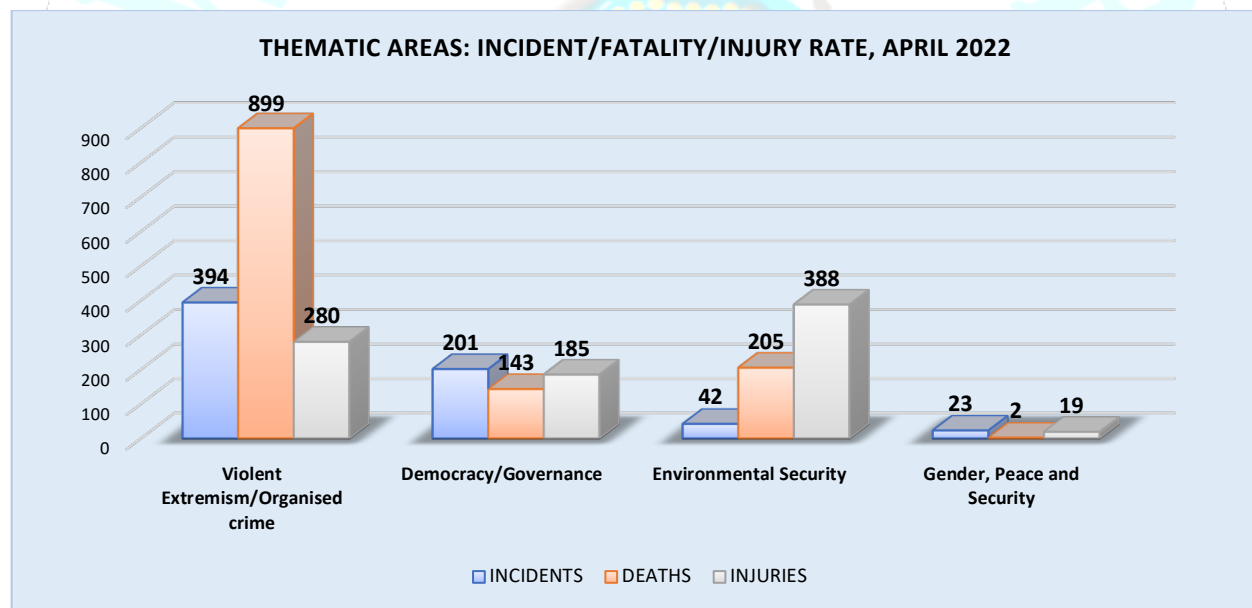


I. INTRODUCTION

As of April 2022, 660 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹. A cumulative fatality of 1,249 and 872 injuries/infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and incidents of environmental security including Lassa Fever and COVID-19 were recorded in April 2022². Out of the total fatalities (1,249) recorded across incidents in the thematic areas, COVID-19 recorded one (1) fatality and 298 infected cases, while Lassa Fever resulted in the death of 11 people³.

As shown in the thematic gap below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 898 people, accounting for the highest fatality of the total number of fatalities (1,249) in the reporting period, while Environmental Security theme recorded 205 deaths⁴. Also, Democracy and Governance theme recorded 143 deaths and Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded two (2) fatalities in the reporting period.⁵(see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁶.

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.

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/

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Terrorist-related activities remain pervasive in the North-East Region of Nigeria particularly across the rural communities of Borno and Yobe States in the reporting period. The increasing complicity of security operatives abetting terrorists and bandits have become a major security concern. An instance was recorded in Yobe State in the reporting period that led to the arrest of a military operative who subsequently committed suicide in a bid to evade interrogation⁷. Reports of terrorists' infiltration within the ranks of the Nigerian Army and the desertion of military operatives in battle fields have led to discussions around coordination and welfare packages of security operatives. Similar reports of terrorists' informants and logistics suppliers amongst communities further impacts negatively in the fight against security threats in the country.

