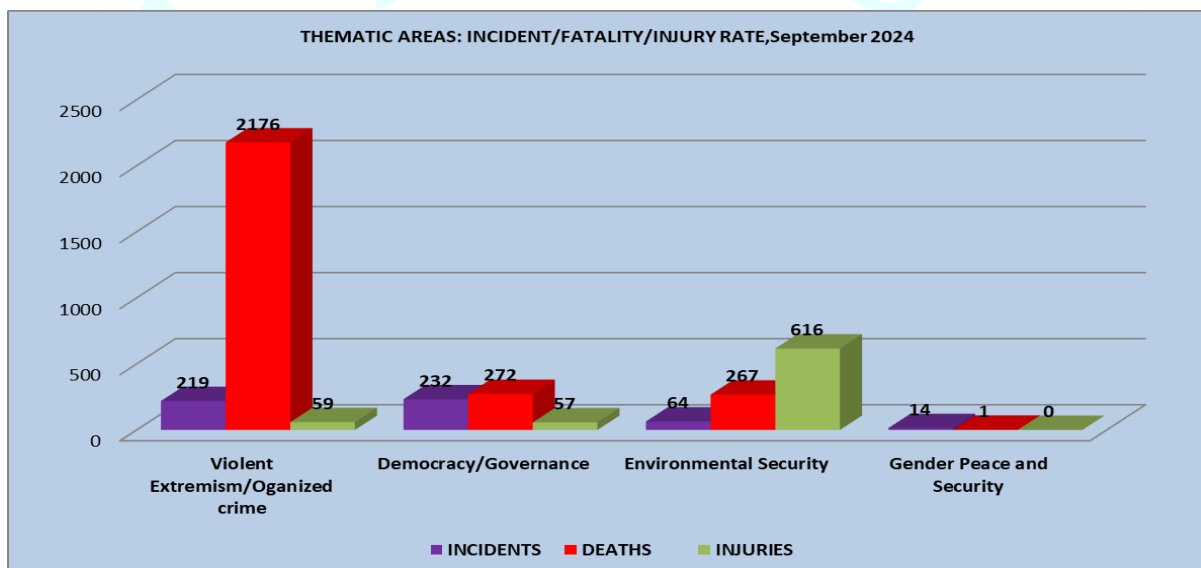


### I. INTRODUCTION

As of September 2024, 502 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). A cumulative fatality of 2,716 and 540 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded<sup>1</sup>.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 2,176, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 272 deaths. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 267 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 1 death 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

The protracted terrorist attacks occasioned by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) pose a significant threat to vulnerable rural communities in Nigeria's North-East region. These groups have consistently targeted local populations through violence, despite the ongoing efforts by security operatives to counter their activities. WANEP NEWS

<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/)

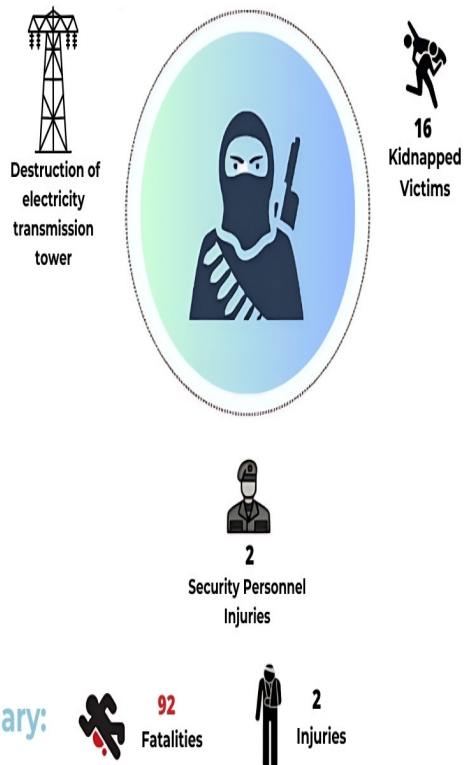
documented several incidents, including the destruction of an electricity transmission tower along the Damaturu-Maiduguri 330kV line, as well as attacks in Gwoza, Abadam, Bama, and Tarmuwa LGAs in Yobe and Borno States. These reported violence attacks resulted in 92 fatalities, injuries 2 security operatives, and the abduction of 16 people in the reporting period<sup>3</sup>.



