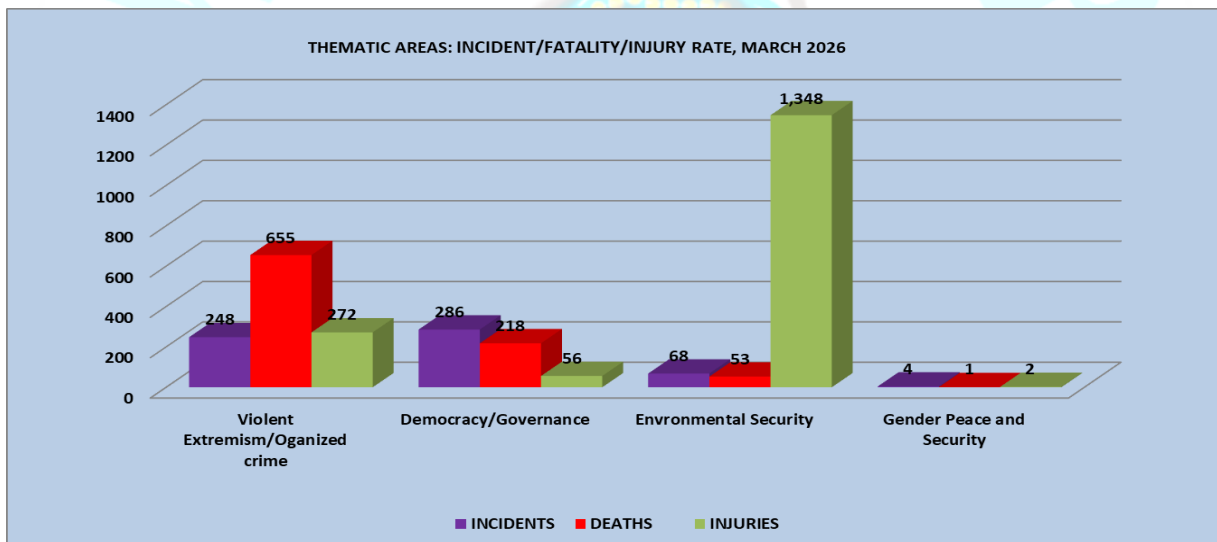


I. INTRODUCTION

In March 2026, 602 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). A cumulative fatality of 924 and 1,282 injuries and infected cases emanating from criminal attacks, road accidents and diseases related incidents were recorded.¹

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organized Crime recorded a total of 655 fatalities, representing the highest number among the total deaths (924) documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 215 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 53 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported one death during the reporting period.² (See annex for the monthly census).



Source: WANEP-NEWS.³

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 attacks carried out by Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to constitute a major security concern for rural communities in Nigeria's North-East region. The continued occurrence of these attacks, together with the regular use of Improvised

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/

Explosive Devices (IEDs), demonstrates their evolving and persistent strategies designed to instill fear and undermine reconstruction and resettlement efforts for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Despite ongoing counter-terrorism efforts by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Nigerian Armed Forces, these groups have retained a significant level of operational capacity. These developments underscore the continued threat posed by terrorist organisations and their persistent impact on national peace and security stability.

WANEP NEWS documented several incidents of terrorist attacks targeting civilians, including farmers, during the reporting period. The affected communities included Kaiama, Kunduga, Kukawa, and Gwoza Local Government Areas of Borno State; Geidam Local Government Area of Yobe State; as well as Kaima Mubang Village in Hong Local Government Area and Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State.⁴ The violent attacks resulted in 50 fatalities, including over fourteen security operatives, with over 277 people abducted.⁵ 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.

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 248 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 605 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, 345 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 16 were females, 8 were children, and 33 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.