Several incidents of raids, arson and bomb explosions by suspected Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists led to the death of 23 people including 5 security operatives in Damboa, Jere, Chibok, Molai, Kukuwa and Ngala LGAs of Borno State; and Geidam and Bade LGAs of Yobe State as recorded in the WANEP NEWS⁸. In addition to the aforementioned human casualties, the supremacy tussle between members of the Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) resulted in the death 34 terrorists in Borno State⁹.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) continues to record considerable feats in decimating terrorist activities with over 127 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists neutralised during land and air offensives in Borno and the Lake Chad region¹⁰. Also, a cumulative total of 1,158 terrorists and their families comprising 164 men, 367 women and 627 children surrendered to the Nigerian Military in the period¹¹. Given the intervention by the Nigerian Government to combat the proliferation of illicit financial flows enabling terrorism, the Nigerian Senate passed a Bill to amend the Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2013 (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The amendment of the Bill would set standards and regulatory systems intended to prevent terrorist groups from laundering money through the banking systems and other financial networks as well as prohibit the payment of ransom to kidnappers in the country¹². In the month of February 2022, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) revealed that 123 companies, 96 entities including 33 Bureau De Change (BDC) operators and 424 associates and financiers linked to terrorism financing were uncovered¹³.

With continuous violence and killings prominent in the country, the state of unemployment, poverty, marginalisation and neglect remain endearing factors influencing criminal recruitment of vulnerable populations. Fatalities emanating from **Organised Crimes** including banditry and armed violence were 715 (including 19 females, 24 children and 29 security operatives) as reported in WANEP NEWS¹⁴. Out of the recorded fatalities under the Organised Crime theme, **shoot-outs between security operatives and criminal gangs** led to the death of over 93

⁷ <https://guardian.ng/news/nigerian-soldier-kills-himself-after-arrest-for-aiding-terrorists/>

⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁹ aa.com.tr/en/africa/34-killed-in-clashes-between-boko-haram-iswap-terror-groups-in-nigeria/2571397

¹⁰ <https://dailytrust.com/mnjtf-kills-10-iswap-commanders-100-fighters-in-lake-chad>

¹¹ Ibid.

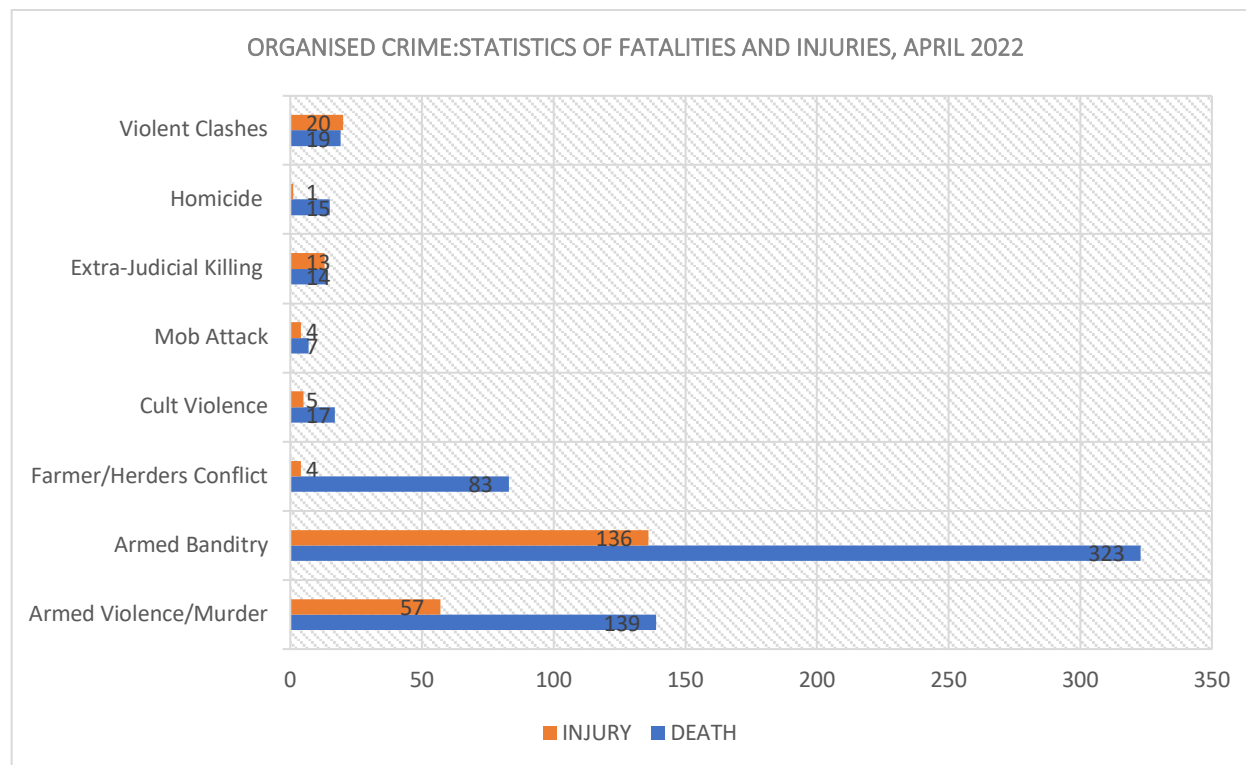
¹² <https://punchng.com/just-in-terrorism-act-senate-prohibits-ransom-payment-to-kidnappers/>

