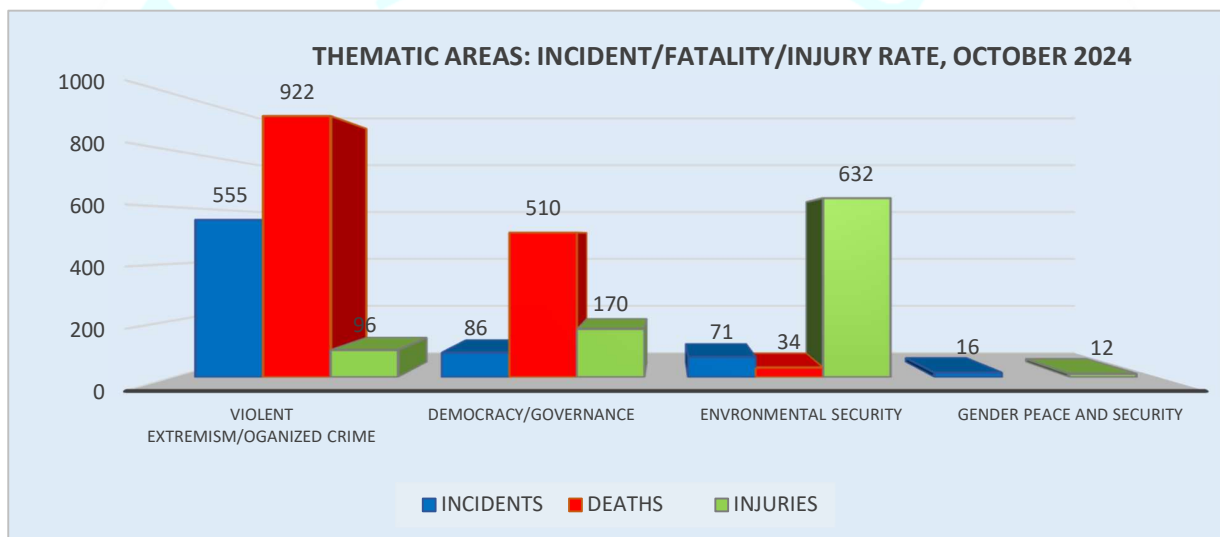


### I. INTRODUCTION

As of October 2024, 728 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).<sup>1</sup> A cumulative fatality of 1,466 and 910 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in October 2024.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 922, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,466) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 510 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 34 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded no 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 North-Eastern region of Nigeria faces persistent threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups. These threats have had far-reaching consequences, including travel insecurity, disrupted economic activities and livelihoods, and hindered resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

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

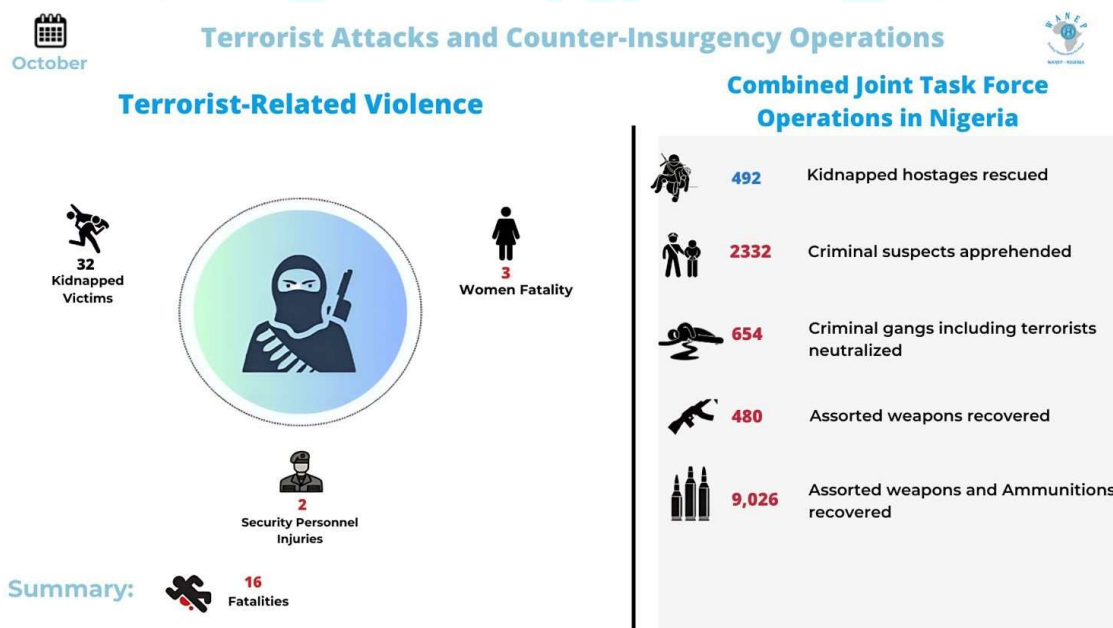
<sup>2</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<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 Gwoza, Marte and Mafa LGAs of Borno State. These incidents resulted in 16 fatalities, with 32 victims abducted in the reporting period. Of the 16 fatalities, 3 were female and 2 security personnel.

