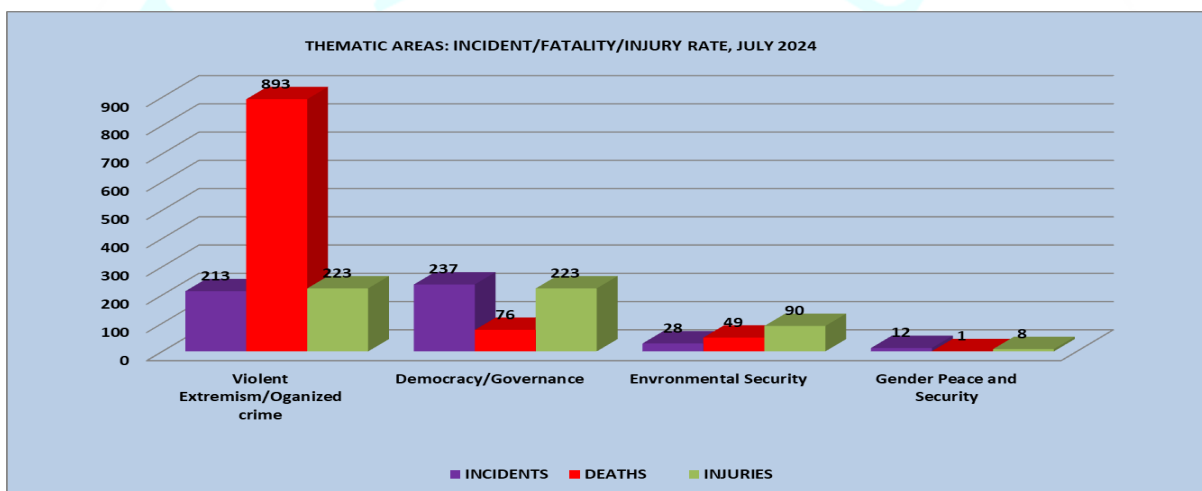


### I. INTRODUCTION

As of July 2024, 490 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). A cumulative fatality of 1,019 and 544 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in July 2024<sup>1</sup>.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 893, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,019) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 76 deaths. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 49 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 1 deaths in the reporting period. (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>2</sup>

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 conducted by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to threaten security of vulnerable rural communities in Nigeria's North-East region. The escalating use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by these armed groups demonstrates their strategic intent to use violence to destabilize local populations. WANEP NEWS, documented several instances of landmine explosions attributed to these terrorists attacks in Jakana, Maiduguri, Damboa, Konduga, Kukawa and Gujba LGAs in Yobe and Borno States. These attack resulted in 36 fatalities, including 9 security personnel and 53 injured victims in Borno and Yobe States in the reporting period<sup>3</sup>.

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

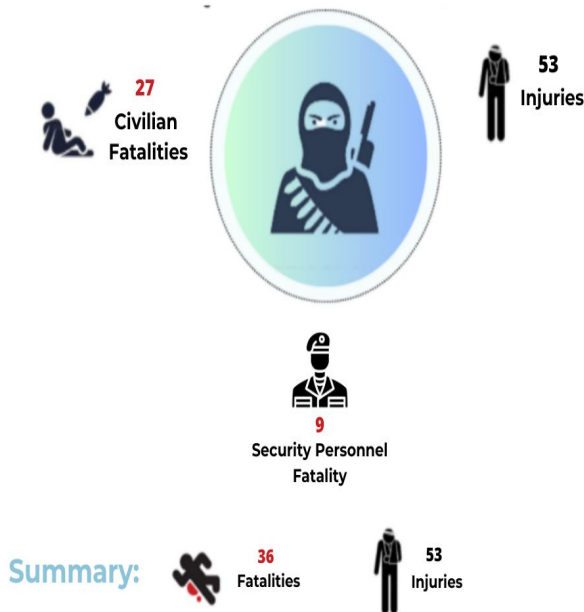
<sup>2</sup> Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>3</sup> Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

