



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

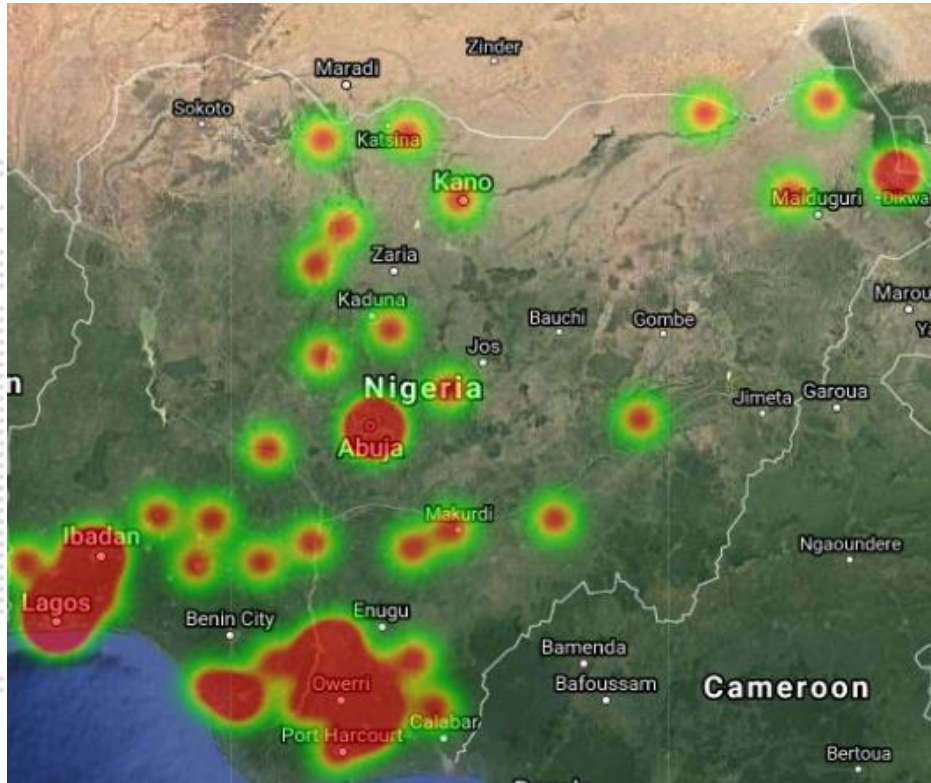
Email operations@horizonwestafrica.org • Website www.horizonwestafrica.org

DATE: 7 February 2021

WEEKLY INCIDENT REPORT

Covering period from 0000-hour 1 February to 1600 hours 7 February 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