¹³ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202204280054.html> ; <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/02/03/breaking-fg-uncovers-96-financiers-of-boko-haram-iswap/>

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

criminal suspects in Ebonyi, Delta, Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Anambra, Edo, Niger, Imo, Osun, Benue, Kogi, Ogun, Akwa-Ibom, Cross-River and Zamfara States¹⁵.

Below the graphical illustration of the statistics of fatalities and injuries recorded across incidents of organised crime in April 2022.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁶.

The growing expansion of banditry in other States of the North-Central and North-East Regions of Nigeria has been attributed to a number of interconnected factors including the ongoing military onslaught in the North-West Region as well as the expansion of territorial influence by bandits. Although Niger State in the North-Central Region has been a hotbed of bandit's activities, Taraba and Bauchi (North-East) and Plateau State in the North-Central have begun to witness an influx of bandits with reported cases of coordinated attacks in Taraba and Plateau States in the month. The reporting month recorded a fatality of 323 people in Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto (North-West), Niger, Plateau (North-Central) and Taraba States from armed bandits' attack.

Also, casualties from **armed violence (including armed robbery and murder)** accounted for 139 deaths, while violence perpetrated by **militia herders and farmer/herder clashes** led to the death of 83 people in Benue, Edo, Enugu, Ondo, Kaduna and Plateau States¹⁷. As recorded in WANEP NEWS, incidents of **cult-related violence, extra-judicial killings and homicide** resulted in 17, 14 and 15 deaths respectively¹⁸. Also, several reported cases of **violent clashes** stemming

