



**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) • Website [www.horizonwestafrica.org](http://www.horizonwestafrica.org)

**DATE: 31 December 2021**  
**MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**39**

**Terrorist Activity**

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 125 and the most recorded incidents were fires, kidnappings, and terrorist activity.
- COVID-19 cases increased after the discovery of the Omicron variant of the virus with 5,750 new cases but deaths were minimal with 5 recorded.
- Terrorists target Maiduguri, Borno State using missiles.
- FG stops access to workers and visitors without vaccine cards and COVID-19 tests into government buildings.

**17**

**Banditry**

- Surge in the kidnapping of monarchs with most incidents recurrent in the SE region.
- Surge in fire incidents as the harmattan season commences.

**25**

**Civil Unrest**

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

**37**

**Kidnapping**

- The number of incidents increased in the last weeks of the month with 101 incidents.
- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks increases by 400 percent to 22,321 new cases and 48 deaths.
- Nigerian Custom Service (NCS) warns of an impending plan by terrorists to attack Abuja FCT.

**25**

**Killings**

- NAF conducts airstrikes which reportedly killed notorious armed group leader in Zamfara State.
- Terrorists target Maiduguri during President Muhammadu Buhari's visit.
- Nigerian stocks added 2.16 per cent or N471.4 billion to end the year's equities delivery at 6.07 per cent return.

