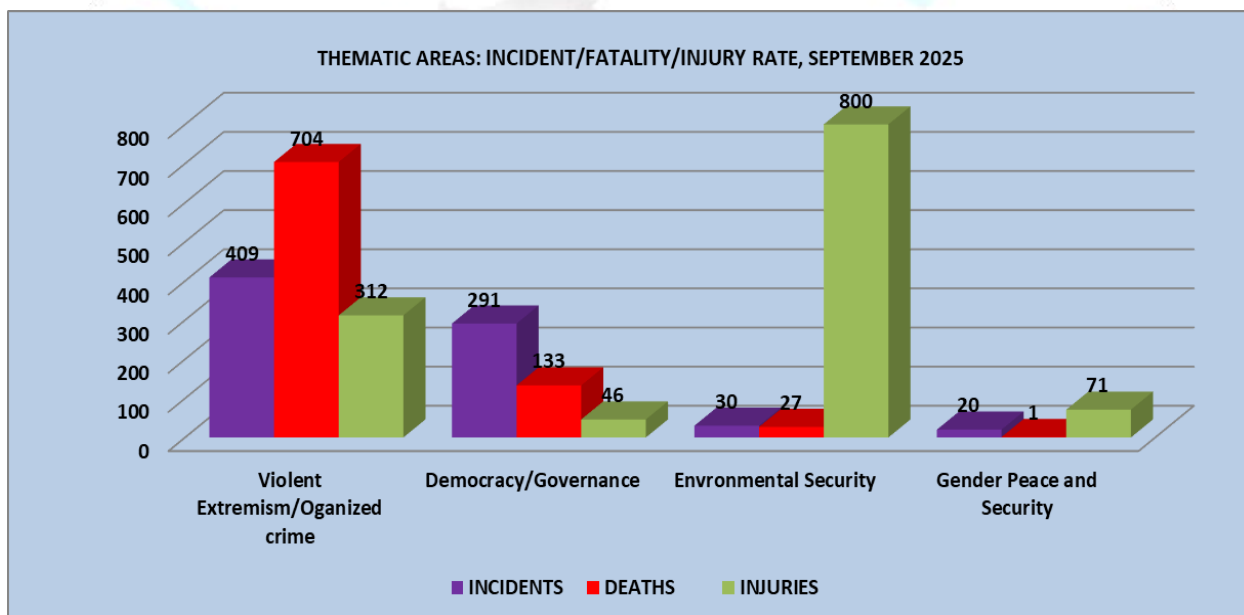


I. INTRODUCTION

In September 2025, 688 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 865 and 1,165 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 Organized Crime recorded a total fatality of 704 accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (865) recorded in the reporting period while the Democracy and Governance theme recorded 133 deaths. Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 27 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded one deaths 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

Terrorist-related attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to pose significant security threats to rural communities in the North-East region. The sustained attacks and the recurrent use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by these groups demonstrate their adaptive and persistent tactics aimed at instilling fear and undermining

