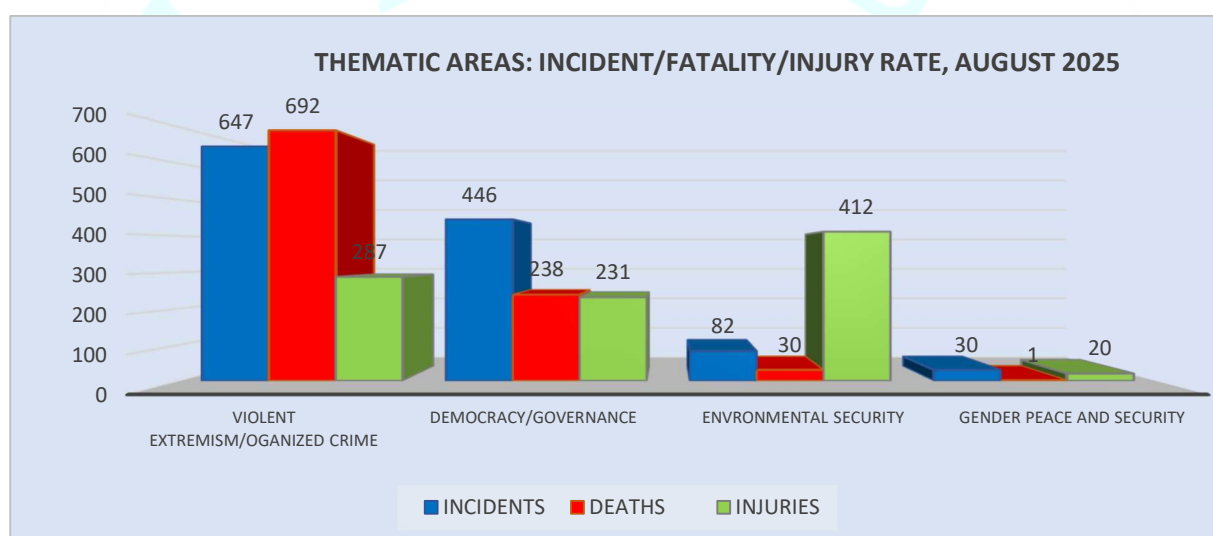


1. INTRODUCTION

As of August 2025, 1,205 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 953 and 950 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents, and diseases related incidents were recorded in August 2025.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 692, accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (953) recorded in the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme recorded 238 deaths.² Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 30 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded 1 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 region of Nigeria continues to grapple with threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups. These threats continue to cause instability, including compromised travel security due to frequent attacks on roads, restricted mobility due to security operations, and heightened risks of abduction and ambushes, which have

