



## Early Warning Systems Monitor

*GLIC Weekly Report:  
31 January, 2025*

### **Top of the Agenda**

## **Security, Economic Concerns as ECOWAS Confirms Niger, B'Faso, and Mali's Withdrawal**

Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar yesterday gave insight to the consequences of the exit of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger Republic from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The countries formally renounced their membership of ECOWAS to form the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) on January 29. Expressing sadness at the turn of event, he stated that the exit of the three nations would have far-reaching consequences on regional security, economic stability and integration efforts. He stressed that their withdrawal required careful consideration and diplomatic efforts to address underlying concerns and prevent further regional instability. Highlighting the diplomatic effort made by the regional bloc, the foreign minister stated that “several delegations have been sent to these countries, while the Presidents of Togo and Sierra Leone have been appointed as mediators to facilitate dialogue; additionally, ECOWAS has lifted sanctions on these nations, paving the way for potential reconciliation and future cooperation within the bloc.”. Tuggar highlighted the security risks posed by their departure, as the region is already struggling with terrorism and a worsening humanitarian crisis. He noted that ECOWAS had established a 1,650-strong brigade to combat terrorism and provided financial aid to help affected countries strengthen security efforts.

## *Analysis*

The exit of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger from ECOWAS will significantly weaken collective security efforts in the region, potentially leading to increased terrorist activity and border instability. A region that has become the hotbed of terrorism and violent extremism in the world. The withdrawal by the military juntas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger threatens regional security by weakening counterterrorism coordination, disrupting intelligence sharing, and creating safe havens for terrorists. Although the countries have established a joint military force aimed at addressing the escalating extremist violence in the Sahel region, according to a statement released by Niger's defense minister. The countries have been unable to stem the rising tide of terrorism violence and deaths since the expulsion of western forces. The region has witnessed increased violence with devastating humanitarian consequences. This situation becomes grave as Chad has also exited the Multinational Joint Task Force MNJTF fighting against Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin. Although Nigeria is already grappling with its own security issues, it will likely bear the brunt of these consequences, with heightened security threats, economic disruptions, and greater pressure to act as the regional stabilizer. The porous borders and shared challenges make it crucial for Nigeria to remain vigilant.

## *The Conflict in Congo Explained*

The Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern region has been embroiled in conflict for over three decades, with over 100 armed groups vying for territory in the mineral-rich region. One of the armed groups, the M23, has been a particular source of angst in recent years. The insurgents have now advanced into Goma, a crucial trade hub near Rwanda. A Tutsi-led group, the M23 claims to be defending minority rights. However, it has been accused of war crimes. Despite Rwanda's denials, UN reports suggest that the country provides support to the rebels, a claim echoed by DR Congo, the US, and France. Meanwhile, UN peacekeepers and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) force have struggled to contain the violence. The Congolese government insists its forces still control key areas, but a humanitarian crisis looms as hospitals fill up and bodies lie in the streets.

# Nigeria

## ***Bayelsa Confirms Cholera Outbreak***

The Bayelsa State Government has confirmed an outbreak of cholera in parts of the state following initial denials. The Commissioner for Health, Prof. Seiyefa Brisibe, urged residents to maintain hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease. Speaking on Radio Bayelsa's audience-participation program Talk to Bayelsa, Brisibe confirmed cases in Agoro, Nembe, and Esoni communities. He, however, emphasised that no deaths had been reported in government healthcare facilities, adding that cholera is preventable through proper hygiene

Punch: [Bayelsa confirms cholera outbreak](#) January 27, 2025

## ***Bold Action Needed to Tackle AMR in Nigeria—Expert***

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), “Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites evolve over time to resist the drugs previously effective in treating infections caused by them. This resistance makes infections harder to treat, resulting in prolonged illnesses, higher medical costs and increased mortality rates. Adakole explained that AMR threatens modern medical procedures like surgeries, cancer treatments, and organ transplants, all of which rely on effective antibiotics to prevent and treat infections. “AMR is responsible for over 700,000 deaths annually worldwide, and Nigeria is increasingly vulnerable due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure and weak regulatory frameworks,” Adakole noted.

Science Nigeria: [Bold Action Needed to Tackle AMR in Nigeria - Expert](#) January 27, 2025

## ***Nigeria Seeks WEF Support for African Atlantic Gas Pipeline***

Nigeria wishes to partner with the World Economic Forum (WEF) on the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline (AAGP) to connect Nigeria to Morocco, other African nations, and Europe. The nation's vice president, Kashim Shettima, announced this desire during a bilateral meeting with WEF President Børge Brende in Davos, explaining that the pipeline aims to enhance energy security and drive economic growth. Shettima emphasized the strategic importance of the project amid Europe's energy challenges as well as rising global energy demand. He explained that the initiative would also benefit West African nations eager to join the pipeline system, with plans to explore undersea routes for shared gains. Beyond the pipeline project, Shettima highlighted Abuja's economic reforms, under the leadership of President Bola Tinubu, arguing that they set the country on a path of growth.

