



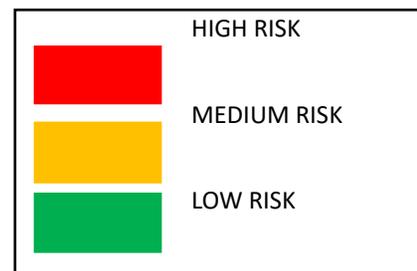
**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
Systems Centre**



The Early Warning Monitor

GLIC Weekly Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent times, across multiple regions, we have identified some major risks centred on Climate vulnerability, Security instability, Governance, and Public health. Extreme weather events have intensified humanitarian pressures, as Cyclone Gezani struck Madagascar, causing fatalities, displacement, and infrastructure damage, while torrential rainfall in Colombia triggered widespread flooding, landslides, and agricultural losses. These disasters underscore increasing climate variability and the growing strain on emergency response and recovery systems.

Security situations remain fragile across Africa and the Middle East. In the Sahel, escalating violence linked to extremist groups, including Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, has resulted in civilian massacres and raised concerns about protection gaps. Meanwhile, regional tensions persist following Israel's recognition of Somaliland, which has drawn strong condemnation from the African Union. At the same time, the Greater Middle East is experiencing a shift toward multipolar security arrangements as traditional reliance on United States security guarantees declines. Reports that Nigerians may be fighting in the Russia–Ukraine war also reflect the increasingly transnational nature of modern conflicts. In addition, concerns over civilian casualties and drone operations in Niger highlight persistent humanitarian and security risks in the region.

Governance and democratic processes are also evolving. In Nigeria, sustained civil society pressure prompted the Senate to support real-time electronic transmission of election results ahead of the 2027 general elections, reflecting growing public demand for transparency and electoral credibility. In Bangladesh, the 2026 general election resulted in a major political shift, with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party securing victory under Tarique Rahman, despite ongoing concerns over electoral integrity and institutional trust.

Public health initiatives continue to gain momentum, particularly in Nigeria, where a nationwide measles–rubella vaccination campaign targeting millions of children is being implemented with support from partners such as the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

In essence, these developments have shown the growing intersection of climate change, security threats, democratic governance, and public health in Nigeria and around the world.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

AT LEAST 9 KILLED, HUNDREDS DISPLACED AS CYCLONE-GEZANI HITS MADAGASCAR'S EAST COAST

Cyclone Gezani struck the east coast of Madagascar, killing at least nine people and displacing more than 1,300 residents, according to the country's National Office for Risk and Disaster Management. The storm made landfall near the port city of Toamasina with strong winds and heavy rainfall, causing widespread destruction. Several regions, including Atsinanana, Analanjirofo, Alaotra Mangoro, and Analamanga, were severely affected. Homes were destroyed or damaged, infrastructure was disrupted, and at least 19 people were reported critically injured.

Emergency response teams and humanitarian organisations have mobilised to provide shelter, medical assistance, and relief materials to affected communities. Authorities are also assessing structural damage and planning longer-term recovery efforts, particularly for displaced families. The cyclone follows closely after another deadly storm earlier in the season, compounding humanitarian pressures and highlighting the country's vulnerability to recurring extreme weather events.

According to Anadolu Agency, officials warned that continued heavy rainfall could trigger flooding and landslides in already saturated areas. The successive impact of cyclones underscores the urgent need for strengthened disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and improved early warning systems to mitigate future losses.

Early Warning Implications

1. Increased risk of humanitarian crisis due to displacement, housing destruction, and strained response capacity.
2. Elevated likelihood of secondary disasters, including flooding, disease outbreaks, and food insecurity.
3. Repeated cyclones signal growing climate vulnerability, requiring strengthened early warning systems, evacuation planning, and disaster preparedness to reduce future casualties and infrastructure damage.

