

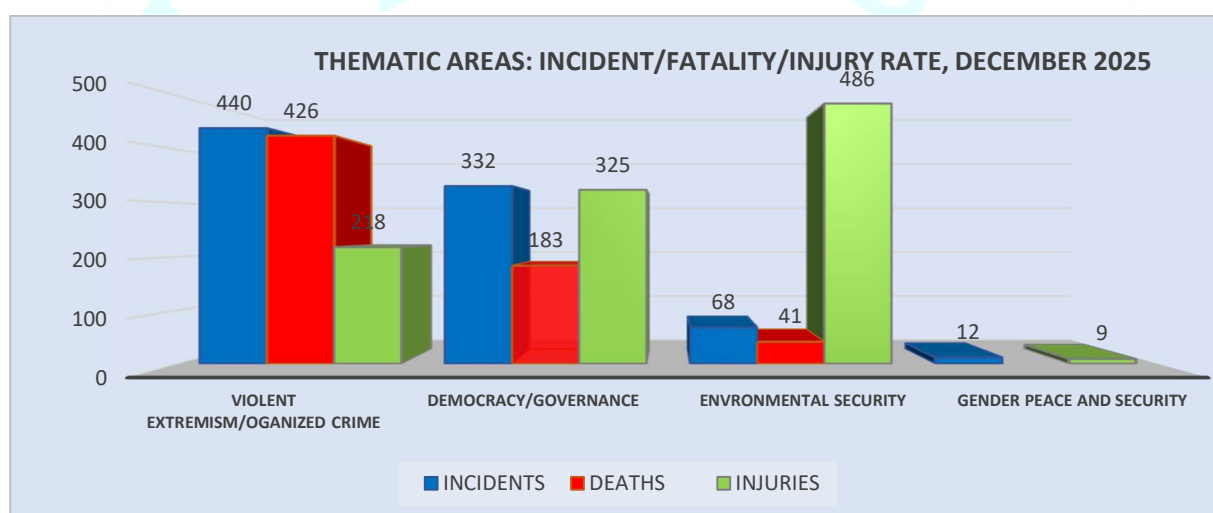
# NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-NIGERIA)

## (DECEMBER 2025)

### 1. INTRODUCTION

As of December 2025, 852 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).<sup>1</sup> A cumulative fatality of 650 and 1,038 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents were recorded in December 2025.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime recorded a total fatality of 426, accounting for the highest of the total number of deaths (650) recorded in the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme recorded 183 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 41 deaths, while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded no deaths in the reporting period.<sup>3</sup> (see annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>4</sup>.

