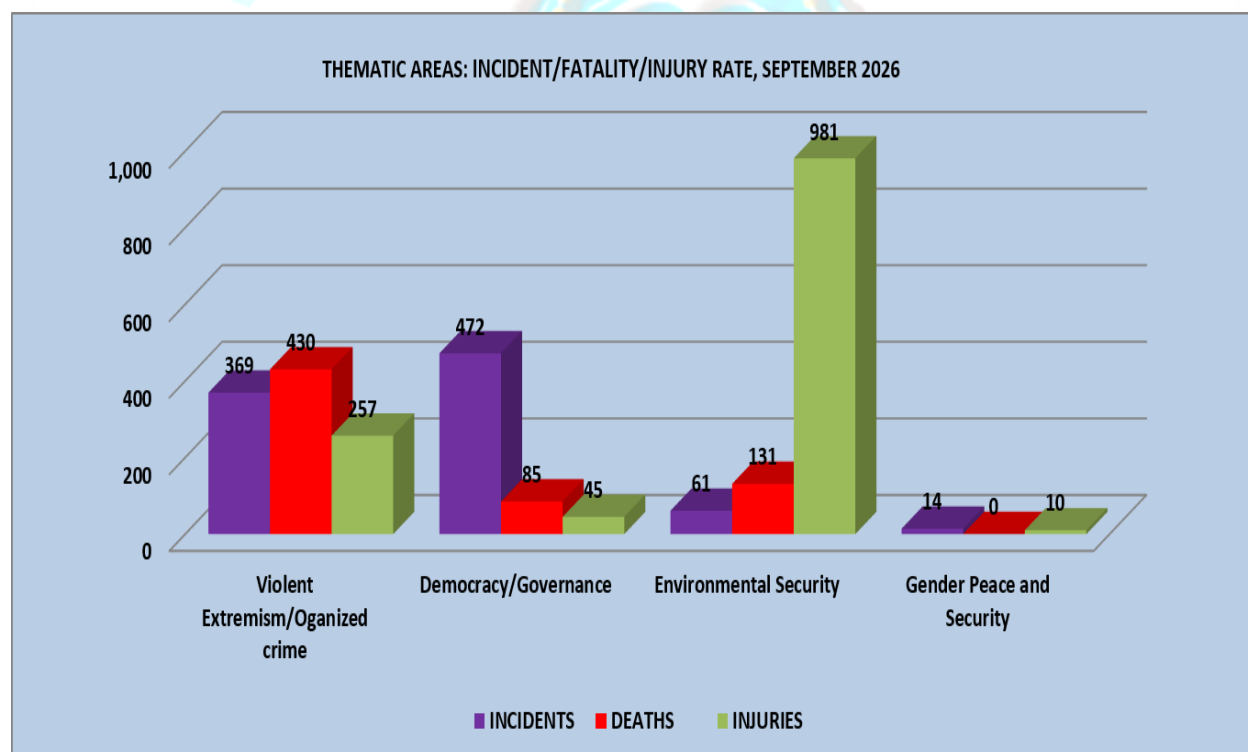


I. INTRODUCTION

In September 2026, 916 incidents were recorded in the Monthly Conflict Census by the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS). The reporting period documented a total of 646 deaths, with 105 attributed to non-state armed actors. Additionally, there were 1,237 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 430 fatalities, the highest among the 646 total deaths documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 85 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 131 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported no deaths during the reporting period. (See the annex for the monthly census)



Source: WANEP-NEWS.²

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

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

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

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 the 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 to the persistent threat, 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. During the reporting month, troops conducting internal security operations in the North-East region killed 27 terrorists, arrested 49 terrorists, rescued 103 kidnapped victims, and facilitated the surrender of 73 insurgents and their family members, comprising 13 women and 31 children, at Konduga in Bama LGA. Troops also encountered a command-detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) along the Miyanti–Banki route and recovered several rounds of ammunition and the IED initiator.³

Against this backdrop, WANEP NEWS recorded 11 incidents of terrorist attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) during the reporting period. The attacks primarily targeted civilians, security operatives, and farmers in Kukawa, Bama, Gwoza, and Biu Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State, as well as Gombi LGA in Adamawa State. Overall, the incidents resulted in 43 fatalities, including security personnel, while four people were abducted.⁴ These incidents highlight the persistent threat posed by terrorist groups to civilian populations and security personnel across the North-East region, despite ongoing counter-insurgency and clearance operations.

