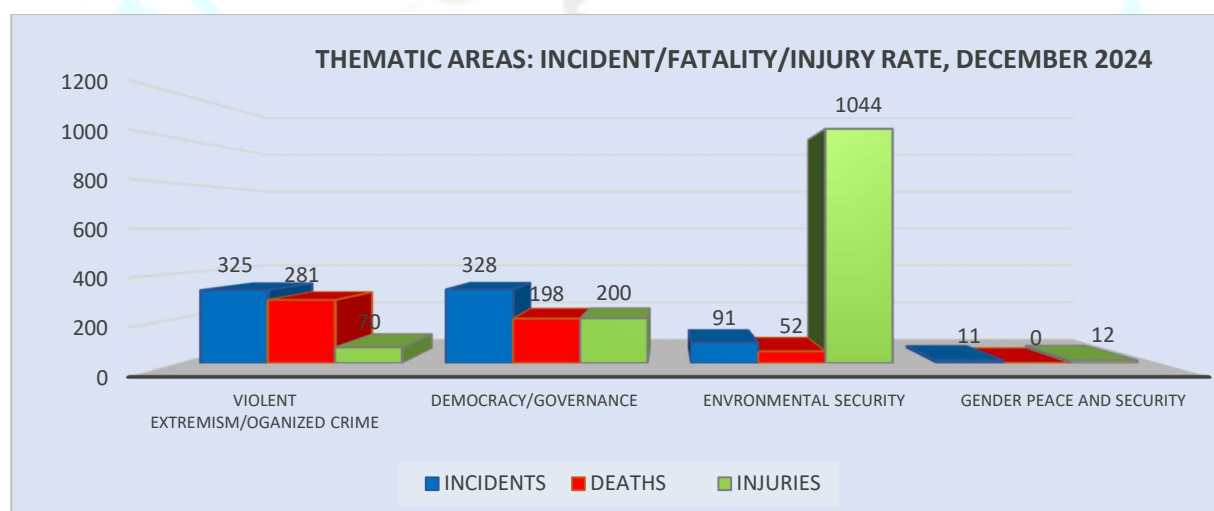


I. INTRODUCTION

As of December 2024, 777 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 531 and 1,326 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in December 2024.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 281, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (383) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 198 deaths.² Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 52 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded no death in the reporting period.³ (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁴.

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 part of Nigeria continues to grapple with terrorists' threats mainly from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist elements. These threats have had far-reaching consequences, including travel insecurity, disrupted economic activities and livelihoods, and hindered resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³ Ibid

⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

The WANEP NEWS recorded terrorist attacks in Konduga, Maiduguri, Damboa and Kukawa LGAs of Borno State and Gujba LGA of Yobe State. These incidents resulted in 9 fatalities, and 5 injuries in the reporting period. All 5 injured victims are security personnel. Of all the attacks carried out by the insurgents recorded in the month, Improvised Explosive Devices were used in 4 instances while the use of drones were recorded twice at Damboa LGA of Borno State and Gujba LGA of Yobe State. The use of drones presents a new dimension to violent extremism in the region as insurgents can effectively increase their reach while also minimizing casualties from direct engagements with security operatives.

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 terrorists' enclaves and strongholds. Furthermore, these collaborative efforts have yielded positive results including reduced destructive terrorist activities, arrest of the suspects and increased surrender of the suspects and their families, enhanced security clearance operations, and community-led peacebuilding and counter-terrorism efforts.⁵

The WANEP-NEWS recorded 319 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 281 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 97 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 184 civilians and 12 security personnel.⁶ Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 16 were females, and 9 children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 49 people including a security personnel in Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West, and Niger and Nasarawa States in the North Central Region.⁷ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁸

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 44 deaths.⁹ **Other armed violence incidents** including **homicide/suicide** and **cult violence** led to the death of 29 and 4 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 15 and 4 deaths respectively.¹⁰ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in December 2024.