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

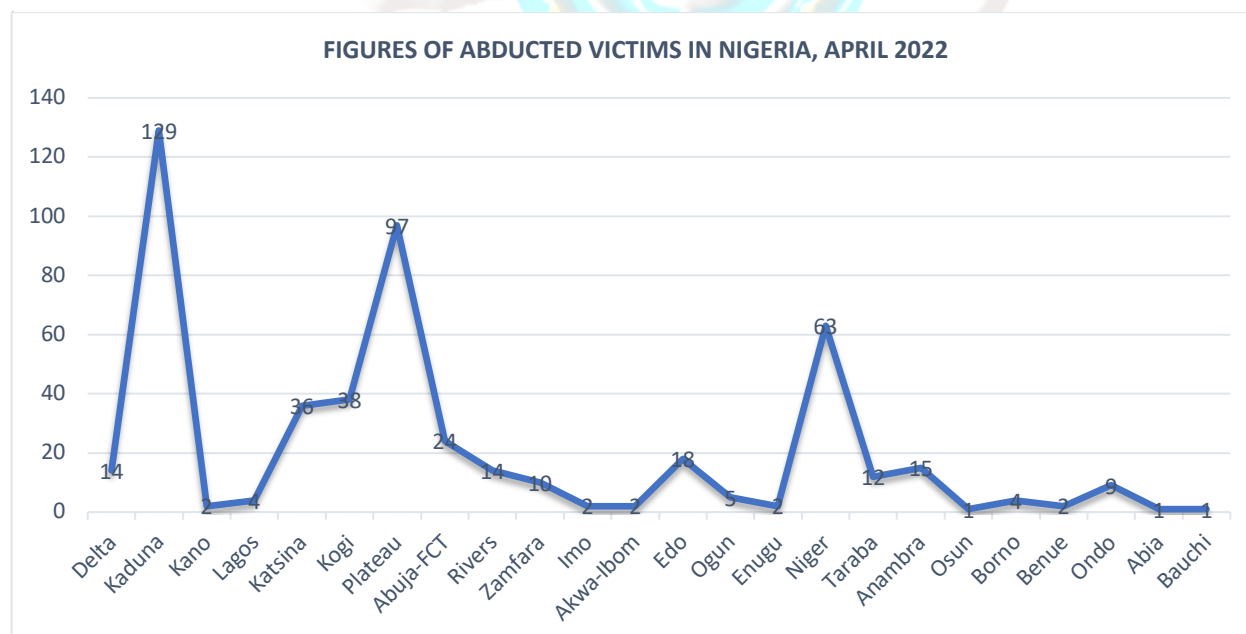
¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

from leadership tussle between factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and suspected hoodlums in Ondo, Lagos, Oyo, Kwara and Edo States; and between police operatives and members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) resulted in the death of 19 people¹⁹.

Controversies around the ownership of environmental resources including land and riverine areas continues to strain peaceful relations and social ties in the affected communities. Also, the frequency of communal conflicts has widened gaps of mutual suspicion amongst ethnic and religious groups in communities. This has hampered local farming and fishing activities at the disputed sites, a development that has implication for food security. In the reporting month, 40 people were reported dead with several houses and properties destroyed across States in Niger, Ebonyi, Bauchi and Akwa-Ibom States²⁰.

In addition to the identified security threats, the WANEP-NEWS recorded 63 incidents of kidnapping across 24 States with 505 victims abducted as indicated on the graphical analysis below in the month²¹. Out of the 505 victims, 24 females, 22 children and one police officer were abducted²². The North-Central accounted for the highest number of abducted victims of 224, while North-West recorded 177²³. This was followed by the South-South region which accounted for 48 abducted victims with South-East put at 20. Also, the South-West and North-East regions reported 19 and 17 abducted victims respectively. The graph below highlights the statistics of kidnapped victims across the affected States in the reporting period.



Source: WANEP-NEWS²⁴.

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

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news

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

²³ Ibid.

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

The NEWS also recorded several cases of arrest in 131 incidents across States in the reporting period.³⁰ The arrest in the month cuts across cases of armed robbery, ritual killings, assassination, human and drug trafficking, cyber-crime, fraud, arms trafficking, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and other forms of violent crimes.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The sustained nationwide strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) since February 14, 2022, continues to affect the academic activities of 104 federal and state universities despite series of engagements and agreements with the Federal Government. The constant industrial action has been attributed to the failure of the Federal Government to fulfil the 2009 agreement signed with the union for the revitalization and improved funding of public university education.