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 358 incidents of organized crime, resulting in 386 fatalities among civilians and security personnel. Of the recorded deaths, over 105 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs), while over 38

³ https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/09/troops-rescue-655-kidnapped-victims-in-september-dhq/amp/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

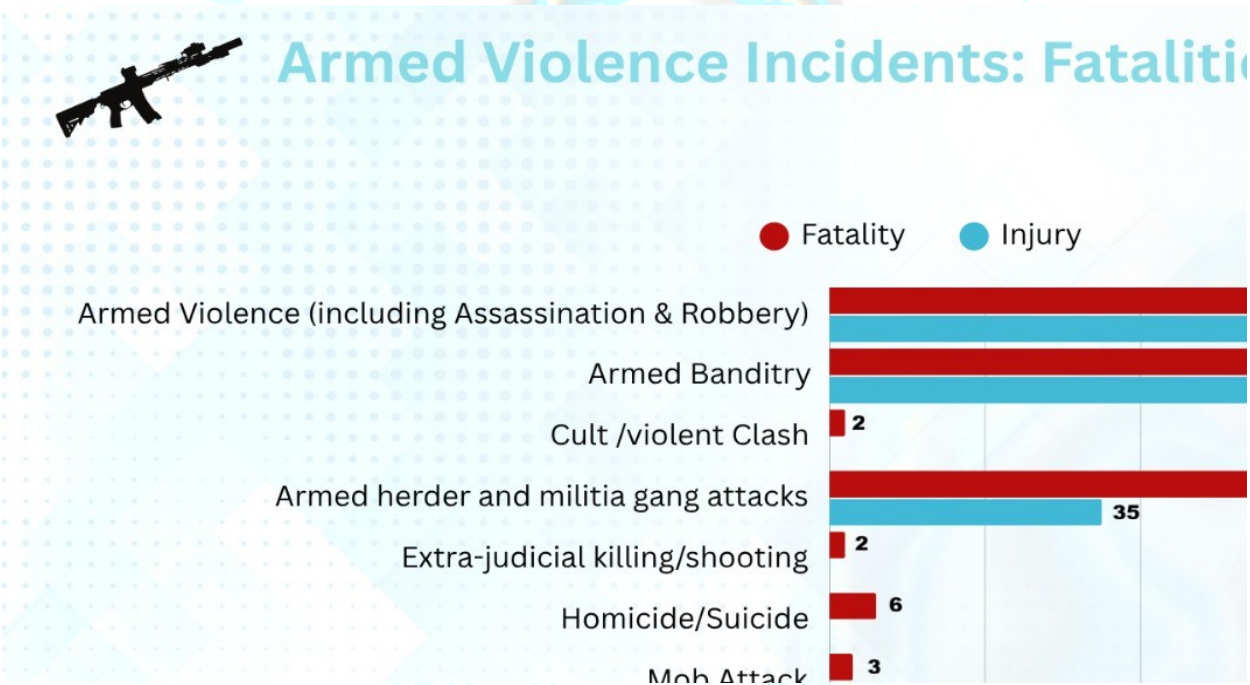
⁴ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

were females, 15 children and 16 security personnel, including members of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and Vigilante Groups.⁵

Armed violence incidents, including robbery and assassination, accounted for the highest number of fatalities, with 104 deaths, followed by **armed banditry**, which recorded 98 deaths across 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.

