

PEACE AND CONFLICT TRENDS ANALYSIS



Adamawa & Borno States

January 2019

CONTENTS

Summary

Risk Factor I - Thurdles to Credible and Violence-free Elections in Borno and Adamawa states

Risk Factor II - Insurgent attacks on security personnel in Borno state.

Risk Factor III: Renewed Farmers - Herders clashes in Adamawa state

Recommendation

Search for Common Ground (Search)

is an international nonprofit organization that promotes peaceful resolution of conflict. Search's mission is to transform how individuals, organizations, and governments deal with conflict, away from adversarial approaches and towards cooperative solutions. Search has been operational in Nigeria since 2004, working mainly in Nigeri Delta, North East and North Central.

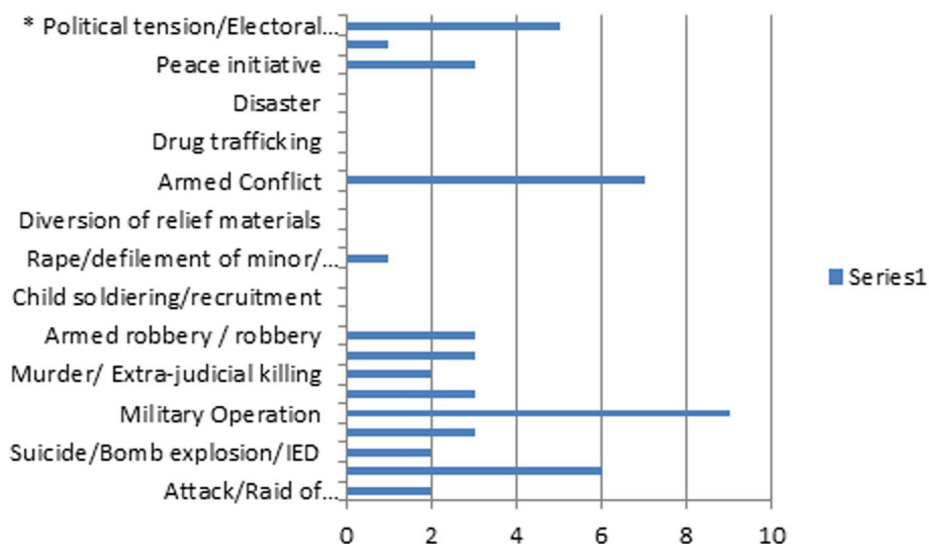
Where do we get our information?

This publication provides analysis of risk and peace factors emerging from monitoring trends of incidents and situation reports in Borno and Adamawa States where Search's early warning and early response system is operational. The system relies on data from trained community observers, Search staff, and local partners.

Search for Common Ground - Nigeria

+234 802 302 1631 @sfcgnigeria
www.sfcg.org/nigeria SFCGNigeria
bademola@sfcg.org

INCIDENT BY CATEGORY



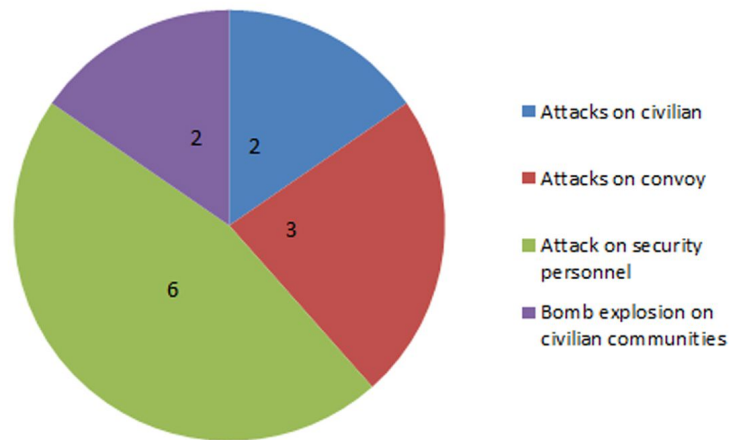
SUMMARY

This trends analysis highlights key threats to peace and security in Adamawa and Borno states in January, 2019. These include: electoral violence and malpractices ahead of the 2019 general elections in Borno and Adamawa state, renewed farmers -herders clashes in Adamawa state and insurgent attacks in Borno state by Boko haram and its splinter, the Islamic state in West African Province (ISWAP) on civilians and security operatives in Borno and Adamawa states, criminal activities especially assault, armed robbery, sexual and gender based violence, murder and abduction.

