



# MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT

31 MARCH 2024

# Highlights

## Highlight of week 1 & 2

- Armed men kidnapped over 300 IDPs in Borno State.
- Protests continue in Southern states amidst economic hardship.
- Several students and teachers were kidnapped in Kaduna State.
- Crime due to economic hardship surges in parts of the South West Region.
- Armed men kidnapped over 61 civilians in Kaduna State.
- Protests persisted in North Central and South Western states amidst economic hardship.
- Bandits targeted Kaduna and Katsina states during the week.
- ISWAP terrorists clashed with security forces in Borno State



## Highlight of the week 3 & 4

- Armed robbery attacks surge nationwide due to economic hardship
- Three students of the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, died in a stampede while struggling for rice donated by the state government.
- Bandits targeted Zamfara and Katsina states during the week.
- ISWAP terrorists clashed with security forces in Borno State.
- Armed robbery attacks surge nationwide due to economic hardship
- Women held protests at the airport in Port Harcourt, handicapping travel plans.
- IPOB militants launch attacks in Southern Nigeria during the week
- ISWAP terrorists attack security forces in Yobe state



**14**

Terrorist  
Activity

**23**

Killings  
Incident

**33**

Criminal  
Activity

**40**

Banditry  
Incident

**32**

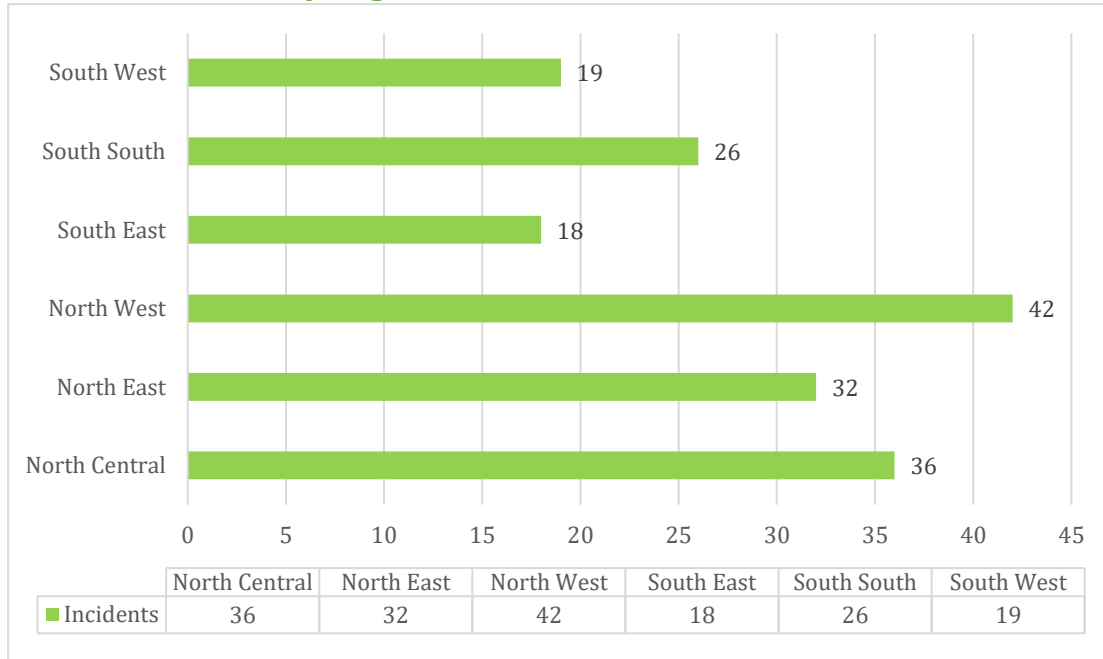
Protests  
Incident

**31**

Kidnapping  
Activity

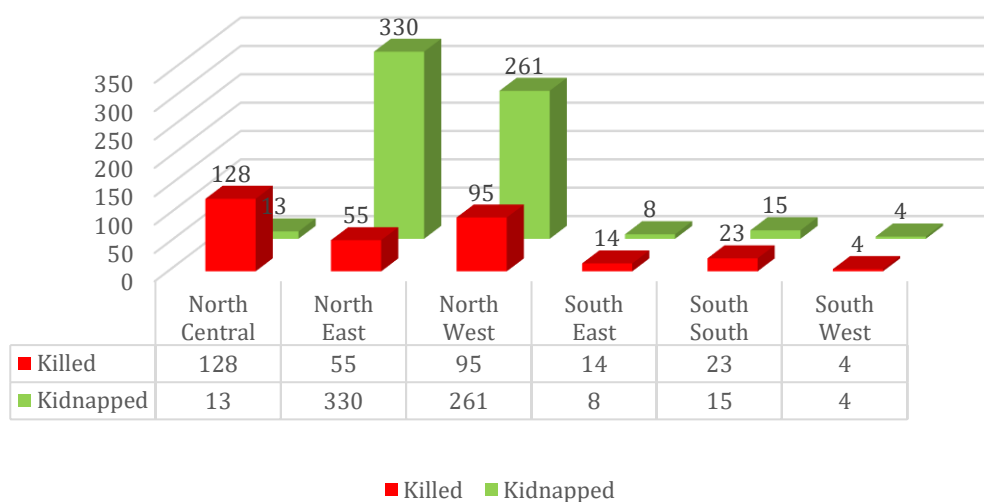
# Monthly Statistics

## Total incidents by region



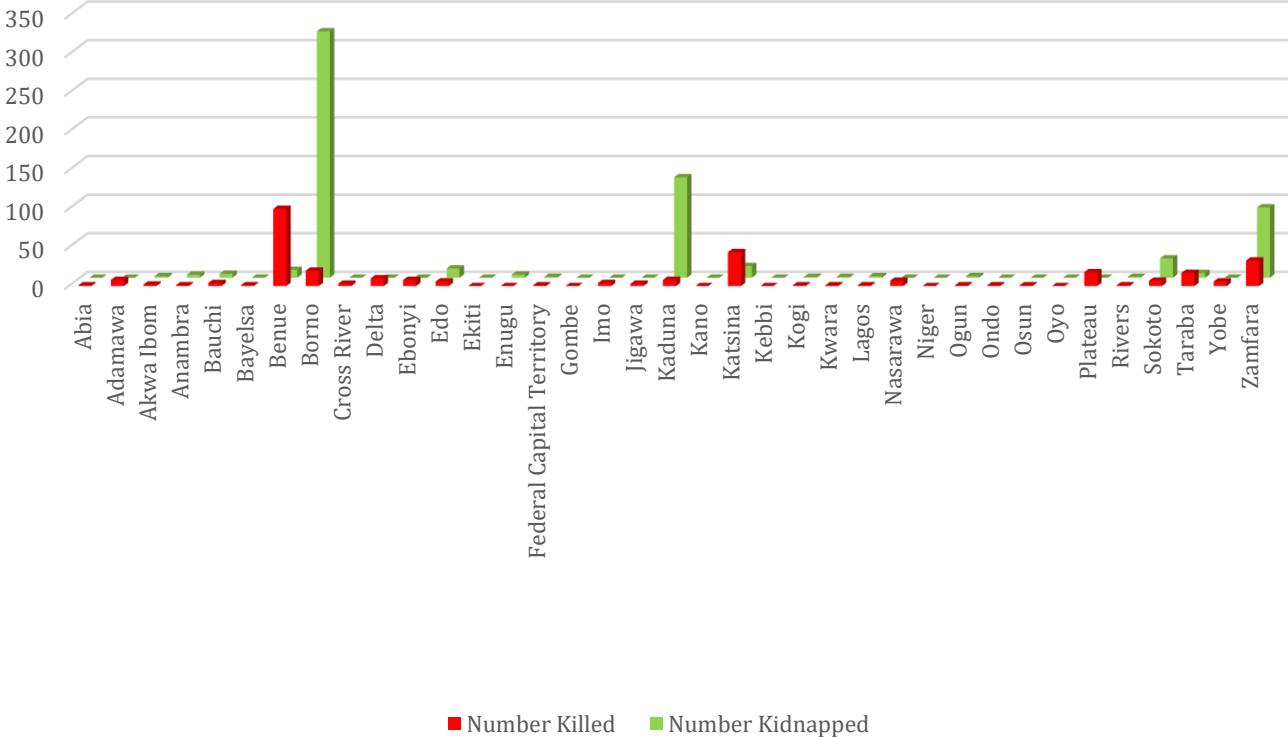
The above charts show the total incidents by region. The NE and NC regions recorded the most incidents, while SE recorded the least.

## Individuals killed/kidnapped per region



Above captures the total number of individuals killed and individuals kidnapped per region. As a result of the high presence of banditry and terrorism, the NE and NW had the most kidnap victims while the NC and NW had the most fatalities.

### Total killed/kidnapped per state



The above charts show the total killed and kidnapped per state. Kaduna State recorded the most kidnapped, while Borno State recorded the most killed victims.

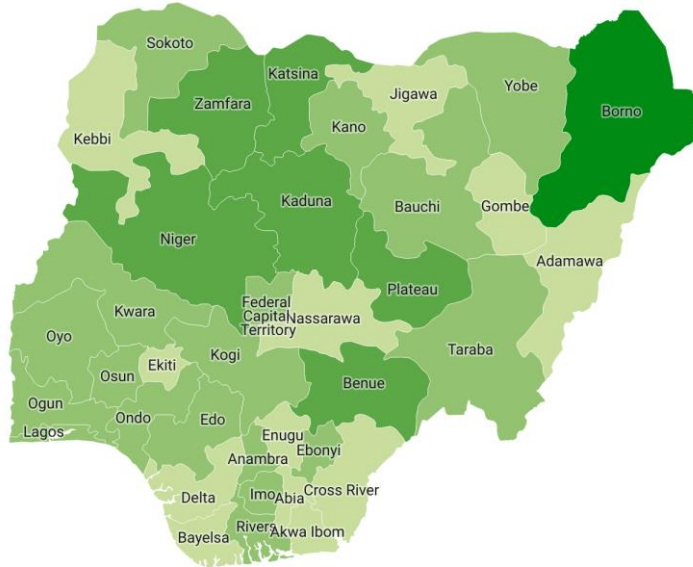
# Nationwide Statistics Analysis

## Fatalities/kidnapped victims

Locations displayed: all regions 1 January 2020 – 31 March 2024

### Estimated Number of security incidents related to fatalities

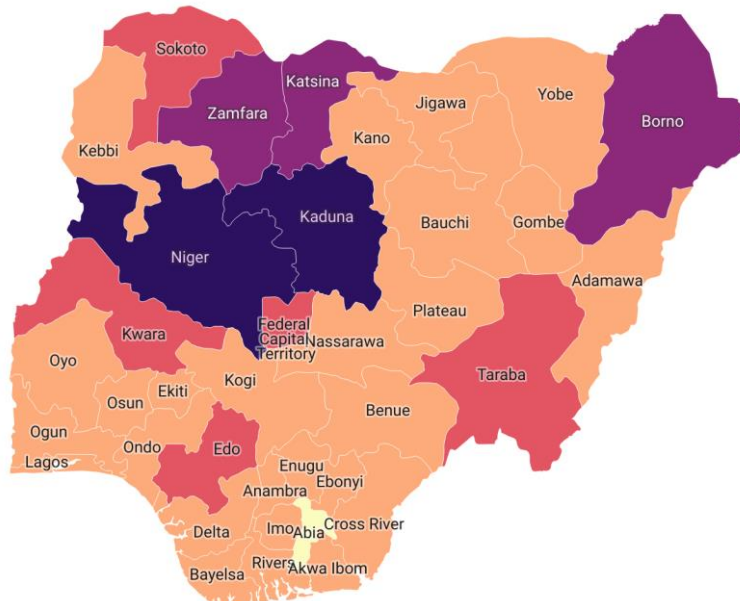
< 20   20-200   200-800   800-2,000   ≥ 2,000



