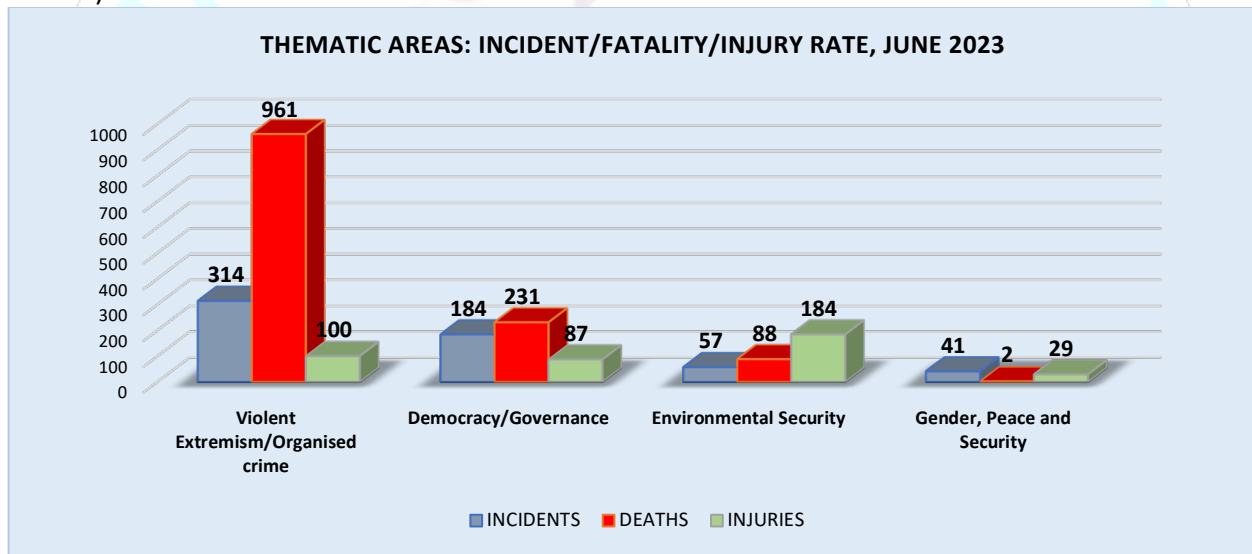




I. INTRODUCTION

As of June 2023, 596 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1,282 and 400 injuries/infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and cases of environmental security related incidents, especially Diphtheria and Lassa Fever were recorded June 2023².

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 961, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,282) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 231 deaths³. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 88 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded two (2) 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.

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The North-East region of Nigeria continues to grapple with recurrent terrorist and violent extremist attacks, particularly in the rural communities of Borno State. The use of Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), mines and suicide bombers were utilized by the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP), as farming communities and security operatives constituted major targets in the month.

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

² Ibid.

