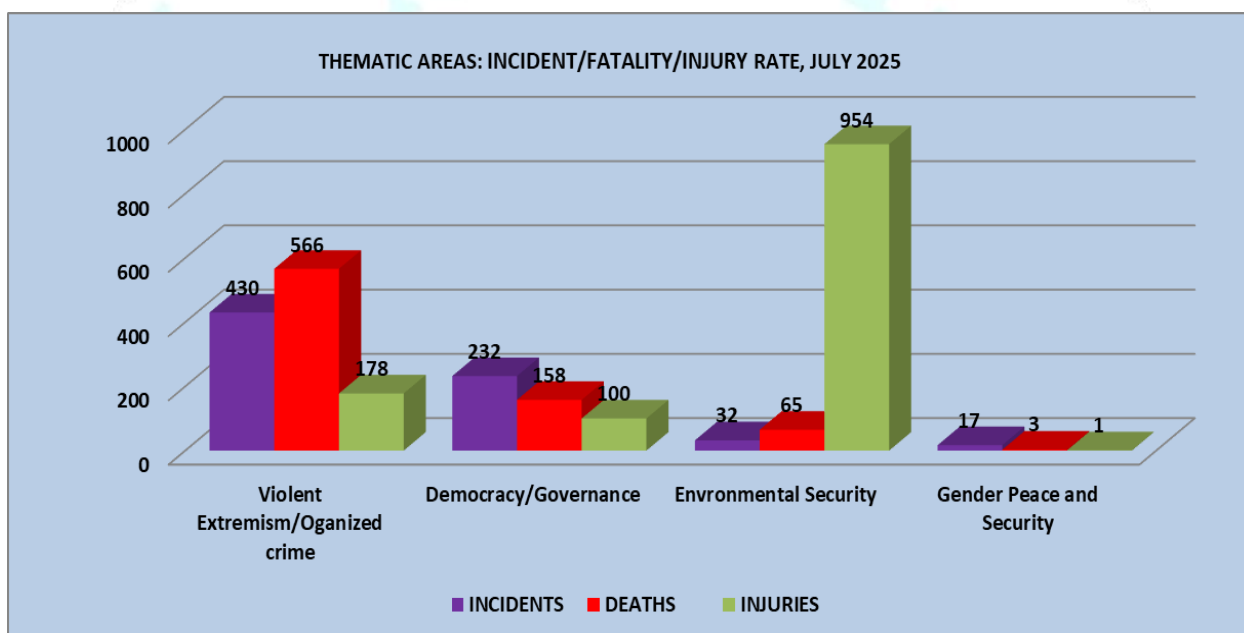


I. INTRODUCTION

In July 2025, 711 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 792 and 1,233 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 566 accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (792) recorded in the reporting period while Democracy and Governance theme recorded 158 deaths.² Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 65 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* 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 counter terrorism, particularly in Borno and Yobe States. Despite its recorded successes, coordinated terrorist attacks including multiple use of

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

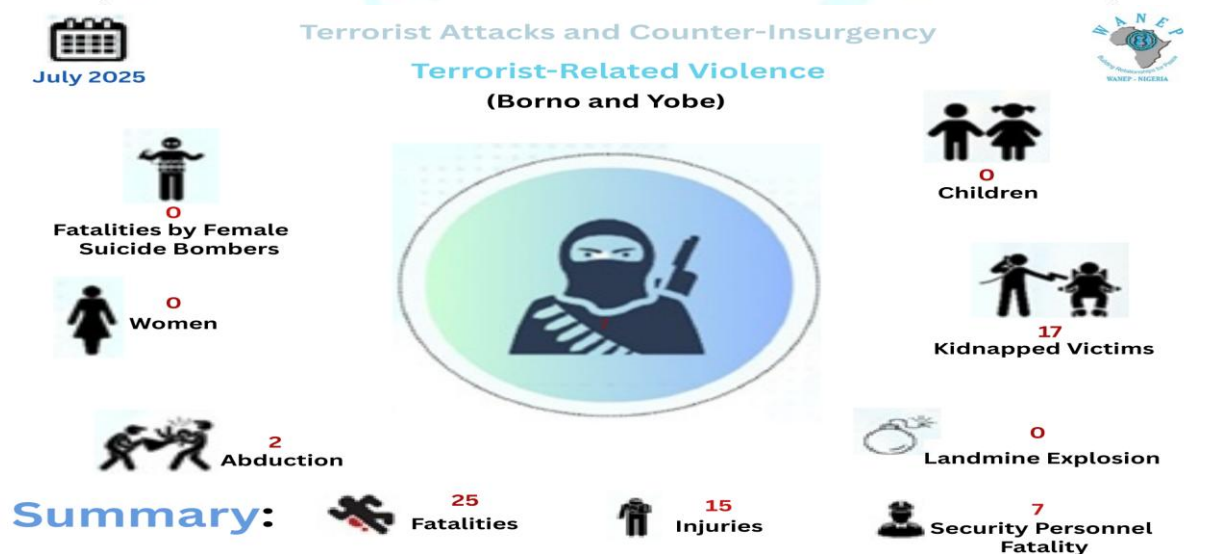
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

