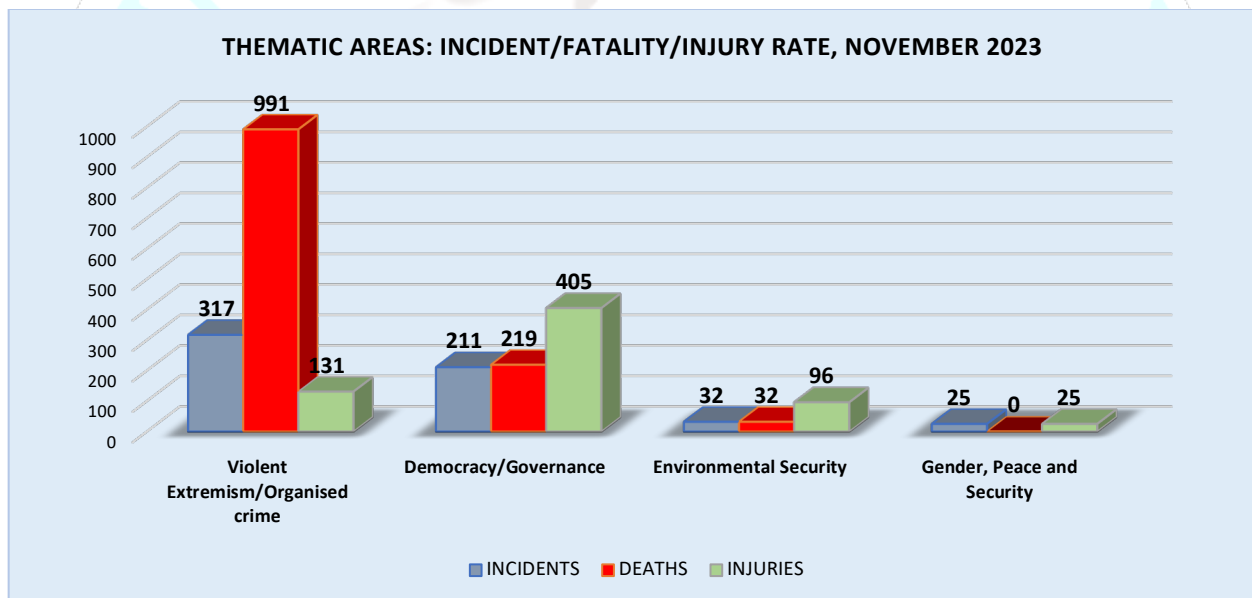




I. INTRODUCTION

As of November 2023, 585 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1,242 and 657 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in November 2023.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 991, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,242) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 219 deaths². Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 32 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded zero fatality in the reporting period.³ (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁴.

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

Foerays of Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorist groups continues to undermine security in the North-East region. To mitigate the increasing terrorist attacks, the Governor of Borno State, Babagana Umara Zulum, called for an increased deployment of military personnel, particularly the borders with Niger Republic, Chad and Cameroon to prevent further infiltration of ISWAP

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

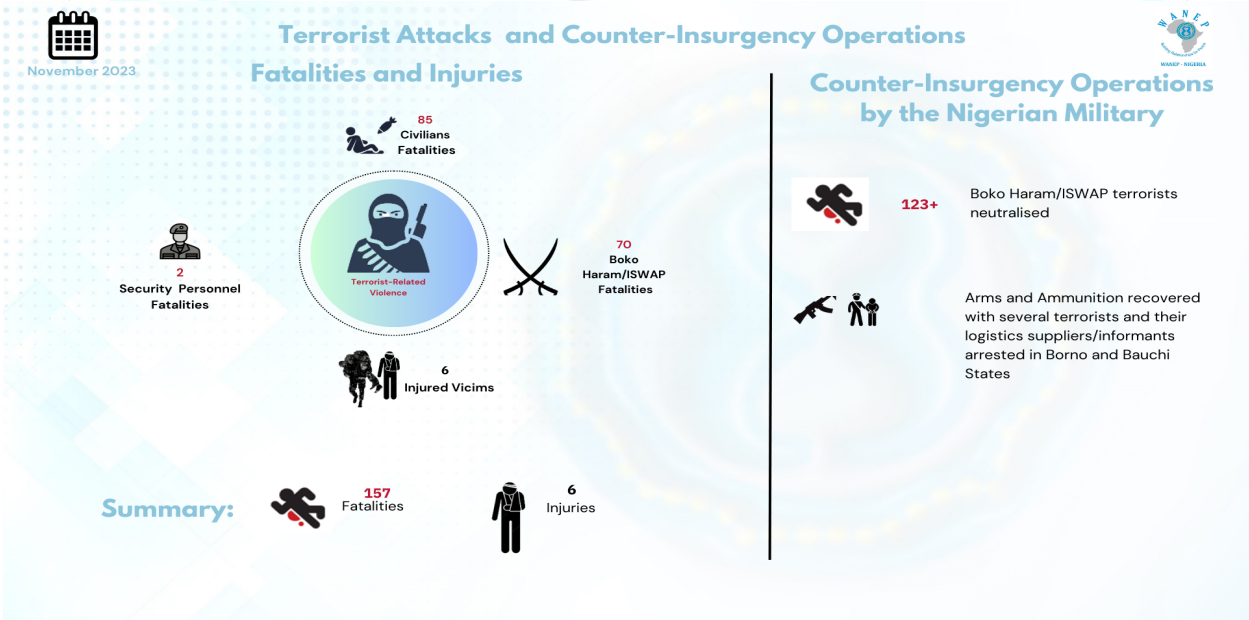
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³ ibid

