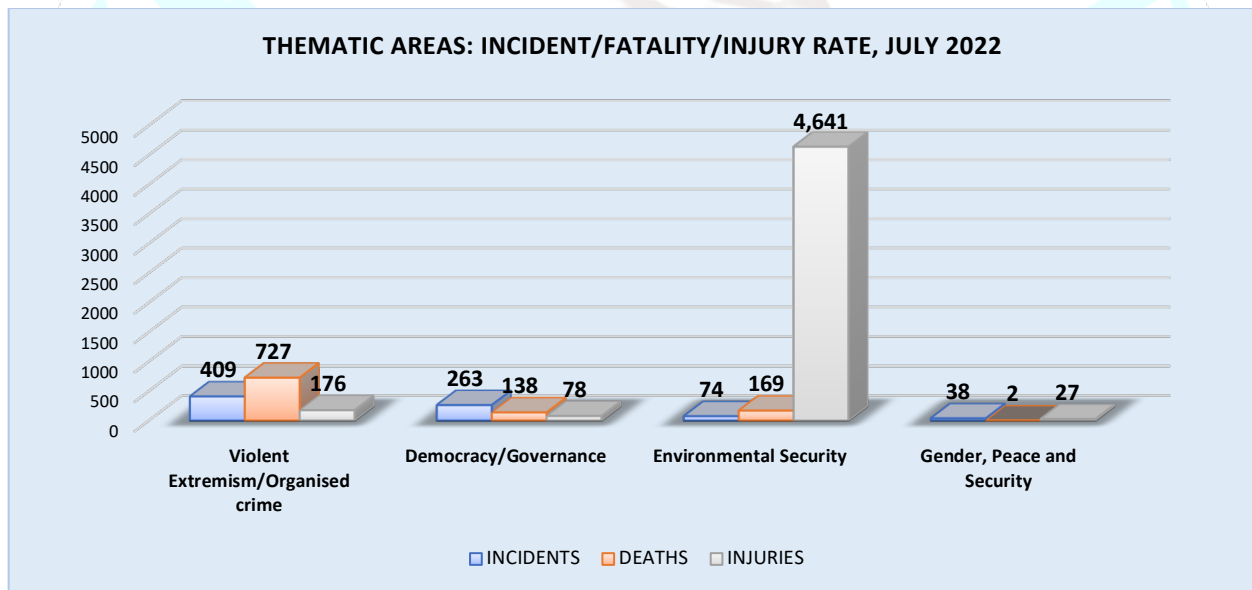




I. INTRODUCTION

As of July 2022, 784 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1,036 and 4,922 injuries/infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and incidents of environmental security including COVID-19, Lassa Fever, Cholera and Monkey Pox were recorded in July 2022².

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 727 people, accounting for the highest fatality of the total number of fatalities (1,036) in the reporting period, while Environmental Security theme recorded 169 deaths³. Also, Democracy and Governance theme recorded 138 deaths and Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 2 (two) fatalities in the reporting period.⁴ (*see annex for the monthly census*).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁵.

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

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

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The attacks of Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorist groups continue to undermine security in Nigeria. There are increasing concerns over spread of terrorist groups in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT-Abuja). This followed a series of attacks and threats by terrorists that resulted in the death of 8 military personnel of the presidential guard brigade; attack on Kuje Correctional Centre that led to the escape of about 879 inmates including 64 Boko Haram suspects⁶; and the threat of an imminent attack on the Nigeria Law School. Consequently, the Federal Ministry of Education and the Nasarawa State Government had ordered the immediate closure of schools in Abuja-FCT and Nasarawa State in view of terrorists' infiltration in the month⁷.

The reporting month also recorded attacks in Gubio, Bama, Konduga, Mobbar and Ngazai LGAs of Borno State and Gujba LGA of Yobe State, resulting in the death of 28 people (including a police officer) as documented in WANEP NEWS⁸. Also, due to the sustained military offensive in the North-East region, over 102 terrorists were neutralised, 29 abducted females rescued and over 5,874 terrorists and their families surrendered in the month. Out of the 5,874, 1622 were women, 3387 children and 865 men.

