



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

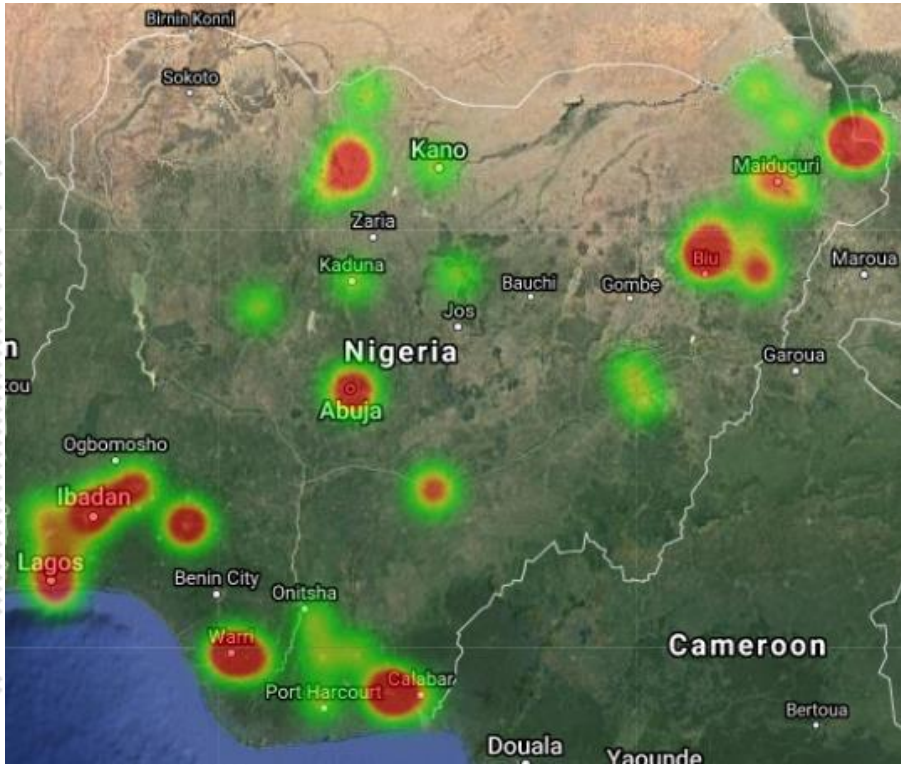
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DATE: 13 December 2020

WEEKLY INCIDENT REPORT

Covering period from 0000-hour 7 December to 1600 hours 13 December 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

