



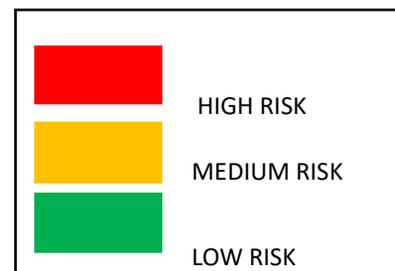
**Gen. LEO Irabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**



## **The Early Warning Monitor**

### **GLIC Weekly Report**

***13<sup>th</sup> March, 2026***



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Recent events point to growing geopolitical tensions, political unpredictability, and climate stresses that may have wider humanitarian and economic ramifications in a number of areas.

Climate threats are getting worse as Greenland's exceptional winter warmth speeds up ice sheet melt and poses a threat to global weather patterns. Severe floods in Kenya have destroyed over 12,000 homes and vital infrastructure, resulting in at least 62 fatalities and thousands more displaced people in East Africa. The Iranian confrontation in the Middle East is still upsetting the world's energy markets, especially in the Strait of Hormuz, driving up oil prices to \$120 per barrel, further straining the fragile economies of the Sahel region, especially those of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, and increasing the possibility of environmental harm from prospective attacks on energy infrastructure.

South Sudan faces renewed uncertainty over the timing of its first post-independence general elections, with indications that the elections may be postponed again due to political divisions, security concerns, logistical constraints, and limited funding. Meanwhile, Spain's recall of its ambassador to Israel signals escalating diplomatic tensions over the Middle East crisis. Conflicts between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have escalated in Darfur and Kordofan, and the humanitarian situation and civilian casualties have gotten worse due to the increased use of heavy weapons and drone strikes; Six people were kidnapped by suspected bandits during an attack in Kwara State, Nigeria, underscoring the spread of kidnapping and banditry into the North-Central region and in addition, concerns about sovereignty violations and the possibility of cross-border military escalation have been raised by Pakistan's alleged bombing near Kandahar International Airport, which has led to an increase in tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Closer home, as Nigeria approaches the high-risk December–April dry season for epidemics of cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM), the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has stepped up state wide surveillance. Transmission hazards are increased by dusty circumstances, congestion, and inadequate ventilation, especially for children, young adults, and those living in crowded places like schools, religious centres, and IDP camps. With 4,915 suspected cases and 361 deaths reported across 24 states in the 2023–2024 season, compared to 2,765 cases and around 190 deaths in 2022–2023, surveillance data highlights the ongoing threat.

Overall, these developments illustrate rising security risks, humanitarian pressures, health and economic vulnerabilities, particularly in fragile regions where conflict, climate shocks, and governance challenges intersect.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **ARTIC WARMING AND DISRUPTION TO WINTER CLIMATE PATTERNS**

Recent reports from global outlets highlight unusual winter warming in Greenland, where temperatures in Nuuk rose far above seasonal averages and disrupted winter tourism activities. Scientists note that the Arctic is warming at a significantly faster rate than the global average, making it one of the most sensitive indicators of global climate change. This rapid warming is

accelerating the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and reducing sea-ice coverage. The melting process not only threatens fragile Arctic ecosystems but also affects global climatic systems by altering ocean circulation and atmospheric patterns.

In addition, scientists warn that Arctic warming can destabilise the jet stream, increasing the likelihood of unusual weather patterns such as heatwaves, storms, or cold spells across parts of Europe, North America, and Asia.

The early warning implication of the continued disruption and loss of Arctic ice reduces the Earth's ability to reflect solar radiation, creating a feedback loop that accelerates warming and increases the risk of rapid sea-level rise. If these trends persist, coastal cities and low-lying regions worldwide could face more severe flooding and infrastructure damage. The warming Arctic should therefore be treated as a strategic early warning indicator of intensifying climate change, emphasising the need for stronger global mitigation policies, expanded monitoring systems, and coordinated international responses to prevent long-term environmental and socio-economic disruptions.

### **EXPERTS WARN OF CATASTROPHIC ENVIRONMENTAL FALLOUT FROM IRAN WAR**

Conflict with Iran could have serious humanitarian and environmental repercussions in addition to causing significant disruptions to the world's energy markets, according to a study from OilPrice. Due in major part to the instability surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, a vital maritime route that typically transports 20% of the world's oil supply, the conflict has already resulted in one of the biggest disruptions to the oil supply in recent history.

Significant environmental harm, such as hazardous emissions and soil and groundwater contamination, could result from attacks on industrial and energy infrastructure. Experts warn that large-scale oil spills, air pollution, and dangerous chemical releases that impact both urban people and ecosystems could result from the destruction of refineries, pipelines, and storage facilities. Additionally, they highlight the potential for harmful air fallout, frequently referred to as "black rain," which might disperse contaminants throughout populated areas and pose long-term health hazards. In addition to harming the environment, the dispute jeopardizes the stability of the world

economy by upsetting energy supply networks and driving up oil prices, which have wider ramifications for inflation, energy security, and geopolitical tensions.

