NEW\$ MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-NIGERIA)

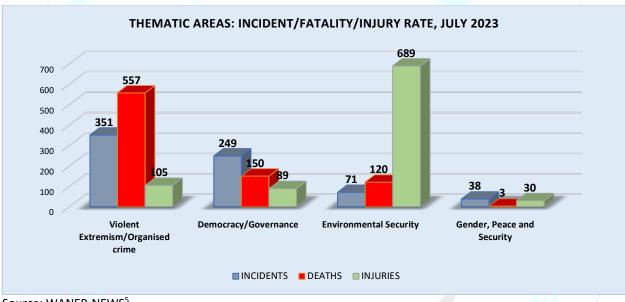


(JULY, 2023)

I. INTRODUCTION

As of July 2023, 709 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 830 and 913 injuries/infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and cases of environmental security related incidents, especially Diphtheria, Lassa Fever and Cholera were recorded July 2023.²

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 557, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (830) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 150 deaths³. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 120 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 3 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

Terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) continues unabated in the rural communities of Bama, Gwoza, Damboa, Kukawa, Konduga, Marte and Monguno Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State. Herders and farming communities constituted major targets following accusations of transmitting information on terrorist activities to the Nigerian Military. The allegation has led to the ban on fishing, farming

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/

and cattle rearing activities by ISWAP within terrorist hideouts at Marte LGA of Borno State bordering Chad and some communities of Cameroun Republic⁶. The communities in Marte LGA banned for trespassing on terrorists hideouts include Katikime, Bulungahe, Kutukungunla, Chikun Gudu, Tumbumma, Guma Kura, Guma Gana and New Marte⁷. Given that the affected communities are subsistent farmers who depend on crop farming, pastoralism and fishing, the ban has the potential to affect food security, household consumption and income.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 18 terrorist-related incidents (including kidnapping) and security offensive operations in Borno State with Boko Haram terrorists arrested in Damaturu LGA of Yobe State⁸. A total of 93 fatalities were recorded in the month by the NEWS. Out of the 93 fatalities, 50 suspected terrorists were killed in a supremacy tussle between ISWAP and Boko Haram⁹. Also, 16 people were abducted by terrorists in Borno State¹⁰.

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has continued to intensify its security clearance operations including intelligence-led military air strikes across terrorists enclaves in the North-East region of Nigeria. In the reporting period, as indicated in the diagram below, over 26 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists were neutralised with several terrorists and its logistics suppliers arrested in Borno and Yobe States. Again, a cumulative total of 967 terrorists and their families (82 males, 354 females and 531 children) surrendered in the month¹¹.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹².

Incidents of **Organised Crime** were documented in the reporting period. This additional internal security threat poses significant challenges to human and food security, further straining social

⁵ https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/07/nafs-attack-iswap-threatens-farmers-fishermen-herders-in-borno/ https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/07/nafs-attack-iswap-threatens-farmers-fishermen-herders-in-borno/

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

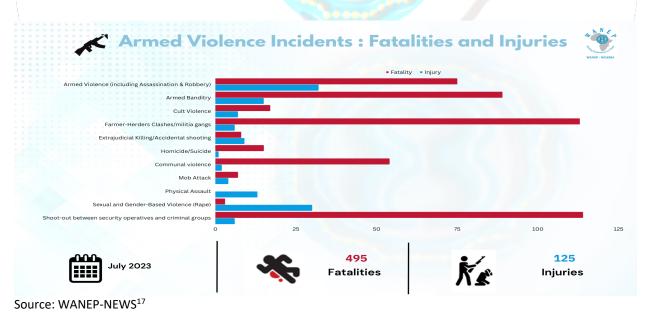
Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): <u>www.wanep.org/news/</u>;
¹¹ 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. 12 Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

cohesion across affected communities. 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, amongst other crimes. These armed violence incidents resulted in the fatality of 438 people, out of which 51 were security operatives including (22 local vigilante members), 19 females, 7 children and 1 male PwD.¹³ Also, out of the 438 fatalities documented in the thematic area **excluding terrorist related attacks**, 114 were criminal suspects neutralized during counter offensive operations in Ebonyi, Ogun, Rivers, Enugu, Zamfara, Katsina, Benue, Bauchi, Anambra, Plateau, Delta, Taraba and Imo States.¹⁴