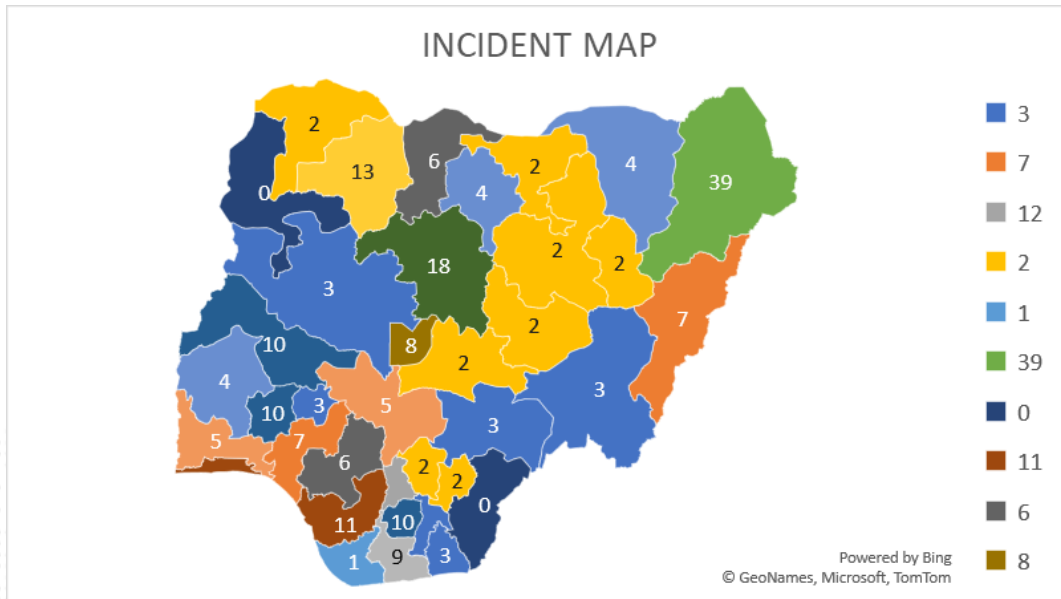
**22**

**Fire**

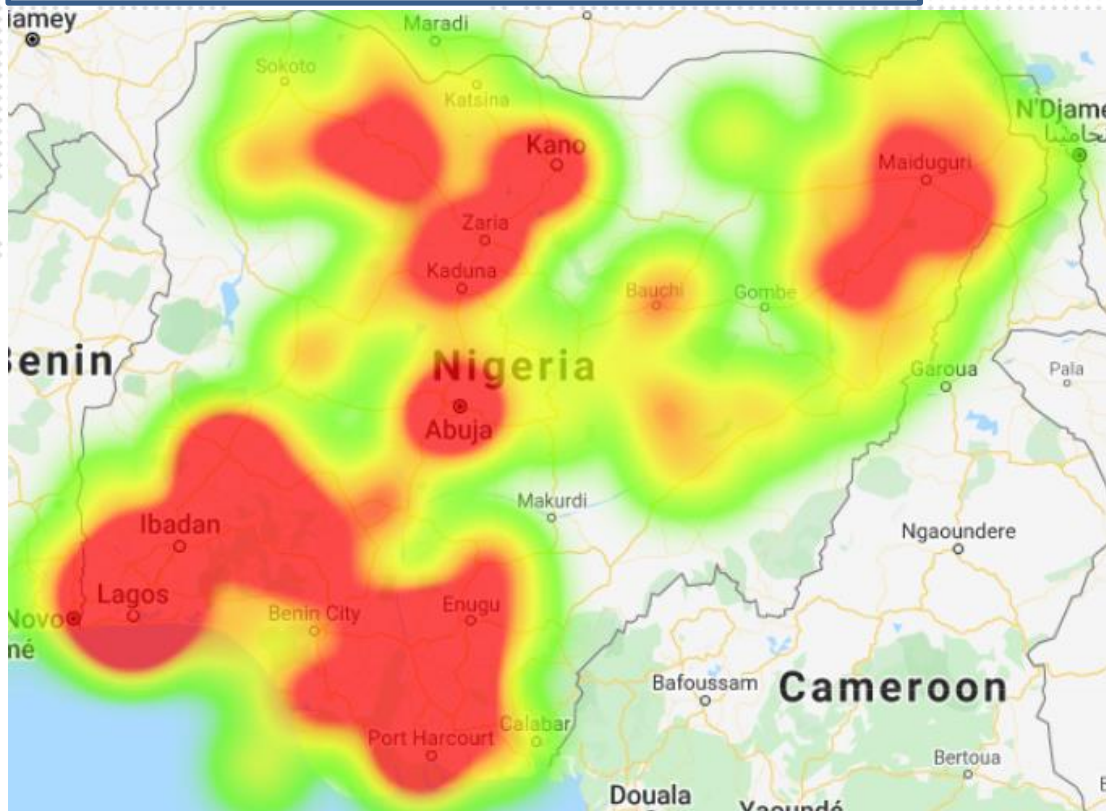
**11**

**Theft of Asset**

## MAPS AND CHARTS



*Heat Map for Nigeria - December 2021*





## ANALYSIS

All through 2021, the threat level for each month remained **High** and the month of December was no different as armed groups continued their domination of communities using kidnapping, killings and taxes to subdue locals, specifically in the North West region while terrorists in the North East region continue to attempt the takeover of Borno State. An estimated 427 persons were killed which does not account for soldiers killed during combat with terrorists in the NE region while 360 persons were kidnapped in the month. Therefore, number of persons killed for the month declined while kidnapped victims increased compared to the data for November 2021.

The threat posed by ISWAP and Boko Haram terrorist groups in the NE remains existential and could pose a major issue in 2022. Terrorists gained momentum in the reporting month with two successive attacks on Maiduguri, Borno State. The first incident occurred on the morning of 4 December when mortars were fired into the capital which destroyed some residences, with one casualty recorded. It was reported that the missiles were fired from Auno and they hit five locations which included Moromti, Ngomari, Airport, and a farmland all in the outskirts of the city. The second was recorded on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the day President Muhammadu Buhari was visiting the city. Unlike the first incident with minimal casualty, seven persons were reportedly killed, and several others injured. Prior to the second attack, reports emerged that the missiles which were 122mm 9M22U rockets were brought in through Bulgaram, Niger into the country. Therefore, it was clear the attacks would be recurrent as the terrorists have in their possession not just missiles but also IEDs. At least ten IEDs were detonated by soldiers along routes in Mallam Fatori in the first week of the month while the United Nations also announced that it was collaborating with the military to remove IEDs planted in several communities. Apart from attacks on the military, kidnappings and robberies were common along highways withing Damboa LGA. An estimated 20 persons comprising of humanitarian workers and state officials were kidnapped on 1 and 2 December. The terrorists are believed to have spies at bus stations, cities, hubs and villages, using the information to target security operatives, Christians, humanitarian workers or any person on their target list.

