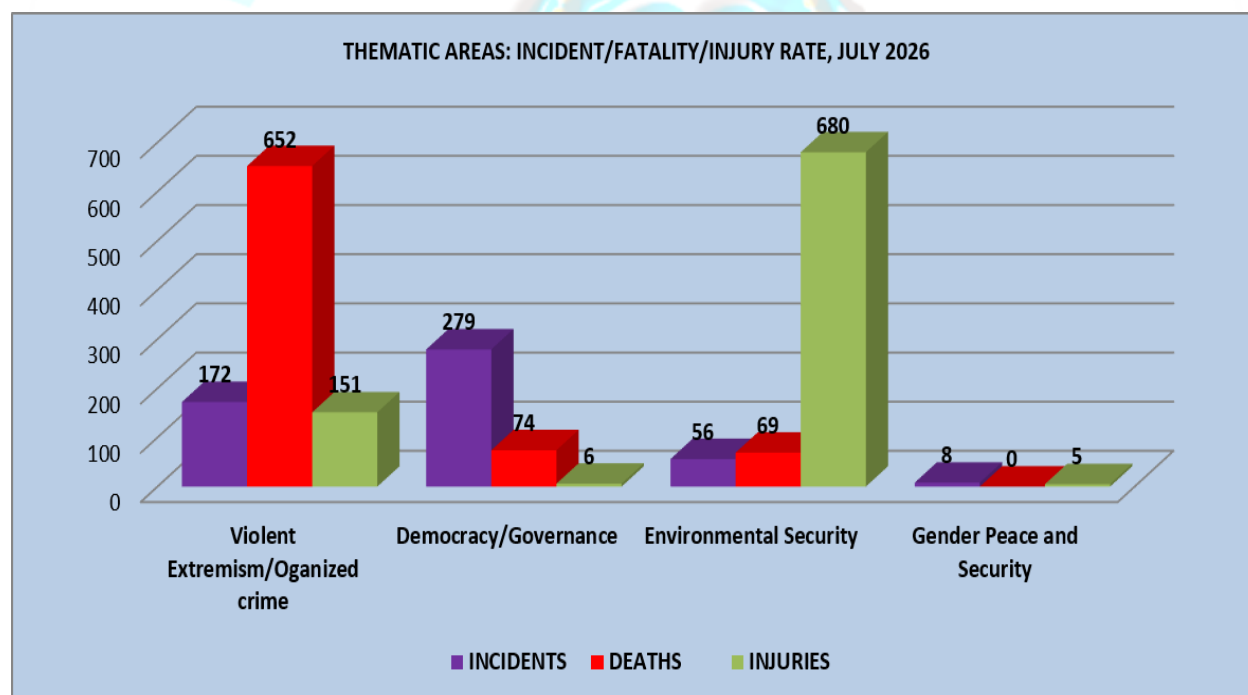


I. INTRODUCTION

In July 2026, 515 incidents were recorded in the Monthly Conflict Census by the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). The reporting period documented a total of 795 deaths, with 204 attributed to non-state armed actors. Additionally, there were 893 injuries and infected cases resulting from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents.¹

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organized Crime recorded a total of 652 fatalities, representing the highest number among the total deaths (795) documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 74 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 69 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported no deaths 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.

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/

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to pose a significant security threat in Nigeria, particularly across the North-East. The persistent frequency of attacks, alongside the continued use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), demonstrates the groups' evolving tactics and sustained capacity to disrupt security, spread fear, and hinder reconstruction efforts, humanitarian assistance, and the safe resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Despite ongoing counter-terrorism operations by the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and the Nigerian Armed Forces, both groups retain the ability to conduct attacks against civilians, security personnel, and critical infrastructure. These developments underscore the enduring threat posed by terrorist organisations and their continued negative impact on peace, security, and stability in Nigeria. In response, the Nigerian Armed Forces, in collaboration with the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), Office of Security Cooperation Nigeria (OSC Nigeria), and the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), strengthened counter-insurgency and clearance operations across the region. Troops conducting internal security operations across the country neutralised 102 terrorists and other criminal elements, arrested 345 terrorists and criminal suspects, rescued 393 kidnapped victims, and recorded the surrender of 57 insurgents. Security forces also recovered 59 weapons and 1,811 rounds of ammunition during the reporting month.