Rising insecurity in the country is further exacerbated by banditry, secessionist agitations, kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, community/herders clash amongst other forms of **organised crimes** that threaten national stability and cohesion. Security analysts have attributed the heightening security challenges to communication gap and poor coordination amongst security agencies and the locals. In the reporting month, 597 deaths and 176 injuries under **organised crimes** was documented by WANEP NEWS⁹. Out of the 597 fatalities, 34 were security personnel, 35 women and 29 children. Also, out of the total fatalities under **Organised Crime** theme, **shoot-outs between security operatives and criminal gangs** resulted in the death of 174 criminal suspects in Ebonyi, Delta, Edo, Katsina, Lagos, Nasarawa, Bauchi, Plateau, Anambra, Kaduna, Niger, Benue, Abia, Abuja-FCT, Edo and Adamawa States.

The climate of fear emanating from the recurrent bandits' attacks continue to generate cause for concern across States in the North West and North-Central Regions. Armed attacks by bandits resulted in the highest civilian fatality of 226 people in Zamfara, Sokoto, Kaduna, Katsina (North-West), Plateau, Niger (North-Central) and Taraba in the North-East region.

Armed violence/murder accounted for the second highest fatality in the reporting month with 115 deaths, with incidents of **violent clashes between communities and herders** resulting in 21 deaths, while **mob attacks and cult violence** led to the death of 13 and 12 people respectively.

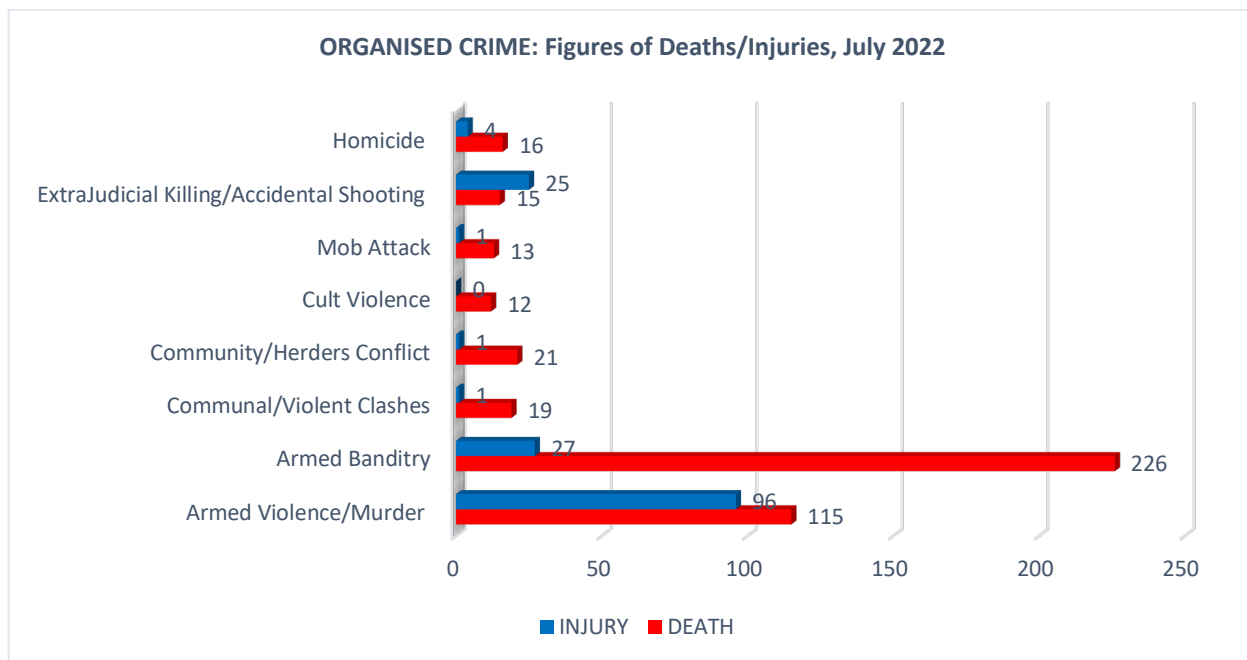
The graph below highlights the figures of fatalities and injuries across reported incidents of organised crime in the July 2022.

⁶ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/07/five-killed-879-inmates-escaped-443-recaptured-says-ncos/>

⁷ <https://leadership.ng/breaking-federal-govt-orders-closure-of-fgc-kwali-over-insecurity/>

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

⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁰.

Community violence arising from disputes over land ownership, fishing rights and supremacy tussle between youth groups' were recorded in Ebonyi, Kwara, Niger and Bayelsa States, resulting in the death of 19 people¹¹. Ebonyi State accounted for the highest fatality of 15 people out of the total recorded casualties in the period. The existing mutual suspicion between ethnic groups in the country has continued to strain inter-group relations further degenerating into violence. The consequences of loss of lives and livelihoods, internal displacements and breakdown of socio-cultural values remain obvious features of armed violence.

