



**Horizon West Africa – Mali** 150 Metres Route de Koulikoro Sotuba ACI Route 3EME Pont, Bamako  
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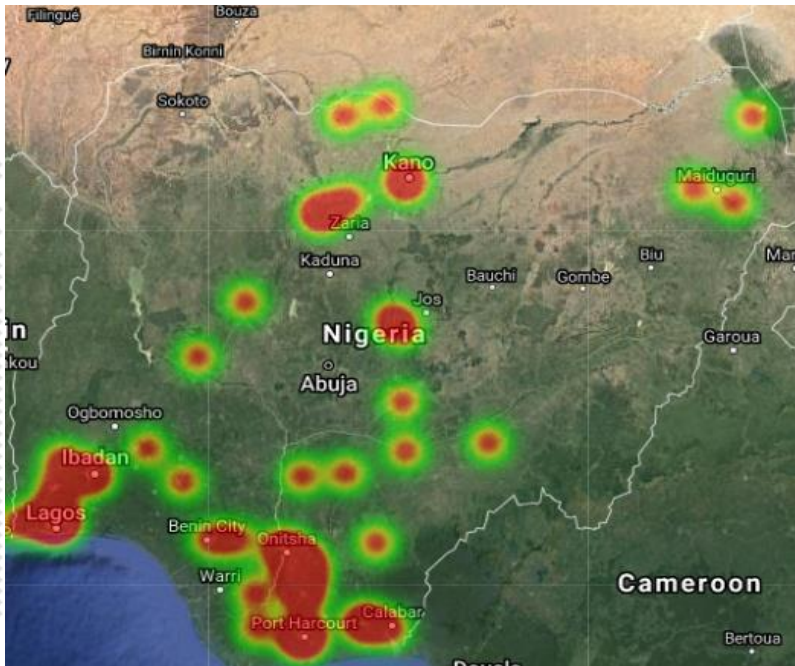
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**DATE: 20 December 2020**