As insecurity persists, there are renewed calls by citizens and legislators for self-defence to forestall imminent attacks and also for individuals to bear arms to defend their communities. This has the potential to create a demand that could fuel proliferation of small arms and light weapons across communities, thus increasing the risk of violence. Citizens have continued to express fears that the 2023 general elections may likely be hampered due to the deteriorating security situation across regions in the country.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 24 incidents of public demonstrations, out of which one (1) deteriorated into violence in Ogun state, although no fatality was reported. Grievances over the increasing security challenges resulted in peaceful demonstrations in Kaduna, Plateau and Edo States²⁵, while incidents of extrajudicial killings by security operatives led to protests in Edo, Imo and Lagos States²⁶. However, continued civil protests mirrors increased tensions, discontents and weak social-contract between the state and citizens. This has potential repercussions on the stability of the country.

In addition, road accidents accounted for over 108 fatalities and 171 injuries from vehicular incidents and plane crash as recorded in WANEP NEWS²⁷. Road accidents in the country have been attributed to overspeeding, overloading of vehicles, fatigue and bad roads arising from poor maintenance culture, amongst others.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

The country recorded a sustained decline in COVID-19 cases. However, a single death was reported in the month with 298 confirmed cases compared to the 908 infected cases recorded in March 2022. Also, casualties from Lassa Fever accounted for 11 deaths and 68 confirmed cases, a decrease from March 2022 statistics with 28 deaths and 151 confirmed cases.

To curb the spread of the epidemic (Lassa Fever), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in collaboration with State Governments have continually scaled-up risk communication and

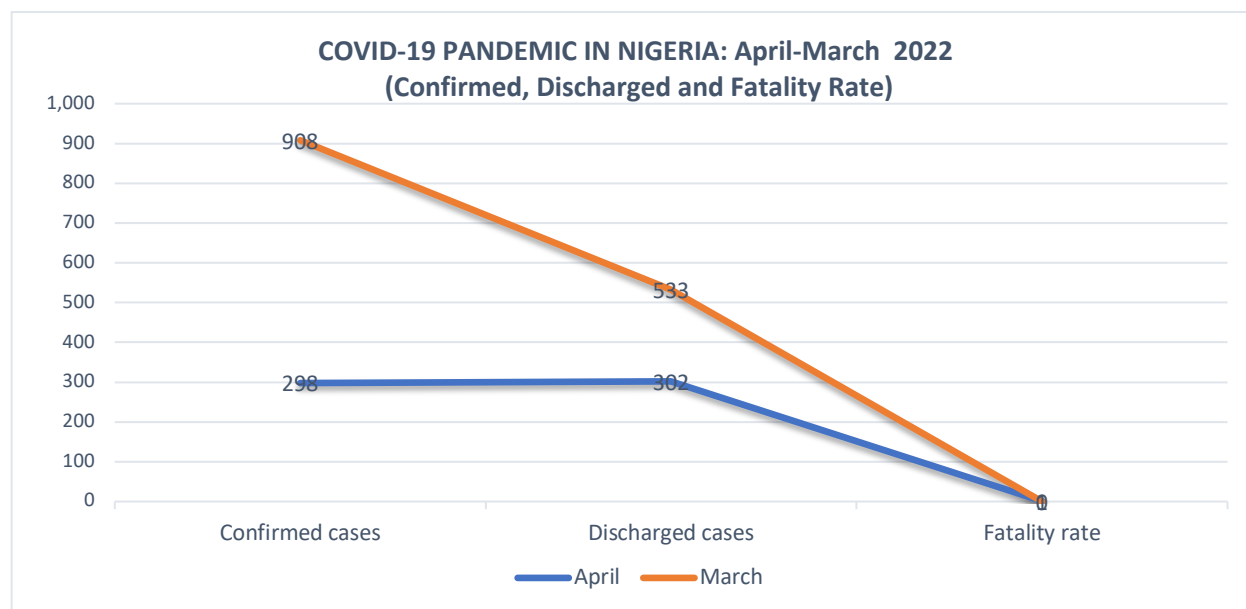
²⁵ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²⁶ ibid

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

community engagement activities using television, radio and social media as well as site visitations of affected communities.