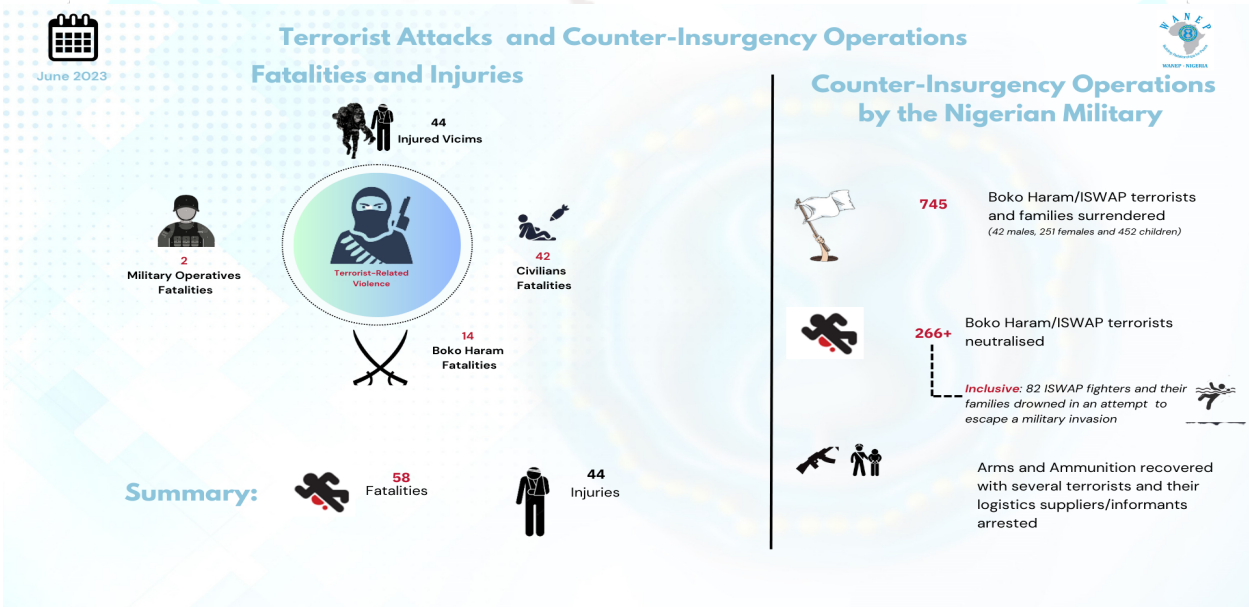
³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁴ Ibid

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

The WANEP NEWS recorded 25 terrorist-related incidents and security offensive operations in Abadam, Jere, Mafa, Magumeri, Konduga, Damboa, Marte, Bama and Gwoza LGAs of Borno State⁶. A total of 58 fatalities (including 2 military operatives) and 44 injured victims (including 20 military operatives⁷) were documented by the NEWS⁸. Also, out of the total (58) recorded fatalities, 14 Boko Haram terrorists were murdered in supremacy tussles between ISWAP and Boko Haram in Borno State in the period⁹.

The Nigerian military sustained its counter offensive and aerial bombardments across terrorists enclaves and hideouts in the month with over 266 terrorists neutralised, several suspected terrorists logistics suppliers arrested and weapons recovered¹⁰. Out of the 266 terrorist fatalities, 82 ISWAP terrorists and their families attempting to escape military incursion at their enclaves in Borno State drowned while crossing over to Niger Republic¹¹. In addition to the security gains attained, 745 terrorists and their families (42 males, 251 females and 452 children) surrendered in the period¹².



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³.

Another critical security concern is the pervasive threat of **Organised Crime** across the States of Nigeria. Despite the varied security and peacebuilding interventions across the volatile communities, unemployment, discontent over inadequate social service delivery, perceived marginalisation and neglect continues to fuel crime. The month recorded incidents of kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), community-herder violence, banditry, mob violence, extrajudicial killing, armed/physical assault, homicide,