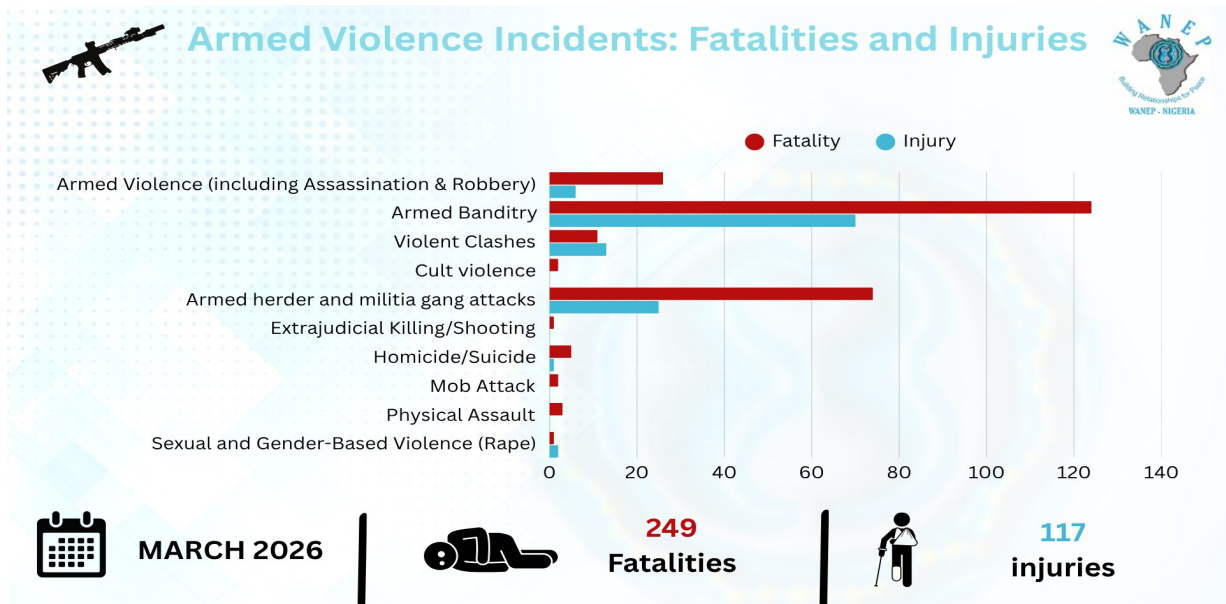
Armed banditry attacks accounted for the highest fatality of 124 in Niger, Katsina, Kaduna and Kebbi States. In addition to the loss of lives, the perpetrators engaged in a range of criminal activities, including kidnapping, cattle rustling, arms trafficking, large-scale looting, arson, and the destruction of several properties during the period under review.

while farmer-herd violence/attacks by militia armed herders resulted in the second highest fatality of 74 in the month, armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes, resulted in 39 deaths, Other reported incidents, culpable homicide, Cult clashes, extrajudicial killings/shootings and mob violence which recorded 8, 2, 1, and 2 deaths, respectively in the reporting period.⁶