Furthermore, ten villages in Damboa LGA, have been overrun by terrorists and they have reportedly re-established the collection of levies and taxes from locals. From Damboa, ISWAP can coordinate attacks on Askira UBA, and Chibok LGA. Further intel states that terrorists run a cattle market led by a commander known as Mam Mou'azou in Chirara Village which is between Sambisa Forest and Damboa. Terrorists also threatened locals that if their dowries to marry their girls are not accepted, they would be kidnapped and married forcefully. The threat has resulted into the migration of indigenes from the area.



The Army however continued operations against gathering and static hideouts in the state. Thus, on 18 December, the Airforce conducted airstrikes which killed at least 27 terrorists in Gajiram, Nganzai LGA. These airstrikes continued till the end of the month.

All these activities are rarely reported in the media but the report by the Nigerian Immigration Service on an imminent attack expected to take place between 17 and 31 December seem to jolt the reverie of the populace to the threats posed by terror organisations. It was stated that an Algerian with the help of a Nigerian were travelling by road from Mali to attack the Abuja FCT. The suspects are not popular names, but it gives an insight into how foreigners affiliated to either ISIS or Al Qaeda access the country to teach sprouting terrorists strategy against government forces and weapons usage.

Terrorist activities are also expected to spread into neighbouring North-eastern states as the groups recruit more children.

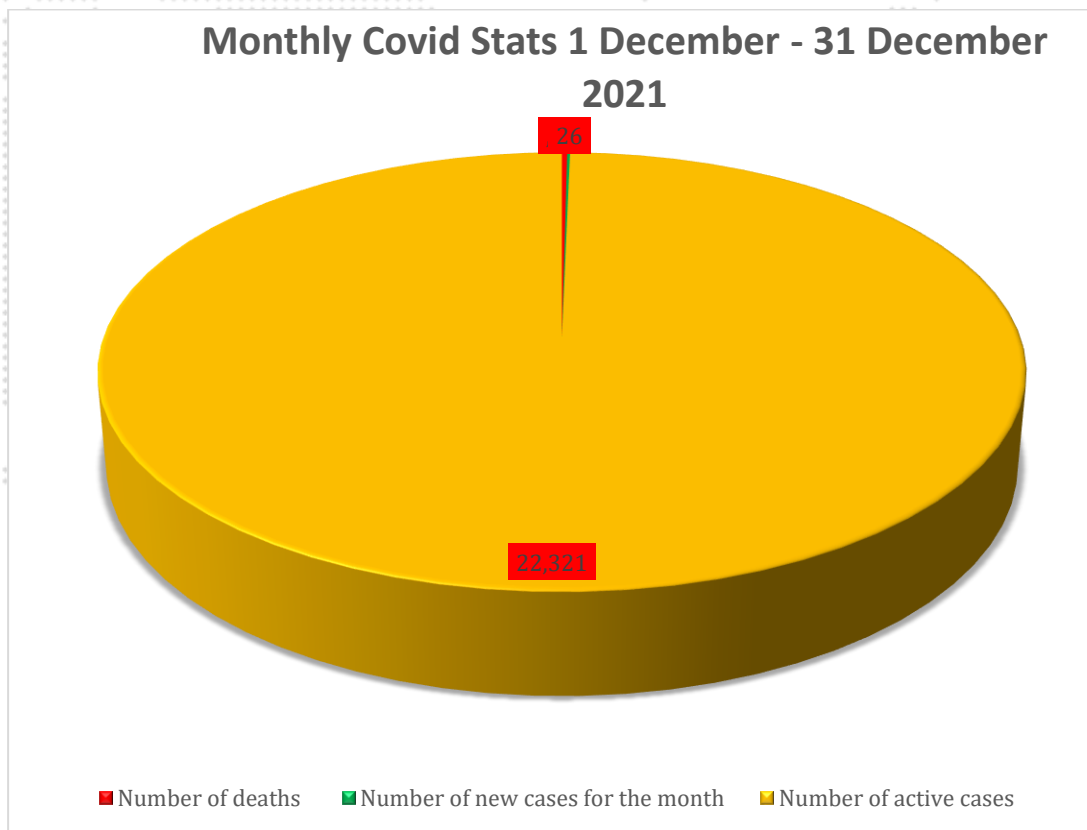
A slight increase in the number of kidnappings with an estimated 360 persons abducted within the month. The major kidnapping zones in the month were Kaduna, Niger, and Zamfara states with new trends showing a resurgence of incidents along the Kaduna – Zaria Highway and the kidnapping of monarchs in Abia and, Imo states. Armed groups in Zaria LGA specifically around Dusten Abba route which has been a hot spot for armed group activities for the past six years were activated in the month. Reports indicated that the area was a hideout for former armed robbers known to operate along the lonely Zaria – Kaduna Highway till they transitioned into banditry. Over 60 persons were kidnapped while several others were killed including the member of the Kaduna State House of Assembly representing Giwa LGA, Rilwanu Gadagu were killed during kidnapping attacks recorded between 13 and 15 December. Other kidnapping incidents were recorded in Giwa, Chikun, Zagon Kataf and Igabi LGAs. The surge in incidents led to an uprising of northern youths which was clamped down by the police. The momentum gathered by the youths were short-lived as the conveners were intimidated by the Department of state security and gatherings were forcefully dispersed by the police.