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.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>5</sup>

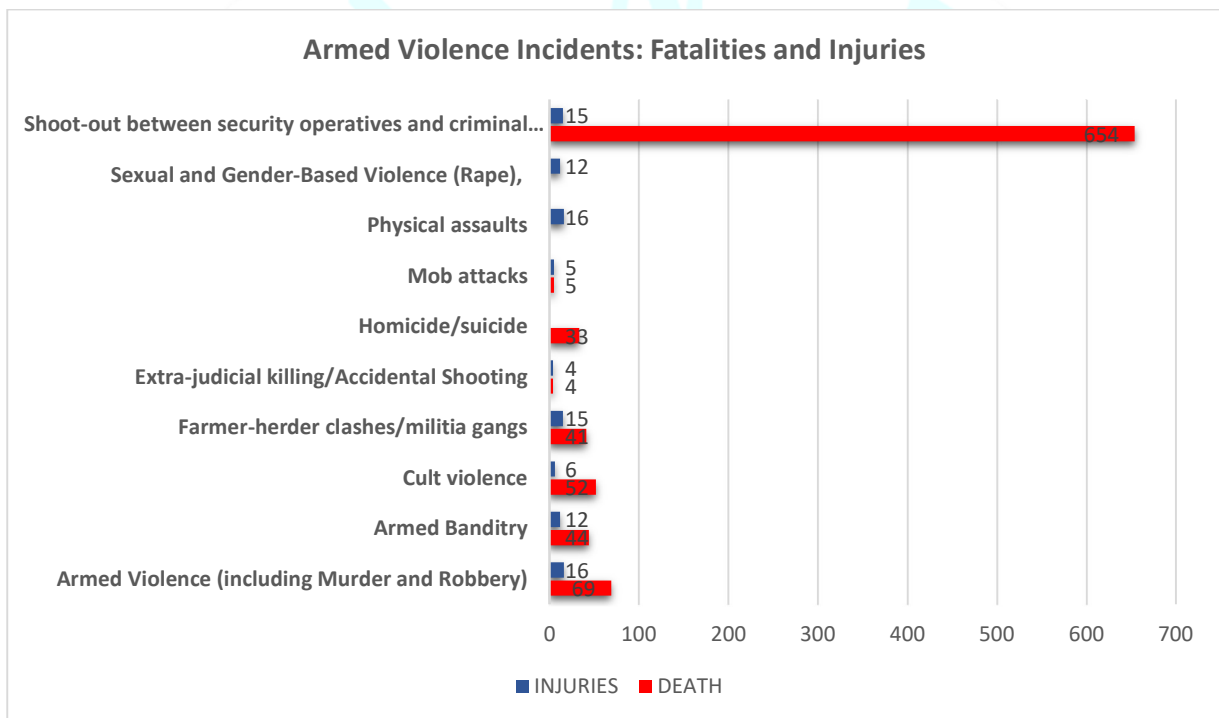
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 550 incidents of **Organized Crimes** including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clash, community-herder violence, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month. A total of 1,466 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 654 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 812 civilians and 27 security personnel.<sup>6</sup> Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 118 were females, and 75 children.

**Armed banditry** recorded a fatality of 44 people including 4 security personnel in Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna in the North-West, and Niger State in the North Central Region.<sup>7</sup> Other criminal

<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/)

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

**Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in the fatality of 41, while **armed violence incidents including robbery and armed attacks** accounted for 69 deaths.<sup>9</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>10</sup> Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in October 2024.



