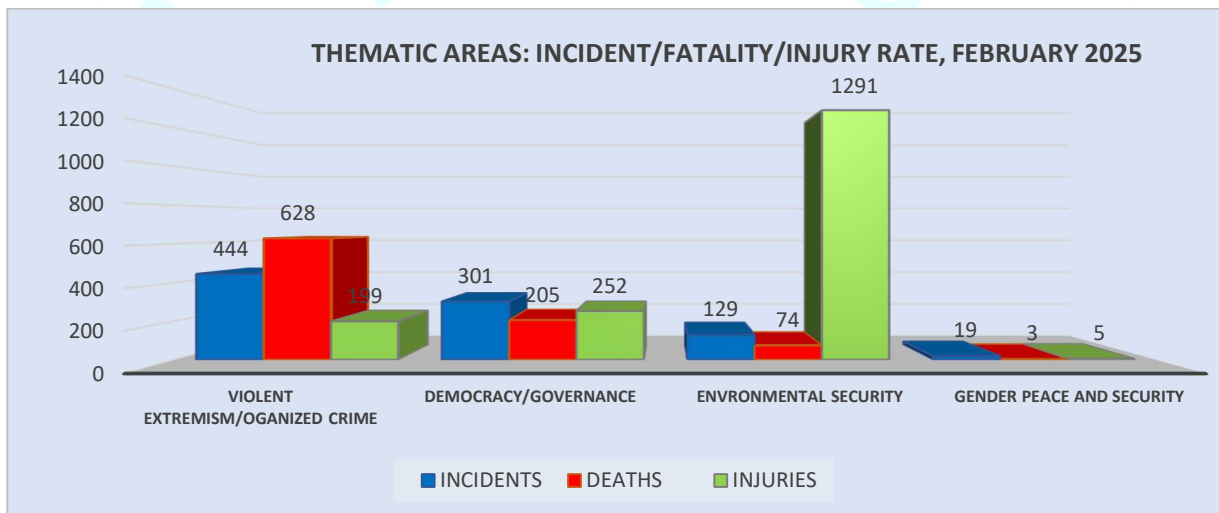


I. INTRODUCTION

As of February 2025, 893 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 910 and 1,747 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in February 2025.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 628, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (910) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 205 deaths.² Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 74 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 3 deaths 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 region of Nigeria faces persistent threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups. These threats continue to have far-reaching consequences, including compromised travel security, 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/

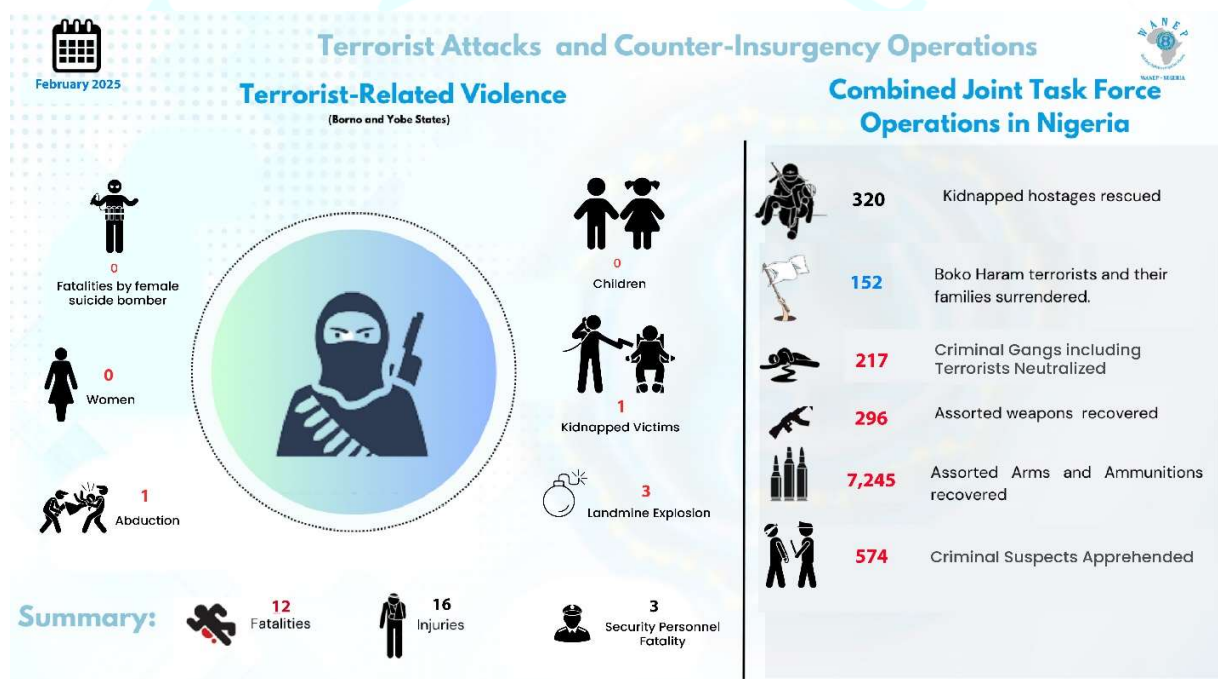
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³ Ibid

