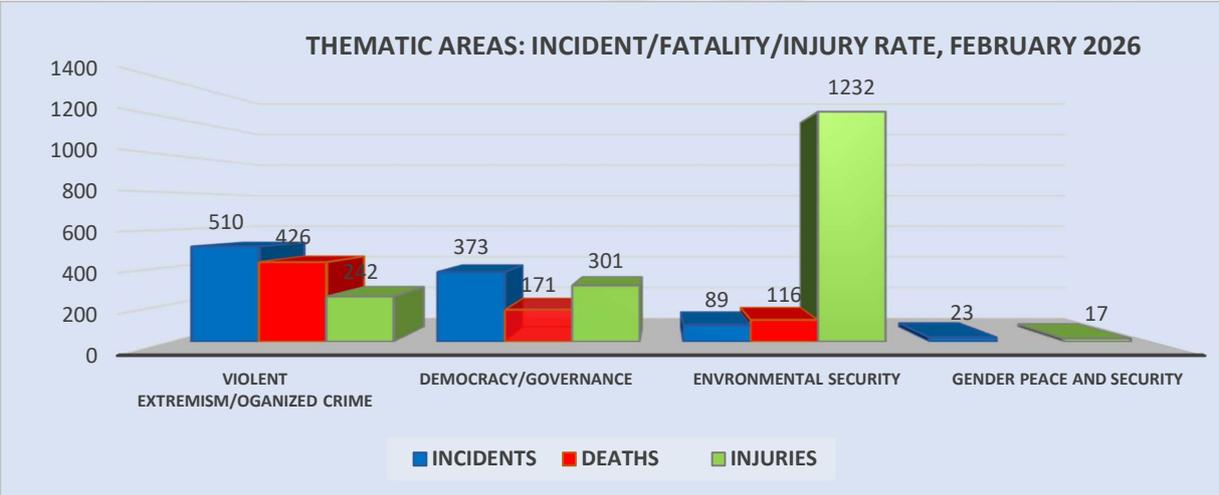


1. INTRODUCTION

As of February 2026, 995 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ A cumulative fatality of 998 and 1792 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents were recorded in February 2026.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organized Crime recorded a total of 711 fatalities, representing the highest number among the total deaths (998) documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 171 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 116 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported no death during the reporting period. (See annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS².

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.

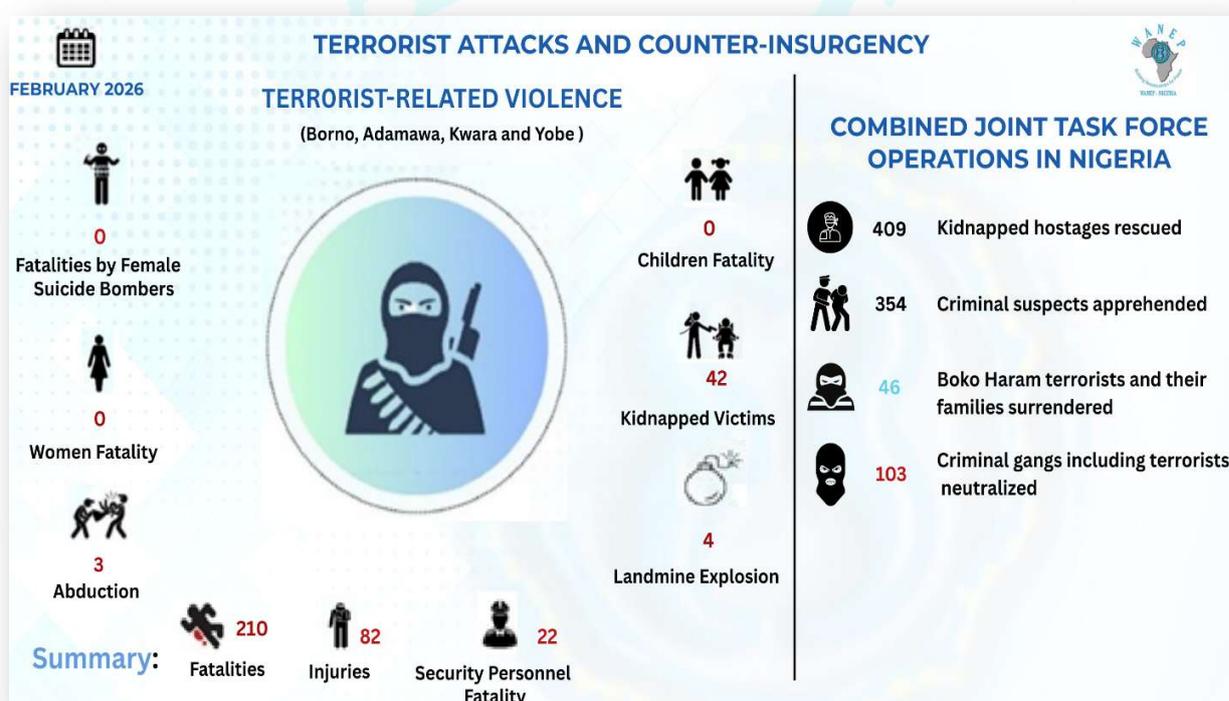
2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The North-Eastern region of Nigeria continues to grapple with threats from Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) extremist groups, resulting in travel restrictions due to frequent attacks on roads, restricted mobility from ongoing security operations, and heightened risks of abduction and ambushes. These challenges have disrupted economic activities and livelihoods while hindering resettlement initiatives for Internally Displaced Persons

¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/
² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

(IDPs). Additionally, the security landscape is further complicated by the continuous encroachment of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS) terrorists into Kwara State in the North-Central region, where attacks recorded during the reporting month led to a significant number of casualties, highlighting the expanding nature of extremist threats across parts of the country.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 13 incidents of terrorist attacks in Guzamala, Konduga, Hawul, Gwoza, Kukawa, and Biu LGAs of Borno State; Hong and Madagali LGAs of Adamawa State; Yunusari LGA of Yobe State; and Kaiama LGA of Kwara State. These incidents resulted in 292 casualties, comprising 210 fatalities and 82 injuries, while 42 victims (7 males and 35 females) were abducted during the reporting period. Of the 210 fatalities, 187 were males, 1 female, and 22 security personnel; while of the 82 injured victims, 51 were males and 31 security personnel.



Source: WANEP-NEWS³

Despite the prevailing security challenges, the Nigerian Military and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have maintained strong collaboration with the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) to conduct security clearance operations across the North-East region. Additionally, in response to the emerging threat of extremist incursions in the North-Central region, the President ordered the deployment of a Nigerian Army battalion to Kaiama, Kwara State, in early February 2026 to launch **Operation Savannah Shield**. These efforts have been characterized by intelligence-driven air strikes and coordinated ground operations targeting terrorist enclaves and strongholds, while

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

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

The WANEP-NEWS recorded 497 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. A total of 501 fatalities were recorded in the period, out of which 133 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 349 civilians, and 19 security personnel.⁴ Out of the total recorded fatalities in this category, 23 were females, and 6 were children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 179 people and injury to 62 others in Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West and Kogi, Niger, and Kwara States in the North-Central.⁵ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 214 people (119 males, 76 females, and 19 minors), cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁶

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 54 people, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 4 and 51 deaths.⁷ **Other armed violence incidents**, including **homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 39, 6, and 9 people, while **extrajudicial killing and mob violence** led to 6 and 8 deaths, respectively.⁸ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in February 2026.