The kidnappings in Imo State were however different as monarchs were the major target. Interestingly, it wasn't for ransom but for rituals. The military on 17 December evacuated ten corpses including the traditional ruler of Ihitte Ihube in Okigwe LGA during a raid into a kidnappers' hideout in Orsu LGA, Imo State. It was reported that the assailants were human flesh eaters and different body parts were discovered at the location. The monarch was kidnapped alongside a youth leader on 12 December.

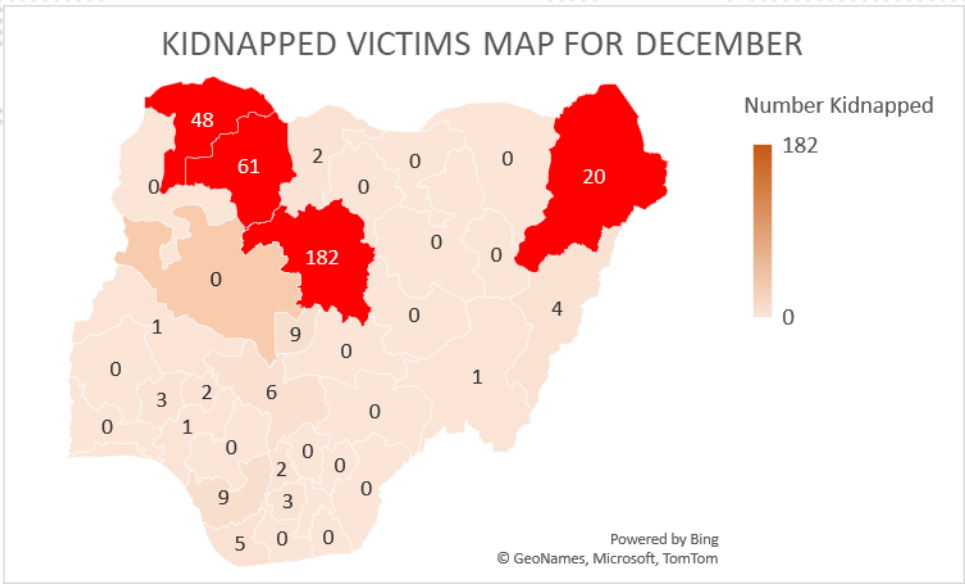
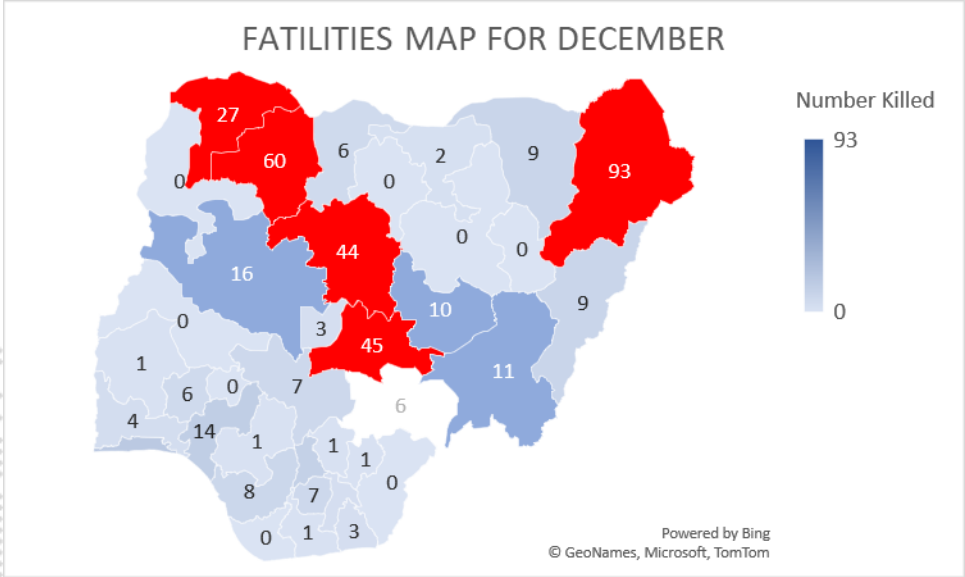
Fire incidents caused by tankers and, electricity surge were common in the month and it was reportedly aggravated due to the Harmattan season. Houses, shops, filling stations and supermarkets accounted for 22 incidents. The most recent occurred on 24 December in Abuja FCT where a major supermarket was engulfed in flames for hours. Fire hazards are not