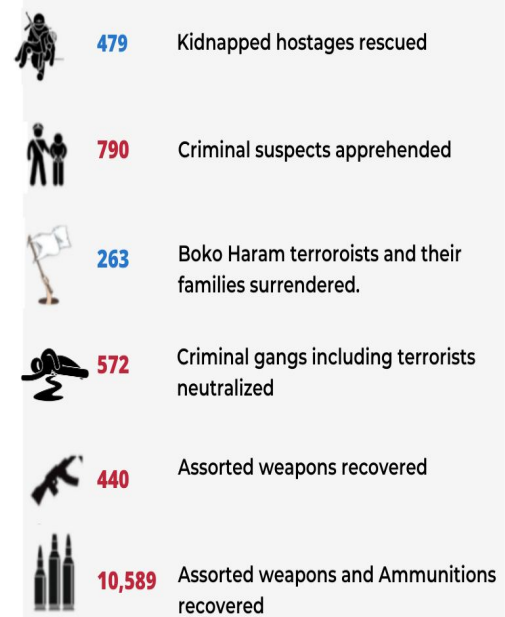
July  
2024

## Terrorist Attacks and Counter-Insurgency Operations

### Terrorist-Related Violence (Borno State)



### Combined Joint Task Force Operations in Nigeria



In recent operations, the Nigerian Military, in collaboration with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), has significantly intensified security clearance operation through intelligence-driven air strikes and ground operations targeting terrorist enclaves. As indicated on the Infographic above, the counter-offensive operations have led to the neutralization of 572 criminal gangs, including terrorist groups, across various states in Nigeria. Additionally, 790 suspected terrorists have been apprehended, and 479 kidnapped hostages rescued<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, 263 suspected Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists along with their families surrendered. The operations also resulted in the recovery of 440 assorted weapons and 10,589 rounds of ammunition in the period<sup>5</sup>.

The security landscape also remains inundated with incidents of **Organized Crimes** including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human/drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, armed violence by militia gangs, amongst other forms of organised crimes reported in the month. The

<sup>4</sup> <https://leadership.ng/troops-killed-572-terrorists-arrested-790-in-july-dhq/>

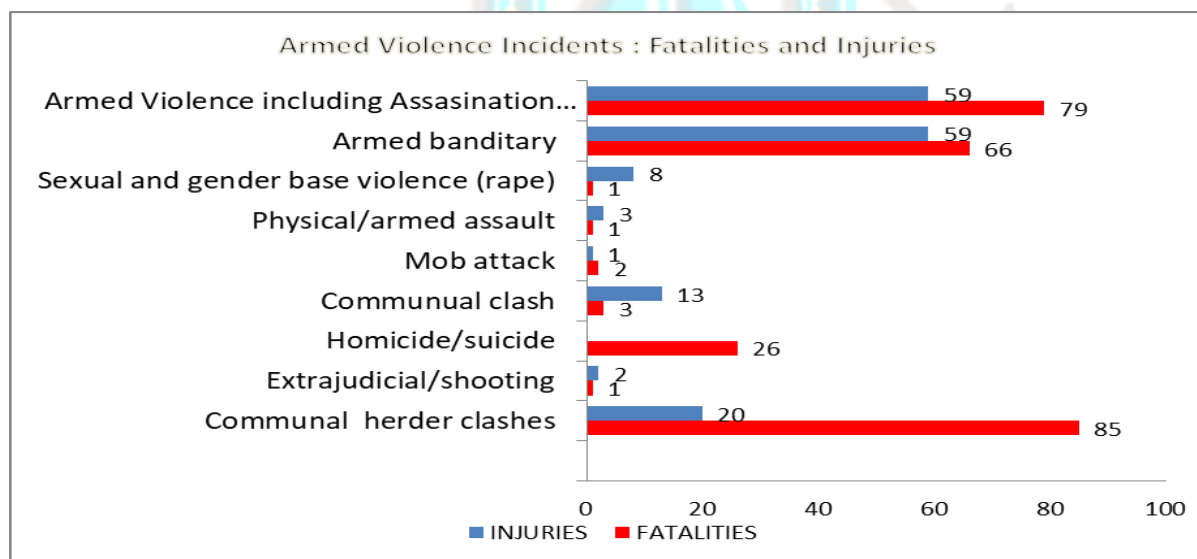
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2024/07/19/263-boko-haram-terrorists-surrender-at-nigeria-cameroun-border-army/>

WANEP NEWS recorded 213 incidents of organized crimes resulting in 285 civilian and security fatalities. Out of the 285 recorded deaths, 17 were females, 5 children, 15 security personnel and 13 members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups<sup>6</sup>.

