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MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

26

Boko Haram Activity

○ **Highlight of week 1 & 2**

- The number of incidents recorded during the first two weeks was 200 and the most recorded incidents were terrorist activities and banditry.

46

Banditry Activity

- The reporting weeks were riddled with crimes by armed groups, robberies, kidnappings and fires.

24

Civil Unrest

- COVID-19 cases in the first two weeks cases were at 18,169.
- Protests increased in the first two weeks but most were non-violent.
- Kidnappings were recorded in all the six-geopolitical zones in the weeks with most incidents recorded in the North West and North East regions.
- An VBIED incident recorded in the North East region.
- The NAF conducted airstrikes against Boko Haram and Bandits.

52

Kidnapping Activity

○ **Highlight of the week 3 & 4**

- The number of incidents in the last weeks of the month reduced to 136 despite killings and kidnappings.

- COVID-19 numbers in the last two weeks surged to 23,801 new cases.

245

Killings

- Herdsmen activities recorded in the Southwest region as tension increases on inter-ethnic clashes.

- President appoints new service chiefs.

- Boko Haram insurgents orchestrated multiple attacks crossing with reports emerging of an infiltration into the North Central region.

09

Military Operation

- Violent protests by IMN members

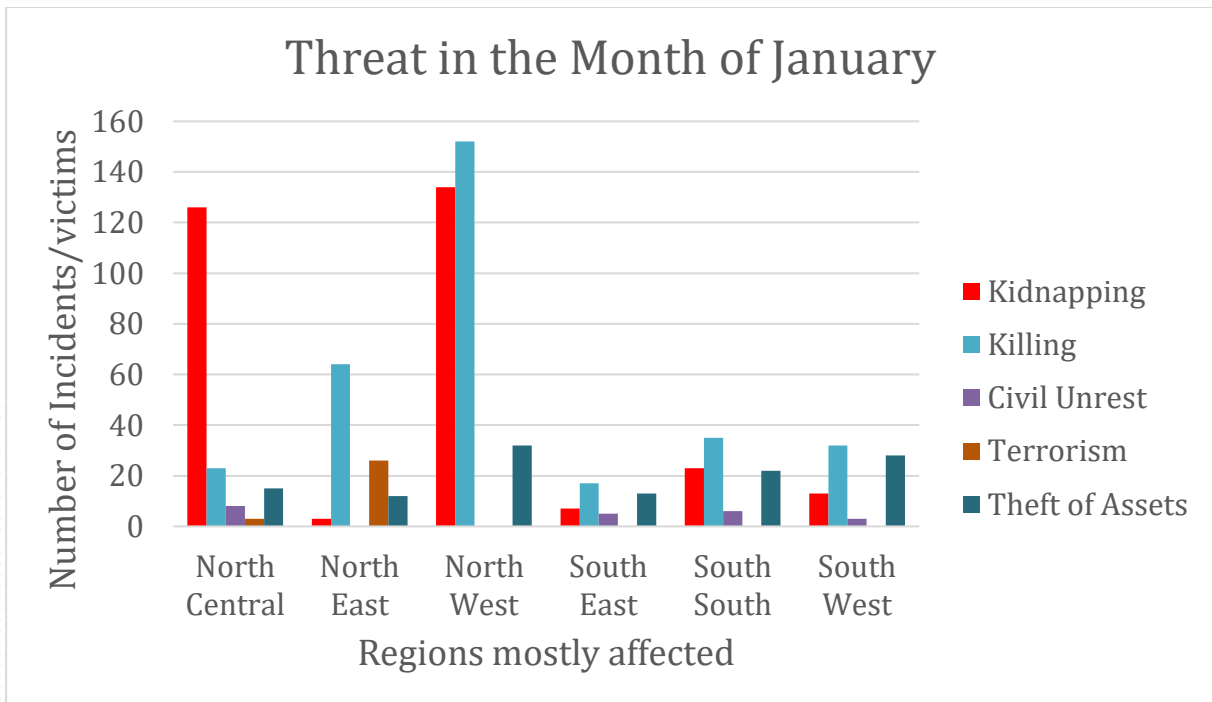
- Intense military operations recorded against insurgents in the North East and bandits in the North East.

- An upsurge in armed robberies recorded in the Southern region.