Created with Datawrapper

### Estimated Number of Kidnapped Victims

< 5   5-150   150-600   600-1,410   ≥ 1,410



Created with Datawrapper

# Analysis

The overall threat level for the reporting month is rated as **High**. An estimated 319 fatalities were recorded, while the total number of persons kidnapped within the month was 631 victims. It should be noted that as a result of underreporting, the estimated figures could be more than what was presented above. This kidnap victim toll can be attributed to the terrorist conflict and an increase in kidnap for ransom due to economic hardship in the Northern regions, which also led to a substantial number of terrorist fatalities.

Throughout the month, there were 173 occurrences encompassing banditry, terrorist actions, kidnappings, homicides, thefts, assaults on law enforcement personnel, civil disturbances, and hazards, marking a notable rise compared to the statistics from the previous month. In terms of frequency, the most prevalent incidents during the month were banditry,

criminal activities, demonstrations, kidnappings, and acts of terrorism.

The Southeast experienced the lowest number of incidents among the six geo-political zones during the month. The Northern region, however, continues to face significant threats from activities related to banditry and terrorism, with areas such as Borno, Zamfara, Kaduna, and Kano recording the highest number of incidents.

There was a notable surge in nationwide banditry over the course of the month, resulting in the establishment of roadblocks and instances of government property vandalism in certain areas. Raids and apprehensions of bandits and kidnappers were documented in the NC, NW, and NE regions. These endeavours persisted until the end of the reporting period, with a concentrated effort on tackling bandit factions in the region.

Below are the major incident categories discussed for the month.

## Terrorism

Terrorist activities remain a dominant threat in Nigeria and have over the years given rise to other Organized Crime Groups. Collaborations between terrorist groups and other OCGs have also been witnessed in the NW region between 2020 and the present. In March 2024, there were 13 incidents of terrorist activities recorded in the NE region alone which is a slight decrease compared to the previous month. The security stance in northern Nigeria is likely to remain frequently sabotaged by insecurity owing to the presence of armed factions.

There was a slight decrease in terrorist-related activities this month; terrorist activities in March 2024 numbered 14, compared to February which recorded over 16 incidents. The decrease is not directly proportional to any recent development,

as incidents have been known to be fluctuational the past three years, coupled with the decrease in incident reporting. The porosity of border areas between states has equally left a wide gap through which terrorists and bandits alike operate freely with little or no GSF resistance.

During the reporting month, the Northern geopolitical zones documented a resurgence of armed activities from unidentified armed groups and organized armed groups such as ISWAP terrorists, as well as Boko Haram. Some of these attacks were against Government Security personnel. In week 12 at least 2 security personnel were killed, while an unspecified number of others were injured when Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists attacked a military base in Gujba town of Gujba

Local Government Area, Yobe State. Further information stated that 2 operational vehicles were set ablaze by the terrorists during the incursion.

### Key Incidents of Terrorism in March

**27 March** - A group of ex-JAS Shekau members attacked and killed three civilians on a farm in Kwam village. Their corpses were recovered and buried accordingly.

**23 March** - ISWAP elements equipped with several gun trucks and foot soldiers attacked the SF position in Gujba town, about 29 km S of Damaturu town, Gujba LGA, Yobe state. One soldier and five ISWAP members were killed, while the attackers burnt three SF vehicles, during the exchange of SAF that lasted for about 15 minutes

**19 March** - ISWAP insurgents attacked a herder's settlement in the vicinity of Joka village, along the Nigeria-Niger Republic Border in Mobbar LGA.

## Kidnapping

The threat of kidnapping remains **high** despite efforts by GSFs to mitigate this illegal enterprise. Kidnapping for ransom is a major threat to both locals and foreigners in the country particularly due to increasing economic hardship. According to HWA, there were 31 overall kidnapping incidents recorded countrywide, a significant increase as compared to the previous month.

Kidnap incidents were captured across all regions though in varying numbers. Large-scale kidnap incidents were captured in Sokoto, Borno, Kaduna, and Katsina states. More than 319 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were abducted by Boko Haram terrorists at the Gamborou Ngala Headquarters in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno state. Reports suggest that the armed men surrounded the area before carrying out the kidnapping.

Three herders were injured, and an unspecified number of cattle were rustled.

**12 March** - Seventy Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters attacked a Boko Haram camp near Lake Chad in Borno State and killed nine Boko Haram militants.

**11 March** - ISWAP insurgents attacked herders in the vicinity of Ngurosoye, Bama LGA, Borno State. Two herders were shot and injured, and 150 livestock rustled. GSF personnel trailed the insurgents and recovered the livestock.

**05 March** – Several ex-JAS Shekau members stormed Gajibo village, 10km from Dikwa town along the Dikwa – Ngala road and burnt three buildings designed to resettle IDPs. No casualties were reported.

The first week recorded the least number of kidnap incidents, while Borno state recorded the highest number of kidnapped victims, with over 319 reportedly kidnapped individuals.

Kidnapping incidents were recorded in the six geopolitical zones. A breakdown of the locations is; Bwari, FCT; Ifelodun, Kwara state; Olamaboro, Kabba, Kogi State; Shendam, Plateau state; Kirfi, Bauchi state; Kukawa, Bama, Borno state; Ibi, Taraba state; Kachia, Kaduna State; Jibia, Katsina State; Tsafe, Zamfara state; Udi, Uzo-Uwani Enugu State; Ihiala, Anambra State; Etsako Central, Edo State; Akoko North, Ondo State; Egbado South, Ogun State; Alimosho, Lagos State.

