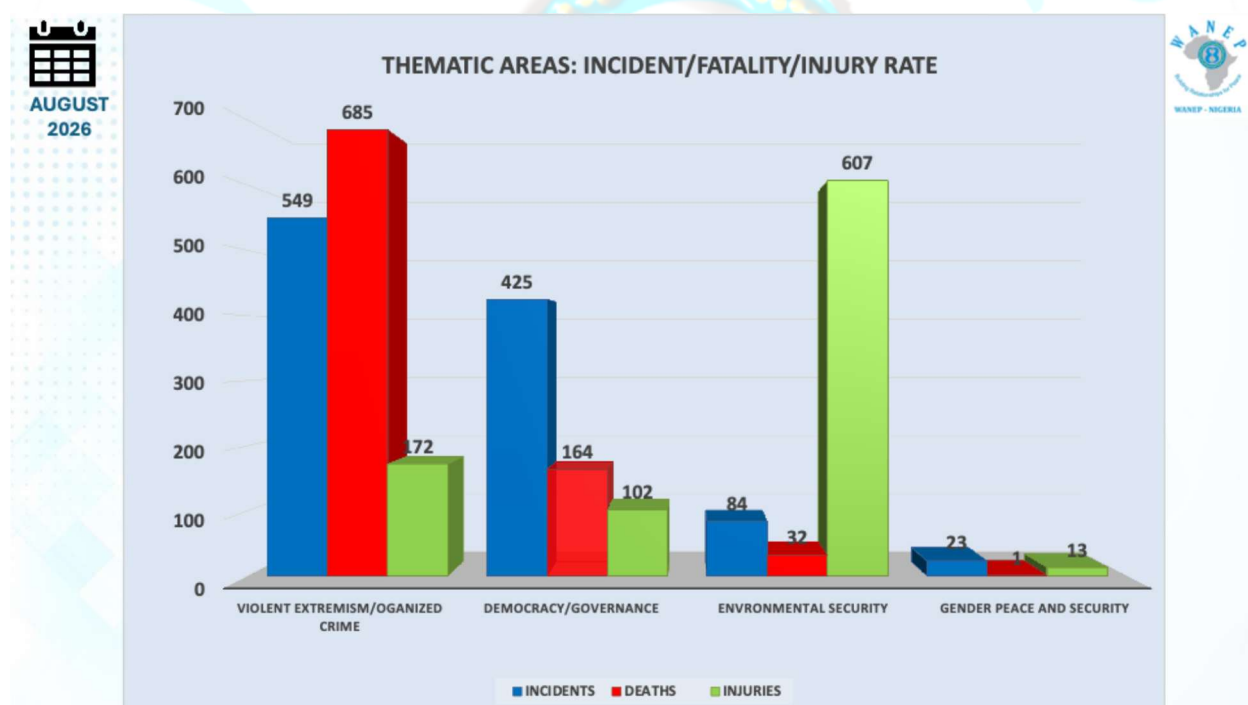


1. INTRODUCTION

In August 2026, 1,074 incidents were recorded in the *Monthly Conflict Census* from the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS).¹ The reporting period documented a total of 882 deaths, with 307 attributed to non-state armed actors. Additionally, there were 894 injuries and infected cases resulting from criminal attacks, road accidents, and disease-related incidents recorded in August 2026.

As shown in the thematic graph below, Violent Extremism and Organized Crime recorded a total of 685 fatalities, representing the highest number among the total deaths (882) documented during the reporting period, while the Democracy and Governance theme accounted for 164 deaths. Additionally, the Environmental Security theme recorded 32 deaths, and the Gender, Peace and Security thematic area reported 1 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 WANEP NEWS and the mass media. It also offers recommendations for stakeholders' interventions and mitigation.