The trend of kidnapping by criminal gangs continues unabated, as the month recorded 108 incidents of kidnapping across 31 States with 790 people abducted including 54 females and 47 children. The figure (790) represents an increase compared to the 707 recorded in June 2022. The graph below highlights the statistics of kidnapped victims across the affected States in the reporting period.

¹⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹².

The NEWS also recorded several cases of arrest in 141 incidents across States in the reporting period.³⁰ The arrest in the month cuts across cases of armed robbery, assassination, human and drug trafficking, cyber-crime, fraud, arms trafficking, terrorism, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and other forms of violent crimes.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

As the country prepares for the 2023 general elections, there are concerns around rising insecurity. Agitations for ethnic, religious and regional representation in governance ahead of the elections dominates the political space. Some political party supporters and other critical stakeholders have continued to embark on demonstrations¹³ and public debates regarding the same faith (muslim-muslim) presidential ticket of the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC). With the conclusion of the Continuous Voters Registration (CVR) on July 31, 2022 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), a total of 12,298,944 new eligible voters were captured in the process¹⁴. Moreover, about 7 million Nigerians were unable to complete their voters' registration¹⁵. This has elicited public demands on INEC to recommence the process to prevent disenfranchising eligible citizens. The month under review recorded another case of arson wherein suspected hoodlums set ablaze an INEC office in Igboeze North LGA of Enugu State¹⁶.

¹² Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

¹³ <https://punchng.com/muslim-muslim-ticket-protesting-apc-members-storm-party-secretariat/>

¹⁴ See Channel Television. Available at <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/08/01/eight-million-youths-complete-voter-registration-ahead-of-2023-elections/> Updated August 1, 2022. (Accessed on 22/08/2022).

¹⁵ <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/08/14/scraper-asks-inec-to-allow-7-million-nigerians-complete-voter-registration/>

¹⁶ <https://guardian.ng/news/arsonists-attack-burn-inec-office-in-enugu/>

The WANEP NEWS recorded 33 incidents of public demonstrations and industrial actions in the month of July 2022. Out of the total recorded demonstrations, one incident deteriorated into violence in Bauchi State with students looting public properties. This violent protest followed a two-weeks warning strike embarked upon by the Bauchi State Government-owned tertiary institution to draw governments' attention to their demands¹⁷.

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations in the month include; the nation-wide demonstration by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) demanding for the re-opening of Nigerian Universities; alleged marginalization of host communities by the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) in Edo State; alleged non-payment of INEC staff members' benefits in Abia State¹⁸; demand for the rescue of persons held in captivity from the Abuja-Kaduna train attack¹⁹; extrajudicial killings by members of State Security Outfits 'Amotekun' and 'Ebubeagu Security Network' in Ondo and Imo States; armed assault by some illegal revenue collectors that led to the injury of a truck driver in Anambra State²⁰. Also, resident doctors at the Osun State University Teaching Hospital embarked on a 72-hours strike over inadequate security in the hospital complex²¹.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 167 deaths and 176 injuries from road accidents in the month²². Also, 24 fatalities were recorded from boat mishaps Lagos, Niger and Bayelsa States²³. The failure to wear life jackets has marjorly been attributed to boat mishaps. The recurrence in demonstrations and strikes further reinforce the weakened social contract and mistrust existing between the State and citizens.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

The reporting month recorded incidents of flood and storm across States resulting in the death of 27 people and over 75 injuries in Lagos, Yobe, Jigawa, Ogun, Kano, Cross-River and Yobe States as recorded in WANEP NEWS²⁴. The flooding continues to aggravate the spread of Cholera epidemic which is worsened by poor sanitation, poor refusal disposal and practices such as open defecation of local communities.

The WANEP NEWS also documented an increase in the number of infected COVID-19 cases in July 2022 (3,836) compared to the 1,524 cases recorded in June 2022²⁵. Also, the month recorded 3 deaths compared to the month of June with one death²⁶. As of July 31, a total of 27,141,406 people have been administered the complete dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Nigeria.