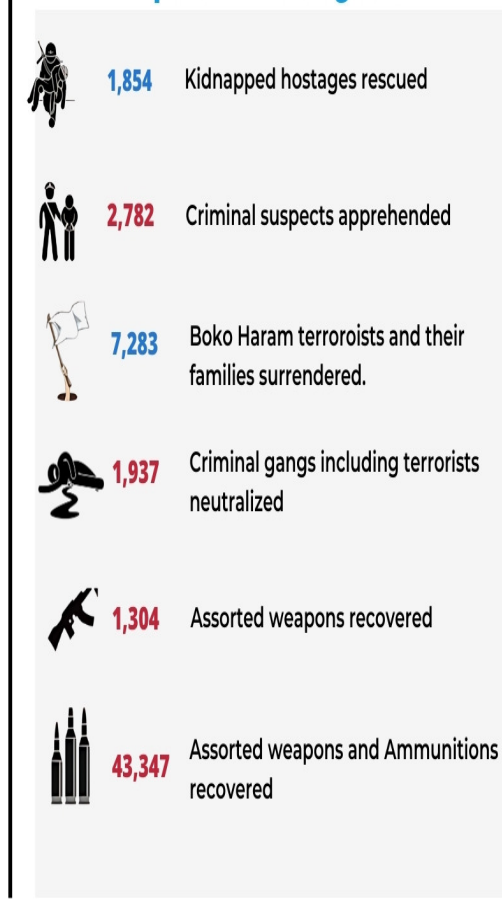
## Terrorist Attacks and Counter-Insurgency Operations



### Terrorist-Related Violence



### 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 operations through intelligence-driven airstrikes and ground operations targeting

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

terrorist enclaves. As indicated in the infographic above, the counter-offensive operations have led to the neutralization of 1,937 criminal gangs, including terrorist groups, across various states in Nigeria. Additionally, 2,782 suspected terrorists have been apprehended, and 1,854 kidnapped hostages have been rescued. Furthermore, 7,283 suspected Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists, along with their families have surrendered. The operations also resulted in the recovery of 1,304 assorted weapons and 43,347 rounds of ammunition during this period<sup>4</sup>.

The security landscape continues to be plagued by **organized crimes**, including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human and drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, and armed violence by militia gangs. In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 78 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 105 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 21 were females, 8 children, and 29 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups<sup>5</sup>.

**Armed violence incidents, including robbery and assassination**, accounted for the highest fatalities, totaling 48 deaths. **Armed banditry** in the North-West region resulted in the second-highest number of fatalities, with 42 deaths reported in Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, and Sokoto states. These persistent attacks have exacerbated the humanitarian challenges in the region, where rural banditry is linked to significant human rights violations and a range of criminal activities, including kidnapping, theft, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking<sup>6</sup>.

Additionally, WANEP NEWS documented **armed attacks by suspected ethnic militia/armed herders**, resulted in 17 deaths in Taraba, Plateau, and Benue states. Other reported incidents included **extrajudicial killings, cult gang/violence, mob violence, culpable homicide, and suicide**, which recorded 13, 9, 6, 4, and 3 deaths, respectively in the reporting period<sup>7</sup>.