The early warning implication of this situation is that targeting energy infrastructure during conflict can quickly escalate into large-scale environmental disasters and economic shocks. Monitoring military strikes near oil facilities, maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, and energy-market volatility can provide early indicators of escalating regional conflict and potential global supply disruptions.

### **FLOOD DEATHS RISE TO 62 AS NAIROBI BEARS THE BRUNT**

Early in March 2026, heavy rains caused severe floods that devastated much of Kenya. As rescue efforts continue, the death toll has risen to 62. Moreover, half of the deaths occurred in Nairobi, with the Eastern and Rift Valley areas following closely behind. 46 men, 8 women, and 8 children are among the victims, underscoring the disaster's widespread human impact. Over 12,000 homes have been damaged by floodwaters, displacing thousands of people and leaving many families without a place to live. Roads, bridges, power lines, and water delivery systems have all been severely damaged or destroyed, making rescue and relief operations more difficult.

Numerous counties have experienced disruptions to schools, farms, and small businesses, endangering local economic activity and livelihoods. In addition to providing emergency aid, such as food, shelter, and medical assistance, authorities have sent out multi-agency reaction teams to carry out search and rescue operations. However, there are worries that the humanitarian crisis can get worse if it keeps raining during Kenya's long rainy season.

The early warning implication of this disaster is that Kenyan cities, especially densely populated places like Nairobi, may experience more frequent and catastrophic flooding occurrences due to heavier rains and insufficient urban drainage systems. Early indicators of potential flooding can be obtained by tracking rainfall projections, river levels, and urban drainage capacity. This allows authorities to start evacuations and disaster preparation procedures in a timely manner.

## **ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

### **THE IRAN WAR RISKS UPENDING AFRICA'S SAHEL**

Economies throughout Africa are predicted to become unstable as a result of the protracted conflict with Iran, with the Sahel region being especially susceptible to the fallout from rising energy costs and geopolitical unrest. Fuel prices are rising throughout the continent as a result of the spike in oil prices, which have reached almost \$120 per barrel. Due to their reliance on imported gasoline, lengthy transportation routes, and unstable supply chains, landlocked Sahel states like Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger are particularly vulnerable.

Due to military takeovers, exits from the ECOWAS grouping, and strained ties with Western allies, these nations are already politically and economically precarious. Although their governments have created the Alliance of Sahel States and improved relations with Russia, the area is still remote and lacks substantial outside funding. In the meantime, governmental capacity is still being strained by ongoing jihadist insurgencies and security issues. A recent fuel blockade that affected Bamako serves as an example of how supply line interruptions may quickly halt economies and reveal flaws in governments.

The early warning implication of this predicament is that Sahel economies and governance institutions, which are already vulnerable, could be quickly destabilised by external geopolitical shocks, such as spikes in the price of oil globally or disruptions to energy supply chains. Early warning signs of growing instability or political upheaval in the area may be obtained by keeping an eye on indications like gasoline shortages, inflation surges, supply-chain interruptions, and increased insurgent activity.

### **SPAIN WITHDRAWS AMBASSADOR FROM ISRAEL OVER GAZA WAR AND IRAN CONFLICT**

In 2026, the government of Spain, headquartered in Madrid, recalled its ambassador to Israel, Ms. Ana Pérez, under Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, amid rising tensions over the Middle East crisis. Spain strongly criticised Israel's 2023 Gaza operations and the 2026 US–Israeli war with Iran, citing civilian casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and restrictions on humanitarian aid.

The recall, approved by Spain's Council of Ministers, ended the ambassador's mandate and downgraded the embassy in Tel Aviv to a chargé d'affaires, maintaining minimal diplomatic contact. The move represents a serious diplomatic protest while highlighting Spain's concern over the humanitarian and geopolitical consequences of ongoing conflicts in Gaza and the wider region.

Early warning implications for international politics include the following. Firstly, it reflects growing diplomatic tension between Israel and countries that oppose its military policies. Secondly, it raises the possibility of deepening diplomatic isolation for Israel if more nations adopt similar measures. Thirdly, it highlights fragmentation within Western alliances, particularly between European states and the United States regarding Middle East policies. Furthermore, the ongoing US–Israeli confrontation with Iran increases the risk of expanding regional conflict, potentially drawing additional states into the war. Finally, the crisis may contribute to growing great-power rivalry as major global powers compete for influence in the Middle East and take different positions on the conflict.

### **POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SOUTH SUDAN ELECTION**

South Sudan is once again facing uncertainty over the timing of its first general elections since independence, with growing indications that the vote could be postponed yet again. The elections, originally scheduled as part of the transition under the 2018 peace agreement, were expected to mark a major step toward democratic governance in the world's youngest nation. However, persistent political, security, and logistical challenges have raised serious concerns about the country's readiness to conduct credible polls. Financial limitations are another major obstacle. Conducting a national election in a country with limited infrastructure, poor road networks, and widespread displacement requires substantial funding. The government has indicated that it may rely heavily on international partners to support the electoral process.