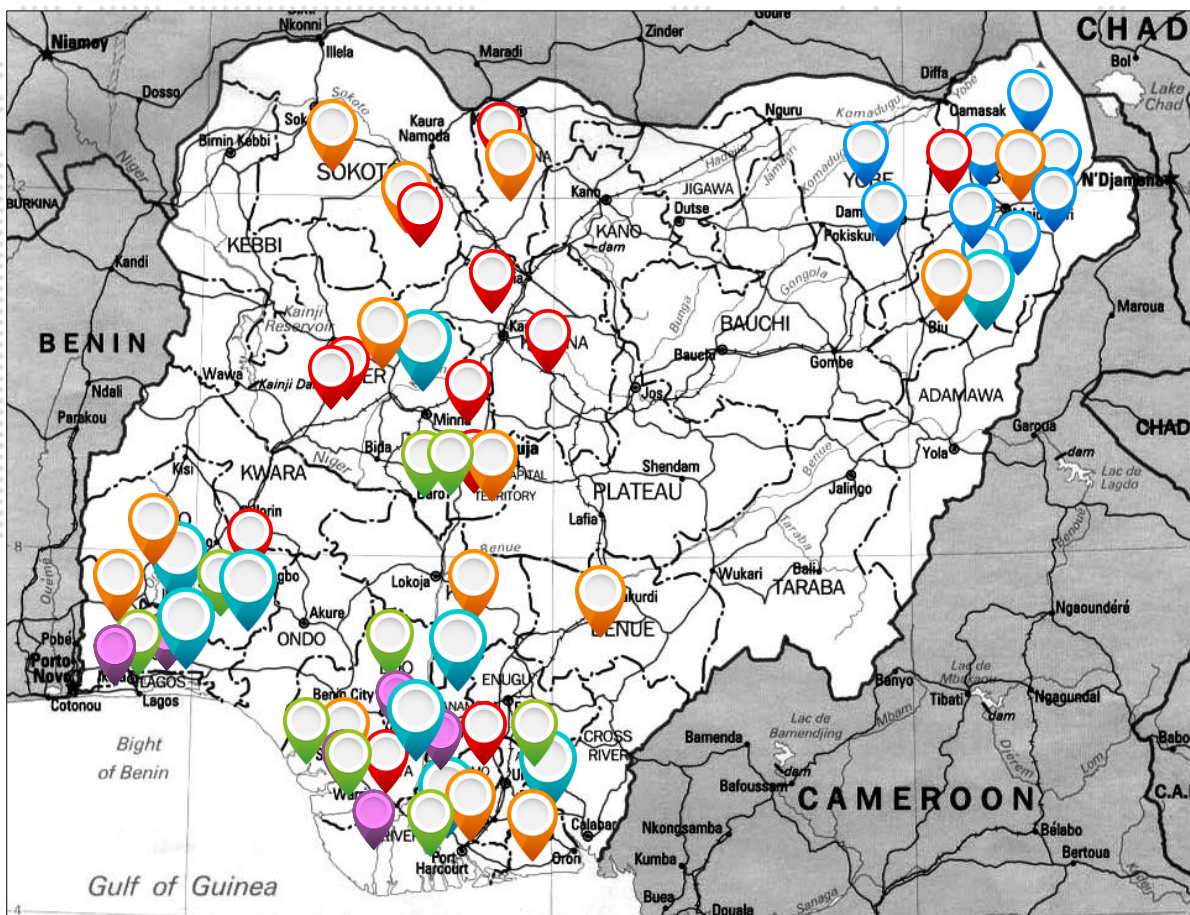


WEEKLY THREAT LEVEL ASSEMENT – Medium

LEVEL		SCORE	THREAT
High	Very High	5	Red
	High	4	
Medium	Medium	3	Yellow
	Low	2	
Low	Very Low	1	Green

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS FOR THE WEEK

1. Tension remains high in the SW as agitator moves into another state to evict Fulani herdsmen while protests were recorded in the SS over insecurity attributed to herdsmen.
2. Armed conflicts with security operatives were common in the Southern region.
3. ISWAP fighters sighted moving around in large numbers in Borno and Yobe states but soldiers reportedly repel purported attacks.
4. Number of kidnapping incidents further declined in the week but number of victims including foreigners remain high during the week. Clients are advised to take adequate measures to safeguard their foreign and local personnel.



THREAT	Code
Kidnapping	Red
Killing	Orange
Civil unrest	Green
Armed conflict	Teal
Arrest	Yellow
Robbery	Purple
Terrorism	Blue

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH CENTRAL (NC) REGION



1. On 2 February, 27 killed and 20 others injured while 40 residents were kidnapped by armed men who invaded Kanyan and Sabon Giga communities in Shiroro LGA, Niger State.

2. On 2 February, three individuals including the father of Bwari Council Chairman was kidnapped at their residence in Abuja FCT.

3. On 4 February, Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) protesters demand the release of their leader El Zakzaky and his wife Zeenat by marching along Apo Bridge, Garki, Abuja FCT.

4. On 7 February, Taraba State Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) was kidnapped by armed men from his home in Ardo Kola LGA.