**WEEKLY INCIDENT REPORT**

Covering period from 0000-hour 14 December to 1600 hours 20 December 2020

**HIGHLIGHTS**

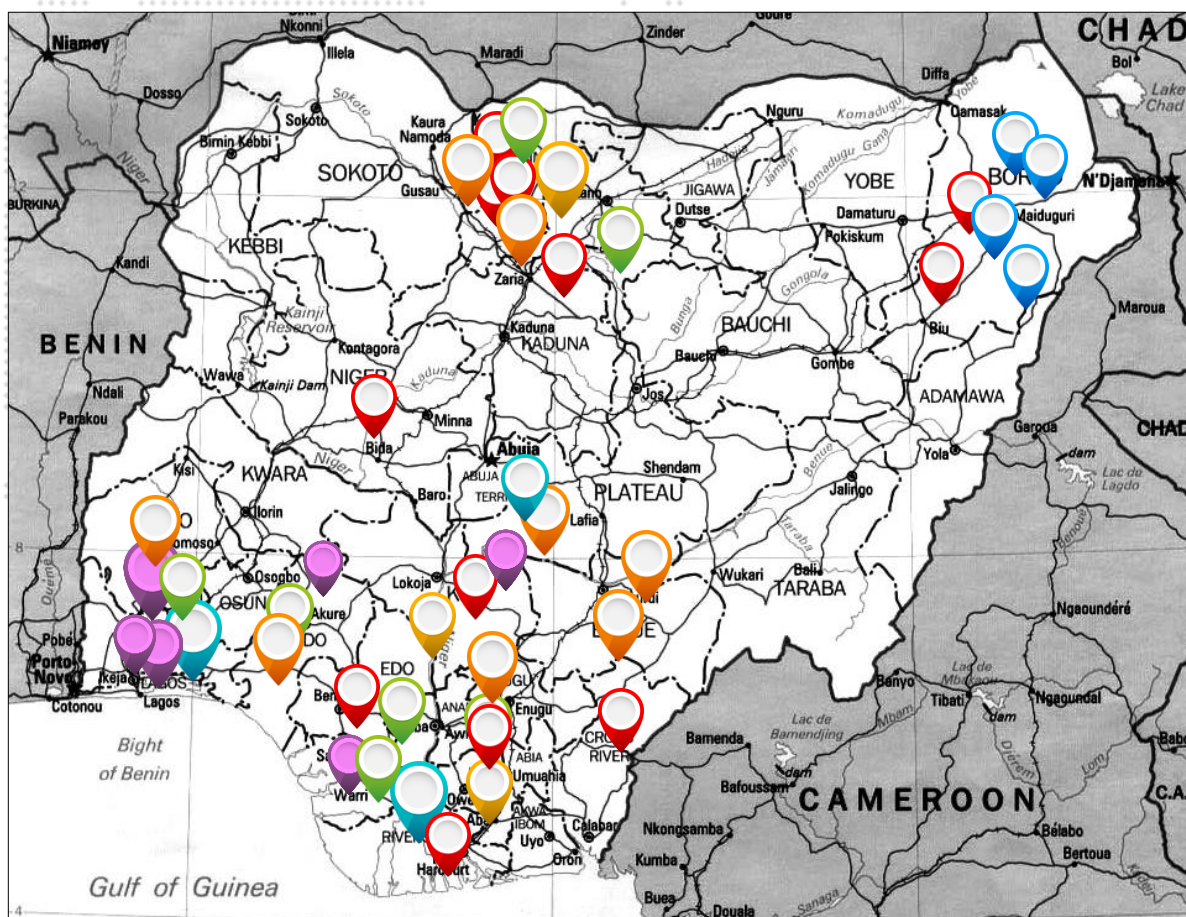


**WEEKLY THREAT LEVEL ASSEMENT – Medium**

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. The rising insecurities in the Northwest region came to a crescendo in the week as kidnapped students from Katsina State were rescued in the last reporting week.
2. Cult clashes were a major threat in the South South region as fatalities were recorded after armed conflicts in Delta, Bayelsa and Rivers states while robberies and killings were recorded in other regions.
3. ISWAP operations continued in the reporting week but the highlight of the week was the link between the incident in Katsina and insurgents.
4. Kidnapping continue to be a major concern in the country as there was an uptick in the abduction of foreign nationals. All clients are advised to take adequate measures to safeguard their foreign and local assets.



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

## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH CENTRAL (NC) REGION

**1. On 14 December**, 22 persons were kidnapped by unidentified armed men who attacked residents of Ogu and Tegina communities in Rafi LGA, Niger State. The assailants raided several houses and made away with valuable items.



**2. On 15 December**, a man identified as a lawyer, his wife and a septuagenarian were killed while three others were injured by armed men suspected to be Fulani herdsmen at their respective homes in Markurdi, Benue State.

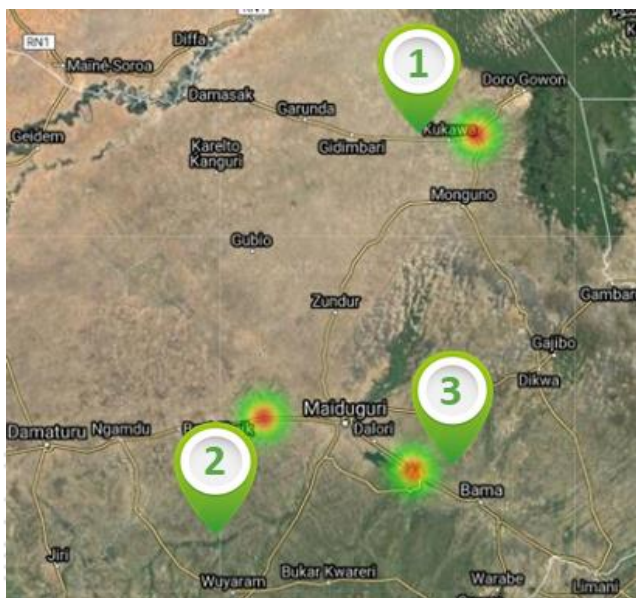
**3. On 17 December**, several properties were destroyed after fire engulfed a filling station when a petrol tanker was discharging its content into an underground tank in the Central Area of Lafia, Nasarawa State.