In the reporting period, **armed attacks by suspected ethnic militias/herders** in Benue, Plateau, Delta, Kogi, Jigawa states recorded the highest fatality of 85 deaths. While **Armed violence incidents including robbery, assassination and violent communal clashes** resulted in the second highest fatality of 81 including security personnel in the reporting period.

In the North-West region of Nigeria, **armed banditry** led to 66 fatalities across Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Kebbi and Sokoto states. These persistent attacks have exacerbated the humanitarian challenges in the region, where rural banditry is associated with significant human rights violations and a range of criminal activities including kidnapping, theft, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking. During this period, WANEP NEWS documented one arrest of a female teenager for aiding and abetting banditry in Dandume LGA of Katsina State<sup>7</sup>. Additionally, **culpable homicide and cult/gang violence**, resulted in 22 and 12 deaths respectively, while **extrajudicial killings** accounted for 2 fatalities.

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>8</sup>.

The cases of kidnapping is significantly exacerbating insecurity across the states in Nigeria. In July 2024, there were 36 reported kidnapping incidents across 20 states with 428 people

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

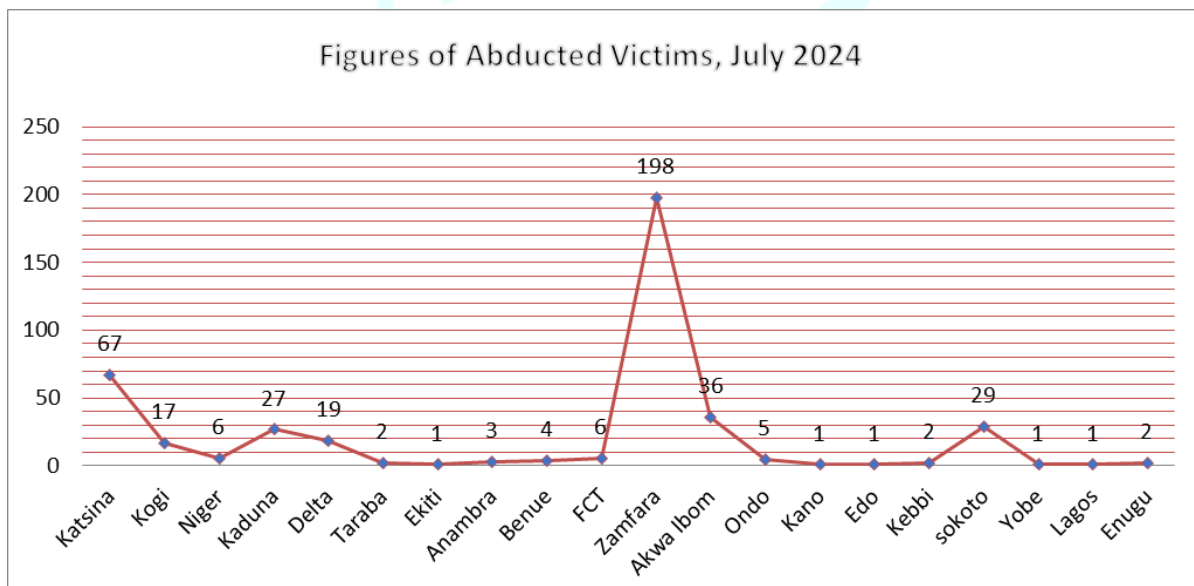
<sup>7</sup> [https://www.arise.tv/katsina-police-arrest-teenager-for-providing-intelligence-to-bandits/#google\\_vignette](https://www.arise.tv/katsina-police-arrest-teenager-for-providing-intelligence-to-bandits/#google_vignette)

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

abducted. Out of the 428 abducted victims, 34 were females, seven children and two security personnel <sup>9</sup>.

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented over 170 arrests across diverse array of criminal activities. These arrests encompass a range of offenses including kidnapping, drug and human trafficking, arms and ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism and destruction of public infrastructure. Additionally, the recorded incidents include fraud, cyber-crime, murder, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), reflecting a broad spectrum of both criminal and civil offenses.