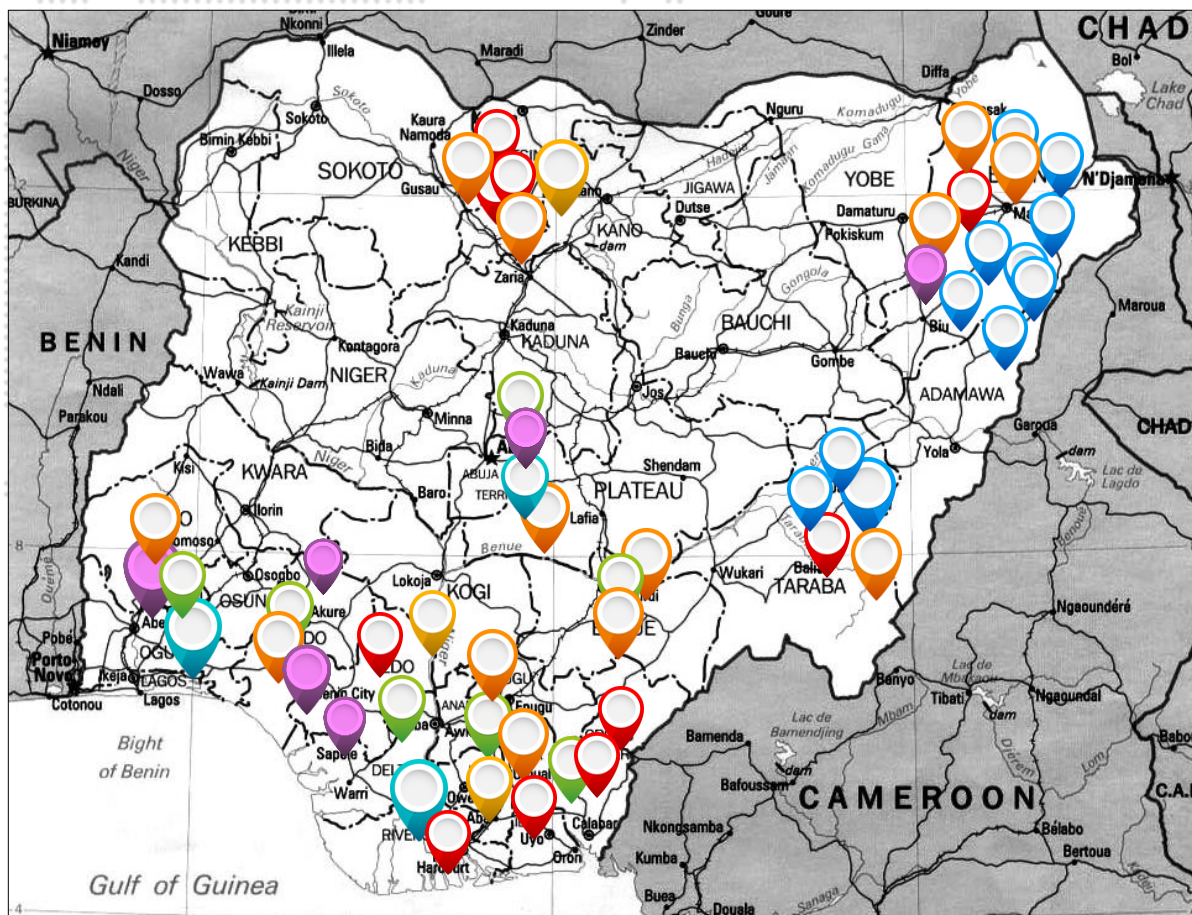


WEEKLY THREAT LEVEL ASSEMENT – High

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. Northwest recorded continued incidents orchestrated by armed men in several communities.
2. Although there were reports of criminal activities in the South West and North central regions while South South continues to record activities orchestrated mostly by cult groups. Heightened criminal activities during the yuletide has been attributed to the high poverty rate.
3. The Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) continue orchestrate attacks not only on civilians but also on military positions in the North East region. There is also a resurgence of the use of IEDs in attacks.
4. Kidnapping incidents increased in the reporting week as the number of victims increased to 641 following incidents in Katsina State.



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

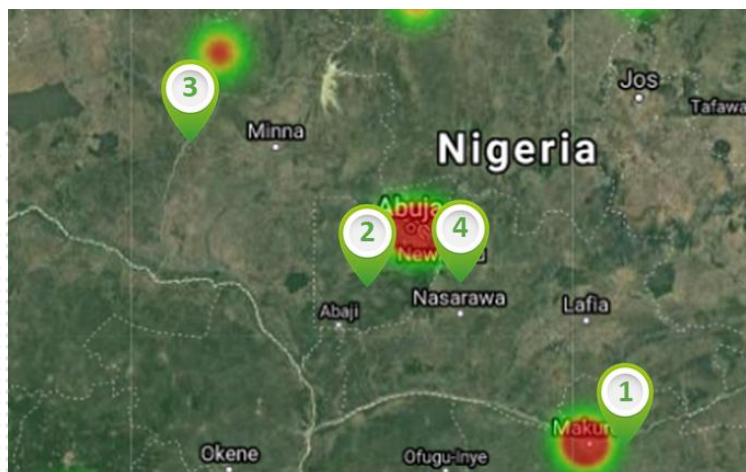
OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH CENTRAL (NC) REGION

1. On 7 December, a group of protesting youths invaded the All Progressive Congress (APC) Chairman's residence in Makurdi, Benue state, following the death of a man identified as a his security guard. Several properties and vehicles within the premises were vandalised.

2. On 7 December, Hundreds of Endsars protesters marched through major roads in Abuja, FCT to demand an end to police brutality and bad governance.

3. On 10 December, four individuals including a district head were abducted after a group of bandits who invaded Yakila and Garin-gabas communities in Rafi LGA, Niger State.