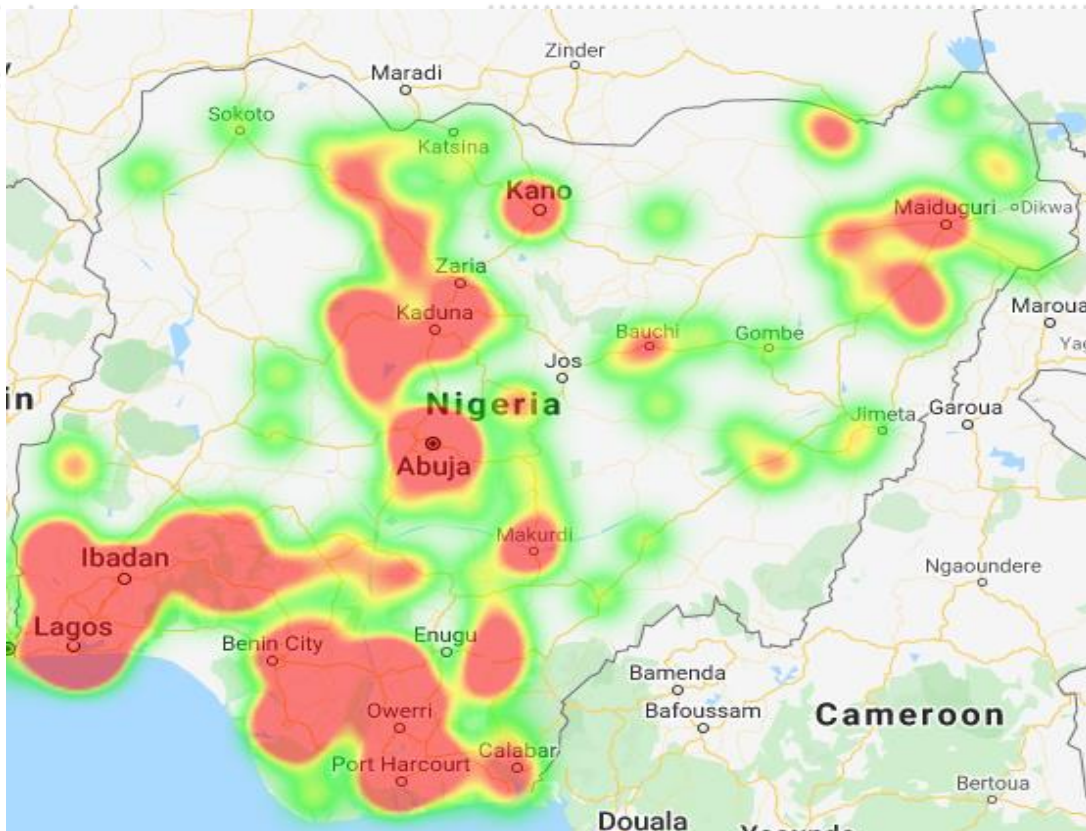
93

Theft of Asset

MAPS AND CHARTS



Heat Map for Nigeria - January 2021



The month in review is assessed as high due to the civil unrest, ethnic clash, robberies and kidnappings in all the six geopolitical zones. Despite intense military operation during the month, criminal and insurgent attacks still occurred.

The reporting month recorded an upsurge in COVID-19 numbers as it was reported that the strain that was found in the United Kingdom was also present in the country as such between 1 and 30 January, there was a drastic rise in cases with 41,970 new cases and 284 deaths. This surge in numbers may have galvanized President Muhammadu Buhari on 29 January to sign the Covid Health Protection Bill which has made the wearing of face masks compulsory with a penalty to all violators. The bill did not move the needle for the average Nigerian as it seemed like an effort in futility by the government considering that a large number of individuals were trying to register for their National Identity Card at the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) across the country to avoid being disconnected by telecoms companies. This was ordered by the Minister of Communication and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami and this has been linked to the surge in cases specifically in Lagos State as the crowd are unable to maintain social distancing. Although the need to link the SIM cards to the NIN has been publicised as a move to curb insecurity, it however seems like a move by the government to monitor dissenters after the unrest which occurred in October 2020. Currently, the Panel that was setup to investigate the events of that month are listening to doctors' and victims' account while the military has reportedly withdrawn from the proceedings.