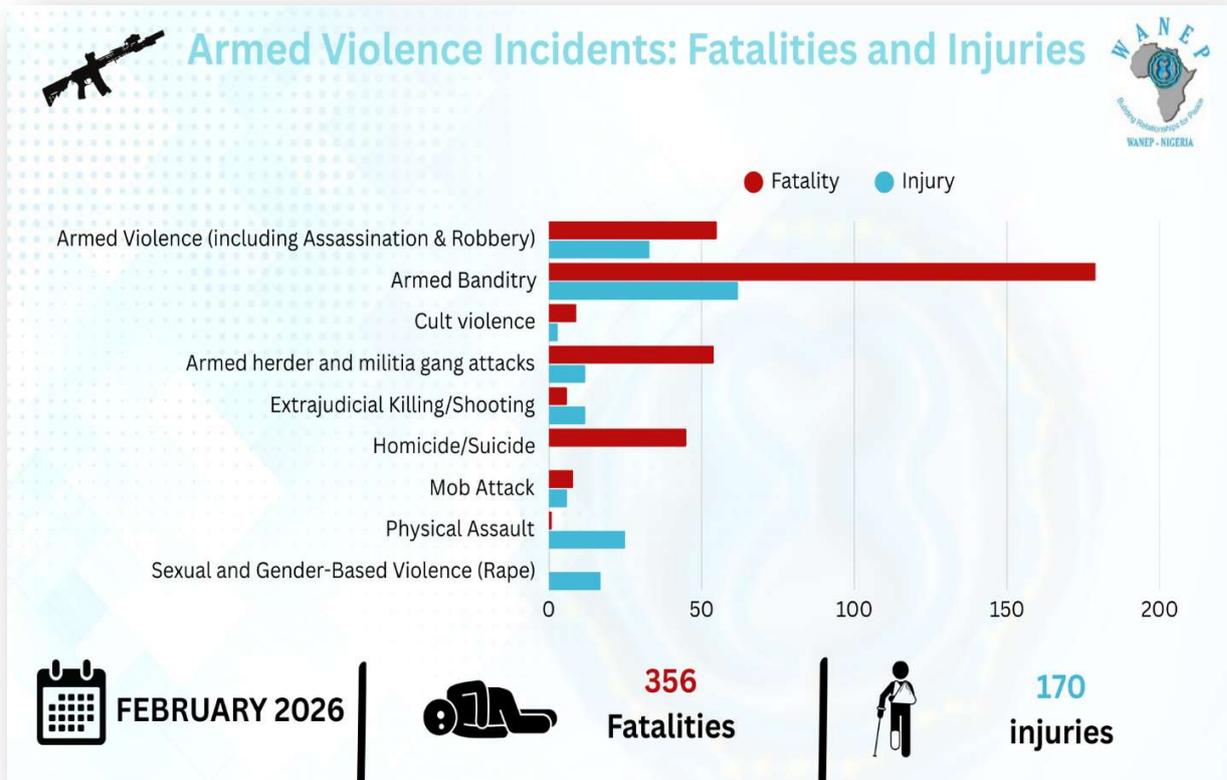
⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

⁶ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

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

⁸ Ibid.



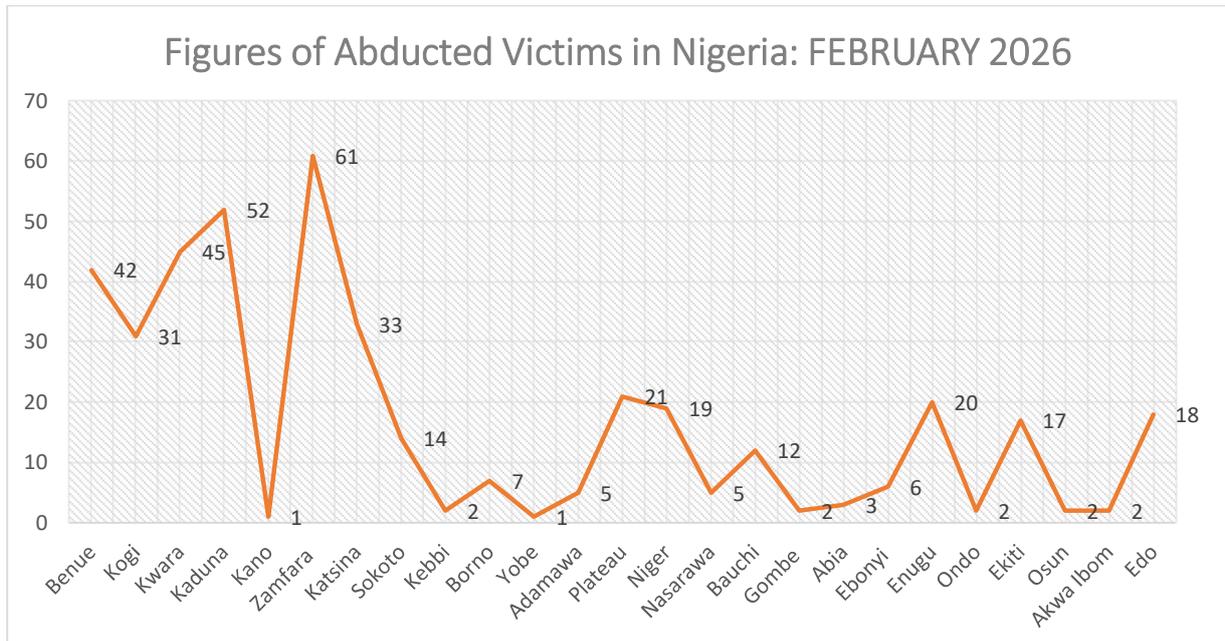
Source: WANEP-NEWS⁹

The persistent threat of kidnapping in Nigeria continued during this period. According to WANEP NEWS, the February 2026 period recorded 96 reported kidnapping incidents across 25 States. These incidents resulted in the abduction of 424 individuals, including 148 women, 41 children, and 1 security personnel.¹⁰

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

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

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹¹

WANEP NEWS further recorded 271 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.¹² 1357 suspects were reportedly arrested, 63 being females, 3 minors, and 9 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 144 suspects arrested, including 27 females, for drug-related offences as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹³. 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.