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

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) persisted during the period, with ripple effects on national peace and security stability.

WANEP NEWS documented seven terrorist incidents involving the use of landmine explosive devices targeting farmers and the murder of a local vigilante head in affected communities. These communities include Magumeri, Konduga, Gujba, and Abadam LGAs in Borno and Yobe States. The violent attacks resulted in 25 fatalities, including seven local vigilantes, with one person abducted during the reporting period. In response, the Nigerian Military, in collaboration with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), strengthened their partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to conduct intensified counterinsurgency and clearance operations across the region, particularly in Yobe and Borno States, with over 60 terrorists neutralized during the period.⁵



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁶

Additionally, **organized crime** including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human and drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, and armed violence by militia gangs, remains pervasive in the security landscape. During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 338 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 559 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 97 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 37 were females, 28 were children, and 54 were security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.⁷

Armed banditry recorded the highest fatality of 160 people in Kaduna, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Sokoto and Kebbi States in the North-West and North-Central region. Other criminal incidents

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

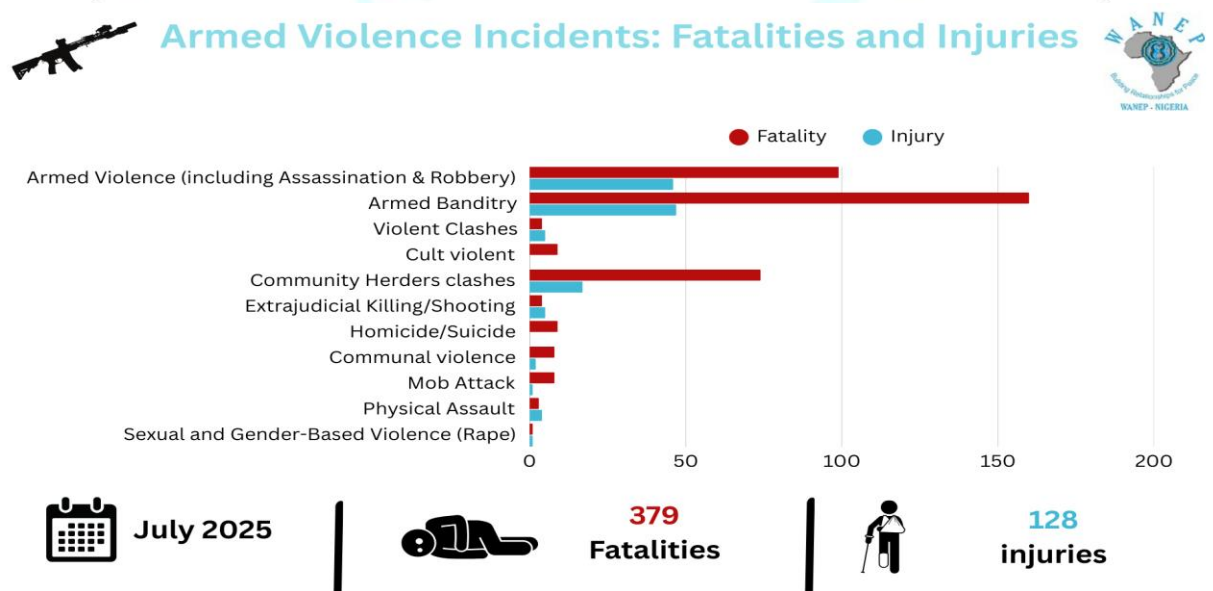
⁶ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

perpetrated by bandits in the period include kidnapping, cattle rustling, arms trafficking and the looting goods items in the period.⁸

Armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes resulted in 99, while Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 74 deaths. Other reported incidents included culpable homicide, Cult clashes, extrajudicial killings/shooting, mob violence, and suicide which recorded 19, 9, 4, 8, and 2 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.⁹

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁰

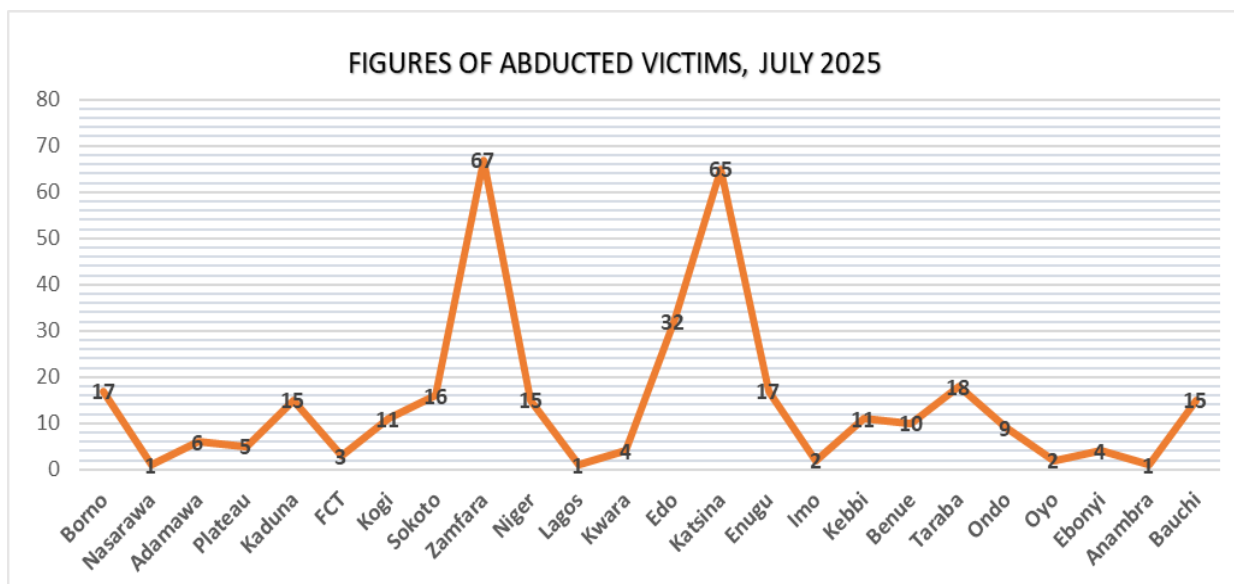
The activities of armed criminal groups involved in kidnapping continue to undermine peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 88 kidnapping incidents across 24 states, with a total of 347 individuals abducted.¹¹ Among the victims were over 64 females, 27 children, and eleven local vigilantes during the reporting month. The growing prevalence of kidnapping not only disrupts daily life but also exacerbates existing socio-economic challenges, as affected communities grapple with trauma and the financial burdens of ransom demands and recovery effort.

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/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹²

WANEP NEWS documented 171 arrests across diverse criminal activities. The coordinated joint security operations across states in Nigeria led to the arrest of several criminal suspects. 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.¹³ Additionally, the recorded incidents include fraud, cyber-crime, murder, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), reflecting a broad spectrum of both criminal and civil offenses.

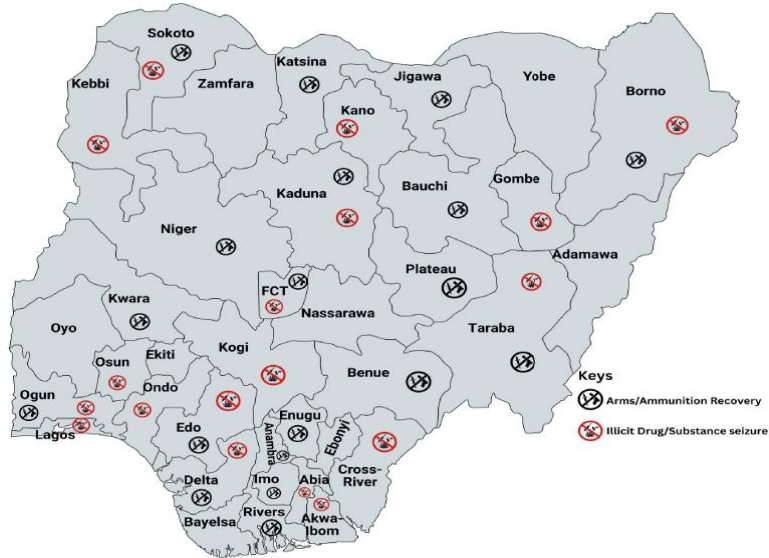
As reflected in the map below, security agencies intercepted several illicit drugs and weapons across states. Notable successes included numerous arrests and the interception of substantial quantities of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, such as Indian hemp, skuchies, opioids, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, and methamphetamine as documented in the WANEP NEWS.

