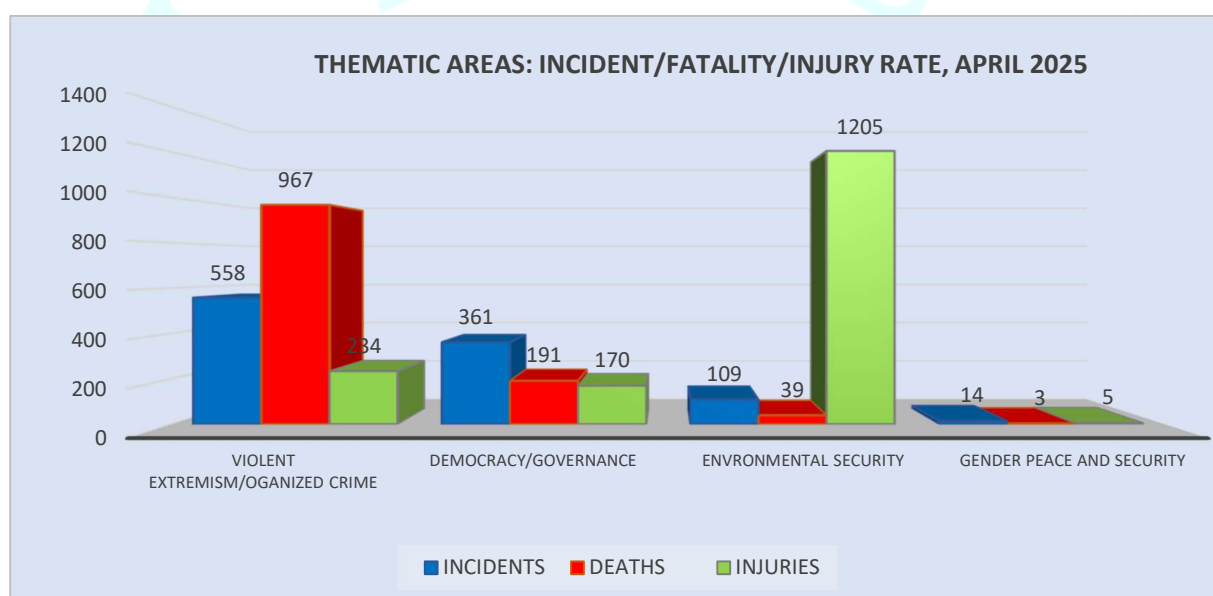


1. INTRODUCTION

As of April 2025, 1,042 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 1,200 and 1,614 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded in April 2025.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 967, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (1,200) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 191 deaths.² Also, Environmental Security theme recorded 39 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 continues to grapple with threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups. These threats have far-reaching consequences, including compromised travel security, disrupted economic activities and livelihoods, and hindered resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The

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

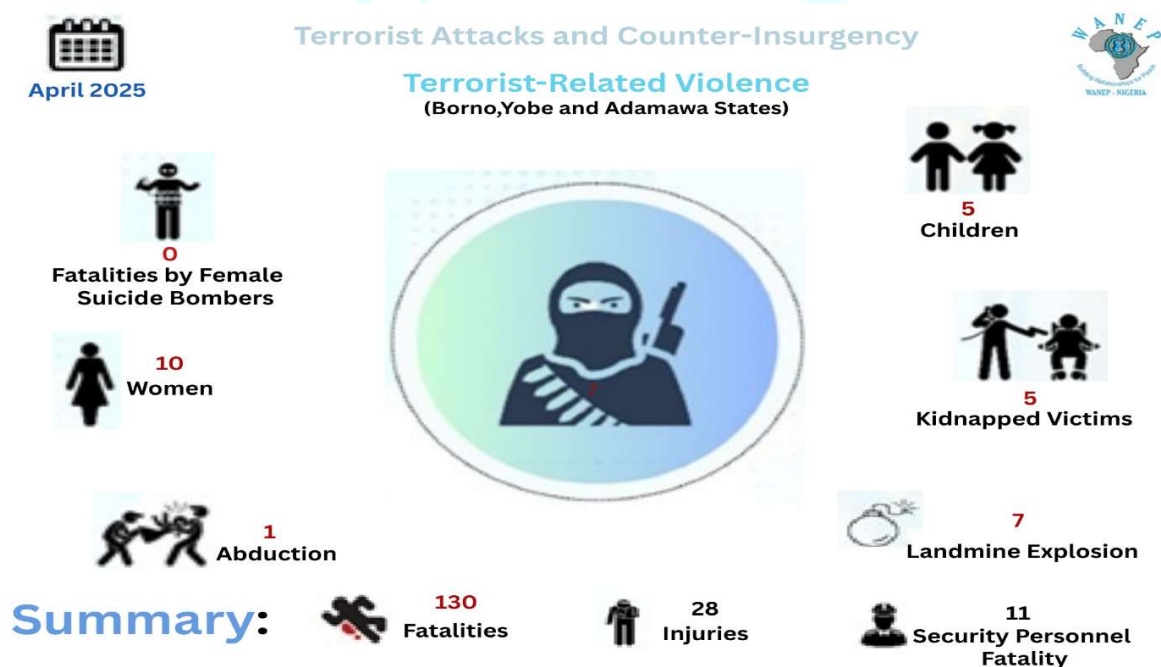
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³ Ibid

