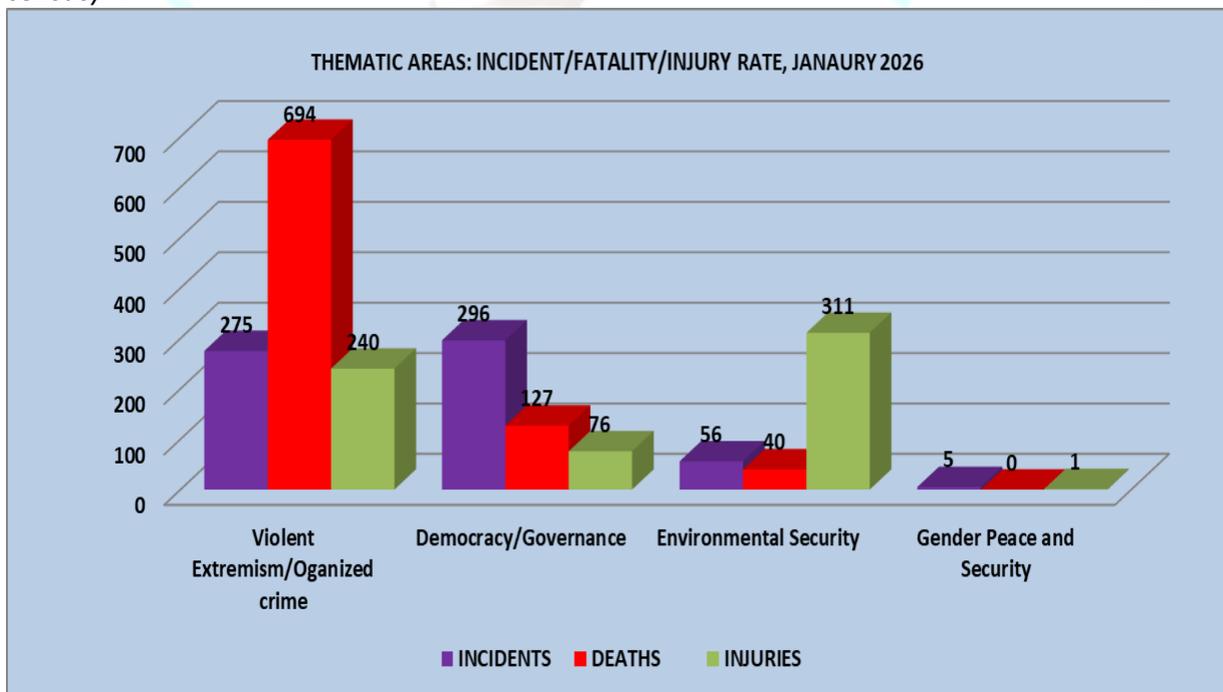


### I. INTRODUCTION

In January 2026, 635 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).<sup>1</sup> A cumulative fatality of 860 and 620 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 694 accounting for the highest of the total number of fatalities (717) recorded in the reporting period while the Democracy and Governance theme recorded 127 deaths.<sup>2</sup> Also, the Environmental Security theme recorded 40 deaths while the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area recorded no death in the reporting period.<sup>3</sup> (see annex for the monthly census).



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

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

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

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

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 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 12 incidents of terrorist attacks targeting civilians, including farmers, during the reporting period. The affected communities included Mobbar, Gubio, Biu, Gwoza, and Damboa Local Government Areas of Borno State; Geidam and Yusufari Local Government Areas of Yobe State; as well as Mubang Village in Hong Local Government Area and Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The violent attacks resulted in 59 fatalities, including over six security operatives and three local vigilantes, with 19 people abducted.<sup>5</sup> 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 and Yobe States. During these operations, troops uncovered and destroyed three terrorist detention facilities in the Timbuktu Triangle, each reportedly capable of holding up to 300 captives.

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 218 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 635 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 350 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 25 were females, 15 were children, and 25 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.

**Armed banditry** attacks accounted for the highest fatality of 145 in Niger, Katsina, Kaduna and Kebbi States. In addition to the loss of lives, the perpetrators engaged in a range of criminal activities, including kidnapping, cattle rustling, arms trafficking, large-scale looting, arson, and the destruction of several properties during the period under review.<sup>6</sup>