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

The WANEP NEWS recorded terrorist attacks in Gwoza, Hawul, Abadam, Damboa and Banki LGAs of Borno State. These incidents resulted in 28 casualties including 12 fatalities and 16 injuries, with 1 victim abducted in the reporting period. Of the 12 fatalities, 3 were security personnel. Supremacy clashes between factions of Boko Haram and ISWAP extremist groups at Abadam LGA of Borno State also resulted in no fewer than 63 casualties within the reporting month.

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 include intelligence-driven air strikes and ground operations, targeting terrorist enclaves and strongholds.



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁵

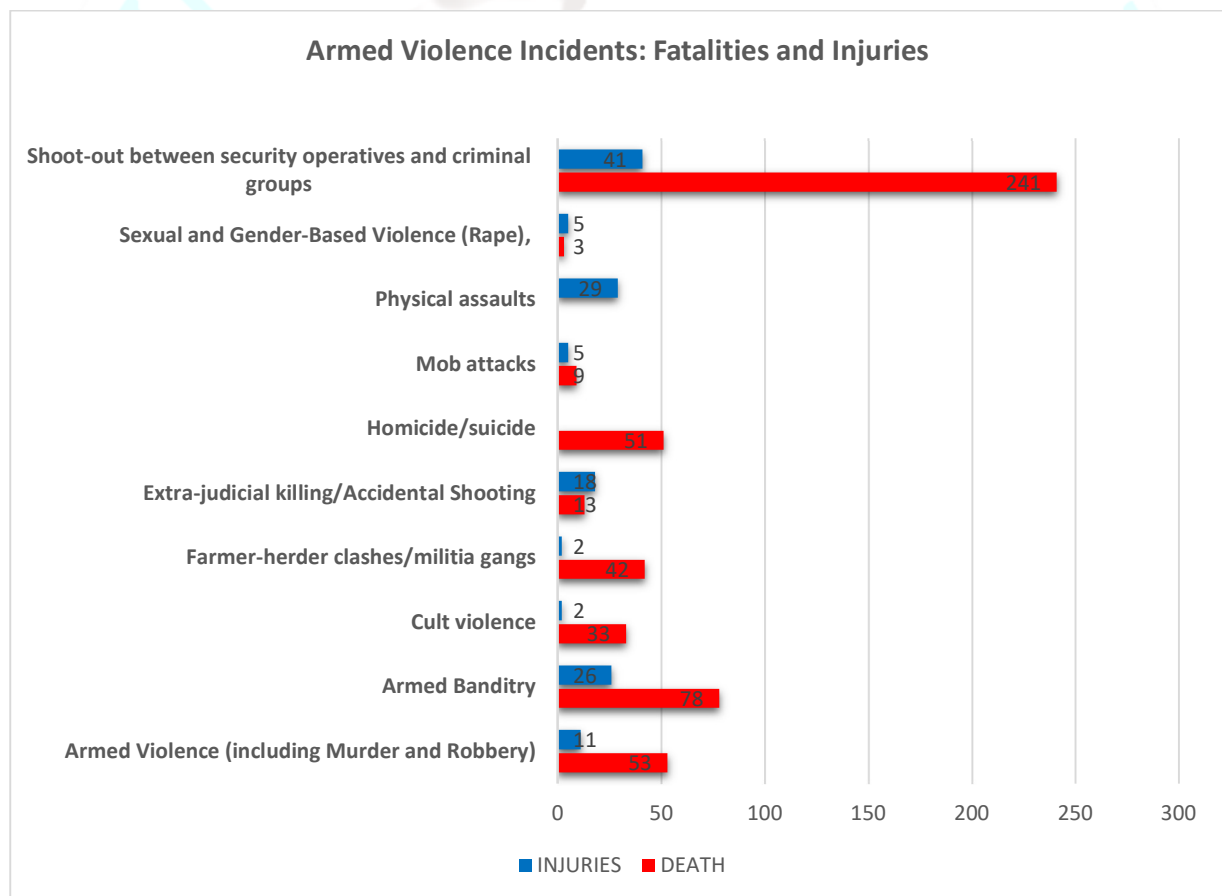
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 438 incidents of **Organized Crimes** including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clash, community-herder violence, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month. A total of 628 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 304 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 306 civilians and 18 security personnel.⁶ Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 22 were females, and 12 children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 78 people including 1 female and 6 security personnel in Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto and Kebbi States in the North-West, and Niger State in the

⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

North Central Region.⁷ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁸ However, collaborative security efforts in Katsina State yielded successes, including the surrender of several suspected bandits, including 5 leaders, and the release of multiple abducted victims, with 10 victims freed during a peace meeting held on February 28, 2025, demonstrating the effectiveness of a multi-faceted approach to countering banditry and promoting regional stability.

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 42, while **armed violence incidents including robbery and armed attacks** accounted for 53 deaths.⁹ **Other armed violence incidents** including **homicide, suicide** and **cult violence** led to the death of 45, 6 and 33 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 13 and 9 deaths respectively.¹⁰ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in February 2025.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

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/>

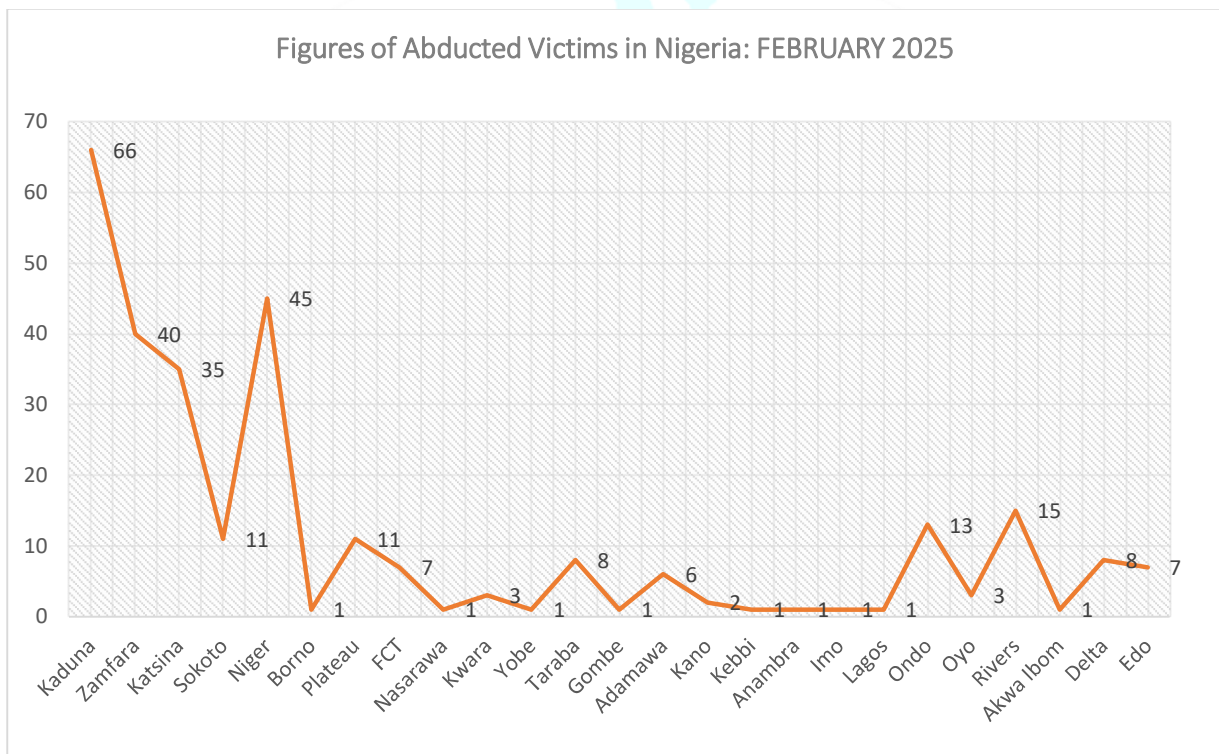
⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ Ibid.