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

WANEP NEWS recorded 18 incidents of terrorist attacks in Gwoza, Damboa Biu, Dikwa, Kala Balge, Chibok, Mobbar and Monguno LGAs of Borno State, Gujba LGA of Yobe State and Hong LGA of Adamawa State. Attack by the insurgents were also reported at Arewa and Borgu LGAs of Kebbi and Niger States in the North-Western region. These incidents resulted in 158 casualties including 130 fatalities 28 injuries, with 5 victims abducted in the reporting period. Of the 130 fatalities, 10 were females, 5 minors and 11 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 enhance 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-NEWS⁵

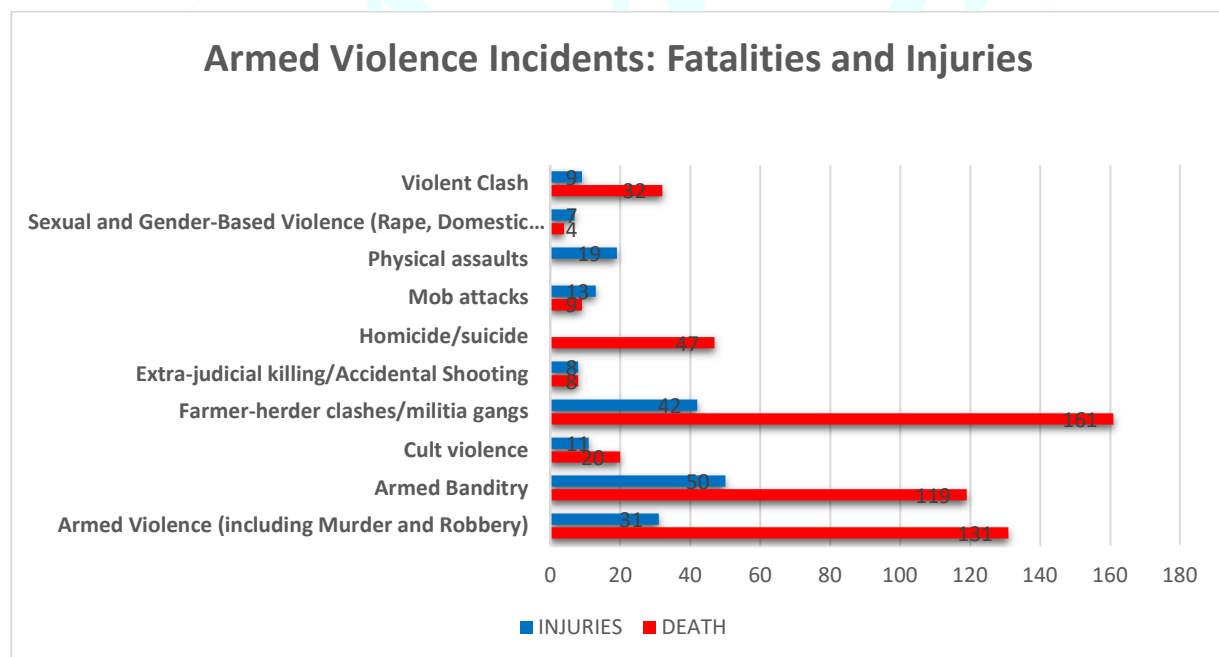
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 438 incidents of **Organized Crimes** including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clash, community-herder violence, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month. A total of 531 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 295 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 236 civilians and 8 security personnel.⁶ Also, out of the total recorded fatalities, 23 were females, and 12 children.