Analysis

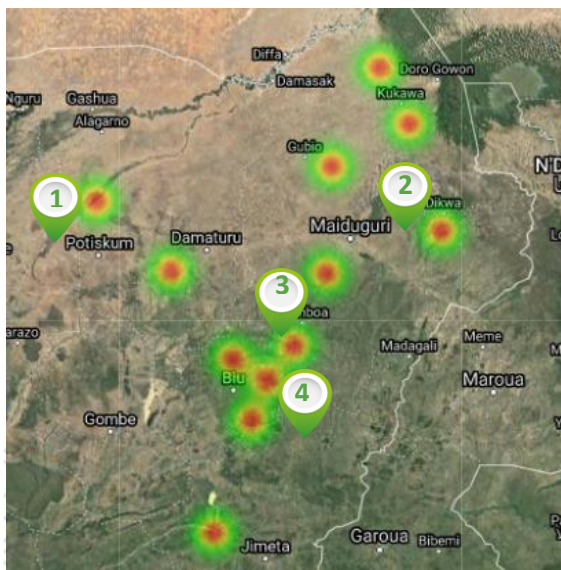
During the week, the NC recorded the highest number of kidnapped victims with an estimated 50 persons abducted from Niger, Taraba and Abuja FCT.

Abuja FCT seems to be recording an upsurge in criminal incidents specifically kidnappings. This week, two kidnap incidents were recorded in Bwari local council in which three individuals were kidnapped including the council chairman's father and in Kubwa where a journalist and two sons of his neighbour were kidnapped on 3 February at 2300 hours. Noteworthy, Bwari is a community close to the notorious Kaduna-Abuja Highway which is a known hideout for bandits. Fortunately, the journalist and his neighbour's sons were released after the wife reported they paid NGN 10m (USD 25,300). Apart from these incidents, protests were common in the FCT. The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) continued their almost daily protests demanding the release of their leader El Zakzaky and his wife, Zeenat. Although during the reporting week there was no violence it might however be due to reports that the wife of their leader, Zeenat is now rehabilitated after contracting COVID-19.

Other incidents include herdsmen attacks in Benue, Kogi and Plateau states in which three persons were killed. A school was incinerated by the herdsmen in Kogi State and the assailants were reportedly later arrested by the police. More of this incident type are expected to occur in the next reporting week.

In other news, President Muhammadu Buhari extended the tenure of the Inspector General of Police Mohammed Adamu, for three more months despite it being his retirement while he also presented the names of the just resigned service chiefs as ambassadors. The decisions were criticised by the people especially on social media. Interestingly in 2020, the President signed the Police Reform Bill which was clear on the tenure of the IG of police. Also, a directive from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on bank transactions allowing the trading of crypto currency was restricted till further notice. This policy was also majorly criticised on social media.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH EAST (NE) REGION



1. On 2 February, ISWAP fighters attacked staff members of an International NGO at Garin Gada community, Yunusari LGA, Yobe State. The assailants abducted two unidentified females from the community but later released them.

Analysis

At least seven persons were killed in eleven incidents attributed to insurgents during the week in Yobe and Borno States.

A large number of insurgents were sighted moving around in gun mounted trucks. It was however reported that soldiers were prompt in dispersing the assailants immediately they were reported. Security forces have restricted vehicular movement along the Monguno-Gajiram road, due to the presence of insurgents along the routes. This is most likely the cause of the mass movement of over a thousand internally displaced persons from four LGAs (Gubio, Magumeri, Kaga and Konduga) in Borno into Geidam, Tarmuwa, Gujba and five villages on the outskirts of Damaturu, Yobe State. The movement was confirmed by the Police on 4 February.

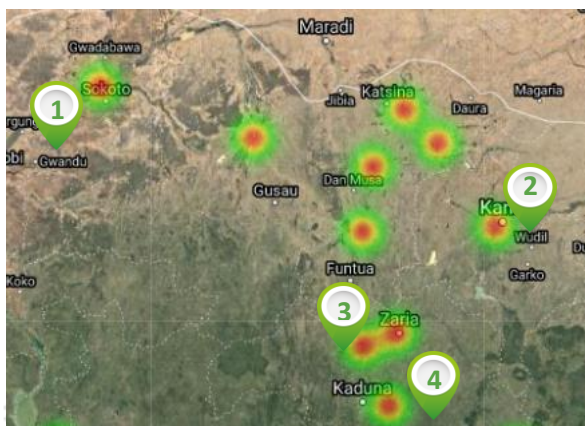
On 2 February, the staff on an international NGO were attacked by during a cash distribution programme in Garin Gada community in Yobe State. The staff were trapped and two women were kidnapped but were later released. one of their vehicles escaped while the others were trapped in the town. Staff of International NGOs seem to be the new target as they are the most sought after for ransom and for propaganda. The military reportedly recorded a successful operation on 3 February with an estimated 60 insurgents killed including their commanders. This was recorded after the visit of the service chiefs during the week.