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

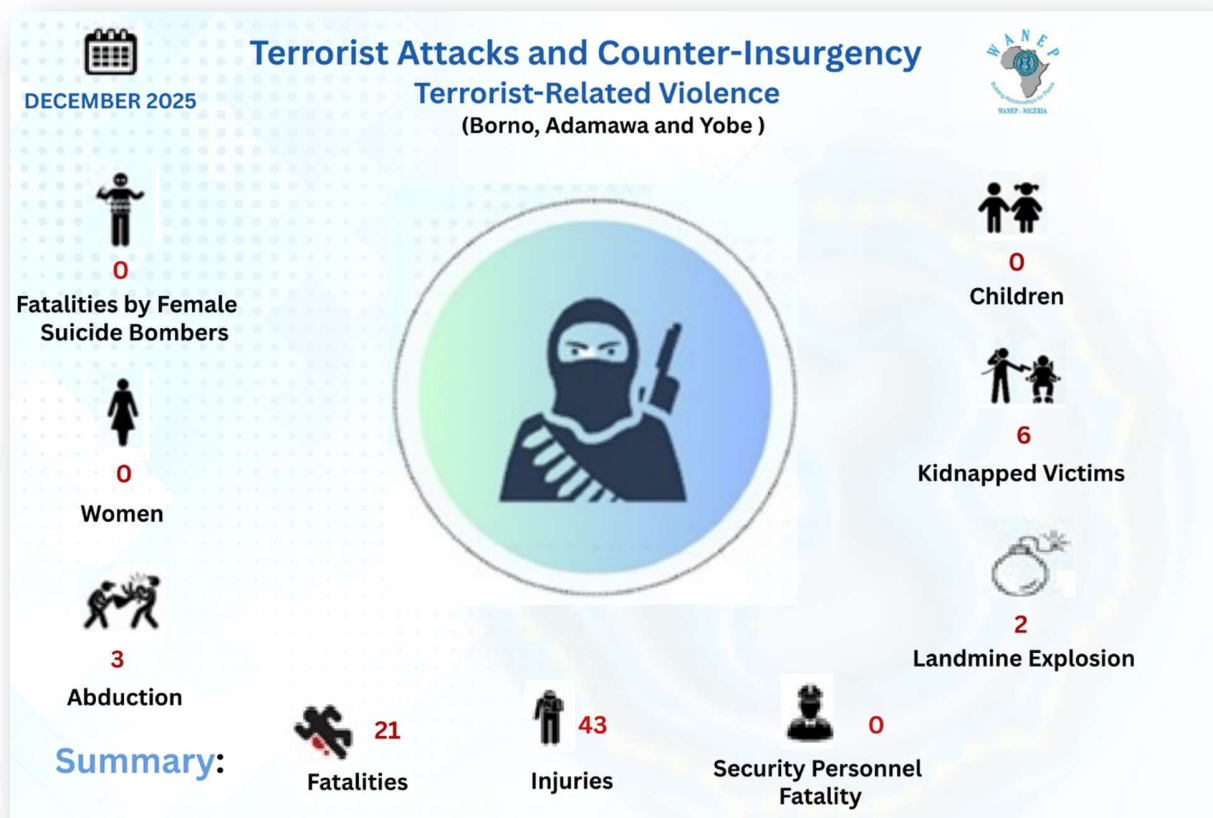
<sup>1</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>2</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

The WANEP NEWS recorded 11 incidents of terrorist attacks in Konduga, Guzamala, Maiduguri LGAs of Borno State; Hong and Madagali LGAs of Adamawa State; and Gujba, Geidam and Gulani LGAs of Yobe State. These incidents resulted in 64 casualties, including 21 fatalities, 43 injuries, and 6 victims, including 2 minors, abducted in the reporting period. Of the 43 injured victims, 1 was a minor.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>5</sup>

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. Also, security operatives have reportedly intensified patrols and surveillance along the border areas to counter possible cross-border infiltration by extremist elements.

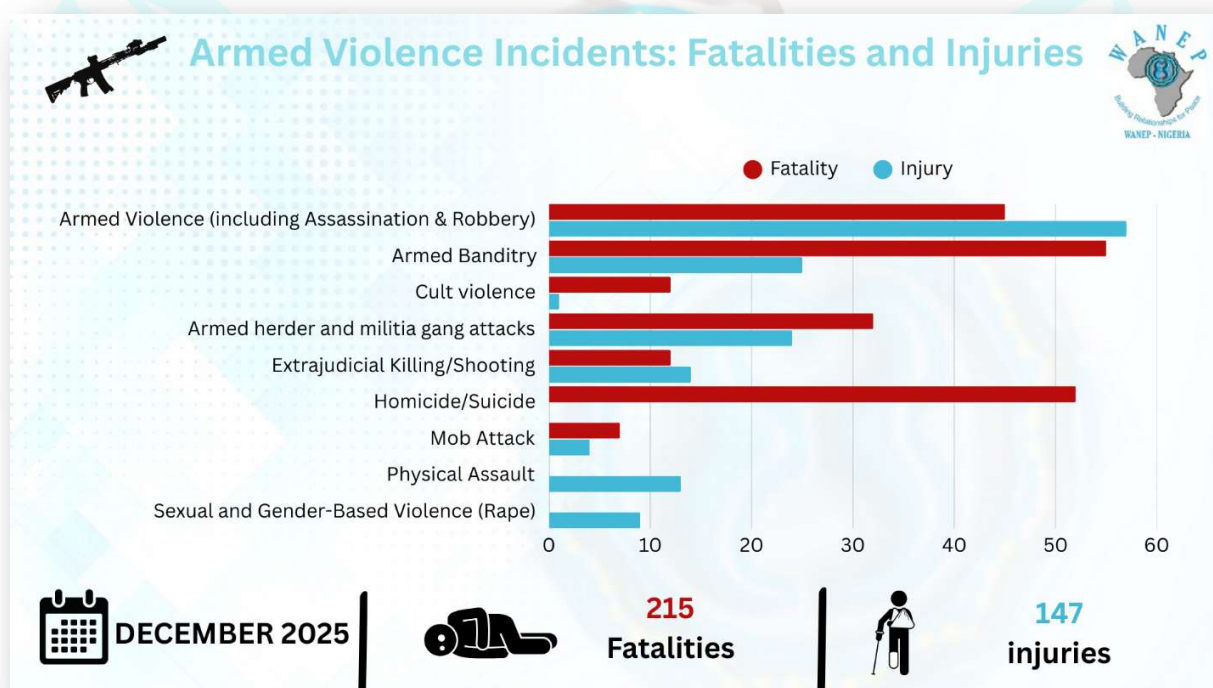
The WANEP-NEWS recorded 385 incidents of **Organized Crimes**, including banditry, human and drug trafficking, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, cult/gang violence clashes, community-herder violence, arson, vandalism, and armed violence by militia gangs, amongst others, in the month.

