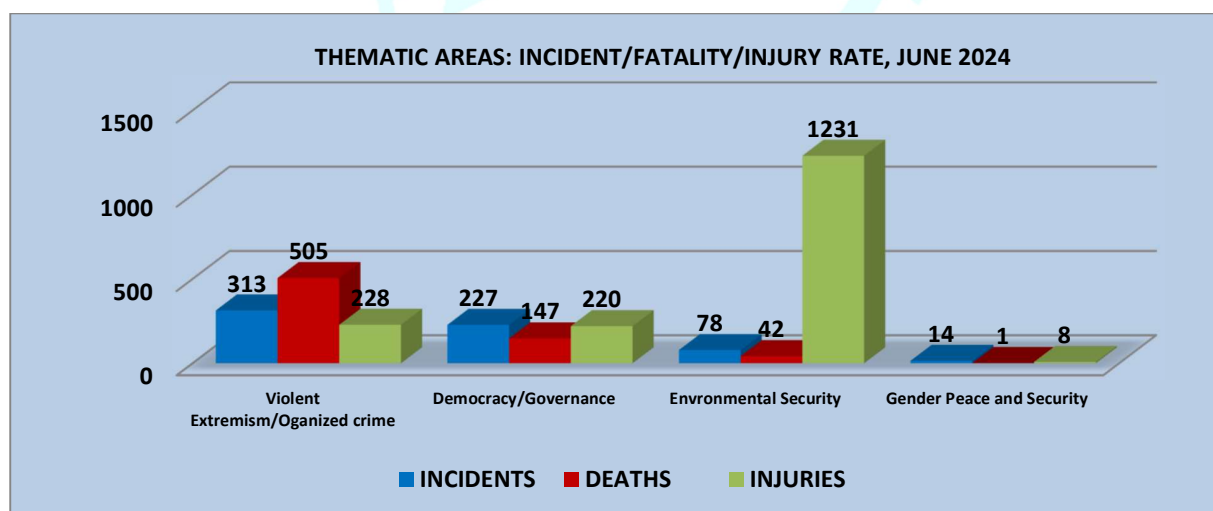




# NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-NIGERIA) (JUNE 2024)

## I. INTRODUCTION

As of June 2024, 632 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).<sup>1</sup> A cumulative fatality of 695 and 1722 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in June 2024. As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 505, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (674) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 147 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 42 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 1 death in the reporting period.<sup>3</sup> (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>4</sup>.

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides 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 threat of extremist attacks by Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists remains pervasive, particularly in rural communities of Borno State in the North-East region with an escalation of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks intended to increase their operations. The increasing frequency in IED attacks (particularly landmines) on critical routes not only disrupts the safety of travel but also indicates a persistent threat to livelihood activities and IDP resettlement.

The WANEP NEWS recorded a resurgence in terrorist attacks in the Lake Chad region, resulting in significant human toll. In June 2024, attacks were recorded in Biu, Marte, Buratai, Gwoza,

<sup>1</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

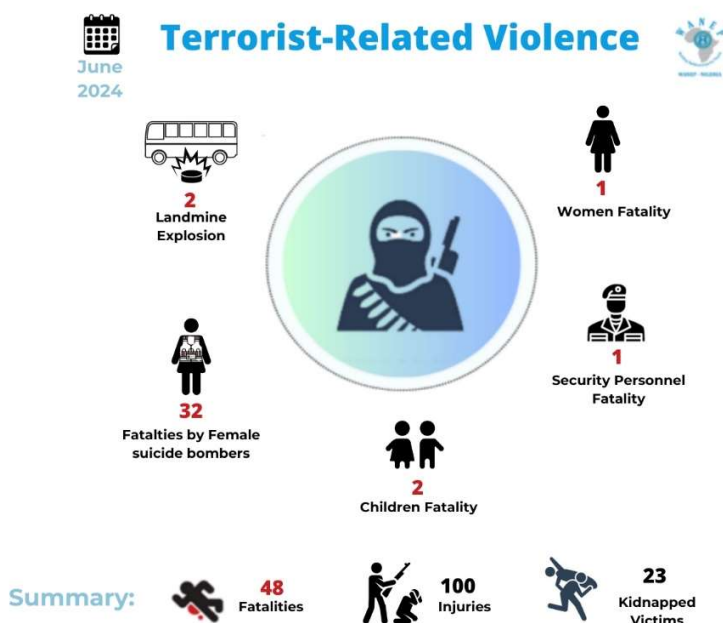
<sup>2</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