Africa.com : [Nigeria Seeks WEF Support for African Atlantic Gas Pipeline](#) January 28, 2025

## ***Nigeria Seeks \$15 Billion Investment to Tackle Electricity Crisis***

The Federal Government of Nigeria is seeking \$15 billion in private investment to revamp its struggling power sector and bridge a \$23 billion funding gap. Announced at the World Bank Energy Summit in Tanzania, the initiative aims to improve the country's power crisis and provide electricity to 86 million Nigerians without access. The plan includes increasing renewable energy from 22% to 50% and doubling household grid connections within five years. A key feature of the initiative is a monthly subsidy of 50 kilowatt hours (kWh) for households, ensuring affordability across the board. However, the government will introduce a cost-reflective tariff system by 2027, albeit with protections for vulnerable households. The reforms aim to attract investors, boost power supply, and support economic growth. Despite abundant energy resources, Nigeria's power generation remains low at 13,000 megawatts, leading to frequent blackouts.

iAfrica: [Nigeria Seeks \\$15 Billion Investment to Tackle Electricity Crisis](#) January 31, 2025

## ***Immigration Intercepts 21 Suspected Minors At Nigeria-Niger Republic Border***

The Nigerian Immigration Service has intercepted 21 minors suspected to be victims of human trafficking at Geidam town near the Nigeria-Niger Republic Border in Yobe state. The Comptroller of the Nigeria Immigration Service in the state, Sani Sule-Jega, while handing over the suspected victims to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), said the children are between the ages of seven to 15 years. According to him, the minors were being transported from Magama local government area in Niger state to the Niger Republic for studies and do not have any travel documents.

Channels: [Immigration Intercepts 21 Suspected Minors At Nigeria-Niger Republic Border](#) January 30th, 2025.

## **West Africa**

### ***Russia Delivers Armored Vehicles to Mali and Restructures Military Presence***

Around 100 vehicles, including light tanks and armoured vehicles, arrived in Bamako from Moscow through Guinea on January 17, just as the Russian Defense Ministry is speeding up the replacement of the Wagner group by Africa Corps in the country. Russian equipment comprising dozens of trucks carrying light tanks, armoured vehicles and military ambulances marched past in Bamako, on January 17. Earlier on in early 2023, Moscow had delivered Mil combat and troop transport helicopters as well as Sukhoi and L-39 fighter jets to the Malian authorities. This had become a common sight since the military coup leaders took over power in Bamako and became allies with Moscow in 2021.

Le Monde:[https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2025/01/24/russia-delivers-armored-vehicles-to-mali-and-restructures-military-presence\\_6737390\\_4.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2025/01/24/russia-delivers-armored-vehicles-to-mali-and-restructures-military-presence_6737390_4.html)

## ***ECOWAS Court to launch Enhanced Electronic Case Management system***

As part of the efforts to transit to a fully digital case management platform, the ECOWAS Court of Justice has concluded arrangements to launch its enhanced Electronic Case Management System (ECMS). Already, the court has commenced a comprehensive Quality Assurance Workshop and Group Training for Judges and Staff, aimed at ensuring system readiness and user proficiency, a statement yesterday by the court said. These activities, the statement further said, will culminate in a high-profile Go-Live Ceremony, marking the court's transition to a fully digital case management platform.

The Nation Newspaper: [ECOWAS Court to launch enhanced electronic case management system](#) January 31, 2025.

## ***Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso Officially Exit ECOWAS***

Niamey, Bamako, and Ouagadougou have officially withdrawn from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), marking a historic shift in regional politics. The three junta-led nations first announced their departure a year ago, after the bloc tried to force a return to democratic rule. Despite their withdrawal, ECOWAS has urged member states to continue extending certain privileges, such as allowing free movement under the ECOWAS passport. The regional bloc, established in 1975, has long been a cornerstone of economic and political cooperation in West Africa. However, the three countries, which face security and governance challenges, have instead formed the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), a security-focused partnership created in September 2024. Their exit signals a growing divide in West African geopolitics, with potential implications for regional stability, economic collaboration, and future diplomatic engagements.

Africa: [Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso Officially Exit ECOWAS](#) January 31, 2025

# Africa

## *Trump's Foreign Aid Freeze Causes Fear of H.I.V. Resurgence in Africa*

The abrupt pause of a \$6.5 billion program established by former President George W. Bush and credited with saving the lives of tens of millions of people sent patients, clinicians and public health advocates across Africa into a panic. Many feared a return to some of the darkest days on the continent, when H.I.V. spread rapidly and a diagnosis was akin to a death sentence. The Trump administration has said that foreign assistance programs will be paused for three months as it reviews how money is being spent. If the administration decides to end PEPFAR, it could lead to 600,000 deaths over the next decade in South Africa alone.

The New York Times: [Trump's Foreign Aid Freeze Causes Fear of H.I.V. Resurgence in Africa](#) 30, January, 2025.

## *Mpox in DRC and Kinshasa's Major Health Crisis*

With a population of more than 17 million, Kinshasa is Africa's biggest megacity. Both strains of the virus, clade Ia and clade Ib, are circulating in the city simultaneously. This is first time this has happened. Clade Ia, which is primarily transmitted from animal to human and then within households through touch, has been endemic to Africa for decades. Clade Ib is a new strain and contracted predominantly through sexual contact. It is the strain that has spread rapidly across 21 African countries during the current epidemic in east and central Africa. This dual transmission makes the fight against Mpox even more complicated.