**4. On 18 December**, the acting Eje of Ankpa was abducted by unknown armed men while entering a mosque in Ankpa LGA, Kogi State.

### Analysis

Kidnapping, herdsmen attack and fire are some of the incidents recorded during the reporting period in Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa and Niger states. Two separate kidnapping incidents occurred in Rafi LGA with 22 individuals kidnapped from their homes in Ogu and Tegina communities. The assailants who arrived on motorcycles invaded the communities at 0030 hours were able to transport these individuals out of the area. The possibility of moving these number of people at that hour of the day without interference from security forces has become easier for these organised assailants considering that surrounding bushes and forest are the perfect camouflage for them to perpetuate their activities. The other two kidnapping incidents which occurred in Kogi could possibly be politically motivated as the victims is the acting monarch in Ankpa LGA who was abducted before entering a mosque in the area at 0530 hours while the other was the former LGA chairman for Olamaboro kidnapped along the highway in Ofu LGA. Another kidnapping incident was foiled by security operatives when an unknown number of men armed with AK-47 attempted to kidnap a Chinese National along Wukari-Jalingo Highway, Wukari LGA, Taraba State. One of the assailants was killed while the others reportedly escaped with gunshot injuries. Herdsmen of Fulani origins attacked Agboghul village in Markurdi, Benue State at 2300 hours. The Governor of the state, Samuel Ortom described the attackers as terrorists and reiterated his resolve on creating the anti-grazing law which is expected to curb the threat against farmlands and residents. One of the fire incidents in the week occurred in Nasarawa State as a petrol tanker was engulfed in fire whilst discharging its content at 2330 hours at a filling station in Lafia. Fortunately, no casualty was recorded.

## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH EAST (NE) REGION



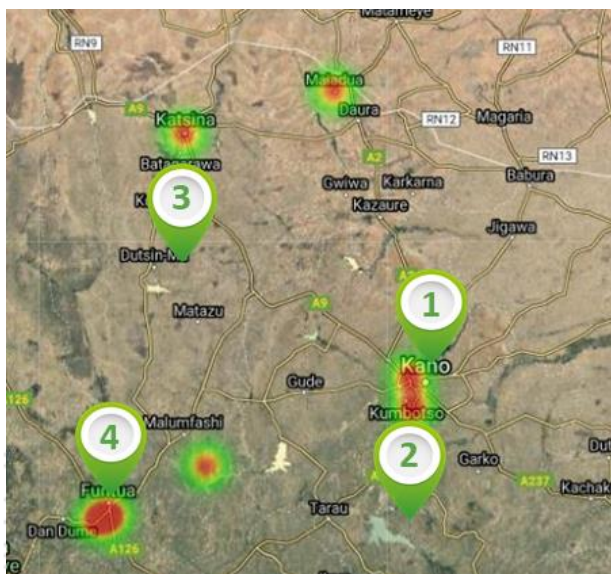
1. On 17 December, nine insurgents were killed by troops of Operation Fire Ball during an attack on a Super Camp at Cross-Kauwa town, Kukawa LGA, Borno State.
2. On 18 December, Boko Haram insurgents kidnap 35 travellers along Damaturu-Maiduguri road, Borno State.
3. On 19 December, a female person borne improvised explosive device detonated killing three person and left two others injured in Konduga, Borno State.