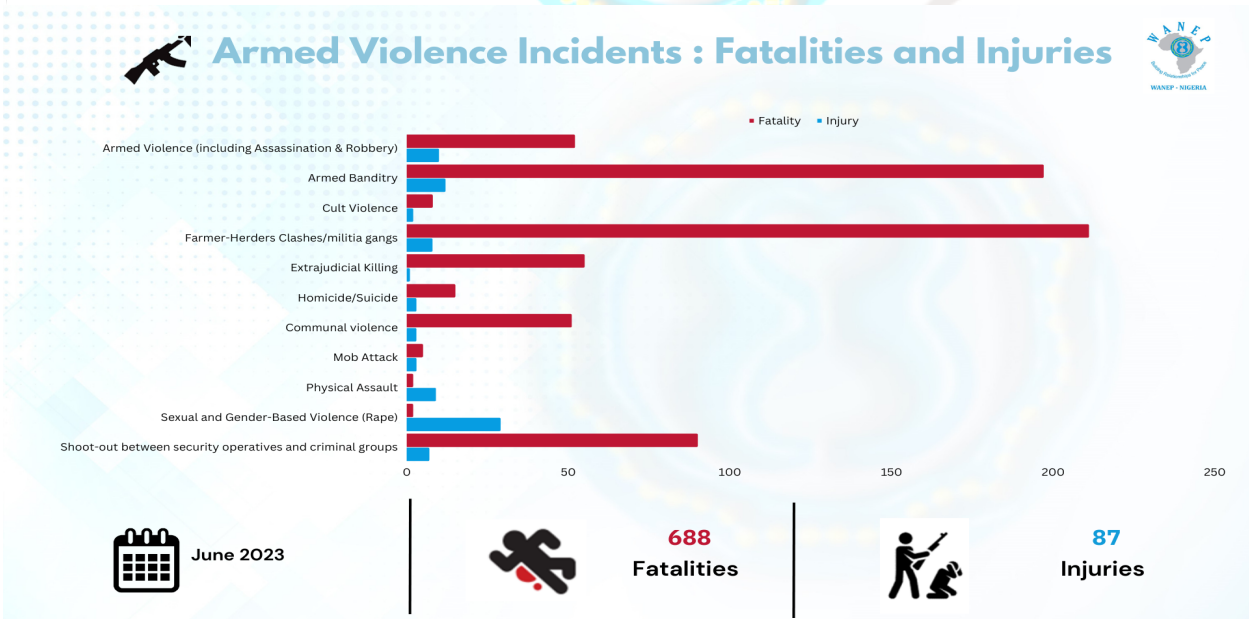
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/;
⁷ The ISWAP claimed responsibility for the attack on a military convoy transporting food supplies to Arege Town in Abadam LGA of Borno State that led to the injury or death 20 military operatives, according to the SITE Intelligence group. The explosion also damaged two (2) armoured vehicles and disabled four (4) other vehicles in the incident. (<https://punchng.com/nigerian-troops-killed-in-jihadist-ambush-on-convoy/>; <https://ent.siteintelgroup.com/Jihadist-Threat-Statements/iswap-claims-at-least-20-casualties-in-clash-suicide-bombing-on-nigerian-military-convoy-in-borno-state.html>)
⁸ ibid
⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/;
¹⁰ ibid
¹¹ <https://www.thecable.ng/82-iswap-fighters-families-drown-in-borno-river-after-military-invasion>
¹² <https://leadership.ng/58-terrorists-killed-57-arrested-743-surrender-says-dhq/#:~:text=The%20director%20of%20Defence%20Media,of%201%20%E2%80%93%2015%20June%202023.>
¹³ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

amongst other crimes. These armed violence incidents resulted in the fatality of 688 people, out of which 32 were security operatives (including 29 local vigilante members), 11 females and 10 children.¹⁴ Also, out of the 688 fatalities, 90 were criminal suspects neutralised during security clearance operations in Delta, Kaduna, Katsina, Rivers, Zamfara, Delta, Kwara, Anambra, Kogi, Ebonyi, Oyo, Gombe, Ondo and Abia States¹⁵.

As documented in the WANEP NEWS, **community-herder conflicts/attacks by suspected ethnic militia gangs** resulted in the highest fatality of 211 in Plateau, Benue (North-Central), Enugu and Ebonyi States in the South-East. The protracted sectarian violence in Plateau and Benue States have generated increased tension considering the rising human fatalities, degree of physical damages and its negative impact on community cohesion. Mangu, Riyom and Barkin Ladi LGAs in Plateau State alone accounted for 168 deaths, while Katsina-Ala LGA of Benue State reported 40 fatalities in the reporting period. The unabated activities of criminal gangs in the volatile LGAs of Plateau and Benue States have led to the formation of local security services to protect community security.

Also, **armed banditry attacks** resulted in the second highest fatality of 197 in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna (North-West) and Niger State in the North-Central region. Majority of the banditry attacks in communities of Sokoto, Zamfara and Niger States were as a result of the failure of communities to pay levies imposed by bandits. **Extrajudicial killings and armed violence (including assassination & robbery)** resulted in the fatalities of 55 and 52 people. Other recorded armed violence incidents including **homicide, cult violence and mob violence** led to the death of 11, 8 and 5 people respectively¹⁶.

Below the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in June 2023.