TORRENTIAL RAIN IN COLOMBIA KILLS 22, THOUSANDS DISPLACED

Torrential rainfall across northern and western regions of Colombia has killed at least 22 people and displaced thousands of residents, triggering widespread flooding, landslides, and destruction of homes and infrastructure. Entire communities in departments such as Córdoba, Sucre, and Nariño were severely affected, with floodwaters submerging houses, roads, and agricultural land. More than 9,000 homes were damaged, and over 27,000 families were impacted, forcing many residents to evacuate or seek temporary shelter. The disaster was worsened by unusually intense rainfall linked to a rare cold front, which increased precipitation well above seasonal averages. Emergency authorities and humanitarian agencies have mobilized rescue operations, damage assessments, and relief assistance, while the government considers emergency measures to support affected populations and fund recovery efforts. The floods have also caused significant agricultural losses, threatened livelihoods and increased vulnerability among rural communities.

Early Warning Implications

1. Increased risk of secondary hazards such as landslides, disease outbreaks, and food insecurity due to displacement and infrastructure damage.
2. Rising river levels and saturated soils increase the likelihood of continued flooding and prolonged humanitarian needs.
3. Abnormal rainfall patterns signal growing climate variability, highlighting the need for strengthened early warning systems, evacuation planning, and resilient infrastructure to reduce future disaster impacts.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

NIGER: ISLAMIST ARMED GROUP MASSACRES VILLAGERS IN WESTERN NIGER

An Islamist armed group linked to the Islamic State in the Sahel (IS Sahel) killed at least 30 civilians, including children, in two attacks in western Niger's Tillabéri region in January 2026, according to Human Rights Watch. Militants executed 31 men and boys in Bossieye village after accusing residents of refusing to pay imposed taxes and supporting pro-government militias. Days later, attackers killed four men and injured others in Alfaga Daweyzé Koira while targeting a suspected military collaborator. Witnesses reported that armed fighters arrived on motorbikes, rounded up villagers, and carried out executions near a mosque.

The attacks highlight escalating violence in Tillabéri, a long-standing hotspot of Islamist insurgency and counterinsurgency operations. Despite military campaigns, civilians remain highly vulnerable to reprisals, coercion, and targeted killings. Human Rights Watch emphasized the government's responsibility to protect civilians, investigate abuses, and hold perpetrators accountable amid worsening insecurity and instability in the Sahel region.

Early Warning Implications

1. Increased likelihood of further retaliatory attacks against communities resisting militant taxation or supporting government forces.
2. Expansion of militant influence in poorly secured rural areas, undermining state authority and local governance.
3. Risk of escalating conflict cycles between armed groups, militias, and state forces, increasing civilian casualties.

ISRAEL'S RECOGNITION OF SOMALILAND

The African Union (AU) has strongly condemned Israel's recognition of Somaliland as an independent state, describing the move as null and void under international law and a violation of the territorial integrity of its member state, Somalia. The AU Peace and Security Council warned that no external actor has the authority to alter African borders and called for the immediate revocation of the decision. Israel's recognition, the first by a UN member state, has drawn backlash from Somalia and AU officials, who fear it sets a dangerous precedent for continental stability. The AU also denounced external interference in Somalia and Sudan's internal affairs.

The early warning implication of Israel's move includes the risk of escalating Somalia–Somaliland tensions. Israel's recognition could inspire other separatist groups across Africa to intensify demands for external backing, potentially destabilising fragile multi-ethnic states. Extremist groups like Al-Shabaab could also exploit nationalist grievances or perceived foreign interference

to mobilise support, increasing terrorism risks in Somalia and neighbouring states. The Horn is already a strategic arena involving actors such as the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, the United States, China, and Gulf states. Israel's move may intensify external rivalry over Red Sea access and military or economic footholds.

Early Warning Implications

1. Increased risk of separatist agitation and territorial fragmentation in Africa.
2. It can lead to heightened geopolitical competition and extremist exploitation in the Horn of Africa.