4. On 10 December, A man was attacked and inflicted with machete cut while jogging at an undisclosed location in Abuja, FCT. The assailants also dispossessed the victim of his mobile phone.



Analysis

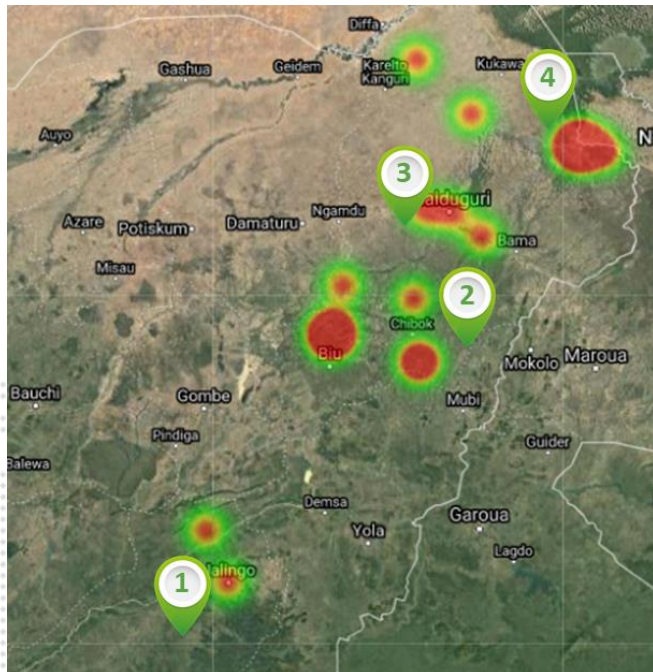
There was a general decline in criminal activities in the NC reporting week. Nevertheless, civil unrest, kidnappings and killings were recorded in Abuja FCT, Benue and Niger states. As recorded in the last reporting period, there seem to be an influx of bandits into Niger State and it has resulted into incidents of kidnappings and armed attacks as recorded on 10 December when four individuals were kidnapped including the district head by armed men who attacked two communities in Rafi LGA at about 0230 hours. Rafi LGA is one of the hot zones for kidnapping possibly due to its proximity to Kaduna State which is known as one of the Bandits territories in the Northwest region. Both foreigners and locals are highly targeted therefore operations in the area requires the use of secure ground transport.

Endsars protests resumed in Abuja FCT as several youths marched in the streets to demand an end to police brutality and bad governance. The number of protesters possibly deterred the police from showing force as the incident occurred without chaos. More protests are expected to occur in the next reporting period due to the general decline of government interventions in issues plaguing the citizens. There was also a report of robbery in the territory as a man was attacked with machete while jogging. Since the influx of hoodlums into the city during the Endsars protests in October, there have been reports of these types of incidents where individuals are extorted, kidnapped or robbed in daylight or at night times. Caution is therefore advised whilst navigating the city.

A report of herdsmen attacks was recorded in Benue State and it is expected that as the dry season begins more attacks are expected to occur as armed herdsmen who move around with their cattle clash with farmers over grazing space despite growing crops on farmlands.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH EAST (NE) REGION

1. On 8 December, unknown armed men kidnapped the lawmaker representing Nguroje



constituency, Saradauna LGA, Taraba State House of Assembly from his residence in Jalingo.

2. On 8 December, 10 civilians were killed when ISWAP fighters attacked military position IVO Alagarno, Borno State resulting in an exchange of SAF. One Soldier was captured, while four trucks were taken away by the assailants.

3. On 9 December, ISWAP fighters killed three vigilantes and one civilian in an attack on traders and transporters conveying goods IVO - Chingori along Rann - Boddo Road, Borno State.

4. On 12 December, Boko Haram insurgents attack an hospital and attempted to take over a military camp in Askira, Borno State. No further info as at time of writing.

