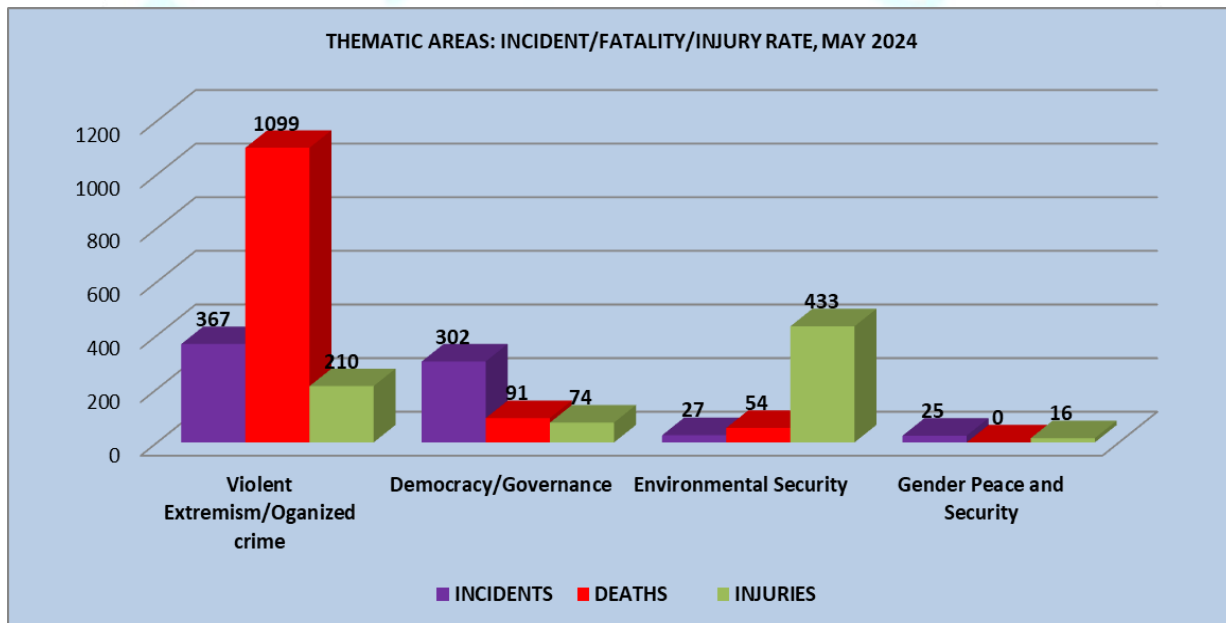


I. INTRODUCTION

As of May 2024, 721 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). A cumulative fatality of 1,244 and 737 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in May 2024¹.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 1,099, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,244) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 91 deaths. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 54 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded no fatalities in the reporting period. (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS²

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-related attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to pose significant threats in rural communities of the North-East region. The increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by these groups highlights their deadly tactics aimed at instilling fear among the local population. During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented instances of landmine explosions by terrorists in Marti and Dikwa LGAs of

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

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

Borno State, resulting in 25 fatalities, which included 8 security operatives and fishermen across Marti and Kukawa LGAs in Borno State³.

Apart from the incidents of raids, theft, arson, and landmine explosions, terrorists have also targeted infrastructure in the North-East, vandalizing the transmission line along Biu – Danbua 132kV, resulting in the theft of 16 spans of conductors. Additionally, tower T540 along the Makurdi-Jos 330kV double circuit transmission line was vandalized. Despite these challenges, the Nigerian Military Operation and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have continued to intensify security operation in conducting intelligence-driven air strikes and ground operations aimed at clearing terrorists' enclaves in the region.

In the recent operation, the Nigerian Army reported significant achievements against Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists. Specifically, 306 terrorists, including their logistics suppliers and informants, were neutralized⁴. Additionally, 1,099 Boko Haram terrorists and their families surrendered to the Nigerian Army during the reporting period. Despite these gains, the ongoing activities of terrorists continue to instill fear among farmers and the local populace in the region⁵.