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

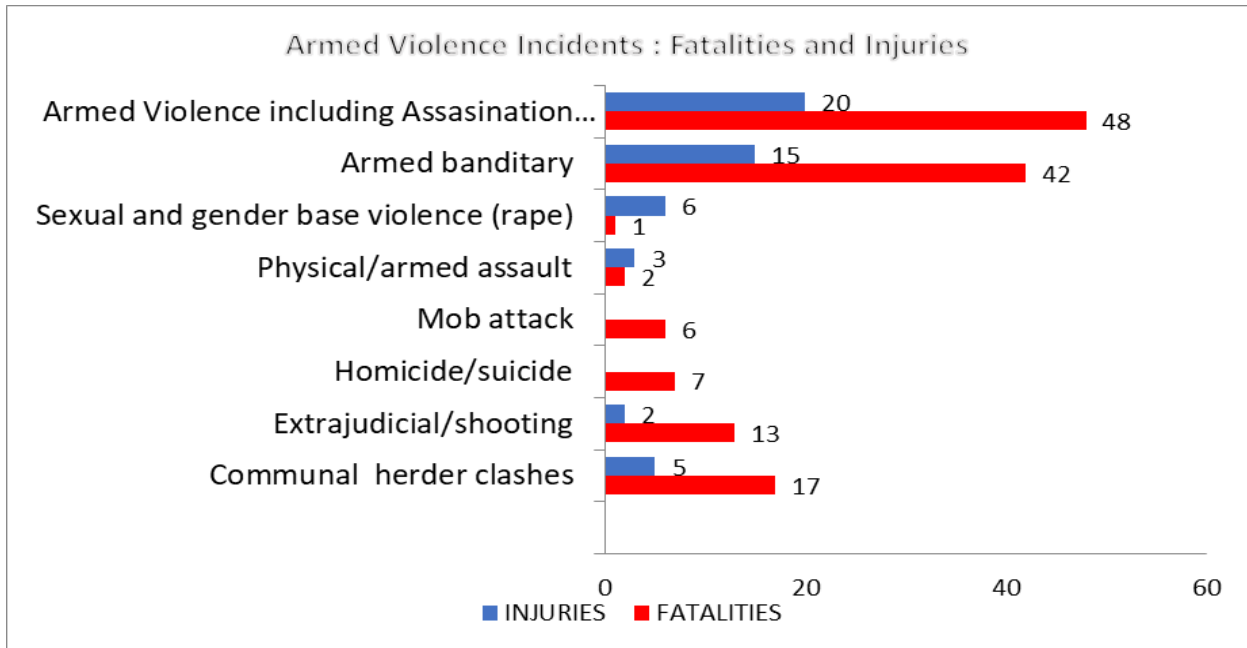
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<sup>4</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/09/26/military-eliminates-1937-terrorists-apprehends-2782-suspects>

<sup>5</sup> Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<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/)



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

The activities of Kidnaping by armed criminal groups continue to undermine the peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 40 incidents of kidnaping across 21 states with 241 people abducted. Out of the 241 abducted victims, Over 35 were females and 12 children in the reporting month. The prevalence of kidnaping not only disrupts daily activities also exacerbates existing socio-economic challenges, as communities grapple with the trauma and financial burdens associated with ransom demands and recovery efforts<sup>9</sup>

