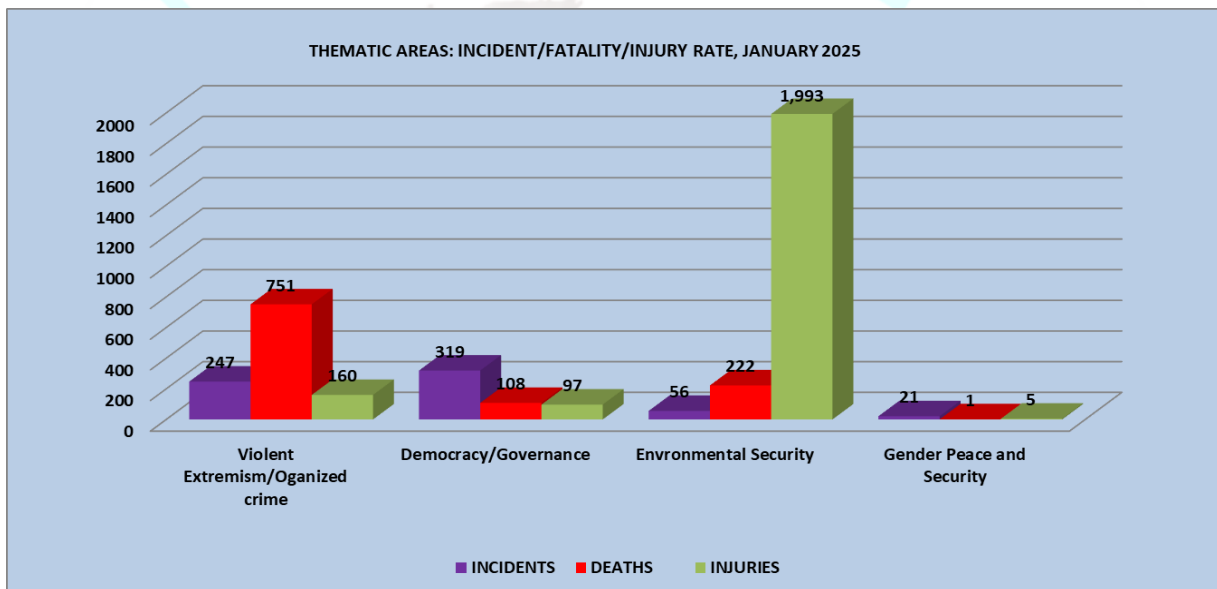


I. INTRODUCTION

In January 2025, 642 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). A cumulative fatality of 1,082 and 2,255 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded¹.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 751, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 108 deaths. Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 222 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 2 death in the reporting period.² (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS³

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 Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) continues to intensify its security clearance operations in the North-East region to mitigate terrorism, particularly in Borno and Yobe States.

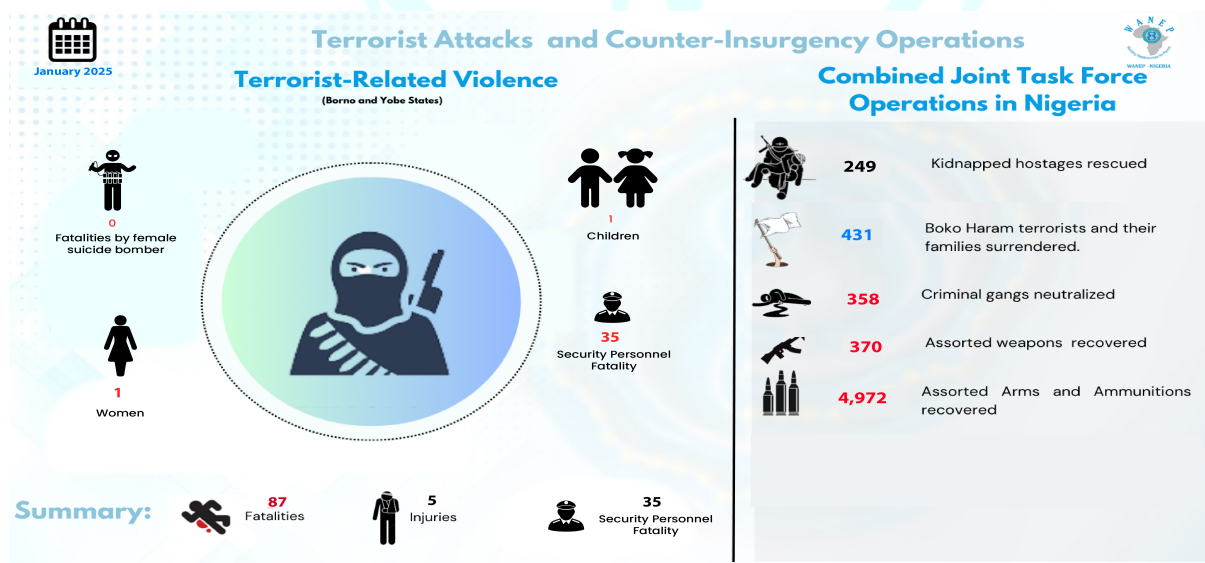
¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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