Analysis

Reports that Boko Haram insurgents plans to intensify attacks using IEDs and PBIEDs between mid-December of 2020 and January 2021 on eight local governments mostly in Borno State which are Baga, Banki town, Damboa, Gwoza, Konduga, Maiduguri, Monguno and Damaturu in Yobe State including major highways linking cities in the North, was made public on 7 December amidst ongoing attacks in the NE. Already, these locations have recorded an upsurge in activities like kidnappings, robberies, mounting of illegal checkpoints and killings making the reports a warning which should galvanise the military to strategize on effective intelligence gathering and organise offensive operations which will eliminate these terrorist groups operating in the area. However, the military has not adequately responded to the ongoing insurgency in the country. Therefore, these attacks are expected to stretch through the region as the insurgents continually show unrestrained access on major highways specifically Borno State as it was recently reported that a humanitarian worker was kidnapped along Jakan-Damaturu Road on 9 December and by Friday 1225 hours, his Facebook status and photo reportedly changed to news about his death. It remains unclear if it was the victim or his abductors that shared this information.

In the week, an estimated 24 attacks were orchestrated by ISWAP in Borno and Taraba states as attacks, robberies and kidnap for ransom reigned supreme in the reporting week. A high-profile incident occurred in Jalingo where a lawmaker was kidnapped from his residence in the early hours of the morning. Although the family of the victim has not been contacted for ransom, it is expected to occur nonetheless or the victim is at risk of being killed. Eyewitness reports claim that there has been an upsurge in not only insurgency but also criminal activities in the state. In Wukari, Takum and Katsina-ala there has been an uptick in kidnappings and killings as people with slight affluence are being targeted. Also, reports indicated that robberies have become a common

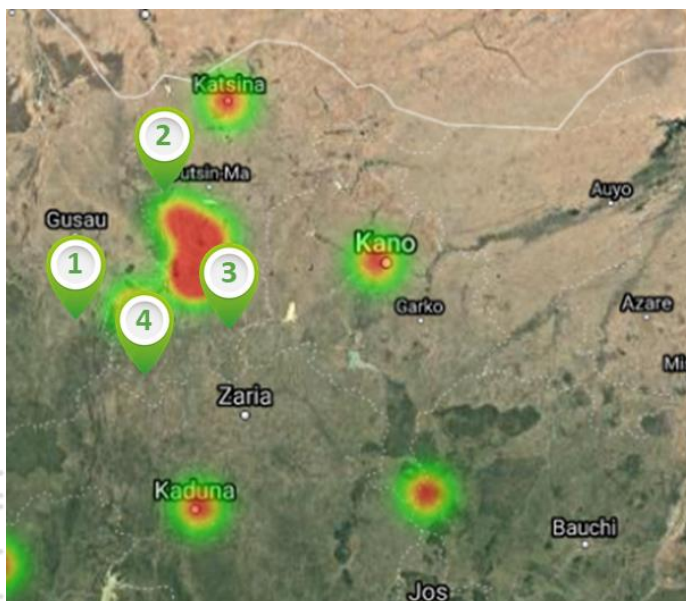
occurrence along Zing LGA, Mayo-Belwa, Ngurore and Yola road and most of the incidents are known to occur at 2000 hours.

Noteworthy is the IED attack on a passenger bus along Gamboru-Ngala road Borno State which killed four passengers and left eight others injured. The use of IEDs and PBIEDs have been rare in 2020 but it is expected to recommence as forewarned in the aforementioned report, with more terrorist attacks occurring in the coming week as it seems ISWAP and JAS have decided to employ the use of explosive devices. A new governor of Lake Chad has been appointed by ISWAP. His name is Aliyu Chakkar and was appointed after the former Amir Gomina was killed in airstrikes conducted by the Nigerian Airforce on 1 December in Sabon Tumbu.

IDP camps continue to be a target as another fire incident was reported in the week while three internally displaced persons were killed following an attack in Ngala.



OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH WEST (NW) REGION



1. **On 7 December**, a man was arrested by the police for impersonating a Nigerian Air Force officer and defrauding unsuspecting victims in Katsina State.
2. **On 8 December**, an estimated 25 individuals including a traditional ruler were abducted when bandits attacked four communities in Faskari LGA, Katsina State.
3. **On 11 December**, armed men abducted three passengers on a road between Dan Musa - Maidabino village, Dan Musa LGA, Katsina State.