and Kukawa of Borno State, and Shiroro LGA of Niger State. These incidents resulted in 48 fatalities, including 1 female, 2 children, and 1 security operative in the States. The resurgence of female suicide bombers and the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have heightened panic and fear among the populations in vulnerable communities. During the reporting month, WANEP NEWS recorded a total of 48 deaths, with 32 fatalities attributed to the actions of female suicide bombers in Gwoza LGA.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, suspected Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists abducted 23 people in the reporting period.

Despite the prevailing security challenges, the Nigerian Military and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have maintained a strong partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to execute robust security clearance operations in the North East region. These efforts have been characterized by intelligence-driven air strikes and ground operations, targeting terrorist enclaves and strongholds. This collaborative approach demonstrates a commitment towards enhancing security and stability in the region, underscoring the importance of civilian-security synergy in counter-terrorism interventions.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>6</sup>

The WANEP-NEWS recorded 265 incidents of **Organized 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 month. A total of 484 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 169 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 315 civilians and 44 security personnel.<sup>7</sup> Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 13 were females, and 7 children.

In the reporting period, **armed banditry** recorded a fatality of 150 people including 28 security personnel in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna in the North-West, and Niger State in the North

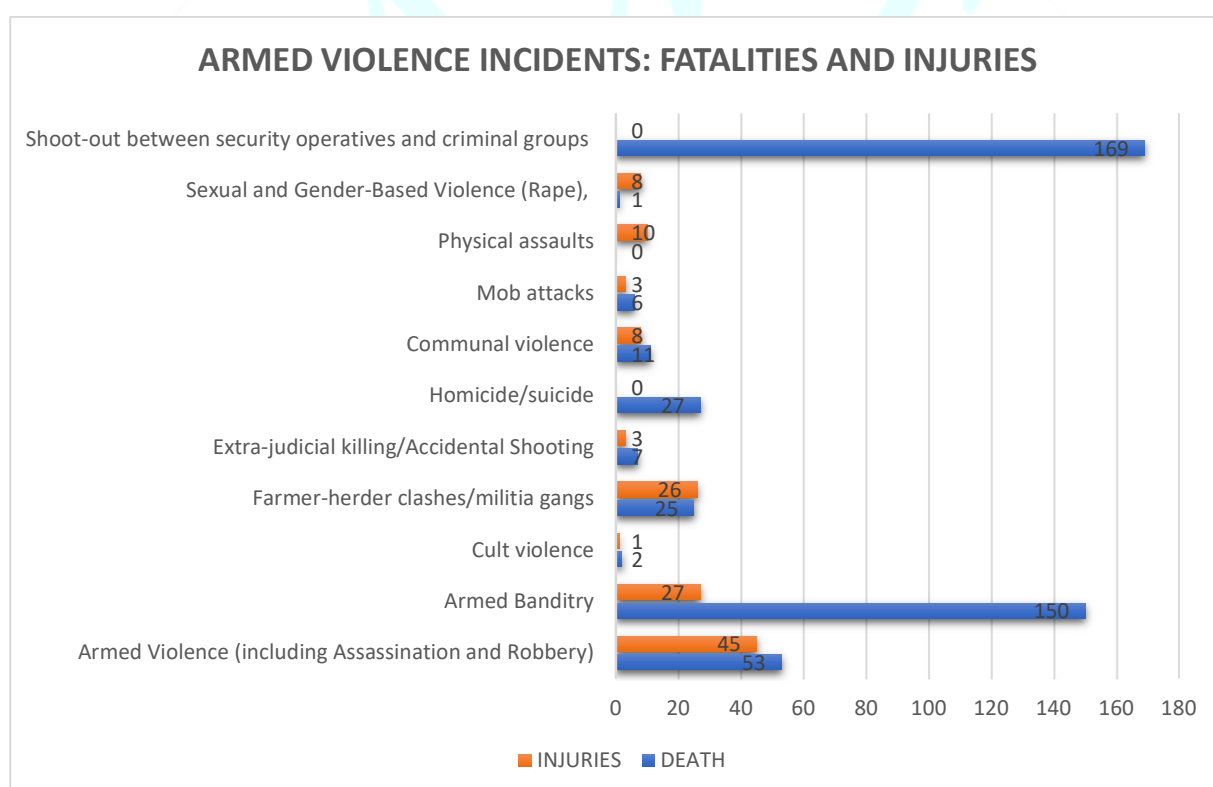
<sup>5</sup> Notably, the month of June 2024 also witnessed a resurgence of female suicide bombing, a tactic increasingly employed by terrorist groups in the region.