2. On 2 February, ISWAP fighters aboard four gun mounted trucks were sighted gathering at Bulungwa by the riverine about 9km east of Gajibo, Dikwa LGA, Borno State. Their intention was unknown but security forces dispersed them from the area.

3. On 3 February, ISWAP fighters on eight gun trucks were sighted IVO Tura along Gajiram-Monguno road, Nganzai LGA, Borno State. No casualties were reported.

4. On 4 February, insurgents mounted illegal roadblock IVO Jigalta-Lawanti along Monguno-Gajiram road, Ngazai LGA, Borno State. They stopped and searched vehicles, looted foodstuff and robbed motorists of money and other valuable items.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH WEST (NW) REGION



1. On 1 February, some parts of Usman Dan Fodio University female hotel in Sokoto State were destroyed in a fire outbreak.

Analysis

Apart from the usual banditry known to occur in the NW of which six persons were killed while eleven others were injured in different incidents which occurred in Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna and Kaduna, the flashpoint of the week was the meeting held by a Muslim clergy, Sheik Gumi with bandits in their hideout in Zamfara State. The bandits who carried their AK47 rifles and dressed in military fatigue gave an insight into their description and weapon of choice. It also explains why victims are confused during attacks as the sighting of military uniforms might slow down their flight mode. They reportedly said they wanted to dialogue directly with the government possibly in hopes of getting a large sum of money to let down their guns as the government is known to negotiate with armed groups and given the precedence, the bandits would prefer negotiating with the government.

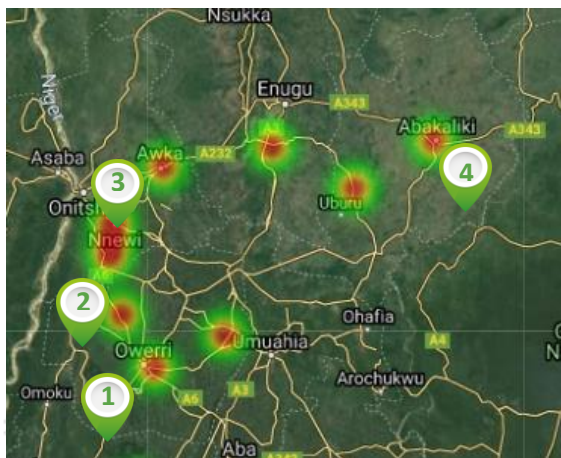
In Kano State, the Department of State Security (DSS) on 4 February took over the mosque and residence of Kano-based controversial preacher Abduljabar Nasiru Kabara. The state government had restricted the preacher citing that his preaching was too violent and inciting. Thus, his residence and schools have been surrounded by security forces till further notice. This is in line with the DSS theory that there are individuals inciting individuals to cause the religious crisis in the country.

2. On 2 February, Residents of Darmanawa in Tarauni LGA, Kano State protest the seizure of the land which houses their mosque and graveyard.

3. On 4 February, two males were killed in an attack by bandits on Kerawa Ward, Igabi LGA, Kaduna State.

4. On 5 February, six individuals were killed when armed men fired sporadic shots at a passenger bus travelling along Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road, Kaduna State.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST (SE) REGION



1. On 1 February, the man corpse was discovered at his workshop along Egbu road, Owerri, Imo State. The victim's hands and feet were bound.

2. On 3 February, two killed and several others injured following sporadic gunshots fired by armed

men in Afaor Awo market in Awo Omamma community, Oru East LGA, Imo State.

3. On 4 February, a man his wife and daughter were killed by armed men at a church in Azai community, Ihiala LGA, Anambra State.