4. **On 11 December**, 600 students were kidnapped by armed men from Government Secondary School, Kankara, Katsina State.

Analysis

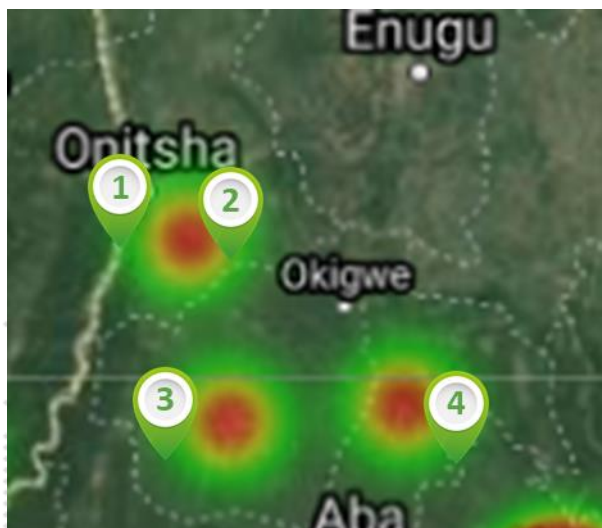
President Muhammadu Buhari commenced a week-long vacation at his ranch in Daura, Katsina State and simultaneously, there was an upsurge in criminal activities in the state as it recorded the most incidents in the week. Between 8 and 11 November, an estimated 631 individuals were kidnapped from the state including an estimated 600 students attending Government Science Secondary School (GSSS) in Kankara LGA which is two hours drive from the President's hometown.

On 11 December around 2130 hours after prep, GSSS was attacked by armed men who kidnapped several students mostly boys. The army present in the location reportedly engaged the assailants in a firefight for over an hour while a decoy group entered the school and moved the students. The group reportedly led the students to Pauwa village where they kept their motorcycles. The rest of the movement was done by foot. By 12 December, it was reported that some students escaped while the military located the assailants' hideout in Zango/Pauwa Forest. The Governor of the State, Masari immediately issued an order for the closure of all boarding schools in the state possibly as a measure to prevent other attacks from occurring.

However, since the incident, several speculations have emerged one of such is the possible collusion with security forces enabling the assailants to move the students without hinderances. The story remains a source for concern as this was the same way in which girls in Chibok and Dapchi, Borno State were moved from their schools never to be seen again. Also puts into question the group behind this type of mass kidnapping of children known mostly to be orchestrated by terrorist groups such as ISWAP.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST (SE) REGION

1. On 7 December, tanker crashed at Nawfia community along the old Enugu road in Onitsha



Anambra State. It was reported that the driver lost control while negotiating a sharp bend.

2. On 7 December, a suspected motorcycle thief was physically assaulted by a mob in Nnewi North LGA, Anambra state. The suspect was rescued from being lynched by police officers while one firearm, a motorcycle and two mobile phones were recovered.

3. On 7 December, several street sweepers barricaded the entrance to the Imo State Government House in Owerri to protest months of unpaid salaries

4. On 11 December, the police arrested four individuals in connection with child trafficking in Umuahia, Abia State.

Analysis

Two road traffic incidents, mob violence, an arrest and a protest were recorded in the SE in the reporting period with majority of the incidents occurring in Anambra State. One of the protests which occurred in week was recorded in Owerri as road sweepers denounced non-payment of salaries owed for several months. The protesters who were mostly women blocked the entrance of the government house in Owerri and insisted on seeing Governor Hope Uzodinma as they have not been paid since he took over office on 15 January 2020.

In Anambra State, a mob attacked a man suspected of being a motorcycle thief in Nnewi. Fortunately, he was rescued and arrested by the police. Mob violence is a common occurrence in the SE as individuals do not trust the police to mete out adequate justice to criminals caught in the act.

After the controversy surrounding the determination of who the All Progressive Congress (APC) candidate for the bye-elections would be, the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) announced that the Court will determine the legitimate candidate and the eventual winner of the Imo North Senatorial Election held on 5 December. Noteworthy, the Federal High Court, Abuja FCT disqualified Frank Ibezim as the candidate while the Court of Appeal, Owerri disqualified Ifeanyi Ararume as the candidate.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH SOUTH (SS) REGION

1. On 8 December, two persons were killed by unknown gunmen at Aduwawa and mechanic road in Ogida quarters of Benin, Edo State.