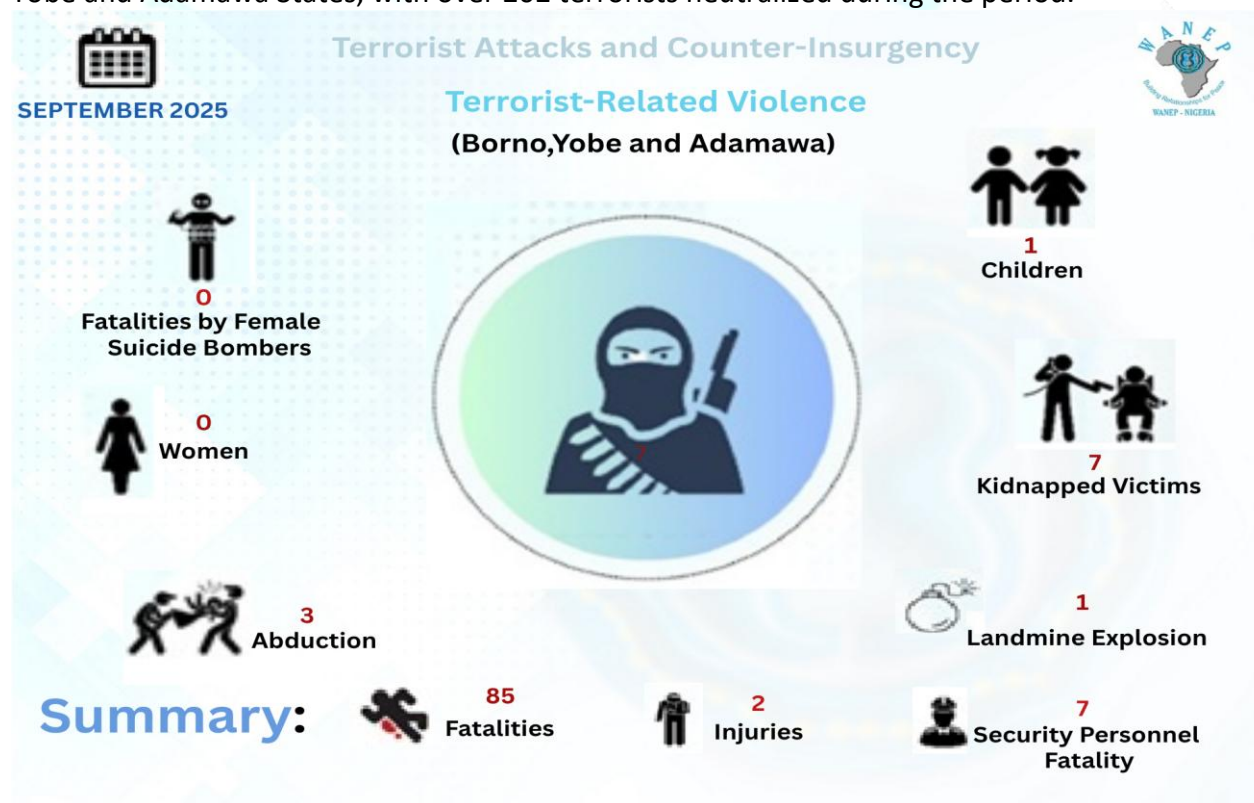
¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

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

Government-led reconstruction and resettlement efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Despite the ongoing counter-terrorism operations by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Nigerian Armed Forces, the insurgents have maintained a notable level of operational capability. These developments highlight the enduring threat posed by terrorist groups and their continued impact on national peace and security stability.

WANEP NEWS documented terrorists attacks targeted civilians including farmers, fishermen, travelers and traders. These communities include Darul Jamal Community in Bama, Tarmuwa, Gujba, Gwoza and Madagali LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. The violent attacks resulted in 85 fatalities, including local vigilantes, with 7 people abducted during the reporting period. In response, the Nigerian Military, in collaboration with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), strengthened its partnership with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to conduct intensified counterinsurgency and clearance operations across the region, particularly in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States, with over 202 terrorists neutralized during the period.⁴



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁵

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 37 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 619 fatalities among civilians and security personnel.⁶ Of the

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

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

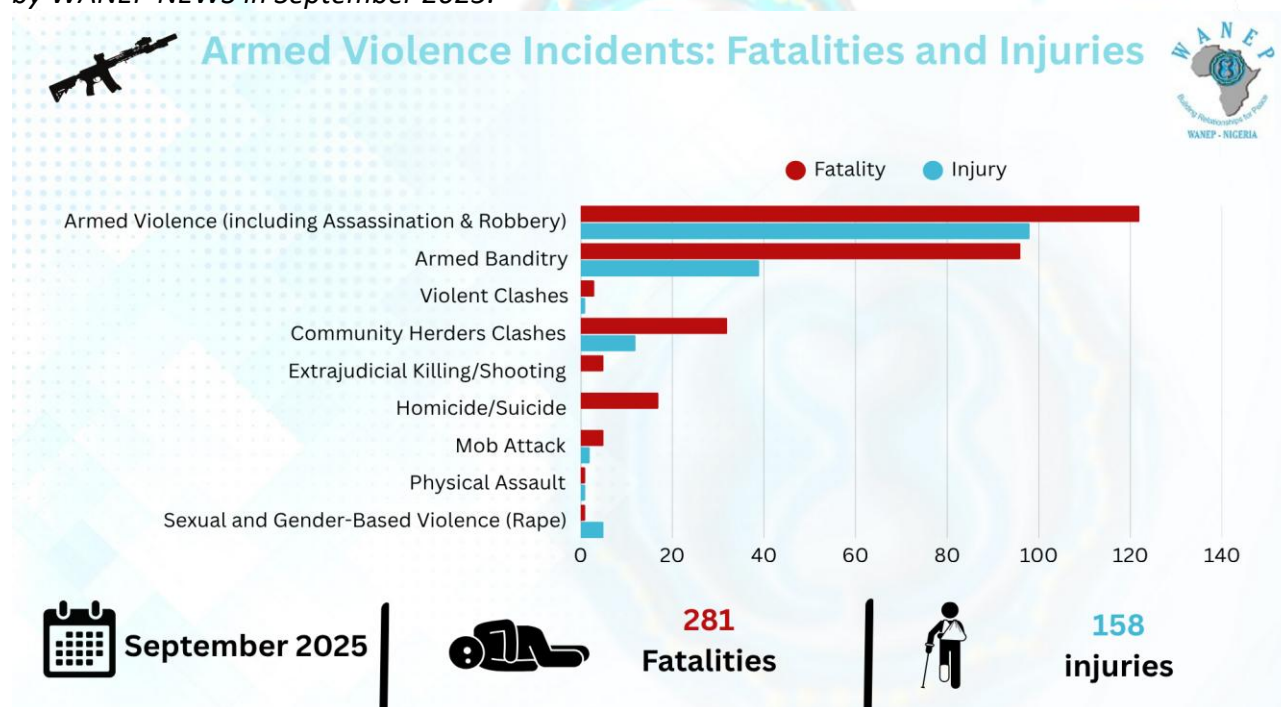
⁶Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