4. On 4 February, Unknown assailants invaded and set a police station on fire in Isu, Onicha LGA, Ebonyi State. One police officer sustained machete cut injuries while four patrol vehicles within the premises were razed.

Analysis

Violence was at an uptick in the SE with incidents recorded in Anambra, Abia, Imo, and Ebonyi states.

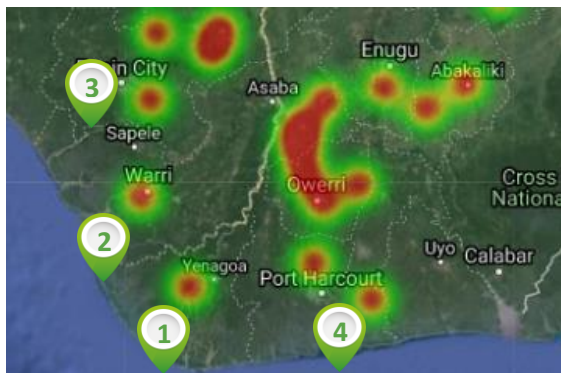
Another robbery was recorded in the week in Aba, Abia State as four persons were killed by armed robbers who attacked a POS complex. Incidents of this nature are recurring every week and police has vowed to catch culprits. Also, in the state, a police station was attacked. A police officer was killed and it seems the reason for the attack is to steal weapons which would most likely be used for kidnapping or robbery in the next reporting period.

Attacks on Police stations were common during the week as Imo, Ebonyi and Abia States all recorded incidents in which four police officers were killed and others injured. Although the attacks have been attributed to armed members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), it remains unclear why the attacks are occurring and no further details on weapons theft.

Five individuals were killed in two separate incidents recorded in Imo and Anambra states. Both incidents were reportedly orchestrated by suspected kidnappers.

The Anambra State Government has issued a night time curfew from 2100 hours to 0600 hours which will be in effect on 8 February, to limit the spread of COVID-19. The government also directed civil servants from grade level one to grade level 12 to work remotely indefinitely.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH SOUTH (SS) REGION



1. On 3 February, scores of women from Epie/Atissa communities held a peaceful protest against the threat of herdsmen around their communities in Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State.

2. On 3 February, assailants suspected to be cultists shot and killed a member of a rival group at his

Analysis

The major feature this week in the SS were protests held by women over the alleged activities of herdsmen in their farmlands. Protests were recorded in Bayelsa and Edo states. The women who are from Epie/Atissa communities in Yenagoa LGA, Bayelsa State and Uromi in Esan North-East LGA, Edo State. The women in Bayelsa marched through Tombia Roundabout, Etegwe axis of Yenagoa and also barricaded the Mbiama – Yenagoa road waving leaves and demanding the exit of herdsmen from their farmlands and communities.

These protests give an insight into the menace these herdsmen of Fulani decent have become in the country. Not only have they been troubling the abovementioned states but also Delta State. The atrocities committed by these herdsmen include sexual assault, killing and even kidnapping making it difficult for residents to access their farmlands. Through it all, the government has been silent on the plight of the people and have refused to address the situation.

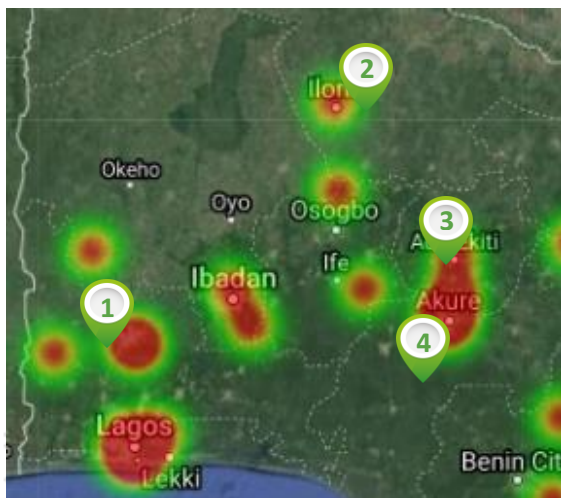
Cult clash was the major incident recorded in the week with as least ten deaths reported in Delta, Rivers and Edo States.

apartment in Ugbori community, Warri South LGA, Delta State.