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

¹⁷ <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/polytechnic-students-protest-block-bauchi-jos-highway/>

¹⁸ <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/abia-inec-staff-protest-alleged-unpaid-benefits/>

¹⁹ <https://dailypost.ng/2022/07/07/families-of-50-abducted-train-passengers-protest-in-kaduna/>

²⁰ <https://punchng.com/truck-drivers-protesting-illegal-levy-ground-anambra-roads/>

²¹ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/07/osun-resident-doctors-embark-on-72-hours-strike-over-insecurity/>

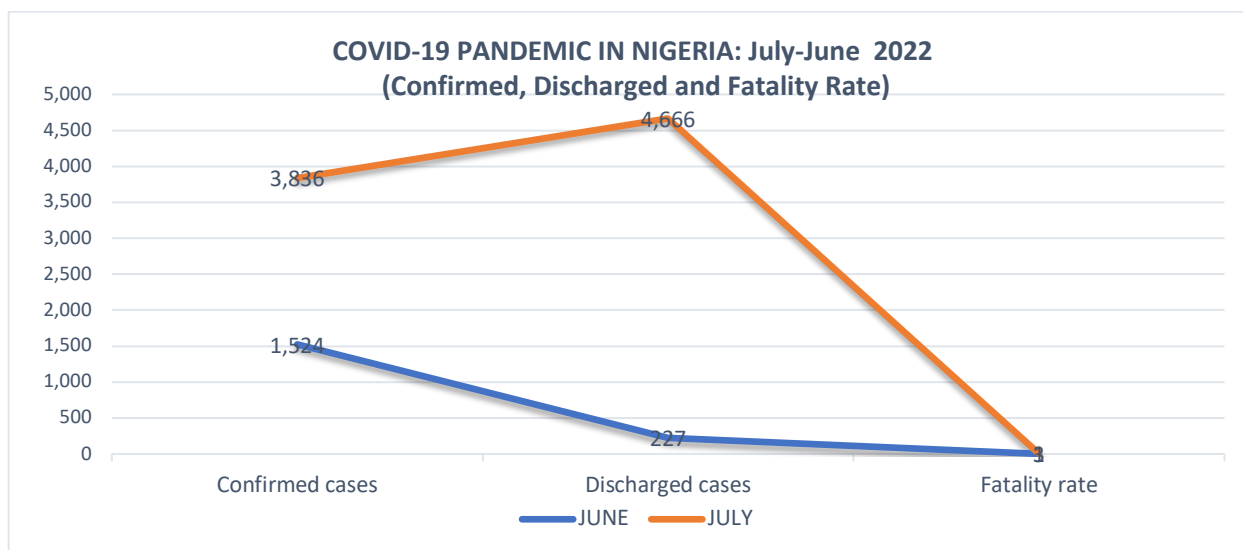
²² Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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

²⁴ ibid

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

²⁶ ncdc.gov.ng



Source: WANEP-NEWS²⁷.

Several other health challenges recorded in the month include; Lassa Fever, Monkey Pox and Cholera. The table below highlights the statistics per health challenges in the month, as recorded in WANEP NEWS²⁸.

EPIDEMICS	Deaths	Confirmed Cases	Suspected Cases
Lassa Fever	5	47	610
Coronavirus (COVID-19)	3	3,836	-
Cholera	25	-	575
Monkey Pox ²⁹	-	93	116

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded several cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) especially rape in Ogun, Enugu, Ebonyi, Kwara, Rivers, Edo, Lagos, Kaduna, Adamawa, Abuja-FCT, Ekiti, Nasarawa, Niger and Oyo States. Out of the 29 recorded incidents, 2 females were murdered in Enugu and Edo States. Also, over 207 victims of human trafficking were rescued in Plateau, Oyo, Anambra, Delta, Kwara and Rivers States. Plateau State accounted for the highest number of rescued trafficked children in the reporting period,³⁰ with baby factories uncovered in Delta and Plateau States respectively. In addition to State Government responses of domesticating and implementing relevant gender-based laws, the Kaduna State Government shut down a school in Kachia LGA over the alleged defilement of a 4-year-old hearing impaired

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

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

²⁹ <https://dailytrust.com/ncdc-confirms-66-suspected-monkeypox-cases-1-death/>; Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/; www.ncdc.gov.ng

³⁰ <https://thetreetjournal.org/200-trafficked-children-rescued-by-naptip-in-plateau/>

girl,³¹ while the Kebbi State Government signed the Bills on Prohibiting Violence Against Individuals and Protection of Child Rights into law³².

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The multi-layered security challenges in Nigeria continues to generate concerns around election security and safety ahead of the 2023 general elections. Some local government areas (LGAs), particularly in the Northern region remain inaccessible due to criminal violence. Despite increased voters' registration, voters' apathy remain a significant concern considering the rising insecurity ahead of the elections. Moreover, the security situation is a significant determinant to peaceful conduct of the elections.