recorded deaths, 98 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 25 were females, 20 were children, and 44 were security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.

Armed banditry resulted in the death of 96 people across Kaduna, Zamfara, Niger, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West and North-Central regions.⁷ Other criminal activities perpetrated by the bandits during the period included kidnapping, cattle rustling, arms trafficking, the looting of goods, burning of houses, and the destruction of several properties in the period.

Armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes resulted in **140** deaths, while **Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in the fatality of 32 deaths. **Other reported incidents included culpable homicide, Cult clashes, extrajudicial killings/shootings, mob violence, and suicide** which recorded 15, 10, 5, 5, and 2 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.⁸

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



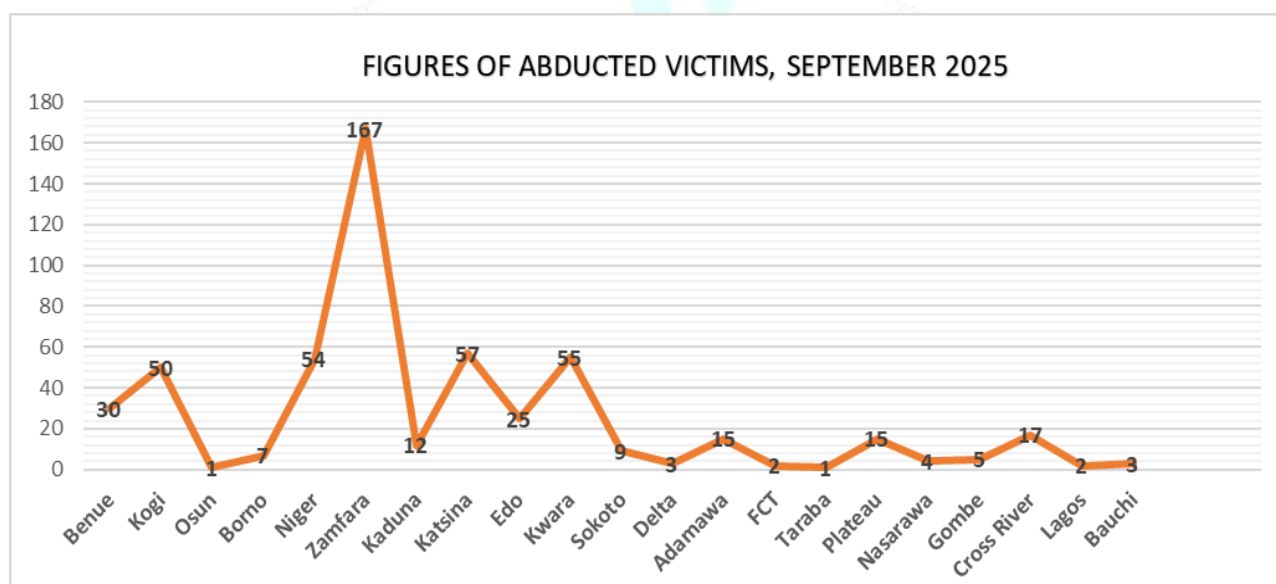
Source: WANEP-NEWS⁹

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

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

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

The activities of armed criminal groups involved in kidnapping continue to undermine peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 87 kidnapping incidents across 21 states, with a total of 534 people abducted.¹⁰ Among the victims were over 90 females, 62 children, and three security operatives 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.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