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁴

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Between 1 and 28 February 2026, WANEP-NEWS recorded 22 public demonstrations, 1 strike action, 1 curfew, and 1 stampede across the FCT, Abia, Adamawa, Bayelsa, Edo, Enugu, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Katsina, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Rivers, Taraba, and Nasarawa States. The demonstrations were largely driven by insecurity and governance-related grievances (9), labour and welfare issues (7), community infrastructure and service delivery concerns (5), and civil rights and accountability demands (1). Protest actions included marches, road blockades, sit-ins, and peaceful rallies targeting government institutions, security agencies, traditional authorities, and public infrastructure, with participants comprising contractors, workers' unions, pensioners, community residents, women groups, transport operators, students, and civil society actors.

Insecurity and governance concerns featured prominently, with protests linked to casualties sustained during communal violence in Adamawa, Delta, and Ebonyi States, banditry and kidnappings in Kwara and Kaduna States, attacks by armed herders in Enugu and Rivers States, and broader demonstrations over insecurity and governance in Bayelsa, Kwara, Taraba, and Abuja. Labour-related protests focused on unpaid contracts, wage arrears, pension increments, and alleged payroll irregularities involving security workers, aviation and maritime workers, pensioners, and transport operators across the FCT, Ondo, Benue, Lagos, and Ogun States.

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

Community-based demonstrations addressed prolonged power outages in Edo, Lagos, and Ogun States, land encroachment and invasion of farmlands in Ogun and Imo States, demolition of residential structures in Lagos State, and pedestrian safety concerns in the FCT. While most protests were peaceful, incidents of fatalities, injuries, and physical assaults were reported, including deaths in Rivers, Adamawa, Katsina, and Ebonyi States, assaults on medical personnel in Ondo State, and attacks on rights activists in Kwara State.

In February 2026, WANEP-NEWS also recorded a strike action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) at Taraba State University, which commenced an indefinite strike over unpaid salaries, pension arrears, and unimplemented allowances, leading to suspension of academic activities, with no resolution reported as of the reporting period. Additionally, a curfew was imposed in Ebonyi State's Afikpo LGA, following an attack in Edda LGA that left 4 people dead and more than 9 houses burnt, aimed at restoring order and facilitating arrests. A stampede during a Ramadan Zakkat distribution in Katsina LGA resulted in 4 deaths and 18 injuries, with security operatives deployed and organizers questioned by the State Police Command.

Furthermore, in February 2026, the WANEP NEWS recorded widespread safety-related incidents across Nigeria with significant human and infrastructural impacts. These included multiple fire outbreaks across the FCT, Kano, Katsina, Kwara, Oyo, Gombe, Ogun, Anambra, Lagos, Yobe, Niger and Bayelsa States, resulting in 12 fatalities, 21 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 125 deaths and 261 injuries largely linked to speeding, brake failure, wrongful overtaking, and mechanical faults. A gas poisoning incident also occurred in which 37 artisanal miners were killed and 25 others affected after inhaling carbon monoxide in poorly ventilated mining tunnels at a mine in Plateau State. Other recorded incidents included an air mishap, boat mishaps, a train mishap, drowning cases, electrocutions, a mine pit collapse, and tanker explosions which together accounted for 38 deaths and 22 injuries, underscoring persistent safety, emergency response, and governance challenges during the reporting period.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