Meanwhile, **armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders** resulted in 67 deaths. Other reported armed violence incidents included **culpable homicide, cult clashes, extrajudicial killings** and **mob violence**, which recorded **6, 2, 2 and 3** deaths, respectively, during the reporting period.⁶

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS.⁷

Kidnapping by armed criminal groups continues to pose a significant threat to human security across Nigeria. During the reporting period, WANEP NEWS documented 88 kidnapping incidents across 29 states, resulting in the abduction of 316 people, including more than 50 females, 40 children, and a security personnel.⁸ The prevalence of these incidents has heightened

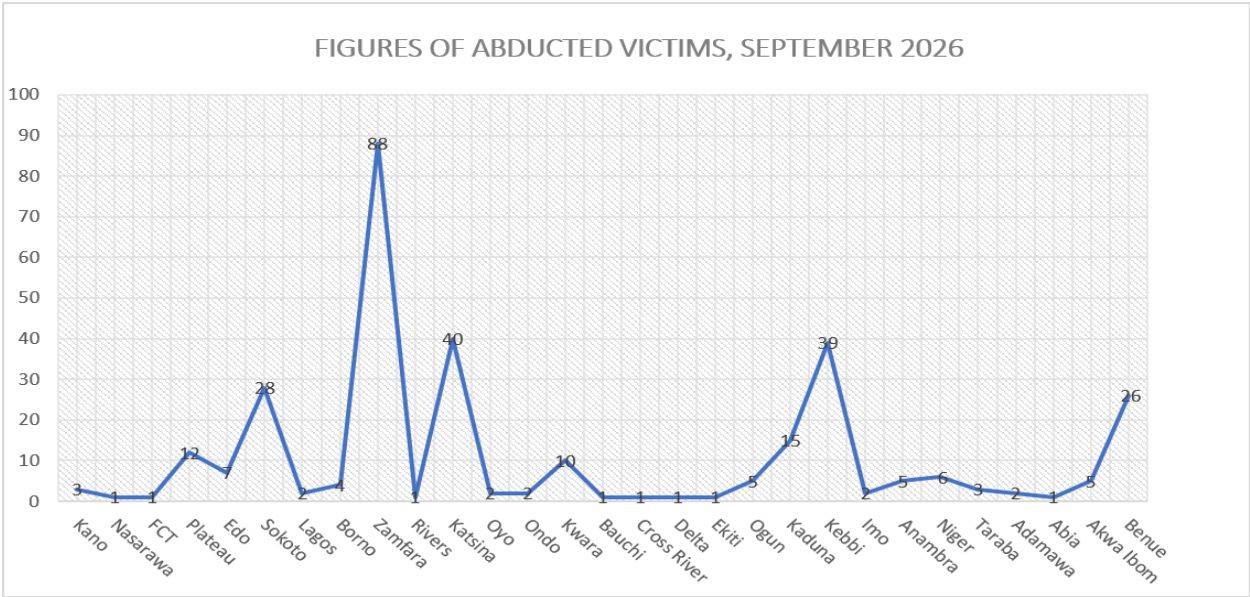
⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

insecurity, disrupted livelihoods, and exacerbated existing humanitarian and socio-economic challenges across the affected communities.