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS²⁸.

The extent of damages arising from flood incidents remain a reflection of poor preparedness by some State Governments to early warning flood alerts. Other related factors include inadequate drainage systems and improper waste management, amongst others. The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 deaths including 7 children and 1 female in Taraba and Abuja-FCT²⁹. Other States with recorded property destruction include Niger, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Lagos, Plateau, Ekiti, Kaduna and Anmbra States. As the rains begin, there is an increased likelihood of water-borne disease such as Cholera and other health challenges.

The activities of illegal bunkering in oil-producing States continues unabated with a corresponding risk on the environment (land and air pollution), while also impacting negatively on the health and well-being of affected communities. While some of the fire outbreaks were as a result of negligence and electrical surge, the reporting month recorded a fire explosion at an illegal oil refining site at Abaezi forest in Ohaji-Egbema LGA of Imo State which resulted in the death of 110 people³⁰. Abaezi forest in Imo State shares borders with Rivers State. In January 2022, at least, 112 illegal refineries were discovered in Rivers State³¹ with 30 illegal crude oil refining sites discovered and deactivated in Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa and Abia States by the Nigerian Military in March 2022³². The discovery comes against the backdrop of recent

²⁸ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²⁹ ibid

³⁰ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/525817-death-toll-in-imo-explosion-rises-to-110-nema.html>

³¹ <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/01/23/112-illegal-refineries-discovered-in-rivers/>

³² <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/south-south-regional/516493-military-deactivates-30-illegal-refineries-in-two-weeks.html>

efforts by the Government to put an end to the economic sabotage brought as a result of the illegal refineries, as well as the health implications resulting from soot pollution³³

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

In furtherance to promoting the participation of women in the governance of Nigeria, the Federal High Court of Nigeria upheld the Affirmative Action proposing 35 percent inclusion of women in elective positions in Nigeria³⁴. Also, as of April 2022, 31 States in Nigeria have domesticated the Child Rights Act (CRA) to protect the rights of children as well as put an end to issues of child abuse, child labour and forced marriage.³⁵

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) raised the alarm over the rise in cases of teachers sexually abusing their students in Rivers State. As reported by FIDA, over 50 cases of teachers defiling students were recorded in River State between January and April 2022³⁶. Additionally, the WANEP NEWS recorded 23 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, particularly rape and human trafficking. The victims of rape were between the ages of 5 and 28 years old in Ogun, Ekiti, Kwara, Lagos, Rivers, Ondo, Enugu, Nasarawa and Edo States. Amongst the raped victims, two (2) females were raped to death in Ogun and Nasarawa States. Other cases of human trafficking were recorded in Katsina, Delta and Akwa-Ibom States³⁷.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

Given the current state of insecurity, the frequency in armed violence across regions presents potential challenges to human and state security ahead of the 2023 presidential and national elections. The availability of firearms in possession of unauthorized persons compounds the rising insecurity, further increasing the existing trust deficit among the citizenry for the Government in its capacity to maintain peace and security. Moreover, the expected counter offensive operations to neutralise the capacity of criminals and prevent attacks continues to aggravate fear in some violence-prone communities. The rising tension emanating from military occupation in these communities have hampered children's attendance at schools coupled with reported cases of intimidation by security agencies.

The volatile security continues to impact negatively on food security, disrupting farming and livelihood activities with communities internally displaced to other parts of the State and neighbouring West African countries for fear of further escalation of violence. A report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) indicated that about 14.4 million people including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across 21 States and Abuja-FCT are already in food crisis till May 2022³⁸.