WANEP NEWS recorded several terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) during the reporting period. The attacks primarily targeted civilians, including farmers, fishermen, and schoolchildren, across Askira/Uba, Gwoza, and Biu LGAs in Borno State, and Damaturu and Gujba LGAs in Yobe State. Overall, the incidents resulted in 26 fatalities, including security personnel, while 35 people have been abducted, highlighting the persistent threat posed by terrorist groups to civilian populations in the North-East region.

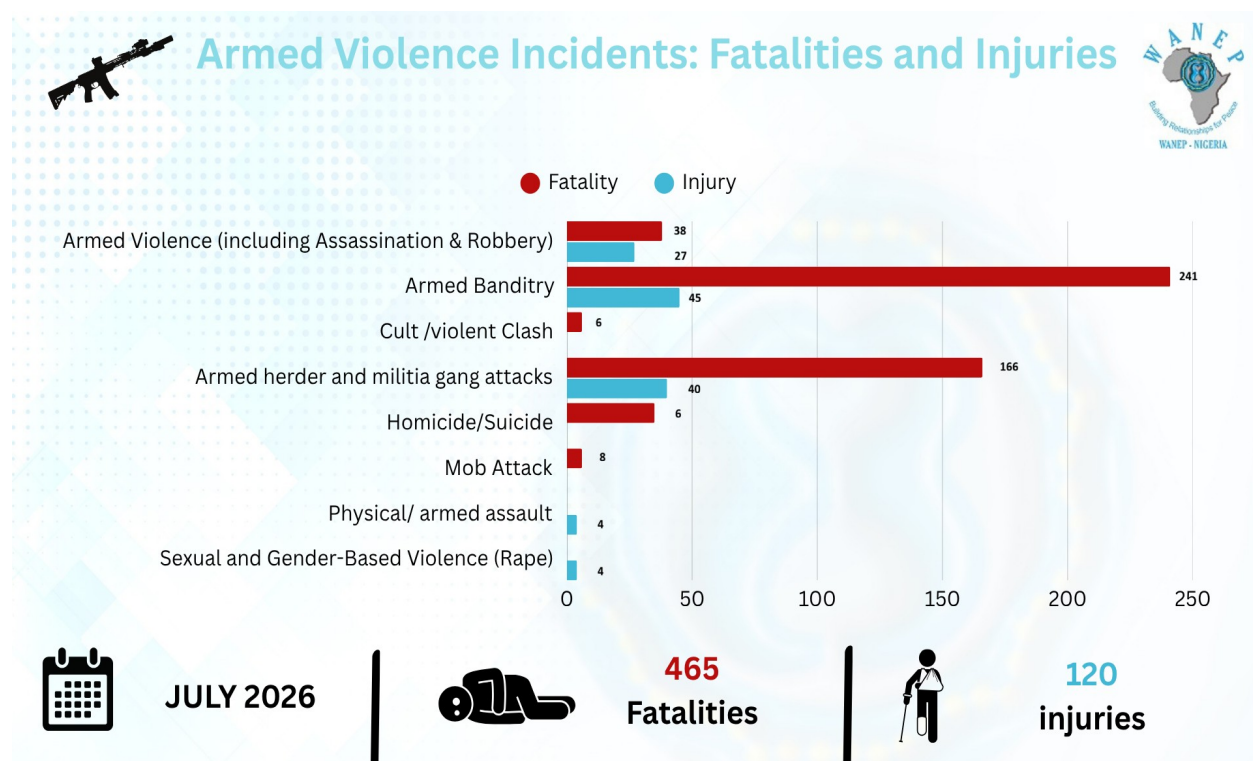
Additionally, **Organized Crime** including weapons trafficking, armed banditry, human and drug trafficking, cult violence, kidnapping, and armed violence by militia gangs, remains pervasive in the security landscape. During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded 166 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 652 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, over 204 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 29 were females, 25 children and 32 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.