THE MIDDLE EAST IS SPLITTING INTO RIVAL BLOCS

The post-Cold War order anchored in US primacy is weakening, prompting the Greater Middle East to shift from reliance on American security guarantees toward multipolar, region-led arrangements. After shocks such as the 2025 Israeli strike in Doha, states began building layered partnerships, including a Saudi Arabia–Pakistan pact and closer ties among Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. Meanwhile, Israel and the UAE are deepening defense-industrial cooperation, with Azerbaijan linking overlapping networks. Rival blocs are emerging, increasing risks of escalation, yet also encouraging regional diplomacy and self-managed security mechanisms. The outcome may be a more autonomous, multipolar regional architecture balancing competition with cautious coexistence.

The emergence of rival blocs in the Middle East raises the risk that local disputes could evolve into proxy conflicts, as competing alliances draw in external partners and widen confrontations. Defensive actions such as military exercises and arms acquisitions may fuel a security dilemma, prompting reciprocal buildups and intensifying arms races. In a polarised climate, miscalculations, from airspace violations to cyber incidents, could escalate rapidly without effective deconfliction channels. Regional institutions like the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation may weaken, while major powers deepen involvement, enabling militant groups to exploit divisions for strategic gain.

Early Warning Implications

1. The formation of rival regional alliances may increase the probability that localised disputes evolve into broader proxy confrontations.
2. Institutions such as the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation may lose influence as states rely more on bilateral or bloc-based arrangements.

UKRAINE IDENTIFIES NIGERIANS FIGHTING ON THE FRONTLINE FOR RUSSIA

Ukrainian military intelligence reported identifying two Nigerians who died fighting for Russia in Eastern Ukraine's Luhansk region, allegedly recruited in mid-2025. The Ukrainian authorities shared images of the men in military uniforms and documents purportedly showing their contract

details with Nigerian officials. The report highlights foreign involvement in the ongoing conflict and raises concerns about recruitment practices. In response, Russian Ambassador to Nigeria Andrey Podyolshev denied the claims, asserting that Russia has no government-backed programs to recruit Nigerians for the war, leaving the allegations contested and unverified.

Nigerians fighting for Russia in Ukraine present multiple early warning concerns. Transnational recruitment networks could enable extremist or militarised groups to mobilise individuals to participate in foreign conflicts. Returning fighters may bring combat experience, radical ideologies, or connections to transnational networks, increasing domestic security risks such as terrorism or organised crime. The situation also risks diplomatic tensions between Nigeria, Russia, and Ukraine, while setting a regional precedent that may encourage fighters from other African states to join international conflicts. This notification by Ukrainian authorities reveals gaps in government monitoring and intelligence regarding citizens leaving to fight abroad, underscoring the need for preventive measures.

Early Warning Implications

1. The involvement of Nigerians in foreign conflicts may signal the emergence of informal recruitment or mercenary networks. Returning fighters could possess advanced combat skills, exposure to violent ideologies, and links to international armed groups, potentially increasing risks of terrorism, organised crime, or insurgent collaboration within Nigeria and the wider region.
2. It will expose weaknesses in migration monitoring and national security oversight, prompting international scrutiny and pressure on Nigerian authorities to regulate citizens' involvement in foreign conflicts.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH URGES PROBE INTO 'INDISCRIMINATE' DRONE STRIKE IN NIGER

Human Rights Watch has urged Nigerien authorities to launch an independent probe into a January drone strike that reportedly killed around 17 civilians, including four children, alongside several militants, calling the attack a violation of international law. Witnesses described a drone targeting a crowded market near the Burkina Faso border on January 6. Niger's Tillabéri region has seen the highest civilian fatalities in the central Sahel in 2025, according to ACLED, with deaths attributed to Islamic State Sahel, the Al Qaeda-linked JNIM, and actions by the Nigerien military itself, highlighting escalating violence and civilian vulnerability in the area.

Escalating violence and civilian casualties in Niger's Tillabéri region carry significant early warning implications for Nigeria. Cross-border attacks by groups like IS Sahel and JNIM could spill over into northern Nigeria, increasing insurgency risks, while civilian suffering may drive local radicalisation and recruitment. Rising insecurity could also trigger displacement toward Nigeria, straining humanitarian and local resources. Military actions such as drone strikes set a

precedent for cross-border interventions and heighten the risk of miscalculations. The situation escalates the mounting security, humanitarian, and strategic challenges for Nigeria's northern regions.