2. On 10 December, a police officer shot and killed a commercial tricycle driver over his refusal to pay a bribe along airport road, Port Harcourt, Rivers state.

3. On 11 December, vehicle snatched by armed men at shelter Afrique junction, Uyo, Akwa Ibom state.

4. On 11 December, armed clashes between cult groups at Nyong Essien street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Analysis

The reporting week recorded incidents of kidnapping in Edo and Cross River, cultist activities in Delta and Akwa Ibom State, protests and police shooting in Rivers State.

The reporting week was centred on the recent upsurge in criminal activities in Akwa Ibom State. A state once known for its relative calmness and thriving nightlife has seen a major safety decline in recent weeks. Eyewitness claim an average of three incidents specifically robberies and vehicle hijackings are recorded daily in the capital. Major city centres like Aka road, Nyong Essien and Shelter Afrique junction have been targeted by armed men who attack at all times of the day. Businesses have been forced to close early to avoid being victims of attacks.

Another incident of police shooting was recorded in Port Harcourt after a commercial tricycle driver was shot and killed for refusing to bribe a police officer. This led to a violent protest by his colleagues who demanded justice or his death. Police shooting and brutality is a common trend in the country and the major reason for the Endsars protests.

Armed clashes between rival cult groups are common in Warri, Delta State and two incidents were recorded in the reporting week between 7 and 10 December. There is a high possibility that these groups can be faulted for orchestrating robberies and kidnappings in the state and neighbouring cities.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH WEST (SW) REGION

1. On 7 December, a suspected armed robber was killed by police officers during a foiled robbery operation along Sagamu-Ikenne road. Other members of the group managed to escape while a firearm and a vehicle were recovered.



Analysis

The reporting week recorded an upsurge in killings and robberies in the Southwest. Osun, Oyo and Ogun reported cases of robberies, kidnapping and killings. Interestingly, no fire incident occurred in the reporting week and there was decline in criminal incidents in Lagos State possibly due to the return of security operatives to some parts of the state. Nevertheless, the surrounding states recorded an upsurge in criminal activities such as the theft of the Ogun State Assembly's mace which was later recovered by police officers of the Lagos State. The highlight for the week in Lagos state was the report that Governor Jide Sanwoolu had tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently being treated. This was announced following calls by residents of the state on social media demanding his whereabouts.

In Oyo State, two foreign nationals of Indian descent were kidnapped whilst travelling along Lagos – Ibadan Highway in Oyo State at about 1600 hours. They were ambushed whilst leaving the premises of a pharmaceutical firm near Toll Gate when gunshots were fired at their tyres forcing them to stop before they were taken away. Also, two robbery incidents resulting in the deaths of two persons also occurred in the state but the other incident involving the death of a politician remains suspect as he was attacked by four armed men at about 1750 hours whilst travelling along Apodun road, Igangan area of the state.

The youths in Akure, Ondo State and Oshogbo, Osun State took part in the Endsars protest against police brutality on 7 December but one of the conveners in Oshogbo was arrested on 10 December for allegedly impersonating the Nigerian Army. The accusation remains unclear as at time of writing.

2. On 8 December, a commercial bus driver was arrested for using a blunt weapon to inflict injury on an official of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), in Jakande, Eti-Osa LGA, Lagos state