Additionally, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) through its Food Security Outlook, presented the food security status of all States in the country between April to May

³³ <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/01/23/112-illegal-refineries-discovered-in-rivers/>

³⁴ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/04/35-affirmative-action-nwtf-others-express-satisfaction-on-high-court-ruling/>

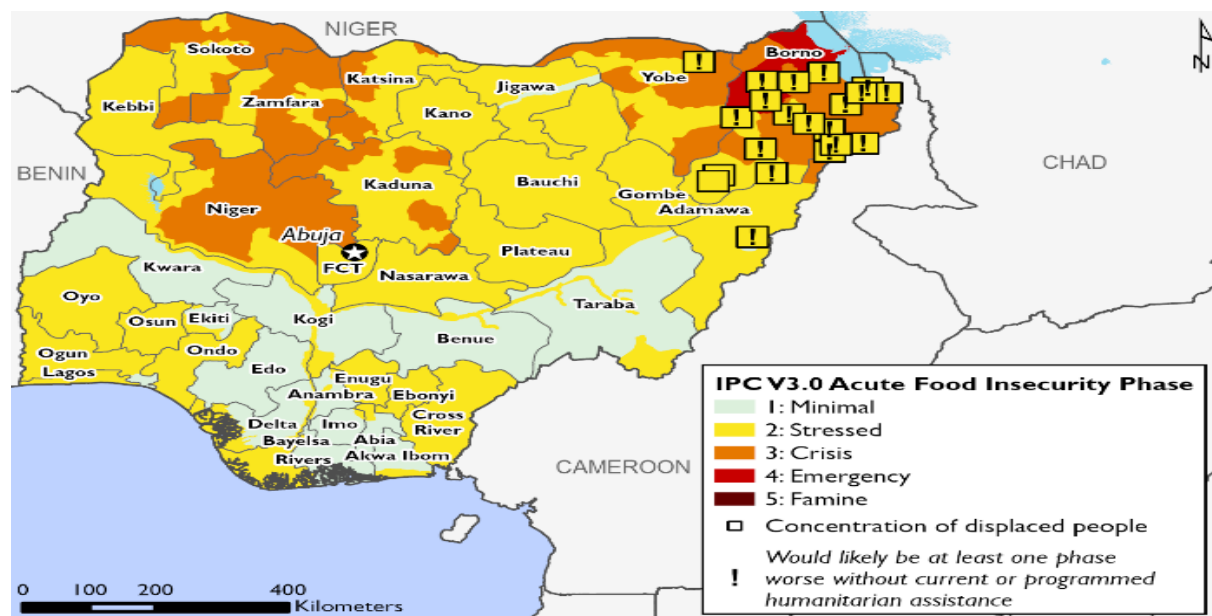
³⁵ <https://dailytrust.com/child-rights-act-domesticated-in-31-states-women-affairs-minister>

³⁶ <https://punchng.com/rivers-teachers-raped-50-pupils-in-four-months-says-fida/>

³⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁸ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/agriculture/agric-news/516720-19-4-million-nigerians-to-face-food-insecurity-by-august-2022-fao.html>

2022 as illustrated in the map below³⁹. Terrorism, armed banditry, farmer/herder crisis, communal clashes, amongst other internal security threats have been identified as key drivers to food insecurity in the country.



Projected Food Security Outcome-April to May 2022- (SOURCE:FEWS NET)⁴⁰

Furthermore, the insecurity continues to heighten the risk of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children trapped in violent conflict in communities. In most cases, displaced children in conflict affected areas are exposed to the risk of criminal recruitment and sexual exploitations by criminal gangs. Reports have revealed that the ISWAP terrorist group have intensified the recruitment of children as fighters.⁴¹ This follows the intensive military offensive that has resulted in the death, arrest and surrender of Boko Haram/ISWAP members and their families. Additionally, the proximity of communities to forest areas and game reserves portends a higher risk of violence due to the invasion of forests by criminals, as it serves as safe havens to perpetrate crime. Also, the poor socio-economic indices including unemployment, poverty and inadequate infrastructural development in the country provide spaces for armed violence and crime to thrive.

