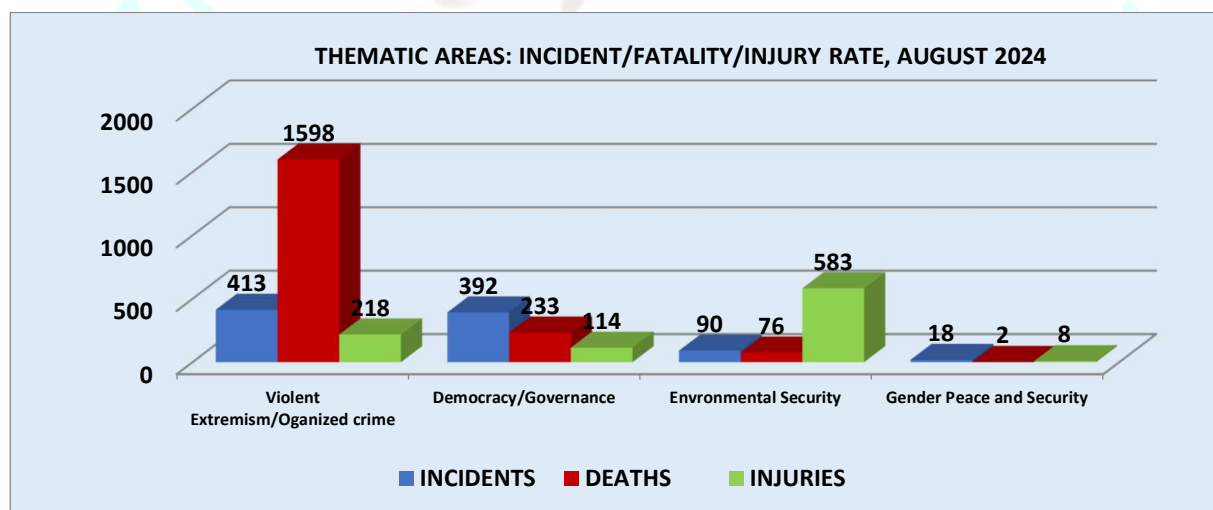


### I. INTRODUCTION

As of August 2024, 913 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).<sup>1</sup> A cumulative fatality of 1,909 and 922 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in August 2024.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 1,598, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,909) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 233 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 76 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 2 deaths 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 North-Eastern region of Nigeria faces persistent threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups, as well as escalating incidents of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and landmines on key routes. These threats have severe consequences, including compromised travel safety, disrupted livelihoods, and hindered resettlement efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

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

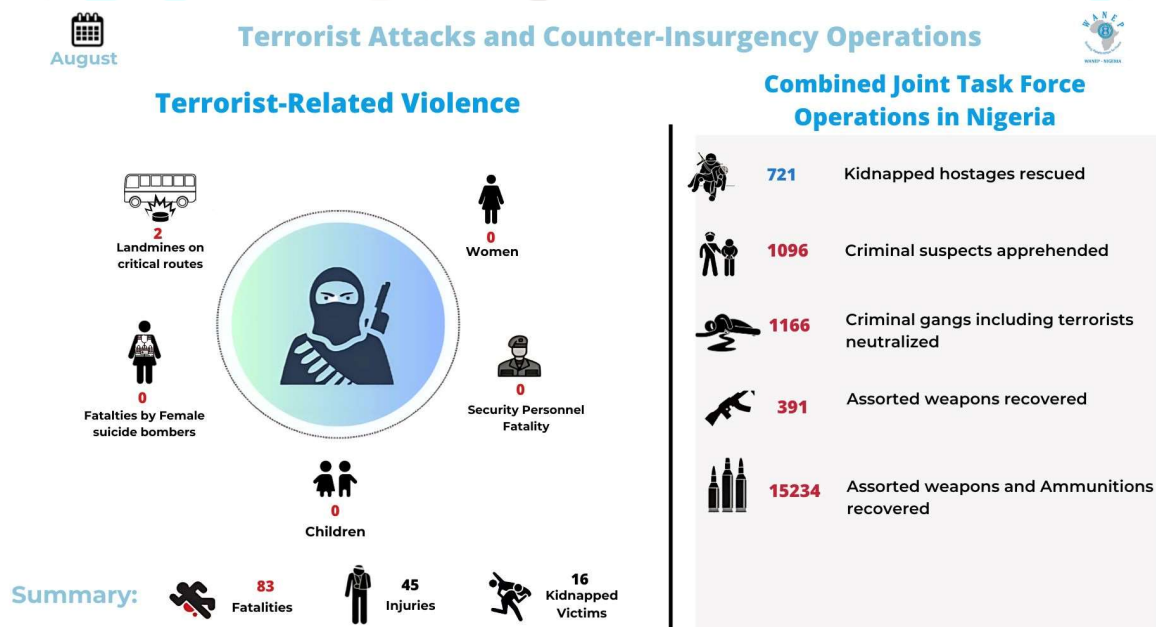
<sup>2</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