3. On 3 February, Women in Uromi area of Edo state blocked major roads in the community to protest insecurity over activities such as robbery, kidnap, rape and destruction of farmlands by herdsmen.

4. On 4 February, five persons killed by armed men who invaded Zor-Sogho community, Khana LGA, Rivers State.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH WEST (SW) REGION



1. On 2 February, one individual was killed while seven others including three military personnel injured in a clash between agents of the Nigerian

Customs Service and suspected rice smugglers along Shagamu-Abeokuta highway, Ogun State.

2. On 3 February, ten individuals were injured in a clash between supporters of two factions during the All Progressive Congress (APC) registration exercise in Ilorin, Kwara State.

3. On 3 February, six armed robbers ambushed accountants attached to the Cabinet Department of the Ekiti State Government and carted away NGN 20m (USD 52,466) in Ado-Ekiti.

4. On 5 February, a farmer was killed on his farm by suspected Fulani herdsmen in Ajowa, Akoko Northwest LGA, Ondo State.

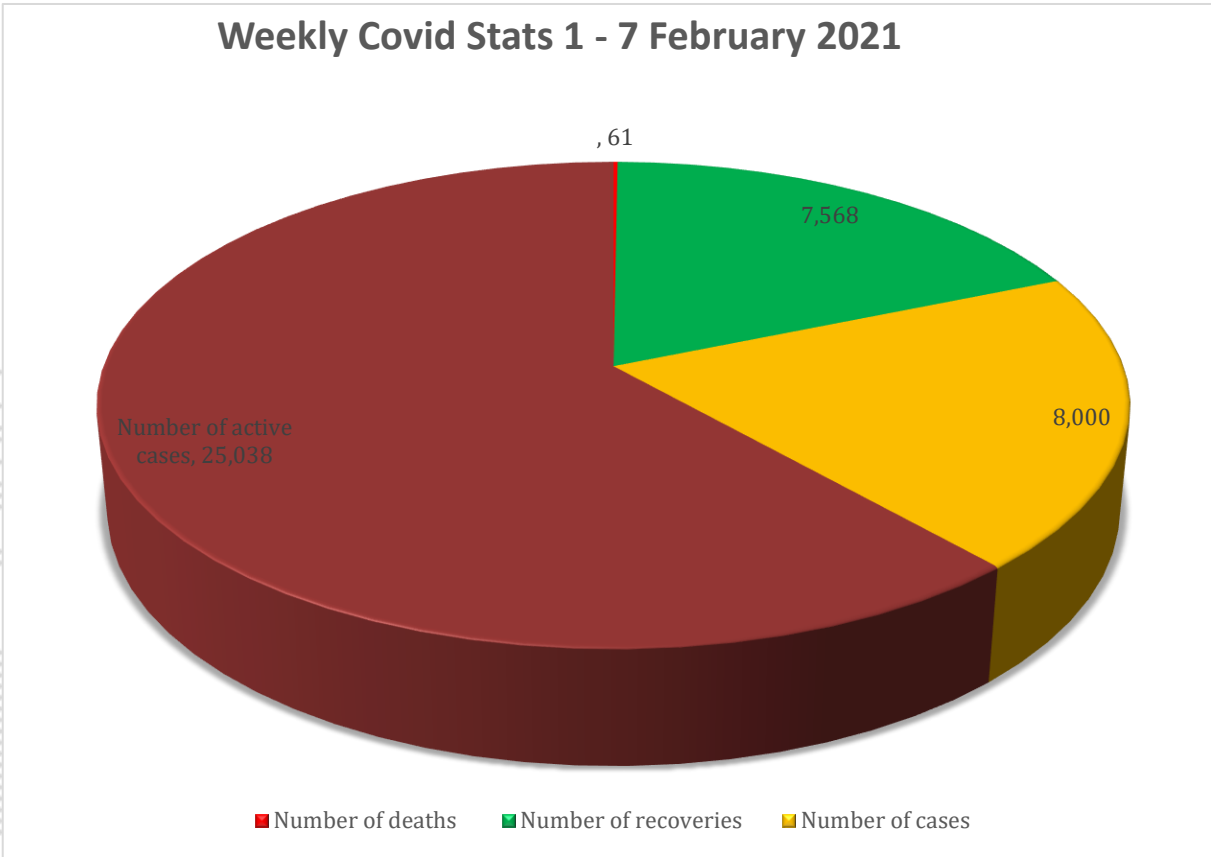
Analysis

The recent migration of Fulani people who are mostly cattle herders from neighbouring South-west states into Kwara is causing anxiety in the southern district of the state. This was following the recent forceful eviction of herders from Oyo and Ogun and Ondo states. The tension continued in Oyo State with more violent incidents recorded. In the week the agitator, Sunday Ighoho visited Ogun State communities which galvanised the youth to set ablaze a Fulani settlement in which one person was killed. The herdsmen are known to be aggressive and unwilling to understand that livelihoods are being destroyed as they recklessly lead their cattle to feed on already cultivated land. It is however important to note that the farmer/herder clash have been ongoing for years but in recent times this has become worse as the herders have become more violent and are mostly the perpetrators of kidnappings in the SW. As long as the government stays mute and continue to show bias on the issue, the threat of ensuing chaos will remain.