WANEP NEWS documented 199 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. 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

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

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

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



September 2025

Weapons Recovery and Illicit Drug/Substance Seizure in Nigeria



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹³

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

The WANEP NEWS recorded public demonstrations and strike action of which one in the reporting period. Hundreds of electricity workers under the aegis of the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE) conducted a strike action following the expiration of the union's ultimatum to the management of the Transmission Company of Nigeria over staff welfare and other issues affecting members, including the non-implementation of the national minimum wage, casualisation of workers, and non-payment of staff salaries in Abuja, FCT.¹⁴ Similarly, resident doctors at the Federal Medical Center (FMC), Abeokuta, Ogun State, embarked on a five-day warning strike to demand improved healthcare conditions, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting.¹⁵ Students of ATM Science and Technical College held a peaceful demonstration over the killing of a classmate allegedly shot by a military officer at Jato-Aka in the Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, urging state and federal authorities to act swiftly to prevent further loss of civilian lives.¹⁶ Several community residents also demonstrated against former Anambra State governor, Peter Obi, for inviting former Kaduna State governor, Nasir El-Rufai, to the Odenigbo Lecture Series organised by the Catholic

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

¹⁴ <https://punchng.com/nationwide-blackout-looms-as-electricity-workers-down-tools/>

¹⁵ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/09/12/resident-doctors-in-fmc-abekuta-join-5-day-nationwide-strike/>

¹⁶ <https://dailypost.ng/2025/10/02/benue-students-hold-vigil-for-classmate-killed-by-soldiers-demand-justice/>

Archdiocese in Owerri, Imo State, prompting the deployment of security operatives to disperse the protesters.¹⁷

In Kogi State, hundreds of community members protested worsening insecurity in Egbe, Yagba West Local Government Area, lamenting incessant killings and abductions. In Amawbia Community, Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State, youths carried out a peaceful demonstration against drug trafficking, child trafficking, and prostitution, expressing concern over alleged child prostitution and drug-related activities in local brothels, with no reported intervention.¹⁸ Vehicle dealers under the Association of Motor Dealers of Nigeria in the South-West region also protested against alleged harassment and extortion by officers of the Nigeria Customs Service in Akure, Ondo State.¹⁹ Similarly, residents of FESTAC Town in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos State demanded urgent government intervention to address years of neglect, highlighting bad roads, blocked drainage, infrastructure decay, illegal shanties, and rising insecurity.²⁰ In Enugwu-Agidi, Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State, community residents also demonstrated against alleged land grabbing and high-handedness by their President-General.²¹

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

In the reporting month, Nigeria continued to experience recurring public health challenges, notably outbreaks of Lassa fever across several states. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of three deaths, 37 confirmed cases, and 526 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Taraba, Benue, Kogi, Gombe, Plateau, Delta, the FCT, Lagos, Rivers, Imo, Oyo, Kaduna, Sokoto, Kebbi, Ekiti, Adamawa, Nasarawa, Anambra, and Jigawa States.²² The NCDC identified challenges such as delayed presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behavior, often driven by the high cost of treatment and clinical management of Lassa fever, as key factors contributing to increased fatality rates.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded several incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), predominantly cases of rape involving female minors in Bauchi, Gombe, Kebbi, Rivers, and Anambra States. In Ondo State, one of the victims was reportedly raped to death. Additionally, more than 13 victims of human trafficking, mostly children, were rescued in Taraba and Nasarawa States during the month.²³

¹⁷ <https://punchng.com/group-protests-as-el-rufai-courts-imo-power-bloc/>

¹⁸ <https://zagazola.org/index.php/breaking-news/youths-in-anambra-protest-against-drugs-child-trafficking-prostitution>

¹⁹ <https://punchng.com/south-west-auto-dealers-protest-customs-alleged-extortion/>

²⁰ <https://punchng.com/festac-residents-protest-govt-neglect-demand-intervention/>

²¹ <https://punchng.com/anambra-women-protest-land-grabbing/>

²² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

²³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Implications for Peace and Security

The worsening insecurity and economic challenges in Nigeria continue to heighten tensions and raise serious concerns for national stability. With 704 deaths linked to violent extremism and armed violence across the country, the growing intensity of violence remains alarming. Persistent terrorist attacks in the North-East, despite ongoing military operations, demonstrate the resilience and evolving tactics of extremist groups. The evolving threat continues to undermine state security, disrupts development initiatives, drives displacement, and deepens humanitarian crises in affected communities.