### Analysis

The reporting week continued with reports of Boko Haram activities, albeit a decline compared to the last reporting week. There is resurgence of the use of IEDs and PBIEDs as was the case on 19 December when a female suicide bomber detonated her device in Konduga which has been mostly affected by attacks from the group. Furthermore, another 35 passengers were abducted whilst travelling along the Damaturu-Maiduguri Highway which has also been a target point for the insurgents. It is important to note that Boko Haram has already threatened the public in the last reporting period on how their operations will be carried out and these incidents are just a manifestation of the group's unfettered access in Borno State.

Meanwhile, the incident which occurred in Katsina State (NW) at the end of the last reporting period in which secondary school boys were kidnapped from their hostel transcended borders to become a major terrorist threat in the country. Speculations concerning the abduction of at least 500 boys from their hostels became the highlight of the week as a video with Abubakar Shekau, leader of the Boko Haram Sect claiming the attack was made public days after the abduction, confirming the fears that the group was not only situated in the NE but also in the NW. There is also a possibility that the sect is hiding out in the bushes of the NW rather than the NE as suggested by the security forces. It was reported by OSCINT that the abduction was orchestrated by bandits on behalf of the Boko Haram faction and they were transported to Borno State and held till negotiations were concluded for their release. Some of the boys were eventually released and the government claimed that there was no payment made to the sect. No insurgent was however captured neither was their any military operation to find the culprits. Therefore, it is believed that the ease with which the negotiations were completed could possibly galvanise other criminal groups to take advantage of the lax in the security strategy of the government and continue to be an extended arm of Boko Haram. To confirm this, a day after the boys were release, another 80 students were kidnapped whilst travelling between villages in Dandume LGA, Katsina State. There is a high possibility that more kidnappings of this magnitude might reoccur.

## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN NORTH WEST (NW) REGION



1. On 15 December, Fire broke out in a storey building at Sabon Gari, Kano State.
2. On 17 December, seven persons were killed by armed men who attacked residents of Gora Gan community, Zango-Kataf LGA, Kaduna State.
3. On 17 December, the eight individuals were killed including three police officers after the convoy of the Emir of Kaura Namoda, Zamfara State was attacked by unknown armed men along Zaria-Funtua road, Katsina State.
4. On 19 December, 80 students of an Islamic school who were on a religious procession in Mahuta town, Dandume LGA, Katsina State

### Analysis

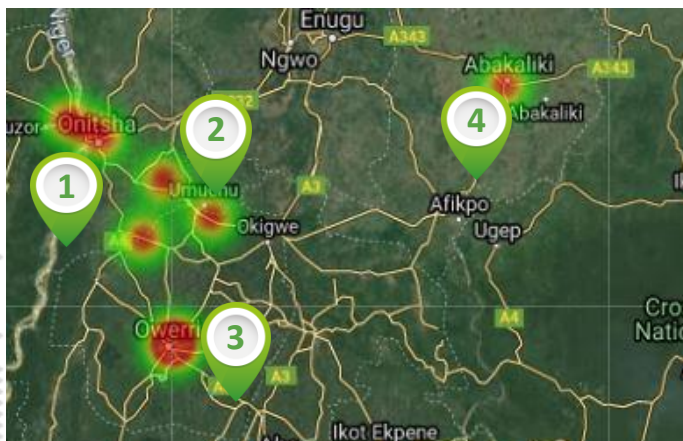
The NW recorded an upsurge in protests during the reporting week following the events that occurred after the abduction of an estimated 500 school boys from their hotel in Katsina State. State Governors possibly as a measure to reduce abductions, enforced the closure of all schools in the Northwest leading to protests from students and concerned parents in Kano and Katsina states.