<sup>5</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

A total of 426 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 173 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 244 civilians, and 9 security personnel.<sup>6</sup> Out of the total recorded fatalities, 21 were females, and 20 were children.

**Armed banditry** recorded a fatality of 55 people and injury to 25 others in Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West and the FCT, Kogi, and Kwara States in the North-Central.<sup>7</sup> Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 170 people, cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.<sup>8</sup>

**Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in the fatality of 32, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 8 and 37 deaths.<sup>9</sup> **Other armed violence incidents, including homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 48, 4, and 12 people, while **extrajudicial killing** and **mob violence** led to 12 and 7 deaths, respectively.<sup>10</sup> Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in December 2025.



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>11</sup>

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued during this period. According to WANEP NEWS, the December 2025 period recorded 75 reported kidnapping incidents across 27 States

<sup>6</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>7</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

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

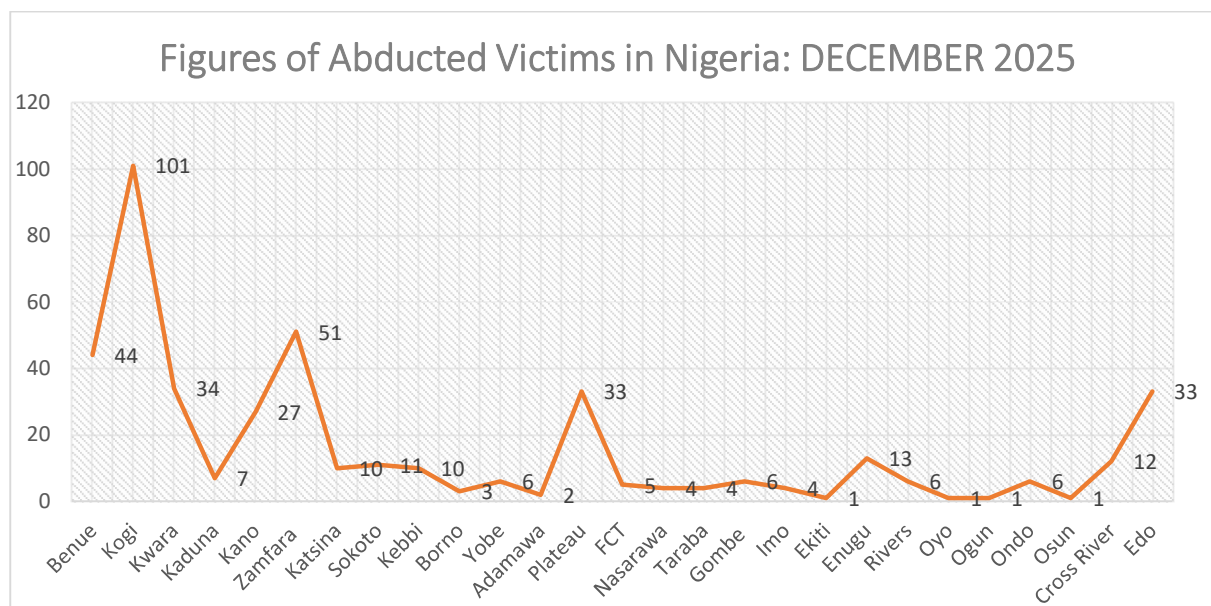
<sup>9</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). These incidents resulted in the abduction of 436 individuals, including 58 women, 39 children, and 2 security personnel.<sup>12</sup>

