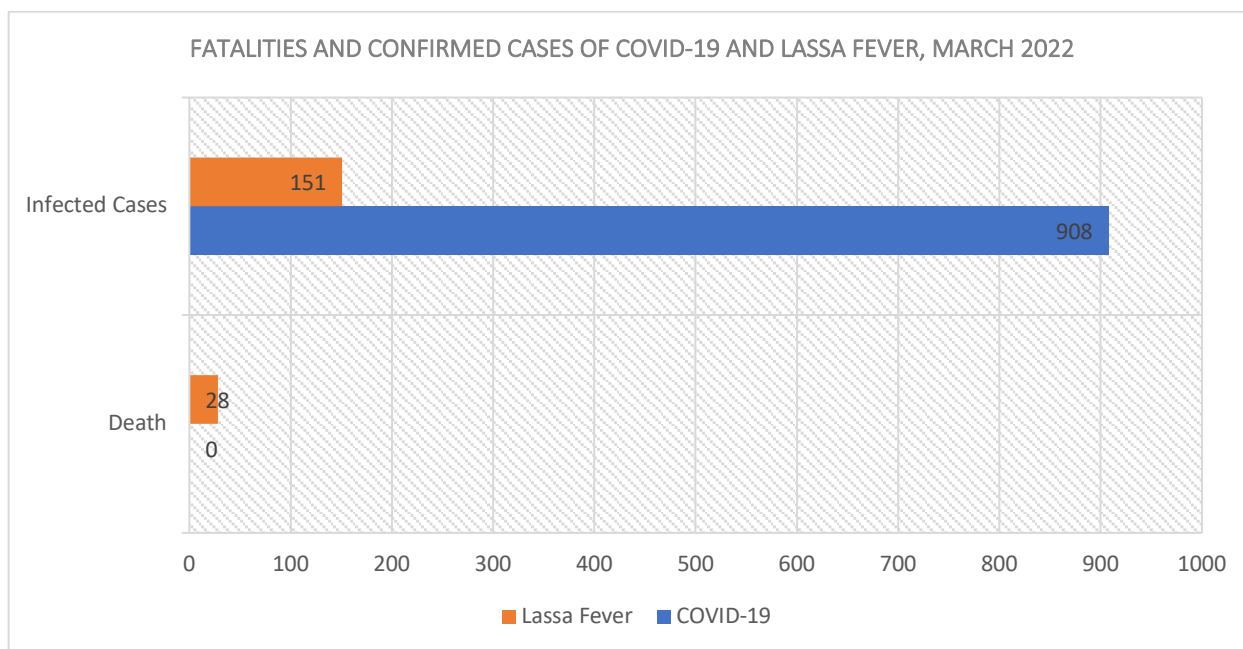
The graph below highlights the upward and downward trend of fatalities, infected, discharged COVID-19 cases in March 2022 compared to February 2022.



Source: WANEP-NEWS³⁴.

The graph below also highlights the statistics of fatalities and infected cases emanating from COVID-19 and Lassa Fever in the month.

³⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news
³¹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news
³² <https://ncdc.gov.ng/>, www.wanep.org/news/
³³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-who-partners-contain-lassa-fever-outbreak-country>
³⁴ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/



Source: WANEP-NEWS³⁵.

The vaccination roll-out by the National Primary Health Care Development (NPHCDA) remain progressive with 1,259,422 million people vaccinated in the month. As of March, 2022, a total of 19,174,366 people have been vaccinated against COVID-19 in Nigeria. Out of the 19,174,366 million vaccinated Nigerians, 12,572,586 have been fully vaccinated with the doses³⁶.

Also, incidents of storm occasioned by heavy rainfall in Ondo, Akwa-Ibom, Delta and Ondo States resulted in the destruction of properties, food items and casualties. According to WANEP NEWS, 5 people were reported dead in Akwa-Ibom and Ondo States. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) through its Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP) has predicted the onset of rainfall between April and May 2022³⁷.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

Agitations in demand of gender equality and inclusion of women in governance were reported in the month. The agitations occurred following the rejection of 5 Gender Equality Bills that sought to alter the 1999 Nigerian Constitution by the National Assembly. (*see February 2022 Monthly Bulletin*). However, the rejection of the Gender Equality Bills has continued to engender widespread criticisms and demonstrations from members of the society, women groups and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs),³⁸ as it violates the provisions of section 42 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended), as well as Articles 2, 3 and 13 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