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

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria remains a pressing concern. According to WANEP NEWS, October 2024 saw 42 reported kidnapping incidents across 20 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 172 individuals, including 29 women and 18 children.<sup>12</sup>

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

<sup>8</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

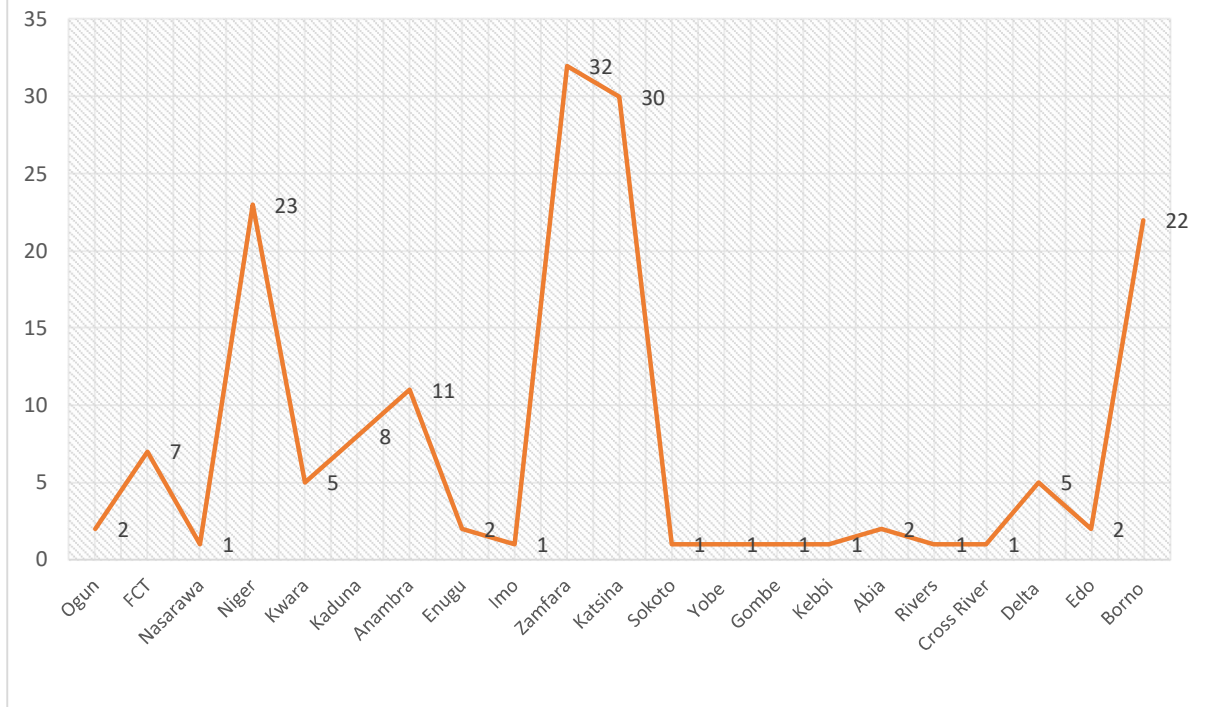
<sup>9</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<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/)

Figures of Abducted Victims in Nigeria: OCTOBER 2024



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>13</sup>

In October 2024, WANEP NEWS documented 235 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>

Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 14 states with 65 suspects arrested including 4 females for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS<sup>15</sup>.

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In October 2024, various groups across Nigeria protested the country's economic situation, specifically the high cost of living and unfavourable economic policies. These protests were reported in several locations, including Abuja, Osun, Lagos, and Ondo States. Protesters in Enugu State demonstrated against the increasing spate of kidnapping and insecurity in the area. Similarly, residents in Sokoto State protested an eviction notice issued by the State Ministry of Lands and Housing. Supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressive

<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/)

Congress (APC) demonstrated against the planned Local Government elections in Rivers State. Additionally, members of the Ondo Youth League protested at the INEC office in Abuja, demanding the removal of the INEC Resident Electoral Commission (REC) in Ondo State. Nurses at Ogun State Hospital demonstrated against the alleged assault of a student nurse by an orthopaedic surgeon. Youths commemorated the 4th anniversary of the #EndSARS protest in Lagos State. A police operative killed a music artiste in Enugu State, prompting public demonstrations. Students at Obafemi Awolowo University demonstrated against the university's former Vice Chancellor. Pupils and teachers in Imo State protested the encroachment of their school premises by herdsmen. These incidents highlight the various challenges facing Nigeria, including economic instability, security concerns, and social injustices.

Violent demonstrations were recorded in Rivers State on October 7, 2024, as demonstrators attempted to prevent newly elected Local Government Chairmen from taking office. In Eleme LGA, protesters set the council secretariat ablaze and vandalized cars, prompting security agencies to intervene. A similar demonstration occurred in Emuoha LGA.