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>13</sup>

WANEP NEWS further recorded 228 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.<sup>14</sup> 948 suspects were reportedly arrested, 102 being females, 39 minors, and 2 security personnel.

Security agencies, most notably the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), also intercepted several illicit drugs across 19 States and the FCT, with 71 suspects arrested, including 93 females, for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS<sup>15</sup>. The operations resulted in the recovery and destruction of assorted illicit substances such as cannabis, skunk, methamphetamine, cocaine, codeine syrup, tramadol, exol-5, nitrous oxide, synthetic cannabis, and expired pharmaceutical pills.

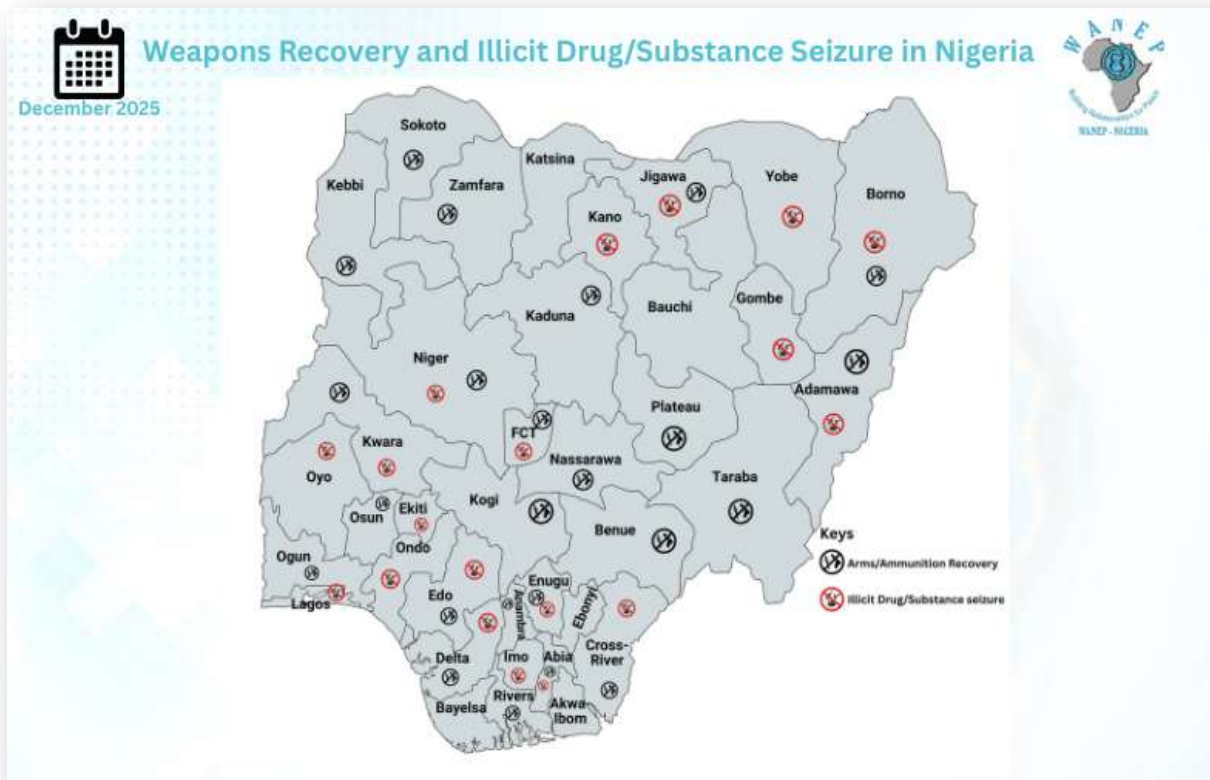
<sup>12</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>13</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>14</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>15</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)





Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>16</sup>

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between 1 and 29 December 2025, WANEP-NEWS recorded 21 public demonstrations across the FCT, Abia, Adamawa, Anambra, Benue, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, and Plateau States. The demonstrations were largely driven by insecurity and governance-related grievances (9), labour and welfare issues (7), community infrastructure and service delivery concerns (4), and civil rights and accountability demands (1). Protest actions included marches, road blockades, sit-ins, and peaceful rallies targeting government institutions, traditional authorities, and public infrastructure, with participants comprising contractors, workers' unions, pensioners, community residents, women groups, transport operators, and civil society actors.

Insecurity and governance concerns featured prominently, with protests linked to killings during communal violence in Adamawa and Delta States, banditry and kidnappings in Kwara and Benue States, and broader nationwide demonstrations by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) over rising insecurity. Labour-related protests focused on unpaid contracts, wage arrears, pension increments, and alleged payroll irregularities involving security workers, maritime workers, pensioners, and transport operators in the FCT, Ondo, Benue, Lagos, and Ogun States. Community-based demonstrations were recorded over prolonged power outages in Edo and

<sup>16</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

Ogun States, land encroachment in Imo State, and demolition of residential structures in Lagos State. While most protests were peaceful, incidents of fatalities were reported during a demonstration in Adamawa State, and physical assaults occurred during a protest in Kwara State. Security agencies were deployed in several locations to maintain order, impose curfews, or restore normalcy, while investigations and reviews were initiated in some cases, underscoring persistent public dissatisfaction with security conditions, service delivery, and governance accountability during the period.

In December 2025, WANEP-NEWS recorded a strike action by the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Kogi State Branch, which reportedly commenced an indefinite strike that halted judicial activities across Kogi State. The action followed alleged failure by the state government to pay October 2024 salary arrears and the 2025 leave bonus despite earlier assurances. Court hearings and related judicial services were reportedly suspended statewide, with no intervention recorded as of the reporting period.

Furthermore, in December 2025, the WANEP NEWS recorded widespread safety-related incidents across Nigeria with significant human and infrastructural impacts. These included multiple fire outbreaks across Lagos, Oyo, Kano, Katsina, FCT, Gombe, Plateau, Anambra, Abia, Kwara, Niger, Cross River, Imo, Kebbi, and Edo States, resulting in 13 fatalities, 14 injuries, and the destruction of residential buildings, markets, hospitals, offices, vehicles, and public infrastructure. Road mishaps remained the most frequent safety-related incidents nationwide, cutting across all states and involving commercial buses, trucks, tankers, private vehicles, motorcycles, and official security vehicles, leading to casualty figures of 163 deaths and 295 injuries largely linked to speeding, brake failure, wrongful overtaking, and mechanical faults. Other recorded incidents included air mishaps, boat mishaps, drowning cases, building collapses, tanker explosions, gas explosions, pipeline explosions, grenade and fireworks explosions, which together accounted for 20 deaths and 30 injuries, underscoring persistent safety, emergency response, and governance challenges during the reporting period.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:**