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

The WANEP NEWS recorded terrorist attacks in Maiduguri, Dikwa, Gwoza, Marte, and Mobbar LGAs of Borno State. These incidents resulted in 83 fatalities, and 45 injuries. Additionally, suspected Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists abducted 16 people in the reporting period. Of the 83 fatalities, 69 people in ISWAP captivity including several Boko Haram suspects and community residents were killed by ISWAP terrorists in a mass execution at Marte LGA during the reporting month.<sup>5</sup>

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 412 incidents of **Organized Crimes** including banditry, human and 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 1515 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 1248 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 249 civilians and 18 security personnel.<sup>7</sup> Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 8 were females, and 15 children.

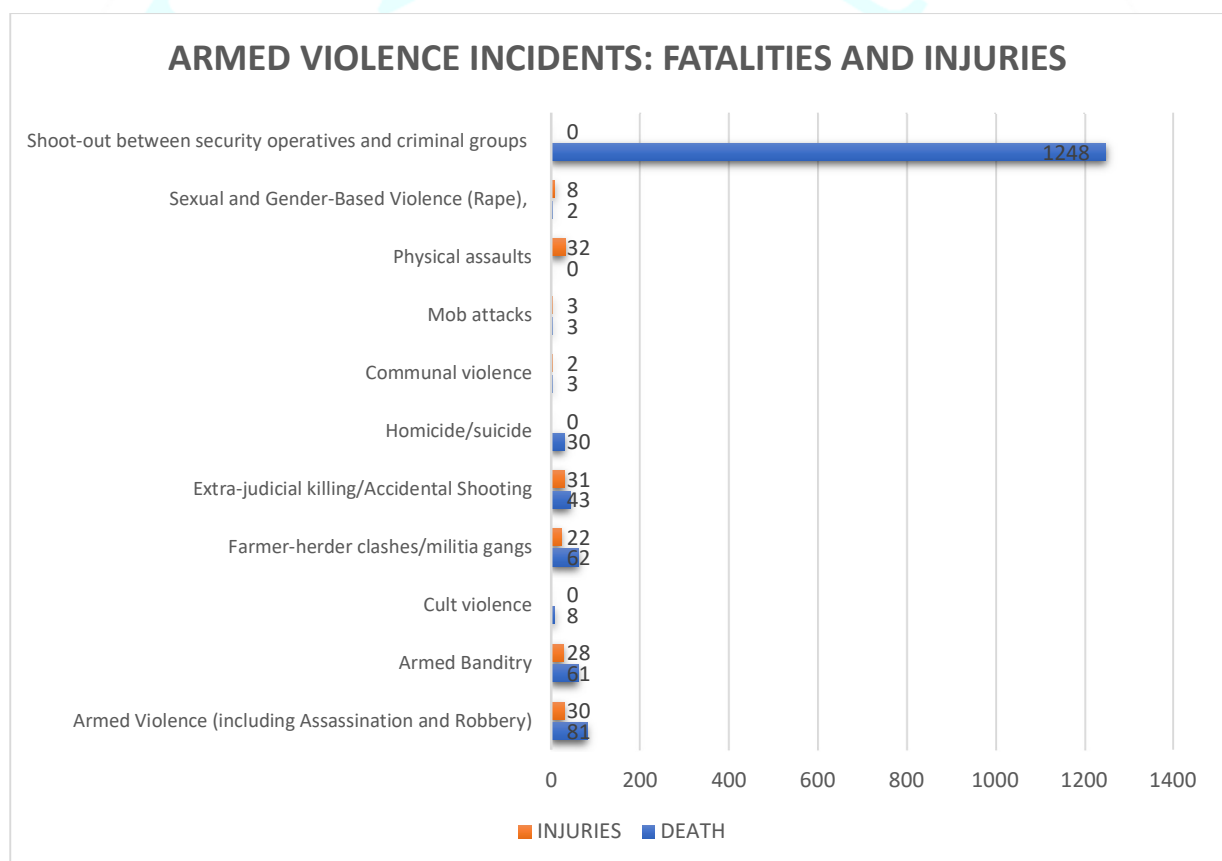
<sup>5</sup> <https://x.com/ZagazOlaMakama/status/1827381449705570731>