⁵ https://www.academia.edu/118860417/The_Intervention_of_the_Civilian_Joint_Task_Force_CJTF_In_the_War_against_Boko_Haram_in_North_East_Nigeria_A_Theoretical_Approach

⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

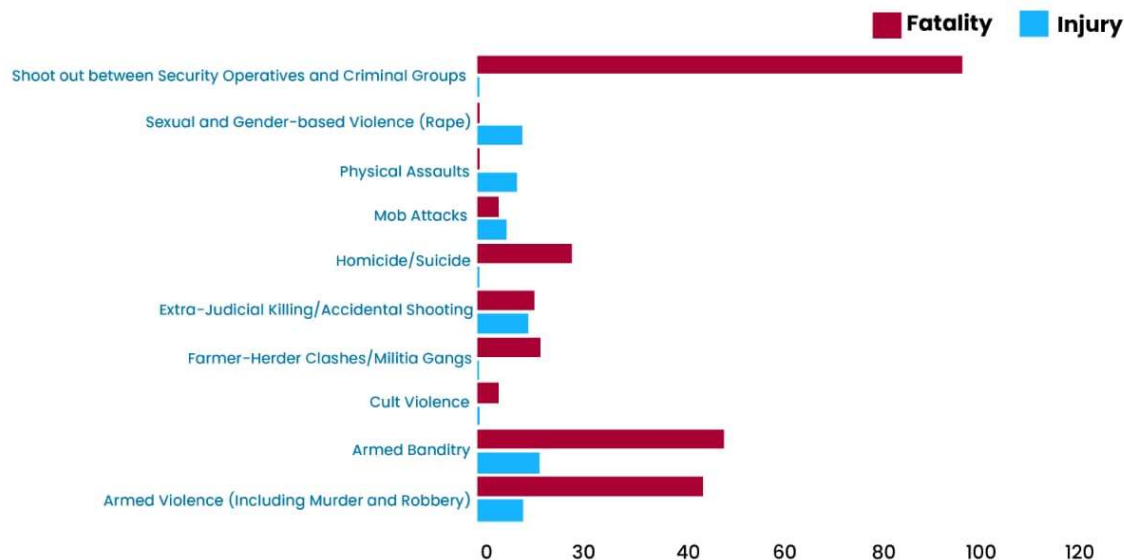
⁸ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ Ibid.



Armed Violence Incidents: Fatalities and Injuries



December 2024



258
Fatalities



69
Injuries

Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

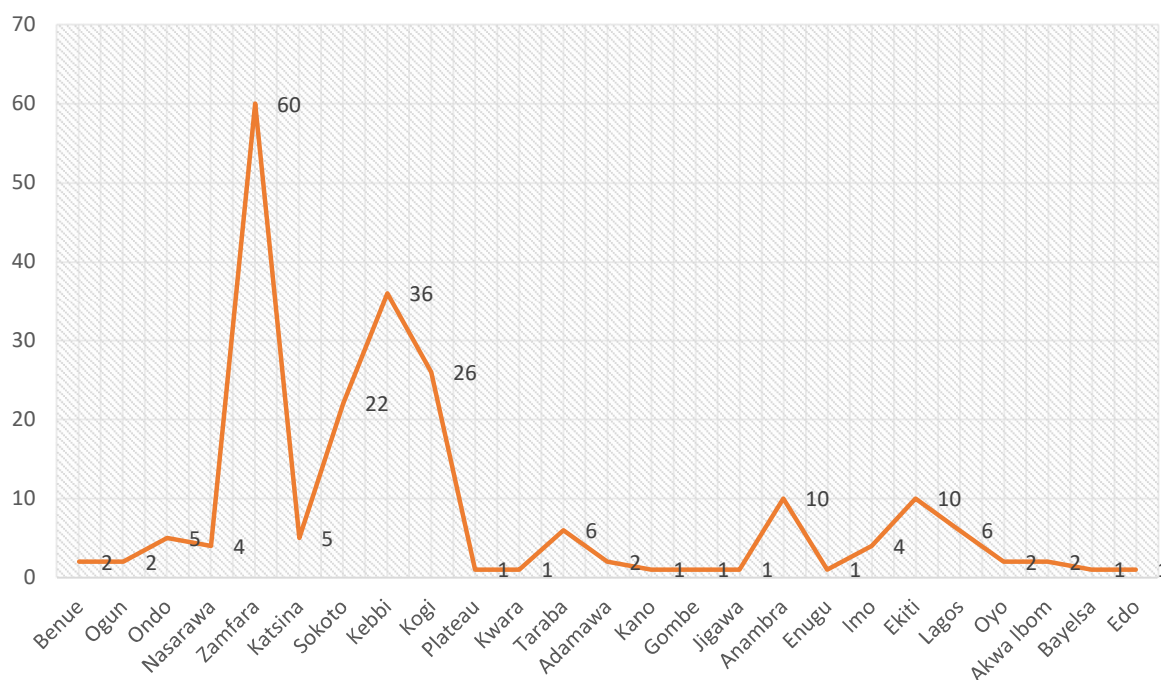
The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued in the period. According to WANEP NEWS, December 2024 saw 51 reported kidnapping incidents across 25 states. These incidents resulted in the abduction of 298 individuals, including 105 women, 39 children and 1 security personnel.¹²