<sup>6</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>7</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

Central Region.<sup>8</sup> Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.

**Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in the fatality of 25, while **armed violence incidents including robbery and armed attacks** accounted for 53 deaths.<sup>9</sup> **Other armed violence incidents** including **homicide/suicide** and **cult violence** led to the death of 27 and 2 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 7 and 6 deaths respectively.<sup>10</sup> Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in June 2024.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>11</sup>

Nigeria continues to grapple with significant human security challenges, including the threat of kidnapping. While June 2024 saw a notable decrease in the number of kidnapped victims, with 307 reported cases compared to 428 in May 2024, the frequency in kidnapping remains a concern. In June 2024, 40 incidents were reported across 18 states, including the FCT, compared to 69 incidents across 25 states in May 2024<sup>12</sup>. The demographics of the abducted victims are also noteworthy, with 40 females, 24 children, and 1 security operative.

<sup>8</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>9</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

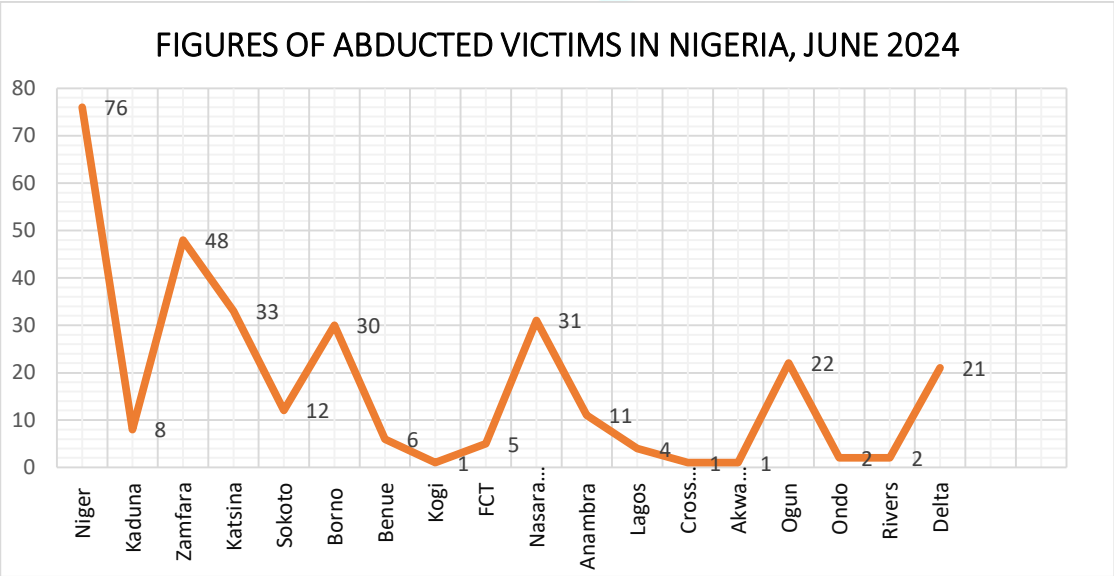
<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>12</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

The WANEP NEWS recorded 159 incidents of arrests in June 2024. The arrests cut across various incidents such as kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, violent demonstrations, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism & destruction of public infrastructures, fraud, cyber-crime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), amongst other criminal and civil offences.<sup>13</sup>

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>14</sup>

Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 23 states with 248 suspects arrested including 6 females for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS<sup>15</sup>.