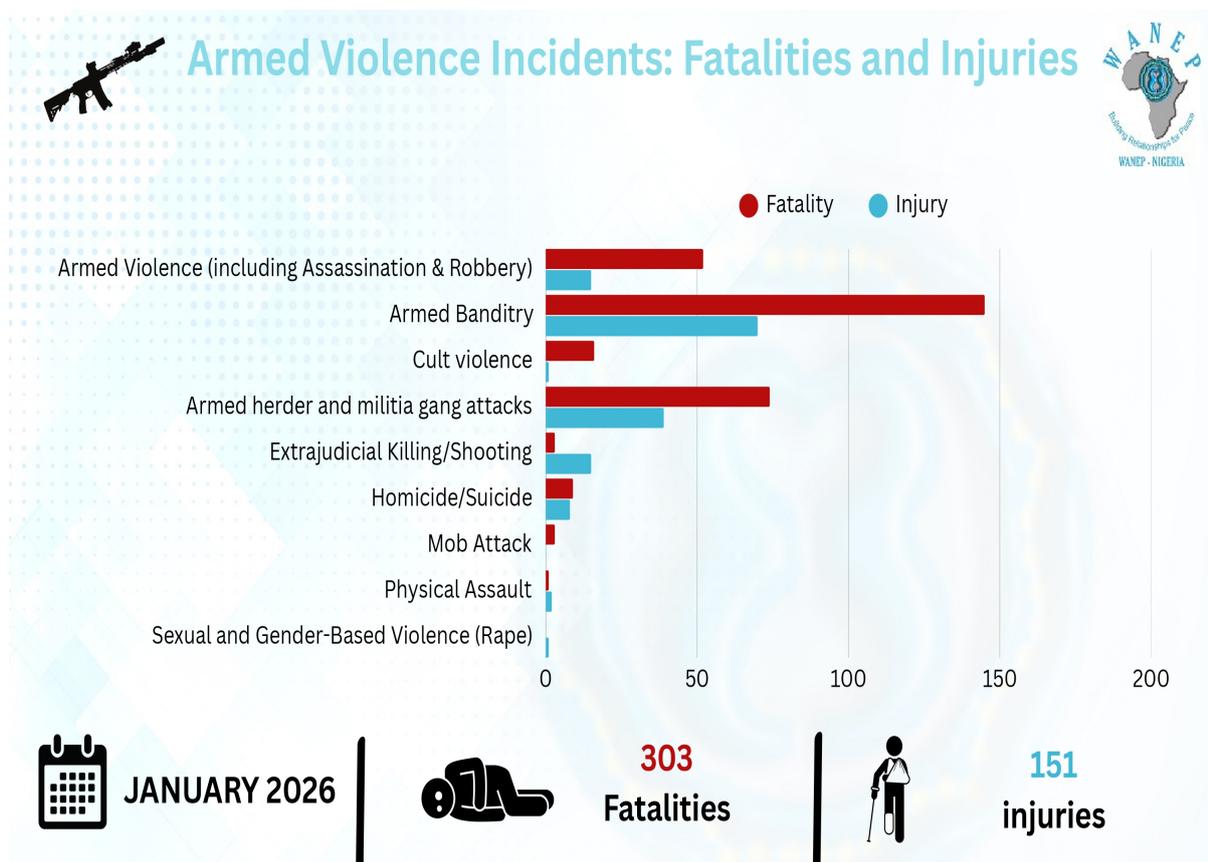
**while farmer-herderviolence/attacks by militia armed herders resulted in the second highest fatality of 74 in the month, while Armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes resulted in 52 deaths, Other reported incidents included Cult clashes, culpable homicide, Cult clashes, extrajudicial killings/shootings, mob violence** which recorded 16, 9, 3, 3, and 3 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.<sup>7</sup>

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

<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/)

Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in September 2026.