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

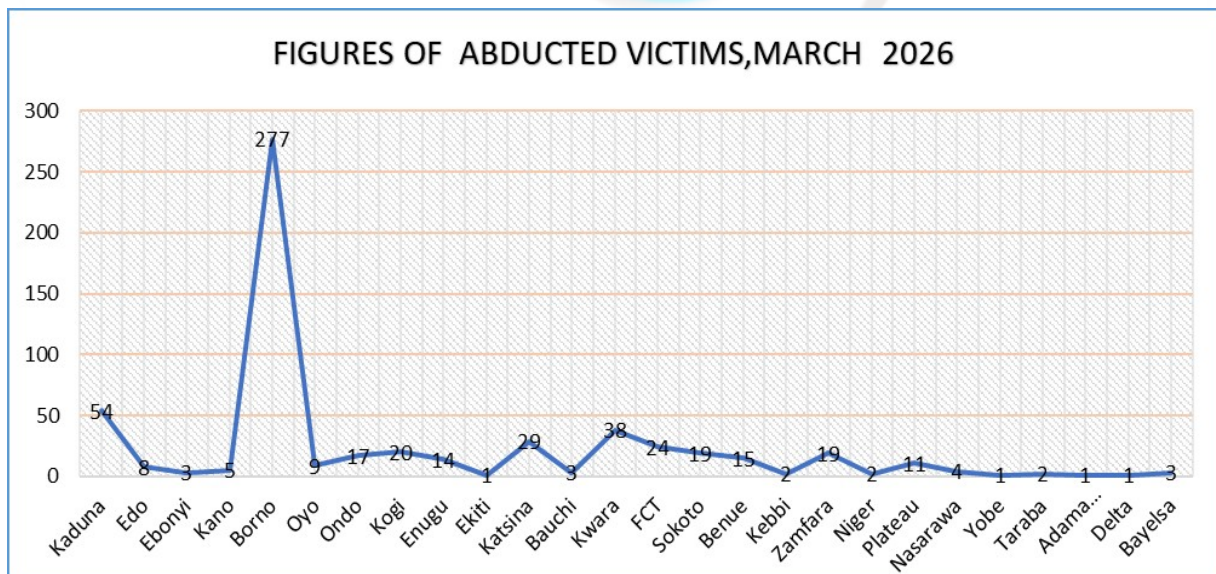
⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS.⁷

The activities of armed criminal groups involved in kidnapping continue to undermine peace and security across Nigeria. WANEP NEWS documented 84 kidnapping incidents across 26 states, with a total of 589 people abducted⁸. Among the victims were over 150 females, 127 children, and 6 security operatives during the reporting month. The growing prevalence of kidnapping not only disrupts daily life but also worsens existing socio-economic challenges, as affected communities grapple with trauma and the financial burden of ransom demands and recovery efforts.