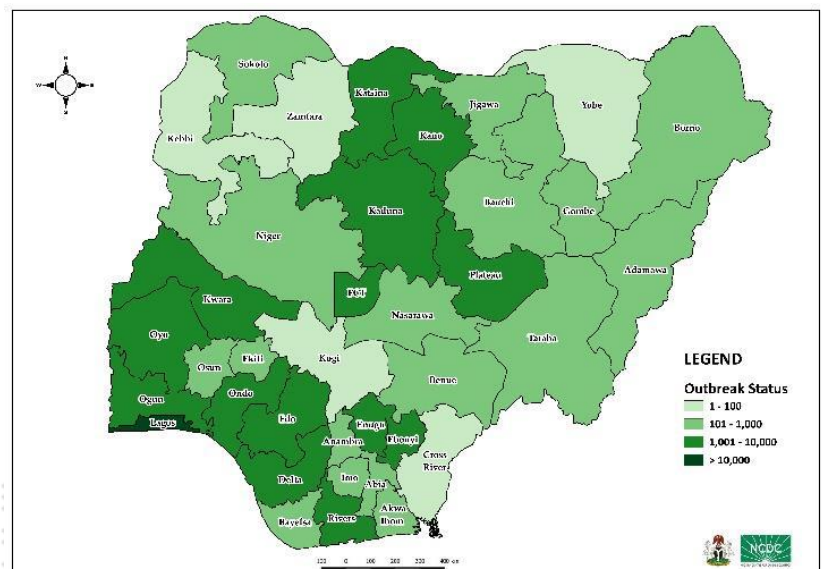
3. On 9 December, Unidentified individuals invaded the Ogun State House of Assembly, Abeokuta and carted away the Mace.

4. On 10 December, two female suspects who attempted to abduct a four-year-old child were physically assaulted and killed by a mob in Iwo, Osun State. One other male accomplice managed to escape

OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY COVID-19 NUMBERS

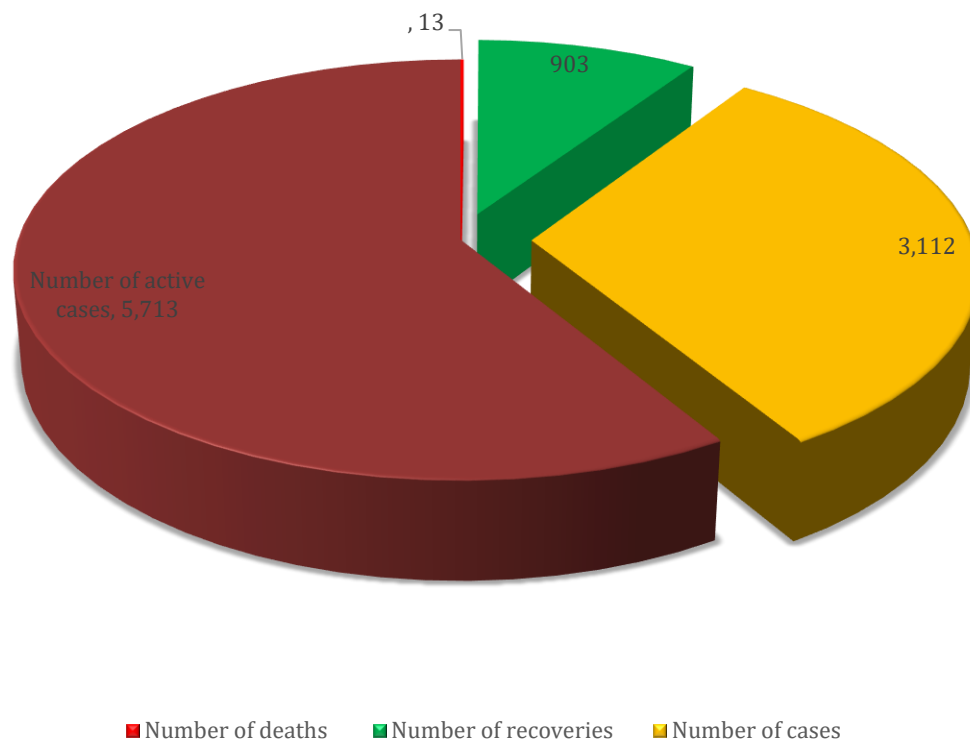
First case of COVID-19 was recorded in the country on 27 February after an Italian national returned from his trip to Milan. Other cases have been recorded in all parts of the country. As at 13 December, total number of confirmed cases is at 72,757. The country is currently recording an upsurge in numbers of those infected with the virus.

Confirmed cases for the week	3,112
Recoveries for the week	903
Deaths for the week	13
Total number of cases	72,757
Total Number of recoveries	65,850
Total number of deaths	1,194



Distribution of cumulative cases

Weekly Covid Stats 7 December - 13 December 2020





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