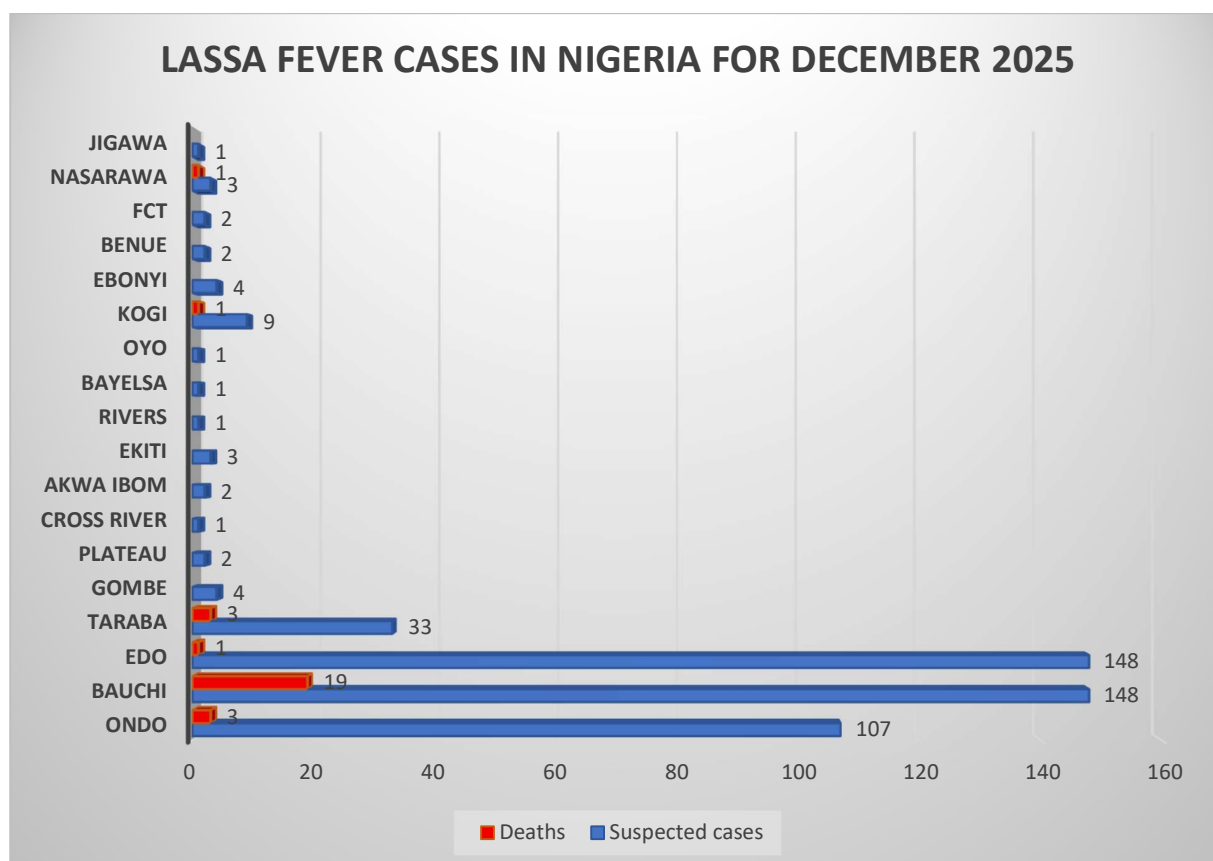
In the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded public health emergencies, especially outbreaks of Lassa Fever. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) reported 472 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 17 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between December 1 and 28, 2025, with 109 confirmed cases and 28 fatalities. The affected states are Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Taraba, Gombe, Plateau, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Ekiti, Rivers, Bayelsa, Oyo, Kogi, Ebonyi, Benue, Nasarawa, and Jigawa.<sup>17</sup>

*The graph below illustrates the number Lassa Fever suspected cases and associated deaths recorded across Nigerian States in December 2025*

Source: WANEP-NEWS<sup>18</sup>

<sup>17</sup> file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria\_041025\_40.pdf

<sup>18</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)



## 5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 7 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape and sexual assault of female adults and minors in Kaduna, Sokoto, Enugu, Imo, Ekiti, and Oyo States, in the month.<sup>19</sup> Out of the 9 recorded incidents, there were no fatalities involving minors and 9 injuries, including 3 adult females and 6 female minors. Also, no fewer than 26 female victims of human trafficking were rescued in Kogi, Plateau, Osun, Delta, and Edo States in the month, while 6 suspected human traffickers, including 2 females, were arrested during the period.<sup>20</sup>

### Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The December 2025 conflict data from the WANEP NEWS highlights a fragile peace and security environment in Nigeria, marked by high incident frequency, widespread fatalities, and multidimensional threats. With 852 incidents and 650 deaths recorded, the prevalence of violent extremism and organised crime accounting for over two-thirds of total fatalities continues to undermine human security, particularly in the North-East, North-West, and parts of the North-Central regions. The sustained activities of terrorist groups, bandits, kidnappers, and armed

<sup>19</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

<sup>20</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

militias have deepened fear, restricted mobility, disrupted livelihoods, and compounded displacement, weakening community resilience and eroding trust in the state's ability to guarantee safety and stability.