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

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



Weapons Recovery and Illicit Drug/Substance Seizure in Nigeria



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁴

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 14 public demonstrations of which one demonstration degenerated into violence leading to the death of a resident. A male resident was allegedly shot dead by a stray bullet fired by security operatives deployed during a peaceful protest over growing insecurity in Mairua Community, Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.¹⁵ The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) commenced a nationwide strike over the non-payment of June salaries. The action, enforced under the union's "No Pay, No Work" policy, followed a NEC resolution and affects institutions where payments are delayed. ASUU President, Prof. Chris Piwuna, cited persistent delays since the shift from IPPIS to GIFMIS, accusing the Office of the Accountant General of deliberate sabotage. The union also demanded the immediate release of the outstanding ₦10 billion Earned Academic Allowance.¹⁶ Nurses and midwives under the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives–Federal Health Institutions Sector (NANNM-FHI) began a seven-day warning strike across federal health institutions nationwide over unmet demands, including improved allowances, staffing, and a dedicated salary structure. The union warned of a possible indefinite strike if no agreement is reached after the warning period.¹⁷

Other recorded peaceful demonstrations include: Workers under the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and Joint Union Action Committee (JUAC) conducted a peaceful protest to decry poor working conditions, irregular salaries, lack of promotion, and non-payment of allowances and wages to auxiliary staff at the secretariat in the FCT, Abuja.¹⁸ Internally

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

¹⁵ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/07/27/four-killed-as-bandits-invade-yar-unguwa-in-katsina/>

¹⁶ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/07/08/non-payment-of-salary-asuu-announces-nationwide-strike/>

¹⁷ <https://guardian.ng/news/nurses-begin-warning-strike-over-poor-conditions-leave-patients-stranded/>

¹⁸ <https://punchng.com/fct-workers-mobilise-for-protest-over-poor-welfare/>

Displaced Persons (IDPs) staged a protest along the Yelwata axis of the Benue–Nasarawa highway in Guma LGA of Benue State, blocking both lanes to demand their immediate return to ancestral homes after prolonged displacement due to suspected armed herder attacks.¹⁹ The demonstration disrupted vehicular movement for hours, leaving many stranded. Security personnel were deployed to prevent escalation. Public interest lawyers and civil society groups staged a protest at the National Assembly in Abuja, demanding the suspension and prosecution of Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) Managing Director, Farouk Ahmed. They accused him of diverting over \$5 million in public funds, abuse of office, and conflict of interest involving his son's employment with a regulated firm. The petitioners called for his immediate suspension, asset freeze, and reforms in regulatory oversight.²⁰ Several youths in Ose Irele, Irele LGA of Ondo State, staged a peaceful protest demanding the installation of a substantive monarch for the town. They lamented that the community had been without a king for over six years and called on the state government to act.²¹ The Yam Sellers Association of Nkwo Ogbede Market in Igbo-Etiti East LGA of Enugu State conducted a peaceful protest over the demolition of over 100 stalls belonging to their members, allegedly ordered by the Council Chairman. Protesters claimed goods worth millions of naira were destroyed without prior notice or adequate compensation and appealed to the state governor to intervene.²² Some retired police officers conducted a peaceful protest at the entrance gate of the National Assembly in Abuja, demanding their removal from the Contributory Pension Scheme.²³ Retired police officers in Plateau State staged a peaceful protest at the police headquarters in the state, demanding their rights over alleged ill-treatment by the Nigerian Police and continued inclusion in the Contributory Pension Scheme. They turned out in large numbers to press for the restoration of what they described as their infringed rights.²⁴