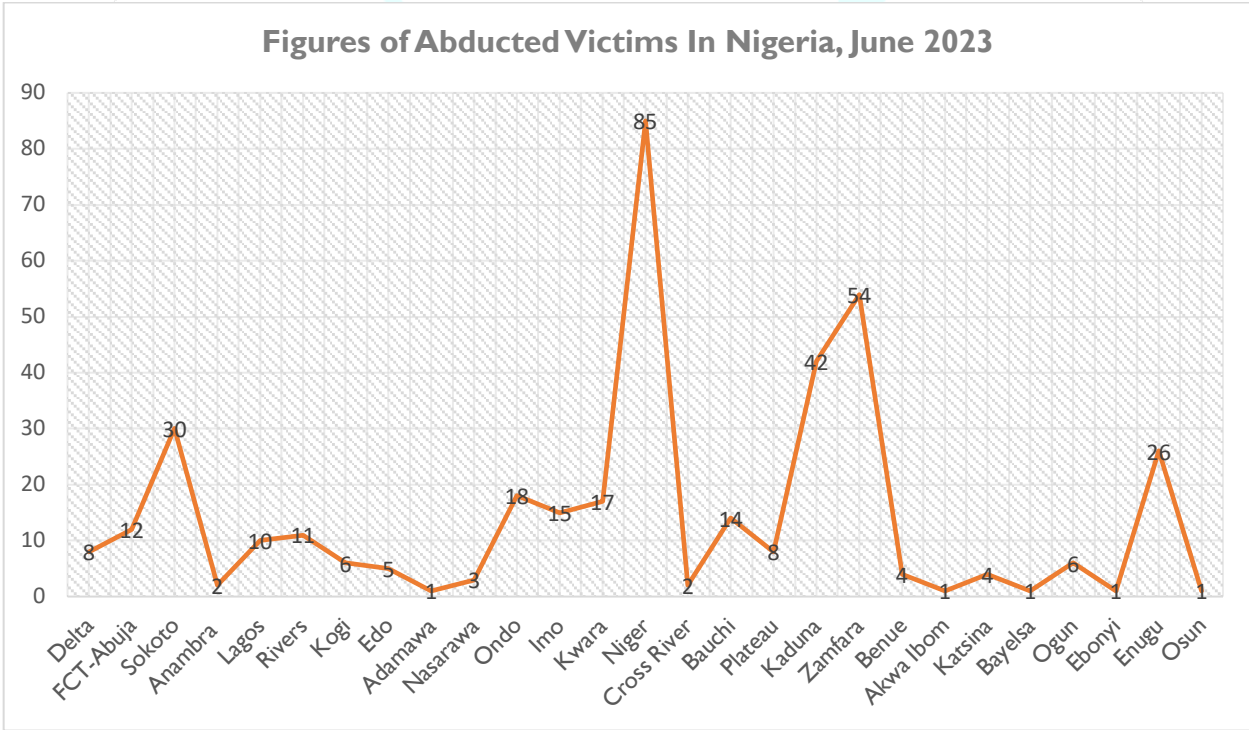


Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁷

¹⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹⁵ ibid
¹⁶ ibid.
¹⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

Communal rivalry over land resources further compounds the fragility of the affected communities and weakens social cohesion. The WANEP NEWS recorded 6 incidents of communal violence in Ebonyi, Taraba, Benue, Delta and Akwa-Ibom States, which led to the death of 49 people.¹⁸ Other violent clashes between commercial vehicle and motorcycle operators in Ondo State; and military operatives and community youths in Plateau State accounted for the death of 2 victims in the reporting period¹⁹.

Kidnapping incidents continue to pose major security challenges across the 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Nigeria. The WANEP NEWS documented 76 incidents of kidnapping across 27 States with a total of 387 people abducted in June 2023. Out of the total (387) recorded, 24 were children and 56 females.²⁰ The graph below illustrates the statistics of kidnapped victims per affected State in June 2023.