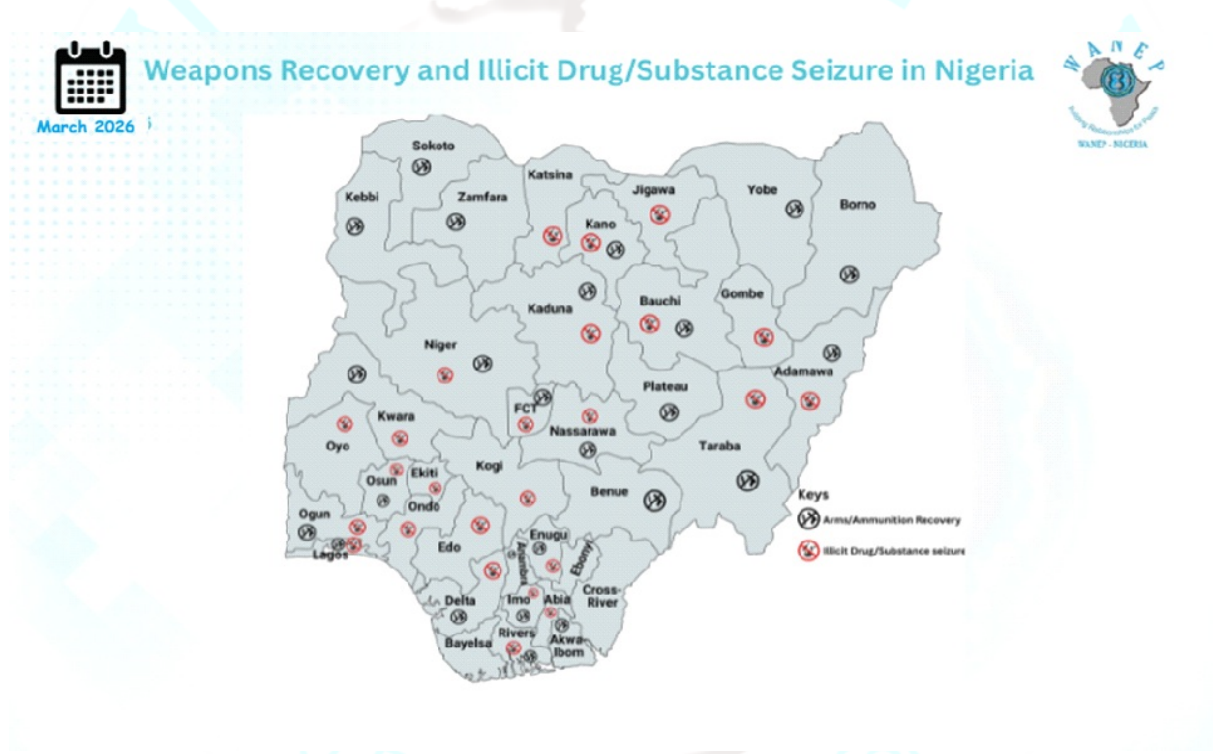
Source: WANEP-NEWS

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

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

WANEP NEWS documented 207 arrests linked to diverse criminal activities, following coordinated joint security operations conducted across several states in Nigeria that led to the arrest 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.



Source: WANEP-NEWS.⁹

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS recorded 14 public demonstrations and one strike during the reporting period. Members of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Abia State chapter, reportedly commenced an indefinite strike following a directive by the union’s executive members over

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

the failure of the Abia State Government to address the issues contained in their final ultimatum¹⁰. Students and staff of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State, staged a peaceful protest against the state government's attempt to convert the Bosso Campus into a State University Teaching Hospital, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting¹¹.

Hundreds of community youths in Ogbese community, Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State, reportedly conducted a peaceful protest over the alleged killing of a farmer by suspected herders along the Akure–Owo Expressway¹². Similarly, members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), popularly known as Shi'ites, staged protests in Potiskum and Nguru Local Government Areas of Yobe State, condemning the reported killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as they marched through major streets waving Iranian flags and carrying large portraits of him¹³. Several community youths also conducted a peaceful demonstration at the premises of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) in Osogbo, Osun State, protesting poor and inconsistent power supply, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting¹⁴. In Numan, Adamawa State, protesters demonstrated over the reported killing of Iran's Supreme Leader amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States and Israel, causing temporary disruption of vehicular movement and heightened tension in the area¹⁵. Hundreds of residents and youth groups in Boripe Local Government Area of Osun State staged a peaceful protest expressing frustration over prolonged electricity outages, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting¹⁶. Members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) also staged a peaceful protest in Bauchi State in solidarity with Palestinians as part of Quds Day activities, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting¹⁷.

Hundreds of community youths from Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State conducted a peaceful protest demanding decisive action over continued killings by suspected armed herders along the Oweto–Otukpo highway, calling for increased deployment of security personnel to vulnerable communities, with no reported intervention at the time of reporting¹⁸. Hundreds of workers at Nnamdi Azikiwe University (UNIZIK), Awka, Anambra State, staged a protest over alleged irregularities in the staff capturing and payroll process, accusing management of exploitation and lack of transparency. Members of the Federation of Informal Workers' Organizations of Nigeria (FIWON) staged a peaceful protest at the National Assembly in Abuja, demanding comprehensive social protection for informal sector workers.

¹⁰<https://dailypost.ng/2026/03/16/abia-judiciary-workers-begin-strike/>

¹¹<https://saharareporters.com/2026/03/02/breaking-protest-rocks-fut-minna-students-staff-allege-plan-niger-governor-bago-seize>

¹²<https://punchng.com/youths-protest-killing-in-ondo-community/>

¹³<https://saharareporters.com/2026/03/04/shiite-protesters-burn-us-israeli-flags-adamawa-march-flags-kano-over-killing-irans>

¹⁴<https://punchng.com/residents-protest-poor-power-supply-in-osun/>

¹⁵<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/03/imn-members-protest-in-kano-over-reported-killing-of-irans-supreme-leader/>

¹⁶<https://punchng.com/youths-decry-poor-electricity-supply-in-osun/>

¹⁷<https://punchng.com/quds-day-shiites-stage-pro-palestine-demonstration-in-bauchi/>