DownToEarth: [Mpox in DRC: Residents of slum at centre of Kinshasa's epidemic have little chance of avoiding this major health crisis](#) 27 January, 2025.

## *Ugandan Nurse Dies of Ebola*

A male nurse in Uganda has died of Ebola, the first recorded death by the disease in the East African country since an outbreak ended in 2023, health officials said. The 32-year-old nurse worked at Mulago National Specialised Hospital in Kampala, Diana Atwine, permanent secretary of Uganda's health ministry, said Thursday. The nurse died Wednesday of the Sudan strain of Ebola, Atwine said.

VOA: [Ugandan nurse dies of Ebola](#) January 31, 2025

## **United States of America**

### *Trump Withdraws U.S. From World Health Organization*

In one of the first official acts following his swearing in, President Donald Trump signed an executive order withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization. President Trump cited the organization's mishandling in 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic that arose out of Wuhan, China, and other global health crises. The WHO continues to demand unfairly onerous payments from the United States, far out of proportion with other countries' assessed payments," said President Trump. "China, with a population of 1.4 billion, has 300 percent of the population of the United States, yet contributes nearly 90 percent less to the WHO.

Editorials: [Trump Withdraws U.S. From World Health Organization](#)27, January, 2025.



## *US to Test Aging Plutonium in its Nuclear Arsenal*

The US is preparing for another ‘subcritical’ nuclear experiment this spring, to test whether the decades-old plutonium at the core of its nuclear weapons has degraded. Such tests are not full-scale nuclear tests, meaning they do not use enough fissile material to produce a self-sustaining reaction. Washington insists such experiments are not prohibited under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which forbids nuclear test explosions. Both the US and Russia signed the 1996 accord but stopped short of ratifying it. Neither nation has conducted live nuclear tests since the early 1990s. Code-named ‘Nob Hill,’ the plutonium-testing procedure will be performed at the US PULSE facility in Nevada.

RT: [US to test aging plutonium in its nuclear arsenal](#) January 31, 2025

## *Mid-air Collision kills 67 People in the Deadliest US Air Disaster in almost a Quarter Century*

A mid-air collision between an Army helicopter and a jetliner killed all 67 people aboard the two aircraft, officials said, as they scrutinized the actions of the military pilot in the country’s deadliest aviation disaster in almost a quarter century. At least 28 bodies were pulled from the icy waters of the Potomac River after the helicopter apparently flew into the path of the American Airlines regional jet late Wednesday. President Donald Trump told a White House news conference that no one survived. “We are now at the point where we are switching from a rescue operation to a recovery operation,” said John Donnelly, the fire chief in the nation’s capital.

AP News: [Midair collision kills 67 people in the deadliest US air disaster in almost a quarter century](#) January 31, 2025.

## ***Trump Threatens ‘Seemingly Hostile’ BRICS***

The BRICS nations will face 100% tariffs on their goods if they dare to challenge the dominance of the “mighty US dollar,” President Donald Trump warned on Thursday. Members of BRICS have accelerated efforts to reduce reliance on third-party currencies in bilateral trade, especially after Western sanctions led to the freezing of Russia's reserves held in dollars and euros, following the Ukraine conflict in 2022. “The idea that the BRICS countries are trying to move away from the dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER,” Trump said, “There is no chance that BRICS will replace the US dollar in international trade or anywhere else, and any country that tries should say hello to tariffs and goodbye to America!”

RT: [Trump threatens ‘seemingly hostile’ BRICS](#) January 31, 2025

## **China**

### ***China bans livestock product imports from numerous countries on disease worries***

China has prohibited imports of sheep, goat, poultry and even-toed ungulates from African, Asian and European countries due to outbreaks of livestock diseases such as sheep pox, goat pox and foot-and-mouth-disease. The ban, which also includes processed and unprocessed products, comes after the World Health Organization released information of disease outbreaks in various countries, according to a series of announcements by China's General Administration of Customs dated Jan. 21. The ban from the world's largest meat importer affects Ghana, Somalia, Qatar, Congo (DRC), Nigeria, and Tanzania, Egypt, Bulgaria, East Timor and Eritrea.

[China bans livestock product imports from numerous countries on disease worries](#) January 31 2025.

## Singapore

### *As scams soar, Singapore decides to protect victims from themselves*

Singapore has become a prime target for global scammers. In the first half of 2024, reports of scams hit a record high of 26,587, with losses topping \$284m. To combat this, Singapore's parliament passed a first-of-its-kind legislation granting authorities new powers to freeze bank accounts of suspected scam victims. Under the Protection from Scams Bill, designated officers can order banks to block an individual's transactions if they have reason to believe they intend to transfer funds, withdraw money, or use credit facilities to benefit a scammer. Convincing victims they are being scammed is a challenge and common tactics used by scammers include impersonating government officials and fake romantic relationships.

Aljazeera:[As scams soar, Singapore decides to protect victims from themselves](#) January 31 2025