**3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE**

Deliberations around the national minimum wage review was revisited in the reporting period with ongoing negotiations between representatives of the Federal Government, private sector, and organised labour to reach a mutual agreement. However, the stalemate in the negotiations led to a nationwide strike by organized labour on June 3, 2024. As citizens sought for a realistic wage for Nigeria workers in tandem with the current inflationary pressures, the President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has assured Nigerians that an Executive Bill on the new national minimum wage for workers would be forwarded to the National Assembly for passage<sup>16</sup>.

The WANEP NEWS documented 25 public demonstrations across the country, highlighting a diverse range of grievances arising from non-payment of salaries as well as economic, political and security concerns. The demonstrations include community youths protest over a road mishap which claimed lives in Anambra State and arrest of suspected internet fraudsters by

<sup>13</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)  
<sup>14</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)  
<sup>15</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)  
<sup>16</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2024/06/12/breaking-nass-to-get-new-minimum-bill-soon-tinubu-assures-labour/>

operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in Ondo State, demonstrations in Benue over the recurrent attacks by armed herders. Also, lecturers under the aegis of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and medical practitioners of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) embarked on demonstrations in Kaduna and Abia states respectively over the non-payment of salaries by the Federal and State Government.

The complicity of police operatives and a traditional ruler in kidnapping resulted in a protest in Edo State; Traders conducted a demonstration over the demolition of about 5,000 stalls by the Kano Urban Planning and Development Authority (KNUPDA) along IBB Way in Kano State. Several residents conducted a protest at Port Harcourt City Council Secretariat in Rivers State over the alleged planned refusal of some LGA Chairmen to vacate their offices following the expiration of their tenure on June 17, 2024. Following the ongoing protest in Rivers State, 21 out of 23 Local Government Chairmen in Rivers State conducted peaceful demonstrations supporting the continued closure of LGA Council secretariats to prevent the resumption of Caretaker Chairmen instituted by the State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara. Others include alleged negligence of medical personnel in Ogun state which culminated in the death of a student.

Building collapse and boat mishaps in Nigeria are largely attributed to two critical factors: non-adherence to building codes and standards, and violations of maritime safety precautions. According to WANEP NEWS, 7 incidents of building collapse occurred in the FCT-Abuja, Kano, Anambra, Abia, Akwa Ibom, and Ebonyi States, resulting in the death of 15 people and 15 injured victims. These incidents highlight the need to strengthen regulatory oversight and enforcement to prevent recurrence. Two (2) boat mishap recorded in Niger and Lagos States led to the death of 2 people. In addition, road accidents accounted for 94 fatalities and 199 injuries from a total of 36 vehicular incidents across 14 States. Furthermore, an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) crashed at Igabi LGA in Kaduna State during a reconnaissance mission. Two (2) incidents of train derailment were also recorded in Abuja-FCT with no casualties. The activities of rail track vandals and other economic saboteurs have been attributed as the cause of the derailments.