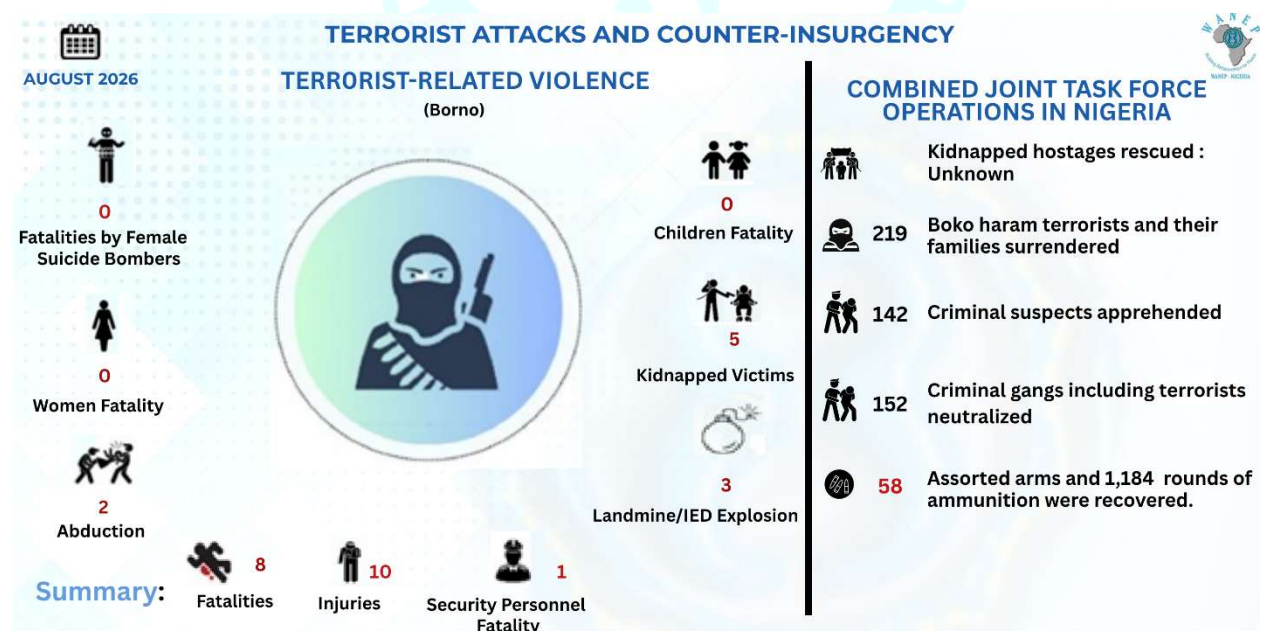
2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

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 North-Eastern region of Nigeria continues to experience attacks by Boko Haram and the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) during the reporting period, resulting in fatalities, injuries, and abductions, while disrupting livelihoods, restricting mobility, and impeding humanitarian access.

The WANEP NEWS recorded 4 incidents of terrorist attacks (including 2 abductions) in Bama, Hawul, and Nganzai LGAs of Borno State. These incidents resulted in 18 casualties, comprising 8 fatalities and 10 injuries. During the reporting period, 5 victims (1 male and 4 minors) were abducted. Of the 13 fatalities, 3 were males, 2 were minors, and 8 were security personnel; of the 10 injured victims, 4 were 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. These efforts have been characterized by intelligence-driven air strikes and coordinated ground operations targeting terrorist enclaves and strongholds, while security operatives have also intensified patrols and surveillance along border areas to counter possible cross-border infiltration by extremist elements. Military operatives attached to Operation HADIN KAI which operates across the North-East theatre reportedly killed 152 suspected terrorists and arrested 142 others, including suspected logistics suppliers, across the North-East theatre. The troops also recorded the surrender of 219 terrorists, conducted 10 successful air interdictions and neutralised 9 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Recoveries during the operations

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

included 58 weapons and explosive items, 1,184 rounds of ammunition, 16 mobility assets, 44 mobile phones and ₦1,794,910.⁴

The WANEP-NEWS recorded 467 incidents of **organized crime**, 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. 685 fatalities were recorded within the Organized crime and violent extremism thematic category in the period, out of which 307 were members of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG), 350 civilians, and 28 security personnel.⁵ Also, of the recorded fatalities in this category, 19 were females, and 2 were children.

Armed banditry recorded a fatality of 158 people and injury to 43 others in Kogi, Niger, Kwara, and Plateau States in the North-Central; and Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina, Sokoto, and Kebbi States in the North-West.⁶ Other criminal incidents perpetrated by bandits in the period include the abduction of 371 people (223 males, 73 females, and 75 minors), cattle rustling, and arms trafficking.⁷

Armed attacks by ethnic militia gangs/armed herders resulted in the fatality of 50 people, while **armed violence incidents, including robbery and armed attacks**, accounted for 7 and 38 deaths.⁸ **Other armed violence incidents, including homicide, suicide, and cult violence**, led to the death of 37, 2, and 6 people, while **extrajudicial killing** and **mob violence** led to 1 and 8 deaths, respectively.⁹ Below is the graphical representation of armed violence incidents and fatalities as documented by WANEP NEWS in August 2026.