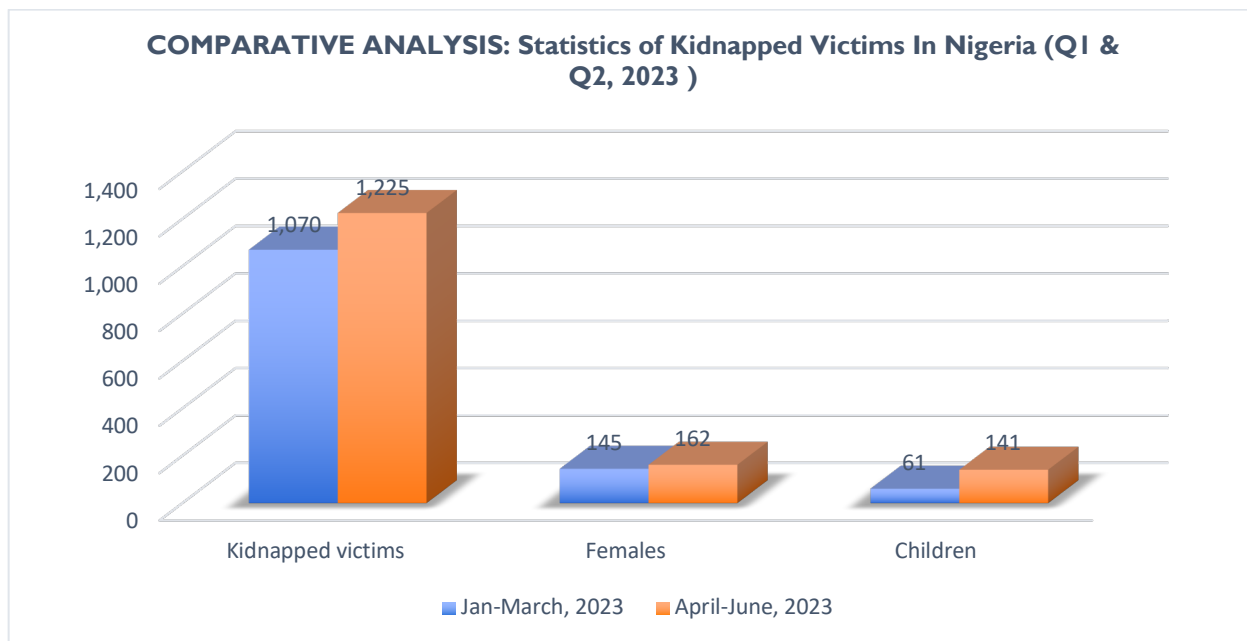


Source: WANEP-NEWS²¹

Compared to the first quarter (January-March) of 2023 with a record of 1,070 kidnapped victims including 145 females and 61 children, the second quarter representing April to June 2023 accounted for the highest kidnapped victims of 1,225. Out of the 1,225 kidnapped victims, 162 were females and 141 children.

The graph below illustrates the statistics of kidnapped victims in the first two quarters of 2023 in Nigeria.

¹⁸ ibid
¹⁹ ibid
²⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
²¹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/



Source: WANEP-NEWS²²

The WANEP NEWS recorded over 122 incidents of arrest in June 2023.²³ The arrest cuts across various criminal incidents such as fraud, cyber-crime, murder, terrorism, banditry, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, amongst other crime and social vices.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The sit-at-home order initiated by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) across the south-eastern States of Ebonyi, Anambra, Imo, Enugu and Abia to oppose the continued detention of their leader, Nnamdi Kanu, by the federal government continues to heighten fear and tension in the States. Besides the negative impact on socio-economic activities, communities of Oguta LGA in Imo State have expressed concerns of extrajudicial killings allegedly perpetrated by members of the Imo State security outfit 'Ebube-Agu' and military operatives between June 7 and 19, 2023. The communities have claimed that over 50 natives of Amakpurudere, Ndiawa, Ndioko, Orsu and Ugbele and Agwa of Izombe in Oguta LGA were killed with over 170 building structures destroyed during security clearance operations to counter criminality in the State²⁴. As reflected in the WANEP NEWS, these allegations of human rights abuses could precipitate violent actions by community residents.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 15 public demonstrations and industrial strikes. Out of the recorded demonstrations, the protest in Etsako East LGA of Edo State degenerated as stray bullets fired by military operatives to disperse protesters led to the death of two (2) people with several others injured²⁵.