<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/)

**Armed banditry** recorded a fatality of 61 people including 4 security personnel in Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna in the North-West, and Niger State in the North Central Region.<sup>8</sup> Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking. A significant supremacy clash among rival bandit gangs also resulted in the death of over 30 bandits at Anka LGA in Zamfara State.<sup>9</sup>

**Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in the fatality of 62, while **armed violence incidents including robbery and armed attacks** accounted for 44 deaths.<sup>10</sup> **Other armed violence incidents** including **homicide/suicide** and **cult violence** led to the death of 35 and 8 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 43 and 3 deaths respectively.<sup>11</sup> Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in August 2024.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>12</sup>

The kidnapping menace persists in Nigeria, with WANEP NEWS recording a troubling 61% increase in incidents from July to August 2024 (36 to 58 cases). Across 22 states, including the

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

<sup>9</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

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

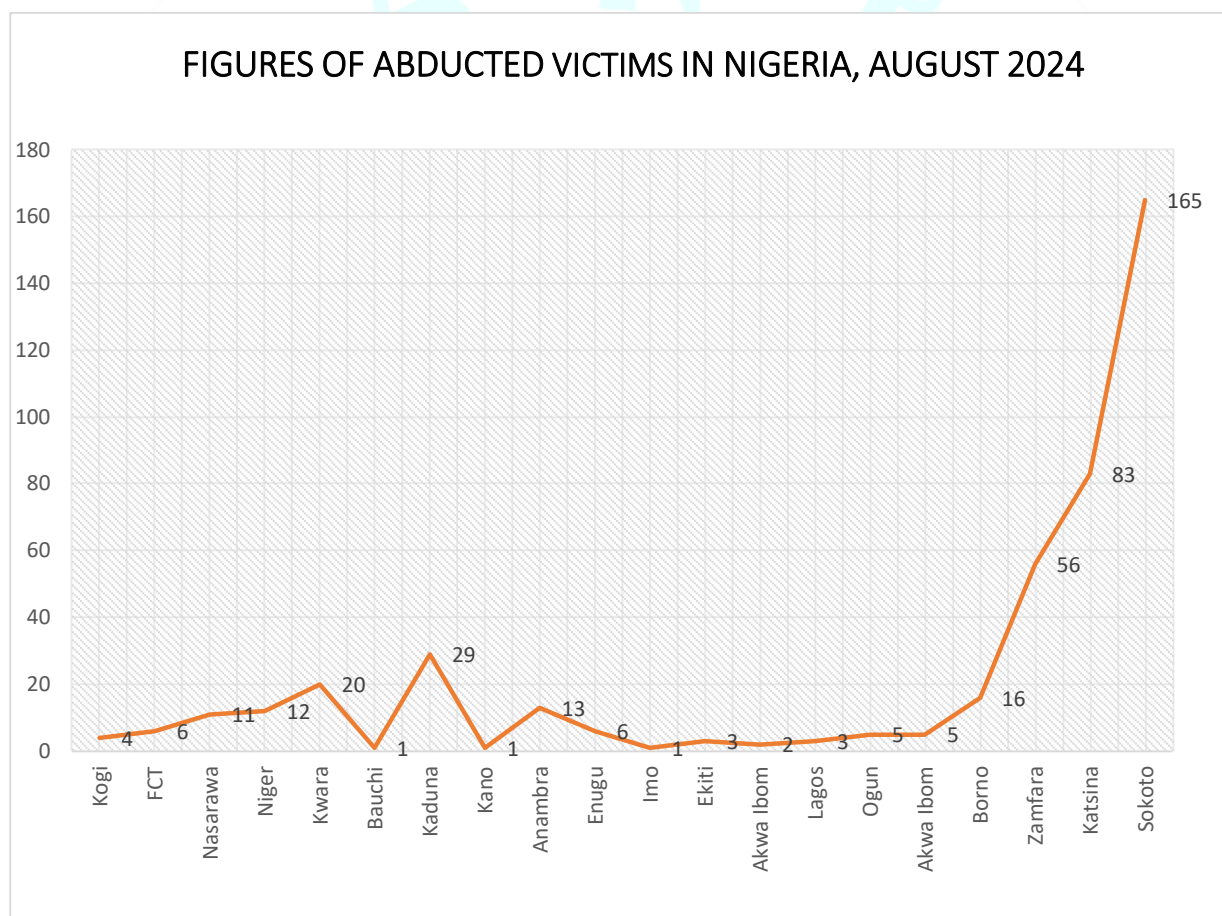
<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