⁴ <https://zagazola.org/index.php/breaking-news/operation-hadin-kai-neutralises-152-terrorists-arrests-142-in-august>

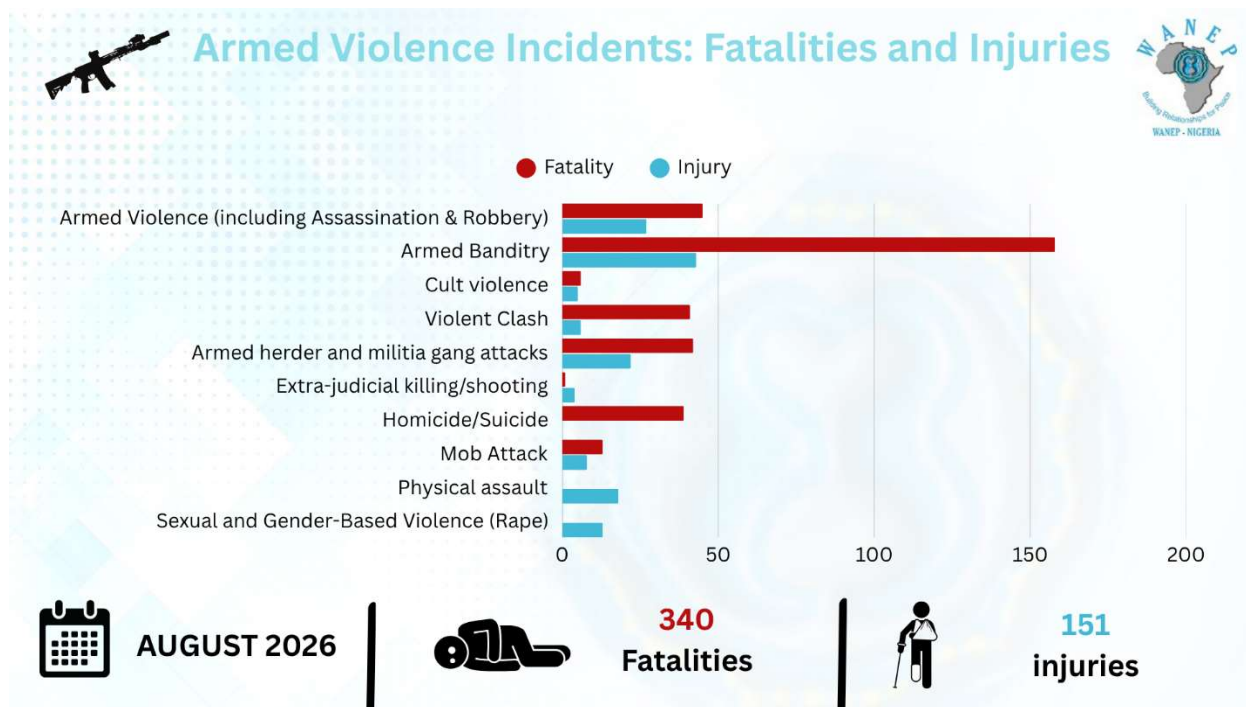
⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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

⁷ <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/12/over-30-bandits-die-many-injured-as-rival-groups-clash-in-zamfara/>

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

⁹ Ibid.