¹⁸<https://dailypost.ng/2026/03/15/agatu-youths-block-oweto-otukpo-highway-protest-persistent-killings-in-benue/>

¹⁹<https://saharareporters.com/2026/03/20/unizik-workers-protest-six-years-unpaid-salaries-allege-management-exploiting-federal>

Similarly, youths under the Coalition of Northern Zone Ethnic Nationalities and the Plateau Youth Coalition staged a peaceful protest at the Plateau State Government House in Jos, demanding urgent action over rising insecurity and persistent attacks in the state. Health workers under the Joint Health Sector Unions and the Assembly of Healthcare Professional Associations staged a peaceful protest at the Unity Fountain in Abuja over a proposed health sector reform bill, expressing concerns about its potential impact on the regulatory structure of the health sector. Residents of Hadejia town in Jigawa State also staged a peaceful protest to the palace of the Hadejia Emirate Council, demanding intervention in the alleged abduction and abuse of a teenage girl by a security operative, and submitted a petition for justice and accountability. During the same period, security was intensified across the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, following planned protests by members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) in solidarity with Iran, leading to increased deployment of security personnel and traffic disruptions along major routes.

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 32 deaths, 192 confirmed cases, and 1,090 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Gombe, Plateau, Nasarawa, Delta, Lagos, Oyo, Sokoto, Ekiti, Niger, Borno, Abia, FCT, Adamawa, Rivers, Yobe, Cross River, Enugu, 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.²⁰

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 Akwa Ibom, Edo, and Delta States. Furthermore, 59 victims of human trafficking including 15 children and over 17 females were rescued in Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers and Oyo States during the month.²¹ These incidents underscore the urgent need to strengthen existing protection mechanisms.

Implications for Peace and Security

The security landscape in Nigeria remains highly volatile, driven by a complex interplay of socioeconomic, political, ethnic, and religious conflicts. The persistence of these threats continues to undermine human security and reverse gains made toward the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in conflict-affected regions. The humanitarian impact of insecurity remains pronounced, especially for women and children who

²⁰ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

²¹ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

are disproportionately exposed to risks such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), radicalization, trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. The patterns of abduction across states, particularly in the North-East and North-West, indicate a sustained threat to civilian protection, with women, children, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) remaining primary targets. These trends highlight persistent gaps in protective security mechanisms despite ongoing security operations in the states.

The continued disruption of agricultural activities due to recurrent armed attacks, displacement, and threats of violence has had far-reaching implications for food security and the livelihoods of affected communities. Farming communities face restricted access to farmlands, loss of productive assets, and declining agricultural output. As a result, household consumption capacity and income levels are significantly weakened, exacerbating poverty and deepening vulnerability. This is supported by findings from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which indicate that approximately 24.7 million people in Nigeria are at risk of acute food and nutrition insecurity across multiple states. The situation is projected to worsen, with warnings that the number could rise to 34.7 million by August 2026, particularly in conflict-affected areas.²²

Displacement trends also remain a critical concern. Ongoing insecurity continues to drive population movements, with increasing numbers of individuals and households forced to flee their communities. This not only places additional pressure on host communities and humanitarian systems but also limits access to basic services, including education, healthcare, and livelihoods, thereby compounding long-term vulnerability.

Furthermore, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, alongside the growing trafficking of illicit drugs, continues to compound the security environment. Transnational criminal networks facilitate the cross-border movement of arms, contributing to the intensification and persistence of violent conflicts. Recent security operations have resulted in the interception and seizure of weapons and ammunition, underscoring both the scale of the threat and ongoing enforcement efforts. Nevertheless, the circulation of illicit arms remains a major impediment to peacebuilding and stabilization initiatives.

Health security conditions are equally strained. The resurgence and spread of infectious diseases such as Lassa fever, alongside other epidemic-prone illnesses, continue to place pressure on an already overstretched healthcare system. In conflict-affected and rural areas, limited access to healthcare facilities, delayed treatment, and weak surveillance systems hinder early detection and effective response. These challenges contribute to elevated morbidity and mortality rates, particularly among vulnerable population.