In the reporting month, as documented in the WANEP NEWS, **community-herder conflicts/attacks by suspected ethnic militia gangs** resulted in the highest fatality of 113 across the states of Plateau, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa in the North-Central region, while Delta and Rivers states in the South-South reported cases of physical assaults and destruction of farm crops during cattle grazing activities. Plateau State was worst hit with a civilian casualty of 67 in the affected LGAs of Mangu, Jos-South and Riyom, followed by Benue State with 37 fatalities from Guma, Ukum and Ushongo LGAs¹⁵.

Armed banditry attacks resulted in the second highest fatality of 89 in Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Kaduna and Sokoto States while **armed violence (including assassination & robbery) incidents** resulted in the fatality of 75 people. Other recorded armed violence incidents including **cult violence and homicide** led to the death of 17 and 11 people, while mob attacks and extrajudicial killings resulted 7 and 6 fatalities respectively.¹⁶ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in July 2023.



¹³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁴ ibid 15 ibid

¹⁶ Ibid.

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

In addition to the aforementioned security threats, violent communal clashes emanating from land ownership and rivalry over traditional stools and titles were evident in the month. This has consequences on the security ecosystem of Nigeria, as it strains social cohesion and peaceful relations among conflicting communities. The WANEP NEWS recorded 5 incidents of communal violence in Taraba, Ogun and Delta States resulting in the fatality of 54 people.¹⁸ Other violent clashes between operatives of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and Osun State Security Outfit 'Amotekun'; and between security operatives including officials of the State Security Service (SSS) over the custody of the suspended Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Godwin Emefiele, in FCT-Abuja resulted in several injuries in the reporting period¹⁹.

Kidnapping for ransom and organ trafficking remains prevalent across the states in Nigeria. The July 2023 report by SBM Intelligence stated that at least 5 billion naira (\$6,410,256) were recorded as ransom demands between July 2022 and June 2023, while verified ransom payouts amounted to 302 million (\$387,179) in the period under review²⁰.

In the reporting month of July 2023, the WANEP NEWS documented 64 incidents of kidnapping across 26 States with a total of 350 people abducted. Out of the total (350) recorded, 44 were females and 12 children.²¹ Further analysis reveals that the northern region accounted for the highest kidnapped victims of 279, while the southern region of Nigeria recorded 71 victims in the month.



The graph below illustrates the statistics of kidnapped victims per affected State in July 2023.

The WANEP NEWS recorded over 168 incidents of arrest in July 2023.²³ The arrest cuts across various criminal incidents such kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, hate-speech, violent

¹⁸ ibid 19 ibid

²⁰ https://saharareporters.com/2023/08/23/3620-people-kidnapped-n5billion-ransom-demanded-within-11-months-nigeria-report

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

demonstrations, robbery, banditry, fraud, cyber-crime, murder, terrorism, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), amongst other crimes.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The imposition of 'sit-at-home' order by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) continues to impact negatively on the security of lives and properties across States in the South-East. The apex igbo socio-cultural organization 'Ohanaeze Ndigbo' had issued public condemnations estimating that over 250 people had been killed through the enforcement of the illegal order since August 2021²⁴. The reporting month also recorded incidents of violent activities by IPOB, resulting in casualties with properties and shops vandalized in Enugu, Imo, Ebonyi and Anambra States. Commercial banks, schools, shops and businesses were also shut down due to fear of attacks by IPOB in the States. An instance of assault by IPOB on school pupils and teachers was recorded in Enugu State²⁵. Nothwithstanding the protracted violent activities in the south-east, counter offensive operations by security agencies across IPOB hideouts and training camps resulted in the arrest of IPOB members with several others neutralized in the reporting period. Following the ban on the 'sit-at-home' order by the Enugu State Government in June 2023, compliance with the illegal order by community residents resulted in the seal up of 106 shops and 2 commercial banks by the State Government in the month²⁶. However, demonstrations against the seal up by traders at Ogbete Main Market in Enugu deteriorated resulting in the death of 3 people (including a female) with several others injured by stray bullets fired by police operatives deployed to douse tension²⁷.