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

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued in the period. According to WANEP NEWS, February 2025 saw 73 reported kidnapping incidents across 24 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 293 individuals, including 57 women, 21 children and 1 security operative.¹²

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

In February 2025, WANEP NEWS documented 228 arrests stemming from diverse criminal and civil offenses, including kidnapping, human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism and destruction of public infrastructures, fraud, cybercrime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), theft, cultism, illegal migration, rape, cattle rustling, trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), drug trafficking, sexual assault, gender and domestic violence, environmental law violation, extra-judicial activities, repackaging of expired pharmaceutical products, environmental disturbance, oil theft, illegal mining, and illegal possession of firearms.¹⁴

¹² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
¹³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
¹⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 16 states with 56 suspects arrested including 2 females for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁵.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In February 2025, Nigeria witnessed a series of protests across the various states, sparked by diverse reasons. One of the primary concerns was road safety and security. In Ogun State, a road mishap led to a demonstration by the Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association (NATA) to express displeasure over the incident. Similarly, in Kogi State, students protested to demand action from government authorities to prevent fatal road accidents within the school environment. Extra-judicial killings and police brutality were critical triggers of protests recorded in the period. In Rivers State, a demonstration followed the killing of a male resident by a police operative. In Katsina State, a student was killed and a motorcyclist injured in a shooting incident by members of a Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), prompting a protest by students. Kaduna State also witnessed a protest after the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) operatives killed a male resident and injured two others in a shooting incident. Socioeconomic issues furthermore fuelled protests in some states. In Oyo State, students demonstrated against a prolonged power outage at the University College Hospital (UCH) and demanded implementation of a 50% waiver promised to tertiary healthcare facilities. In Lagos State, residents protested against the Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC) over billing disputes.

Corruption remained a critical issue of concern in the month under review. In Kaduna State, residents protested against insecurity, while in Delta State, protesters demanded the appointment of a Delta State indigene as the next Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). They also opposed alleged land grabbing and unauthorized sale of communal lands by community leaders. Lastly, labour and industry concerns led to protests in Lagos State, where transport unions demonstrated against the alleged seizure of trucks and exploitative practices by the Lagos State Committee on Removal of Abandoned Vehicles. Additionally, in Cross River State, residents protested armed robbery attacks and demanded improved security measures.

A violent demonstration was recorded in Maru LGA, Zamfara State, where community residents protested and set ablaze a section of the Emir's palace in response to the abduction of 10 residents by suspected bandits.

Two labour strikes were also recorded by WANEP NEWS during the reporting period. Teachers and local government staff in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) embarked on a strike over the delayed implementation of the new 70,000 Naira minimum wage, prompting Federal Government intervention. Meanwhile, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) members at Kaduna State University (KASU) proceeded on industrial action due to withheld salaries and allowances but suspended the strike after the State Government released funds to settle 60% of the outstanding payments.

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

The reporting period furthermore witnessed 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, an incident of building collapse occurred at Yobe State, resulting in the death of 1 minor with 5 injured minors. Also, a collision between 2 boats was recorded in Delta State leading to the death of 25 people and the injury of 6 victims. In addition, road accident incidents accounted for 172 fatalities and 189 injuries from a total of 47 vehicular incidents across 18 States.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Lassa Fever, Diphtheria, and Avian Influenza. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 1,180 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 30 states between February 3 and 28, 2025, with 175 confirmed cases and 30 fatalities. Additionally, the NCDC reported 35 suspected cases of Diphtheria in 2 states, with 19 confirmed cases. Furthermore, an incident of Avian Influenza in Plateau State resulted in the death of over 280 birds, highlighting the need for continued vigilance and preventive measures to mitigate the spread of these diseases.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 8 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of female adults and minors in FCT, Yobe, Lagos, and Ogun States, in the month.¹⁶ Out of the 8 recorded incidents, there were 3 casualties and 5 injuries including 2 females and 6 female minors. Also, no fewer than 59 victims of human trafficking including 7 males, 13 females and 5 minors were rescued in Benue, FCT, Katsina, Anambra, Imo and Ogun States in the month while 12 suspects including 7 females were arrested.¹⁷