³⁵ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁶ nphcda.gov.ng

³⁷ <https://leadership.ng/nimet-predicts-normal-annual-rainfall-in-2022/>

³⁸ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/03/opinion-condemnation-of-the-national-assemblys-rejection-of-bills-seeking-gender-equality/>

Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which Nigeria is a signatory³⁹. These challenges have further reinforced discussions around the patriarchal system in Nigeria which have been a source of marginalisation and inequality against women in communities.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 24 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly rape, child abuse and human trafficking. The victims of rape were between the ages of 5 and 92 years old in Zamfara, Delta, Ogun, Bayelsa, Kano, Benue, Gombe, Rivers, Anambra, Lagos, Ogun, Kwara, Borno and Abuja-FCT⁴⁰. Amongst the raped victims, one female was murdered in Bayelsa State.⁴¹ Also, 5 children were victims of child abuse in Kogi, Lagos, Bayelsa, Ogun and Osun States, while the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) rescued 35 victims of human trafficking in Niger Republic. The victims between the ages of 5 and 42 years old were allegedly transported and recruited from Ondo, Lagos, Enugu, Anambra, Oyo, Imo, Ogun, Ekiti, Edo, Osun, Kogi and Abia States⁴².

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The security landscape of the country continues to witness a plethora of security challenges that continue to heighten increased fragility of affected states and human security in Nigeria. This has disrupted the livelihoods of populations given the impact on food security and other socio-economic activities in the affected communities in the country. The surge in violence continues to expose women and children to the risk of sexual and gender-based violence and criminal recruitment, amongst other vulnerability.

The humanitarian challenges occasioned by the rising insecurity has also resulted in cases of internal displacements of communities and closure of schools in vulnerable communities. This has further weakened social cohesion and confidence of citizens in the ability of security operatives to protect vulnerable populations. The ripple effect of this is evident in proliferation of self-help groups across communities with the objective of providing local security for communities. While this is contributing in supporting community security, it has potential to create avenue for influx of small arms and light weapons and infiltration of criminal elements in communities if not well managed.

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), its projected food security outcomes from March to May 2022 shows a 'crisis' situation across States in the North-West region. The crisis situation have been attributed to the recurrence of armed banditry which has constrained access to floodplains, limiting dry season cultivation and fishing activities, market disruption and declining access to income-earning activities⁴³.

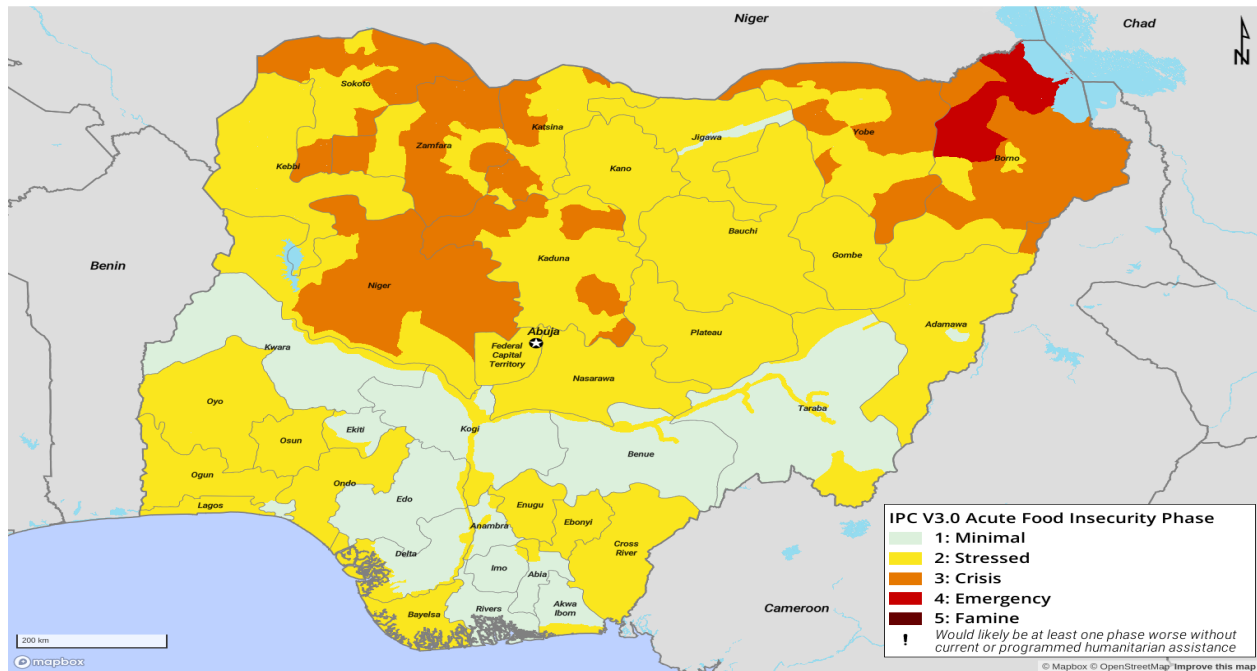
³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/516793-nigeria-rescues-35-people-being-trafficked-to-europe-official.html>