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

¹¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Figures of Abducted Victims in Nigeria: DECEMBER 2024



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

In December 2024, WANEP NEWS documented 195 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.¹⁴

Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 14 States and the FCT with 79 suspects arrested including 4 females for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁵.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In December 2024, several public demonstrations took place across Nigeria, highlighting various concerns of citizens against the country. On December 2, 2024, for example, landowners from eight communities in Abia State protested the State Government's survey of communal land for a proposed airport project, alleging that key stakeholders were bypassed in the planning process.

¹³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

On December 5, 2024, retired military personnel demonstrated at the Federal Ministry of Finance in Abuja over unpaid entitlements. In another incident, residents of Okuama Community in Delta State peacefully demonstrated on December 8, 2024, against the death of their community leader while in Nigerian Army custody, demanding the release of other detained community leaders. Residents of Ajah Community in Lagos State demonstrated at the State Government Secretariat on December 9, 2024, to prevent the imposition of a new traditional leader, with a government official assuring intervention. University of Abuja students demonstrated on December 19, 2024, against the proposed renaming of the institution, rejecting the proposal and calling on the Federal Government to reverse the decision. Members of the Association of Resident Doctors at the University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital in Ondo State also demonstrated and commenced an indefinite strike on December 30, 2024, over alleged non-payment of salaries and poor working conditions.

Lastly, in a violent incident, female residents of Okpare-Olomu Town in Delta State demonstrated on December 26, 2024, against the deployment of military operatives in their community, resulting in one resident being shot and injured, and eight protesters arrested. On the same day, hundreds of residents from Umuekwenu Community in Enugu State protested the alleged imposition of a traditional ruler, urging the State Government to allow them to choose their own leader. These incidents highlight the various challenges facing Nigeria, including economic instability, security concerns, and social injustices.

Various strike actions were recorded by the WANEP-NEWS¹⁶ across Nigeria in the reporting period. On December 2, 2024, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) went on strike in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) over non-implementation of the new national minimum wage. Similar strikes occurred in Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Ebonyi States. Furthermore, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) at Lagos State University (LASU) commenced an indefinite strike on December 6, 2024, over non-implementation of a federal government-approved salary increment. Health sector unions in Lagos State also went on a three-day warning strike on December 11, 2024.

On December 30, 2024, resident doctors at the University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital in Ondo State commenced an indefinite strike over non-payment of salaries and poor working conditions.

The reporting period also witnessed significant infrastructure safety incidents, including building collapses and maritime accidents. These incidents are primarily attributed to non-compliance with building codes and standards, as well as violations of maritime safety precautions. Specifically, 2 building collapse incidents occurred in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Abia State, resulting in injuries to 4 people, as reported by WANEP NEWS.¹⁷

Nigeria also witnessed a series of tragic transportation incidents in December 2024, resulting in significant deaths and injuries. Two boat mishaps in Sokoto and Benue States claimed the lives of

¹⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

27 people, including 10 females and 10 children. Additionally, two train incidents occurred in Delta and Lagos States, resulting in one injury. Road accidents were the most devastating, accounting for 99 fatalities and 172 injuries across 16 states, resulting from 101 vehicular incidents. Furthermore, a cargo aircraft skidded off the runway at Abuja's Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport due to a landing gear failure, but fortunately, no casualties were recorded.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded a recurrence of public health emergencies, during the reporting period, including outbreaks of Lassa Fever, Mpox, and an unidentified cardiovascular disease. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of 955 suspected cases of Lassa Fever were reported across 30 states between December 1 and 31, 2024, with 192 confirmed cases and 21 fatalities¹⁸. Furthermore, the NCDC confirmed 78 cases of Mpox in 10 states, resulting in 10 confirmed cases and 16 fatalities. Additionally, WANEP NEWS¹⁹ reported an incident of an unidentified cardiovascular disease in Kaduna State, which resulted in 3 fatalities and 10 confirmed cases²⁰.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 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.²¹ Out of the 9 recorded incidents, there were no casualties, however, 2 female and 7 female minors were affected. Also, 22 victims of human trafficking including 8 females and 1 minor were rescued in Edo, Abia and Kano States in the month while 4 suspects were arrested.²²