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

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

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 119 people in Kaduna, Zamfara, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto and Kebbi States in the North-West.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 161, while **armed violence incidents including robbery and armed attacks** accounted for 131 deaths.⁹ **Other armed violence incidents** including **homicide, suicide** and **cult violence** led to the death of 41, 6 and 20 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 8 and 9 deaths respectively.¹⁰ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in April 2025.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued in the period. According to WANEP NEWS, April 2025 saw 92 reported kidnapping incidents across 24 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 907 individuals, including 143 women, 75 children and 2 security operatives.¹²

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

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

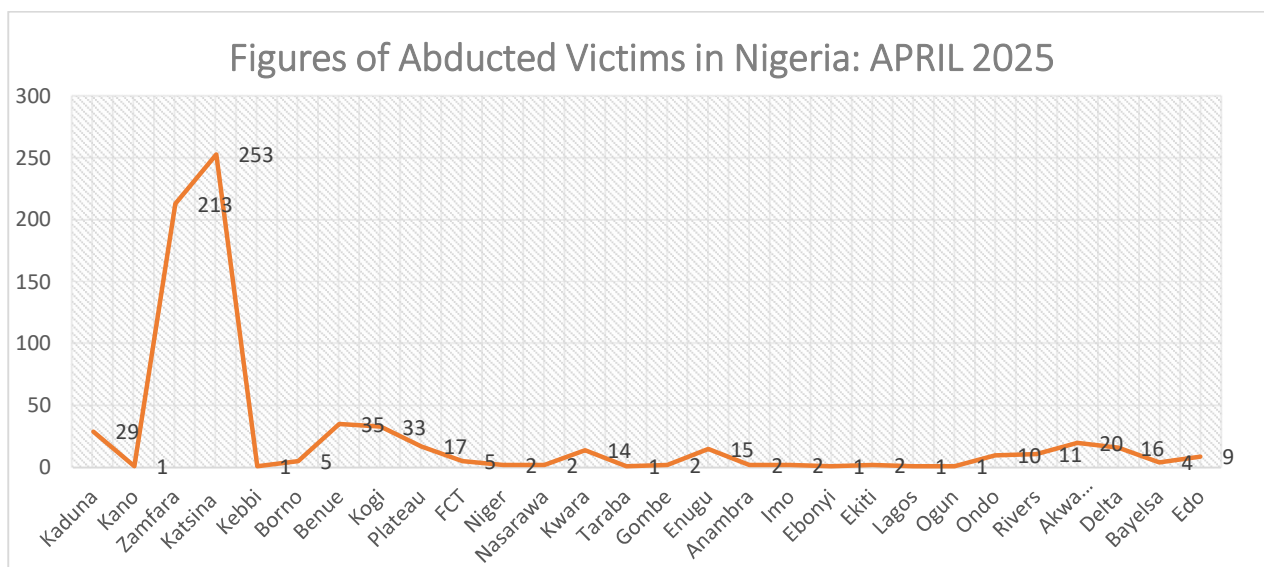
⁸ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

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/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

In April 2025, WANEP NEWS documented 249 incidents of arrest 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 2962 suspects were reportedly arrested, 40 being females, 4 minors and 19 security personnel. Security agencies also intercepted several illicit drugs across 17 states with 113 suspects arrested including 7 females and 1 minor for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁵.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Public demonstrations recorded across Nigeria in the period highlight rising citizens discontent against socio-economic and security challenges as well as waning social contract in the country. In Benue, Kogi, Edo, Ondo, and Plateau States, for example, protests were predominantly driven by deteriorating security conditions. Communities in these states, deeply affected by recurrent armed herder attacks, abductions, and rising insecurity, demanded more robust government intervention to safeguard their rural areas. The Take-It-Back (TIB) Movement and civil society groups also spearheaded protests in the FCT, Lagos, Rivers, and Oyo States, where the focus was on perceived systemic injustices, including the Cybercrime Act, poor economic conditions, and demands for democratic governance. These protests, often marked by tensions with security forces, led to arrests and, in some cases, violent clashes.

