



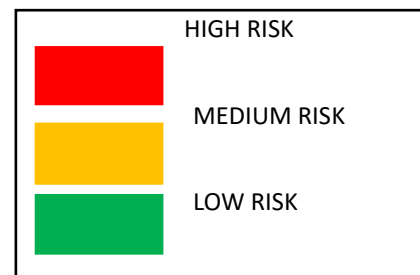
**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
Systems Centre**



The Early Warning Monitor

GLIC Weekly Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This week's developments highlight critical global and regional trends across climate, security, political, and health domains, reflecting both emerging risks and ongoing challenges that require timely monitoring and intervention.

Under climate change, the UN approved the first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's Article 6.4 mechanism, stemming from a Myanmar clean cookstove project that reduces firewood use, greenhouse gas emissions, and indoor air pollution, while empowering women. Credits are partially allocated to South Korea's emissions trading system and Myanmar's climate targets. Updated methodologies produced ~40% lower reductions than the previous Clean Development Mechanism, demonstrating conservative accounting. Azerbaijan and Ethiopia formalized COP32 collaboration, strengthening climate diplomacy and coordination for major environmental forums.

Security risks are rising globally. Extremist violence has expanded across Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia. In Nigeria, a deadly Zamfara attack underscores persistent rural insecurity, while Iran's missile strikes in the Gulf heighten regional tensions and threaten energy infrastructure. In the Sahel, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger advance political and military integration to resist perceived foreign interference.

Political developments include the Republic of the Congo's presidential election on March 15, 2026, and Argentina's nationwide protests over labor reforms under President Javier Milei.

Health threats persist with Nigeria reporting 240 confirmed Lassa fever cases and 51 deaths through week six, concentrated in Bauchi, Taraba, Ondo, and Edo, signalling urgent healthcare and awareness interventions. Climate, security, political, and health developments are increasingly interconnected, demanding proactive, coordinated strategies to mitigate escalation and protect vulnerable populations.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER SCARCITY AND CLIMATE-DRIVEN RESOURCE TENSIONS IN AFRICA

Recent reports have shown growing concern over water scarcity across Africa, with climate change intensifying both droughts and floods simultaneously in different regions. Experts increasingly describe climate change as a “water crisis,” where erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and extreme storms are placing pressure on already fragile systems. In regions such as the Sahel, where livelihoods depend heavily on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism, reduced water availability is worsening competition over land and water resources. These pressures are already visible in farmer–herder conflicts and cross-border tensions linked to shared water systems.

The early warning implication is that water insecurity could evolve into a major driver of instability across Africa, particularly in the Sahel. As access to water becomes more contested, it may intensify local conflicts, trigger displacement, and increase the likelihood of transboundary disputes. Without improved water governance, climate adaptation, and regional cooperation, water stress could become a central security threat, reinforcing the climate–conflict nexus already emerging across vulnerable regions.

DESERTIFICATION AND AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN THE SAHEL

The Sahel remains one of the region’s most vulnerable to climate change, with rising temperatures and declining rainfall accelerating desertification and land degradation. Studies show that the region has already lost vast amounts of productive agricultural land, while the Sahara Desert continues to expand southward. This environmental degradation directly affects food production, livelihoods, and economic stability, particularly for rural populations dependent on farming and herding. Additionally, erratic rainfall patterns, alternating between drought and intense flooding, further weaken agricultural systems and reduce resilience.

From an early warning perspective, continued desertification could severely undermine food security and economic stability across the Sahel. As arable land diminishes, competition for resources is likely to intensify, increasing the risk of communal conflicts and forced migration. If large-scale land restoration efforts fail or stall, the region may face deeper humanitarian crises, making desertification a critical long-term risk multiplier for instability and underdevelopment.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND RISING CONFLICT DYNAMICS IN THE SAHEL

Climate change is increasingly linked to rising insecurity in the Sahel, where environmental stress intersects with weak governance and armed violence. Reduced rainfall and land degradation have intensified competition between farmers and pastoralists, while economic hardship has made

vulnerable populations more susceptible to recruitment by armed groups. Reports and analysis from media outlets indicate that climate stress is no longer just an environmental issue but a driver of conflict, contributing to cycles of poverty, displacement, and instability across countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

The early warning implication is that climate-induced resource scarcity could further destabilize the region by deepening existing conflicts and undermining state authority. As environmental pressures intensify, armed groups may exploit local grievances, leading to expanded insecurity and regional spillover effects. Addressing climate change in the Sahel must therefore be integrated with security and development strategies, as failure to do so risks entrenching a prolonged cycle of conflict and humanitarian crises.

WEAK CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING GAPS IN THE SAHEL

Efforts to combat climate change in the Sahel, including initiatives like the African Union-backed Great Green Wall, face significant implementation challenges. The project aims to restore degraded land and combat desertification, but progress has been slow due to funding shortages, insecurity, and weak political coordination. Broader climate financing challenges across Africa also persist, with adaptation costs running into tens of billions of dollars annually, far exceeding the fiscal capacity of many Sahelian states.

The early warning implication is that insufficient climate financing and weak governance structures could undermine adaptation efforts across the Sahel. If large-scale initiatives fail to deliver tangible results, environmental degradation will continue unchecked, exacerbating poverty and instability. While this risk is currently medium compared to immediate climate shocks, it represents a critical structural vulnerability that could amplify future crises if not addressed through sustained investment and stronger institutional frameworks.