The validation of the 35 percent affirmative action by the Federal High Court may likely increase the representation of women at all governance processes, and further promote the campaign for the adoption of gender quotas in politics, particularly, ahead of the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. Despite this encouraging stride, existing socio-cultural norms coupled with the high cost of political campaign pose significant challenges that limit women participation in politics and governance in Nigeria.

³⁹ https://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/NIGERIA_Food_Security_Outlook_Update_April%202022-final.pdf

⁴⁰ https://fews.net/sites/default/files/documents/reports/NIGERIA_Food_Security_Outlook_Update_April%202022-final.pdf

⁴¹ <https://pmigeria.com/2022/04/01/boko-haram-recruits-child/>

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 should continuously review its dialogue and mediation processes through existing local peacebuilding structures to engage traditional authorities, religious groups, women and youth groups to resolve conflict and foster social cohesion. The dialogue and mediation processes should necessarily create a space for CSOs participation to enhance synergy and sustainability.
- The Federal, State and Local Governments should increase support for the presence of security agencies in the communities to enhance peace and security. This should necessarily provide a platform to enhance community policing strategies to include identification and strengthening of existing conflict early warning mechanisms to aid the prevention and mitigation of threats to security in the affected communities.
- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen engagement for the implementation of the 35 percent affirmative action plan for more inclusive representation of women at all levels of governance

CONCLUSION:

The multilayered security challenges remain a growing challenge to the stability of Nigeria. Therefore to enhance resilience, it is imperative for the country to regularly review and align its peace and security strategies with the current dynamics and trends in existing and emerging threats to enhance resilience in local communities. Also, the partnership between the Federal, State Governments and development partners needs to be strengthened to ensure increased public education on recurring epidemics in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 2022

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ Counter-Terrorist Attacks	16	- 23 community residents/security officials - 161 suspected ISWAP/Boko Haram members	Undisclosed number of security operatives injured including 15 community residents.
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	182	486	202
Shoot-out between security operatives and suspected armed bandits/other criminal gangs in Ebonyi, Delta, Kano, Katsina, Kaduna, Anambra, Edo, Niger, Imo, Osun, Benue, Kogi, Ogun, Akwa-Ibom, Cross River and Edo States.	31	93	18

Abduction (evident across 24 States)	63	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	6	-	-
Extra-Judicial killing/shooting by police officers, military operatives and local vigilante group	11	14	13
Physical/Armed Assault	7	-	7
Farmer-Herder Conflict	12	83	4
Violent Clash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership tussle between members of the NURTW in Ondo, Oyo and Lagos States; Clash between inmates in Rivers State; Clash between commercial motorcyclists in Lagos State; Leadership tussle amongst youth groups in Delta and Edo States; Clash between suspected hoodlums in Kwara State; Clash between police operatives and members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria in Kaduna State. Clash between hoodlums and ethnic Hausa youths in Osun State. 	14	19	20
Drug Trafficking	34	-	-
Homicide	13	15	1
Suicide	5	5	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	23	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Intimidation and Threats	11	-	-
Industrial Strike Action	-	-	-
Arrest/Detention	131	-	-
Road/Tanker explosion/Plane crash	29	109	171
Building Collapse in Jigawa, Taraba, Kano, Lagos and Imo States	5	5	14
Boat Accident	1	29	-
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal conflict	4	40	-
Rainstorm/Flood	13	9	11
Drowning in Kano State	3	3	-

Pandemic/Epidemics:			Confirmed cases
a. Coronavirus (COVID-19)	1	1	COVID: 298
b. Lassa Fever	1	11	Lassa Fever: 68
Fire Outbreak	14	129	-
Electrocution	6	12	11

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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<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
Sexual Assault/Rape	20	2	19
Human Trafficking	3	-	-
Total	660	1,249	872