The WANEP-NEWS recorded 342 incidents of **Organised Crimes** including banditry, human/drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clash, community-herder violence, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the reporting month⁶. The WANEP NEWS recorded a total of 793 fatalities, out of which 338 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG). Also, out of 793 recorded deaths, the NEWS recorded 455 civilian and security fatalities in the reporting period. Out of the 455, 23 were females, 10 children, 13 security personnel and 6 local vigilante members.

In the reporting period, **armed banditry** recorded the highest fatality of 194 people in Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna (North-West), and Niger State in the North Central Region. In addition to the humanitarian challenges occasioned by the prevalence of rural banditry in the region, human rights violations persist. In the reporting period, rural communities in Zamfara State raised alarm on the frequency of sexual violence, particularly rape of women and children by suspected bandits⁷.

Armed violence incidents including robbery, assassination and violent communal clashes resulted in the second highest fatality of 132 including security personnel, while **armed attacks by suspected ethnic militias/herders** in Benue, Plateau, Delta, Kogi, Jigawa States accounted for 70 deaths. **Other armed violence incidents** including **cult/gang violence** and **culpable**

³ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/464923-exclusive-seven-soldiers-killed-five-injured-as-terrorists-ambush-nigerian-troops.html>

⁴ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/699086-nigerian-troops-kill-640-terrorists-arrest-1051-in-may-official.html>

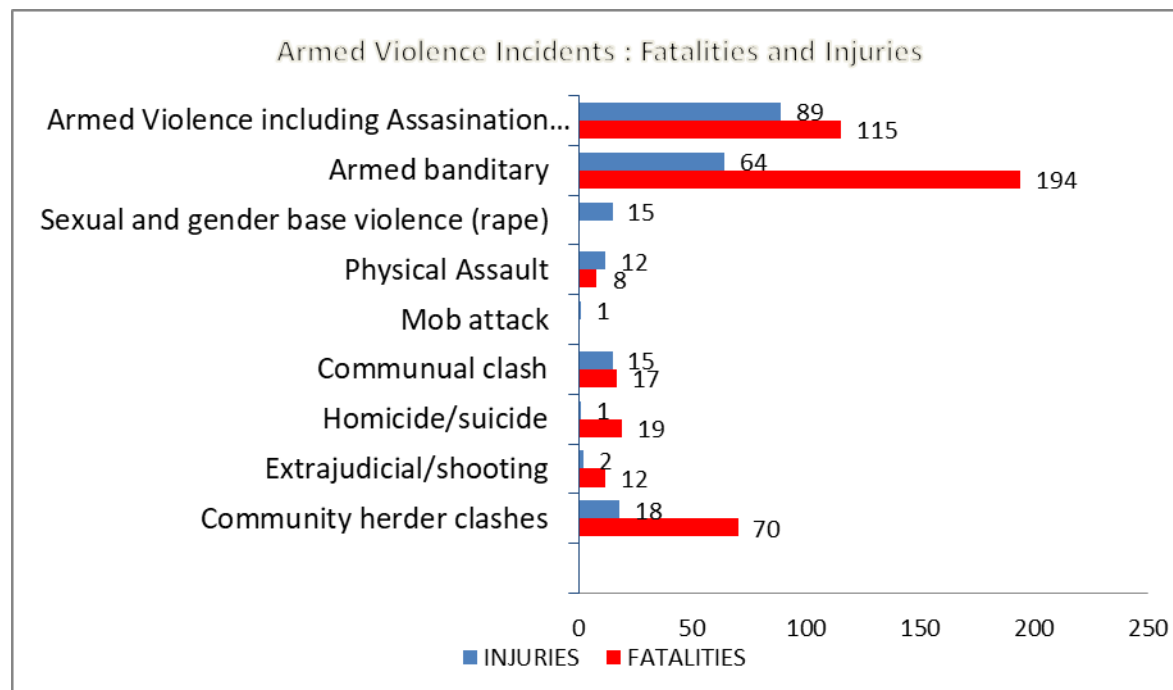
⁵ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/699086-nigerian-troops-kill-640-terrorists-arrest-1051-in-may-official.html>

⁶ WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

⁷ WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

homicide resulted in the deaths of 11 and 19 people, while **extrajudicial killing** led to 12 deaths respectively.

Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in February 2024.