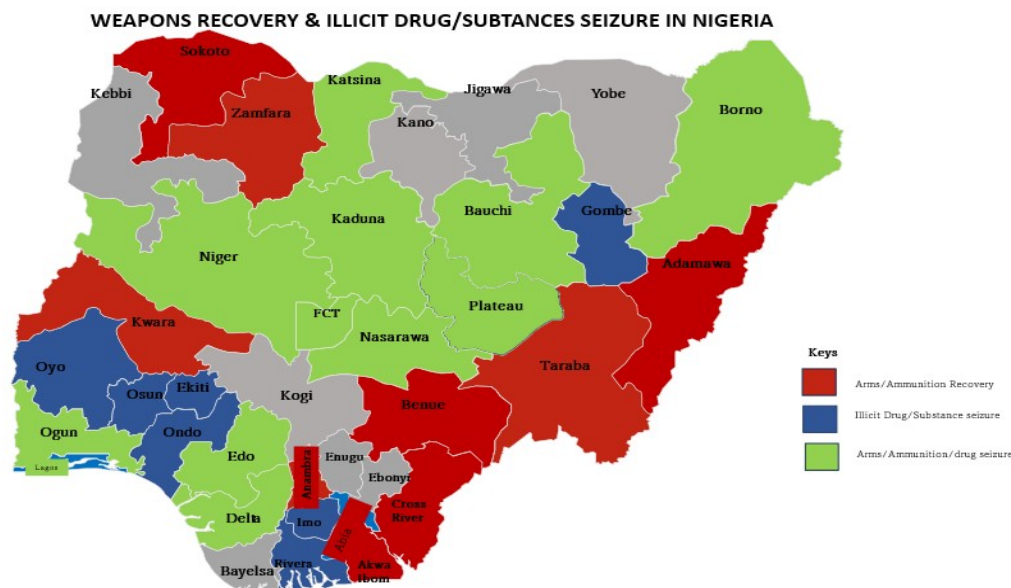
Source: WANEP-NEWS⁹

WANEP NEWS documented 384 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.¹⁰ 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 shown in the map below, security agencies intercepted illicit drugs, psychotropic substances, and weapons across several states. According to WANEP NEWS, these operations resulted in multiple arrests and the seizure of substantial quantities of substances, including Indian hemp, skunk, opioids, fentanyl, codeine, tramadol, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

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

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

In the lead-up to Nigeria's 2027 general elections, public demonstrations, labour disputes, economic grievances, and governance-related protests continued to highlight underlying social and political concerns with potential implications for public order, social stability, and peaceful political participation.

WANEP NEWS recorded six (6) public demonstrations during the reporting period. Youths reportedly staged demonstrations and blocked roads in Sokoto metropolis, Sokoto State, in protest against the continued remand of an Islamic cleric. The protesters allegedly clashed with security personnel while attempting to secure the cleric's release from custody, disrupting movement in parts of the city. Security personnel were deployed and restored calm.¹² In Makurdi, Benue State, protesters reportedly barricaded Gboko Road, obstructing the convoy of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) presidential candidate, Peter Obi, and disrupting traffic for several hours. Police operatives were deployed to disperse the protesters and strengthen security in the area.¹³ Meanwhile, residents in Ebonyi State staged a demonstration over alleged threats by Governor Ogbonna Nwifuru against opposition parties and their supporters ahead of the 2027 general elections. Protesters marched through parts of the state carrying placards and chanting solidarity songs, while calling on senior police authorities, including the Inspector-General of Police and the Ebonyi State Commissioner of Police, to intervene.¹⁴

In Lagos State, traders at Trade Fair Market in the Abulado area staged a peaceful protest against the alleged activities of Chinese wholesalers operating as retailers. The protesters accused the wholesalers of selling directly to consumers at prices close to wholesale rates,

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

¹² <https://punchng.com/protest-in-sokoto-over-court-order-remanding-islamic-cleric/>

¹³ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-central/908497-police-arrest-46-suspects-over-obstruction-of-obis-convoy-in-benue.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/910170-2027-police-react-to-ebonyi-governor-council-chairmans-threats-against-opposition.html>

undermining the conventional distribution chain and making it difficult for indigenous retailers and local middlemen to compete. They called on relevant government authorities and business leaders to intervene, protect the livelihoods of local traders and balance foreign participation in the market.¹⁵ Meanwhile, the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) reportedly declared an indefinite strike over the alleged non-implementation of the Federal Government–ASUU agreement signed in December 2025 and the non-payment of outstanding salaries. The union stated that the strike would continue until the university management addressed its demands and complied with relevant federal government directives.¹⁶ Similarly, ASUU reportedly declared an indefinite strike at Lagos State University (LASU), Lagos State University of Education (LASUED) and Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) over the alleged failure of the Lagos State Government to meet its demands. The strike followed the expiration of a 14-day ultimatum without a resolution. The union demanded the domestication and implementation of applicable provisions of the December 2025 Federal Government–ASUU agreement, including the Consolidated Academic Tools Allowance (CATA) and welfare provisions for serving and retired academic staff.¹⁷