Hundreds of Ijaw youths in Kaiama community, Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA of Bayelsa State, staged a peaceful protest, calling on the state government and traditional leaders to expel herdsmen they accused of threatening lives and livelihoods. The protest escalated when troops of the Joint Military Task Force stationed in the area attempted to disperse the crowd.²⁵ In Sagamu LGA of Ogun State, some angry youths took to the streets to protest the killing of a bystander by a hit-and-run driver on Ewusi Road after the driver of a Toyota Camry lost control and rammed into him.²⁶ Over 500 women in Ozoro community, Isoko North LGA of Delta State, staged a peaceful protest over the destruction of their farms by suspected Fulani herdsmen. The protesters, carrying placards, decried threats to their livelihoods and safety due to recurring crop damage by cattle.²⁷ The Council Chairman assured them of government action to

¹⁹ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/07/30/benue-idps-block-highway-demand-return-to-ancestral-homes/>

²⁰ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/07/protesting-lawyers-storm-nass-submit-petition-against-nmdpra-boss/>

²¹ <https://punchng.com/ondo-community-youths-protest-demand-installation-of-monarch/>

²² <https://punchng.com/enugu-yam-sellers-protest-over-demolished-stalls/>

²³ <https://punchng.com/retired-police-officers-protest-under-rain-at-nassembly-gate/>

²⁴ <https://dailytrust.com/weve-been-used-and-dumped-retired-police-officers-protest-in-jos/>

²⁵ <https://punchng.com/security-forces-restore-calm-to-bayelsa-community/>

²⁶ <https://punchng.com/protest-as-hit-and-run-driver-kills-bystander-in-ogun/>

²⁷ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/07/23/delta-women-protest-against-destruction-of-crops-by-herdsmen/>

enforce the anti-open grazing law and protect farmers in the area. Residents of Fegin Mahe community in Ruwan-Bore Ward, Gusau LGA of Zamfara State, staged a peaceful protest at the Government House in Gusau against persistent bandit attacks and the absence of security operatives.²⁸ They called on the government to urgently deploy security personnel and appealed for support to establish community vigilante groups as an interim measure.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria experienced recurring public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Lassa fever and Cholera outbreak. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of 7 deaths, 28 confirmed cases, and 619 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Ebonyi, Kogi, Nasarawa, Delta, Cross River, Enugu, FCT, Lagos, and Benue, Anambra States.²⁹ Additionally, cholera outbreak was also reported in Niger State, resulting in 13 fatalities, with 239 confirmed cases during the reporting period. The NCDC identified challenges such as delayed presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behavior, often driven by the high cost of treatment, as key factors contributing to increased fatality rates.³⁰ Other contributing factors include poor environmental sanitation, consumption of contaminated water, and low disease awareness in high-burden communities. In response, the NCDC issued a nationwide alert on the heightened risk of cholera, yellow fever, and dengue fever during the flood season.

Flooding and rainstorms were reported across multiple states, with significant impacts in Kebbi, Kano, Adamawa, Niger, Edo, States. These incidents resulted in 33 fatalities and 65 injuries. These have caused extensive damage to property, including the destruction of over 100 houses, farmlands and critical public infrastructure such as bridges.³¹ Additionally, boat mishaps in Taraba, Niger and Jigawa States claimed 25 lives respectively during the reporting period.³²

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), mainly involving the rape of female minors in Bauchi and Kano States, with one victim raped to death. In addition, over 105 victims of human trafficking, including females and children, were rescued in Niger, Anambra, Plateau, Abia, Enugu, Ogun, Oyo, Katsina, and Abia States during the month.³³ The presence of illegal facilities that exploit vulnerable persons, particularly young girls and minors, remained prevalent in the reporting period. These illegal activities have been corroborated by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in

²⁸ <https://punchng.com/zamfara-communities-demand-action-over-bandit-killings-at-govt-house-protest/>

²⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Persons (NAPTIP), which cited a disturbing rise in the existence of baby factories and child trafficking in the affected states across the country.

Implications for Peace and Security

The insecurity and economic downturn in the country continue to fuel tensions, raising serious concerns for national stability. With 559 fatalities recorded as a result of violent extremism and armed violence across the country, the rising scale of violence remains deeply troubling. Continued terrorist attacks in the north-east region, despite ongoing military clearance operations, underscores the sustained operational capacity and adaptability of extremist groups. This persistent threat undermines state authority, disrupts development efforts, fuels displacement, and exacerbates humanitarian challenges in affected areas.

Organized crime, including banditry, kidnapping, arms trafficking, and attacks by ethnic militias, remains widespread, particularly in rural communities where state presence is weak. This vulnerability is illustrated by the abduction of 522 individuals during the reporting period. Women and children bear the heaviest burden, suffering not only as direct victims but also through long-term psychological trauma, economic displacement, and social marginalization. In captivity, women face heightened risks of sexual and gender-based violence, while children are vulnerable to exploitation, indoctrination, and recruitment by armed groups.