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/

Furthermore, a significant number of demonstrations were driven by economic and social service-related issues at the local level. In Delta, Adamawa, Oyo, Lagos, and Ogun States, the grievances ranged from extortion, poor power supply, and forced evictions to the marginalization of communities by corporations or local governments. In Delta State, for example, oil facility occupations occurred in protest of alleged anomalies in electoral exercises, while in Ogun, commercial motorcyclists protested the multiple levies imposed by unions. Students in Adamawa protested the lack of essential services at their institution, while traders in Oyo rallied against eviction notices from the local government. These protests disrupted social service delivery and other economic activities of the affected areas.

One violent demonstration occurred in Gombe State, where a road mishap on April 21 in Billiri LGA resulted in the deaths of 5 people and injuries to 7 others when a grain-laden truck collided with a group of pedestrians. In the aftermath, community youths reacted by setting the truck on fire in protest, expressing their anger and grief over the loss of lives. The local police arrested the truck driver for investigation, and the injured victims were hospitalized for medical treatment. This incident escalated from a road accident to violent demonstrations, highlighting how vulnerable communities, especially when already dealing with frustrations over poor infrastructure and services, can respond emotionally to such tragedies. The escalation of this protest emphasizes the importance of proactive and empathetic responses by authorities to prevent further violence and ensure peaceful resolutions to such events.

Also, two notable strike actions were recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁶, both driven by grievances related to workers' welfare and unpaid entitlements. On April 22, Federal Government workers under the Federal Workers Forum (FWF) in Oyo State initiated an indefinite strike due to the non-payment of their 5-month outstanding wage awards, demanding the settlement of their wages and allowances. On the same day, staff members at the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) launched a nationwide strike due to concerns over conditions of service and welfare-related issues.

The reporting period witnessed a total of 87 recorded major safety-related incidents across 27 states, resulting in 184 deaths and 196 injuries, including 11 female fatalities, 25 female injuries, and 2 child survivors from boat mishaps. The incidents included 6 building collapses in Lagos, Kwara, Nasarawa, and Ekiti States, which resulted in 6 deaths (including 3 females) and 17 injuries (including 9 females), largely attributed to the use of substandard building materials and poor construction practices. The 4 electrocution incidents in Osun, Borno, and Oyo States, claiming 4 male lives, were primarily due to unprotected cables and lightning strikes. The 5 boat mishaps in Bayelsa, Lagos, Taraba, Niger, and Rivers States led to 33 deaths (including 4 females) and 16 injuries, with 2 children surviving, often stemming from poorly maintained boats, unpredictable weather conditions, and poor safety practices such as lack of life jackets and overcrowded vessels. Additionally, 56 road accidents across 21 states resulted in 136 deaths including 6 females, 6 minors and a security personnel, and 133 injuries including 10 females, 1 minor and 5 security personnel, primarily due to reckless driving, poor road conditions, and vehicle defects. 5

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

gas and tanker explosions in Lagos, Oyo, and Rivers States resulted in 5 deaths and 20 injuries (including 9 females), with escaped gas from poorly sealed cylinders and electric sparks during offloading cited as causes.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

WANEP NEWS recorded public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Meningitis, Lassa Fever, and Measles. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 895 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 24 states between April 3 and 27, 2025, with 48 confirmed cases and 12 fatalities. Additionally, in the first week of the reporting month, the NCDC reported 296 suspected cases of Meningitis in 6 states, with 25 confirmed cases. Furthermore, an incident of Measles outbreak in Kaduna State resulted in the death of 2 minors.¹⁷