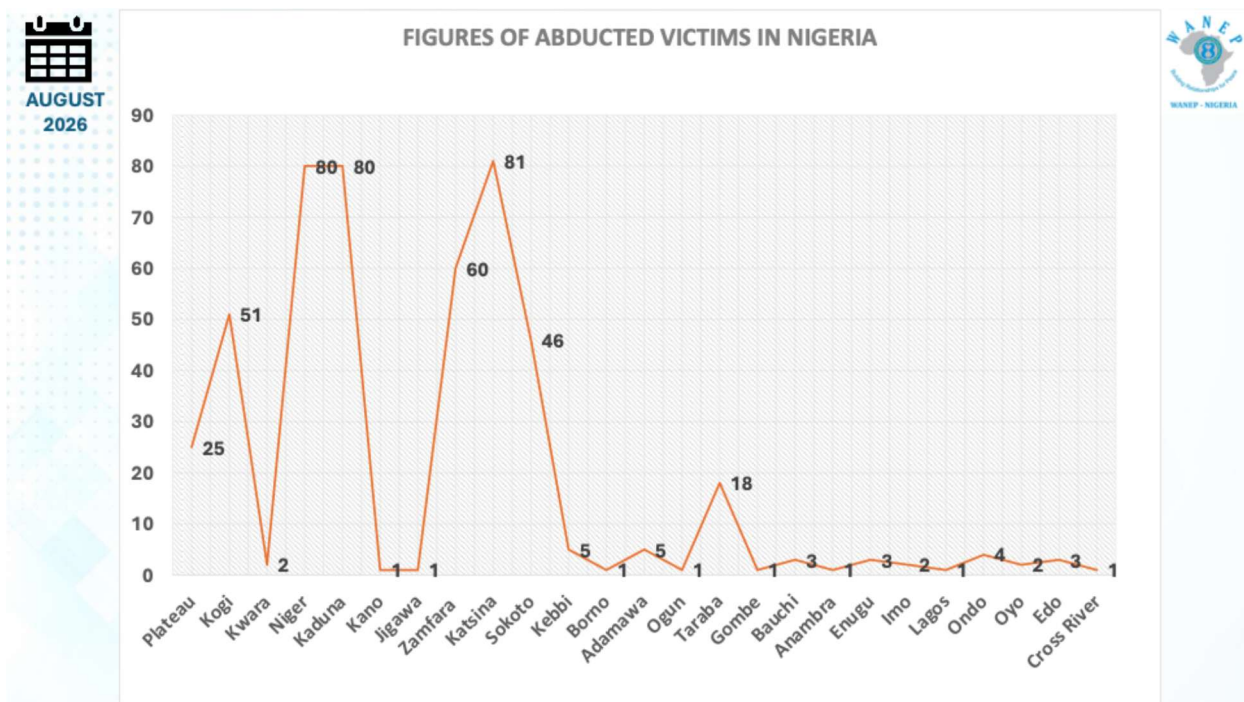
Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁰

Incidents of kidnapping in Nigeria continued during the period. According to WANEP NEWS, the August 2026 period recorded 81 reported kidnapping incidents across 27 States. These incidents resulted in the abduction of 501 individuals, including 311 men, 93 women, and 97 children.¹¹

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

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

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹²

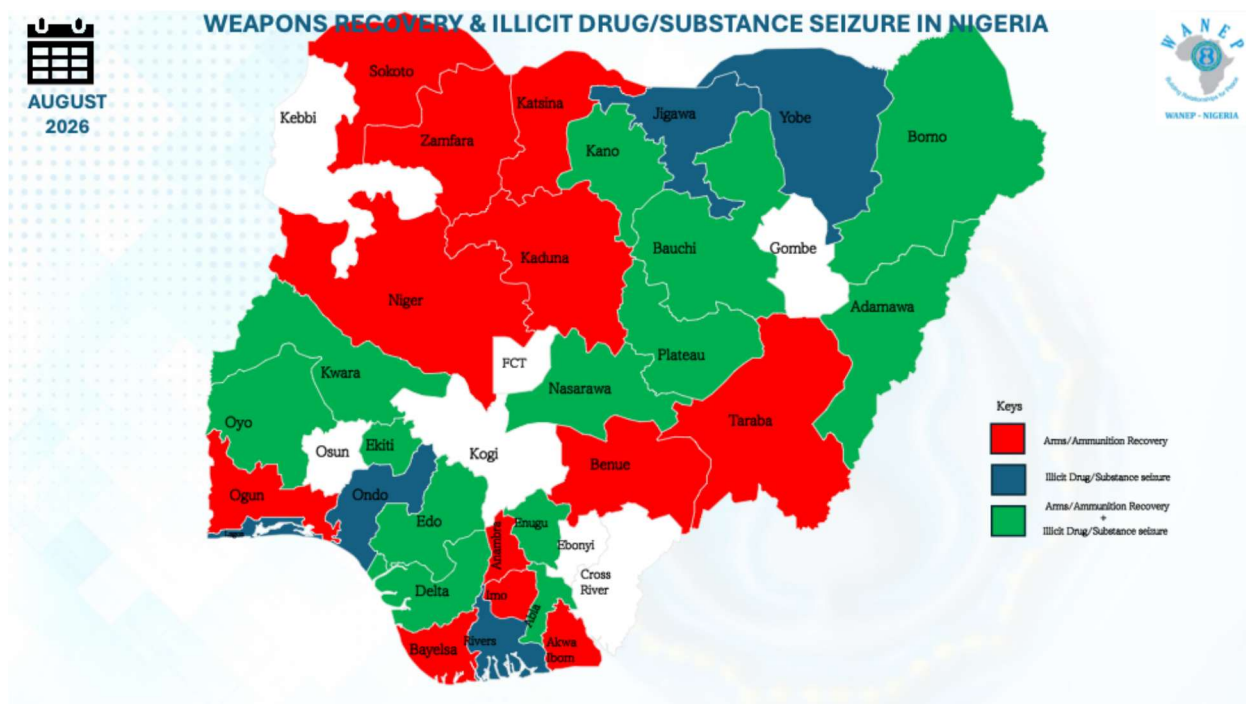
WANEP NEWS further recorded 344 cases of arrest stemming from diverse criminal and civil offenses, including kidnapping, human trafficking, arms/ammunition trafficking, violent demonstrations, physical assaults, thuggery, robbery, banditry, terrorism, vandalism and destruction of public infrastructures, 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.¹³ 1832 suspects were reportedly arrested, 38 being females, 11 minors, and 5 security personnel.