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

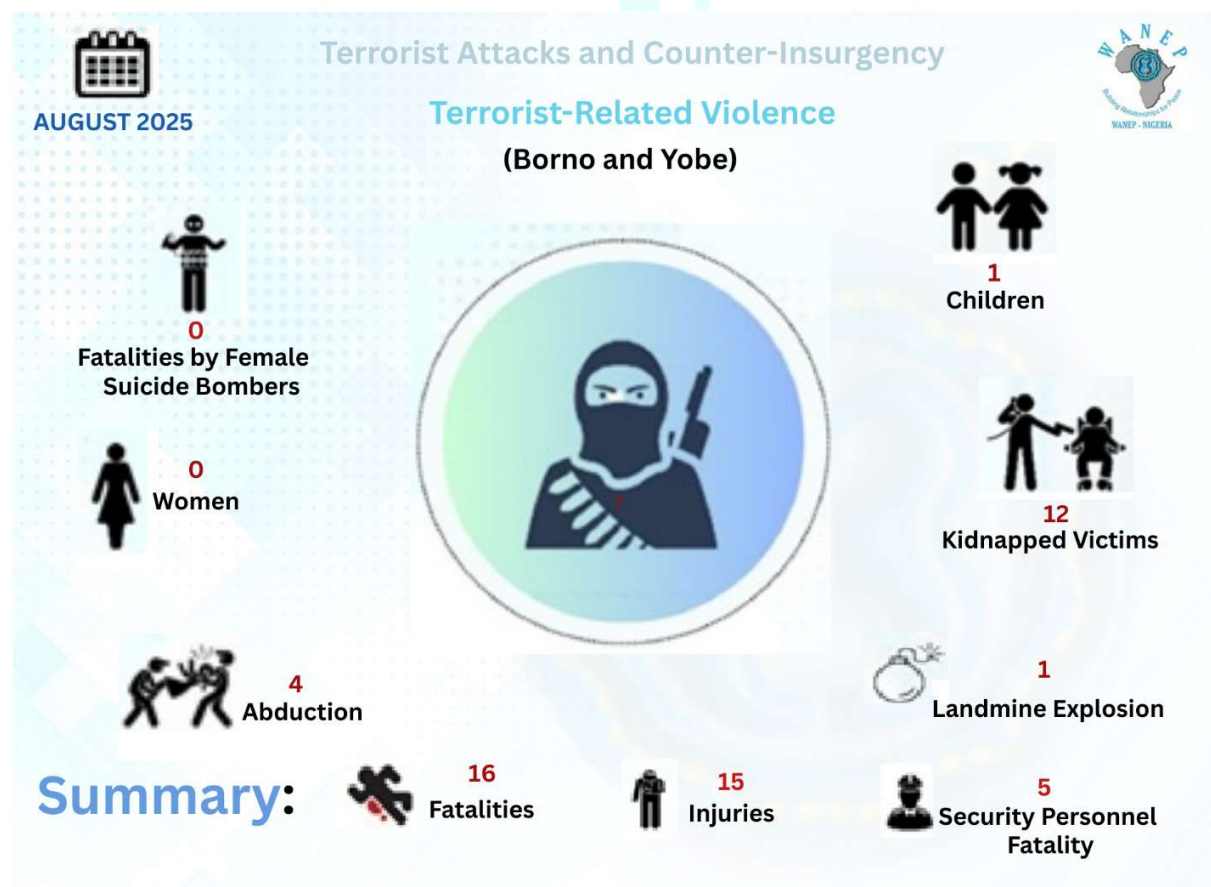
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

³ Ibid

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

disrupted economic activities and livelihoods and hindered resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The WANEP NEWS recorded 19 incidents of terrorist attacks in Mobbar, Gwoza, Damboa, Bama, Konduga, Ngala, Magumeri, Nganzai, Askira/Uba LGAs of Borno State, and Madagali LGA of Adamawa State. These incidents resulted in 31 casualties, including 16 fatalities, 15 injuries, with 12 victims abducted in the reporting period. Of the 16 fatalities, 1 was a minor and 5 were security personnel.



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁵

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 terrorist enclaves and strongholds.

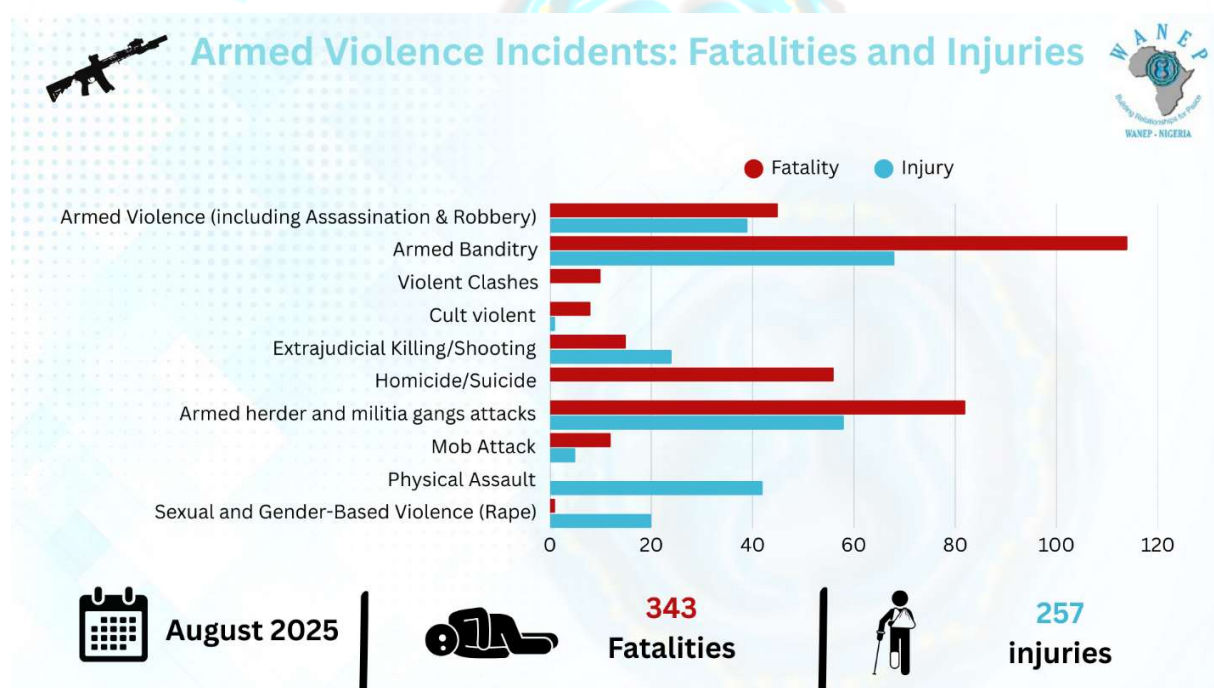
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 632 incidents of **Organized Crimes**, including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clashes, community-herder violence, arson, vandalism, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month.