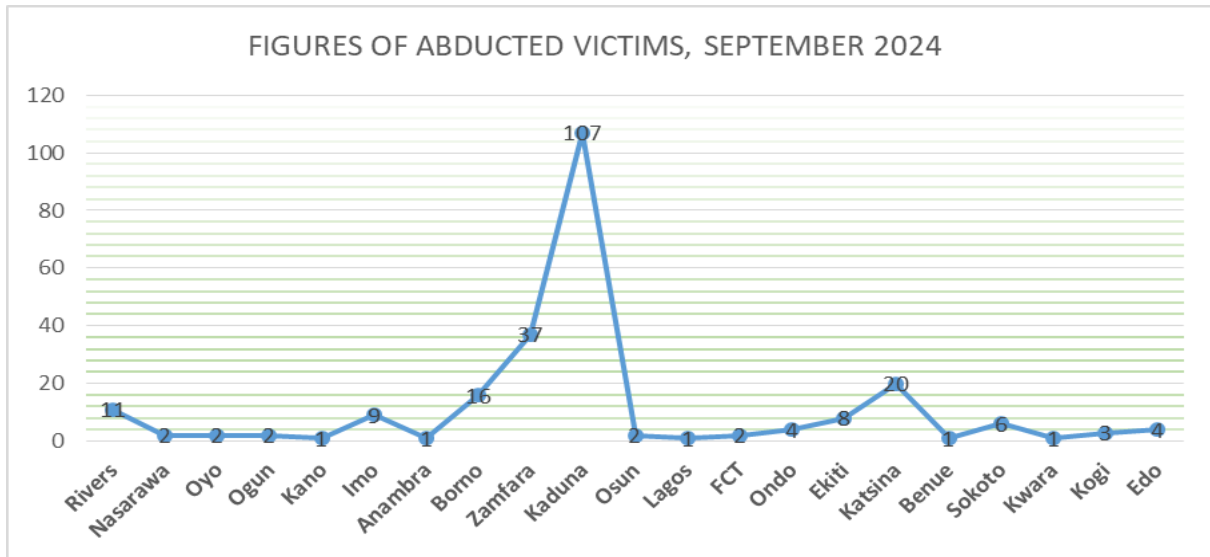
In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented 164 arrests across diverse array of criminal activities. These arrests encompass a range of offenses including kidnaping, drug and human trafficking, arms and ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, 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<sup>10</sup>.

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

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



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

In September 2024, security agencies made significant progress in their efforts to combat drug trafficking across various states. Notable successes included numerous arrests and the interception of substantial quantities of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, such as Indian hemp, skuchies, opioids, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, and methamphetamine. These operations were conducted in Kogi, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Taraba, Borno, Bauchi, Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Plateau, Kaduna, Ekiti, Osun, Oyo, Lagos, Niger, Kwara, Ogun, Rivers, Cross Rivers, and Edo States as documented by WANEP NEWS.

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS reported five demonstrations, including one strike action and a violent protest in the month. The Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), FCT Chapter, has initiated an indefinite strike in Kubwa, Abuja, demanding the payment of 60% of owed minimum wage arrears<sup>12</sup>. In Gombe State, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) at Gombe State University has also embarked on an indefinite strike, citing numerous unmet demands from the state government<sup>13</sup>. Also in Delta State, community youths and tricycle riders of the Warri and Effurun metropolis conducted a peaceful protest in response to the recent increase in fuel pump prices<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, in Bauchi State, a local hunter reportedly shot two individuals in the Zaranda Gari area of Toro LGA while they were transporting a commercial quantity of charcoal, which is prohibited by state law. In retaliation, community youths burned several houses associated with the hunter and blocked the highway. Security operatives have been deployed to restore peace and security in the area<sup>15</sup>. Additionally, hundreds of community

<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/)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.channelstv.com/2024/09/11/just-in-gombe-varsity-asuu-embarks-on-indefinite-strike/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://punchng.com/fuel-price-hike-commercial-tricycle-operators-others-protest-in-delta-communities/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://punchng.com/two-feared-killed-houses-burnt-as-irate-youths-protest-in-bauchi/>

residents in Edo State staged peaceful protests to express their discontent with the results of the recently concluded governorship election, which declared the candidate from the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the winner over the candidate from the People's Democratic Party (PDP)<sup>16</sup>. Effectively addressing these issues is crucial for alleviating public discontent and fostering a more stable socio-political environment.