Electoral violence and malpractices for 10% of all recorded incidents, renewed farmers-herders clashes in Adamawa state 14%, insurgents attack on civilians and security 26%, military operation 18%, criminal activities 24% and peace initiative 8%. In state by state analysis of incidents, Borno state accounts for 60% of the incidents while 40% occurred in Adamawa state. At local government area (LGA) level, 10 LGAs in Borno and five LGAs in Adamawa recorded incidents. 18% of the incidents in Borno occurred in Jere LGA while Numan LGA in Adamawa accounted for 18% of the incidents in the state.

Risk Factor I – Pre-electoral violence and malpractice ahead of the 2019 general elections

On January 20, there was an armed clash between the APC and the PDP over burning of posters, billboard and tents belonging to APC in Bazza, Michika LGA. On same day, six people were injured during an armed clash between supporters of different political party at PDP senatorial camp, Maiduguri metropolitan.



Four incidents of electoral violence and one case of electoral malpractices were reported in the early warning system (EWS) in the month. On January 12, there was an armed clash between supporters of People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressive Congress (APC) in Majimari community in Jere LGA, over the removal of PDP postal by supporters of the APC, two civilians were reportedly killed in the incident.

In Bolori Gana, Maiduguri, number of civilians clashed among each other following a disagreement on political campaign related issues, injuring 3. Also in Jere LGA, politicians were alleged to be involved in inducing people to sell their Voters Identification Number (VIN) and/or the Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs). In Mairari community in the LGA, a woman reportedly sold her PVC for N30,000.00 (\$80 USD). The month also witnessed proliferation of small and light weapons in the polity. Youths believed to be supporting either of the major political parties were seen walking about freely with knives, dagger and machetes in Maisandari as other communities.

This display of weapon has increased the sense of insecurity and danger in the communities as reported by the Community Response Network (CRN) and Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) and Community Response network CRN facilitated by Search for Common Ground in the states. Another emerging concern is from internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Bollori II camp in Maiduguri who have threatened to jeopardize Governor Shettima’s senatorial ambition over grievances to accommodation in the state’s IDP camp.

Pre-election violence and malpractices may jeopardize the efforts of election management bodies to organize credible and violence free elections in 2019.

The current level of violence associated with the elections is largely attributed to the activities of desperate politicians, lack of internal democracy in political parties and weak security architecture in the states. Issues of inadequate voter education among the electorate, poverty and unemployment, abuse of process by officials, poor democratic culture addition, availability of arms and light weapons also triggers violent clashes.

As armed clashes between supporters of different political parties are increasing ahead of the general elections, electoral malpractices are also on the rise. According to report from Community mobilizers of Search for Common Ground (SFCG) politicians distribute food items and money to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and community members in exchange for Permanent Voters Cards (PVC). In Teachers village and the Bakassi IDP camps in Maiduguri, desperate politicians reportedly exchanged food items for PVCs and in Mairari, Jere LGA, PVCs were exchanged for some amount of money. Increasingly, pre-electoral malpractices are attributed to attempt by desperate politicians to manipulate current humanitarian situation in especially Borno state to their advantage. The need to stem this tide is dire, to ensure that elections in the states are credible and violence-free.

Risk Factor II – Insurgent Attacks on Security Personnel in Borno state.

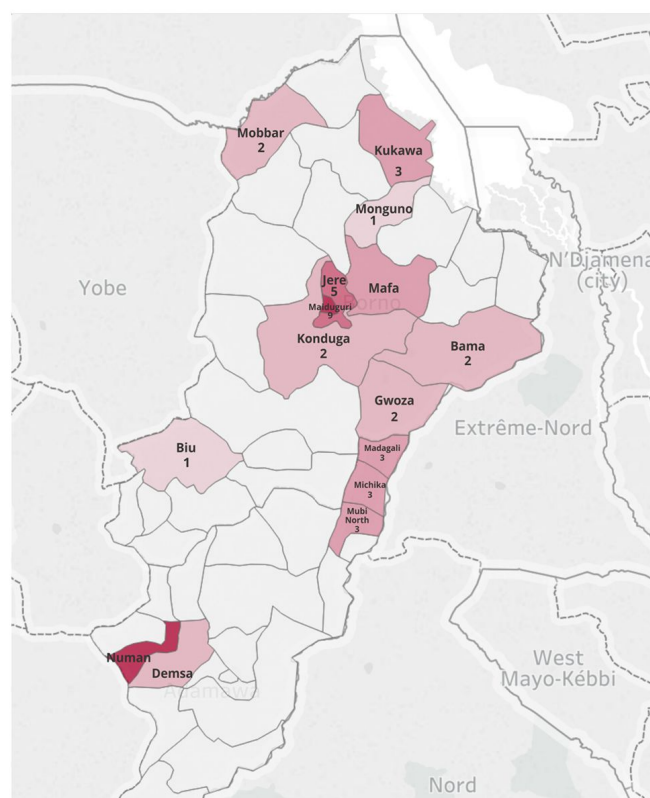
In January, seven cases of insurgent attacks on security personnel were recorded on the early warning system. Attacks were recorded in Mobbar, Konduga, Bama, Mafa, and Kukawa LGAs. The attacks were credited to the ISWAP a splinter group Boko Haram.