The Southern geopolitical zones of the country documented a surge in kidnappings for ransom, and criminal acts orchestrated by unidentified armed individuals and IPOB militants were documented within the reporting month

precisely in the Southeast and South-south states.

Positively, Government Security Forces (GSFs), and Troops of the Nigerian Army thwarted a kidnap attempt on three commercial buses in Kogi State and rescued the victims.

### Key Incidents of Kidnapping in March

**26 March** - Two persons – an expectant woman and a man have been kidnapped in Asolo, Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Lagos. The man, Michael, was said to have been abducted last week while the kidnappers whisked away the pregnant woman.

**22 March** - Suspected ethnic Fulani herdsmen waylaid a bus in Jootar axis, Ukum Local Government Area (LGA), Benue State, and kidnapped ten passengers.

**21 March** - Suspected ethnic Fulani herdsmen attacked a community in Sobe, Owan West Local Government Area (LGA), Edo State, and kidnapped 11 people.

## Banditry

Banditry remains widespread throughout Nigeria with the Northern regions experiencing the majority of incidents. HWA defines banditry as; activities by Fulani herders attacking local communities, and also Organized Crime Groups (locally referred to as bandits).

Banditry remains a significant threat to peace, stability, and progress in the NW and the country at large. Several communities in the Northern regions have been held back from societal developments following incessant attacks; locals who depend on farming, herding, and other forms of trade have had their means of livelihood crippled by these OCGs. Bandits attack weekly markets, where they kill, rob, and kidnap locals and traders.

**12 March** - Gunmen, suspected to be kidnappers, have attacked the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Ituku Ozalla, in Enugu State. A female deputy director, nursing services, and a security man were said to have been taken away by the hoodlums.

**11 March** - Suspected terrorists have attacked the Buda community in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, abducting about 61 people. The state and police authorities are yet to confirm the attack, but a resident of the area said that the bandits invaded the village on Monday night at about 11:45 pm, where they kidnapped 61 people.

**09 March** - Bandits attacked Gidan Bakuso town in Gada LGA, Sokoto State. One person was shot and killed, and a woman was abducted. While the bandits were leaving the town, they sighted Tsangaya (Almajiri) students running back to their rooms and abducted at least 15 students. UPDATE: A 20 million naira was demanded as ransom for their release.

This month, there were 40 incidents of banditry recorded. Compared to February, the number of incidents increased.

During the reporting month, the Southern states documented few incursions by unidentified armed groups, predominantly in the Southeast and South-south regions. One of these violent acts was recorded in week 13 when armed individuals with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) attacked the Neni Police Station in the Anaocha Local Government Area of Anambra State. Several police officers were kidnapped during the assault.



### Key incidents on Banditry in March

**24 March** - Members of OCGs attacked Gidan Zuma village in Bungudu lga of Zamfara state, killed 10 persons, and abducted 12 others. Other villagers ran for safety.

**19 March** - Bandits attacked a community in Ukembrergya/Tswarev Ward, Logo Local Government Area (LGA), Benue State, and killed seven people.

**13 March** - Armed men attacked a bus in the vicinity of Gamkwe village, Marraban Baisa in Donga LGA, Taraba State. Seven people were killed. The assailants were reportedly on a reprisal attack following a clash between Jukun and Tiv indigenes in Donga LGA that resulted in three people killed.

**07 March** - Suspected armed herdsmen invaded Wandor village, Mbaikyor community in the Mbalom Council Ward of Gwer Local Government Area, LGA, of Benue State, and opened fire on residents, killing at least 17 and leaving two others injured. The assailants also razed down over 50 houses in 11 settlements.

**04 March** - Bandits attacked Zamfarawa, Doma, and Gidan Kare villages in Bakori LGA of Katsina State and killed at least 17 people.

**05 March** - At least 45 people, mainly bandits were killed after rival militia clashed in Gbagir community of Ukum Local Government Area (LGA) in Benue State. At least 12 farmers were caught in the crossfire and killed, and 30 others injured, with residents fleeing the area.

### Criminality

Nigeria grapples with a high rate of criminality, often inadequately reported despite being documented nationwide. Major cities across the country frequently witness various criminal activities orchestrated by multiple threat groups. These offenses encompass home invasions, highway robberies, homicides, assaults, mob violence, cultism, and, assaults by banned separatist entities like the Indigenous People of Biafra and Oduduwa Yoruba Nation. Throughout the month, a range of incidents was documented, including robberies, killings, looting, mob attacks, gang clashes, vandalism, illegal mining, drug trafficking, smuggling, and oil bunkering.

Some state governments have declared war against vandalism following incessant incidents recorded over the months. The menace has led to the dilapidation of infrastructures in a country with slow infrastructural developments. Petty thieves loot infrastructures such as street light poles, electrical cables, rail tracks, railings on bridges, and private homes.

The reporting week also captured a significant increase in the number of cult clashes around the country, particularly in the South-South region. In Delta state, reports indicate that 10 persons sustained deep machete cuts during a clash between two rival cult groups in the vicinity of Okere community, Warri LGA of Delta State on 23 March. Security forces were deployed to beef up security and restore normalcy in the area. In Akwa Ibom state, cult clashes resulted in several fatalities. Reports revealed that two rival cult groups clashed in Ibaka, in Mbo LGA of Akwa Ibom over territorial control. Consequently, two suspected cultists have been arrested by operatives of the Nigerian Navy's FOB Ibaka and handed over to the Department of State Services of the state for further investigations

Several armed robbery incidents were recorded in the country this month. Robbery incidents are highly underreported as most incidents surface at the point of arrest. Armed robbery attacks were recorded in all regions in varying numbers.

There was a decrease in civil unrest incidents such as protests, and tensions across the six geopolitical zones in the country with approximately 32 incidents recorded during the reporting month as compared to the previous reporting period which documented 72 incidents. The drive behind these incidents was mostly the high rate of inflation and the hike in the prices of consumers' goods. In the forthcoming month protest demonstrations are expected to increase.