Other incidents in the week were majorly armed clashes which included a politically motivated clash within the ruling party in Kwara State, the clash between residents and custom services in Ogun State, intercommunal clash over land in Osun State. Three Chinese employees were kidnapped while their police escort was killed following a dispute with local labourers who are mostly northerners at a gold-mining site in Atakumosa area of Osun state. The abductors have demanded the sum of NGN 500m (USD 1.3) for their release.

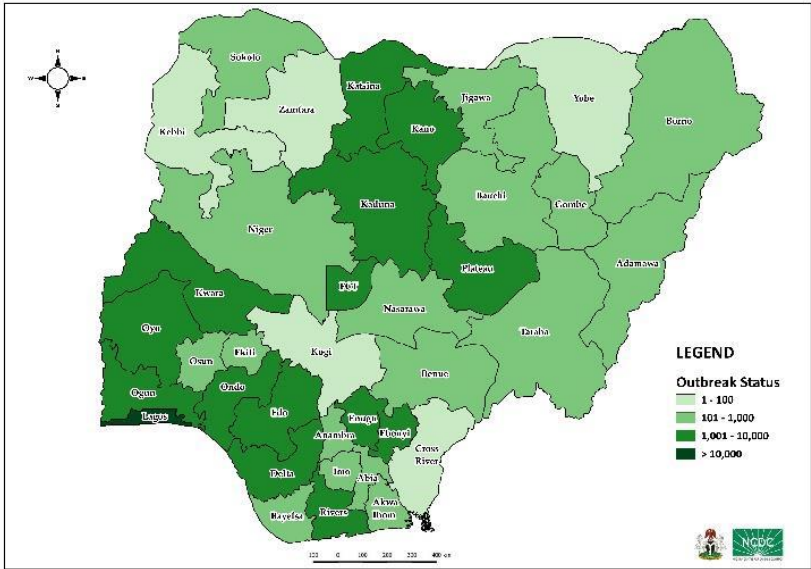
In Lagos State, the panel set up to investigate the Lekki Shooting of 20 October, 2020 reportedly signed off on the reopening of the Lekki/Admiralty toll gate which was where the incident occurred. There is a possibility this will bring about renewed civil unrest in the next reporting week if plans for the reopening is not stopped.

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY COVID-19 NUMBERS



First case of COVID-19 was recorded in the country on 27 February after an Italian national returned from his trip to Milan. Other cases have been recorded in all parts of the country. As at 31 February 2021, total number of confirmed cases is at 139,242. There was a slight increase in number of new cases, decrease in deaths and major increase in recoveries during the week.

Confirmed cases for the week	8,000
Recoveries for the week	7,568
Deaths for the week	61
Total number of cases	139,242
Total Number of recoveries	112,557
Total number of deaths	1,647



Distribution of cumulative cases





To enquire about our reports or any of our security, risk management and training services, please email operations@horizonweatafrica.org

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.