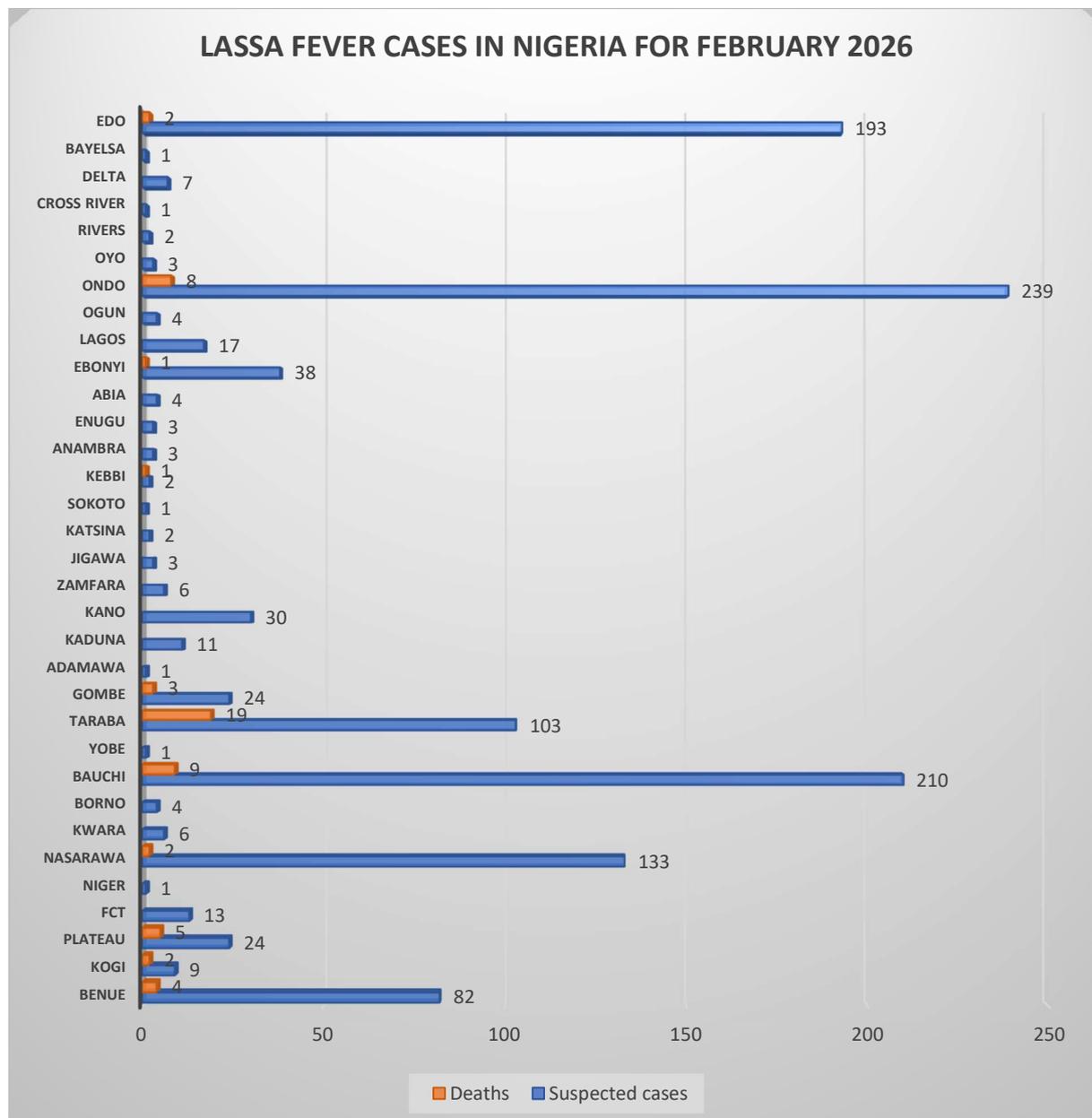
Between the 2nd and 22nd February 2026, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) recorded 1181 suspected cases of Lassa Fever across 32 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with 234 confirmed cases and 56 fatalities. The only States with no recorded cases during the period were Imo, Ekiti, and Akwa Ibom.¹⁵

Severe weather events disrupted communities across several States. Wind and rainstorms in Akoko Edo LGA of Edo State displaced over 2,000 residents, destroyed 179 houses, damaged economic trees and electricity poles, and affected a primary school and a health care centre¹⁶. Flash floods in Lekki, Lagos State, caused temporary tidal lockups and traffic congestion, while a tree collapse in Udi LGA, Enugu State, led to 11 deaths and multiple injuries.

¹⁵ file:///C:/Users/Early2/Downloads/An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria_041025_40.pdf

¹⁶ <https://saharareporters.com/2026/02/09/windstorm-displaces-over-2000-residents-destroys-179-houses-edo-communities>

The graph below illustrates the number of Lassa Fever suspected cases and associated deaths recorded across Nigerian States in February 2026



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁷

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.¹⁸ Out of the 9 recorded incidents, there were no fatalities involving

¹⁷ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹⁸ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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.¹⁹

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

The security trends recorded in February 2026 have significant implications for Nigeria's human and state security landscape. Persistent attacks by terrorist groups, armed bandits, and militia gangs, particularly in the North-East, North-West, and parts of the North-Central continue to disrupt rural livelihoods and agricultural activities. Insecurity in farming communities discourages cultivation, displaces farmers from their lands, and weakens local food production systems, thereby posing risks to food security and increasing the economic vulnerability of households that depend on agriculture and related activities for survival.