Armed banditry attacks accounted for the highest number of 241 deaths in Niger, Katsina, Kaduna, Kebbi, Zamfara, Kano, Kwara and Sokoto 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 **armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** recorded the second highest fatality of 116 in the reporting month, **armed violence incidents, including robbery, assassination and Violent clashes, resulted in 51 deaths, Other reported incidents, culpable**

homicide, and Cult clashes and mob violence which recorded 6, 2 and 6 deaths respectively in the reporting period.⁴

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

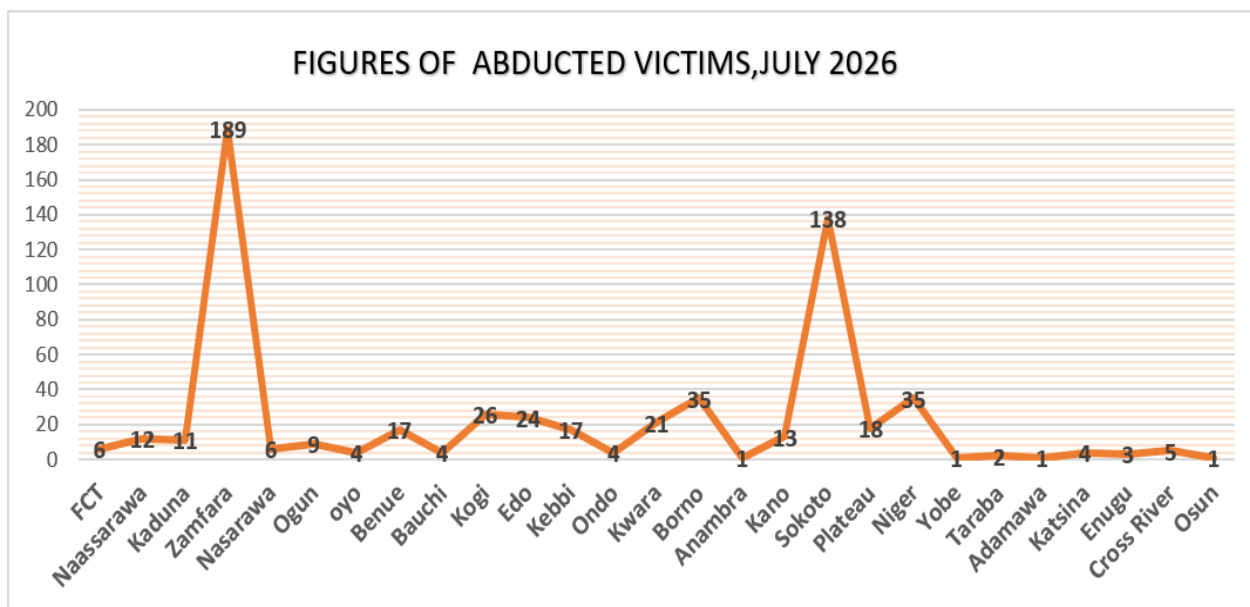


Source: WANEP-NEWS.⁵

Kidnapping by armed criminal groups continues to pose a significant threat to peace and security across Nigeria. During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented 88 kidnapping incidents across 26 states, resulting in the abduction of 601 people, including more than 88 women, 48 children, and security personnel.⁶ The continued prevalence of these incidents has heightened insecurity, disrupted livelihoods, and exacerbated existing humanitarian and socio-economic challenges across the affected communities.

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

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁷

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 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.