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

As of February 2025, Nigeria faces significant security and humanitarian challenges, with violent extremism, organized crime, and armed banditry threatening peace and stability. Insurgent groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to carry out attacks in the northeastern regions, resulting in loss of life, displacement, and widespread human suffering, according to the International Crisis Group and the United Nations. Armed banditry and organized criminal networks have also expanded in the northwest and Middle Belt regions, exacerbating violence and insecurity. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) reports that over 3 million people remain displaced, placing immense strain on humanitarian resources and disrupting the economy in affected areas.

The conflict has further triggered a severe humanitarian crisis marked by displacement, protection concerns, and acute humanitarian needs. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) projects that during the 2025 lean season,

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

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

approximately 33 million Nigerians will face food insecurity, with 1.8 million children at risk of severe acute malnutrition.¹⁸ Governance and human rights issues, including extrajudicial killings, police brutality, and socioeconomic hardship, have eroded trust in government institutions, further undermining stability. The conflict's impact on education and youth development creates conditions conducive to radicalization and recruitment by extremist groups, perpetuating cycles of violence.

The outbreaks of Lassa Fever, Diphtheria, and Avian Influenza pose significant health security risks, which can have far-reaching consequences for regional and global health security especially through cross-border spread and international trade involving travelling and commerce. The conflict's impact on agricultural production and livelihoods threatens to exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in already vulnerable communities. Ultimately, the ongoing violence and insecurity force people to flee their homes, leading to increased displacement and migration, which can strain local resources and exacerbate social tensions.

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 enhance public education and strengthen community peacebuilding structures by Raising awareness on conflict prevention and involving communities in early warning efforts will improve intelligence gathering and targeted security measures. Strengthening local peacebuilding through dialogue platforms and conflict resolution training will empower communities to prevent conflict escalation and enhance overall security.
- The Federal government should enhance intelligence sharing and community policing among its subregional partners while investing in cybersecurity, improving security personnel welfare, and strengthening border security to ensure a coordinated and effective response to 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 Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) should enhance early warning systems, improve public health education, expand healthcare infrastructure, and strengthen community engagement. Increasing healthcare worker training, boosting vaccination coverage, improving data management, and enhancing risk communication are also crucial for effective outbreak prevention and response.

¹⁸ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/nigeria/nigeria-2025-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-january-2025>

- The State and Local Governments should partner with citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), traditional/religious leaders, and the media to increase public advocacy and engagements towards the effective implementation of the Child Rights' Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law, ensuring the protection of women and children across states in the country. These engagements would include public town hall meetings, social media campaigns, community-based initiatives, capacity-building training, and establishment of citizen-led monitoring groups.

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 FEBRUARY 2025

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	5	12	16
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, assassination, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	144	173	63
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	42	241	41
Abduction (evident across 25 States)	73	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	11	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	16	13	18
Physical/Armed Assault	14	-	16
Herder-Community Conflict	11	42	2
Vandalism	8	-	-
Violent Clash	7	84	20
Communal Clash	6	12	10
Illicit Drug Trafficking	31	-	-
Homicide	39	45	-

Suicide	6	6	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	13	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Curfew	-	-	-
Strike	2	-	-
Arrest/Detention	228	-	-
Road Accident	47	172	189
Boat Accident	1	25	6
Building Collapse	1	1	5
Drowning	4	4	-
Gas Explosion	1	1	-
Tanker Explosion	1	-	-
Gun Powder Explosion	1	2	42
Toxic Gas Inhalation	1	-	10
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	4	-	-
Illegal Logging	1	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	72	30	1180
b. Avian Influenza	1	-	-
c. Diphtheria	6	35	35
Fire Outbreak	41	42	76
Thunderstorm/Lightning Strike	2	1	-
Oil Spill	2	-	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	8	3	5
Human Trafficking	11	-	-
Total	885	910	1,747