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

terrorists⁵. In the reporting period, the WANEP NEWS recorded 17 terrorist-related incidents including kidnapping and security offensive operations in Mafa, Jere, Bama, Marte, Damboa, Ngala and Mobbar Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State; and Gujba LGA of Yobe State.⁶ A total of 157 fatalities (including 2 security operatives) and 6 injured victims were recorded in the NEWS⁷. Also, out of the total (157) recorded fatalities, 70 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists were murdered in a supremacy tussle in Borno State⁸.

The Nigerian military sustained its ground offensive and aerial bombardments across terrorists enclaves and hideouts in the month with over 123 terrorists neutralized, several suspected terrorists logistics suppliers/informants arrested and weapons recovered.⁹ Despite the considerable successes recorded in security clearance operations, fleeing terrorists in revenge attacks have continually targeted farmers, fishermen and scavengers, following allegations of being informants to security agencies. An instance of attacks on the above targets in the month was the killing of rice farmers and wood loggers in Borno state.



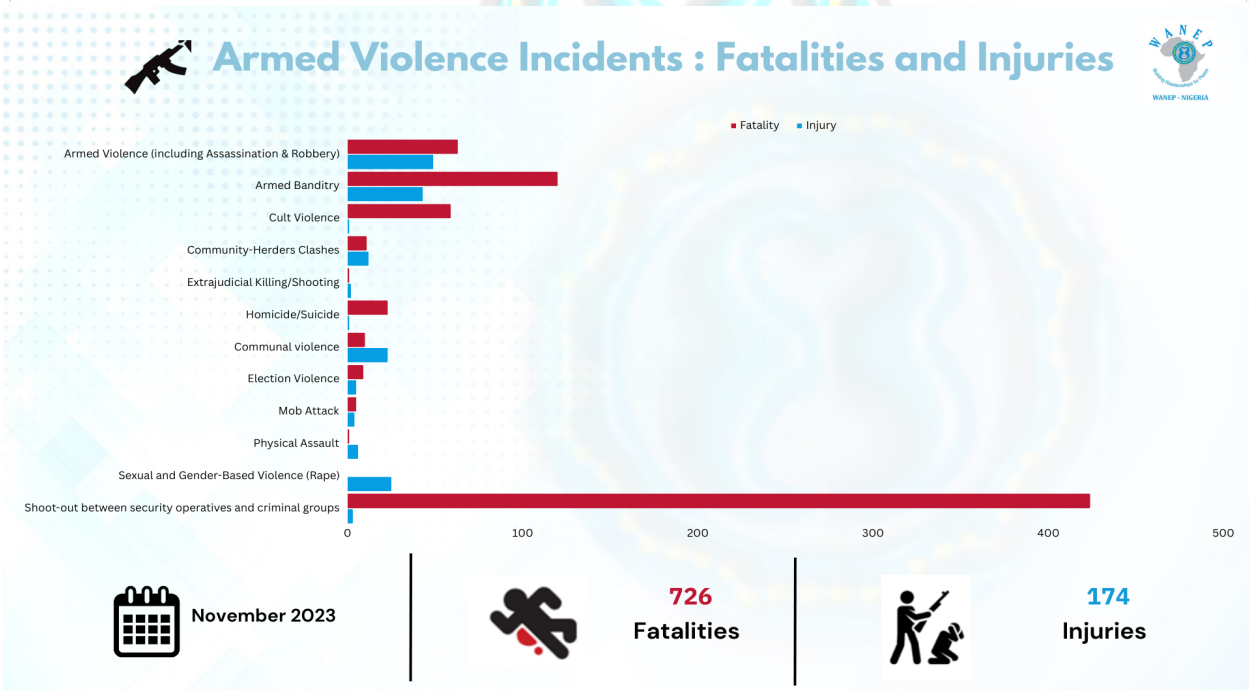
Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁰

The persistent threat of **Organised Crimes** across the states of Nigeria remains a critical human security concern in the period. Amidst the exploitation of vulnerable communities by non-state armed groups to perpetuate armed violence, the preference for the formation of indigenous security mechanisms by rural communities to jointly boost internal security remains a major priority. The month recorded incidents of banditry, kidnapping, arms trafficking, community-herder violence, human/drug trafficking, cult violence, homicide, amongst others. The WANEP NEWS recorded a total of 726 fatalities **excluding fatalities emanating from terrorist related**

⁵ <https://dailytrust.com/boko-haram-zulum-seeks-deployment-of-more-troops-to-n-east/>
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
⁷ Ibid.
⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
⁹ Ibid
¹⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

attacks.¹¹ Out of the 726 recorded fatalities, 20 were females, 8 children and 24 security personnel including 4 local vigilante members¹². Also, out of the recorded 726 deaths, 424 were members of criminal gangs neutralized during counter offensive operation in Plateau, Kaduna, Zamfara, Kogi, Niger, Katsina, Bauchi, Kebbi, Rivers, Anambra, FCT-Abuja, Enugu, Ogun, Delta, and Taraba States.¹³

Armed banditry accounted for the highest fatality of 120 people in Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Sokoto, Taraba and Kebbi States. The imposition of levies on farmers to access their farmlands have taken a toll on the income of small-scale farmers as well as disrupted farming activities. Instances were reported in Igabi, Giwa and Birnin Gwari LGAs of Kaduna State, where non-compliance resulted in murder, abduction and confiscation of farm crops. In addition, **armed violence (including assassination & robbery)** resulted in the second highest fatality of 63 people with **cult/gang violence** emanating from supremacy tussles and/or revenge attacks in Benue, Nasarawa, Kwara (North-Central); Ogun, Lagos (South-West), Rivers and Delta States in the South-South region accounting for 59 fatalities. **Culpable homicide and Community-herder clashes** led to the deaths of 18 and 11 respectively, while mob violence, physical assault and extrajudicial killing resulted in 5 deaths while others led to one (1) death each. Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in November 2023.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁴

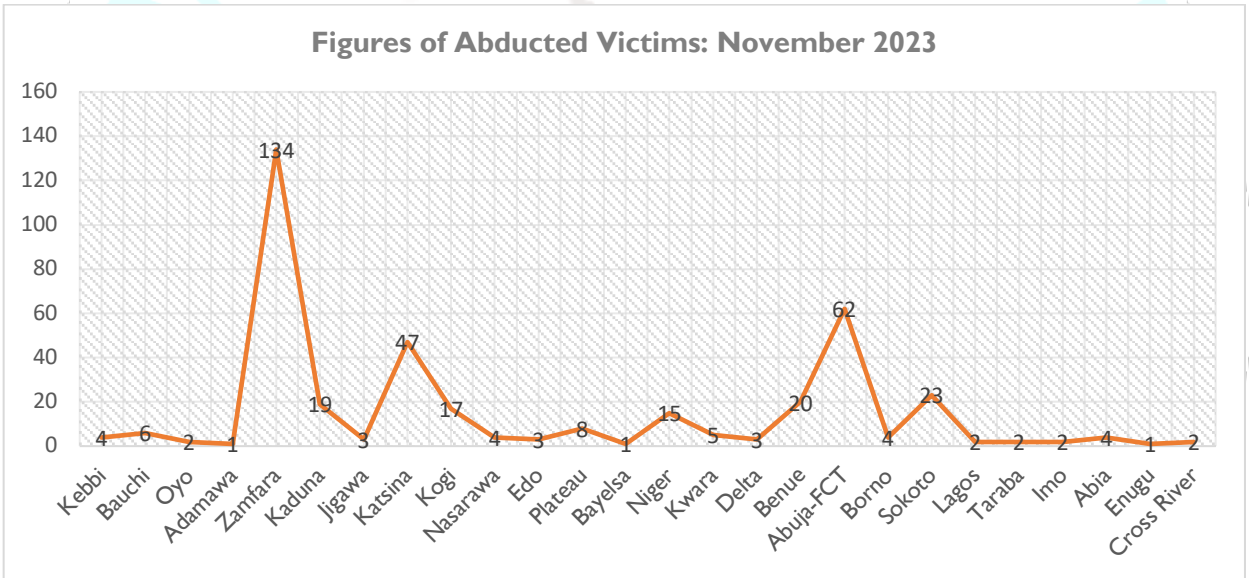
The unresolved conflict over resource ownership particularly land and leadership tussles in communities continues to strain peaceful communal relations with its attendant humanitarian