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>10</sup>

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 illicit drugs and psychotropic substances (Indian hemp, skuchies, opioid, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, methamphetamine) in Kogi, Plateau, Kebbi, Kaduna, Jigawa, Kano, Imo, Lagos, Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Rivers, Edo, Bauchi, Abuja, Jigawa Edo, Imo, , Katsina Nasarawa, Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe as documented by WANEP NEWS in the month of July 2024. During the period, the proposed amendment, yet to be enacted into law, as to replace 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

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

<sup>10</sup> WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

individuals involved in manufacturing, trafficking, dealing, or delivering hard drugs in the month<sup>11</sup>.

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS reported 16 demonstrations, including one strike action and one violent protest. Hundreds of community youths reportedly set ablaze the office of the Independent National Electoral Commission at Sankera Area in Ukum LGA of Benue State while protesting the activities of armed gangs and the killings of community residents in the area. The fire destroyed furniture, 10 electric generators, 300 ballot boxes, and 270 voting cubicles<sup>12</sup>. In Anambra State, the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria conducted an indefinite strike action in Amawbia, Awka, over the state government's refusal to pay the Consolidated Judiciary Salary Structure agreed upon in 2011 and 2015<sup>13</sup>. Additionally, operatives of the FCT Police Command arrested a male resident in Katampe, Abuja FCT, who had climbed a mast to protest economic hardship and food inflation in Nigeria. The protester was reportedly convinced by emergency responders to come down from the mast before being arrested by security operatives<sup>14</sup>.

Other peaceful demonstrations during the reporting month included a protest by hundreds of students at the University of Benin (UNIBEN) in Benin City, Edo State, over a power outage affecting the school and hostel. The blackout resulted from a dispute with the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) over a contentious electricity bill<sup>15</sup>. In Ayati Community, Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, eleven people were allegedly killed in an attack by suspected armed militia, triggering a protest by local residents<sup>16</sup>. Staff members of several government-owned universities in Nigeria, under the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Union of Allied and Education Institutions (NASU), staged protests demanding the release of withheld salaries, three months after the Minister of Education promised the payment of half of the withheld salaries<sup>17</sup>. Nine Tiv communities in Obi and Awe Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State protested against alleged land grabbing by the state government for an agricultural program in Agwatashi and Jangwa areas<sup>18</sup>. In Idomila Community, Ijebu North-East Local Government Area of Ogun State, residents protested the deplorable state of the road network connecting their communities<sup>19</sup>. Transport workers in some parts of Lagos State raised alarms over alleged continuous harassment and extortion by security operatives<sup>20</sup>. In Abia State, staff members of Abia State University (ABSU) protested the non-payment of salaries that have been outstanding for over 11 months<sup>21</sup>. Hundreds of students at the University of Ibadan in Oyo State protested a 10-hour electricity supply

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<sup>11</sup> <https://punchng.com/senate-approves-death-penalty-for-drug-offenders/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://punchng.com/benue-youths-protest-killings-block-road-lg-office/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://punchng.com/anambra-judiciary-workers-begin-indefinite-strike/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://punchng.com/abuja-man-protesting-hardship-on-telecom-mast-taken-into-custody/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/07/03/uniben-students-shut-down-benin-ore-highway-over-power-outage/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/fresh-killings-spark-protest-in-benue/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://punchng.com/withheld-salaries-ssanu-nasu-hold-warning-protest-on-campus/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/tiv-communities-protest-alleged-land-grabbing-by-nasarawa-govt/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/07/13/ogun-community-protests-bad-road-appeals-for-help/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://punchng.com/lagos-transport-workers-protest-extortion-harassment-by-soldiers/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/07/09/abia-state-university-workers-stage-fresh-protest-over-11-month-salary-arrears-vow>



schedule on campus and a hike in tuition fees<sup>22</sup>. Students at the Federal College of Education (Technical), Akoka, Lagos State, protested poor conditions and dilapidated infrastructure on their campus<sup>23</sup>. Supporters of the Southern Borno Development Association protested at the Unity Fountain in Abuja FCT against the removal from office of the Chief Whip of the Nigerian Senate, Ali Ndume<sup>24</sup>. In Niger State, community youths protested against bad governance, economic hardship, and food inflation<sup>25</sup>. Finally, residents of Goronyo Local Government Area in Sokoto State protested against bad governance due to economic hardship and food inflation<sup>26</sup>. The waves of protests in Nigeria reflect widespread dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs and highlight the urgent need for comprehensive reforms. There is a pressing demand for improvements in governance, public sector management, and service delivery to the populace. Addressing these issues effectively is crucial for alleviating public discontent and fostering a more stable socio-political environment.