³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

Despite the recorded successes in enhancing citizens' safety and security, coordinated terrorist attacks including the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) persisted in the reporting period, with ripple effects on national peace and security stability.

WANEP NEWS documented incidents of terrorist attacks in Chibok, Damboa, Ngazai, Kukawa, Kunduga, Bama, and the Timbuktu Triangle in Yobe and Borno States. These reported violent attacks resulted in 87 fatalities, including 1 female, 1 child, and 35 security personnel, with over 5 injured victims during the reporting period. The reporting month of January 2025 recorded a significant increase in fatalities, with 87 deaths compared to the 9 fatalities reported in December 2024.



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 terrorist enclaves. As indicated in the infographics above, The counter-offensive operations led to neutralization of 358 criminal gangs, including terrorist groups, across the various states in Nigeria. Additionally, 431 suspected terrorists were apprehended, and 249 kidnapped hostages rescued. Furthermore, The operations also resulted in the recovery of 370 weapons and 4,972 rounds of ammunition during this period.⁴

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 237 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 664 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 358 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) while over 16 were

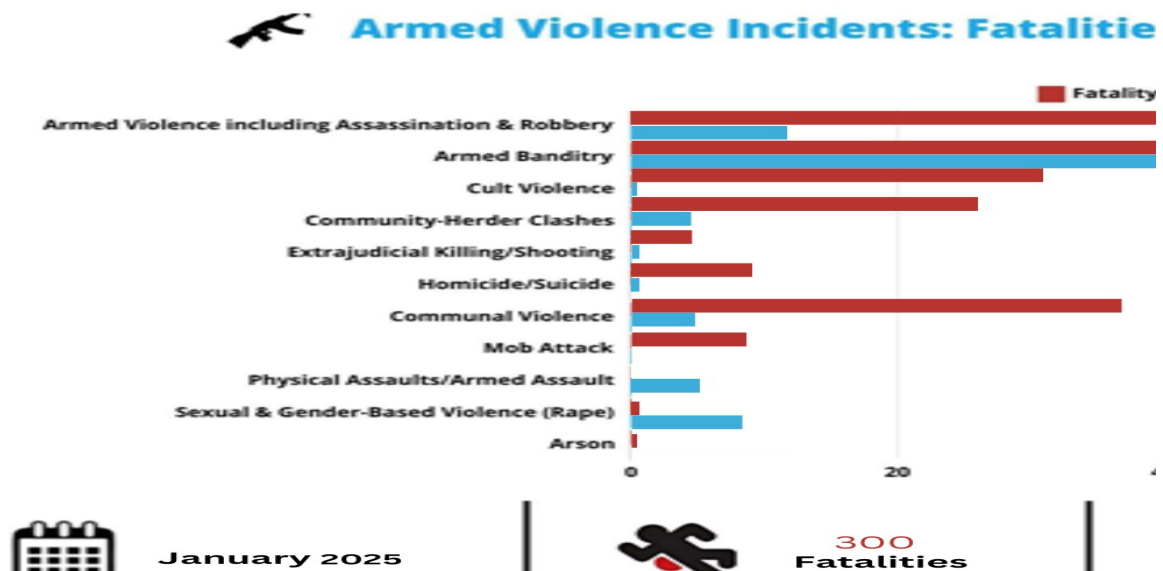
⁴ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/01/31/nigerian-troops-kill-358-terrorists-in-january/>

females, 13 children and 10 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.⁵

Armed violence incidents, including robbery and assassination, accounted for the highest fatalities, totaling 115 deaths. **Armed banditry** In the North-West region resulted in the second-highest number of fatalities, with 68 deaths reported in Katsina, Zamfara, Kaduna, Niger, Kebbi and Sokoto states.⁶ 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.

Additionally, WANEP NEWS documented **cult gang/violence**, which resulted in 30 deaths while **armed attacks by suspected ethnic militia/armed herders** led to 24 deaths in FCT, Jigawa, Delta, Ondo and Niger states. Other reported incidents included **culpable homicide, mob violence, extrajudicial killings/shooting and suicide** which recorded 11, 8, 5, 2 and 1 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.⁷

Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in January 2025.



⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

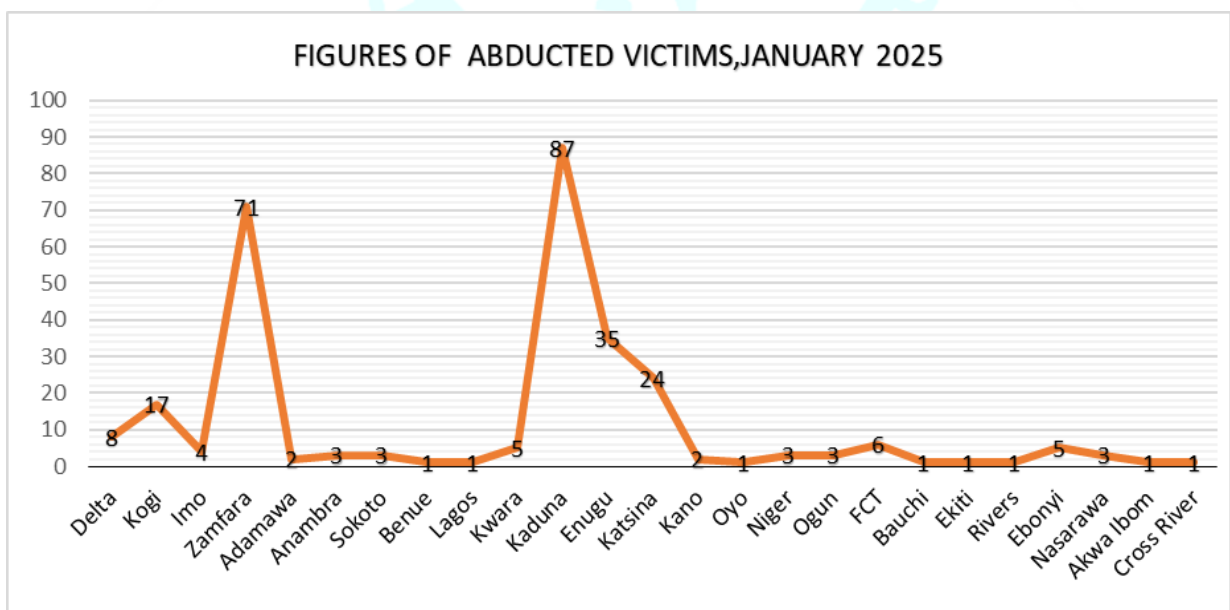
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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

Source: WANEP-NEWS⁸

The activities of Kidnapping by armed criminal groups continue to undermine the peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 44 incidents of kidnapping across 25 states with 290 people abducted. Out of the abducted victims, Over 30 were females, 12 children and 8 security personnel in the reporting month.⁹ The prevalence of kidnapping 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.

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented 252 arrests across diverse 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 offenses¹⁰.

⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

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

¹⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : www.wanep.org/news/

In January 2025, 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 Plateau, Kwara, FCT, Taraba, Kano, Kaduna, Anambra, Imo, Lagos, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Delta, Edo, Bauchi, Enugu, Ekiti, Rivers, Edo, Akwa as documented by WANEP NEWS in the reporting month.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 9 public demonstrations and strike, out of which one (1) degenerated into violent demonstrations in Osun state, where a traditional monarch was reportedly injured and his palace vandalized by community youths over an alleged decision made by the victim regarding an appointment at Hallelujah Area in Egbedore LGA in the State. Also, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Lagos State chapter, in collaboration with workers from three broadcast stations, shut down normal operations of Lagos Television, Eko FM/Radio Lagos, and Lagos Traffic Radio to protest the non-implementation of the N85,000 minimum wage by the management of these stations in Lagos State¹¹.