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The persistence of violent extremism and organized crime is a significant concern. The North-East region continues to face threats from Boko Haram and ISWAP, with 9 fatalities and 5 injuries recorded in December 2024. Organized crime, including banditry, kidnapping, and human trafficking, accounted for 281 fatalities. These incidents underscore the need for strengthened security operations and intelligence gathering to combat these threats. Socio-economic pressures, including unemployment, poverty, and economic downturn, continues to provide a fertile ground for insecurity in Nigeria. These pressures exploit feelings of desperation, marginalization, and hopelessness, capitalizing on unmet economic needs, lack of opportunities, and perceived injustices to lure youths into terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, and other violent extremist activities.

The interconnected challenges of insecurity, socio-economic pressures, and humanitarian crisis have devastating consequences, including human rights violations, food insecurity, casualties, displacement, livelihood loss, and heightened vulnerability for women and children. The education sector faces severe disruptions, leading to fragmented learning, reduced attendance,

¹⁸ file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_231224_52%20(1).pdf

¹⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

²⁰ https://saharareporters.com/2024/12/06/death-toll-rises-three-strange-disease-outbreak-nigerian-military-school-others-remain

²¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

²² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

and diminished academic outcomes, further exacerbating student vulnerability. Additional challenges, such as economic protests, election violence, natural disasters, infrastructure disasters, and healthcare disruptions, are taking a toll on the country. Protests and strikes over wage arrears and increasing costs of living reveal a fragile social contract between the state and its citizens, with implications for social cohesion.

Infrastructure safety incidents, including building collapses, maritime accidents, and transportation incidents, resulted in significant loss of life and injuries. Non-compliance with building codes and standards, as well as maritime safety precautions, are major contributors to these incidents. Enhancing infrastructure safety through enforcement of building codes and standards, and improving maritime safety precautions, is essential to preventing such incidents. Public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Lassa Fever, Mpox, and an unidentified cardiovascular disease, pose significant health risks to Nigerians. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 192 confirmed cases of Lassa Fever and 10 confirmed cases of Mpox. Furthermore, gender-based violence remains a concern, with 9 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) recorded in December 2024, affecting 2 females and 7 female minors.

In conclusion, the current state of insecurity in Nigeria is a complex issue, influenced by socio-economic pressures, humanitarian crises, and infrastructure safety incidents. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including strengthened security operations, improved infrastructure safety, enhanced public health emergency response, and addressing gender-based violence.

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 consider strengthening 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.
- The Federal Government should continue to strengthen collaboration and partnership with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to enhance capacity building, response capabilities, and effectively address evolving security threats, with the ultimate aim of curbing insurgencies.
- 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:

The escalating insecurity in Nigeria demands urgent attention and collective action. Addressing socio-economic, humanitarian, and infrastructure challenges is crucial to fostering a peaceful and stable society. To achieve this, inclusive community dialogue, peacebuilding, and enhanced partnerships with local actors are needed to bolster resilience of communities and strengthen human security.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024

THEMATIC AREA	Number of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	6	9	5
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash)	111	101	37
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	44	97	-
Abduction (evident across 22 States)	51	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	11	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	8	15	13
Physical/Armed Assault	7	-	10
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	4	16	-
Vandalism	9	-	-
Violent Clash	6	10	-
Communal Violence	3	4	5
Illicit Drug Trafficking	33	-	-
Homicide	22	29	-
Illegal Mining/Oil Theft	10	-	-

<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	8	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	2	-	-
Stampede	3	67	21
Strike	7	-	-
Arrest/Detention	196	-	-
Road Accident	101	99	172
Boat Accident	2	27	-
Rail Mishap	2	-	-
Air Mishap	1	-	-
Building Collapse	2	-	4
Drowning	1	1	-
Electrocution	2	3	-
Gas Explosion	1	1	3
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	4	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever	31	21	955
b. Monkey Pox	11	16	78
c. Unspecified Disease	1	3	10
Fire Outbreak	48	12	1
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	9	-	12
Human Trafficking	2	-	-
Total	755	531	1326