The upward review in the pump price of fuel from 537 naira in May 2023 to between 617 and 657 naira per litre in July 2023 provoked widespread reactions and demonstrations by the populace. Its impact on the cost of good and services has further worsened economic hardship in the country with several recorded incidents of youths rampaging and looting of governmentowned warehouses and shops with food items in Taraba and Adamawa States. 7 people were reported dead in the States following stray bullets fired by security operatives deployed to disperse the looters²⁸.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 25 public demonstrations and five (5) industral strikes. Out of the 25 recorded demonstrations, three (3) degenerated into violence. This include the protest in Kaduna State by civilian staff members of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON); residents of Anka LGA of Zamfara State; and traders at Ogbete Main Market in Enugu State as documented by the NEWS²⁹.

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations in the month include protest over the alleged relocation of the Federal College of Education (FCE) in Ekiti State; prolonged power outage in some comminties at Ibeju-Lekki in Lagos State³⁰; dilapidation of roads in Edo State³¹; alleged

⁴ <u>https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/08/sit-at-home-enforcers-killed-250-people-in-2-years-ohanaeze/</u>

²⁵ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/ ²⁶ https://punchng.com/sit-at-home-enugu-seals-106-shops-two-banks/

https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/07/sit-at-home-3-killed-as-traders-protest-shops-closure-in-enugu-market/
 https://dailytrust.com/two-killed-as-looters-break-into-taraba-warehouse/; https://saharareporters.com/2023/07/30/breaking-24-hour-curfew-imposed-adamawa-youths-go-rampage-loot-government-grainpres#:~:text=In%20what%20appears%20as%20a,from%20the%20Yola%20International%20Airport.

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

³⁰ https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/07/electricity-consumers-protest-power-outage-in-ibeju-lekki/ ³¹ https://leadership.ng/protest-rocks-akoko-edo-community-over-dilapidated-road/

invasion of farmlands and attacks by suspected herders in Rivers State;³²management crisis in Abuja Markets Management Limited (AMML) in FCT-Abuja³³; and the alleged failure of the Oyo State Government to offset unpaid allowances and provision of palliatives to state workers and pensioners, amongst others in the reporting period.³⁴

Similarly, the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD)³⁵, Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP) in Bayelsa State, Association of Local Brew Sellers (Taraba) and medical practitioners in Cross River State³⁶ embarked on strikes over poor condition of service and nonpayment of all salary arrears since 2015; unpaid academic allowances; increasing prices of millet and firewood; and the abduction of a resident doctor respectively.

The frequency in road accidents occasioned by mechanical faults, unprofessional conducts of drivers, overspeeding and overloading, amongst other causes resulted in the death of 100 people and 79 injured victims.³⁷ Also, the inadequacies of regulatory bodies to effectively monitor compliance with construction principles and prosecution of violators has been attributed to the constant breach in building standards by contractors in the country. Nine (9) incidents of building/fence collapse were recorded in FCT-Abuja, Delta, Ekiti, Ogun, Abia, Lagos, Oyo and Kwara States resulting in the death of 2 children with 10 others injured.³⁸

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

Reports of recurring public health emergencies including Diphtheria, Lassa Fever, and Cholera poses a major health risk in the country. This is in addition to the outbreak of a livestock disease, Anthrax, that affects both humans and animals. The first index case of Anthrax was reported in a mixed livestock farm in Niger State.³⁹ Although no recorded human infection in the reporting period, human transmission of Anthrax disease largely occurs through the consumption of contaminated or infected livestocks⁴⁰.