Source: WANEP-NEWS

The increase vulnerability of population to kidnapping continues to heighten insecurity across States in Nigeria, As the surge of kidnapping across states generate concerns around the general populace. The month of May 2024 recorded 69 incidents across 25 states with a total of 428 people abducted in the period. Out of the 428 victims, 17 were females and 9 children with 1 security personnel in the month of May 2024⁸.

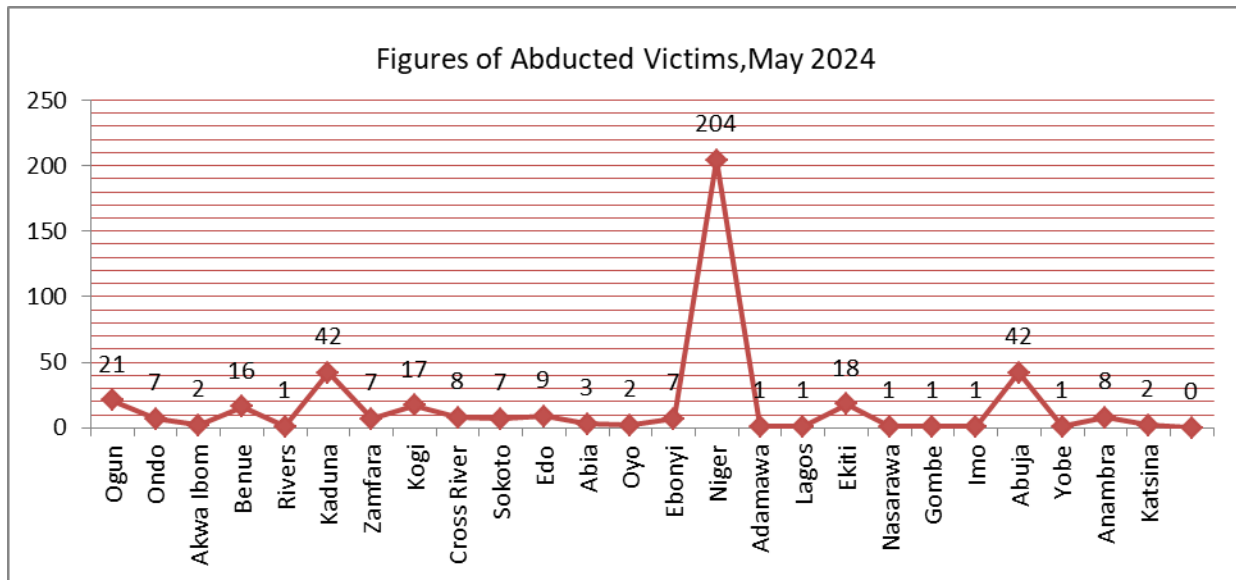
The WANEP NEWS recorded over 198 incidents of arrests in May 2024⁹. The arrests span across various criminal incidents such as kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism & destruction of public infrastructures, fraud, cyber-crime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), amongst other criminal and civil offences¹⁰.

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

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

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

The graph below illustrates the statistics of kidnapped victims across the affected States in the period.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

As part of efforts by the security agencies to curb the activities of drugs trafficking in the States, a considerable successes was recorded with the interception of several large caches of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances (Indian hemp, skuchies, opioid, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, methamphetamine) with over 110 suspects including 5 females arrested for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS in the month of May 2024. During the period, the proposed amendment, yet to be enacted into law, replaces life imprisonment, formerly the most severe penalty. On May 9, 2024, the Nigerian Senate ratified the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024, proposing the death penalty for dealers and importers of cocaine, heroin, and other hard drugs. This capital punishment extends to individuals involved in manufacturing, trafficking, dealing, or delivering hard drugs in the month.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The rising cost-of-living crisis in Nigeria, induced by high inflation rates, has prompted widespread public concerns. This has led to citizens expression of dissent and frustration over the economic reforms initiated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration to mitigate the social-economic downturn. This economic turmoil, compounded by increasing poverty, unemployment, and heightened insecurity, poses significant threats to the nation's stability and development. As part of the ongoing intervention to address food crisis, economic hardship in

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

Nigeria, both the Federal and State Governments have initiated sustained interventions aimed at mitigating the hardships experienced by the populace¹².