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 <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/06/170-buildings-set-ablaze-50-persons-killed-in-imo-igbo-youth-leader-alleges/>

²⁵ <https://punchng.com/power-drunk-soldiers-shoot-two-youths-dead-in-edo-community/>

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations in the month include increase in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) in Edo and Kwara States; the incessant armed violence, extrajudicial killings and kidnappings in Enugu, Benue, Ondo and Rivers State²⁶. The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) also conducted a protest demanding the reversal of over 300 per cent increment in school fees at the Ambrose Alli University (AAU) in Edo State²⁷. Similarly, the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP) and the Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN) in Ondo and Ogun States embarked on a strike over unpaid salaries and the non-implementation of the Consolidated Legislative Salary Structure (CONLESS) respectively. The frequency in demonstrations and strikes in the country reveals the weak state capacity to respond to the socio-economic needs of population.

Fatalities from boat mishaps have remained worrisome with over 135 deaths documented by the WANEP NEWS in Ondo, Kwara, Cross River, Delta and Akwa-Ibom States in the month²⁸. Several factors ranging from the absence and/or non-usage of life jackets, overloading, engine malfunction, windstorms, poor boat maintenance coupled with compliance challenges with standard operating procedures for water travels have been linked to the series of mishaps. Likewise, road accidents due to a number of causative factors including over-speeding, drunk driving, distraction, amongst other causes led to the death of 88 people and 68 injuries across 16 States²⁹.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

Despite the dissemination of climate projections by the Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet), Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), communities across States continue to experience the devastating impact of floods with records of human, environmental and infrastructural losses. In June 2023, the WANEP NEWS documented a total of 18 flood-related deaths (including 3 children and 2 females) with several buildings, vehicles and farmlands damaged across the States of Katsina, Jigawa, Anambra, Ogun, Osun, Akwa-Ibom, Enugu, Lagos, Ondo, Kwara and FCT-Abuja³⁰.

The damages occasioned by the flood disaster at the Trademore Estate of FCT-Abuja in June 23, 2023, led to the pronouncement of a demolition exercise in the estate.³¹ The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has indicated that most structures in the estate were built along waterways and drainage channels, declaring the area a disaster zone.³² However, community residents in the estate have conducted series of demonstrations demanding that the government seek alternative solutions including improving drainage facilities to mitigate the risk of flooding rather than demolish housing structures which may likely result in the internal displacement of over 40,000 residents.³³

²⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

²⁷ <https://dailytrust.com/nans-protests-obasekis-300-fee-hike-in-edo-varsity/>

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

²⁹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ <https://punchng.com/four-dead-166-houses-destroyed-in-abuja-estate-flood/>

³² <https://leadership.ng/flooding-fcta-declares-trademore-estate-disaster-zone/>

³³ <https://punchng.com/four-dead-166-houses-destroyed-in-abuja-estate-flood/>

The recurrence of Lassa Fever and diphtheria diseases in the month continues to pose a major public health challenge. Edo, Ondo, Plateau and Bauchi States recorded Lassa Fever cases with 5 deaths, 417 suspected and 21 confirmed cases³⁴. Also, a total of 439 suspected cases of diphtheria were reported in Kano, FCT-Abuja, Osun and Lagos States. Out of the 439 suspected cases, 160 were confirmed and 7 deaths³⁵.