²² https://www.fao.org/nigeria/news/detail-events/ru/c/1750590/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

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 enhance and sustain collaboration with traditional rulers, community leadership structures, faith-based institutions, and women and youth networks to strengthen grassroots dialogue and mediation mechanisms. This will support early detection of security threats, promote peaceful conflict resolution, and reinforce social cohesion at the community level.
- The Federal and State Governments should prioritize the development of a more responsive, accountable, and well-resourced security architecture through strategic recruitment, continuous capacity building, and effective deployment of personnel, particularly in high-risk and vulnerable areas. Strengthening inter-agency coordination and intelligence sharing will improve operational effectiveness and timely response to emerging threats.
- The Federal and State Governments should expand inclusive job creation and vocational training initiatives, with a focus on out-of-school and at-risk youth. Increasing access to sustainable livelihood opportunities will reduce vulnerability to recruitment by criminal networks and violent groups driven by economic hardship.
- State and Local Governments, in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, should intensify partnerships with civil society organisations, media, and traditional and religious leaders to promote awareness of health, sanitation, and disease prevention. Context-specific and culturally sensitive communication strategies, particularly in underserved areas, will help reduce the incidence of outbreaks such as Lassa fever.
- State and Local Governments should strengthen collaboration with civil society organisations, traditional and religious institutions, women and youth groups, and media platforms to support the effective domestication and enforcement of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act and the Child Rights Act. Community-based advocacy should focus on preventing gender-based violence, addressing harmful social norms, and promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights.

CONCLUSION:

As Nigeria continues to confront security challenges across its states, response strategies must be conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and sustainable to support long-term peace and stability. Strengthening preventive frameworks, particularly those led by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), remains critical. Enhancing early warning systems to monitor emerging and evolving human security threats, and integrating these mechanisms into formal state security structures, will enable more timely, coordinated, and effective responses. In addition, state governments should prioritize improved risk communication on environmental security issues especially in remote and underserved communities in collaboration with public health authorities and disaster management agencies.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR MARCH 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists attack. Conunter-terrorists attacks	6	50 people including security operatives and civilians including CJTF -85 terrorists	Over 119 injured
ORGANISED CRIME: (Armed robbery/theft, murder, armed violence, armed bandits, mob attack, arson and cult/gang clash Bomb Explosion	82 3	154 10	Over 78 people injured
Violent Clash: a. Violent clash at a mining site in (Zamfara) b. Clash between military operatives and hoodlums in (Zamfara) c. Clash between community youths in (Bauchi) d. Clash between suspected rival armed thugs in (Kano) e. Clash between suspected rival gangs in (Katsina) f. Clash between suspected rival gang members g. Clash between rival factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW)	9	11	13
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	47	345	Over 38 people injured
Abduction (evident across 28 States)	64	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	3	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	1	1	1
Physical/Armed Assault	2	3	1

Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	11	74	Over 25 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	14	-	-
Homicide	4	5	1
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	14	-	
Violent demonstration	-		
Strike	1	-	-
Arrest/detention	207	-	-
Road accident	49	55	46
Boat Accident	1	155	-
Building /fence Collapse	3	-	-
Electrocution	1	1	-
Drowning	3	2	-
Threats	3	-	-
Gas Explosion	4	2	10
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal clash	3	6	7
Pit collapse	1		
Stampede	1	4	18
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	31	32	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> Lassa Fever: 1,282
Fire Outbreak	26	8	1
Tanker Explosion	2	3	40
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	3	1	2
Human Trafficking	1	-	-
Total	602	924	1,682

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.

27, ADENIJI STREET, ADENIJI ESTATE, OFF WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA LAGOS STATE, TEL: +2348062072468; WEBSITE: WWW.WANEPNIGERIA.ORG