Owing to the above, WANEP NEWS reported 21 incidents of peaceful protests, which included 4 instances of strike actions and one violent protest. The violent clash between police operatives and motorcyclists at Ipaja Area in Alimosho LGA of Lagos State resulted in the death of 2 persons, with several others arrested. The violent protest triggered in response to the seizure of 200 motorcycles by police operatives in the area. Moreover, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) declared an indefinite nationwide industrial strike following the failure to reach a mutually beneficial agreement with the Federal and State Governments concerning a new minimum wage structure and the discontinuation of the band system in electricity supply. In addition, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Abuja chapter, has however, initiated an indefinite strike action to address issues affecting the union¹³. ASUU members at Gombe State University (GSU) in Gombe State reportedly staged a peaceful protest over the non-payment of Earned Academic Allowances (EAA), three months of withheld salaries, non-payment of promotion arrears, and their opposition to the Integrated Personnel Payroll Information System (IPPIS). The National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), Oyo State chapter, has also embarked on an indefinite strike action due to the State government's prolonged refusal to meet their overdue demands¹⁴. Furthermore, resident doctors at the Federal Teaching Hospital Lokoja (FTHL) in Kogi State conducted a peaceful protest over manpower shortages and grievances against management policies implemented by the hospital management¹⁵. These highlight a period of significant civil unrest, where communities directly affected by protests and strikes have experienced disruptions in their daily lives and economic activities. However, these disruptions have the potential to exacerbate tensions and contribute to a decline in community cohesion as livelihoods are negatively impacted. This context underscores the urgent need for effective management and resolution of grievances to restore stability and ensure the well-being of the affected populace.

Other peaceful demonstration recorded in the reporting month with Over 22 communities in Inikorogha, Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State protested peacefully against the state government's plan to withdraw security agencies responsible for maintaining peace¹⁶. Under the auspices of APC Loyalists Forum in Zamfara State, hundreds of protesters demonstrated peacefully at the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) office, urging an investigation into allegations of contract diversion amounting to 70 billion naira against former governor Bello Matawalle¹⁷. Community residents of Obeagu in Awgu Local Government Area of Enugu State protested peacefully against the persistent harassment, persecution, and

¹² <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/03/we-re-addressing-food-crisis-economic-hardship-in-nigeria-governors-forum/>

¹³ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/02/uniabuja-asuu-begins-indefinite-strike/>

¹⁴ <https://dailytrust.com/nannm-says-oyo-nurses-strike-is-indefinite/>

¹⁵ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/02/doctors-protest-poor-working-conditions-shortage-of-manpower-in-kogi/>

¹⁶ <https://punchng.com/residents-protest-plan-to-withdraw-security-from-edo-community/>

¹⁷ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/03/protesters-storm-efcc-demand-matawalles-probe-reopened/>

unlawful arrest of their indigenes by police operatives from the Divisional Police Command¹⁸. In Oteri-Ughelli, Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State police reportedly shot and injured several women during their peaceful demonstration against alleged extortion and incessant harassment by police operatives¹⁹. Members of the Labour Party (LP) and journalists were attacked by suspected political thugs during a public demonstration at the LP Headquarters in Abuja-FCT, demanding the resignation of the party's National Chairman, Julius Abure. Hundreds of protesters under the umbrella of Organised Labour in Abuja-FCT rejected an appeal by the Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Commission, Sanusi Garba, regarding a proposed tariff hike²⁰. Constituents of eight suspended lawmakers of the Zamfara State House of Assembly conducted a peaceful demonstration over the suspension of their legislators²¹. Four students of the University of Ibadan were allegedly arrested by school security operatives for protesting against a recent fee increment in Oyo State²². The people of Ojoto community in Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra State protested peacefully to express grievances and appeal for justice following the alleged gruesome murder of a 69-year-old widow²³. Residents of Gaya community protested peacefully over the dissolution of four emirates in Gaya Local Government Area of Kano State²⁴. The Association of Hotel Owners in Kwara State protested peacefully against the exorbitant and insensitive hike in electricity tariffs by the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company²⁵. In Kpansia area, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, protests ensued following the alleged killing of a commercial cab driver by a police officer in Azikoro town, Yenagoa LGA²⁶. Residents of Royal Garden Estate along Lekki-Epe Road in Ajah Area, Eti-Osa LGA of Lagos State demonstrated peacefully against bulk metering by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and arbitrary charges by the estate developer, Trojan Estates²⁷. These demonstrations reflect civil unrest and diverse array of social, economic, and political issues with multifaceted challenges to peace and security in Nigeria. Addressing these issues requires effective governance, respect for human rights, dialogue between stakeholders, and proactive measures to manage grievances peacefully. Ensuring peace and stability amidst socio-political tensions remains crucial for sustainable development and national unity.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria faced recurring public health emergencies, including Lassa Fever, Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (CSM), and a strange disease outbreak. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) documented a total of 8 incidents of Lassa Fever across 6 states, resulting in 421 confirmed cases and 6 deaths. Bauchi State reported cases of CSM, causing 6 deaths in May 2024. Zamfara State also reported an outbreak of an unknown disease, with 228 confirmed cases and 13 deaths. Additionally, Adamawa State recorded measles,