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

A total of 676 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 327 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 325 civilians and 24 security personnel.⁶ Out of the total recorded fatalities, 25 were females, and 25 children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 114 people and injury to 68 others in Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West and Niger State in the North-Central.⁷ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 415 people, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁸ A sect of gunmen operating within the modus operandi of banditry, identified simply as “Mahmuda,” operating mainly in Ifelodun, Edu, and Pategi LGAs of Kwara State, killed 14 people, including a security personnel, and abducted 39 others, including 9 females and 10 minors, during the reporting month.

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 34, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 45 deaths.⁹ **Other armed violence incidents**, including **homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 53, 3, and 8 people, while **extrajudicial killing** and **mob violence** led to 15 and 12 deaths, respectively.¹⁰ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in August 2025.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued in this period. According to WANEP NEWS, August 2025 saw 104 reported kidnapping incidents across 25 states and the Federal

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/>

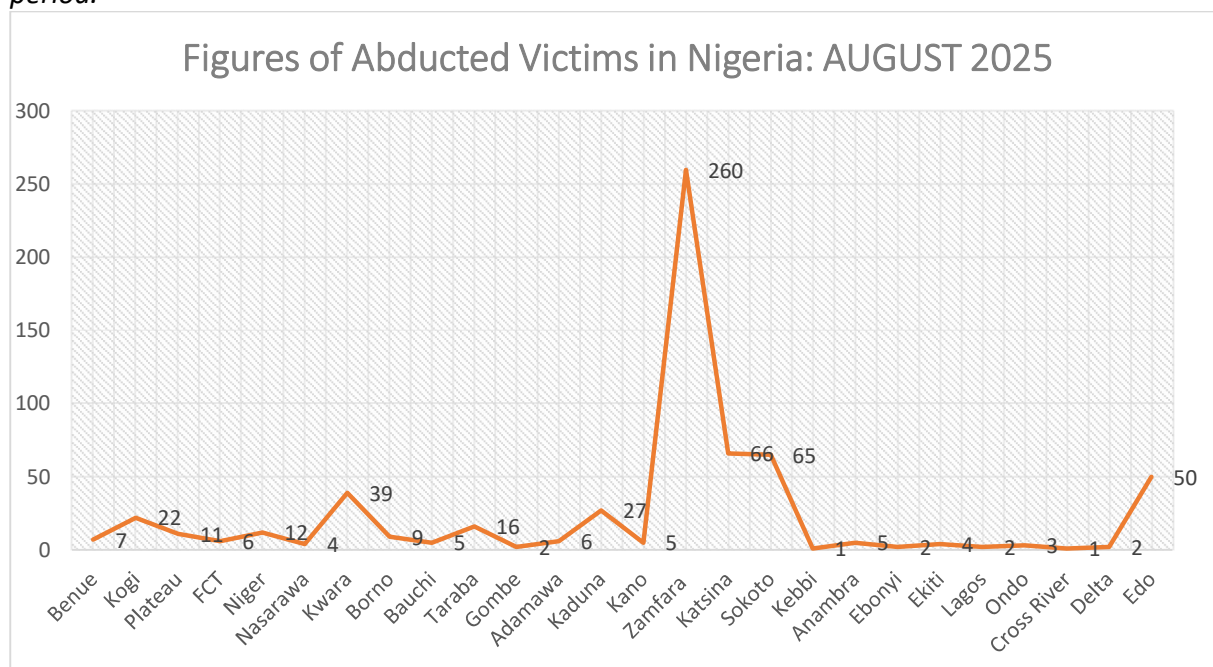
⁹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁰ Ibid.

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

Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 660 individuals, including 147 women, 46 children and 5 security personnel.¹²

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

In August 2025, WANEP NEWS documented 338 cases of arrest stemming from diverse criminal and civil offenses, including kidnapping, human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, thuggery, 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, environmental disturbance, oil theft, illegal mining, and illegal possession of firearms.¹⁴ 1993 suspects were reportedly arrested, 119 being females, 5 minors, and 27 security personnel.

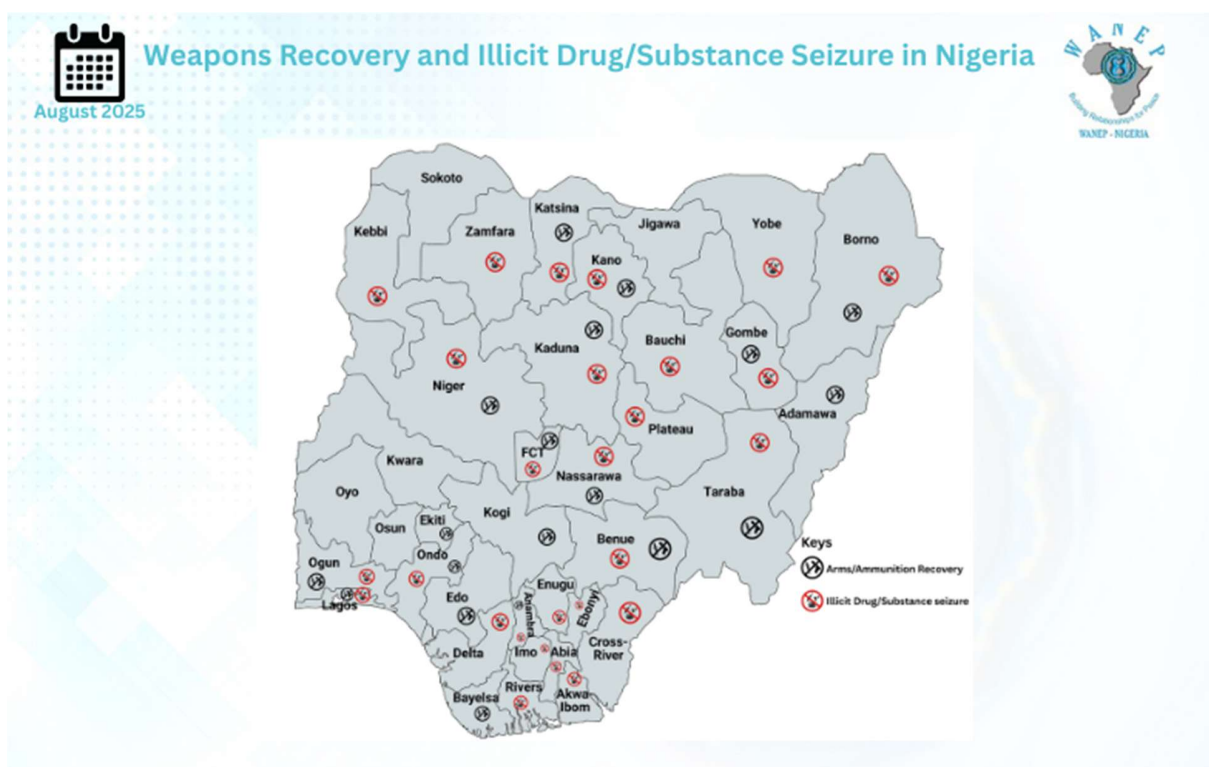
Security agencies, most notably the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), also intercepted several illicit drugs across 22 states, with 168 suspects arrested, including 17 females, for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁵. The raids yielded massive seizures and destruction amounting to over 327 tonnes of cannabis, 6.5 million opioid pills and capsules, 875,000 bottles of codeine syrup, and 19.3kg of cocaine, alongside methamphetamine, ketamine injections, phenacetine, skuchies, and other psychotropic substances. Notably, large-scale cannabis farms covering more than 71 hectares were destroyed, while ₦7.9 million in suspected illicit proceeds and vehicles used for drug conveyance were recovered.