Also, during the reporting month, local government elections were held in 8 States including Plateau, Rivers, Kogi, Akwa Ibom, Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, and Benue States. The election exercises were largely characterised as peaceful. However, pockets of violence were reportedly across Rivers State following disputes over the conduct of the election in the State. 4 fatalities and several injuries<sup>16</sup> have been directly attributed to the electoral process in the State, although, no deaths were confirmed during the polling exercise. In Kano State, state government-owned security agency officials including Kano Road and Traffic Agency (KAROTA) and Kano Corporate Security and Vigilante were drafted to provide security as operatives of the State Police Command and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were absent from the polling units following a Federal High Court ruling barring their participation. The Rivers State Police Command also withdrew from security functions during the LGA elections in the State in full compliance with the judgement of the Federal High Court, Abuja.<sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> In Akwa Ibom State, the office of the Akwa Ibom State Independent Electoral Commission (AKISIEC) at Ibiono Ibom LGA was set ablaze by arsonists just a few hours to the commencement of elections in the State.<sup>20</sup>

Three significant industrial strike actions plagued Nigeria's health sector as reported in WANEP NEWS for October 2024. Firstly, staff members of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) embarked on an indefinite nationwide strike on October 7, 2024, citing unresolved promotion issues and unpaid statutory arrears and benefits. Similarly, health workers under the Joint Health Sectors Union (JOHESU) and Assembly of Healthcare Professional Associations (AHPA) went on a 7-day warning strike starting October 25, 2024, due to the federal government's failure to address their welfare concerns. In Kaduna State, nurses and midwives under the aegis of the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNMW) went on an indefinite strike on October 2, 2024, over payment discrepancies but called off the strike on October 25, 2024, after successful negotiations with state government officials. These

<sup>16</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/10/05/breaking-heavy-shootings-rivers-state-gunmen-disrupt-council-elections-wikes-community>

<sup>17</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/photos-kano-residents-head-to-polling-units>

<sup>18</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/10/26/lg-election-we-dont-want-rivers-state-incident-repeated-kano-says-governor-yusuf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://punchng.com/why-well-not-participate-in-rivers-lg-poll-police/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2024/10/05/hoodlums-set-ablaze-electoral-body-akisiec-office-akwa-ibom-amid-council-polls>



strike actions underscore the growing concerns within Nigeria's medical community regarding compensation and security.

The reporting period also 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, 6 incidents of building collapse occurred at Benue, Abia, Lagos, FCT, Oyo, and Delta States, resulting in the death of 18 people including 1 child and 17 injured victims. Also, 4 incidents of bridge collapse were recorded in FCT, Oyo, and Bayelsa States. Furthermore, 3 incidents of boat mishap incidents recorded at Niger, Adamawa, and Lagos States led to the death of 205 people including 92 females and 50 children and the injury of 5 victims. In addition, road accidents accounted for 60 fatalities and 66 injuries from a total of 36 vehicular incidents across 13 States. A helicopter crash attributed to mechanical faults was also recorded at Bonny Finima Axis in Rivers State which resulted in 8 fatalities.<sup>21 22</sup>

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

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 16 flood incidents occasioned by heavy rainfall, and rising waters of the Benue and Niger Rivers due to the release of excess water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon. Affected States recorded are in Kogi, Plateau, FCT, Kwara, Anambra, Ekiti, Ogun, Ondo, Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa, Edo and Oyo States. 1 fatality was reported and several private properties including houses and farmlands and public structures including schools, hospitals and bridges were destroyed in the month. The flood incidents also accounted for the internal displacement of thousands of residents in the affected communities. Also, a lightning strike during a thunderstorm at Kogi State resulted in 1 death.

Furthermore, the reporting month 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 October 1 and 29, 2024, a total of 369 cases of Lassa Fever were reported across 21 states in the Federation. Of these, 37 cases were confirmed, with 3 fatalities. The affected States include Ondo, Edo, Bauchi, Taraba, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Cross River, Delta, Nasarawa, Gombe, FCT, Kano, Lagos, Yobe, Kebbi, Borno, Anambra, Abia, Kogi, and Ogun. The NCDC also confirmed 219 cases of Mpox reported in 19 States, namely: Bayelsa, Cross River, Ogun, Lagos, Ondo, Edo, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Adamawa, Benue, Ebonyi, Enugu, Anambra, Plateau, Osun, Imo, Ekiti, Abia, and Bayelsa. Of the 219 cases, 30 were confirmed with no fatality.<sup>23</sup> In addition, the WANEP NEWS recorded 3 incidents of Cholera which resulted in 28 fatalities in Benue<sup>24</sup>, Kano<sup>25</sup> and Enugu<sup>26</sup> States.