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations in the month include; Youths from the Odo Ape Community in Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State also conducted a peaceful demonstration following the killing of two farmers by suspected kidnappers along the Lokoja-Kabba Highway. Full-time HND graduates, who had completed part-time National Diploma programs, expressed their grievances over being excluded from the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme as the registration for the second stream of Batch C mobilization began. The graduates, who stormed the NYSC secretariat in Lagos, displayed placards reading "Say No To Discrimination in NYSC," "Equal Right for All," and demanding for mobilization.¹² Retired soldiers under the group Coalition of Concerned Veterans (CCV) also held a peaceful demonstration, demanding full payment of their long-overdue entitlements at the Federal Ministry of Finance in Central Area, Abuja.¹³ Students of Moshood Abiola Polytechnic in Abeokuta, Ogun State, similarly staged a peaceful protest over an alleged increase in tuition fees and delays in the mobilization of higher national diploma students for the NYSC.¹⁴ In Abia State, several local government workers staged a protest over the non-payment of their December salaries and 13th-month bonuses. The aggrieved employees of Abia North Local Government Area, bearing placards, expressed their frustration over alleged errors in the biometric system used to process their payments.¹⁵ Additionally, hundreds of students from the University of Ibadan in Oyo State staged a peaceful protest against an ongoing 82-day power outage at the University College Hospital (UCH) in Ibadan.¹⁶

¹¹ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/01/nlc-shut-down-radio-tv-stations-over-non-implementation-of-minimum-wage/>

¹² <https://dailytrust.com/poly-graduates-protest-proposed-exclusion-from-nysc/>

¹³ <https://saharareporters.com/2025/01/07/retired-nigerian-soldiers-again-shut-down-finance-ministry-abuja-over-unpaid>

¹⁴ <https://dailytrust.com/mapoly-shut-indefinitely-amid-students-outrage-over-fee-hike/>

¹⁵ <https://saharareporters.com/2025/01/14/abia-local-govt-workers-protest-unpaid-salaries-bonuses-blame-consultant-engaged>

¹⁶ <https://www.channelstv.com/2025/01/22/ui-students-protest-82-day-power-outage-in-uch/>

WANEP NEWS reported four incidents of building collapses in Rivers and Lagos States, which resulted in 3 fatality. The situation is further exacerbated by maritime safety failures, as one boat mishaps recorded in River State led to the deaths of 3 people. Additionally, road accidents accounted for over 95 fatalities and 66 injuries across 14 states in Nigeria. The cumulative impact of these safety violations raises significant concerns about public safety and calls for comprehensive reforms to ensure that proper safety standards are implemented and enforced across all sectors.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria faced recurring public health emergencies, including Lassa fever and cholera outbreaks. As documented by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of 72 deaths, 358 confirmed cases, and 1,481 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded in Ondo, Edo, Bauchi, Taraba, Ebonyi, Kogi, Gombe, Plateau, Nasarawa, Delta, Ekiti, Benue, Adamawa, Oyo, Lagos, Kaduna, Enugu, Cross River, Rivers, Ogun, Abia, Imo, FCT, Anambra, Bayelsa, and Kano States.¹⁷ While incidents of cholera outbreaks were also recorded in Akwa Ibom and Rivers, with 9 fatalities and 41 hospitalized during the reporting period. Reports of an unknown disease outbreak in Bida LGA of Niger State resulted in 24 infected cases suspected to be attributed to untreated severe typhoid and malaria, with patients hospitalized in the affected community. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) highlights the challenges of late presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behavior due to the high cost of treatment, which results in an increasing fatality rate. Other challenges include poor environmental sanitation practices, contaminated water, and low awareness in high-burden communities, amongst others. These instances of disease risks further undermine the health security of vulnerable populations and the already weak healthcare systems in the affected areas.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 12 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Nigeria, particularly the rape of female adults and minors in Niger, Rivers, Delta, Bauchi, Ogun, FCT, Adamawa, Ekiti, Sokoto, and Nasarawa States. Of the 12 recorded incidents, 1 victim was raped to death in Delta State. Additionally, there were 5 reported cases of human trafficking and one incident of child abuse in Abuja, Delta, Ondo, Akwa Ibom, and Rivers during 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 insecurity remains widespread, fueled by a range of security challenges stemming from socio-economic, political, ethnic, and religious tensions. These challenges not only compromise human security but also disrupt the livelihoods of the populace, particularly in

¹⁷ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

rural areas. Farming activities, which serve as the primary source of income for a large portion of the population, have been severely impacted by recurring armed attacks and the persistent threat of violence. This disruption has significant implications for food security, as households struggle with both food production and income generation. Also, these ongoing security challenges exacerbate economic instability among the local population and undermine social cohesion, eroding trust within the community.