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/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁶

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between August 4 and 31, 2025, the WANEP-EWS recorded 17 public demonstrations across the FCT, Adamawa, Zamfara, Benue, Lagos, Bauchi, Osun, Ondo, Ogun, and Enugu States. The protests were driven by insecurity (5), labour and pension disputes (3), political and civil rights activism (4), education-related grievances (2), and land or governance conflicts (3).

Insecurity was the leading trigger. Abductions in Adamawa, herder violence in Benue, mass kidnappings in Zamfara, and recurring killings in Ondo all prompted protests demanding stronger protection from the Government and its security agencies. Labour-related actions included retired soldiers in Abuja, pensioners in Lagos, and physically challenged persons disrupting Lagos airport operations over welfare neglect. Political activism was marked by the coordinated #FreeSowore protests in Abuja and Osogbo, alongside legal demonstrations in Enugu and Abuja over alleged persecution and police misconduct. Education-related protests arose in Bauchi, where student unrest shut down Federal Polytechnic, and in Abuja, where activists challenged the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) over a withheld certificate. In Ogun, multiple community demonstrations targeted flooding, illegal forest occupation, and traditional authority disputes.

There were also 2 incidents of violent demonstrations recorded in August 2025. In Kuchibiyi, Bwari Area Council of the FCT, a land dispute between natives and suspected land grabbers

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

reportedly escalated into a clash with police, leaving 1 dead, 2 injured, and several arrests made¹⁷. In Akamkpa LGA, Cross River State, aggrieved workers protesting layoffs reportedly engaged in vandalism, arson, and attacks on police, leading to arrests and the recovery of firearms.

Also, in August 2025, 2 significant strike actions reflected growing labour unrest in Nigeria's public sector. The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Kwara State Chapter, began an indefinite strike over non-implementation of the Consolidated Judicial Salary Structure (CONJUSS) and stagnant salaries since 2010. The Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), Kaduna State Chapter, resumed an indefinite strike after the state government failed to implement the 100% Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) 2024 and address welfare issues. Both actions, with no intervention at reporting time, highlight persistent disputes over salary structures and welfare, underscoring risks of prolonged service disruption in the judiciary and health sectors.

Furthermore, in August 2025, the WANEP NEWS recorded widespread safety-related issues with high human and infrastructural impact in Nigeria. There were multiple building collapses across Edo, FCT, Katsina, and Kaduna States, killing 12 people and displacing several households, largely linked to structural weakness and heavy rainfall. Bridge collapses in Katsina, Taraba, and Kebbi disrupted transport, with floods destroying infrastructure and displacing hundreds. Drowning incidents in Borno, FCT, Kaduna, Jigawa, Sokoto, Zamfara, and Jigawa accounted for 8 deaths, including victims fleeing insecurity. Electrocutions and power-related accidents in Anambra, Adamawa, Lagos, Abia, Ebonyi, and Kaduna killed 8 persons, many linked to unsafe practices and vandalism. Fire outbreaks and explosions were frequent, destroying homes, businesses, and public infrastructure across Oyo, Bauchi, Lagos, Rivers, Cross River, Niger, and Kaduna States, with notable cases tied to electrical faults, fuel leaks, or transformer failures. Transport-related disasters were particularly severe, with boat mishaps in Sokoto, Zamfara, Borno, and Jigawa killing over 58 people (including 5 females and 13 minors), a train derailment injuring seven (7) in Kaduna, and tanker explosions causing 11 fatalities and 1 injury in Kaduna, Plateau, and Lagos. In total, 45 incidents of road mishaps killed 129 people (including 16 females, 8 children, and 1 security operative) and injured 194 others (including 13 females and 4 security operatives). The scale and diversity of these incidents highlight the persistent risks of weak infrastructure, unsafe practices, flooding, and insecurity, demanding stronger enforcement of building standards, disaster preparedness, and coordinated emergency response.

The August 16, 2025, bye-elections across several states were marred by widespread electoral infractions, including vote buying, ballot diversion, thuggery, and violent disruptions. Security operatives reportedly arrested at least 474 individuals, including suspected vote buyers, political thugs, politicians, and INEC officials, with incidents recorded in Kaduna, Kano, Ogun, Taraba, and Niger States. In Kano alone, 333 suspected thugs were intercepted, some found in possession of small arms and light weapons, while in Edo State, 3 officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were injured in an armed attack while conveying results. Allegations of abductions, open vote trading (₦2,000–₦10,000 per vote), and the seizure of ₦25.9 million suspected for vote buying were also documented, raising serious concerns about electoral

¹⁷ <https://dailytrust.com/one-killed-as-natives-police-clash-in-fct/>

integrity and governance. Similarly, on August 30, 2025, local government elections were conducted across 6,866 polling units in 319 wards of Rivers State under the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC), amid criticisms of legitimacy under the sole administration of Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas (retired).