The widespread incidents of kidnapping, armed violence, and organised criminal activities also undermine community security and social stability. Repeated attacks and abductions create fear and uncertainty among residents, especially in rural and transit communities where security presence remains limited. These conditions contribute to population displacement, strain local coping mechanisms, and weaken trust in formal security and justice institutions. At the same time, the occurrence of demonstrations, including labour-related protests, and other public grievances reflects growing socio-economic pressures and public frustration over insecurity, governance challenges, and service delivery concerns.

Beyond armed violence, safety incidents, disease outbreaks, and environmental hazards continue to affect public well-being and community resilience. The spread of Lassa Fever, alongside fatalities from road accidents, mining-related hazards, and structural collapses, highlights pressures on health systems and emergency response capacity. These conditions not only threaten health security but also disrupt livelihoods and education, particularly for children in affected communities who may face displacement, school interruptions, and exposure to protection risks such as trafficking and sexual violence. Together, these dynamics underscore the need for coordinated responses that strengthen security operations, public health preparedness, infrastructure safety, and socio-economic support systems to enhance stability and protect vulnerable populations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- The Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) should enhance joint intelligence gathering and operational responsiveness, with particular focus on rural,

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

border, and high-risk communities. Improved last-mile communication and rapid deployment capacities are necessary to address persistent threats from violent extremism, armed banditry, and kidnapping.

- The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), and State Security Agencies should strengthen follow-through on arrests and prosecutions by improving case documentation, inter-agency coordination, and court liaison mechanisms. This is essential to prevent recurrence of criminal attacks, reduce impunity, and increase deterrence.
- The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Bank of Industry (BOI), and State Governments should target livelihood and empowerment programs toward communities experiencing chronic insecurity. Integrating agricultural support, economic opportunities, and psychosocial services for conflict-affected women and youth will enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to recruitment by non-state armed groups.
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), and Federal Ministry of Environment (FME) should improve local-level disaster and health emergency response mechanisms. This includes timely reporting to frontline authorities, pre-positioning relief supplies, enhancing evacuation and relief logistics, and strengthening community awareness and risk communication for hazards such as Lassa Fever, floods, and windstorms.
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Police Force Gender Desks, and State Ministries should reinforce monitoring of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) response structures, expand community-level referral networks for survivors, and expedite prosecution timelines to reduce case attrition and improve access to justice.

CONCLUSION:

The February 2026 report highlights the complex security, public health, and environmental challenges facing communities across Nigeria. Persistent violent extremism, organised crime, kidnapping, and safety incidents, alongside disease outbreaks and severe weather events, have disrupted livelihoods, restricted mobility, and strained public trust. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative, multi-agency approaches that combine effective security operations, robust public health and disaster responses, and community engagement. Strengthening coordination between federal and state agencies, local authorities, community structures, and civil society organisations will be essential to foster resilience, build trust, and support sustainable peace and stability nationwide.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES

VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	13	210	82
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson, armed herders and cult/gang clash).	175	305	116
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	68	133	3
Abduction (evident across 25 States & the FCT)	96	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	6	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	14	6	12
Physical/Armed Assault	26	-	25
Vandalism	1	-	-
Communal Clash	5	12	4
IED/Bomb Explosion	4	-	-
Illicit Drug Trafficking	58	-	-
Homicide	42	39	-
Suicide	6	6	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	24	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	1	4	-
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	271	-	-
Curfew	1	-	-
Stampede	1	4	18
Road Accident	53	125	261
Boat Accident	2	21	-
Rail Accident	1	1	-
Air Accident	1	-	-
Mine Pit Collapse	1	3	4
Electrocution	2	2	-
Drowning	5	7	-
Political Violence	4	2	17
Tanker Explosion	1	2	1
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	3	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
a. Lassa Fever	54	56	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> 1181

Fire Outbreak	27	12	21
Gas Poisoning	1	37	25
Rainstorm/Flood	3	11	5
Windstorm	1	-	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	9	-	17
Human Trafficking	14	-	-
Total	995	998	1792