The documented cases of building collapses and boat mishaps in Nigeria highlight a critical issue of safety compliance and regulatory enforcement. These incidents are primarily attributed to violations of maritime safety regulations as well as non-adherence building codes and standards. WANE NEWS reported six incidents of building collapses in Kano, Delta, Plateau, and Osun, States, which resulted in 3 fatalities and 24 injuries. The situation is further exacerbated by maritime safety failures, as 6 boat mishaps recorded in Zamfara, Nasarawa, and Borno that led to the deaths of 48 people. In addition to these, road accident accounted over 134 fatalities and 32 injuries across 12 states in Nigeria. The cumulative impact of these safety violations not only raises significant concerns about public safety but also calls for comprehensive reforms to ensure that proper safety standards are implemented and enforced across all sectors<sup>17</sup>.

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

Flooding continue to pose a significant environmental security threat in Nigeria. This is closely linked to climate change, which has led to more frequent and intense rainfall. The situation is worsened by inadequate or non-existent drainage systems, the release of dam water, improper waste disposal, deforestation and challenges in adhering to town planning regulations.

WANE NEWS has documented severe rainstorms and flooding, including dam collapses, across Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Kano, Katsina, Oyo, and Niger States. These incidents have resulted in 164 fatalities and widespread property destruction, with numerous homes and farmlands submerged. The flooding has also led to the internal displacement of over 677,930 individuals in Borno, Yobe, Kano, and Katsina States. The statistics of injured victims from rainstorm/flood incidents were reported in Yobe, Bauchi, Borno, and Katsina with 264 persons. While the risk of water-borne diseases during floods remains imminent, as incidents of Lassa Fever and Cholera outbreak were recorded during this period. Notably, Borno State experienced a dam collapse that caused damage to Gwange Cemetery, leading to the exhumation of remains and corpses found floating in the streets. Additionally, the flooding resulted in the escape of several wild animals, including crocodiles and snakes, from their enclosures at a local zoo in the reporting month. <sup>18</sup>.

A further breakdown of Lassa Fever by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) indicated that between 1 to 15 2024. Enugu State reported 1 death, with 12 confirmed

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<sup>16</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/09/24/edo-residents-protest-against-governorship-election-results-accuse-apc-rigging>

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

<sup>18</sup> Source : WANE National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)



cases and 201 suspected cases reported in Ondo, Edo, Bauchi, Taraba, Benue, Kogi, Kaduna, Plateau, Enugu, Rivers, Delta, Gombe, Anambra, Imo, Bayelsa, FCT, Ebonyi and Nasarawa States. Also, Cholera outbreaks led to 53 fatalities and 117 suspected cases in Benue, Edo, Adamawa, Jigawa, Yobe, and Ebonyi States in September 2024<sup>19</sup>. Additionally, Akwa Ibom and Cross River confirmed outbreaks of mpox, with seven suspected cases reported in the period. 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) in Nigeria, particularly the rape of female adults and minors in Jigawa, Cross River, Adamawa, Ekiti, and Delta States. Of the 8 recorded incidents, one case involved a female victim who was raped to death by suspected armed gang in Ogun State<sup>20</sup>. Additionally, three reported cases of human trafficking and two incidents of child abuse were also documented in the period. In light of this growing prevalence of (SGBV), the Nigerian government, along with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and development partners, is increasing efforts to address these critical issues. A key focus is on the effective implementation of existing legal frameworks, such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law, to ensure its enforcement across all states.

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

Nigeria's security landscape, characterized by a multifaceted crisis, poses an existential threat that significantly hampers social cohesion and undermines peace and security in affected states, despite the range of intelligence and security services available. The pervasive threats of terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, community-herder conflicts, cult violence, and cattle rustling have led to increased vulnerability for women and children, human rights violations, food insecurity, casualties, internal displacement, and the loss of livelihoods among affected populations. These challenges are compounded by socio-economic issues such as unemployment, poverty, and a deteriorating economic downturn, which have created an environment conducive to the proliferation of armed violence and crime. This ongoing insecurity highlights the urgent need for effective security measures, particularly in educational institutions. The threat of attacks on local populations has directly impeded student attendance, disrupted educational continuity, and adversely affected learning outcomes, further entrenching cycles of vulnerability and instability.