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded public health emergencies, including outbreaks of Lassa Fever. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 402 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 21 states between August 3 and 24, 2025, with 25 confirmed cases and 4 fatalities.¹⁸

In August 2025, Nigeria experienced at least eighteen (18) weather-related incidents, including floods, rainstorms, lightning strikes, and erosion crises, leading to significant human and material losses. Flooding alone was reported in Cross River, Niger, Bauchi, Lagos, Adamawa, Ebonyi, Nasarawa, Yobe, Kebbi, and Kaduna States, as well as the FCT, resulting in 10 deaths—8 in Ebonyi, 1 in Kebbi, and 1 in Nasarawa—and displacing hundreds while destroying thousands of farms, homes, and roads. Niger State saw widespread flooding across 18 communities in Lapai LGA. Adamawa experienced several incidents in Hong and Dugwaba districts, and Yobe's Potiskum LGA faced large-scale displacements. In Kebbi, floods destroyed two major bridges, disrupting connectivity. Lagos and Cross River suffered urban flooding mainly due to poor drainage. Severe rainstorms displaced households in Bauchi, Plateau, and the FCT, with over 50 houses, schools, and worship centers destroyed in Plateau alone. Lightning strikes in Katsina and Kogi killed 7 people and injured at least 6 others. Additionally, an erosion crisis in the FCT displaced residents after several houses collapsed.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 20 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape of female adults and minors in Bauchi, Gombe, Kebbi, Anambra, Imo, Ekiti, Lagos, Oyo, Osun, Delta, and Ondo States, in the month.¹⁹ Out of the 20 recorded incidents, there was a female fatality and 20 injuries, including 5 adult females and 15 female minors. Also, no fewer than 68 victims of human trafficking, including 43 females and 25 minors, were rescued in the FCT, Benue, Kogi, Kano, Anambra, Lagos, Cross River, and Akwa Ibom States in the month, while 43 suspected human traffickers, including 20 males, 22 females, and a security personnel, were arrested.²⁰

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The persistent escalation of organised crime, terrorism, and communal violence continues to undermine Nigeria's peace and security architecture. In August 2025 alone, 647 recorded incidents resulted in nearly 692 fatalities, underscoring the entrenched threat posed by non-state armed groups, bandits, and extremist organisations. The abduction of 555 civilians, including women and children further highlights the vulnerability of communities and the failure of protective structures to prevent such attacks. The toll on both civilians and security personnel

¹⁸ file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_230825_34.pdf

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

²⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

reflects the overstretched capacity of law enforcement and military operatives. Critically, the impact on children has reached alarming levels: according to UNICEF's Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Report ²¹, over 4.9 million children in northern Nigeria currently require humanitarian assistance. More than 500 schools have been shut down or destroyed, leaving millions, especially girls, without access to formal education due to fear of abduction and violence.

In addition, rising environmental vulnerabilities, including floods, rainstorms, erosion, and lightning strikes, compound the country's fragile peace and security situation. These disasters have displaced households, destroyed farmlands, and undermined local livelihoods, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Public health crises such as Lassa fever outbreaks further strain healthcare systems and expose gaps in disaster preparedness. These environmental and health-related challenges, when layered on insecurity, intensify humanitarian needs, fuel displacement, and deepen mistrust in governance structures.

Moreover, widespread protests, labour strikes, and electoral infractions reveal mounting frustration over governance challenges. Demonstrations were driven by insecurity, unpaid entitlements, and political grievances reflect growing disillusionment among citizens, particularly youths and vulnerable groups. With electoral violence, corruption, and welfare neglect adding to public anger, Nigeria faces an increasing risk of socio-political instability. Unless mitigated through inclusive governance, improved service delivery, and stronger security interventions, these dynamics could exacerbate cycles of violence, weaken state legitimacy, and further fragment social cohesion, peace, and stability of the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- A "Smart Security Fusion Network" should be created to link federal, state, and local security agencies on one platform. Real-time feeds from drones, satellites, and Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) would be integrated into a unified dashboard, supported by AI-driven risk alerts and blockchain-secured data sharing. Rapid-response joint task units embedded in communities would combine tactical action with conflict de-escalation to ensure speed, precision, and trust.
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and state governments should institutionalize and scale up long-term recovery by establishing Sustainability Centres hosting vocational and livelihood programs across major camps. These centres should provide structured vocational training, agricultural support, and access to small business loans, enabling displaced persons to rebuild livelihoods and reduce aid dependency. Strengthening coordination with international donors and NGOs will also enhance accountability and efficiency in aid delivery.
- The eradication of illicit drug farms requires coordinated action to ensure sustainability. NDLEA should lead in identifying, documenting, and safely destroying farms while