Security agencies, particularly the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), also intercepted several illicit drugs across 22 States, with 280 suspects arrested, including 5 females, for drug-related offences, as recorded in the WANEP NEWS¹⁴. 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.

¹² Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

¹³ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

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



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁵

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

During August 2026, WANEP NEWS recorded 18 public demonstrations, comprising 16 peaceful demonstrations and 2 violent demonstrations, as well as 3 strike actions across Abia, Anambra, Delta, Edo, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kaduna, Lagos, Osun and Plateau States. The demonstrations were largely driven by insecurity and public safety concerns, governance and accountability issues, economic and welfare grievances, justice and human rights concerns, political and electoral issues, and infrastructure and service delivery challenges. Protest actions included marches, rallies, road blockades and processions involving residents, youths, women, pensioners, students, traders, transport workers, parents and civil society groups.

Insecurity, governance and rights-related concerns featured prominently during the reporting period. In Plateau State, demonstrations followed a military operation in Mangu LGA and the killing of 24 persons in Bin-Per Community, while women in Osun State protested alleged political violence and intimidation ahead of the 15 August governorship election. In Lagos and the FCT, #TakeItBack and #RevolutionNow protesters raised concerns over economic hardship, insecurity, governance and political detainees, while separate demonstrations addressed military pension adjustments in the FCT, alleged Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) raids in Delta State, deteriorating road infrastructure in Edo State, pension arrears and alleged regulatory harassment in Lagos State, and community land and traditional leadership disputes in Anambra State. Two demonstrations turned violent in Plateau State and the FCT, involving road blockades, clashes with security personnel and vandalism before security interventions restored normalcy.

¹⁵ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

WANEP NEWS also recorded 4 strike actions, reflecting persistent labour and welfare grievances. Lecturers of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Abia State University branch, commenced an indefinite strike over unresolved salary, allowance and welfare issues, while the Kaduna State University chapter embarked on a two-week warning strike over non-implementation of agreements and lecturers' welfare concerns. Aviation unions also suspended industrial action that disrupted domestic flight operations and stranded passengers nationwide. Fire outbreaks remained a significant safety concern during August 2026, with 28 incidents recorded across the FCT, Kano, Lagos, Anambra, Plateau, Gombe, Oyo, Cross River, Yobe and Niger States. The incidents affected residential buildings, commercial premises, markets, schools, government offices, petrol stations and other facilities, resulting in 19 fatalities and injuries to 3 firefighting personnel, alongside extensive destruction of property and infrastructure. Notable incidents included a vehicle fire in Niger State that reportedly killed 15 commuters, a tanker explosion at a filling station in the FCT that injured three firefighters, and a fire at a community in Yobe State that killed 4 persons. Reported causes included electrical faults and power surges, generator malfunctions, faulty equipment and explosions, although several incidents remained of undetermined origin.