properly managed in the country making the devastation even worse and according to Director-General of Federal Capital Territory Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Abbas Idriss the Fire Service Act of 1963 is limiting the agency from acting efficiently to fire incidents which have become alarming.

The COVID-19 number of cases and deaths increased during the month as the fourth wave hit with the discovery of the Omicron Variant. Over 12,000 are currently infected as at the end of the month. The country remains open for business, but the recent discovery of a new variant in Israel which reportedly has both Flu and Corona Virus Strain could set the world back despite the rollout of vaccines.



## VICTIMS MAP FOR DECEMBER



## THREAT CHART FOR DECEMBER

- ◆ **Low (1)** - Incident did not occur in the reporting period. Nevertheless, will to conduct attacks and opportunity to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.
- ◆ **Medium (2)** – Incident occurred but minimal. Nevertheless, will to conduct attacks and opportunity to target project assets and/or personnel remains a threat.
- ◆ **High (3)** – Incident occurred at increased proportion and active with demonstrated will to conduct attacks that would target project assets and/or personnel.

Threats for the Month						
Region	Kidnapping	Terrorism	Theft of Assets	Civil Unrest	Killing	Road Accidents
North Central	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Low
North East	High	High	High	Low	High	Medium
North West	High	High	High	Medium	High	Low
South East	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
South West	Medium	Low	High	High	Medium	High
South	Medium	Low	Medium	High	Medium	Medium





## HORIZON CONTACT PAGE



### International Headquarters

2309 – X3 Tower  
Jumeirah Lake Towers  
Dubai  
P.O. Box 445436  
**Managing Director Middle East & Asia**  
**James Michie**  
[james.michie@horizon.uk.com](mailto:james.michie@horizon.uk.com)



### 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**  
**Tom Watts**  
[tom@horizonwestafrica.org](mailto:tom@horizonwestafrica.org)



### Horizon Maritime Security Headquarters

Caira House,  
228, 21st September Avenue  
Naxxar, NXR 102,  
Malta  
**Managing Director**  
**Paul Howlett**  
[paul.howlett@horizonmaritime.com.mt](mailto:paul.howlett@horizonmaritime.com.mt)



### Horizon Kids

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



To enquire about our reports or any of our security, risk management and training services, please email:  
[operations@horizonwestafrica.org](mailto:operations@horizonwestafrica.org)

[www.horizonwestafrica.org](http://www.horizonwestafrica.org)

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error, please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute, or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing, or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.