#### **5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:**

<sup>21</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/10/24/helicopter-accident-claims-three-in-port-harcourt/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/10/all-8-passengers-in-bonny-chopper-disaster-feared-dead-police/>

<sup>23</sup> [file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20Update%20of%20Monkeypox%20Outbreak%20in%20Nigeria\\_031024\\_40.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20Update%20of%20Monkeypox%20Outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_031024_40.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2024/10/01/benue-panic-as-suspected-cholera-outbreak-kills-11-in-4-days-others-critically-ill/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/cholera-kills-7-in-kano-2/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/cholera-kills-10-in-enugu/>

The WANEP NEWS recorded 12 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of female adults and minors in Kogi, Adamawa, Jigawa, Ogun, and Edo States, in the month.<sup>27</sup> Out of the 12 recorded incidents, there were no casualties, however, 5 female and 7 female minors were affected.<sup>28</sup> Also, 13 victims of human trafficking including 8 females and 5 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**

The socio-economic pressures, including unemployment, poverty, and economic downturn, have continued to create a fertile ground for insecurity in Nigeria. These socio-economic pressures in turn create vulnerability among young people, making them susceptible to recruitment by terrorist and violent extremist groups. These groups exploit feelings of desperation, marginalization, and hopelessness, capitalizing on unmet economic needs, lack of opportunities, perceived injustices to lure youths into terrorism, kidnapping, banditry and other violent extremist activities. These interconnected challenges also have devastating humanitarian consequences, including human rights violations, food insecurity, casualties, displacement, livelihood loss, and heightened vulnerability for women and children. The education sector also faces severe disruptions, leading to fragmented learning, reduced attendance, and diminished academic outcomes. This further exacerbates student vulnerability and susceptibility to vices.

Challenges, including economic protests, election violence in Rivers and Akwa Ibom States, infrastructure disasters such as bridge collapses, helicopter crashes, and boat mishaps, along with healthcare disruptions, are taking a significant toll. These challenges have intensified humanitarian emergencies, underscore the need for stability. Protests and strikes over wage arrears and rising living costs gaining traction reveal a fragile social contract between the state and its citizens, with implications for social cohesion in the country.

Also, the recent flooding has severe security implications. The displacement of thousands of residents due to flooding in 13 states, including Kogi, Plateau, and Anambra, creates an environment conducive to insecurity<sup>30</sup>. This vulnerability can be exploited by criminal elements, exacerbating existing security challenges.

The healthcare sector is critically weakened by strikes, interrupting essential services and leaving many without access to necessary medical care. Natural disasters have compounded the issue by damaging health facilities and displacing communities, increasing the risk of disease spread. Concurrent outbreaks of illness burden limited healthcare resources, 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:

<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://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10024557/>

- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen collaboration with security agencies and CSOs including WANEP to strengthen early warning systems, intelligence gathering, and targeted security deployments, safeguarding citizens and preventing conflict escalation.
- Federal Government: Amplify the Multinational Joint Task Force's (MNJTF) impact through ongoing partnerships and cooperation which are vital for capacity building, enhanced response capabilities and addressing evolving security threats.
- 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 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:**

Rising insecurity in Nigeria underscores the urgent need for inclusive community dialogue peacebuilding to foster social cohesion, resilience, and national stability. This includes enhancing early warning systems, public education, and enhanced partnerships with local community actors. By doing so, Nigeria can bolster its resilience against the multilayered threats and strengthen human security and stability of the country.

#### **CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR OCTOBER 2024**

THEMATIC AREA	Number of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	5	16	15
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	96	170	39



Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	35	654	15
Abduction (evident across 22 States)	42	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	12	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	8	4	4
Physical/Armed Assault	13	-	16
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	6	41	15
Vandalism	11	-	-
Violent Clash	1	-	-
Illicit Drug Trafficking	35	-	-
Homicide	28	28	-
Domestic Violence	8	4	7
Suicide	5	5	-
<b><u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u></b>			
Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> )	18	-	-
Demonstration ( <b>violent</b> )	3	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	2	-	-
Strike	4	-	-
Arrest/Detention	235	-	-
Road Accident	36	87	66
Boat Accident	3	205	5
Rail Mishap	1	1	-
Air Mishap	1	8	-
Building Collapse	6	18	17
Bridge Collapse	4	-	-
Drowning	1	1	-
Electrocution	4	1	2
Gas Explosion	2	-	13
Tanker Explosion	1	189	67
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	4	-	-
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	21	3	406
b. Cholera	3	28	6
c. Mpox	16	-	219
Ocean Surge	1	-	-

Flood/Rainstorm	16	1	5
Fire Outbreak	12	6	7
Thunderstorm/Lightning Strike	2	1	-
Oil Spill	1	-	-
<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	12	-	12
Human Trafficking	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>910</b>