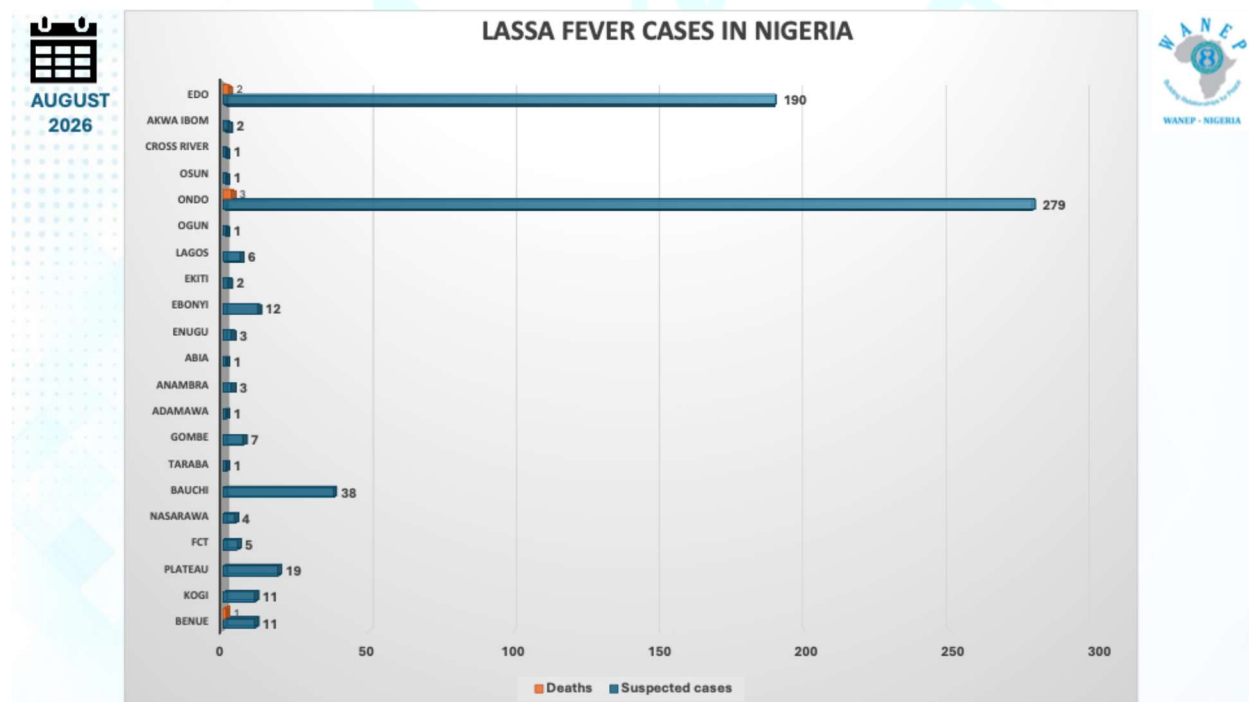
Other safety-related incidents further highlighted vulnerabilities in transportation, construction, mining, waterway and electrical safety. Road mishaps remained widespread, with 36 incidents recorded across the FCT, Abia, Adamawa, Anambra, Cross River, Enugu, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Rivers, Kano and Taraba States, resulting in 72 deaths and 80 injuries. The major contributing factors included excessive speed, brake failure, dangerous overtaking, loss of control, driver fatigue and other dangerous driving practices. In addition, 3 boat mishaps that resulted in 73 deaths were recorded in Niger, Sokoto and Kano States, while 3 drowning incidents occurred in Jigawa, Kano and the FCT. 6 building collapse incidents were also recorded in Kano, Abia and the FCT, while a mine collapse in Plateau State reportedly killed 7 miners and injured several others. Other incidents included infrastructure damage involving electricity poles and power lines in Ogun State and an electrocution incident in Ekiti State that claimed one life.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:

Environmental security incidents during August 2026 reflected the continued vulnerability of communities to extreme weather events and environmental hazards. Flooding and heavy rainfall affected Yobe, Niger, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Jigawa States, resulting in 4 fatalities, the displacement of residents and extensive damage to residential buildings, vehicles and other property. The incidents were associated with heavy rainfall, inadequate drainage infrastructure and the vulnerability of communities located in flood-prone areas. In Jigawa State, heavy rainfall triggered a building collapse that claimed 2 lives and injured several others, while flooding in Yobe State swept away 2 persons. A light earth tremor was also recorded in parts of the FCT, although the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) classified the event as low magnitude and posing no threat to lives or property.¹⁶ In addition, a landslide in Cross River State reportedly killed 2 persons after a heap of refuse was swept onto a building.

¹⁶ <https://dailytrust.com/abuja-tremor-alake-orders-hourly-update-assures-residents-of-safety/>

Disease outbreaks also remained a significant public health concern during the reporting period. The available Lassa fever surveillance data covering 27 July-23 August 2026 recorded 604 suspected cases, 56 confirmed cases, and 6 deaths across multiple states, with Ondo, Edo and Bauchi States accounting for a substantial proportion of reported suspected cases, with 279, 190, and 51 recorded cases.¹⁷ The continued detection of confirmed cases and fatalities highlights the persistent public health burden associated with Lassa fever and the need for sustained surveillance, early detection and prompt case management.