The political, religious and ethnic tension was at a high in the month as reports emerged of accusations and counteraccusations on the major cause of insecurity in the country especially pertaining to kidnapping. The number of kidnappings has surged as more incidents were recorded not only in the North but also in the Southern region in states like Oyo, Ekiti, Delta, and Edo. There was a major decline however in Cross River State that had recorded an upsurge in kidnappings of doctors in previous months.

The North Central started out calm in the month but incidents began to occur by the second week. Herdsmen attacks were recorded in Benue State in the reporting month and there were major criminal activities which were perpetuated by armed individuals aboard vehicles which majorly affected Katsina Ala and Ukum LGAs as there have also been reports of bandit activities in the state. Therefore, in the course of the month the state's security council banned the use of motorbikes in the area. Notably, this is one of the most agriculturally productive states in the country and has also been the most affected by this crisis for decades. This has led to food shortages and rising prices and as the dry season worsens more incidents are expected to occur. Although only pockets of incidents have thus far been recorded, this could intensify in the next month.



Members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) recommenced their daily protests in Abuja FCT. Initially it started out peaceful as they marched through streets in Wuse, Garki and Central Business District but towards the end of the month their protests became violent resulting in the deaths of two members after security operatives responded by firing teargas into a crowd of protesters. The recent violence could be attributed to the news that the leader of the group's wife Zeenat had contracted COVID-19 and was not being properly treated. More of these protests are expected in next month. Kidnappings and robberies were also prevalent at the capital, the most recent were the kidnapping of seven minors from an orphanage in Abaji. Noteworthy in the NC is the report emerging that Boko Haram insurgents are present in hideouts in Nasarawa State. This could be corroborated as two attacks were recorded in the last week of the month in Niger and Taraba in which over 100 civilians were kidnapped in what looked like a Boko Haram style operation.

All through the reporting month, 26 terrorist activities were recorded in Borno and Yobe states including the invasion of a military camp in Marte, Borno State by ISWAP fighters but was later retaken by the soldiers on 16 January. The incident was however presented like a counter-insurgency operation which became clearer as earlier reports pointed that the insurgents had already mentioned that they would be targeting military camps in the area since December 2020. As such, it points to the fact that most of the threats issued by ISWAP/Boko Haram fighters are occurring as stated. Noteworthy was the call in the last reporting week from ISWAP for fighters from Chad and Niger to join in the invasion of communities in Lake Chad. Therefore, on 14 January, it was reported that insurgents were sighted aboard 12 vehicles travelling to Arege village possibly to attack military camps in Malam Fatori or Damasak. This was possibly the same group who besieged the military camp. Latest reports from intelligence stated that women and girls are now being used as spies to infiltrated IDP camps and gather information on military operations. Although this information insinuates the military is winning the war against terrorism in the country, the reality however differs as these fighters continue to mount illegal road blocks threatening the lives and properties of civilians in Borno State. Sources have however advised that security should be amplified to monitor villages in the axis of Monguno town where ISWAP is reportedly recruiting and deploying girls and women to obtain information on security and military activities. Further information indicates that these vulnerable women are forced to travel to Monguno town on a weekly basis with some staying in locations given as GGSS IDP camp. Another set of women were deployed through Bulgaram town to Cikka and then Gamburo-Ngala town. It was noted by intelligence experts that recent attacks along the Monguno-Maiduguri road and Ngala-Dikwa road were not un-connected to some of the information possibly divulged by the female recruits of Boko Haram and ISWAP.

The strategic advantage of using women, is the possibility of eluding suspicions from ground troops in these locations.