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

WEAPONS RECOVERY & ILLICIT DRUG/SUBSTANCE



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁸

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

WANEP NEWS recorded six (6) public demonstrations during the reporting period. Two people, including the head of a local vigilante group, were allegedly killed, while several others were injured when suspected armed bandits reportedly attacked Gidan Barau Community in Malumfashi Local Government Area of Katsina State. The attackers, who were reportedly armed with automatic weapons, allegedly engaged vigilante members and youths who mobilised to confront them. The incident reportedly triggered protests by community members following the arrest of some residents after the confrontation⁹. In Plateau State, youths and women reportedly staged a protest in Angwan Rukuba over the alleged exclusion of indigenous candidates from the Bassa/Jos North House of Representatives and Jos North-North House of Assembly positions. The protesters reportedly demanded the reinstatement of Harry Ishaya as the Jos North-North candidate.¹⁰ The protest reportedly resulted in a road blockade, disrupting vehicular movement in the area.

In Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, residents reportedly staged protests following a deadly attack on the Efeyi community in Ugboju, which reportedly left more than 22 people dead and several others injured. The protests prompted the Otukpo Local Government Council to impose a dusk-to-dawn curfew to prevent a breakdown of law and order. Security personnel were reportedly deployed to strategic locations, including the palace of the

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

⁹ <https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/metro/bandits-kill-two-as-protesters-block-major-katsina-road/>

¹⁰ <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/07/gunmen-kill-two-women-in-plateau-community-as-residents-protest-over-insecurity/>

Och'Idoma, amid concerns that aggrieved youths might move the victims' bodies to the palace in protest. There was no reported further escalation as of reporting time.¹¹ Residents of Unyenge in Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State reportedly staged a peaceful protest over alleged neglect and marginalisation by oil companies operating in the area. The protesters cited poor infrastructure, limited employment opportunities, environmental concerns and the failure to reconstruct a collapsed bridge, which they said had disrupted economic activities. They reportedly called on Savannah Energy Nigeria Limited and other companies operating in the area to address their grievances and threatened to sustain the protest until their demands were met.¹²

Members of the Adamawa State chapter of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) reportedly staged a protest over an alleged plan to replace the party's governorship candidate, Omar Suleiman. The protesters reportedly alleged that efforts were being made at the national level to replace the candidate and warned against any attempt to alter the party's choice. The demonstration reportedly followed a similar protest by another group within the same week and further heightened internal tensions within the party. There was no official confirmation from the ADC leadership regarding any candidate replacement process as of reporting time.¹³ Several party members were reportedly injured and properties destroyed during a violent clash at an All Progressives Congress (APC) meeting at the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun, Delta State. The clash reportedly resulted from internal disagreements between party factions over party benefits and leadership interests. Security operatives were reportedly deployed to restore normalcy in the area.

The frequency of road accidents occasioned by mechanical faults, unprofessional conduct by drivers, speeding, overloading, and other related factors has resulted in the death of over 37 persons, with 32 others sustaining injuries. Similarly, the inadequacies of regulatory bodies in effectively monitoring compliance with approved construction standards and prosecuting violators have been attributed to the persistent breaches of building regulations by contractors across the country. Seven (7) incidents of building and fence collapses were recorded in Gombe, Kano and Anambra States. These incidents resulted in the death of two (2) children, while ten (10) other persons sustained injuries.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

During the reporting month, Nigeria continued to face recurring public health challenges, particularly outbreaks of Lassa fever and cholera in several states. According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), 6 deaths, 61 confirmed cases, and 591 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Ebonyi, Nassarawa, Kogi, Oyo, FCT, Cross River, Jigawa, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Ekiti, Delta, the FCT, Anambra, Osun, Yobe, Bayelsa, Enugu and Rivers States. Similarly, Borno State experienced a

¹¹ <https://dailypost.ng/2026/07/29/benue-dusk-to-dawn-curfew-declared-in-otukpo-as-residents-protest-deadly-ugboju-attack/>

¹² <https://dailypost.ng/2026/07/31/akwa-ibom-community-protests-neglect-urges-action-on-collapsed-bridge/>

¹³ <https://dailypost.ng/2026/07/27/adamawa-adc-members-protest-alleged-plans-to-remove-guber-candidate/>

significant cholera outbreak, with 9 deaths reported among terrorists members during the reporting period.¹⁴ The continued occurrence of these disease outbreaks highlights persistent public health challenges and places additional pressure on already stretched healthcare systems.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶

WANEP-NEWS recorded a range of environmental security incidents across Nigeria during the reporting period, highlighting the increasing impact of extreme weather events on communities, infrastructure, and essential services. Heavy rainfall, flooding, and windstorms affected Lagos, Jigawa, Yobe, Edo, and Sokoto States, resulting in 15 fatalities and 10 injuries. The incidents also led to the destruction of residential buildings, schools, health facilities, electricity infrastructure, and roads, as well as widespread disruption to transportation, commercial activities, and electricity supply.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS recorded incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), predominantly involving cases of rape against female minors in Rivers, Delta, and Bauchi States. Furthermore, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), in collaboration with other security agencies, rescued more than 156 victims of human trafficking, including children and females, between January and July in Katsina, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Ogun, Oyo, and Plateau States. These incidents highlight the urgent need to strengthen existing protection mechanisms and enhance measures to prevent and respond to SGBV and human trafficking.

Implications for Peace and Security

Nigeria's security landscape remained fragile as terrorism, organized crime, kidnapping, civil unrest, and disease outbreaks continued to threaten national stability and human security. Persistent attacks by insurgent groups in the North-East demonstrate their sustained capability to threaten civilian populations despite ongoing military operations involving the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), and the Office of Security Cooperation Nigeria (OSC Nigeria). Frequent attacks on farming and fishing communities, travellers, and educational institutions continue to disrupt livelihoods, reduce agricultural and economic activities, and heighten food insecurity in affected areas. The recurring use of explosive devices further restricts movement, limits access to farmlands and markets, and increases fear among residents. Continued attacks and abductions also undermine

¹⁴ <https://dailypost.ng/2026/07/09/nine-iswap-fighters-reportedly-die-in-cholera-outbreak-in-borno/>

¹⁶ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

confidence in public safety, discourage school attendance, delay the return of displaced populations, and weaken efforts to rebuild resilient and secure communities.

The high incidence of organized crime, which resulted in over 650 fatalities and included armed banditry, farmer-herder violence, cult clashes, and armed robbery, continues to weaken community security across several states. Beyond the immediate loss of lives, incidents involving cattle rustling, arson, looting, and property destruction are likely to deepen poverty, displace households, disrupt local economies, and fuel intercommunal mistrust. Persistent violence in farming communities may reduce agricultural productivity, increase food prices, and worsen household food insecurity. The growing activities of criminal networks involved in arms trafficking, drug trafficking, and human trafficking also indicate the continued expansion of illicit economies capable of sustaining armed violence and undermining state authority.

Kidnapping continues to pose a serious threat to human security across Nigeria, with its widespread occurrence deepening fear and insecurity among communities. The persistent abduction of civilians is likely to restrict freedom of movement, disrupt livelihoods, discourage investment and commercial activities, and impose significant psychological, social, and economic burdens on affected families. The continued targeting of vulnerable groups, including school children, raises serious child protection and education concerns. Such incidents may discourage school attendance, increase the risk of displacement, weaken community confidence in public safety, and leave victims and their families with lasting psychological trauma.

Public demonstrations during the period reflect growing public dissatisfaction with governance, insecurity, labour disputes, and limited access to essential services. These disruptions continue to affect national stability and social cohesion and are likely to weaken public confidence in government institutions as citizens increasingly question the effectiveness and responsiveness of authorities in addressing key socio-economic challenges. In the education and health sectors, prolonged strikes have disrupted academic calendars and healthcare delivery, leading to reduced access to essential services and weakening human capital development. Insecurity-related protests, particularly in schools, have heightened fear and reduced attendance, further undermining trust in the safety of learning environments.