### Key Incidents on Criminality in February

**25 March** - A communal clash erupted between Fulani and Tiv communities in Keana lga of Nasarawa state, emanating from land-grabbing disputes and the alleged contamination of water by some fishermen. The incident resulted in the killing of seven people, with several others being injured.

**23 March** - Four people were killed in clashes between Hausa and Fulani residents in Gudu Local Government Area (LGA), Sokoto State. Further details regarding the incident remained unclear at the time of writing.

**12 March** - No fewer than five persons have been confirmed killed in a renewed communal clash in

Adamawa State. The feud, which is between the Setti community in Numan Local Government Area and their Kpasham counterparts in Demsa Local Government Area, has almost become a yearly war in the past two decades.

**07 March** - Suspected armed robbers invaded a residence in Ugbe Akoko, carted away a vehicle, two laptops, and other valuables, and escaped unnoticed. The incident occurred at night while the occupants of the residence were asleep.

**05 March** - Three suspected armed robbers riding on a single motorbike shot dead three persons, a former Jigawa State official and his two friends. The three deceased persons were driving in a car coming from a farm, IVO of Igge village in Birnin Kudu, Birini Kudu LGA. The robbers thereafter fled the scene. Police have confirmed the incident and the investigation is in progress.

**07 March** - Information received revealed that a gang of notorious armed robbers carried out robbery attacks on two commercial banks in Anyingba, Dekina Local Government Area of the state. However, HG security operatives promptly responded, and engaged the criminals in a fierce exchange of gunfire, prompting people to scramble for safety.

### Threat matrix

Likelihood	Vulnerability				
	1 - Insignificant	2 - Minor	3 - Significant	4 - Major	5 - Severe
4 - High	4 - Low	8 - Moderate	12 - High	16 - High	20 - High
3 - Medium	3 - Low	6 - Moderate	9 - Moderate	12 - High	15 - High
2 - Low	2 - Low	4 - Low	6 - Moderate	8 - Moderate	10 - Moderate
1 - Negligible	1 - Low	2 - Low	3 - Low	4 - Low	5 - Moderate
12 - 20	High Risk	Incident occurred at increased proportion and active with demonstrated will to conduct attacks targeting project assets and/or personnel.			
5 - 10	Moderate Risk	Incident occurred but minimal. Nevertheless, the will to conduct attacks and opportunities to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.			
0 - 4	Low Risk	Incident did not occur in the reporting period. Nevertheless, the will to conduct attacks and opportunities to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.			

### Threat table

Threats for the Month						
Region	Kidnapping	Terrorism	Banditry	Killing	Civil Unrest	Criminal Activities
North Central	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate
North East	Low	High	Low	Moderate	Low	Moderate

North West	Moderate	Low	High	Low	Low	Low
South East	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
South West	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low
South South	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

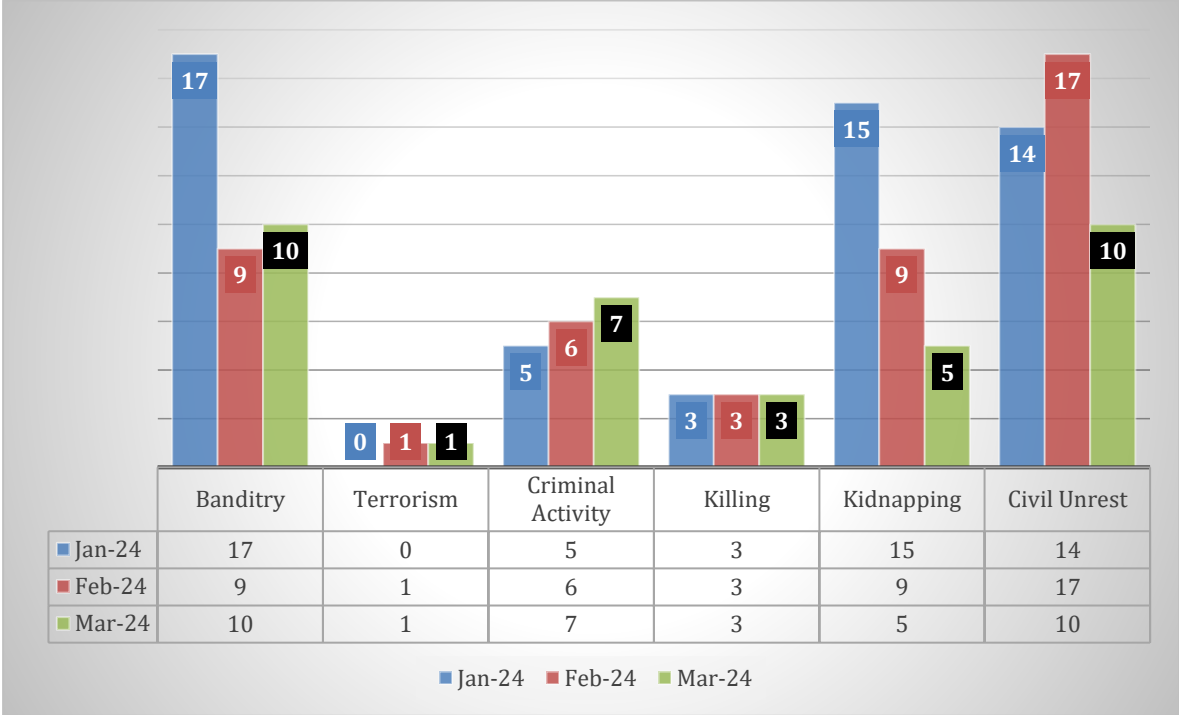
## Operations in Nigeria

Level	Definition	Characterization	Travel Restrictions
1	Low	All threats remain low and business can be conducted with routine security measures in place	Travellers should be aware of the current situation and exercise caution
2	Medium	Acts of terrorism, crime and/or instability exist, but these are considered manageable with correct corporate and personal security procedures being applied	Travellers should exercise a high degree of caution and understand their destination and personal safety.
3	High	Crime rates are high, or terrorist acts, instability and rioting are occurring, movement is constrained, Embassies are able to operate but with added levels of protection and business operations are threatened by non-standard conditions. Other civil authorities will have limited capacity	Travellers should reconsider the need to travel. If travel is necessary, a full assessment of the risks should be completed and personal should attend preparatory training. A security & risk advisor in-country may be required.