The National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in the reporting period intercepted and took custody of a significant shipment of weapons recovered. The shipment, which was intercepted at Port Harcourt LGA, in Rivers State, comprising of 844 rifles and 112,500 rounds of ammunition. This seizure is a significant milestone in the efforts of the Federal Government to curb the intense-proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Nigeria, which has contributed to the country's volatile security situation challenges. The successful operation demonstrates the effective collaboration between the NCCSALW and the NCS in preventing the diversion of SALW into the illicit market and underscores the need for sustained efforts to address this pressing national security concern.<sup>17</sup> Also, SALW were recovered by security operatives from Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) at Plateau, FCT, Kaduna, Borno, Kano, Zamfara, Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Imo, Lagos, Delta, and Edo States.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:**

The National Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) centre, under the Federal Ministry of Environment in Abuja, has issued a flood alert for specific locations and their surrounding areas,

<sup>17</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/07/02/nigerian-arms-centre-nccsalw-takes-delivery-seized-container-844-rifles-worth-n4billion>

predicting heavy rainfall and potential flooding between June 21 and 25, 2024 with 15 States to be affected. The affected States are Adamawa, Benue, Borno, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba and Zamfara<sup>18</sup>. In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 11 flood incidents occasioned by heavy rainfall in Benue, Plateau, FCT, Zamfara, Jigawa, Ebonyi, Yobe, Lagos, and Ogun States. A total of 22 casualties were reported and several private properties and public structures including schools, hospitals and bridges were destroyed in the month. Of the 22 casualties, 2 were fatal with 20 others injured. The flood incidents also accounted for the internal displacement of thousands of residents in the affected communities.

The reporting month also recorded a recurrence of public health emergencies, including Lassa Fever and Cholera. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) indicated that between June 3 and 30, 2024, a total of 427 suspected cases of Lassa Fever were reported across 5 states in the Federation. Of these, 21 cases were confirmed, with no reported deaths. The affected States include Bauchi, Ondo, Edo, Benue and Nasarawa. Furthermore, the NCDC also confirmed 36 deaths related to Cholera, with 763 suspected cases reported in 9 states, namely: Lagos, Rivers, Katsina, Ogun, Bayelsa, Sokoto, Abia, Oyo, Kogi, and the FCT.<sup>19</sup>

## 5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of female adults and minors in Anambra, Enugu, Abia, Ekiti, Ogun, and Edo States in the month.<sup>20</sup> Out of the 10 recorded incidents, a female victim was reportedly killed in Edo State.<sup>21</sup> Also, over 62 victims (children) of human trafficking were rescued in Lagos, Ebonyi and Delta States in the month while 8 suspects were arrested.<sup>22</sup>

### Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The insecurity and economic downturn in the country continue to fuel tensions, raising concerns about potential civil unrest. The pervasive insecurity has severely impacted the education sector, particularly in vulnerable communities, where frequent kidnapping and abduction of school children have become alarmingly common, forcing authorities to close schools and disrupting access to education. As a result, parents are increasingly fearful for their children's safety, leading to a surge in dropouts. This crisis may have far-reaching consequences, including a lost generation of Nigerian children, increased poverty, widening inequality, social unrest, and a brain drain, underscoring the urgent need for action to address the root causes of insecurity and ensure safe access to education. In the Northern Region, terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping persist at alarming levels, with 243 out of 307 recorded kidnapping cases occurring in this axis in June 2024 alone as recorded in the WANEP NEWS<sup>23</sup>. The resulting school closures have denied thousands of children their right to education, exacerbating the already dire educational outcomes in these areas. The Southern part of the country also grapples with organized criminal activities, further complicating the security landscape. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that 17-18 million people will need humanitarian assistance in June and August 2024, highlighting the

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.arise.tv/nigeria-issues-flood-warning-for-15-states-amid-heavy-rainfall-forecast/#:~:text=The%20National%20Flood%20Early%20Warning,June%2021%20%E2%80%93%2025%2C%202024.>

<sup>19</sup> <https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitesreps/427151e2a0d4f38eb7bfe4c537ca90b8.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>21</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/father-of-raped-minor-cries-for-justice/#:~:text=23%3A10%20WAT-,The%20father%20of%20an%2011%20year%20old%20girl%20in%20Kano,of%20minors%20in%20Kano%20State.>

<sup>22</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>23</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

urgent need to address the intertwined challenges of insecurity, economic downturn, and climate volatility.<sup>24</sup>