Additionally, a total of 1,506 suspected diphtheria cases were documented across 59 LGAs in 11 States of the federation in the month with 39 deaths from the 579 confirmed diphtheria cases⁴¹. Also, the spread of Lassa Fever disease persist in Edo, Anambra, Ondo, Ebonyi and Benue States accounting for 341 suspected cases, 25 confirmed and one (1) death, while Cholera disease recorded 3 deaths and 77 suspected cases in Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Bauchi, Gombe, Kaduna, Bayelsa, Niger, Borno, Zamfara and Adamawa States⁴². In the reporting period, no COVID-19 related deaths or infected cases were recorded. State Governments have continued to activate health mitigation strategies including surveillance, vaccination and awareness campaigns to prevent/curb further spread of the epidemics.

² https://punchpg.com/rivers-farmers-protest-herdsmen-attacks/

https://leadership.ng/amml-staff-protest-poor-leadership-cry-for-help/ https://saharareporters.com/2023/07/31/oyo-workers-protest-over-palliatives-unpaid-allowances-amid-hardship-shut-down-state

³⁵ https://leadership.ng/resident-doctors-strike-unfortunate-says-federal-govt/ ³⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news ³⁸ ibid

³⁹ <u>https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/07/things-you-need-to-know-about-anthrax-disease/</u>
⁴⁰ https://ncde.gov.ng/news/491/confirmation-of-anthrax-outbreak-in-nigeria

¹ https://www.ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitreps/4f9aa39002d0a3f264ca23191b504c48.pdf ² www.ncdc.gov.ng; https://www.ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitreps/4f9aa39002d0a3f264ca23191b504c . 48.pdf

Flood-related disasters were recorded in the month with a significant number of communities in Kebbi, Niger, Katsina, Kaduna, Ogun, Lagos, Delta, Abia, Oyo, Benue, Enugu, Gombe and FCT-Abuja ravaged resulting in casualties and destruction of several properties and livestock farms. Besides the increased likelihood of water-borne diseases, limited and/or reactive responses to flood-prone areas further aggravates flood impact in the affected communities. The WANEP NEWS recorded 14 fatalities and 6 injuries in Kebbi, Katsina and FCT-Abuja in the reporting month⁴³. Also, thunderstrikes resulted in the death of 6 people including 3 children in Kwara and Benue States respectively.44

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 33 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of minors (male and female) in the month⁴⁵. The affected victims of rape were between the ages of 2 and 53 years in Rivers, Lagos, Adamawa, Abia, Ogun, Delta, Anambra, Benue, Adamawa, Taraba, Oyo, Osun, Lagos and Jigawa States⁴⁶. Out of the 33 victims, 3 were reported dead in Abia, Taraba and Oyo States. Also, human trafficking cases were reported in Delta, Akwa Ibom and Benue States. The vulnerability of children in conflict situations further exposes children to the risk of radicalization, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. In Benue State, four suspected human traffickers specialized in child trafficking around IDP camps in Benue State were arrested in the reporting period⁴⁷.

As the country continues to champion increased representation of women in political and decision making positions, Civil Society Organisations and International Development Partners have continued to engage communities at the state and local levels to break the barriers around cultural stereotypes amongst other limitations hampering women's participation in leadership and decision-making activities.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The multi-dimensional security threats continues to heighten the fragility of the state. Trends emerging in the spread of armed violence incidents and criminal groups in the country may likely expand the ungoverned spaces (including communities) dominated by non-state armed groups. The consequences of this are mirrored in the rising humanitarian crisis which includes casualties, internal displacement, food insecurity and closure of schools and businesses.

The illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) as well as drug/substance abuse has been linked to the growing spate of crime and other social vices across the country. However, security agencies recorded considerable successs with the interception of large cache of arms and ammunitions at Tincan Island Ports in Lagos, along the waterways in Bayelsa, Ogun, Borno, Kaduna, Delta, Plateau, Anambra, Imo, and Zamfara States, amongst other states. Additionally, several illicit drugs and psychotropic substances (Indian hemp, skuchies, opioid, fentanyl, codeine, cocaine, methamphetamine) were recovered from suspected drug traffickers at International Airports in Lagos and FCT-Abuja, Ogun, Delta, Adamawa, Osun, Sokoto,

⁴³ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁴ ibid ⁴⁵ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

 ⁴⁶ https://tribuneonlineng.com/military-shuts-underage-brothels-in-maiduguri/
 ⁴⁷ https://punchng.com/benue-child-traffickers-recruit-pay-pregnant-girls-n150000-police/

Anambra, Imo, Kano and Edo States as documented in the WANEP NEWS. As highlighted above across the thematics, a cumulative total of 624 fatalities emanating from armed violence incidents including SGBV were recorded in the month. Out of the 624 fatalities, 51 were security operatives, 23 women, 7 children and 1 Person with Disability (PwD).