# Threats by region and monthly progression

## North Central

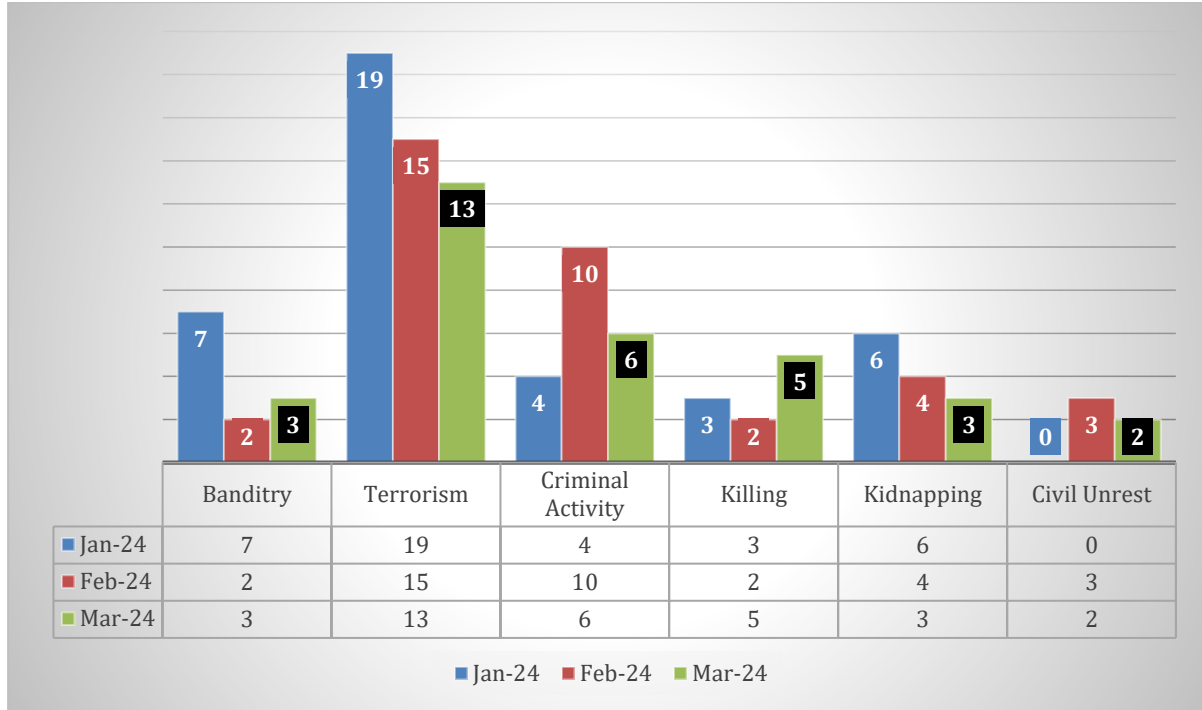
The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. In March 2024, incidents of banditry and criminal activities increased slightly, while incidents of kidnapping decreased significantly.



Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	Moderate
Terrorism	Low
Criminal	Moderate
Kidnapping	Moderate
Civil Unrest	Moderate

## North East

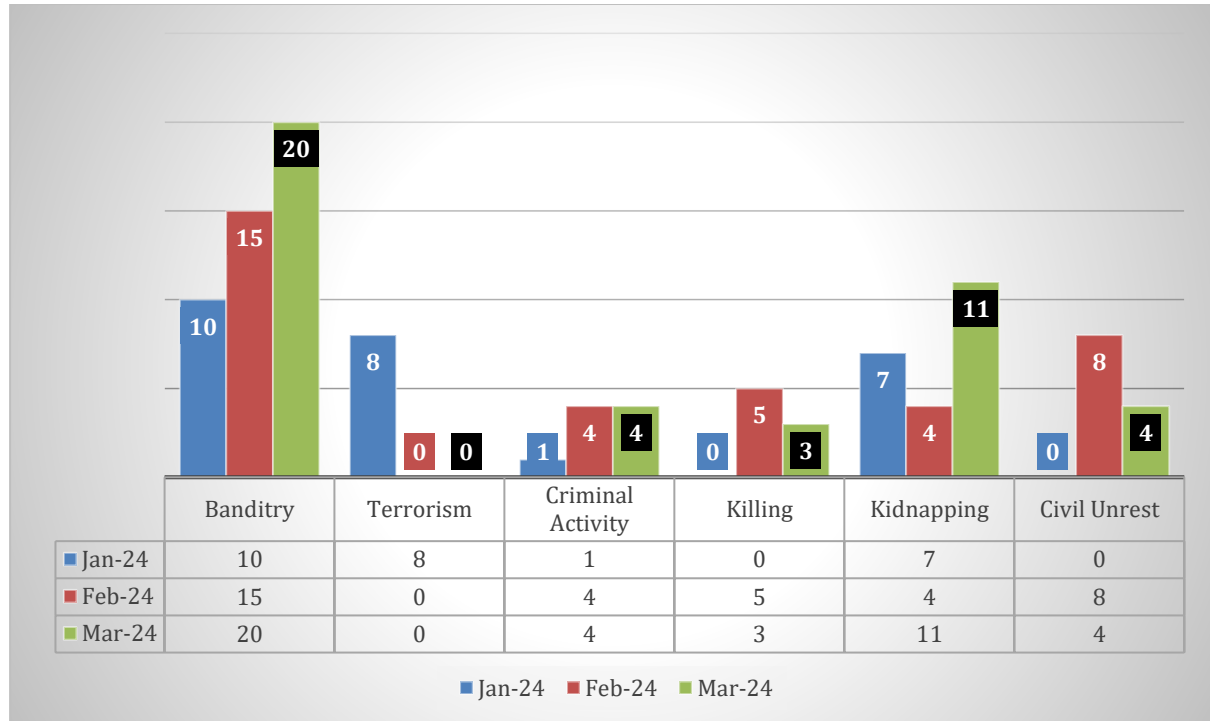
The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. Incidents of killing increased slightly in March 2024. Most recorded incidents were killing, kidnapping, and terrorism. Civil unrest decreased slightly in March.



Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	Low
Terrorism	High
Criminal	Moderate
Kidnapping	Low
Civil Unrest	Low

## North West

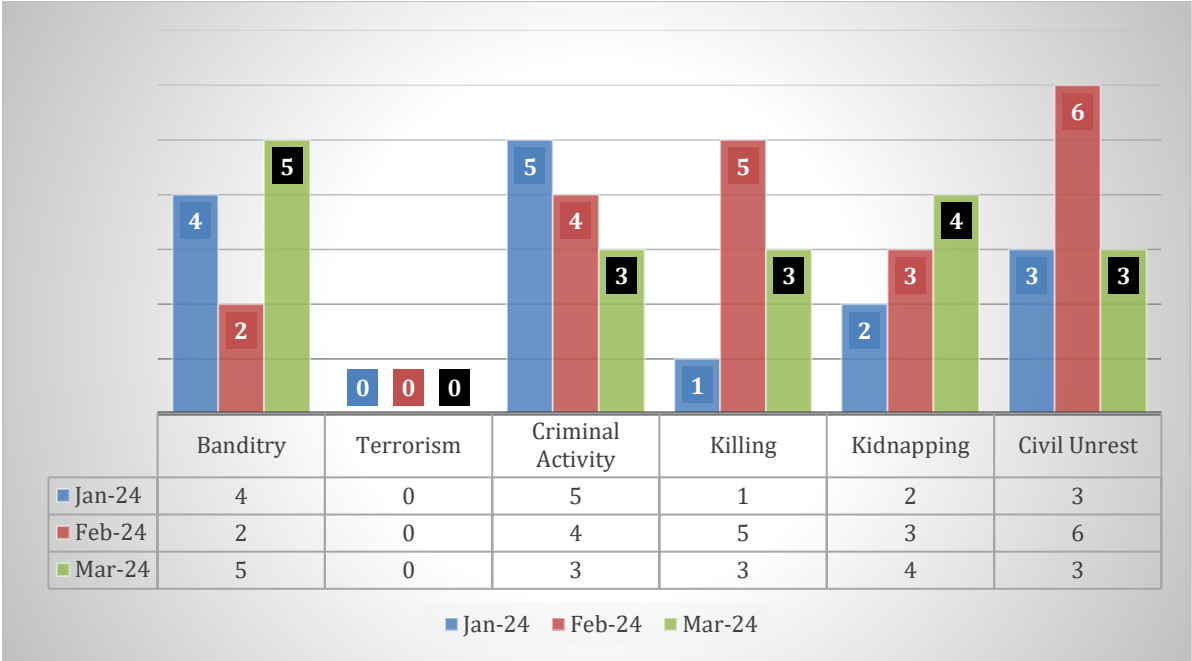
The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. There was an overall increase in the number of incidents captured in March 2024, particularly incidents of banditry and kidnapping.



Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	High
Terrorism	Low
Criminal	Low
Kidnapping	Moderate
Civil Unrest	Low

### South East

The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. The overall number of incidents decreased compared to last month. There was an increase in banditry. Common threats in the region in the past three months were banditry, killing, criminal activities, and kidnapping.