As forecasted in the last reporting period, the mode of operation which was similar to previous kidnappings organised by the terrorist group Boko Haram, was used in displacing the boys from school. Reports emerged that claimed the abduction was orchestrated by Miyetthi Allah, a group of Fulani Herdsmen known to operate nationwide. This group have been known to issue threats in the past and state governments have been known to negotiate with their leaders to curb the violent activities of their members. According to one of the teenage boys who escaped, they were forced to walk long hours and when they tried to flee, they were assured they were soldiers and had nothing to fear raising the possibility that the assailants were disguised in military uniform. Fortunately, some were released with claims by the government that no ransom was paid. The release was facilitated by the Zamfara State Governor who has remained a key player in enabling the release of kidnap victims in the past months. Noteworthy, he was also essential during the release of school girls kidnapped from Faskari LGA in November. This did not however assure the populace who were keen on the conspiracies rather than the outcome of the incident. On 19 December, another 80 Islamic School students were kidnapped whilst returning from a neighbouring village in Dandume LGA in Katsina State. It was reported that security forces and vigilantes engaged in a firefight with the abductors and were able to save the students. Number of rescued, injured, killed or still held hostage remains unknown as at time of writing.

Kidnappings in the NW is rated as high with Kaduna and Katsina recording the highest number of incidents and victims.

## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH EAST (SE) REGION

1. On 15 December, a Catholic priest was kidnapped by four unidentified armed men at Umulolo in Arondizuogu area of Imo State while travelling to Anambra State.



2. On 16 December, a police station was set ablaze by a mob after a commercial motorcyclist was shot and killed by a police officer in Igbo-Ukwu, Aguata LGA, Anambra State.

3. On 17 December, several female street sweepers protested unpaid salaries at the entrance of the Imo State Government House.

4. On 17 December, security forces cordoned off the Abakiliki Building Materials Market in Ebonyi State following the alleged discovery of ammunition. Afikpo road connecting the market was also closed off forcing motorists to use alternate routes.

### Analysis

Kidnappings are becoming prevalent in the SE with at least 9 individuals kidnapped between the last and current reporting period. Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Imo have recorded cases in which influential individuals are kidnapped off inter-city highways for ransom on most occasions. Imo State recorded two kidnapping incident the same day on 15 December and both individuals were religious; one being a Catholic priest and the other a church leader. No information has been released concerning them or their abductors. The concern however is that these kidnappings are orchestrated by herdsmen who have been able to infiltrate some states like Abia and Enugu leaving a trail of terror which has majorly prevented residents from going to their farms. Eyewitness reports claimed that kidnappings have been on the rise in Abia State but they have not been captured by the popular media.

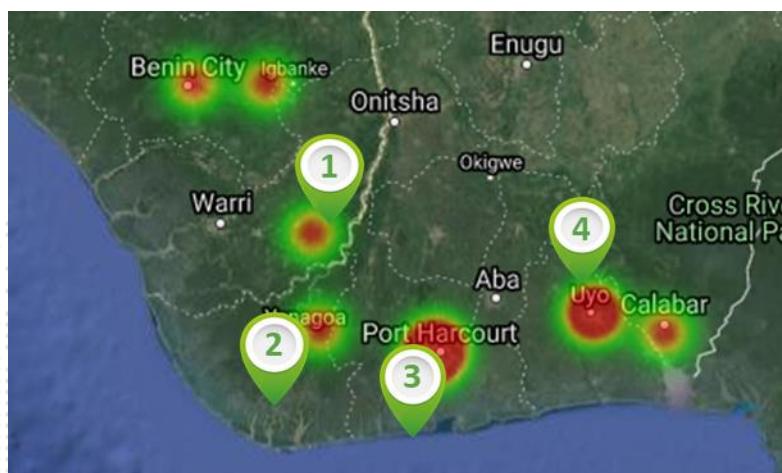
In response, a security group called the Eastern Security Network (ESN) organised by the proscribed, Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) have commenced patrols around bushes in some SE states. Although it has gained traction amongst the affected populace, the scepticism from other regions remain as uncertainty mounts on the level of insecurity which could emerge from arming the group.

Street sweepers of Imo State held another round of protests at the government house to demand payment of owed salaries.

## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH SOUTH (SS) REGION

**1. On 14 December**, a security guard was shot and killed by armed robbers who invaded the homes of several residents in Jeddo community, Okpe LGA, Delta State.