A series of nature-induced incidents—flooding, rainstorms, and lightning strikes were recorded across 8 states, including Taraba, Niger, Kwara, Kebbi, Ondo, Imo, Kogi, and the FCT. These events led to at least 7 confirmed fatalities and widespread destruction of properties. Over 350 houses, farmlands, and public infrastructure such as bridges and sports facilities were damaged or destroyed. Fatalities were recorded in Niger (3 deaths from a boat mishap caused by flooding), Kwara (1 death from building collapse due to a rainstorm), and Imo (3 deaths from a lightning strike). Livestock losses were also reported, notably 8 cows killed by lightning in Ondo. The primary causes were heavy rainfall, poor infrastructure maintenance, and limited disaster preparedness.

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 Nasarawa, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Bauchi, Jigawa, Gombe, Ekiti, Lagos and Anambra States, in the month.¹⁸ Out of the 8 recorded incidents, there were 3 female casualties and 5 injuries including 4 females and 1 female minor. Also, no fewer than 87 victims of human trafficking including 49 males, 31 females and 7 minors were rescued in Akwa Ibom, Oyo, Lagos, Anambra, Imo, and Ogun States and the FCT in the month while 34 suspects including 19 females were arrested.¹⁹

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

As of April 2025, Nigeria's security and humanitarian situation remained volatile, with ongoing violence and conflict driving a significant increase in internal displacement. About 5,346 people were reportedly displaced across the country in the reporting month²⁰, primarily due to fire

¹⁷ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/04/26/5-children-die-of-measles-in-kaduna-community/>

¹⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

²⁰ WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). (2025). Monthly Conflict Census for April 2025. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP). Available upon request from WANEP.

outbreaks²¹, banditry, attacks by armed militia²² and violent extremism at Borno²³, Benue, Zamfara²⁴, Plateau²⁵, Katsina and Benue States in the North-East and North-West. This displacement has led to the breakdown of social structures, particularly in rural areas where access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and food security is severely limited.

The North-West has been particularly affected, with armed groups targeting schools, causing closures and abductions. More than 50,000 school-aged children in the region have been impacted, either through displacement or the direct disruption of their education.²⁶ This has led to increased school drop-out rates and a growing sense of insecurity among youth, many of whom are at heightened risk of recruitment by extremist groups, further perpetuating the cycle of violence and instability.

In addition to conflict-related displacement, Nigeria has also faced numerous safety-related incidents, including road accidents, building collapses, and natural disasters such as floods and rainstorms, which have caused further casualties and displacement. These incidents, coupled with disease outbreaks like Lassa fever and meningitis, have placed additional strain on already overwhelmed communities and healthcare systems. The combined impacts of violence, infrastructure failures, and health emergencies underscore the urgent need for coordinated humanitarian responses to protect vulnerable populations and address the rising humanitarian needs of displaced Nigerians.

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 should focus on improving existing community policing frameworks by equipping them with advanced training, modern surveillance technologies (such as drones, AI-driven analytics, and mobile reporting tools), and stronger integration with national intelligence and security systems. This effort should be led by the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) through its community policing units, in close collaboration with the Department of State Services (DSS) for intelligence coordination, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for community engagement and infrastructure protection, and with support from the Armed Forces of Nigeria—particularly in volatile regions where joint operations are necessary. This coordinated approach will build a robust, trusted, and decentralized local intelligence network capable of delivering timely, actionable information to security agencies, thereby strengthening the resilience of vulnerable

²¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/iom-nigeria-flash-report-population-displacement-north-east-nigeria-borno-state-02-may-2025#:~:text=Among%20those%20affected%20were%205533,mass%20displacement%20across%20the%20area.>

²² <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria/#:~:text=An%20estimated%20295%20C000%20internal%20displacements%20associated%20with,violence%20were%20reported%20in%20Nigeria%20in%202024.&text=According%20to%20IOM%20DTM%20C%20106%20people%20have,armed%20bandits%20attack%20on%2013%20April%202025.>

²³ <https://dtm.iom.int/nigeria/#:~:text=Between%2022%20and%2028%20April%202025%20C%20multiple,communities%20in%20Borno%20State%20C%20affecting%201%20C104%20Individuals.&text=Between%2021%20and%2027%20April%202025%20C%20multiple,Benue%20and%20Zamfara%20states%20C%20affecting%201%20C883%20Individuals.>