Katsina, Zamfara and Kaduna (Southern) were majorly affected by bandit activities in the reporting month. Although the number of victims cannot be totally ascertained as most incidents are not reported for fear of retribution, the number could however be a little lower than 500 victims in the reporting month. Kidnap for ransom is the major operation and according to a journalist, over 1,000 armed men are hiding out in forests in Katsina State. The same reporter stated that they have an unstable leadership making negotiations for ceasefire a bit more difficult. Also, there are different splinter groups with leaders who divided the area of operations amongst themselves making it easier to identify perpetrators. It is considered that the locals know the perpetrators and security forces have been inefficient in curbing their excesses. It was stated by the bandits that they move kidnapped victims aboard motorcycles in front of security operatives who do not engage them. The criminals have no ideology and they are hinged on drugs. The lack of effective security makes the only avenue for recourse be dialogue and negotiations. Residents of LGAs in the NW are left to the mercy of these armed groups who make disproportionate demands on the communities. In the southern part of Kaduna however, the case seems different as most of the locals have had to flee to other parts to avoid being killed or kidnapped. It is important to note that this area is predominantly inhabited by Christians and the insecurity faced by the locals in the area has been likened to a massacre rather than the general banditry situation. Investigations are ongoing by journalists to uncover the major issue in the area.

In the South West region ethnic tension between the Fulani and the Yoruba was recorded in the final two weeks of the reporting month specifically in Oyo State. Reports emerged that farmers and residents had been terrorised by Fulani herdsmen making it difficult for them to go about their daily business and to further compound the issue, the traditional ruler of Igangan's son was kidnapped and he had to pay N4 million (USD 10,500) to negotiate for his release which was possibly what triggered the following events. On 16 January it was reported that an agitator known as Sunday Ighoho issued a seven-day ultimatum to all Fulanis living in Ibarapa LGA to leave or face the consequences. On 22 January despite security forces efforts, they were unable to prevent him from revisiting the LGA and riling up the youths who eventually went to burn the Seriki Fulani's house which has now spiralled out of control as reports of reprisal by Fulani in the area were reported between 29 and 31 January. Before the chaos in Oyo, the Governor of Ondo State, Akeredolu had issued the same ultimatum for all herdsmen in the bushes to come out or face consequences. Immediately, a statement was issued by the "presidency" that the governor did not have a right to issue such command. Noteworthy, Ondo State has also been affected by the recent insecurities with kidnappings being the major threat and despite the creation of the regional security group known as Amotekun, they have been unable to combat the insecurities in the state. Now Ekiti, Oyo, Osun, Ogun and Ondo have all issued ultimatums to herdsmen to leave their communities



and this has caused a lot of tension as the Federal Government have been unable to tackle the internal ethnic issues and has shown bias towards the Fulani herdsmen who have been known to be troublesome, attacking already cultivated farmlands with their cattle. The situation has become dire and might lead to clashes in the next reporting period.

Kidnappings are common in the North west and North east regions, there were however notable incidents in the Southern regions in the reporting month. Incidents were recorded in Edo, Delta and Imo states where commuters and high-profile individuals were targeted and kidnapped and one of such case was the kidnapping of the Public Relations officer of the Nigerian Immigration Service who was kidnapped on 24 January but was released two days later perhaps ransom was paid.

Road traffic accidents upsurged in the month as 194 individuals were killed including children occurring in 30 incidents which mostly occurred in the southern region. The South West and the South East regions recorded the most incidents in the month.

Civil unrest declined in the month as 24 incidents were recorded across the country. Apart from Abuja FCT which is where most protests are organised, the South South region also recorded an upsurge in protests as communities demand social welfare from oil companies in the reporting month.

Seventeen fire incidents were recorded during the reporting month with most incidents recorded in the South West region specifically Lagos State. Tanker explosion was common in the Southern region while at least four markets including one in Sokoto State were destroyed in fire outbreaks reportedly caused by power surges.

Robberies were a major menace in the reporting month in Lagos State where armed men snatched valuables from victims and causing harm when there is a resistance. Targeted areas include Herbert Macaulay road in Yaba, most city centre routes in Festac, Oshodi, Marina and generally along poorly lit or damaged roads. Assailants were mostly 3 or 4 armed with either sharp edged weapons or SAF. Assailants are also known to attack aboard motorcycles either in the early hours of the day or late at night with pockets of incidents occurring in daylight.

In other news, President Muhammadu Buhari have appointed new service chiefs. The reason for the sudden change is unknown but these new appointees are expected to bring new plan and strategy to the insecurities plaguing all sectors of the country.

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
North Central	High	Medium	Medium	High	Medium
North East	Medium	High	High	Low	High
North West	High	Medium	High	Low	High
South East	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
South West	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium
South South	Medium	Low	High	Medium	Medium



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