**2. On 16 December**, a suspected cult member was killed during an armed clash between rival cult groups at Edepie-Etegwé roundabout, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



**3. On 17 December**, a man was shot and killed by armed men who trailed him from a commercial bank at Evo road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Another occupant of the vehicle was injured during the incident.

**4. On 18 December**, Akwa Ibom State announced the cancellation of all state government events with large crowds due to the resurgence of COVID-19 cases.

### Analysis

Criminal incidents in the South South remain a major concern as the reporting week recorded a moderate level of incidents ranging from armed conflicts to protests in all the states in the region.

Cult activities remain prevalent in the SS and during the week at least five persons were killed during armed conflict between rival cult groups in Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states.

Two kidnapping incidents occurred in Delta and Edo states in which three persons were kidnapped between 16 and 19 December. The incident in Delta was a boy kidnapped because the mother did not meet the ransom demands while the Edo incident involved the abduction of the Head of Service, Anthony Okungbowa along Oza Road, off Benin-Asaba Highway in Orhionmwon LGA. His driver was killed before he was whisked away by his assailants. The kidnap of high-profile persons for ransom is a common trend not only in the SS but also in other regions of the country.



## OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS IN SOUTH WEST (SW) REGION

**1. On 15 December**, a Chinese national and a local were killed during a violent confrontation between a Chinese team and some local miners at a mining

site in Ido-Oko, Obokun LGA, Osun State. Another local miner was injured during the incident

**2. On 16 December**, a robber was set ablaze by a mob while his partner was killed by some youths for robbing a motorist of his mobile phone and cash in Ibadan, Oyo State.

**3. On 18 December**, Lagos State government announced a restriction on large gatherings and parties as a measure to curb the resurgence of COVID-19 in the state.

**4. On 19 December**, a fire incident was reported along Otedola bridge, Lagos State. Eleven persons were injured in the incident.



### Analysis

The Lagos State Government has placed restrictions on gatherings of large crowds after the Federal Government Task Force on COVID-19 announced the second wave of COVID-19. Events which were anticipated by the populace for the season have all been cancelled till further notice. To show the government's commitment to curb the spread of the virus, several individuals were sent out of a club in Victoria Island on 19 December at about 2300 hours for violating the curfew put in place by the Federal Government which restricts movement from 0000 hours – 0400 hours.

Amidst the above are the continuous reports of armed robberies as recorded in Ajah, Eti-Osa LGA when a filling station was robbed by armed men. Ajah remains a volatile area for armed robberies with threat levels fluctuating between moderate and high. Robberies like in the past weeks are expected to increase during the festivities as criminals take advantage of bad roads and traffic to attack both motorists and pedestrians.

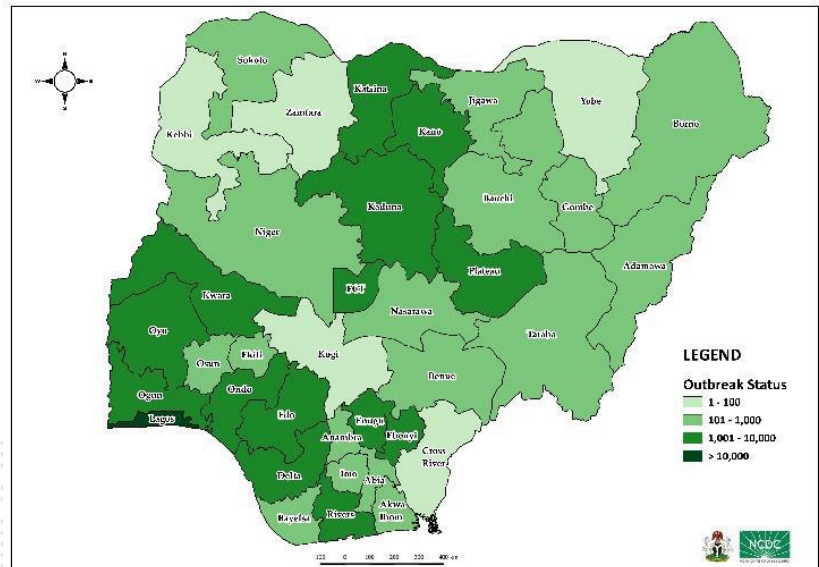
The week also recorded a return of fire incidents which were mostly caused by petrol tankers. Oyo and Lagos States recorded incidents in which tankers were engulfed in fire and in the case of Lagos, eleven individuals were injured during the incident.