In Lagos Island LGA, Lagos State, members of the Eternal Sacred Order of Cherubim and Seraphim Church staged a peaceful protest against the demolition of part of their property opposite the Police Barracks in Obalende, despite a pending legal dispute over the land. No intervention was reported as of the time of reporting.¹⁸ In Osogbo, Osun State, operators of intra-city minibuses under the aegis of the Association of Korope Drivers protested against rising fuel costs and the alleged mismanagement of proceeds from daily ticket sales.¹⁹ In Enugu State, hundreds of residents of Agunese Mmaku Autonomous Community, Awgu LGA, staged a protest at the state Government House, calling for the suspension of the traditional ruler, HRH Cyprian Maduabuchi Nevobasi, over allegations of abuse of office, intimidation, harassment and interference in community affairs. The protesters demanded an independent investigation and urged the state government to take preventive measures to avert further escalation.²⁰ In Jalingo, Taraba State, students of the Taraba State College of Nursing Sciences staged a protest following reported attacks on their hostels, the alleged rape of two female students and concerns over inadequate campus security. The students demanded improved security and accountability from the college management, insisting that academic activities would not resume until their concerns were addressed.²¹

The political climate ahead of the 2027 general elections remains vulnerable to election-related tensions, including propaganda, political intimidation, physical attacks and the destruction of campaign posters and billboards by supporters of opposing political parties. These incidents pose risks to peaceful electoral participation and may undermine voter confidence and turnout.

¹⁵ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/909817-traders-protest-alleged-chinese-retail-trading-at-lagos-trade-fair-complex.html>

¹⁶ <https://guardian.ng/education/uniport-asuu-declares-indefinite-strike-over-salary-arrears-allowances/>

¹⁷ <https://guardian.ng/news/asuu-declares-indefinite-strike-across-lagos-state-owned-varsities/>

¹⁸ <https://punchng.com/lagos-church-protests-property-demolition-despite-pending-suit/>

¹⁹ <https://tribuneonlineng.com/osun-mini-bus-drivers-hike-fare-protest-fuel-price/amp/>

²⁰ <https://punchng.com/enugu-community-protests-monarchs-alleged-harassment-intimidation/>

²¹ <https://www.channelstv.com/2026/09/21/taraba-nursing-students-protest-recurring-hostel-attacks-demand-security-intervention/>

In September 2026, WANEP NEWS documented seven incidents of election-related violence across Kano, Delta, Kogi, Benue, Kaduna, Rivers and Enugu States, with one fatality reported in Enugu State. These developments underscore the need for proactive conflict prevention, strengthened security coordination and timely responses to emerging electoral tensions.

The frequency of road accidents attributed to mechanical faults, driver misconduct, overspeeding, overloading, and other related factors resulted in the deaths of over 69 people, while 31 others sustained injuries. Similarly, inadequate monitoring of compliance with approved construction standards and weak enforcement of building regulations have contributed to persistent violations by contractors across the country. Six incidents of building collapse were recorded in Gombe, Kano, and Anambra.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

During the reporting month, Nigeria faced 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), 9 deaths, 54 confirmed cases, and 652 suspected cases of Lassa fever were recorded across Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Plateau, Ebonyi, Kogi, Akwa Ibom, Niger, Enugu, Ekiti, Delta, Bayelsa, Borno, Taraba, Nasarawa, Gombe, FCT, Cross River, Anambra, Abia, and Lagos States. Similarly, Plateau State experienced a significant diphtheria outbreak, with 27 deaths and 303 suspected cases reported during the reporting period. The continued occurrence of these disease outbreaks highlights persistent public health challenges and places additional pressure on already stretched healthcare systems. 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.²²

WANEP-NEWS documented several environmental security incidents across Nigeria during the reporting period, highlighting the impact of extreme weather events on communities, infrastructure and essential services. Heavy rainfall, flooding and windstorms affected Delta, Kebbi, Abia, Anambra, Imo, Ogun, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Benue, Bauchi and Kwara States, resulting in 17 fatalities, several injuries and the displacement of 347 people. Moreover, landslides in Enugu State and mudslides in Cross River State further highlight the risks posed by rainfall-related hazards. These incidents damaged residential buildings, schools, health facilities, electricity infrastructure and roads, while flooding disrupted transportation, commercial activities and electricity supply in affected communities.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

WANEP NEWS recorded incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), predominantly involving alleged rape of minors and women with 10 injuries in Ogun, Bauchi, Rivers, CrossRiver, Taraba, Oyo, Niger, Adamawa and Edo States. Additionally, the National Agency for

²²<https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), in collaboration with other security agencies, reportedly rescued 197 victims of human trafficking, including children and foreign nationals, across Oyo, Ogun, Delta, Benue, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Anambra States.²³ These incidents highlight increasing vulnerability of women and children to sexual violence and the urgent need to strengthen existing protection mechanisms and enhance preventive measures and response systems to address SGBV and human trafficking.