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

Federal Capital Territory (FCT), 464 individuals fell victim, including 19 women and 19 children, emphasizing the urgency for targeted interventions.<sup>13</sup>

In August 2024, WANEP NEWS documented 251 arrests stemming from diverse criminal and civil offenses, such as kidnapping, drug/human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, violent demonstrations, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism, and destruction of public infrastructures, fraud, cyber-crime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), amongst others.<sup>14</sup>

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>15</sup>

Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 18 states with 71 suspects arrested including 9 females for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS<sup>16</sup>.

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

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Protests codenamed #EndBadGovernance occurred in several States of Nigeria from August 1 to 10, 2024. The demonstrations are driven by widespread discontent with the current administration's economic reforms, which continue to have a profound effect on livelihoods of the population. Driven by grievances such as economic hardship, insecurity, policy dissatisfaction, corruption, and food insecurity, the demonstrations took place in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and 25 other states, including Lagos, Kaduna, Adamawa, Sokoto, Plateau, Oyo, Delta, Borno, Taraba, Jigawa, Kano, Nasarawa, Edo, Bauchi, Yobe, Cross River, Gombe, Niger, Bayelsa, Zamfara, Rivers, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, and Katsina. The protests were a mix of peaceful and violent elements, resulting in 36 fatalities<sup>17</sup>, including 2 security operatives; 96 injuries, including no fewer than 9 security operatives<sup>18</sup>; and over 1,338 arrests, including 68 minors<sup>19</sup>, a Nigerian, 6 Spaniards<sup>21</sup>, and 7 Polish students<sup>22</sup>. Incidents of mass looting, vandalism, arson, and journalist harassment were reported, with over 11 journalists injured by thugs and security operatives. Notably, the 5 states in the South-East region remained calm, following leaders' admonitions to abstain from the protests.<sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup>The #EndBadGovernance protests highlight Nigeria's complex socio-economic challenges and the need for constructive dialogue between the government and its citizens.<sup>25</sup>

Nigeria witnessed a surge in public demonstrations, with WANEP NEWS documenting a record 66 protests across the country. These demonstrations were triggered by a range of grievances, including economic, political, and security concerns; The health sector was particularly affected, with resident doctors in several states, including Kaduna, Cross River, Oyo, and Sokoto, demanding federal intervention for an abducted colleague who has been in captivity for eight months; Economic grievances also sparked protests. Indigenous contractors working with the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) in Abuja demonstrated against non-payment for executed projects. Similarly, residents in Ibeno LGA of Akwa Ibom protested oil spillage and demanded a cleanup of the polluted environment. In Ukpok Community, Anambra State, over 500 residents protested at the Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) office over a 7-year electricity blackout and failure to provide prepaid meters; Security concerns were another major driver of protests. In Ondo State, female residents condemned armed attacks on farmers and destruction of farmlands by herders. Residents at Ido Sarki Community in the FCT protested the destruction of their farm crops by Nigerian Navy operatives. Youths in Sabon Birni LGA of Sokoto violently protested the abduction and killing of their District Head; Governance issues also sparked demonstrations. In Jigawa State, residents sought the removal of the Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources over poor performance. Hundreds of Akwa Ibom indigenes barricaded the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited premises in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, demanding information on the circumstances surrounding the