The attacks were reportedly carried out with improved explosives (IEDs), sophisticated weapons like anti-aircraft guns and RPGs. On January 1, two military checkpoints were attacked at Wajirko and Kimba, Biu LGA. On January 2, there was an attack on military checkpoint at Damasak and Mobbar LGAs which killed five security personnel. On January 7, another attack was recorded in Damasak, prompt response by the military repelled the attack; one insurgent was arrested, five insurgent vehicles were destroyed and several insurgent ammunitions were recovered.

A similar attack in Auno community in Konduga LGA killed one military personnel, two vehicles were seized and parts of the security post set ablaze. While an insurgent's attack on a security post in Bama LGA was resisted by military personnel; the attack left two soldiers and one civilian JTF injured. The January 19 attack on Baga LGA was with vehicle borne IED and suicide bomb carriers. Counter offensive by the military led to the killing of three insurgents and recovery of ammunitions. On January 23, suspected insurgent attacked military post at Hajiri community, Mafa LGA and abducted a Major General.

Sustained insurgent's attacks on military personnel and checkpoints showed insurgents' renewed capacity to carry out attacks in Borno state. Despite of these attacks, security operatives in Damasak and Baga repelled the insurgents.

This reflects a desire to strengthen security structure in the northeast, as well as renewed efforts to evict insurgents from the Lake Chad Basin, to strengthen the security architecture of Borno state, the state government inaugurated a team of 500 hunters to support security operatives in rooting out insurgents and criminals from their hideouts in the state. In line with this security operatives arrested 18 suspected insurgents, two accomplices, several criminals and scores of insurgents were reportedly killed in the military offensive. While 31 civilians were reportedly released from insurgent's captivity. Continued Military operations in Borno state is critical to improve security and sense of safety of residents of the state.



The extraordinary summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Lake Chad Basin Commission held in December 2018 re-strategized and reviewed the concept of security operations on the Lake Chad Basin.

Risk Factor III **Farmers – Pastoralist clashes in Adamawa state**

In January, six clashes were recorded between farmers and pastoralists in Adamawa state. One incident was reported in Demsa LGA while five were reported in Numan LGA. At least six people were killed in the incidents while many others were injured in the incidents. Adamawa state has a long history of farmer-pastoralist and has recorded one of the highest numbers of death resulting the conflict in Nigeria. In 2018 Adamawa state reportedly recorded about 540 death, most of which occurred in Numan LGA. This clashes have continued this month. On January 4, suspected herder attacked a burial ceremony in Bolki community of Numan LGA and killed one person.

On January 22, suspected herdsmen allegedly attacked Bare community and burnt down several buildings including those recently renovated were burnt by the Fulani. In Bare, suspected Fulani herders attacked farmers, killed one civilian and burnt a house. On January 22, attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen left several houses burnt and many injured. An attack on Ndasso in Numan LGA killed three people, with several houses set ablaze.

Community stakeholders have attributed this clashes on competition for land resources for grazing and crop farming, weak governance of land resources and weak capacity of security personnel to protect communities and prevent attacks.

Communities alleged slow responses to information shared by community members before and during attacks which, raises suspicion among farming communities of culpability of security operatives in the conflict. The proximity of Numan to Taraba state allegedly makes it vulnerable to attacks from pastoralists from Taraba state, farming communities in Numan alleged that some pastoralists that attack came from neighboring communities and retreat after attacks.

Recommendations

Voters' Education and Sensitization:

Adamawa and Borno state governments should work with the Independent Electoral Commission, the National Orientation Agency, civil society organizations and other relevant agencies to sensitize the citizens about the role of the citizens in the electoral process and the danger of selling their VIN and PVC. So also, working with other relevant actors civil society organizations should engage at-risk youth and violence free elections. At the political level, political party leaderships should be engaged on working with their party's flag bearers to campaign against vote buying and using of political thugs. Nigeria Police should be alert to his responsibility of maintaining law and order and apprehending instigators of violence in the electoral process.

Government Intervention:

The government of Taraba and Adamawa states needs to develop a joint plan to address the protracted conflict between farmers and pastoralist in the border LGA of Numan LGA in Adamawa state and Lau LGA in Taraba states. In addition, improved synergy and communication between security forces and community members would help to promote early responses, especially against impending attacks. While security position at the outskirts of Numan LGA should be strengthened to diffusion of violence from a community to the other.