Organized criminal activities such as banditry, kidnapping, arms smuggling, and ethnic militia attacks remain prevalent, particularly in remote areas with weak state presence. During the period under review, 533 individuals were abducted, underscoring the vulnerability of rural populations. Women and children continue to be the most affected, enduring direct violence as well as long-term psychological distress, economic displacement, and social exclusion. Those held in captivity face additional risks, as women and children in particular, are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, while children are at risk of exploitation, indoctrination, and recruitment by armed groups.

Public discontent is also rising due to perceived injustice, weak governance, and inadequate public services. These grievances often lead to protests and civil unrest, weakening state-citizen relations. The growing distrust between citizens and the state highlights the urgent need for responsive governance and improved service delivery, as the social contract and national cohesion continue to erode.

Health security challenges further compound the situation. Recurring outbreaks of Lassa fever continue to strain on Nigeria's public health system. Poor healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas, hinders access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and preventive measures. These weaknesses contribute to the persistence of preventable diseases, rising mortality, and an expanding humanitarian burden.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- State Governments should consider sustaining and strengthening collaboration with traditional and community leaders, faith-based institutions, as well as women and youth groups, to enhance dialogue and mediation platforms aimed at addressing rising security threats and promoting social cohesion within communities.
- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen the capacity of security agencies through enhanced recruitment, continuous training, and strategic deployment of well-equipped

personnel. These efforts will improve operational efficiency, foster better inter-agency coordination, and ensure a more effective response to the complex security challenges confronting the nation.

- The Federal and State Governments should intensify efforts to expand sustainable employment and skills development programmes such as the Nigerian Youth Academy aimed at empowering young people, particularly out-of-school youth. These initiatives will help reduce youth involvement in criminal activities by creating viable livelihood opportunities and addressing underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities.
- State and Local Governments, working with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), should deepen collaboration with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the media, and traditional and faith-based groups to promote public awareness on health, safety, and hygiene practices, especially in hard-to-reach communities. This will help prevent and reduce the recurrence of Lassa fever outbreaks across Nigeria.
- The State and Local Governments, in partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), traditional and religious leaders, women and youth groups, and the media, should intensify advocacy for the full implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act. In addition, they should collaborate with community stakeholders to promote awareness on preventing Gender-Based Violence (GBV), challenge harmful cultural practices, and advance gender equality and respect for human rights.

CONCLUSION:

The evolving security challenges facing Nigeria continue to undermine human security and national stability. Assuaging the threats requires coordinated efforts by both Federal and State Government, and other critical actors to review and strengthen current peace and security architecture of the country. Strengthening these measure is vital to tackling human security issues and building public confidence in government institutions. In addition, ensuring broad participation, particularly from the civil Society, will contribute to harnessing their potential value towards promoting peace and stability across the country.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks/ IED Explosion in Borno & Yobe States	10	85 people including 7 security operatives and civilians including CJTF	Several people injured

ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash).	150	233	256
			-
Violent Clash:			
a. Clash b/w herders and hunters (Kaduna State)	7	3	4
b. Clash b/w transport workers, and supporters of a local traditional ruler (Lagos)			
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	77	328	Over 30 people injured
Abduction (evident across 28 States)	87	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	10	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	6	5	1
Physical/Armed Assault	3	1	1
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	4	32	Over 20 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	35	-	-
Homicide	16	15	-
Suicide	4	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	11	-	-
Violent demonstration	1	-	1
Strike	2	-	-
Arrest/detention	199	-	-
Road Accident	62	125	38
Boat Accident	5		-
Building Collapse	3	5	7
Electrocution	1	1	-
Drowning	2	2	-
Threats	1	-	-
Gas Explosion	4	-	-
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			

Flood/Rainstorm	7	2	-
Erosion/Road Collapse	1	-	-
Mining Collapse	2	13	15
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	4	3	Lassa Fever: 785
Fire Outbreak	14	7	-
Tanker Explosion	2	2	-

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	9	1	5
Human Trafficking	7	-	-
Child Abuse/Domestic Violence	4	-	2
Total	688	865	1,165