²⁴ <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria/?page=0#:~:text=Nigeria:%2025%20displacements%20C%2012%20April,attack%20on%2012%20April%202025.&text=Hover%20over%20and%20click%20on,of%20situations%20of%20internal%20displacement.>

²⁵ <https://www.acaps.org/en/countries/nigeria/#:~:text=Latest%20updates%20on%20country%20situation,20%20March%202025>

²⁶ UNICEF Nigeria. (2025). Children and Education in Conflict Zones. UNICEF Nigeria. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/nigeria>

communities and enhancing the overall effectiveness of counterinsurgency and crime prevention efforts.

- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and state governments should focus on long-term recovery by establishing Sustainability Centres within displacement camps. These centres would offer displaced individuals access to vocational training, agricultural skills, and small business loans, helping them rebuild their livelihoods and reduce dependency on aid. Furthermore, improving partnerships with international donors and NGOs could streamline aid distribution by ensuring better accountability and targeted assistance, preventing wastage and inefficiencies.
- In addition to temporary schools, the Ministry of Education should collaborate with tech companies to launch mobile learning platforms that can be accessed via smartphones or radio broadcasts in indigenous languages, providing continuous education to children in volatile areas. To address the growing youth crisis, a Youth Integration Program should be launched to support out-of-school youth through apprenticeships, mentorship, and skill-building programs. This initiative should be designed to offer these young people pathways to employment or entrepreneurship, thus preventing them from being recruited by extremist groups.
- To combat SGBV and human trafficking, the Federal Government should strengthen Gender Desks within the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) trained in victim-centered approaches, supported by the Department of State Services (DSS) for intelligence on trafficking networks. In partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs, expand safe shelters and support services to protect victims. Additionally, create specialized courts or fast-track tribunals to ensure timely prosecution and justice.
- To strengthen the effectiveness of current disaster risk reduction efforts, the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) should improve last-mile dissemination of early warning alerts by integrating with local radio stations, mobile networks, and community leaders. Furthermore, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), in partnership with the Ministry of Information, should intensify grassroots awareness on household and community-level safety practices, particularly in rural areas vulnerable to rainstorms, lightning, and flooding. Finally, inter-agency coordination must be enhanced through periodic simulation exercises and joint assessments to ensure that hazard preparedness translates into rapid and effective on-ground action when disasters occur.

CONCLUSION:

Nigeria's security and humanitarian challenges require more than short-term responses. They demand coordinated, community-based, and proactive measures. While current efforts are valuable, deeper investment in local community security capacity, long-term livelihood support, digital learning, gender protection, and disaster preparedness is essential. Stronger inter-agency collaboration, improved use of technology, and active engagement with affected communities will be key to building resilience. With decisive action and inclusive strategies, Nigeria can shift from managing crises to fostering lasting peace and stability.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 2025

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	18	130	28
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	200	279	105
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	45	295	3
Abduction (evident across 28 States)	92	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	11	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	14	8	8
Physical/Armed Assault	20	-	19
Herder-Community Conflict	28	161	42
Vandalism	11	-	-
Violent Clash	9	32	9
Communal Clash	11	14	18
Illicit Drug Trafficking	40	-	-
Homicide	42	41	-
Domestic Violence	4	1	2
Suicide	6	6	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)	24	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Strike	2	-	-
Electrocution	4	4	-
Arrest/Detention	249	-	-
Road Accident	56	136	133
Boat Accident	5	25	-
Building Collapse	5	8	17
Drowning	6	10	-
Gas Explosion	2	1	-

Tanker Explosion	3	-	-
Dynamite Explosion	1	1	2
Explosion	3	2	3
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	7	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever	55	12	895
b. Meningitis	6	10	296
c. Measles	1	2	-
Fire Outbreak	25	7	10
Thunderstorm/Lightning Strike/Rainstorm/Flood/Windstorm	21	6	4
Landslide	1	2	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	8	3	5
Human Trafficking	6	-	-
Total	1042	1,200	1,614