Osun State recorded an incident in which a Chinese national was killed during a dispute with miners identified as Hausas at a mining site in Idoko village, Obokun. The event occurred at 1630 hours and escalated after operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) fired a gunshot which killed one of the miners and in retaliation, miners physically assaulted two Chinese nationals resulting in the death of one while the other was injured.

## OVERVIEW OF WEEKLY COVID-19 NUMBERS

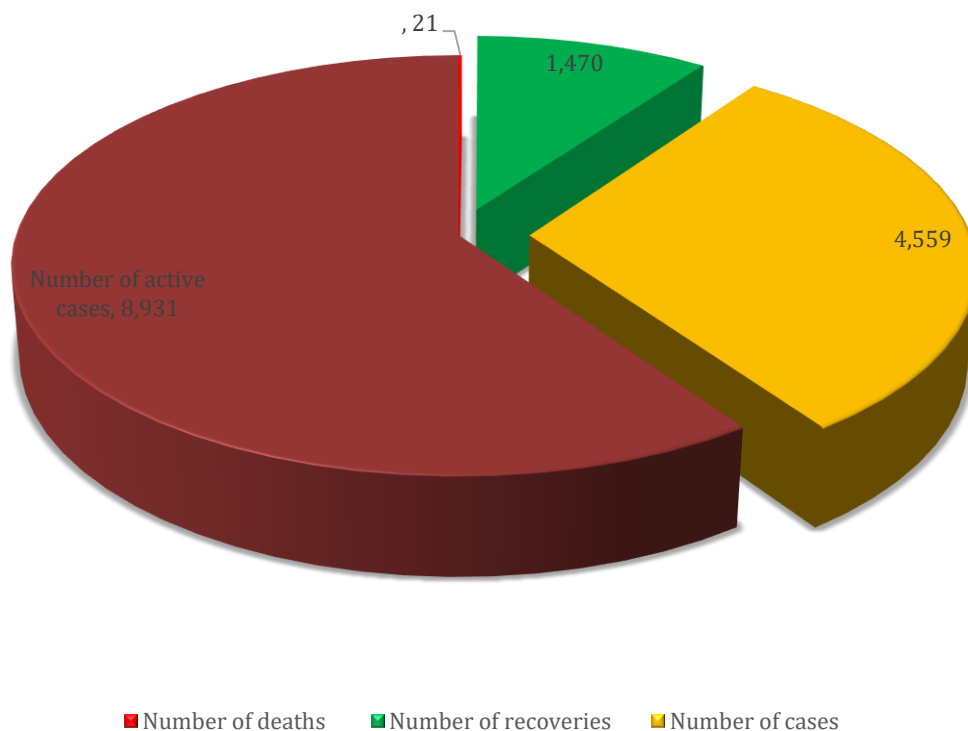
First case of COVID-19 was recorded in the country on 27 February after an Italian national returned from his trip to Milan. Other cases have been recorded in all parts of the country. As at 20 December, total number of confirmed cases is at 77,933. The government officially announced the second wave of the virus spread and some states have put in place measures like restrictions on large gatherings to reduce spread.

Confirmed cases for the week	4,559
Recoveries for the week	1,470
Deaths for the week	21
Total number of cases	77,933
Total Number of recoveries	67,784
Total number of deaths	1,218



Distribution of cumulative cases

### Weekly Covid Stats 14 December - 20 December 2020





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