The early warning implication of the postponement of this election is most likely a rise in political tension, as rival factions may accuse the government of deliberately delaying elections to prolong its hold on power. Repeated delays in the electoral process may lead to frustration among citizens who have waited for years to participate in democratic governance and can lead to erosion of trust in the government. Public dissatisfaction over the continued extension of the transitional

government may lead to protests or political mobilisation by opposition groups and civil society organisations.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **BANDITS ABDUCT SIX IN KWARA STATE**

Suspected bandits reportedly abducted six individuals during an attack in a community in Kwara State. According to local sources, the armed assailants invaded the area and forcibly took residents, creating panic among community members. Security operatives have reportedly launched efforts to track down the perpetrators and secure the release of the victims. The incident reflects growing concerns about the spread of banditry and kidnapping for ransom beyond Nigeria's North-western states into parts of the North-Central region. Community leaders and residents have continued to call for increased security presence and stronger protection measures to prevent further attacks.

The early warning implications of the incident include the risk of banditry expanding into relatively less affected regions of Nigeria, particularly in the North-Central zone. If such attacks persist, criminal groups operating in North-western states may increasingly move into neighbouring areas such as Kogi State and Niger State, exploiting security gaps and forested terrains to establish new operational bases. This expansion could complicate security responses and widen the geographic spread of kidnapping-for-ransom activities.

### **DRONE STRIKE IN SUDAN NEAR THE BORDER WITH CHAD KILLS 4, INJURES MANY MORE**

Fighting has intensified in parts of Darfur and Kordofan as clashes continue between the Sudanese military and rival armed forces. Reports indicate the increased use of drone strikes and heavy weaponry in the conflict, leading to significant civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure. The violence is part of the ongoing war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which has plunged Sudan into one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. The escalation in Darfur and Kordofan has further worsened conditions for civilians already facing displacement, food insecurity, and limited humanitarian access. International observers

have expressed concern that continued hostilities and the expansion of advanced military tactics, such as drone warfare, could intensify the scale and lethality of the conflict.

The early warning implication of the escalating violence includes the risk of further deterioration of security conditions across western and central Sudan. Continued clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces may lead to widespread displacement and humanitarian emergencies, particularly in vulnerable areas of Darfur and Kordofan. Prolonged conflict could also deepen ethnic tensions and communal violence, increasing the likelihood of large-scale civilian casualties and human rights abuses.

### **PAKISTANI AIRSTRIKES CAUSE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN KABUL**

Pakistan reportedly carried out an airstrike targeting a fuel depot used by a private airline near Kandahar International Airport, according to officials from the ruling authorities in Afghanistan. The strike allegedly destroyed fuel supplies and damaged infrastructure in the vicinity of the airport. Authorities linked to the Taliban condemned the action, describing it as a violation of Afghanistan's sovereignty and warning of potential consequences. The incident reflects rising tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan over cross-border security issues, particularly allegations that militant groups operate along the frontier and carry out attacks inside Pakistan. The development highlights the fragile nature of relations between the two neighbouring states and the increasing risk of military escalation along their shared border.

The early warning implications of the incident include the risk of heightened military confrontation between Pakistan and Afghanistan if retaliatory measures or further cross-border strikes occur. Continued military actions could escalate tensions along the disputed frontier, particularly around the Durand Line, potentially leading to sustained clashes between security forces and increased instability in border communities.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **NCDC RAISES ALARM OVER RISING MENINGITIS RISK IN NIGERIA**

As Nigeria approaches the peak dry season, when the danger of Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) outbreaks is highest, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has stepped up national surveillance and response efforts. NCDC Director-General Jide Idris claims that dusty weather, crowded environments, and inadequate ventilation make the December–April dry season conducive to transmission. Health officials caution that symptoms like fever and headache during this time should not be mistaken for malaria since meningitis can worsen quickly and, if left untreated, can be lethal in a matter of hours. Children, young adults, and those residing in crowded places like schools, places of worship, and camps for internally displaced people are considered high-risk groups. Historical surveillance data highlights the persistent threat, with 4,915 suspected cases and 361 deaths reported across 24 states during the 2023–2024 season, compared to 2,765 suspected cases and about 190 deaths in 2022–2023.

The early warning implication of this seasonal spike in meningitis risk indicates a heightened likelihood of localized outbreaks, particularly in northern states within Africa’s meningitis belt and in overcrowded institutions. Without sustained vaccination campaigns, early detection, and improved ventilation in high-density settings, outbreaks could escalate rapidly, placing pressure on healthcare systems and increasing mortality rates. Strengthened surveillance and rapid response mechanisms remain critical to preventing widespread transmission.



**Gen. LEO Iabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**

Website: [www.niia.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre](http://www.niia.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre)

Email: [earlywarning@niia.gov.ng](mailto:earlywarning@niia.gov.ng)

[LinkedIn](#)



**13/15 Kofo Abayomi Road,  
Victoria Island, Lagos**

Website: [www.niia.gov.ng](http://www.niia.gov.ng)