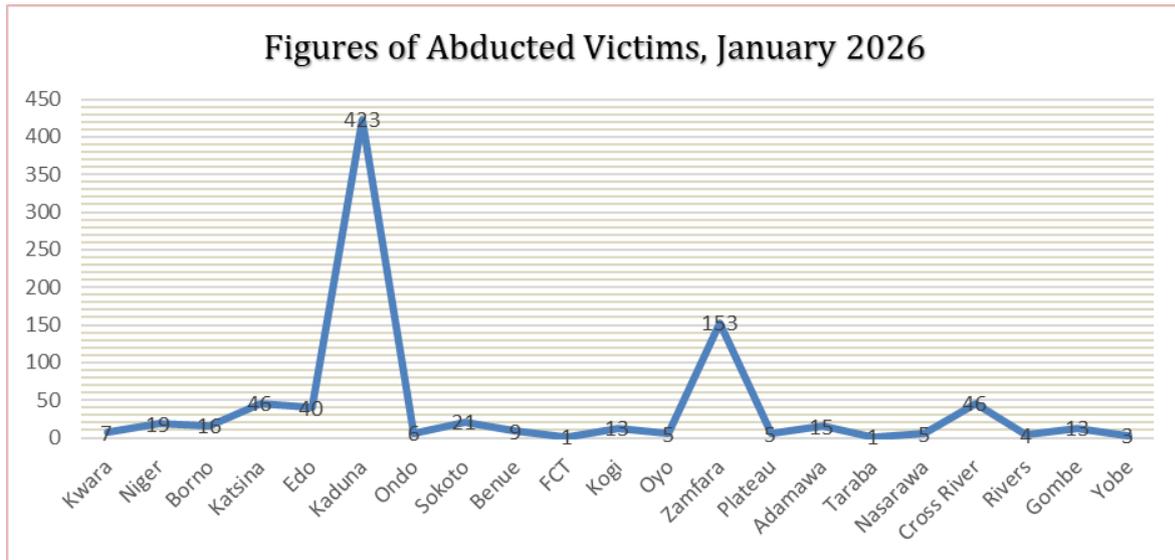


Source: WANEP-NEWS.<sup>8</sup>

The activities of armed criminal groups involved in kidnapping continue to undermine peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 94 kidnapping incidents across 23 states, with a total of 961 people abducted. Among the victims were over 118 females, 34 children, and a security operative during the reporting month.<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)

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

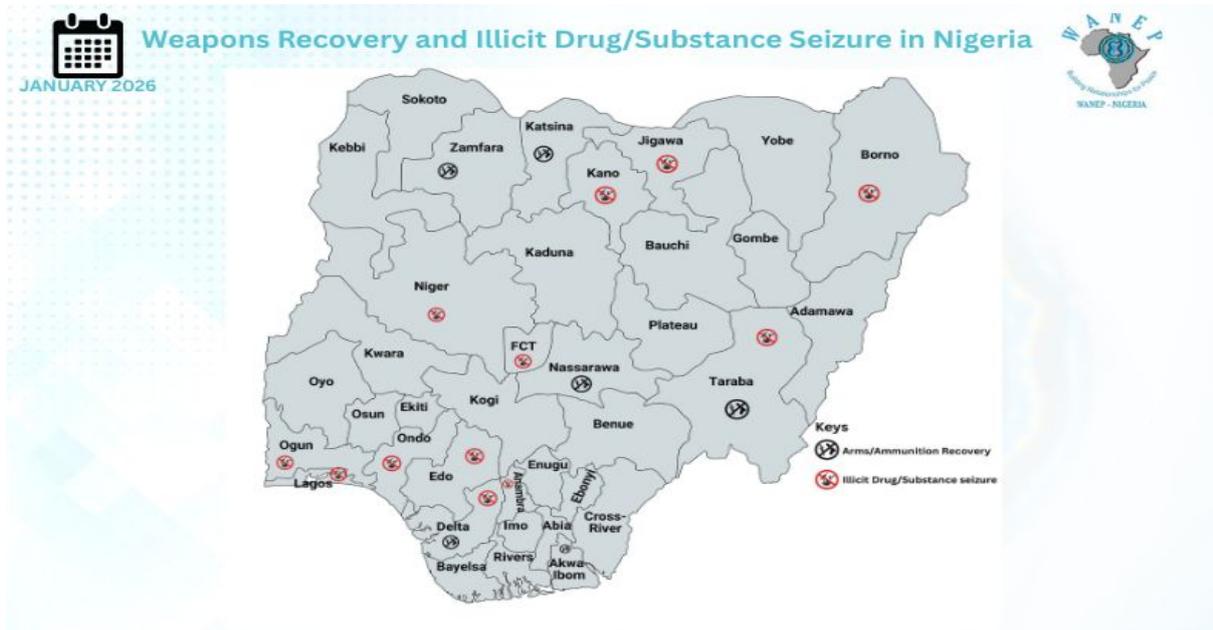


Source: WANEP-NEWS.<sup>10</sup>

WANEP NEWS documented 245 arrests linked to diverse criminal activities, following coordinated joint security operations conducted across several states in Nigeria that led to the apprehension of multiple criminal suspects. The arrests covered a wide range of offenses, including kidnapping, drug and human trafficking, arms and ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism, and the destruction of public infrastructure. Additionally, the recorded incidents included fraud, cybercrime, murder, and 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 seizure of substantial quantities of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, such as Indian hemp, skunk, opioids, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, and methamphetamine, as documented by WANEP NEWS.