Source: WANEP-NEWS¹⁸

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:

The WANEP NEWS recorded 17 incidents of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), especially rape and sexual assault of female adults and minors in the FCT, Bauchi, Gombe, Sokoto, Ogun, Ondo, Cross River, Lagos, Kaduna and Edo States, in the month.¹⁹ Out of the 17 recorded incidents, there was 1 fatality. However, 13 injuries, including 1 adult female and 12 female minors. Also, no fewer than 16 victims of human trafficking, including 4 females and 12 minors, were rescued in the FCT, Zamfara, Lagos, Ogun and Cross River States in the month, while 13 suspected human traffickers, including 6 females, were arrested during the period.²⁰

Implications for Peace and Security in Nigeria

¹⁷ <https://ncdc.gov.ng/diseases/sitreps/?cat=5&name=An%20update%20of%20Lassa%20fever%20outbreak%20in%20Nigeria>

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

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

²⁰ Source: WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): www.wanep.org/news/

The persistence of violent extremism and organised crime during the reporting period remains a significant threat to peace, security and human security across Nigeria. The high number of fatalities recorded under the Violent Extremism and Organized Crime theme, alongside the continued activities of terrorist groups, armed bandits, kidnappers, ethnic militia gangs and other criminal networks, demonstrates the sustained capacity of non-state armed actors to inflict violence, undermine civilian protection and disrupt livelihoods. The abduction of 501 individuals across 27 States, including 97 children, is particularly concerning, as persistent kidnapping threatens freedom of movement, access to education, agricultural production and commercial activities, while contributing to displacement and heightened fear among affected communities. Although sustained military operations, arrests, intelligence-driven air interdictions, recovery of weapons and the surrender of suspected terrorists indicate continued pressure on armed groups, the scale and geographical spread of organized criminal activities suggest that security responses need to be complemented by stronger intelligence coordination, community-based early warning mechanisms and measures addressing the underlying drivers of recruitment and criminality. The continued interception of illicit drugs across multiple States further highlights the linkages between organized crime, drug trafficking and other forms of insecurity, underscoring the need for strengthened inter-agency cooperation and disruption of criminal supply networks.

The incidents recorded under Democracy and Governance also highlight growing public grievances around insecurity, governance, economic hardship, workers' welfare, human rights, political accountability and inadequate public services. Although most demonstrations remained peaceful, the occurrence of violent protests involving clashes with security personnel, road blockades and vandalism indicates the potential for unresolved grievances to escalate into broader security concerns. Similarly, strike actions by university lecturers and aviation workers demonstrate the consequences of unresolved labour and welfare issues on the delivery of essential services, while disruptions to education and transportation can further compound existing vulnerabilities. The concentration of protests around insecurity, political and electoral concerns, infrastructure deficits and perceived rights violations also points to increasing expectations for responsive and accountable governance. As Nigeria approaches the 2027 general elections, sustained dialogue, timely resolution of grievances, respect for fundamental rights and inclusive engagement with citizens, labour groups, civil society and political stakeholders will be critical to preventing grievances from evolving into political violence or social unrest.

The wide range of fire outbreaks, road and boat crashes, building and mine collapses, drowning incidents, flooding, disease outbreaks and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) recorded during the period further demonstrates the multidimensional nature of Nigeria's human security challenges. The significant fatalities resulting from road and boat accidents, fire outbreaks and other public safety incidents point to persistent weaknesses in safety standards, emergency preparedness, infrastructure maintenance and enforcement of regulatory measures. Environmental hazards, including flooding, landslides and extreme rainfall, continue to expose vulnerable communities to loss of life, displacement and destruction of property, while the reported Lassa fever cases and deaths underscore the need for sustained disease surveillance, early detection and effective public health responses. Meanwhile, the prevalence of SGBV,

particularly against women and minors, and the rescue of trafficking victims highlight continuing protection concerns affecting vulnerable populations. Collectively, these trends demonstrate that peace and security in Nigeria extend beyond conventional conflict and require an integrated human security approach that strengthens disaster preparedness, public health systems, infrastructure and road safety, protection mechanisms, and coordinated responses to the specific vulnerabilities of women and children.