Early Warning Implications

1. Increased cross-border insurgency and radicalisation risks as civilian harm linked to counterterrorism operations in Niger could intensify grievances and recruitment for extremist groups
2. Escalated violence and displacement in the Sahel may lead to increased refugee inflows into Nigeria, straining humanitarian resources and local communities.

GOVERNANCE & ELECTION

SENATE BACKS REAL-TIME ELECTION RESULT TRANSMISSION FOLLOWING PROTEST

Following the protest in Abuja on Monday, 9th of February, the Nigerian Senate reversed its earlier rejection of a proposal requiring real-time electronic transmission of election results, as a result of increasing pressure from civil rights activists and political stakeholders seeking to prevent inconsistency and increase electoral credibility on Tuesday, 10th of February.

The Early warning implications of the next protest concerning the electoral bill on the e-transmission of electoral result real time for the upcoming General Election in 2027: The vandalism of properties is likely to happen due to the large number of people who plan to come out for the protest. It can also lead to small-scale clashes among protesters, and a spread of misinformation can start violence among the people or inflammatory narratives on social media.

Early Warning Implications

1. The Senate's reversal under pressure may encourage sustained mobilisation by civil society groups and political actors, increasing the likelihood of recurring demonstrations as the 2027 electoral cycle approaches.
2. Increased misinformation, polarisation, and electoral tension.

BANGLADESH ELECTION OF 2026

The Bangladesh general election marked a significant moment in the country's political development, taking place amid intense domestic and international scrutiny. The Bangladesh 2026 election was organised by the Bangladesh Election Commission; the election was intended to renew the mandate of the government and demonstrate democratic continuity. However, the

election took place during a time of intense political rivalry shaped over the years between major parties.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Tarique Rahman, achieved a decisive win, securing a majority of seats and positioning Rahman to become the next prime minister. Local media reported the BNP winning over 200 seats, ending a long absence from power and signalling a major political shift. Despite the largely peaceful conduct of the polls and a relatively strong turnout, the election was not without controversy. Allegations of irregularities and calls for re-elections in some constituencies were raised by rival parties, including complaints to the Election Commission regarding alleged voter intimidation and procedural lapses. International observers and civil society groups also raised concerns about the credibility of the process, pointing to restrictions on opposition activities, arrests of political actors, and limitations on media freedom.

Early Warning Implications

1. Post-election political instability and governance challenges.
2. Implications for democratic credibility and regional stability.

PUBLIC HEALTH

NIGERIA ACCELERATES MEASLES RUBELLA ELIMINATION WITH SECOND PHASE CAMPAIGN IN THE SOUTH

Nigeria is implementing the second phase of its national measles–rubella vaccination campaign targeting 43 million children aged 9 months to 15 years across 16 states. The current stream (stream one) focuses on eight southern states: Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Osun, Edo, Delta, and Bayelsa, aiming to reach over 22 million eligible children.

This phase builds on the October 2024 campaign across 19 northern states and Oyo State, which successfully reached over 59 million children. High-level flag-off ceremonies led by governors and senior officials demonstrate strong political commitment across the participating states. In Ondo state, the malaria vaccine is also being introduced alongside the measles–rubella campaign.

The campaign is supported by multiple partners, including the WHO, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), the Gates Foundation, and UNICEF, working in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, and State Ministries of Health. Delivery strategies combine fixed posts, mobile teams, and school-based sessions to ensure comprehensive coverage, including hard-to-reach and riverine communities.

Early Warning Implications

1. There will be coverage gaps and outbreak Risk.

2. Misinformation and Vaccine Hesitancy.



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

Website: www.niaa.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre

Email: earlywarning@niaa.gov.ng

[LinkedIn](#)



**13/15 Kofo Abayomi Road,
Victoria Island, Lagos
Website: www.niaa.gov.ng**