The continued outbreak of Lassa fever poses a significant challenge to Nigeria's health security by placing additional pressure on healthcare systems, limiting access to essential health services, and increasing the vulnerability of affected communities. At the same time, incidents of rape involving minors and human trafficking expose persistent gaps in child protection and law enforcement, with long-term physical, psychological, and socio-economic consequences for victims. Collectively, these challenges weaken community resilience, erode public confidence in protection mechanisms, and undermine overall human security.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

- The Federal and State Governments should strengthen coordinated security responses in affected communities through improved intelligence gathering, timely deployment of security personnel, and enhanced collaboration among security agencies, community structures, and local authorities. This will support early detection of threats, improve civilian protection, and reduce the operational space of armed groups and criminal networks.
- State Governments should increase collaborate with traditional rulers, community leaders, women's groups, youth networks, faith-based institutions, and civil society organisations to strengthen community-based early warning and response mechanisms. Such collaboration should promote dialogue, mediation, trust-building, and peaceful resolution of disputes, particularly in areas affected by farmer-herder tensions, armed violence, and communal conflicts.
- The Federal and State Governments should increase inclusive socio-economic interventions, including job creation, vocational training, skills acquisition, and livelihood support for youths, women, displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups. These interventions should address the underlying drivers of insecurity, reduce exposure to criminal recruitment, and strengthen community resilience.
- State and Local Governments, in partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), public health institutions, civil society organisations, the media, and traditional and religious leaders, should intensify public sensitisation on disease prevention, sanitation, early reporting, and timely health-seeking behaviour. Targeted risk communication should be prioritised in rural and underserved communities to prevent and control outbreaks such as Lassa fever and cholera.
- State and Local Governments should strengthen protection and response mechanisms for women, children, and other vulnerable groups by supporting the implementation and enforcement of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act and the Child Rights Act. This should include community advocacy, survivor-centred support services, improved reporting pathways, and stronger collaboration with security agencies, civil society organisations, media platforms, and traditional and religious institutions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.

CONCLUSION:

As Nigeria continues to face complex and evolving security challenges, response efforts should adopt conflict-sensitive, inclusive, and sustainable approaches that contribute to lasting peace and stability. Strengthening preventive mechanisms, particularly those led by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), remains critical to building community resilience and enhancing local capacities to address emerging threats. Similarly, strengthening early warning and early response systems to identify emerging and evolving human security risks, while ensuring their effective integration with formal state security institutions, will support more timely,

coordinated, and effective interventions. State governments should also prioritize strategic risk communication on environmental and public health threats, especially in remote and underserved communities, through strengthened collaboration with public health authorities, disaster management agencies, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR JULY 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS /ATTACKS	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists attack.	6	26 people including security operatives and civilians including CJTF	Over 30 people injured
ORGANISED CRIME:			
Armed bandits/Bomb Explosion	21	241	Over 45 people injured
Mob attack	8	6	-
Cult/gang clash	6	2	
Armed robbery/theft	26	-	-
Murder	16	12	-
Armed violence/Arson	28	38	
Violent Clash:			
a. Violent between a Fulani community and local residents (Niger)	2	1	-
b. Clash between suspected herders and residents in (Edo)			
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	32	204	Over 32 people injured
Abduction (evident across 28 States)		-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	3	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	-	-	-
Physical/Armed Assault	4	-	4

Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	18	116	Over 40 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	18	-	-
Homicide	6	6	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	4	-	-
Violent demonstration		-	-
Strike	-	-	-
Arrest/detention	246	-	-
Road accident	12	37	32
Boat Accident	2	30	-
Building Collapse	7	3	13
Election related violence	1	1	15
Electrocution	1	1	-
Drowning	1	1	-
Threats		-	-
Gas Explosion	1	1	1
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal clash	3	3	-
Bridge collapse		3	13
Animal attack	1	-	3
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u>
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	13	12	Lassa Fever: 652
b. Cholera Outbreak	1	9	-
Generators Fume	1	5	
Flooding	7	15	10
Fire Outbreak	29	16	-
Thunder Storm	1	6	2
Tanker Explosion	-	-	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	4		4
Human Trafficking	2	-	-
Domestic Violence/Child abuse	2	-	1
Total	515	795	893

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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