⁴³ <https://fewsnct/west-africa/nigeria>



FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols, but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity. The content of this graphic does not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

PROJECTED FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES, MARCH-MAY 2022 (SOURCE:FEWS NET)⁴⁴

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the human security threats and the analysis highlighted, the following recommendations are proposed for response and mitigation by stakeholders.

- The State and Local Governments in collaboration with traditional and religious institutions, women and youth groups, media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) should continue to strengthen inter and intra-ethnic and religious dialogue and mediation in communities as part of the long-term resilience strategies to assuage communal violence and foster social cohesion in affected communities of the State;
- The Federal and State Government should constantly review and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies in intelligence gathering and surveillance to prevent and mitigate recurring armed violence across State. This should be complemented with strengthening community policing to bolster security in communities;
- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen the engagement and collaboration with critical stakeholders for the implementation of the National Gender Policy that recommends 35 percent affirmative action for more inclusive representation of women at all levels of governance as well as ensure speedy passage of gender-related Bills including Equal Opportunities Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2020; Gender and Equal Opportunities, Abuse and Administration Bill 2012; Affirmative Action (Equal Opportunities for Women) Bill 2012; Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill 2015; Women

⁴⁴ <https://fews.net/west-africa/nigeria/food-security-outlook/february-2022>

Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill 2015; and Women Participation in Elections Support Bill, 2018, for more inclusion of women in governance and decision-making processes in the country.

CONCLUSION:

The varied military and non-military interventions deployed especially in the northern region of Nigeria has yielded some positive outcomes. However, to achieve sustainable peace, it is imperative for the country to regularly review and align its peace and security strategies with current dynamics and trends in existing and emerging threats to enhance resilience in local communities. Increased public awareness on outbreak of epidemics, particularly Lassa Fever remains vital to public health in the country and is also important to further enhance resilience against the spread of epidemics in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR MARCH 2022

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Clash between terrorists groups/ Counter-Terrorist Attacks	13	77 (including one military operative and 76 Boko Haram members.	Several security operatives injured (undisclosed)
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	236	495	115
Shoot-out between security operatives and suspected armed bandits/and other criminal gangs in Katsina, Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna, Edo, Benue, Ebonyi, Delta, Imo, Abuja, Lagos, Kwara States.	19	221	-
Abduction (evident across 22 States)	60	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	9	-	-
Extra-Judicial killing/Shooting by police officers and operatives of the Nigerian Army	12	21	24
Physical/Armed Assault	10	-	18
Farmer-Herder Conflict	23	97	44
Violent Clash			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership tussle between youth groups in Edo State; • Clash between community youths and members of the Oyo State Security Outfit in Oyo State; • Clash between Hausa and Yoruba traders in 	3	9	1

Ogun State.			
Drug Trafficking	18	-	-
Homicide	16	17	1
Suicide	5	5	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)	36	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	6	-	5
Intimidation and Threats	9	-	-
Inter/Intra Political Party Clash	3	5	-
Industrial Strike Action	5	-	-
Arrest/Detention	113	-	-
Road/Train Accidents	46	138	186
Building/Sand Collapse in Ogun, Kano, Niger, Cross-River, Anambra, Kano and Yobe States.	7	19	33
Boat Accident	1	4	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:			
Communal conflict	5	18	3
Rainstorm	4	5	-
Drowning in Kano State	1	1	-
Pandemic/Epidemics:			Confirmed cases
a. Coronavirus (COVID-19)	1	0	COVID: 908
b. Lassa Fever	1	28	Lassa Fever: 151
Fire Outbreak (including tanker explosion)	37	19	21
Gas Explosion	1	1	3
GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:			
Sexual Assault/Rape	18	1	23
Human Trafficking/Child Abuse	6	-	5
Total	724	1,181	1,541

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- Nigeria) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts. This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-NIGERIA field monitors, and also information gathered from the various national and international media.

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