The documented cases of building collapse and boat mishap in Nigeria are majorly due to the non-adherence to building codes and standards as well as violations of maritime safety precautions. The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 incidents of building collapse in Lagos, Abuja, Anambra, Enugu, Plateau, Ekiti and Nasarawa States, resulting in the death of 36 people and 45 injured victims. Additionally, 2 boat mishap incidents in Zamfara and Jigawa led to the death of 4 people in the States. Also, road accidents accounted for over 34 fatalities and 46 injuries across 11 States in Nigeria.

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

The Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in its 2024 Annual Flood Outlook (AFO) indicated that 148 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in 31 States of the Federation are at risk of high flood between April and November 2024, while 249 LGAs in 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are within moderate flood risk areas. In the reporting period, the WANEP NEWS recorded incident of rainstorm and flooding accompanied by heavy rainfall in Yobe, Lagos, FCT, Nasarawa, Adamawa, Sokoto and Edo States. Here down

A total of 15 fatalities were reported and several properties destroyed and farmlands submerged in the month. The flood incidents also accounted in the internal displacement of over 10,845 1,664 individuals in Sokoto and Yobe States. While the risk of water-borne diseases during floods remains imminent, incidents of Lassa Fever, Measles, Cholera and unknown diseases were recorded in the reporting month. A further breakdown of Lassa Fever reveals a decline with fatalities and confirmed cases between July 1 to 28 2024, with a total of 1 death, 27 confirmed and 499 suspected cases in the reporting month.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://punchng.com/ui-students-protest-10-hour-electricity-rationing-tuition-hike/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://punchng.com/poor-hostel-condition-reason-for-our-protest-fce-students/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/07/24/senate-chief-whip-southern-borno-indigenes-protest-ndumes-removal/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/07/29/protest-commences-in-niger-state/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.lindaikajisblog.com/2024/7/residents-in-goronyo-lga-sokoto-state-stage-endbadgovernance-protest-video.html>

Also, an outbreak of measles led to the death of 10 children in Abuja while Cholera outbreak in Benue and Bayelsa States resulted in 6 deaths and 21 suspected cases in July 2024. As the Gombe State Ministry of Health continues investigation to determine the cause of deaths 12 deaths and 50 suspected cases were recorded following the outbreak of an unknown disease in the State, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) highlights the challenges of late presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behaviour due to the high cost of treatment resulting in increasing fatality rate. Other challenges include poor environmental sanitation practices, contaminated water, and low awareness in high-burden communities, amongst others. These instances of diseases risks further undermine health security of vulnerable populations and the already weak healthcare systems in the affected areas.

## **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, Lagos, Ogun, Ekiti, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Jigawa, Osun Ondo and Adamawa States. Out of the 12 recorded incidents, 1 female was rape to death by suspected hoodlums during a communal clash in Nasarawa State. Also, there were 4 reported incidents of human trafficking across various states, and 2 incidents of child abuse were recorded. 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 gender Base Violence (GBV) across state.

### **Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria**

The escalation of insecurity in Nigeria is largely driven by armed violence and deteriorating economic conditions. The economic environment, with soaring inflation and increasing living costs, has intensified public tensions and elevated the risk of unrest. The high inflation rate has exacerbated public dissatisfaction with the economic reforms implemented by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration. This discontent has led to the proposed nationwide protests from August 1-10, 2024, focusing on #Endbadgovernance, food inflation and economic hardship, which have already resulted in school closures, particularly in Yobe, Osun and Cross River States. Such disruptions are expected to increase the number of out-of-school children and heighten community vulnerability in the affected regions.

In response to these economic challenges, both Federal and State Governments have initiated sustained interventions to alleviate public hardships. The Federal Government has distributed 740 bags of rice across 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to support the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, on July 29, 2024, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration enacted a new national minimum wage bill to address the economic difficulties faced by Nigerians.