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), Department of State Services (DSS), and Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) should strengthen intelligence-led operations, surveillance and rapid response mechanisms in high-risk communities to disrupt terrorist, bandit and other criminal networks. Greater emphasis should be placed on intelligence sharing, securing vulnerable communities and public institutions, protecting critical routes and strengthening collaboration with community-based security structures.
- The Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), State Ministries of Education, Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) should strengthen the Safe Schools Initiative through regular security risk assessments, improved perimeter security, early warning and emergency response mechanisms, safe transportation arrangements, and psychosocial support for learners and education personnel affected by insecurity.
- The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Department of State Services (DSS), Federal Ministry of Justice (FMoJ), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) should strengthen inter-agency intelligence sharing, joint investigations and prosecution mechanisms to disrupt kidnapping, terrorism, banditry, drug trafficking, human trafficking, cultism, arms trafficking, illegal mining and other organized criminal activities. Attention should be given to dismantling criminal networks and their financial and logistical support structures.
- The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Federal Fire Service (FFS), Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), and State Governments should strengthen disaster preparedness, emergency response and public awareness on road safety, fire prevention, flooding and disease outbreaks through improved early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms.
- The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Police Force (NPF) Gender Units, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and State Ministries of Women Affairs should strengthen prevention, protection and response mechanisms for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and human trafficking. This should include expanding survivor-centred support

services, strengthening referral pathways, improving access to justice and ensuring timely investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.

- The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), Federal Ministry of Education (FME), Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), State Governments and relevant labour unions should institutionalize regular dialogue to address labour grievances, improve workers' welfare and minimize disruptions to education and healthcare services.
- State Governments, security agencies, traditional institutions, civil society organizations and community leaders should strengthen community engagement and early warning mechanisms to facilitate the timely reporting of emerging security threats, communal tensions, criminal activities and public grievances. Inclusive dialogue and responsive engagement should be prioritized, particularly in communities experiencing recurring insecurity, political tensions and social grievances, to prevent escalation into violence.

CONCLUSION:

The security situation in Nigeria during August 2026 remained characterized by persistent organized crime, violent extremism, kidnapping, governance-related tensions, environmental hazards, public safety concerns and public health challenges, which continued to threaten civilian safety, livelihoods and national stability. While security operations recorded notable successes in disrupting criminal and terrorist activities, the scale and spread of these threats, alongside vulnerabilities affecting women, children and other at-risk populations, underscore the need for sustained collaboration among government institutions, security agencies, civil society organisations, development partners and local communities. Strengthening intelligence-led interventions, early warning and early response mechanisms, disaster preparedness and inclusive stakeholder engagement will be critical to enhancing resilience and promoting sustainable peace and security across Nigeria.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 2026

THEMATIC AREA	No of Attacks	VICTIMS	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Boko Haram/ISWAP attacks	4	8	10
ORGANISED CRIME:			
Armed Robbery/Theft	62	7	3
Armed Violence	39	38	24
Armed Banditry	35	158	43
Mob Attack	12	8	13
Arson	9	-	-
Armed Herders	19	42	22
Cult/Gang Clash)	8	6	5
Cybercrime/Fraud	10	-	-
Illicit Drug Trafficking	59	-	-

Security Clearance Operations - Shoot-out between security operatives and criminal gangs.	63	307	3
Abduction (evident across 27 States & the FCT)	81	-	-
Extrajudicial Attacks/Shooting	5	1	4
Physical/Armed Assault	24	-	18
Vandalism	39	-	-
Communal Clash	7	25	12
Violent Clash	6	41	6
Homicide	45	37	-
Bomb/IED/Landmine Explosions	3	5	-
Agro-pastoralist Clash	7	-	9
Suicide	2	2	-
<u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u>			
Demonstration (peaceful)	16	-	-
Demonstration (violent)	2	-	1
Strike	4	-	-
Building Collapse	6	7	12
Transmission Tower Collapse	1	1	-
Mine Collapse	1	7	5
Arrest/Detention	344	-	-
Threats/Intimidation	1	-	-
Illegal Migration	5	-	-
Road Traffic Accident	36	72	80
Water Transport Accident	3	73	-
Electrocution	1	1	-
Drowning	3	3	-
Tanker Explosion	1	-	-
Political Violence	1	-	4
<u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u>			
Illegal Mining/Oil theft	12	-	-
<u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u>			
Lassa Fever	48	6	<u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> 604
Fire Outbreak	28	19	3
Rainstorm/Flood	5	2	-
Thunderstorm/Lightning	1	3	-
Earth Tremor	1	-	-
Landslide	1	2	-
<u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u>			
SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape	17	1	13

Human Trafficking	6	-	-
Total	1,074	882	894