<sup>10</sup> Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/)



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

### 3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS recorded public demonstrations and strike during the reporting period. Several sports stakeholders conducted a peaceful protest against the appointment of the Acting General Manager of the Ondo State Sports Council at the Sports Complex in Akure, Ondo State.<sup>12</sup> Hundreds of community residents, including students of Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, Edo State, staged a protest demanding an end to the rising spate of kidnapping and the killing of an abducted resident in Ekpoma, Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State. The protest reportedly led to the shooting of one protester by a security operative. However, the demonstration later turned violent, resulting in vandalism, the looting of shops, and the arrest of several protesters.<sup>13</sup>

Government offices in Abuja and across the Federal Capital Territory were deserted as workers under the Federal Capital Territory Administration withdrew their services following an indefinite strike declared by the Joint Union Action Congress. Youths in Bwari, Federal Capital Territory, staged a protest over an alleged police shooting and tear gas attack that reportedly left a man blind.<sup>14</sup> The protesters demanded the removal of the Divisional Police Officer, who was accused of firing shots and ordering the arrest of over 150 youths celebrating the New Year. Several youths in the Swali community in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State conducted a peaceful protest over the killing of a student of Ekowe Polytechnic.<sup>15</sup> Hundreds of community residents in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, carried out a peaceful protest opposing alleged

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

<sup>12</sup> <https://punchng.com/protest-rocks-ondo-stadium-over-appointment-of-acting-gm/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/kidnapping-1-injured-scores-arrested-as-protest-tums-violent-in-edo/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://saharareporters.com/2026/01/26/breaking-youths-protest-fcts-bwari-over-alleged-police-shooting-tear-gas-attack-left-man>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.lindaikojisblog.com/2026/1/youths-protest-over-alleged-m8rder-of-poly-student-in-bayelsa.html>

plans to impose the next Awujale of Ijebuland.<sup>16</sup> The protesters marched through parts of the town displaying placards against interference in the traditional selection process.

Hundreds of traders and business owners in Onitsha Main Market, Anambra State, protested against the state government's directive to shut down the market.<sup>17</sup> Police officers fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators gathered at the Lagos State House of Assembly Complex, Alausa, Ikeja Local Government Area, Lagos State, during a protest against demolitions and forced evictions.<sup>18</sup> Over 400 pineapple farmers protested against an alleged plan by the Edo State Government to evict them from their farmlands for a palm oil investor in Aduhanhan Community, Uhunmwonde Local Government Area of Edo State.<sup>19</sup> Similarly, traders and business owners at Onitsha Main Market marched through major streets in Onitsha demanding the immediate reopening of the market following its one-week closure by the state government.<sup>20</sup> The pattern on demonstrations and labour strikes reflects growing citizens discontent with service delivery and fractured state-citizens relations, which threaten social cohesion and stability of the country.

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

In the reporting month, Nigeria continued to experience recurring public health challenges, notably outbreaks of Lassa fever and cholera across several states. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), a total of 8 deaths, 67 confirmed cases, and 247 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Gombe, Plateau, Nasarawa, Delta, Lagos, Oyo, Sokoto, Ekiti, and Ogun States, while Taraba State recorded 10 deaths emanating from cholera outbreak during the period. The NCDC identified challenges such as delayed presentation of cases and poor health-seeking behaviour, 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 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), predominantly cases of rape involving female minors in Bauchi, Delta, Yobe, and Ogun States. Furthermore, over 23 victims of human trafficking, mostly children and females, were rescued in Benue, Zamfara, Anambra, and Taraba States during the month. These incidents underscore the urgent need to strengthen existing protection mechanisms.

#### **Implications for Peace and Security**

The security environment of Nigeria in the reporting period highlights overlapping threats from violent extremism, organized criminal networks and recurring public health emergencies. The

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<sup>16</sup><https://saharareporters.com/2026/01/23/protest-rocks-ijebu-ode-over-alleged-plot-ogun-govt-impose-next-awujale>

<sup>17</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2026/01/27/anambra-traders-protest-against-onitsha-main-market-shutdown/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2026/01/28/police-fire-tear-gas-as-protesters-storm-lagos-assembly-over-demolitions/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://dailypost.ng/2026/01/28/over-400-pineapple-farmers-protest-alleged-planned-illegal-eviction-from-farmland-by-edo-govt/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://dailytrust.com/sit-at-home-traders-protest-onitsha-market-closure/>

694 deaths attributed to violent extremism and organized crime illustrate growing insecurity across different regions of the country. In the North-East, armed groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) sustain attacks despite ongoing military pressure, demonstrating their capacity to regroup, adapt tactics, and maintain operational relevance. Their activities continue to hinder rebuilding efforts, obstruct the safe return of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and prolong humanitarian distress in affected communities.