¹¹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹² Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹³ ibid
¹⁴ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

consequences of deaths, internal displacement and destruction of livelihoods. Data generated from the WANEP NEWS revealed a total of 6 deaths and 22 injuries in Ebonyi, Abia, Niger, Enugu and Anambra States.¹⁵ Other recorded violent clashes in the reporting month include violent clashes between security services in Borno and Adamawa States, while conflicts between police operatives and members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) in Kaduna State; and between commercial motorcyclist and tax collectors in Ogun State resulted in the death of 4 people (including a police operative) and an injured military operative.¹⁶

The recurrent trend of kidnapping continues to have a cascading effect on public safety, food security and social cohesion in the country. The WANEP NEWS recorded 71 incidents across 26 States, accounting for a total of 394 kidnapped victims. Out of the total kidnapped in the month, 45 were females and 25 children.¹⁷

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



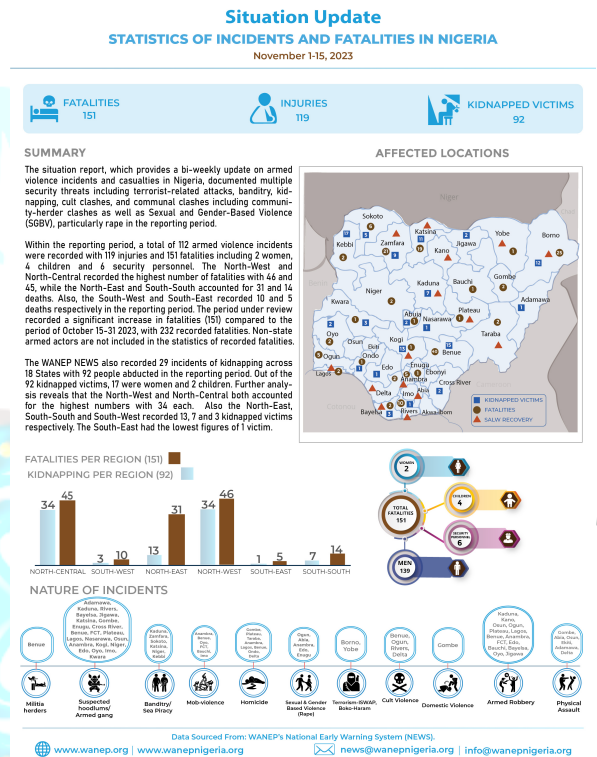
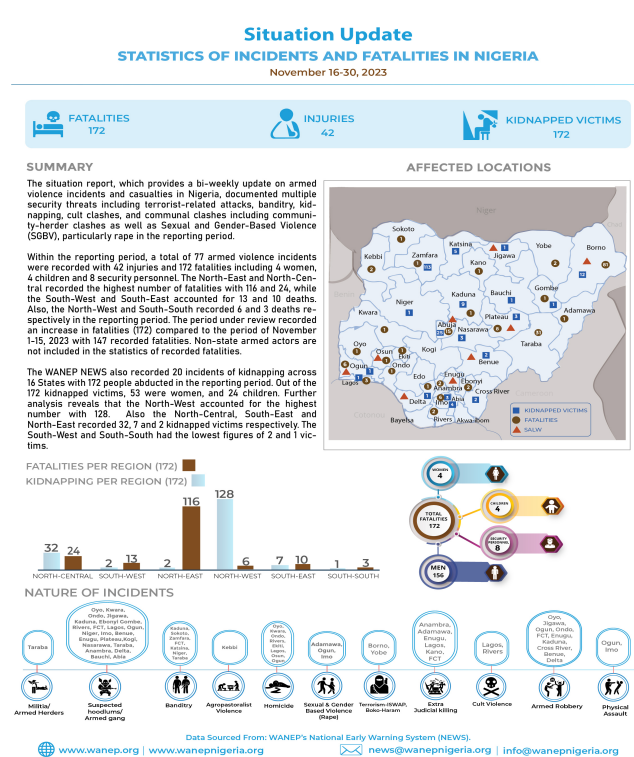
Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁸

In addition, the NEWS recorded several arrest in 92 incidents across States in the month.¹⁹ The arrest cuts across incidents of terrorism, armed robbery, arms trafficking, fraud/cyber crime, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), armed violence, human/drug trafficking, arms smuggling, banditry, amongst other crimes in the country.

The proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) is reflected in the prevalence of armed violence in the country. In the month of November 2023, several arms and ammunition were intercepted and recovered across states. Particularly, in Jos South LGA of Plateau State, an illegal weapon manufacturing factory was discovered²⁰ while arms and ammunition concealed

¹⁵ ibid
¹⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹⁷ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹⁸ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
¹⁹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/
²⁰ <https://saharareporters.com/2023/11/04/nigerian-army-busts-arms-manufacturing-factory-plateau-arrests-two-suspects-recovers-10>

in a shipped vehicle from the United States of America (USA) was intercepted at Onne Port in Rivers State,²¹ amongst others. The infographics template on 'Situation Update' below highlights the states (keys-▲) with recorded weapons recovery in the month to include Benue, FCT-Abuja, Borno, Yobe, Jigawa, Taraba, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Abia, Enugu, Anambra, Osun, Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Delta, Kogi and Bayelsa States.



The Situation Update on the Statistics of Incidents and Fatalities in Nigeria - is a bi-weekly update on armed violence incidents and casualties in Nigeria. Source: WANEP-NEWS²²

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The pronouncement of the Court of Appeal judgements on the State Governorship and Assembly elections have generated controversies on the legality of the court rulings. Apart from the rejection of some states' court judgements and the subsequent demonstrations by political party supporters, legal practitioners in defence of the integrity of the Court of Appeal have also demanded an end to the campaign of calumny against the Justices of the Court.²³ Besides, the November 11, 2023 state governorship elections in Imo, Bayelsa and Kogi states, though adjudged relatively peaceful, were allegedly fraught with reports of electoral irregularities and malpractices, vote-buying, abduction, and armed violence. The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 deaths with several injured victims in Bayelsa, Kogi and Imo States in the period²⁴.

²¹ <https://www.channelstv.com/2023/11/05/customs-intercepts-arms-and-ammunition-other-banned-items-at-onne-port/>
²² Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/; <https://wanepigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Situation-Report-for-November-16-30-2023.pdf> ; <https://wanepigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Situation-Report-for-November-1-15-2023-01.pdf>
²³ <https://tribuneonline.ng.com/over-500-lawyers-stage-protest-over-alleged-attack-on-judiciary-in-abuja/>
²⁴ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

The recurrent strikes and demonstrations relating to poor welfare, non-payment of salaries, insecurity, among others continue to affect public service delivery in the country. The WANEP-NEWS recorded 41 incidents of public demonstrations, out of which two (2) deteriorated into violence resulting in the death of one (1) person and 2 others injured by stray bullets fired by police operatives deployed to disperse protesters in Lagos and Kano States. Kano State recorded series of public demonstrations by supporters of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) against the court of appeal judgement on the state governorship elections in the state. Other states with similar demonstrations include Nasarawa, Plateau and FCT-Abuja. Also, five (5) strike actions by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU-Plateau State Chapter), Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN – Osun state), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)²⁵ were over poor welfare and the assault on the NLC President; while the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Worker (NUPENG) embarked on a nationwide strike over internal leadership skirmishes.²⁶

Other peaceful demonstrations recorded in the month include; demonstrations by students of the Tai Solarin University of Education in Ogun state over the hike in tuition fee²⁷; protest by the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (ASUSS), Taraba State chapter, over the murder of a teacher; health workers protest at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital in Osun state over 10 months of unpaid salaries²⁸; protest by students of the Gateway Polytechnic and community residents in Ogun, Akwa-Ibom and Anambra States over the recurring incidents of robbery and armed violence.²⁹