¹⁸ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/06/enugu-community-protests-alleged-police-intimidation-persecution/>

¹⁹ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/07/tension-in-delta-community-as-police-allegedly-shoot-protesting-woman-injure-others/>

²⁰ <https://punchng.com/pictorial-protesters-reject-nerc-chairmans-appeal-insist-on-tariff-hike-reversal/>

²¹ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/28/protests-over-8-lawmakers-suspended-by-zamfara-state-assembly/>

²² <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/14/security-allegedly-arrest-four-students-for-kicking-against-fees-hike-during-ui-su-inauguration/>

²³ <https://punchng.com/anambra-community-protests-as-stepson-kills-69-year-old-widow/>

²⁴ <https://www.lindaikejiblog.com/2024/5/protest-breaks-out-at-disbanded-kano-emirate-2.html>

²⁵ <https://punchng.com/kwara-hoteliere-protest-high-electricity-tariff-by-ibedc/>

²⁶ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/05/30/protest-in-bayelsa-as-policeman-allegedly-kills-cab-driver-over-n100-bribe/>

²⁷ <https://punchng.com/lagos-community-protests-bulk-metering-arbitrary-charges/>

contributing to 42 deaths during this period. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) was actively engaged in emergency response measures to identify causes and contain these outbreaks in the affected states. However, challenges such as poor environmental sanitation, low health risk awareness in remote communities, and delayed presentation of cases continue to hinder efforts to mitigate the spread of diseases.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

In the reported period, WANEP NEWS documented incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), particularly cases of rape involving minors in several states including Anambra, Ogun, Adamawa, Plateau, Kwara, Benue, Ekiti, Oyo, Kebbi, Ondo, Gombe, and Delta. Alongside these, there were 6 reported incidents of human trafficking across various states, and 2 incidents of child abuse were recorded, tragically resulting in 1 death in Delta State. Efforts by the Nigerian Government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), and other development partners are increasingly focused on addressing the prevalence of SGBV. Effective implementation of existing legal frameworks such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law across all states is crucial to reducing GBV. During this period, the Nigerian Government introduced the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Prosecution of Perpetrators of School-Related Gender-Based Violence Cases, aimed at tackling GBV within educational settings nationwide. It is imperative for stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the SOP's guidelines to ensure its effective execution and comprehensive management of GBV cases.

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The current situation in the country is marked by escalation of insecurity mainly occasioned by worsening economic conditions. These are contributing to heightened tensions and the looming threat of civil unrest. Despite efforts to curb the spread of illegal firearms, such as the recovery of 16,487 assorted ammunitions and 707 assorted weapons—including 411 AK-47 rifles, 234 locally fabricated guns, and 43 pump action guns—across various states, the proliferation of illegal firearms persists unabated²⁸.

The rising cases of armed attacks across the various states serve as a stark indicator of this ongoing issue. These incidents do not only threaten the lives and livelihoods of citizens but also undermine efforts to maintain peace and stability. The recovery of such a large quantity and variety of weapons underscores the magnitude of the challenge faced by law enforcement agencies in controlling the availability of firearms in unauthorized hands. In addition to the direct threat posed by armed attacks, the presence of illegal firearms contributes to a broader sense of insecurity among the populace.