Implications for Peace and Security

Nigeria's peace and security environment remained fragile during the reporting period, with violent extremism, organised crime, kidnapping, political tensions, public-health emergencies and climate-related hazards reinforcing one another. In the North-East, attacks by Boko Haram and ISWAP against civilians, security personnel and critical infrastructure alongside the continued use of improvised explosive devices demonstrate that the groups retain the capacity to disrupt communities despite sustained counter-insurgency operations. Attacks affecting farmers, fishermen, travellers and schoolchildren in Borno and Yobe States restrict movement and access to farms, markets, schools and humanitarian services. This is likely to deepen fear, constrain food production and local commerce, delay the safe return of displaced populations and weaken confidence in the state's ability to protect vulnerable communities.

Organised crime was the principal driver of recorded fatalities, accounting for 430 deaths during the month. Armed banditry, armed robbery, militia and armed-herder attacks, cult violence, homicide and clashes with security forces affected communities across several states, while criminal networks engaged in kidnapping, cattle rustling, looting, arson and arms, drug and human trafficking. The resulting deaths, injuries and destruction of property are likely to increase displacement, impoverish affected households, interrupt farming and trade and intensify mistrust between communities. Although the arrest of 384 suspects and the recovery of weapons, ammunition and illicit drugs indicate stronger security action, the geographic spread and diversity of these crimes show that illicit networks continue to challenge state authority and sustain local cycles of violence.

The 88 kidnapping incidents recorded across 29 states, involving 316 abducted victims, confirm that abduction remains a widespread national threat rather than a problem confined to one region. The targeting of women, children and security personnel heightens protection concerns and exposes gaps in community surveillance, rapid response and victim support. Persistent kidnapping is likely to restrict travel, schooling, agricultural activity and investment, while ransom demands and loss of income place severe economic pressure on families. Repeated incidents may also encourage displacement, erode trust in security institutions and leave survivors and affected households with lasting psychological and social harm.

²³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

Governance-related tensions also present growing risks to social cohesion ahead of the 2027 general elections. Demonstrations over detention, insecurity, livelihoods, land disputes and community leadership, together with university strikes and recorded incidents of election-related violence, reflect rising dissatisfaction and competition around public authority and access to services. If grievances are not addressed through timely dialogue, lawful policing and credible dispute-resolution mechanisms, peaceful protests could escalate, political intimidation could suppress participation, and confidence in electoral institutions could decline. Disruptions in the education sector further weaken human-capital development, while attacks and protests linked to school safety may reduce attendance and deepen public concern about the security of learning environments.

Environmental, public-health and protection threats compound the effects of armed insecurity. Lassa fever and diphtheria outbreaks, together with delayed care-seeking and already stretched health services, increase preventable deaths and reduce the capacity of institutions to respond to simultaneous emergencies. Flooding, windstorms, landslides and mudslides caused fatalities, injuries, displacement and damage to homes, schools, health facilities, roads and electricity infrastructure, disrupting livelihoods and essential services in affected states. At the same time, reported sexual and gender-based violence and the rescue of 197 trafficking victims highlight persistent risks to women, children and other vulnerable groups. Together, these pressures weaken community resilience, increase humanitarian needs and require coordinated security, health, disaster-management and protection responses.

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, security agencies and the Multinational Joint Task Force should continue to strengthen intelligence-led and coordinated operations against Boko Haram, ISWAP, armed bandits and other criminal networks, with priority given to affected communities in the North-East and states experiencing recurrent armed violence. Responses should combine timely deployment, protection of civilians and critical infrastructure, control of arms and illicit trafficking routes, and sustained collaboration with community-based early warning structures to reduce attacks and enable safe access to farms, markets, schools and humanitarian services.
- State Governments and security agencies should establish coordinated anti-kidnapping measures across affected states, including community surveillance, rapid-response and rescue protocols, safer transport corridors and improved reporting channels. These measures should be supported by survivor-centred medical, psychosocial and livelihood assistance, particularly for abducted women and children, and by accountable investigations and prosecutions that disrupt ransom networks and restore public confidence in security institutions.