As reflected in previous *'Monthly Bulletins'*, the weak enforcement of policies and laws by respective government agencies and the negligence of boat operators to operational codes of conduct, amongst other factors, have been attributed to the frequency of boat mishaps and building collapses in the nation. The WANEP NEWS recorded 8 incidents of boat mishaps resulting in the death of 49 people and 23 others rescued in Adamawa, Nasarawa, Bayelsa, Lagos, Taraba, Niger and Rivers States.³⁰ In addition, 3 people were reported dead and 3 others injured from building collapses in Rivers, Lagos and the FCT-Abuja while road accidents resulted in the fatality of 156 people and 372 injured victims in the month.³¹

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

Recurrence of Lassa Fever disease continues to undermine public health, despite efforts to enhance awareness on the disease prevention and control measures. The absence of a Lassa Fever vaccine after five (5) decades of its first discovery in Nigeria in 1969 highlights the challenges confronting the Nigerian health sector. Poor environmental sanitation conditions, low-levels of awareness, late presentation of cases and poor health seeking behaviour due to the high cost of treatment and clinical management of Lassa Fever, are attributable to the

²⁵ <https://tribuneonline.ng/breaking-nationwide-strike-begins-monday-midnight/>

²⁶ <https://thenationonline.ng/nupeng-crisis-deepens-as-tanker-drivers-protest-nationwide/>

²⁷ <https://punchng.com/tasued-students-protest-tuition-fee-hike/>

²⁸ <https://punchng.com/oau-hospital-workers-protest-10-months-unpaid-salaries/>

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

³⁰ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³¹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

continuous spread of the disease.³² According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), the predominant age group vulnerable to Lassa Fever in the period is between 21 to 30 years old.³³ In the reporting month, the WANEP NEWS recorded 578 suspected cases, 64 confirmed and 13 fatalities in Bauchi, Ondo, Edo, Ebonyi, Kano, Bauchi, and Taraba States.³⁴

As the floods begin to recede with lesser records of fatalities and destruction, the WANEP NEWS recorded 4 incidents of flooding in Anambra, Lagos and Ogun States in the month with one (1) fatality reported in Lagos State. Also, thunderstorms accompanied by heavy rainfall in Anambra and Nasarawa States led to the death of 7 people with 12 others injured.³⁵

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 21 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of minors in the month.³⁶ The affected victims were between the ages of 2 and 30 years old in Ogun, Ekiti, Abia, Edo, Enugu, Anambra, Adamawa and Imo states. To ensure the protection of women and children in IDP camps, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) conducted a safety audit in some Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camps in Benue State, which revealed incidences of sexual violence against children in the camps.³⁷

Another pervasive human rights violations are human trafficking for sexual exploitation, organ trafficking and forced labour, amongst others. Several push factors including poverty, unemployment and insecurity increases vulnerability into human trafficking. An instance was documented by the WANEP NEWS in Babura LGA of Jigawa State where about 60 people were recruited for unskilled labour in Osun State.³⁸ Other states with recorded human trafficking cases include Lagos, Ekiti, Ondo and Anambra states.³⁹

As the nation celebrates the domestication of the Child Rights Act (CRA), Bauchi remains the only state in Nigeria yet to domesticate the Bill, since its assent into law by the Nigerian Government in 2003. In furtherance, the newly elected speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, Abubakar Suleiman, has pledged its speedy passage in the state⁴⁰.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The multi-layered security challenges in Nigeria continues to generate concerns around the security and safety of the populace. Alongside the humanitarian consequences, its attendant effects on food security, peaceful co-existence and socio-economic development are also a cause for concern. Currently, 18.6 million people have been projected to be vulnerable to food insecurity from October to December 2023 in the country⁴¹. Several factors are driving this trend, including ongoing conflicts, climate change impacts, escalating inflation, and rising costs

³² www.ncdc.gov.ng

³³ *ibid*

³⁴ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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

³⁶ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

³⁷ <https://dailytrust.com/sexual-violence-against-children-hits-benue-idp-camps/>

³⁸ <https://dailypost.ng/2023/11/04/police-foil-trafficking-of-60-youths-in-jigawa/>

³⁹ Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁴⁰ <https://www.thecable.ng/bauchi-assembly-to-accelerate-passage-of-child-rights-bill>

⁴¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/265-million-nigerians-projected-be-food-insecure-2024>

of both food and essential non-food commodities (in part due to the devaluation of the naira and the discontinuation of the fuel subsidy)⁴².