This volatile security situation hampers food security, limits income-generating activities like farming, and forces local populations to flee to safer areas due to escalating violence. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported in its Consumer Price Index (CPI) that food inflation rose to 40.66 per cent in the reporting month, contrasting with a marginal decrease to 40.53 per cent recorded in April 2024.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/699086-nigerian-troops-kill-640-terrorists-arrest-1051-in-may-official.html>²⁸

Organized crimes continues to heighten the risk of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children in vulnerable communities. Aside the risk of criminal recruitment, the vulnerable persons are exposed to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Moreover, out-of-school children in Nigeria remain at risk for bandits, terrorists and other criminal entities to recruit as child soldiers, as well as hampers the progress recorded by the Nigerian Government. Worried by the alarming 20 million out-of-school children in Nigeria as stated in the report of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). Currently, there are conflicting figures on the statistics of out-of-school children in Nigeria. While the data generated from the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) puts it at 10.2 million, UNESCO, on the other hand has estimated the out-of-school children at 20 million.

The rise in civil demonstrations reflects heightened tensions, discontent, and fragile social contract between the state and citizens, posing potential threats to social cohesion. Furthermore, the isolation of certain rural communities, compounded by inadequate infrastructure such as poor roads and limited telecommunications, persists as a barrier to effective public healthcare delivery. Consequently, these challenges contribute to recurring disease outbreaks, exacerbated by delayed responses, insufficient contact-tracing of infected individuals, and limited awareness of risk factors and preventative measures.

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 Government should continue to enhance the capacity of security agencies by increasing the provision of security personnel. This initiative will boost morale among security operatives, thereby positively impacting their performance and leading to improved security response.
- The state Governments should enhance early warning alert communication on environmental security risks in collaboration with health and disaster management agencies. This initiative would strengthen efforts in mitigating and building resilience against epidemic outbreaks and other environmental challenges across Nigeria.
- The State and Local Governments, together with traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organizations, and the media, should strengthen training and awareness programs for community health workers. These initiatives should prioritize the prevention and early detection of epidemics, with a particular focus on promoting personal and environmental hygiene to enhance community safety as a whole.
- State and Local Governments, in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, and the media, should enhance their efforts to effectively implement the Child Rights' Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law across all levels. This initiative aims to address cases of Sexual and Gender-Based

Violence (SGBV) and ensure the protection of women and children throughout the country.

- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), traditional/religious leaders and the media should increase efforts towards the effective implementation of the Child Rights’ Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels to address cases of SGBV, as well as ensure protection of women and children across states in the country.

CONCLUSION:

The growing security challenges facing the country call for a sustained dialogue and mediations as conflict resolution mechanism to foster social cohesion and resilience against the multi-faceted threats. This should provide a platform for regular review of the nation's security architecture, with active participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), aimed at improving synergy, and collaboration. This initiative would strengthen efforts in mitigating and building resilience against epidemic outbreaks and other environmental challenges across Nigeria.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR MAY 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Inter-terrorist clash	7	- 25 (including 8 security operatives)	Several injured.
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	142	320	158
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	34	644	Several injured
Violent Clash - Hoodlooms and traders (Lagos) - Rival armed group (Kano) - Traders and Army officers (FCT) - Community youths and vigilante (Rivers) etc	6	1 3 2	24
Abduction (evident across 25 States)	56	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	17	-	-

Extrajudicial killing	12	12	2
Physical/Armed Assault	16	8	12
Herder-Community Conflict	5	70	18
Illicit Drug Trafficking	50	-	-
Homicide	20	19	-
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	21	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	1	1
Strike	6	-	-
Intimidation and Threats	3	-	-
Arrest/Detention	194	-	-
Road Accident/ Train accident	59 1	84 2	49 -
Building Collapse	5	1	16
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion	9	1	Several injured.
Electrocution	1	2	-
Tanker Explosion	2		8
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal conflict	4	17	Several Injured.
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	8	6	Lassa Fever: 421
b. Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) Outbreak Bauchi State	1	6	CSM:
c. Strange disease outbreak in Sokoto State	1	13	-
Human trafficking	6	-	-
Generators Fume	1	9	-
Thunderstorm	1	2	-
Flood/Rainstorm	5	1	12
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	23	-	15
Child Abuse	2		1
Total	721	1,244	737

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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