²¹ <https://www.unicef.org/documents/nigeria-humanitarian-situation-report-no-2-30-june-2025>

engaging communities to prevent replanting. State Ministries of Agriculture must provide alternatives through subsidized inputs, training, and promotion of profitable crops. Local Governments should mobilize communities, offer extension services, and monitor compliance. State Environmental Protection Agencies (SEPAs) should also enforce safe eradication methods, assess impacts, and guide land rehabilitation. Strong inter-agency collaboration will disrupt illicit cultivation while enabling resilient livelihoods.

- In addition to temporary schools, the Ministry of Education should collaborate with tech companies and broadcasters to develop low-tech and offline mobile learning platforms such as radio-based lessons, solar-powered audio devices, and printed learning kits in indigenous languages to ensure continuous education for children in volatile areas. Where possible, community learning hubs should be established to provide safe access to structured learning.
- While efforts like the youth integration program already support out-of-school youth through apprenticeships, mentorship, and skill-building initiatives, these programs should be scaled up, better funded, and more strategically targeted to offer meaningful pathways to employment or entrepreneurship, especially in communities at risk of extremist recruitment.
- To better address the rising cases of SGBV and human trafficking, the Ministry of Women Affairs could enhance efforts aimed at changing social attitudes, by launching a national education campaign targeting men and boys, focusing on the harmful effects of gender-based violence and fostering positive behaviours. Moreover, specialized courts should be established to fast-track cases of trafficking and gender-based violence, ensuring that victims receive timely justice.
- To improve disaster response, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) should establish community-based rapid response units in high-risk LGAs and train local volunteers in evacuation and relief protocols. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and the Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) must enhance last-mile early warning systems using local radio, mobile networks, and community leaders. The National Orientation Agency (NOA), with the Ministry of Information, should boost grassroots safety awareness, while inter-agency coordination should be strengthened through joint drills and regular assessments.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the August 2025 trends reflect the interconnected challenges of violent extremism, organized crime, electoral violence, natural disasters, and public health crises, all of which continue to deepen insecurity, displacement, and social fragility in Nigeria. The effects on the population at large, especially women, children, and vulnerable groups, underscore the urgency of coordinated national action. Strengthening security operations, improving disaster response, addressing governance deficits, and investing in sustainable livelihoods remain critical to breaking cycles of violence and restoring public trust in state institutions.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 2025

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	15	16	15
ORGANISED CRIME: (<u>Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson, armed herders and cult/gang clash</u>).	226	251	147
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	78	327	16
Abduction (evident across 25 States & the FCT)	104	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	10	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	14	15	24
Physical/Armed Assault	14	-	49
Herder-Community Conflict	11	10	24
Vandalism	14	-	-
Violent Clash	1	10	-
Communal Clash	11	7	19
Illicit Drug Trafficking	87	-	-
Homicide	53	53	-
Suicide	3	3	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)	17	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	2	-	5
Strike	2	-	-
Political Violence	3	-	11
Election-related Violence	2	8	1
Electrocution	7	-	13
Arrest/Detention	338	-	-
Prison Break	2	-	-
Road Accident	45	129	194
Boat Accident	7	58	10
Rail Accident	1	-	7
Building Collapse	6	12	2
Bridge Collapse	3	-	-
Mine collapse	2	7	4
Drowning	4	8	-
Tanker Explosion	2	11	1
Gas Explosion	1	1	-

Other Explosions	4	3	-
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	6	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever	46	4	402
Fire Outbreak	17	2	-
Thunderstorm/Lightning Strike/Rainstorm/Flood/Windstorm Erosion	16 1	7 -	6 -
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	20	1	20
Human Trafficking	10	-	-
Total	1,205	953	950