Public dissatisfaction is also deepening, driven by perceived injustice, poor governance, and inadequate service delivery. These grievances often manifest in protests and civil disobedience, with triggers ranging from insecurity and economic hardship to extrajudicial killings and human rights violations. The erosion of trust between citizens and the state continues to widen, making responsive governance and improved service delivery urgent priorities. This further depicts waning of social contract and cohesion of the country.

Health security remains a pressing concern. Recurring outbreaks of Lassa fever and a recorded case of diphtheria reflect the ongoing strain on Nigeria's public health system. Weak healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas, limits access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and preventive care. These gaps enable the continued spread of preventable diseases, increasing mortality rates and compounding the humanitarian burden.

Environmental shocks further intensify human insecurity. Severe flooding during the period claimed at least 33 lives, displaced thousands, and left 49,205 individuals in need of humanitarian assistance. The floods heightened the risk of waterborne diseases and food insecurity, disrupted essential services, and aggravated displacement and social tensions in already fragile communities. This underscores the growing impact of climate-related hazards on vulnerable populations with limited capacity to adapt.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- There is a critical need for the Government to strengthen collaboration and cooperation with WANEP and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in order to effectively leverage early warning systems. Such partnerships will not only enhance information sharing and analysis but also ensure that early warning signals are translated into timely and coordinated responses
- The Federal Government should continue to strengthen the capacity of security agencies through the provision and of security operatives. This would enhance their efficiency in responding to multifaceted security challenges facing the country.
- The State and Local Governments in collaboration with traditional and religious institutions, Civil Society Organisations and the media should reinforce trainings and sensitization of community health workers on the prevention and early detection of recorded epidemics including emphasis on personal and environmental hygiene for collective community safety. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) in partnership with the World Health Organisation (WHO), State Ministry of Health and the media should increase public health awareness and education on preventive measures around the recurring epidemics including Lassa Fever and cholera outbreak particularly in local languages to target rural communities.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), traditional/religious leaders and the media should increase efforts towards the effective implementation of the Child Rights' Act (CRA) and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) law at all levels to address cases of SGBV, as well as ensure protection of women and children across states in the country.

CONCLUSION:

The volatile security climate continues to negatively impact civilian lives. This highlights the imperative for sustained, concerted efforts by the Federal and State Governments, along with security agencies, to constantly review existing peace and security strategies in order to effectively address human security challenges and the waning trust and confidence of citizens in the state. This process should provide space for inclusive participation, particularly by Civil Society, to harness their potential contributions to peacebuilding efforts in communities across Nigeria. Likewise, increased risk communication on environmental security threats by State Governments, in partnership with health and disaster management agencies, would help strengthen mitigation measures and resilience against epidemic outbreaks and other environmental concerns in the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JULY 2025

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ IED Explosion in Borno & Yobe States	7	25 people including	Over 4 people injured

		security operatives/CJTF	
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	175	276	94
			-
Violent Clash: a. Clash b/w herders and hunters (Kaduna State) b. Clash b/w transport workers, and supporters of a local traditional ruler (Lagos) c. Clash b/w Gpakpo and Gidigi Communities (Niger) d. Clash b/w horse riders and officers of the Nigeria Police (Kano) e. Clash between armed bandits (Zamfara)	5	4	5
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	69	157	36
Abduction (evident across 28 States)	87	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	9	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	7	4	5
Physical/Armed Assault	11	3	4
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	10	74	Over 30 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	24	-	-
Homicide	22	19	-
Suicide	4	4	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			-
Demonstration (peaceful)	17	-	
Violent demonstration	1	-	
Arrest/Detention	171	-	-
Road Accident	28	118	80
Boat Accident	3	25	-
Building Collapse	3	5	7

Electrocution	1	1	-
Drowning	5	8	-
Threats	2	-	-
Gas Explosion	1	1	13
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal clash	7	8	2
Flood/Rainstorm	9	36	65
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	4	7	Lassa Fever: 647
b. Cholera Outbreak	1	13	Over 239 cases
Wildlife attack	2	1	1
Fire Outbreak	8	-	-
Tanker Explosion	1	-	-

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.

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<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	2	1	1
Human Trafficking	12	-	-
Child Abuse/Domestic Violence	3	2	-
Total	711	779	1,233