<sup>17</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>18</sup> [https://www.channelstv.com/2024/08/03/protests-policeman-reported-dead-miraculously-survived-force-pro/#:~:text=%E2%80%9Cnine%20\(9\)%20police%20officers,in%20a%20statement%20on%20Saturday;](https://www.channelstv.com/2024/08/03/protests-policeman-reported-dead-miraculously-survived-force-pro/#:~:text=%E2%80%9Cnine%20(9)%20police%20officers,in%20a%20statement%20on%20Saturday;)

<sup>19</sup> <https://nigeriannewsdirect.com/40-minors-detained-by-nigerian-police-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-kano-have-been-granted-bail/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://allafrica.com/stories/202408300394.html>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/08/6-spaniards-real-sponsors-of-protests-arrested-police/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/08/dss-grills-7-arrested-polish-nationals-over-protests-in-kano/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la1Ycgi2JhM>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=la1Ycgi2JhM>

<sup>25</sup> <https://wanepnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/ongoing-EndBad-Governance-Protest-.pdf>



mysterious death of a staff member. Finally, education sector reforms were also protested. Students at the University of Ibadan (UI) in Ibadan North LGA of Oyo State conducted a peaceful demonstration to demand a review of the new school fees policy following a hike in levies by the university's governing council. These demonstrations underscore Nigeria's pressing socio-economic challenges, emphasizing the need for effective governance, security, and economic reforms.

Two significant industrial strike actions involving medical doctors were reported in WANEP NEWS for August 2024. Firstly, the Ogun State chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) initiated a 7-day warning strike, protesting the non-implementation of the reviewed Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS). This disparity has resulted in unequal payments between Federal and State Government medical employees. Secondly, the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) embarked on a 7-day nationwide warning strike across all its centres, demanding the unconditional release of a female medical doctor abducted by suspected bandits in Kaduna State eight months prior. NARD's strike seeks to pressure authorities to secure the doctor's safe return. These strike actions underscore the growing concerns within Nigeria's medical community regarding compensation and security.

The reporting period witnessed significant infrastructure safety incidents, including building collapses and maritime accidents. 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, 2 incidents of building collapse occurred at Kano, and Jigawa States, resulting in the death of 5 people and 1 injured victim. Also, 2 incidents of bridge collapse were recorded in Niger and Taraba States. Furthermore, 10 boat mishap incidents recorded at Bauchi, Taraba, Kano, Zamfara, Jigawa, and Sokoto States led to the death of 76 people including 2 females and 8 children and the injury of 1 victim. In addition, road accidents accounted for 135 fatalities and 109 injuries from a total of 38 vehicular incidents across 15 States.

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

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 12 flood incidents occasioned by heavy rainfall in Niger, Bauchi, Yobe, Gombe, Adamawa, Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, and Jigawa States. A total of 64 casualties were reported and several private properties including houses and farmlands and public structures including schools, hospitals and bridges were destroyed in the month. Of the 64 casualties, 59 were fatal with 5 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, Mpox and Cholera. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) indicated that between August 1 and 11, 2024, a total of 249 suspected cases of Lassa Fever were reported across 16 states in the Federation. Of these, 13 cases were confirmed, with 1 death. The affected States include Ondo, Edo, Taraba, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Cross River, Delta, Anambra, Oyo, Lagos, Bauchi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Gombe, and Ekiti. Furthermore, the NCDC also confirmed 4 deaths related to Cholera, with 199 suspected cases reported in 7 States, namely:

Lagos, Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, and Bauchi. 123 suspected cases of Mpox were recorded in 19 States including Bayelsa, Cross River, Ogun, Lagos, Ondo, Edo, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Adamawa, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, Plateau, Osun, Imo, Ekiti, Abia, and Bayelsa. Of the 123 suspected cases, 11 were confirmed with no fatality.<sup>26</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 Bauchi, Kano, Ebonyi, Ogun, Lagos, Rivers, and Edo States, and the FCT in the month.<sup>27</sup> Out of the 14 recorded incidents, 2 minor reportedly died in Edo State and the FCT.<sup>28</sup> Also, over 37 victims of human trafficking including 21 females and 16 minors were rescued in Oyo, Anambra and Kano States in the month while 8 suspects were arrested.<sup>29</sup>

### Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

Nigeria's insecurity and economic downturn continue to fuel tensions, sparking concerns about potential civil unrest and attendant consequences. The pervasive insecurity has devastated the education sector, particularly in States affected by banditry and terrorism in the North-West and North-East, resulting in school closures. Instances of school closures have been recorded in Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna, Niger, Zamfara, and Borno States.<sup>30</sup> As a result, parents are increasingly fearful for their children's safety, leading to a surge in dropouts. The recent #EndBadGovernance protests in several States in Nigeria from August 1 to 10, 2024, highlights the widespread dissatisfaction with the government's economic policies, insecurity, corruption, and food insecurity. The protests underscore the urgent need for constructive dialogue between the government and its citizens to address the underlying socio-economic challenges.

The Northern Region experienced alarming levels of kidnapping accounting for (91% of national total), driven by terrorism and banditry, with 444 recorded cases in August 2024. 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. Persistent conflicts and violence erode social cohesion, exacerbate ethnic tensions, and undermine trust in government, threatening democratic governance, regional security, and international security.

The 5 fatalities and 571 suspected cases of Mpox, Lassa Fever, and Cholera recorded in August 2024 underscores the persistent challenges Nigeria's rural communities face in accessing quality healthcare due to inadequate infrastructure and security vulnerabilities, exacerbating health inequities. Immediate action is necessary to prevent further outbreaks and protect vulnerable populations.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <https://ncdc.gov.ng/themes/common/files/sitesreps/427151e2a0d4f38eb7bfe4c537ca90b8.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>28</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>29</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>30</sup> <https://ojs.ibujournals.com.ng/index.php/Ijhm/article/download/1236/1228/6171#:~:text=Consequently%2C%20schools%20have%20been%20periodically,Premium%20Times%2C%202021%20December.>

<sup>31</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

## **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 should partner with security agencies and WANEP's National Early Warning System (NEWS) to strengthen early warnings, intelligence gathering, and targeted security deployments, safeguarding citizens and preventing conflict escalation.
- Federal Government: Prioritize security agency enhancements by strengthening the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) partnership, infusion of modern military equipment, continuous training, and increased funding for improved 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 initiative to enhance preventive measures against recurring disease outbreaks, including Lassa Fever and Cholera. The campaign should: use local languages, target rural communities, include tailored messaging while enhancing early warning and risk mechanisms for prompt detection and response.
- 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:**

As Nigeria navigates the current climate of rising tensions and demonstrations, it is imperative to harness the utility of inclusive dialogue-driven community peacebuilding to foster social cohesion, resilience, and national stability. This entails facilitating regular assessments of the nation's security architecture, and actively engaging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to leverage their expertise and peacebuilding potential. Moreover, State Governments should consider prioritizing collaborative efforts with health and disaster management agencies to enhance early warning systems for early response and public education through partnership with local community actors. By doing so, Nigeria can bolster its mitigation strategies and



resilience against epidemic outbreaks, natural disasters, and environmental concerns, ultimately ensuring a safer, more secure, and prosperous environment for all citizens.

### CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/Inter-terrorist clash	5	- 83	45
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	99	154	65
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	38	1248	-
Abduction (evident across 22 States)	58	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	14	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	24	43	31
Physical/Armed Assault	15	-	32
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	5	62	22
Vandalism	24	-	-
Communal Clash	4	3	12
Violent clash	2	7	8
Illicit Drug Trafficking	51	-	-
Homicide	28	30	-
Domestic Violence	6	1	3
Suicide	3	3	-
<b><u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u></b>			
Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> )	46	-	-
Demonstration ( <b>violent</b> )	20	3	3
Threats/Intimidation	1	-	-
Strike	2	-	-
Arrest/Detention	294	-	-
Road Accident	38	135	109

Boat Accident	10	76	1
Building Collapse	2	5	1
Bridge Collapse	3	-	-
Looting	10	-	-
Curfew	9	-	-
Drowning	6	7	-
Electrocution	2	5	-
Gas Explosion	1	-	-
Mine collapse	1	2	-
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	9		
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	24	1	249
b. Cholera	12	4	199
c. Mpox	23	-	123
Air Pollution	1	-	-
Oil Spill	3	-	-
Flood/Rainstorm	12	59	5
Fire Outbreak	15	6	7
Oil Spill	1	-	-
<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	14	2	8
Human Trafficking	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>922</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