The humanitarian challenges compounded by internal displacements and loss of livelihoods, exacerbated by environmental disasters such as severe flooding, resulted to the displacement of over 677,930 individuals across various states. This further heightens vulnerabilities within

<sup>19</sup> Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

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

communities already grappling with fragile security challenges. As populations compete for limited resources, the potential for conflict escalates, undermining stability and complicating efforts toward sustainable development and peacebuilding.

Public discontent in Nigeria is on the rise as protests and strikes over wage arrears and increasing costs of living gain traction. These demonstrations signify growing tensions and dissatisfaction, revealing a fragile social contract between the state and its citizens, which threatens social cohesion and contributes to political instability. Strikes in the healthcare sector critically weaken an already vulnerable health infrastructure, interrupting essential services and leaving many without access to necessary medical care. Additionally, natural disasters worsen the situation by damaging health facilities and displacing communities, making it more difficult to access healthcare and increasing the risk of disease spread. Concurrent outbreaks of illness further burden limited healthcare resources, leading to deteriorating public health outcomes.

#### **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 and State Governments should strengthen intelligence-gathering and enhance community policing efforts. This includes continue enhanced collaboration and partnership with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF).
- State and Local Governments, traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and the media should increase investment in Healthcare infrastructure and disease prevention initiatives, particularly in high-risk areas. This should include improved sanitation, health education, and timely access to medical treatment to combat outbreaks of diseases such as Lassa Fever, Cholera and others health challenges.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with CSOs, traditional and religious leaders, and the media, should ensure the proper implementation of the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels to prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). This includes establishing support services for victims, enhancing law enforcement training on SGBV issues, and promoting awareness campaigns to challenge societal norms that perpetuate violence against women and children.
- The State Government, in collaboration with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), should strengthen community resilience through training programs on disaster preparedness and response. Additionally, there is a critical need to establish effective early warning and response systems to alert communities about impending floods. This dual approach will empower communities and improve their ability to respond to emergencies.

#### **CONCLUSION:**



Nigeria's security landscape is characterized by a complex challenges that are interconnected. The persistent threats from extremist groups, the rise of organized crime, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis exacerbated by environmental disasters contribute to a precarious situation. Public discontent, fueled by economic hardships and governance failures, further complicates the political climate. Addressing these multifaceted issues necessitates a holistic approach that provides a platform for the regular review of the nation's security framework, with active involvement from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and others critical stakeholders to enhanced synergy and resilience of communities against the multifaceted threats to security.

### CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	5	92	13
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	78	105	38
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	28	1,941	Several injured
Abduction (evident across 22 States)	40	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	6	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	10	13	
Physical/Armed Assault	1	2	3
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	5	17	5
Illicit Drug Trafficking	38	-	-
Homicide	5	3	-
Suicide	3	3	-
<b>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</b>			
Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> )	2	-	-
Demonstration ( <b>violent</b> )	2	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	2	-	-
Strike	2	-	-
Arrest/Detention	169	-	-
Road Accident/ Accidental Bombing (Kaduna) Boat Accident	35 1 6	164 23 55	32 - 12

Building Collapse	6	3	11
Drowning	4	23	-
Electrocution	2	2	-
Gas Explosion	1	2	2
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft			
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			<b><u>Confirmed/ Infected Cases</u></b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	18	1	213
b. Cholera	7	53	117
c. Mpox	2	-	7
		-	
Air Pollution	3	-	-
Environmental pollution	2	-	9
Flood/Rainstorm	15	162	264
Fire Outbreak	11	-	-
Tanker Explosion	4	48	6
Food poison	1	1	-
Generator Fume	1	2	-

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.

27, ADENIJI STREET, ADENIJI ESTATE, OFF WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA LAGOS STATE, TEL: +2348062072468; WEBSITE: WWW.WANEPNIGERIA.ORG

<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>	9		
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape		1	6
Human Trafficking	3	-	-
Child Abuse	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>732</b>