The scale and diversity of organised crime and insecurity recorded in December also pose serious implications for governance, economic recovery, and social cohesion. High levels of kidnapping, cattle rustling, armed attacks, and communal violence not only inflict direct human losses but also aggravate poverty, food insecurity, and intercommunal tensions. The continued abduction of women and children, alongside civilian fatalities and attacks on rural livelihoods, risks normalising violence and perpetuating cycles of reprisal. Although security agencies recorded notable arrests and seizures, the persistence of incidents suggests gaps in deterrence, early response, and intelligence-to-action coordination, especially across state borders and rural forested corridors.

Beyond armed violence, governance-related grievances, safety failures, and public health emergencies further strained peace and security outcomes. Protests, strikes, road accidents, fire outbreaks, and disease outbreaks such as Lassa Fever collectively signal structural weaknesses in service delivery, infrastructure safety, labour relations, and emergency preparedness. These non-violent but high-impact incidents amplify public dissatisfaction, stretch response capacities, and divert attention from conflict prevention efforts. Taken together, the December 2025 trends underscore the need for integrated peacebuilding strategies that combine security enforcement with governance reforms, social protection, public health preparedness, and community-based early warning and response mechanisms to prevent further escalation and build sustainable peace.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

- Building on existing coordination structures, Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) should prioritise enhancing the effectiveness of joint intelligence utilisation and operational responsiveness, particularly by improving last-mile intelligence transmission and response times in rural and border communities experiencing persistent insecurity.
- The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), and relevant State Security Agencies should prioritise follow-through on arrests through improved case-building, inter-agency prosecution tracking, and court liaison mechanisms to reduce the recurrence of attacks linked to weak deterrence, prolonged detention, or low conviction rates.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Bank of Industry (BOI), and State Governments should realign existing empowerment and agricultural support programmes toward communities with persistent insecurity indicators, ensure transparent beneficiary



selection, and integrate livelihood support with psychosocial services for conflict-affected women and youth.

- Building on existing disaster preparedness and coordination frameworks, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), and State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) should strengthen the functionality and consistency of local-level response mechanisms by improving the timeliness of data flow to frontline authorities, enhancing operational readiness of local response committees, and closing recurring gaps observed in evacuation, relief distribution, and public health response during emergencies.
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Police Force Gender Desks (NPF Gender Desks), and State Ministries should strengthen monitoring of existing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response structures, expand survivor referral networks at community level, and fast-track prosecution timelines to reduce case attrition and survivor fatigue.

## CONCLUSION:

Findings from December 2025 show a fragile security landscape in Nigeria, characterised by armed attacks, kidnappings, criminal violence, civil unrest, accidents, and disease outbreaks, leading to loss of life, displacement, and infrastructure damage. The continued occurrence of these incidents, despite active security and emergency responses, highlights gaps in prevention and coordination, underscoring the need for more preventive, community-oriented, and integrated response approaches.

## CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR DECEMBER 2025

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	11	21	43
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson, armed herders and cult/gang clash).	151	151	111
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	56	173	12
Abduction (evident across 27 States & the FCT)	75	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	2	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	9	12	14
Physical/Armed Assault	12	-	13

Vandalism	4	-	-
Violent Clash	1	-	-
Communal Clash	8	5	24
IED/Bomb Explosions	6	12	1
Illicit Drug Trafficking	56	-	-
Homicide	40	48	-
Suicide	4	4	-
<b><u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u></b>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	20	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	-	-
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	228	-	-
Curfew	3		
Road Accident	60	163	295
Boat Accident	2	9	4
Rail Accident	2	-	-
Air Accident	3	-	6
Building Collapse	2	2	12
Drowning	2	5	-
Tanker Explosion	2	2	-
Pipeline Explosion	1	-	-
Gas Explosion	2	-	-
Grenade Explosion	1	-	3
Pyrotechnics Explosion	2	2	5
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	5	-	-
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			
a. Lassa Fever	38	28	<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b> 472
Fire Outbreak	30	13	14
<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	7	-	9
Human Trafficking	5	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1038</b>