Additionally, the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Nigeria through local production and porous borders as documented in the month, continues to accentuate the cycle of violence with its implication on human security and peace negotiations. The volatile security climate in affected communities have resulted in the closure of schools and primary health centres with some in other instances converted to temporary shelters for internally displaced persons. These restricted access to essential services contributes to the increasing number of out-of-school children and heightens communities vulnerability to health risks, criminal recruitment and sexual exploitations of women and children, amongst other threats to IDPs. The deprivation of children's access to education also has a negative impact on the girl-child, particularly in the northern region who already suffer structural inequalities due to existing socio-cultural and religious norms. Currently, Nigeria has an estimated number of 20.2 million out-of-school children.⁴³ The report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) further disclosed that one in three children in Nigeria is out of school, totalling 10.2 million at the primary level, and 8.1 million at the junior secondary school level.⁴⁴

The recurrence in demonstrations and strikes continues to reinforce the weakened social contract and mistrust existing between the State and citizens. Given this, the risk of institutional fragility and waning social cohesion is high, with significant consequences on the security of 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 Federal and State Governments, in collaboration with security agencies, Local Government Councils, traditional and religious leaders and other critical community stakeholders should increase community policing mechanisms to strengthen security in local communities.
- The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), State Ministry of Health and the media should increase public health awareness and education on preventive measures around the recurring Lassa Fever disease particularly in local languages to target rural communities.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with relevant Ministries and Civil Society Organisations, should increase efforts towards the effective implementation of the Child Rights' Act (CRA) and other gender related laws including the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels to address cases of SGVB as well as ensure protection of women and children across states in the country.

⁴² ibid

⁴³ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/12/falana-to-ig-state-govts-lgs-ensure-immediate-registration-of-20-2m-out-of-school-children-in-schools/>

⁴⁴ ibid

CONCLUSION:

As the Nigerian Government continues to strengthen collaboration with security stakeholders in effort to explore strategies to enhance the nations' security architecture, it is imperative for State Governments to sustain community dialogue and mediation processes to foster social cohesion. The dialogue and mediation should necessarily create a space for CSOs participation to enhance neutrality, synergy and sustainability. More so, the effectiveness of the nations' peace and security architecture remains a critical catalyst in boosting public and investors' confidence.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2023

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Inter-terrorist clash - Counter-Terrorist Attacks	17	- 157 (including 2 security personnel and 70 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists). - 123 terrorists	6 -
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	126	247	97
Armed Action/Shoot-out between security operatives and members of criminal gangs.	42	424	3
Abduction (evident across 26 States)	71	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	4	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Accidental shooting	2	1	2
Physical/Armed Assault	8	1	6
Herder-Community Conflict	5	11	12
Violent Clash Clash between Palm Oil Union in Abia State; Military and Police Operatives in Adamawa State; Police Operatives and Members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria in Kaduna State; Operatives of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and Police in Borno State; Commercial motorcyclists and Transport Union Tax Collectors in Ogun State.	5	4	4
Illicit Drug Trafficking	13	-	-
Homicide	19	18	1
Suicide	5	5	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE: Demonstration (peaceful)	39	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	2	1	2

Election Violence	13	9	5
Intimidation and Threats	11	-	-
Arrest/Detention	92	-	-
Road Accident	36	156	372
Building Collapse	4	3	3
Boat Accident	8	49	23
Electrocution	1	1	-
Industrial Strike (Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU-Plateau State Branch); Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC); Parliamentary Staff Association of Nigeria (PASAN); Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Worker (NUPENG); Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN- Osun);	5	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:			
Communal conflict	4	6	19
Pandemic/Epidemics:			Confirmed/Infected Cases
a. Lassa Fever (Edo, Ondo, Bauchi, Ebonyi, Kano, and Taraba States)	6	13	Lassa Fever: 64
Fire Outbreak/Tanker Explosion	16	5	1
Flood	4	1	-
Thunderstorm (Anambra, Nasarawa)	2	7	12

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:			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	21	-	25
Human Trafficking	4	-	-
Total	585	1,242	657