- The Federal and State Governments, electoral institutions, political parties, security agencies and civil society organisations should intensify early warning, dialogue and mediation ahead of the 2027 general elections. Authorities should protect lawful assemblies through rights-respecting policing, investigate intimidation and election-related violence, enforce sanctions against perpetrators and safeguard campaign activities. Governments and relevant institutions should also pursue timely resolution of community grievances, education-sector disputes and livelihood concerns that could trigger unrest or weaken trust in public institutions.
- State and Local Governments should strengthen joint preparedness for disease outbreaks and climate-related emergencies in collaboration with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, emergency-management agencies, health institutions, civil society organisations, the media and traditional and religious leaders. Priority actions should include early detection and referral for Lassa fever and diphtheria, affordable access to care, targeted risk communication in rural and underserved communities, flood and landslide early warning, evacuation planning, pre-positioned relief and the rapid restoration of damaged health facilities, schools, roads and electricity services.
- Federal, State and Local Governments, NAPTIP, security and justice institutions and civil society organisations should strengthen prevention and survivor-centred responses to sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and human trafficking. This should include enforcement of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, the Child Rights Act and anti-trafficking laws; confidential and accessible reporting pathways; medical, psychosocial, legal and reintegration support; safer schools and shelters; and coordinated investigation and prosecution of offenders, with particular attention to women, children, displaced people and rescued trafficking victims.

CONCLUSION:

Nigeria's evolving security landscape requires coordinated, conflict-sensitive, inclusive and sustainable approaches to strengthen human security and promote lasting peace and stability. Strengthening preventive mechanisms, particularly civil society-led initiatives, is critical to enhancing community resilience and local capacity to identify, anticipate and mitigate emerging threats. Furthermore, early warning and early response systems must be strengthened and better integrated with relevant government and security institutions to facilitate timely, coordinated and effective interventions. State Governments should also prioritise proactive risk communication on environmental and public-health threats, particularly in remote and underserved communities. Achieving these objectives requires sustained collaboration among public-health authorities, disaster-management agencies, civil society organisations, security institutions and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that emerging risks are identified early and translated into practical preventive action.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS /ATTACKS	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists attack.	11	43 people including security operatives and civilians including CJTF	Over 48 people injured
ORGANISED CRIME:			
Armed bandits/Bomb Explosion	37	98	Over 57 people injured
Mob attack	5	3	-
Cult/gang clash	2	2	
Armed robbery/theft	36	2	-
Murder	20	21	-
Armed violence/Arson	41	81	75
Violent Clash:			
a. Violent clash between members of the Mambilla, Fulani communities and local residents (Taraba)	1	-	1 -
Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	56	105	Over 41 people injured
Abduction (evident across 29 States)	88	-	-
Cybercrime/Fraud	4	-	-
Extrajudicial killing/Shooting	3	2	-
Vandalism	7	-	-
Herder-Community Conflict/Ethnic Militia Attacks	33	67	Over 35 people injured
Illicit Drug Trafficking	19	-	-
Homicide	6	6	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:			
Demonstration (peaceful)	8	-	-
Violent demonstration	1	-	-

Strike	2	-	-
Arrest/detention	384	-	-
Road accident	47	69	31
Boat Accident	3	7	-
Building Collapse	6	4	
Election related violence	14	1	14
Electrocution	1	2	-
Drowning	4	2	-
Threats/intimidation	1	-	-
Gas Explosion	1	-	-
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Communal clash	2	16	1
Bridge collapse	1	-	-
Pit collapse	1	20	14
Stamped	1	3	10
Animal attack	2	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
a. Lassa Fever Outbreak	25	9	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> Lassa Fever: 652 303
b. Diphtheria	1	27	
Flooding	18	13	1
Fire Outbreak	7	5	-
Environment Pollution	3	38	-

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

<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	8	-	9
Human Trafficking	3	-	-
Domestic Violence/Child abuse	3	-	1
Total	916	646	1,237