Furthermore, rising insecurity in the country has led to the closure of schools in vulnerable communities, affecting education of children. The northern region alone accounts for 9 million out of the 13.2 million out-of-school children in the country³³. Aside the exposure of out-of-school children to the threats of radicalization and other criminal vices, their vulnerability to kidnapping and trafficking is evident. The insecurity in affected communities has also heightened the risk of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children trapped in violent conflict. Additionally, the livelihoods and farming activities of communities has been hampered following attacks and threats of attacks by bandits'. Majority of the farming communities are either forced to abandon their farms or pay dues in a bid to gain access. This has severe implication for food security, household consumption and income of populations who largely engage in agriculture.

The surge in COVID-19 cases and other epidemics (cholera, monkey pox and lassa fever) continues to undermine the health security of the population in Nigeria. Limited health care facilities in rural communities further delays early detection and treatment thereby increasing the risk of spread and mortality rate in the affected States

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 Governments should continue to strengthen collaboration with traditional/community leaders, faith-based institutions, women and youth groups to increase dialogue and mediation platforms to address increased threats to security and foster social cohesion in communities;
- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in partnership with traditional and religious leaders, women groups, youths groups and the media should continue to strengthen its

³¹ <https://dailytrust.com/kaduna-shuts-school-over-rape-of-4-year-old>

³² <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/07/bagudu-signs-bills-into-law-prohibiting-violence-against-individuals-childs-rights-protection/>

³³ <https://tribuneonlineng.com/north-accounts-for-69-percent-of-13-2-million-out-of-schoolchildren-in-nigeria-%E2%80%95-niger-govs-wife/>

advocacy for the domestication and implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) and Child Rights Acts;

- Considering the nations’ fragile unity and stability, the Federal/State Government, political parties media and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) should increase their awareness campaigns on peaceful elections, non-violence and the risks of hate speech;
- The State and Local Governments in collaboration with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian agencies should increase support for flood/conflict affected victims, especially displaced persons in terms of access to health, psychosocial and livelihoods assistance to rebuild their lives.
- It is also imperative for the State and Local Governments in partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to strengthen collaboration with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), mass media, traditional and faith-based organisations to increase public health, safety and hygiene awareness to mitigate the recurring outbreak of epidemics – Meningitis, Lassa Fever and Monkey Pox.

CONCLUSION:

In the lead up to the 2023 general election, the Nigerian government continues to strengthen collaboration with critical stakeholders in a bid to explore strategies to ensure peaceful and credible elections. 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 States 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. This would boost public confidence as well as increase citizens participation and safety during the electioneering period and beyond, thus contributing to consolidating democratic gains in Nigeria.

More importantly, there is the need for stakeholders to sustain awareness on the prevention and management of epidemics to enhance resilience against the spread of Monkey Pox, Lassa Fever and the COVID-19 pandemic.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JULY 2022

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ Counter-Terrorist Attacks	13	- 28 civilians/security officials - 102 suspected ISWAP/Boko Haram members	4

ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	175	366	124
Armed Action/Shoot-out between security operatives and members of criminal gangs	31	174	-
Abduction (evident across 32 States)	108	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	8	-	-
Extra-Judicial killing/Accidental shooting	8	15	25
Physical/Armed Assault	15	-	17
Herder-Community Conflict	8	21	1
Violent Clash • Officials of the NDLEA and National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW)	1	-	1
Drug Trafficking	18	-	-
Homicide	19	16	4
Suicide	5	5	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	31	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Intimidation and Threats	11	-	-
Industrial Strike Action	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	141	-	-
Road Accident	71	112	75
Building Collapse in Lagos and Ebonyi States	2	-	1
Mine Collapse (Kano State)	1	2	-
Boat Accident in Lagos, Niger and Bayelsa States	4	24	2
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal conflict	4	19	1
Rainstorm/Flood	24	27	75
Drowning in Lagos State	1	1	-

<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected cases</u>
a. Coronavirus (COVID-19)	1	3	COVID: 3,836 Lassa Fever: 47 Monkey Pox: 93 Cholera: 575
b. Lassa Fever	1	5	
c. Monkey Pox	1	0	
d. Cholera	1	25	
Fire Outbreak	36	86	13
Gas explosion/Electrocution	5	3	1

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	29	2	27
Human Trafficking	9	-	-
Total	784	1,036	4,922