Armed violence remains widespread beyond insurgency-affected areas. Armed banditry, kidnapping for ransom, illicit arms circulation, and farmer herders herder conflicts are particularly pronounced in remote and underserved communities where state security presence is limited. The abduction of 961 civilians highlights the exposure of local populations to predatory criminal activity and signals the growing reach and coordination of these networks. Women and children experience heightened vulnerability in these contexts, facing risks of sexual and gender-based violence, trauma, forced displacement, and economic exclusion. Prolonged exposure further increases the likelihood of child exploitation, coercion, and recruitment into armed groups, perpetuating cycles of instability.

Socioeconomic strain and governance-related grievances continue to generate public frustration. Delays in implementing policy commitments, rising living costs, unemployment, and perceived shortcomings in service delivery have triggered strikes, demonstrations, and episodes of civil unrest in various states. These patterns point to weakening trust between citizens and public institutions and reflect underlying pressures within Nigeria's democratic framework.

Public health concerns also intersect with the broader security landscape. Recurring outbreaks of Lassa fever place additional pressure on an already stretched healthcare system, particularly in rural and low-resource settings. Limited medical infrastructure, delayed access to treatment, and high out-of-pocket costs complicate containment efforts and contribute to avoidable mortality. When combined with violence and economic hardship, health insecurity further erodes community resilience and intensifies humanitarian needs.

#### **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 strengthen and sustain collaboration with traditional rulers, community leadership structures, faith-based institutions, and women and youth networks to enhance grassroots dialogue and mediation platforms. This approach will promote the early detection of security threats, encourage peaceful dispute resolution, and strengthen social cohesion within communities.
- The Federal and State Governments should prioritize the development of a more efficient, accountable, and well-equipped security system through strategic recruitment, ongoing training, and the effective deployment of personnel, particularly in vulnerable and high-risk

areas. Improved coordination and information-sharing among security agencies will enhance readiness and ensure timely responses to emerging threats.

- The Federal and State Governments should scale up inclusive job creation and vocational training programmes, with special emphasis on empowering out-of-school and at-risk youth. Expanding access to sustainable economic opportunities will help reduce susceptibility to recruitment by criminal networks and violent groups fueled by economic hardship.
- State and Local Governments, in partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), should intensify collaboration with Civil Society Organisations, media outlets, and traditional and religious leaders to promote awareness of health, sanitation, and disease-prevention measures. Targeted and culturally appropriate communication strategies—especially in remote and underserved areas will contribute to reducing recurrent outbreaks such as Lassa fever.
- The State and Local Governments should collaborate closely with Civil Society Organisations, traditional and religious institutions, women and youth groups, and media platforms to ensure the full domestication and effective enforcement of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act. Community-centered advocacy efforts should focus on preventing gender-based violence, transforming harmful social norms, and advancing gender equality and human rights protections

**CONCLUSION:**

As Nigeria continues to confront security challenges across the states, it is essential that response strategies remain conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and sustainable to promote long-term peace and stability. Strengthening preventive frameworks particularly. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)-led is critical. Enhancing early warning systems to track emerging and evolving human security threats, and integrating these mechanisms into the State’s formal security architecture, will support more timely, coordinated, and effective interventions. In addition, improving risk communication on environmental security concerns especially in remote and underserved communities should be prioritized by state governments in collaboration with public health authorities and disaster management agencies.

**CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JANUARY 2026**

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES

<b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM:</b> Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists attack.  Conunter-terrorists attacks	12	59 people including security operatives and civilians including CJTF -85 terrorists	Over 30 people injured
<b>ORGANISED CRIME:</b> (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash	81	188	91
<b>Violent Clash:</b> <b>a.</b> Clash between rival gang groups in (Kano) <b>b.</b> Clash between Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists (Borno)	2	11	Over 25 people injured
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	39	265	Over 38 people injured
Abduction (evident across 28 States)	94	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	1	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	3	3	15
Physical/Armed Assault	3	1	2
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	15	74	Over 39 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	16	-	-
Homicide	8	8	-
Suicide	1	-	-
<b><u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u></b> Demonstration ( <b>peaceful</b> ) Violent demonstration	11 1	- 1	
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/detention	245	-	-
Road accident	31	84	69
Boat Accident	3	35	-
Building /fence Collapse	2	5	7
Electrocution			-
Drowning	2	2	-
Threats			-

Gas Explosion	1	-	-
<b><u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u></b>			
Communal clash	2	7	-
Generator Fume	1	6	
<b><u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u></b>			<b><u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u></b>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	18	12	Lassa Fever: 311
b. Cholera	1	10	
Fire Outbreak	32	5	-
Tanker Explosion	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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<b><u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u></b>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	4	-	1
Human Trafficking	3	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>620</b>