Although no COVID-19 deaths or infected cases in the reporting period, a total of 75,693,185 million people have been fully vaccinated³⁶. Compared to the 2,246,388 million people vaccinated in May 2023, a total of 194,731 people were vaccinated in June 2023³⁷. State Governments in partnership with health agencies have increased intensive response activities including risk communication activities and distribution of diphtheria vaccines particularly in rural communities to contain the outbreak of the epidemics as well as reduce the fatality rate in confirmed cases.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 31 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of minors (male and female) in the month³⁸. The affected victims were between the ages of 2 and over 70 years old in Jigawa, Bauchi, Adamawa, Nasarawa, Gombe, Ondo, Edo, Ekiti, Benue, Delta, Enugu, Kaduna, Osun, Abia, Niger, Kwara, Lagos, Katsina, Oyo, Rivers and Benue State. Out of the 31 victims, 2 were reported dead in Enugu and Oyo State³⁹. In addition, human trafficking cases were recorded in Abia, Delta, FCT-Abuja, Kebbi, Adamawa, Anambra, Edo and Akwa Ibom States with over 64 young female adults rescued across the States. In Abia and Adamawa States, baby-making factories for ritual purposes and/or child trafficking were uncovered by the Nigerian Army⁴⁰. To address the increased rate of SGBV cases, provide protection for children and curb other related violations in Nigeria, the National Assembly passed a Bill seeking the inclusion of preventive measures on SGBV into the curriculum of all levels of secondary school in Nigeria in the reporting month⁴¹.

Again, women's rights organisations under the aegis of 100 Women Lobby Group have called on the President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to reintroduce the five (5) Gender Bills as an Executive Bill to the newly constituted 10th National Assembly, and implementation of the 35 percent women's representation in appointive positions across all levels of governance⁴². In March 2022, the National Assembly had rejected 5 Gender Equality Bills which engendered widespread criticisms and demonstrations by women groups and civil societies across the country. The rejected gender Bills include, the Equal Opportunities Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2020; Gender and Equal Opportunities, Abuse and Administration Bill, 2012; Affirmative Action (Equal Opportunities for Women) Bill 2012; Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill 2015; and the Women Participation in Elections Support Bill, 2018.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

³⁴ www.ncdc.gov.ng

³⁵ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitreps/51c7e65390477af6ee1f6cc4fc6b9a46.pdf>

³⁶ www.ncdc.gov.ng

³⁷ *ibid*

³⁸ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁹ <https://tribuneonline.ng/military-shuts-underage-brothels-in-maiduguri/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/06/22-pregnant-girls-2-babies-rescued-as-soldiers-raid-baby-factory-in-abia/>; <https://punchng.com/military-raid-adamawa-baby-factory-arrest-seven-suspects/>

⁴¹ <https://www.thecable.ng/senate-passes-bill-seeking-inclusion-of-sgbv-in-secondary-schools-curriculum>

⁴² <https://punchng.com/10th-nass-consider-rejected-gender-bills-women-group-begs-tinubu/>

The peace and security climate continues to be dominated by violent extremist attacks, organized crimes, separatist agitations, and nature/human-induced disasters. Of particular concern is the surge in sectarian violence in the North-Central States of Benue and Plateau States with resulting humanitarian consequences. The prevailing security situation in Plateau State linked to the quest for land grabbing and ethnic cleansing, amongst other factors, resulted in the fatalities of 346 people with 6,603 households affected and 18,751 people internally displaced since April 17, 2023, till date⁴³. Out of the total number of IDPs, widows and children accounted for 2,081 and 6,066 orphans between the ages of 0-5 years old respectively⁴⁴. Also, as reflected above, over 162 females and 141 children were victims of kidnapping between April and June 2023 as documented by WANEP. The vulnerability of women and children in IDP camps to sexual exploitations, sexually transmitted diseases and radicalization by armed groups remains pervasive and undermine efforts to promote the women, peace and security agenda in the country.

Additional to the humanitarian consequences emanating from the widespread criminal attacks, its attendant effects on peaceful co-existence, democratic stability and socio-economic activities are also a major cause for concern. Citizens have continued to raise apprehension regarding the gap in security interventions and surveillance across violence prone communities. The emergence of local security outfits to bolster the operations of security agencies to protect and defend volatile communities may likely proliferate the unauthorized use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), further expanding the cycle of violent conflicts and reprisals.