The humanitarian challenges, loss of livelihoods, and heightened vulnerability of women and children, driven by the armed violence, remain significant concerns. These issues perpetuate an environment of fear that affects local populations. The ripple effect of this instability is strongly felt in the education sector, where student attendance has significantly reduced due to the unsafe conditions. Data from the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) shows that there are currently 17 million out-of-school children in Nigeria, further exacerbating the long-term consequences for the education system.¹⁸

Additionally, armed banditry, kidnapping, and other forms of violent crime continue to ravage communities across states in Nigeria. The North-West region, in particular, is severely impacted by banditry and kidnapping, driven by economic desperation and undermining peace and security in the states. Kidnapping for ransom has become a dominant form of organized crime, leading to a significant increase in human rights violations and exacerbating the country's security situation. The financial strain of ransom payments, along with the emotional toll on victims and their families, heightens social instability and weakens the resilience of local communities.

The pattern of civil unrest in Nigeria, often sparked by legitimate grievances, further fuels instability. Strikes and demonstrations over issues such as non-payment of salaries, lack of government accountability, and labor disputes have, at times, turned violent, particularly due to the existing trust deficit between the government and the citizenry. Similarly, protests by workers demanding better wages and benefits reflect growing dissatisfaction with the government's handling of economic issues, which is compounded by frustrations stemming from injustice and other human rights violations. In addition, public health issues, including outbreaks of Lassa Fever and Cholera, add another layer of instability to the country's already fragile systems. The inaccessibility of most rural communities, due to insecurity, poor roads, and inadequate telecommunication infrastructure, hampers effective public healthcare delivery. These infrastructural gaps contribute to recurrent disease outbreaks and delayed responses, further exacerbating the public health crisis. Addressing these security and infrastructure challenges is crucial for ensuring the well-being and safety of vulnerable populations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In view of the human security threats and the analysis highlighted, the following recommendations are proposed for response and mitigation by stakeholders:

¹⁸ <https://ubec.gov.ng/new-ubec-executive-secretary-aisha-garba-unveils-vision-to-transform-basic-education-in-nigeria/>

- The Federal Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with the governments of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, should consider strengthening the capacity of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) to effectively combat insecurity, particularly in regions grappling with the threats of violent extremist terrorism. This entails not only bolstering the operational capabilities of the MNJTF but also ensuring a robust security presence in the most vulnerable and conflict-prone communities, such as those in the North-East, where extremist groups continue to pose significant threats. Strengthening the MNJTF's efforts requires consistent funding, improved training, and access to advanced technology to better detect and neutralize terrorist activity.
- State and Local Governments, in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), should consider increasing collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the mass media, and traditional and faith-based groups to improve advocacy of public health, safety, and hygiene, particularly in rural areas.
- State and Local Governments, in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, as well as the media, should intensify efforts to effective implementation of the Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels. This is crucial in tackling sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and ensuring the safety and protection of women and children throughout the country.

CONCLUSION:

Nigeria's security environment is characterized by a range of interconnected challenges, including threats of violent extremism, terrorism, organized crime, and socio-economic challenges. To tackle these interconnected issues, it is essential to adopt a holistic and inclusive strategy, which includes regular assessments of the country's security mechanisms. This approach should create space for the inclusive participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other critical stakeholders in order to foster enhanced cooperation and strengthen the resilience of communities to curb the ripple effect of security challenges facing the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JANUARY 2025

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ IED Explosion in Borno State	10	87 people including 35 security operatives	Over 5 people injured
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	86	220	Over 71 people injured

Explosion/accidental bombing (FCT, Zamfara, Imo and Niger States)	6	26	17
Violent Clash: clash b/w rival bandits (Zamfara) Clash b/w suspected Boko Haram and armed bandits (Zamfara) Clash b/w NDLEA and Police operatives (Bayelsa)	4	21	17
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	29	358	Over 34 criminal suspects injured
Abduction (evident across 25 States)	44	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	9	-	-
Extrajudicial killing	2	5	-
Physical/Armed Assault	9	-	5
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	5	24	11
Illicit Drug Trafficking	34	-	-
Homicide	6	8	-
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	6	-	-
Violent demonstration	1	-	-
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	252	-	-
Road Accident	45	95	Over people 66
Boat Accident	2	3	injured
Building Collapse	2	3	13
Threat	1	-	-
Drowning	4	4	-
Electrocution	4	3	-
Gas Explosion	1	-	18
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Well Collapse	1	1	-
Communal clash	6	19	10
Food poison	1		

<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	13	72	Lassa Fever: 1,839
b. Cholera	3	9	41
c. Unknwiwn diseas outbreak	1	-	24
d. Antrax	1	-	-
e. bird flu	1	-	-
Fire Outbreak	24	-	-
Tanker Explosion	6	121	79

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

<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	12	1	5
Human Trafficking	6	-	-
Child Abuse/Domestic Violence	3	-	-
Total	642	1,082	2,255