The persistent conflicts and violence erode social cohesion, exacerbate ethnic tensions, and undermine trust in government. This instability threatens democratic governance, regional security, and international relations. Inadequate rural infrastructure hinders healthcare delivery, intensifying civil unrest and posing risks to national stability. The escalating crisis demands urgent attention to address root causes, restore trust, and ensure effective governance, healthcare, and security to mitigate regional and global implications.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, particularly in violence-prone and hard-to-reach areas, the following recommendations are proposed:

- To enhance security and prevent conflicts, the Federal and State Governments, in partnership with security agencies, should leverage the West African Network for Peacebuilding's (WANEP) National Early Warning System (NEWS) and other civil society-based early warning mechanisms. This collaborative approach will strengthen intelligence gathering and analysis, inform targeted security deployments in high-risk areas, ensure proactive measures to safeguard citizens and prevent further conflict escalation.
- The Federal Government should continue to prioritize the enhancement of security agencies' capacity including those of the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad region by providing cutting-edge equipment and technology, delivering specialized training and capacity-building programs, allocating sufficient resources and funding. This multi-faceted approach will enhance security personnel's morale and effectiveness leading to improved response times, increased protection; strengthen regional cooperation and intelligence sharing; improve border security and control; and restored public trust in the government's ability to ensure safety and security.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organizations, and the media, should reinforce trainings and sensitization programs for community health workers. This should focus on the prevention and early detection of recorded epidemics, emphasizing personal and environmental hygiene for collective community safety.
- The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), in strategic collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), State Ministry of Health, and media partners, should implement a comprehensive public health awareness and education initiative to enhance preventive measures against recurring disease outbreaks, including Lassa Fever and Cholera. To optimize outreach and engagement, the campaign should be conducted in local languages, targeting rural communities with tailored messaging. Furthermore, augmenting disease early warning and risk mechanisms is essential to facilitate prompt detection and rapid response to disease outbreaks, thereby mitigating their impact on public health.

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<sup>24</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional/religious leaders, and the media, should increase public advocacy and other engagements towards the effective implementation of the Child Rights' Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels. This will address cases of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and ensure the protection of women and children across states in the country.

### CONCLUSION:

Amidst the prevailing tension and demonstrations, it is crucial to capitalize on resilient factors such as use of dialogue in community peacebuilding to foster social cohesion and resilience. To this end, sustained dialogue should be encouraged, creating a platform for regular review and assessment of the nation's security architecture. This review process should involve active participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to harness their potential value to peacebuilding. Furthermore, State Governments, in collaboration with health and disaster management agencies, should prioritize risk communication on environmental security threats. This will enhance the country's mitigation strategies and resilience against epidemic outbreaks, natural disasters, and other environmental concerns, ultimately promoting a safer and more secure environment for all.

### CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JUNE 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Inter-terrorist clash	7	- 48 (including 1 Security operative)	100
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	136	211	95
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	31	169	-
Abduction (evident across 18 States)	40	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	10	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	8	7	3
Physical/Armed Assault	10	-	10
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	9	25	26
Vandalism	13	-	-
Communal Clash	2	11	8
Violent clash	7	5	18



Illicit Drug Trafficking	9	-	-
Homicide	21	22	-
Domestic Violence	5	2	3
Suicide	5	5	-
<b><u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u></b>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	25	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	1	-	-
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	136	-	-
Road Accident	36	94	199
Boat Accident	2	2	-
Air Accident	1	-	-
Building Collapse	7	15	15
Bridge Collapse	1	-	-
Train Derailment	2	-	-
Prison Break	1	-	-
Drowning	6	13	-
Electrocution	4	4	-
Tanker Explosion	1	2	-
Gas Explosion	1	-	-
Mine collapse	2	17	6
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	12		
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	13	-	448
b. Cholera	18	36	763
Windstorm	6	4	-
Fire Outbreak	14	-	-
Gully Erosion	1	-	-
Crop Destruction by crop-eating worms	1	-	-
Flood/Rainstorm	11	2	20
Windstorm	1	-	-
Oil Spill	1	-	-
<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	10	1	8
Human Trafficking	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>1722</b>



*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*

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