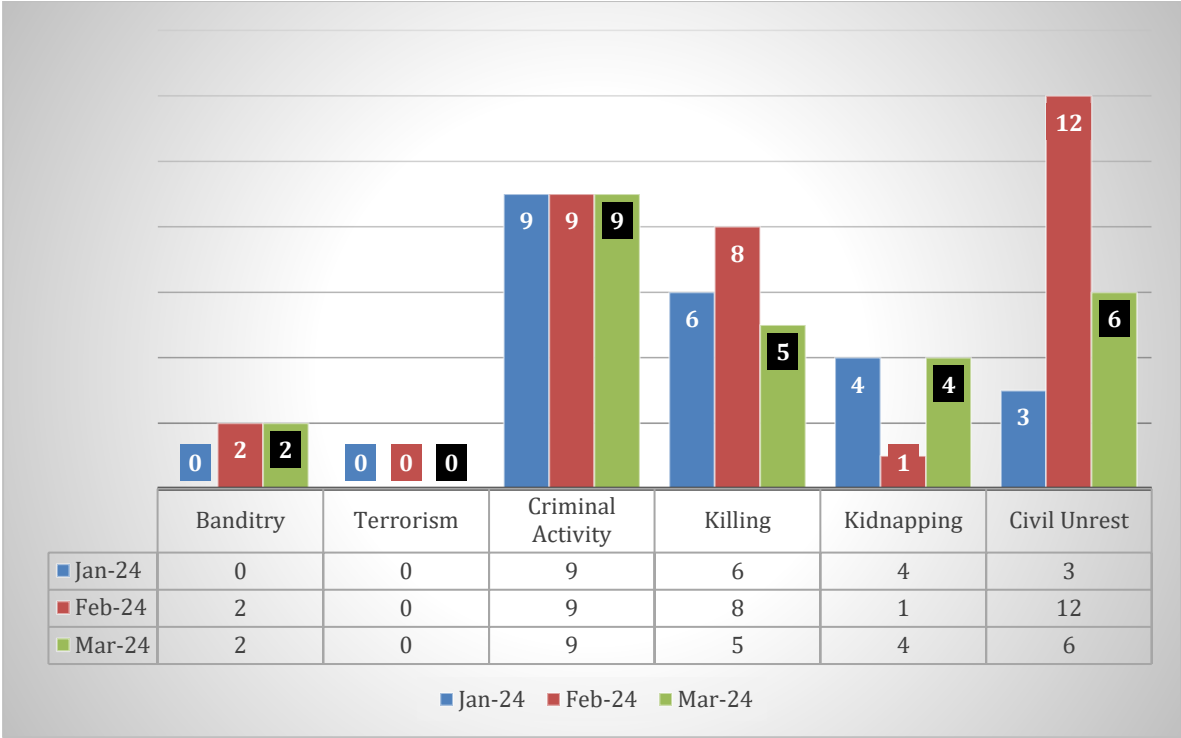


Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	Moderate
Terrorism	Low
Criminal	Low
Kidnapping	Low
Civil Unrest	Low



### South South

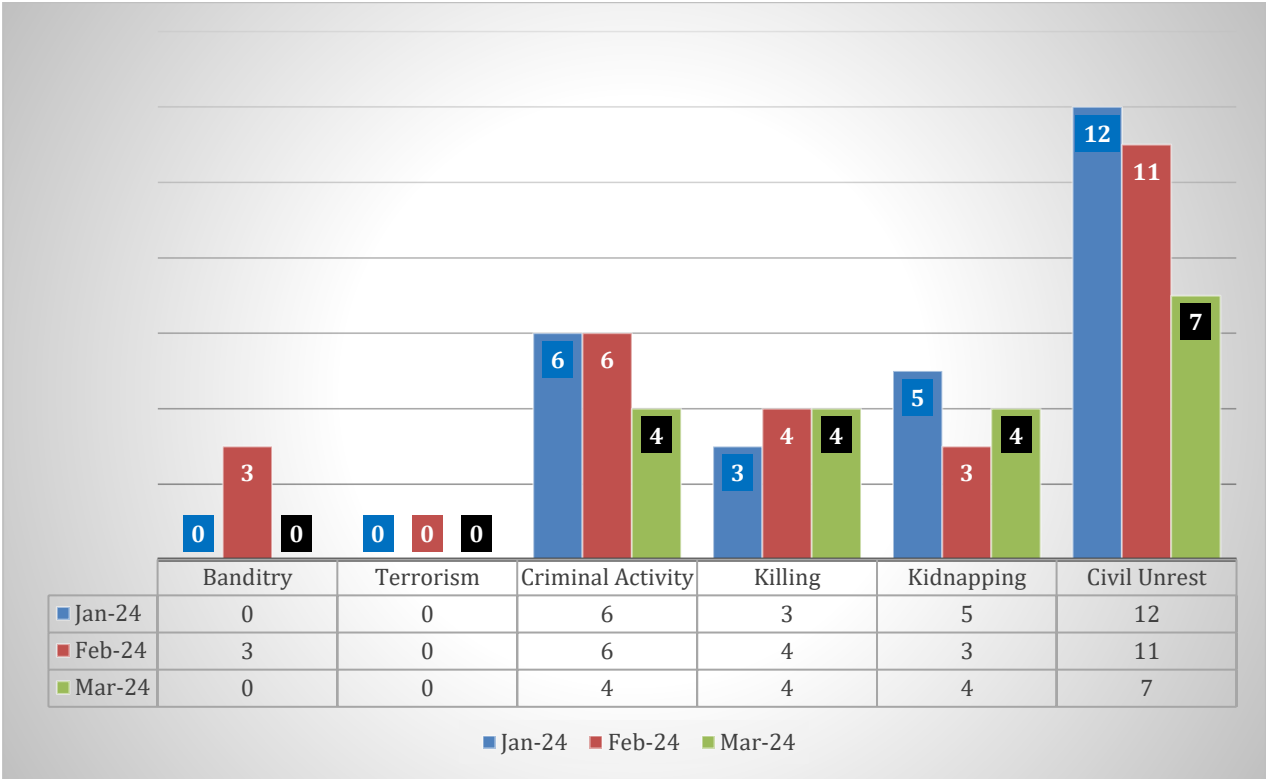
The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. There was an overall decrease in the total incidents recorded in the region. Common threats are Criminal activities civil unrest and killing. Banditry increased slightly in March. However, kidnapping increased slightly.



Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	Low
Terrorism	Low
Criminal	Moderate
Kidnapping	Low
Civil Unrest	Moderate

### South West

The chart shows a progression of incidents in the last three months. Common threats are criminal activity, civil unrest, and killing. Kidnapping increased slightly during the reporting month.



Threat type	Threat level
Banditry	Low
Terrorism	Low
Criminal	Low
Kidnapping	Low
Civil Unrest	Moderate

# Horizon Contact Page



## UK/European Headquarters

Pegasus House  
Main Street, Alexandria  
West Dunbartonshire  
United Kingdom  
G83 9HY

Group Director of Education  
**Chris Campbell**  
[chris.campbell@horizon.uk.com](mailto:chris.campbell@horizon.uk.com)



## Horizon West Africa Headquarters

Plot 14  
Off Oladipo Diya Way  
Gugu District  
Abuja  
Nigeria

Programme Director  
**Chris Campbell**  
[Chris@horizonwestafrica.org](mailto:Chris@horizonwestafrica.org)



## Horizon Kids

Business Development Manager  
**Sami Smith**  
[sam.smith@horizon.uk.com](mailto:sam.smith@horizon.uk.com)

**Horizon West Africa – Mali**

150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako

**Horizon West Africa - Nigeria**

No. 101 Midel Centre, Oladipo Diya Way, Gudu District, Abuja, FCT

Email [operations@horizonwestafrica.org](mailto:operations@horizonwestafrica.org)

**WWW.HORIZONWESTAFRICA.ORG**