Furthermore, the heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children trapped in violent conflict across affected communities remains rife, constantly undermining their security and fundamental human rights. An instance of this risk was documented in the reporting month following the arrest of suspected child traffickers around IDP camps in Benue State.

The security landscape is further compounded by flood disasters and lingering epidemic outbreaks (Diphtheria, Lassa Fever) currently ravaging some parts of the country. To mitigate the outbreak of diseases including Anthrax, the federal and state governments rolled out series of risk communication activities including widespread vaccination of residents in at-risk communities and livestock farms. As highlighted in the June 2023 'Monthly Bulletin, 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 spread⁴⁸.

The rise in inflation occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy have also negatively impacted livelihoods and economic well-being of citizens with ripple effects experienced in the number of strikes and demonstrations in the month under review. Recurrent strikes and demonstrations by citizens and government agencies continue to hamper the effective delivery of security and social services across the affected States. This further reveals the challenges hindering states capacity to respond to the socio-economic needs of the population. This continues to generate social tension and weaken social cohesiveness in the country.

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 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.

⁴⁸ https://wanepnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/JUNE-2023.pdf

- The NCDC, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) and the Federal/State Ministry of Health should enhance its risk communication strategies including re-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 support to relevant disaster management agencies including the National/State Emergency Management Agency (N/SEMA) to effectively tackle flood disasters in local communities and States.

CONCLUSION:

Citizens have consistently raised concerns around the geographical spread, rapidity and multiplicity of insecurity in the country. To mitigate the increasing levels of armed violence, there are renewed interests by the Federal and State Governments to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to effectively deliver their mandate of safety and security. 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 JULY 2023				
THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS		
		DEATHS	INJURIES	
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Intra-Inter Terrorist Clash - Counter-Terrorist Attacks	18	 93 (43 community residents and 50 Boko Haram/ISWAP Terrorists) 26 terrorists 	-	
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	145	188	58	
Armed Action/Shoot-Out between security operatives and members of criminal gangs	29	114	6	
Abduction (evident across 26 States)	64	92	-	
Cybercrime/Fraud	9	-	-	
Extrajudicial killing/Accidental shooting	9	8	9	
Physical/Armed Assault	13	-	13	

Herder-Community Conflict/Militia Gangs	25	113	6
 Violent Clash Officials of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and Amotekun in Osun State. Clash between security agencies over the custody of the suspended CBN Governor – FCT- Abuja. 	2	-	-
Illicit Drug Trafficking	23		-
Homicide	10	11	1
Suicide	4	4	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			<i></i>
Demonstration (peaceful)	22	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	3	3	- \
Vandalisation of warehouses/looting of food items (Adamawa & Taraba States)	2	7	-
Intimidation and Threats	8	-	-
Arrest/Detention	168	-	
Road Accident/Heliocopter crash in Benue State	28	100	79
Building Collapse	9	2	10
Electrocution/Fuel explosion	4	38	-
Industrial strikes	5	- 11 1	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:			
Communal conflict	5	54	2
Pandemic/Epidemics:	Come of		Confirmed/Infected Cases
a. Lassa Fever b. Diphtheria c. Cholera d. Anthrax	5 (States) 11 (States) 11 (States) 2	1 39 3	Lassa Fever: 25 Diptheria: 579 Cholera: 77
Fire Outbreak Flood/Rainstorm/Thunder strike	15 22	3 20	- 6
्यवा	onsni	45	
GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:			
Sexual Assault/Rape	33	3	30
Human Trafficking	5	-	-

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