Furthermore, the rate of casualties, property/farmland destruction and disruption of human settlements emanating from flood-related disaster in Nigeria can be attributed to inadequate flood preventive measures and control by the respective agencies, failure of communities to heed to early warning alerts to vacate flood prone areas, ineffective waste management schemes and weak implementation of urban planning laws. Besides the risk of an outbreak of waterborne diseases during flooding events, its impact on food security presents a potential setback to attaining Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) towards ending hunger by 2030. The difficulties experienced by farming communities in accessing farmlands due to unpaid levies imposed by armed bandits also poses a severe risk to food security in the country.

Despite the availability of diphtheria vaccine in Nigeria, the NCDC had reported that majority of the confirmed diphtheria cases were unvaccinated. However, Lassa fever remains endemic due to the absence of a vaccine since its first outbreak in the country in 1969. A number of interrelated factors including inadequate vaccination coverage, poor environmental sanitation conditions, inadequate awareness of the risk factors and its preventive strategies especially in rural communities have been alluded to the sporadic epidemic outbreaks and spread.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

⁴³ <https://tribuneonline.ng/land-grabbing-ethnic-cleansing-political-penetration-responsible-for-plateau-attacks-nwairi/>

⁴⁴ <https://dailytrust.com/plateau-killings-over-300-dead-6000-displaced-in-2-months-group/#:~:text=Over%20300%20lives%20have%20been,the%20outmost%20it%20deserves.%E2%80%9D>

- State Governments in collaboration with traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and the media, amongst other relevant stakeholders should enhance avenues for improved interface between communities and for effective service delivery in terms of security to mitigate the protracted violence across States.
- 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 and the Bill seeking to mandate authorities of secondary schools to include lessons on how to prevent SGBV in the curriculum for students.
- The NCDC, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the Federal/State Ministry of Health should enhance trainings for community health workers particularly in rural areas on the prevention and early detection of recorded epidemics including emphasis on personal and environmental hygiene for collective community safety.
- The Federal and State Governments should increase funding and capacity building support to relevant disaster management agencies including the National/State Emergency Management Agency (N/SEMA) to effectively tackle flood disasters and its negative impact through sensitization campaigns, relief support to affected victims and disaster preparedness and response in local communities and States. The submission of each States' flood vulnerability status report as requested by the Federal Government would further enhance adequate support to flood-prone communities.

CONCLUSION:

As the country continues to address security challenges across States, the need to ensure its conflict sensitivity and sustainability is crucial for peace and security. Particularly, the development and enhancement of preventive mechanisms by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) especially the early warning structures for monitoring trends of diverse human security threats should be linked to the State's security architecture for timely intervention. Also, increased risk communication on environmental security threats especially in remote areas by State Governments in partnership with health and disaster management agencies would enhance mitigation and resilience against epidemic outbreaks and flood disasters in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JUNE 2023

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Intra-Inter Terrorist Clash - Counter-Terrorist Attacks	25	- 58 (2 military operatives and 14 Boko Haram Terrorists) - 266 terrorists	44

			-
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	85	262	27
Armed Action/Shoot-Out between security operatives and members of criminal gangs	36	90	7
Abduction (evident across 27 States)	76	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	7	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	5	55	1
Physical/Armed Assault	10	2	9
Herder-Community Conflict/Militia Gangs	35	211	8
Violent Clash			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial motorcyclists and Taxi drivers in Ondo State Community Youths and Military Operatives in Plateau State. 	2	2	1
Illicit Drug Trafficking	15	-	-
Homicide	14	11	3
Suicide	4	4	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)	15	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	-	-	-
Intimidation and Threats	6	-	-
Arrest/Detention	122	-	-
Road/Train Accident	26	88	68
Building Collapse/Demolition	5	3	12
Electrocution/Gas Explosion	5	5	4
Boat mishap (Ondo, Kwara, Cross-River, Delta, Akwa-Ibom States)	5	135	3
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:			
Communal conflict	6	49	2

Pandemic/Epidemics:			Confirmed/Infected Cases
a. Lassa Fever	4	5	Lassa Fever: 21
b. Diptheria	3	7	Diptheria: 160
Fire Outbreak	24	9	-
Flood/Rainstorm	20	18	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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GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:			
Sexual Assault/Rape	31	2	29
Human Trafficking	10	-	-
Total	596	1,282	400