The persistent rise in terrorism, armed banditry, and kidnapping has intensified humanitarian challenges, including the loss of livelihoods and increased vulnerability of women and children to sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Additionally, the number of Out-of-School Children (OOSC) has steadily increased from 10.5 million in 2013 to approximately 18.3 million in 2024<sup>27</sup>, as reported by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). This significant number of out-of-school children further exacerbates the risk of recruitment by bandits, terrorists, and other criminal entities. Despite recent seizures of over 440 assorted weapons and 10,589 arms and ammunition during security operations, these measures have not sufficiently mitigate the ongoing security challenges or addressed the underlying factors contributing to widespread violence.

The current wave of demonstrations underscores rising tensions and dissatisfaction, revealing a fragile social contract between the state and its citizens, which threatens social cohesion. Furthermore, the isolation of certain rural communities, exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure such as poor roads and limited telecommunications, hampers effective public healthcare delivery. These infrastructure deficits contribute to recurring disease outbreaks, which are exacerbated by delayed responses, inadequate contact tracing, and insufficient awareness of risk factors and preventive 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 Improve intelligence-gathering and enhance community policing efforts to better anticipate and prevent attacks. Building stronger relationships between security forces and local communities. This initiative to aid in gathering actionable intelligence to counter-radicalization programs targeting vulnerable populations.
- The state/Federal Governments should Strengthen the process of Integration of Displaced Populations into secure and supportive environment and provide safe spaces, access to education, and economic opportunities to mitigate the risk of recruitment by extremist groups.
- State and Local Governments, traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the media should increase collaboration with community health workers to create awareness programs on community health. These efforts should emphasize the prevention and early detection of epidemics, with a strong focus on promoting personal and environmental hygiene to improve overall community safety.
- State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, and the media, should intensify collaboration to ensure the effective implementation of the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law across all levels. This collaborative strategy will address

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<sup>27</sup> <https://thesun.ng/unicef-18-3m-children-out-of-school-begins-new-childs-education-project-in-neast/>



cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and enhance the protection of women and children nationwide.

## CONCLUSION:

The increasing security challenges facing the country necessitate the establishment of sustained dialogue and mediation as key conflict resolution mechanisms to enhance social cohesion and build resilience against complex threats. This approach should include a platform for the regular review of the nation's security framework, with active involvement from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to enhance synergy and collaboration. Such initiative will contribute to resilience against threats to state and human security, including epidemic outbreaks and other environmental challenges across Nigeria.

### CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JULY 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks.	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ Inter-terrorist clash	7	- 36 (including 9 security operatives)	Over 53 injured
Security Clearance/Counter-Offensive Operations	32	572	-
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed-robbery, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	81	158	132
Dynamite explosion (Rivers)	1	1	-
<b>Violent Clash</b>			
a Hoodlooms clash (Osun)			
b Clash b/w thugs and community youths (Kano)	5	12	-
c Clash b/w Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists (Borno)			
d Clash b/w armed gangs (Gombe) etc			
Abduction (evident across 20 States)	41	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	1	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/shooting	3	2	2
Physical/Armed Assault	6	-	13
Domestic violent	3	1	3
Herder-Community Conflict	6	85	20
Illicit Drug Trafficking	8	-	-
Homicide	17	22	-
Suicide	2	4	-

<b>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</b>			
Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> )	15	-	-
Demonstration ( <b>violent</b> )	1		
Strike	2	-	-
Intimidation and Threats	2	-	-
Arrest/Detention	170	-	-
Road Accident/	24	34	46
Boat accident	2	4	
Building Collapse	9	36	177
Fire Outbreak + Gas Explosion	9		Several injured.
Electrocution	1	1	-
Tanker Eexplosion	2	1	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</b>			
Communal conflict	1	3	13
<b>Pandemic/Epidemics:</b>			<b>Confirmed/Infected Cases</b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	4	1	Lassa Fever: 27
b. Cholera Outbreak (Benue/Lagos) States		6	-
c. Disease outbreak in State	5	12	50
d. Measle (Abuja)		10	-
Human trafficking	5		
Drowning	1	1	-
Thunderstorm	1	1	-
Flood/Rainstorm	11	15	

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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<b>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	10	1	8
Child Abuse	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>544</b>