GOVERNANCE & ELECTION

RWANDA, DR CONGO AGREE TO EASE TENSIONS AFTER WASHINGTON TALKS

The governments of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have agreed to ease rising tensions following U.S.-mediated talks in Washington, D.C. in March 2026. The agreement marks a cautious diplomatic breakthrough amid escalating violence in eastern Congo, a region long plagued by armed conflict, proxy involvement, and humanitarian crises. At the core of the agreement are commitments by both states to de-escalate military activities and restore adherence to earlier peace frameworks. Rwanda pledged to roll back what it described as “defensive measures,” widely interpreted as a reduction of its military footprint in eastern DRC. In turn, the Congolese government committed to intensifying operations against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, an armed group composed partly of elements linked to the perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Both countries also reaffirmed respect for each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The early warning implication of the Rwanda, DR Congo agreement to ease tensions after Washington talks is that any delay or ambiguity in troop withdrawals or counterinsurgency operations against the FDLR could quickly reignite tensions. If M23 offensives persist or expand, the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (DRC) may again accuse Rwanda of interference, undermining the agreement. A failure of the agreement could worsen humanitarian conditions, create additional instability and strain regional response mechanisms.

SRI LANKA DECLARES WEDNESDAYS OFF AS ASIAN COUNTRIES TRY TO CONSERVE FUEL

The government of Sri Lanka has introduced an emergency policy declaring Wednesdays as non-working days for the public sector, effectively creating a four-day workweek. This measure is aimed at conserving fuel amid a worsening energy crisis driven by global supply disruptions. The decision reflects the country's vulnerability to external shocks, particularly in the global oil market. Sri Lanka's situation is part of a broader regional trend. Countries like Bangladesh and the Philippines have also introduced energy-saving measures, including remote work policies and reduced institutional operations. These actions illustrate how global geopolitical developments are increasingly shaping domestic economic policies across Asia.

The early warning implications of this policy shift in Asia are very damaging to the economy of many Asian countries. Firstly, prolonged fuel shortages could significantly disrupt economic productivity and also, citizens facing transportation difficulties, rising living costs, and reduced access to services may grow increasingly frustrated. Limited fuel supply can disrupt supply chains, increase transportation costs, and drive up prices of essential goods, further burdening households. The situation highlights the broader geopolitical risk of overdependence on critical global supply routes like the Strait of Hormuz.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

MILITARY SAYS AT LEAST 80 INSURGENTS KILLED AS NIGERIAN TROOPS REPEL BASE ASSETS

Troops of the Nigerian Armed Forces reportedly repelled a major assault by insurgents on a military base in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 80 fighters. According to military sources, the attackers, suspected to be affiliated with Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province, attempted to overrun the base but were met with strong resistance. The incident underscores the continued operational capability of insurgent groups to mount coordinated attacks on military installations despite ongoing counterinsurgency operations. Authorities have described the outcome as a tactical success, but the scale of the assault highlights the persistence and adaptability of extremist threats in the region. The early warning implications of the incident include the risk of intensified insurgent retaliation following the heavy losses suffered by militant groups. Surviving fighters may regroup and launch further attacks on military bases, civilian populations, or critical infrastructure in Borno State and surrounding areas. This could lead to a cycle of attack and counterattack, prolonging insecurity in northeastern Nigeria. There is also the risk that conflict may deepen humanitarian challenges, including displacement and restricted access to livelihoods. The persistence of insurgent activity could further destabilise the Lake Chad Basin region, affect neighbouring countries such as Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, and strain military resources, complicating long-term stabilisation efforts.

SUDAN WAR CONTINUES DESPITE IRAN WAR, PEACE EFFORTS

A recent security analysis highlights a worsening conflict landscape across Africa, with intensified violence involving state forces and non-state armed groups in countries such as Sudan, Nigeria, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda. The report notes sustained clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, continued insurgent activity by Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province in Nigeria, and expanding operations by jihadist groups linked to Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin in the Sahel. The analysis also highlights the growing role of transnational extremist networks, the spread of violence, and the increasing use of asymmetric tactics, including attacks on civilians, military bases, and infrastructure. Weak governance, porous borders, and ongoing political instability continue to provide fertile ground for armed groups to expand influence across multiple regions.

The early warning implications of these developments include the risk of further regionalisation of conflict across Africa, particularly in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. The expansion of groups such as Islamic State affiliates and Al-Qaeda-linked networks could lead to increased cross-border attacks, territorial control, and the erosion of state authority in already fragile regions. If left unchecked, this trend may result in the formation of interconnected conflict zones stretching from West Africa to Central and East Africa.

UAE RESPONDS TO INCOMING MISSILES, DRONES FROM IRAN

Iran has warned of intensified military strikes if its energy infrastructure is targeted amid escalating tensions involving Israel and the United States. Officials in Tehran signaled that any attack on oil or gas facilities would trigger a strong and potentially expanded response, raising fears of a broader regional confrontation. The warning comes as hostilities and military posturing increase across the Middle East, with both state and non-state actors on heightened alert. Energy infrastructure has emerged as a critical vulnerability in the unfolding crisis, given its strategic importance to both national economies and global energy markets. International observers have expressed concern that targeting such assets could significantly escalate the conflict and disrupt global supply chains.

The early warning implication of this development includes the risk of deliberate or retaliatory strikes on critical energy infrastructure across the Gulf region. If energy facilities in Iran or neighbouring states such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are targeted, it could trigger a rapid escalation into a wider regional war. Such actions may also provoke coordinated responses involving multiple state and non-state actors, increasing the intensity and geographic spread of the conflict.

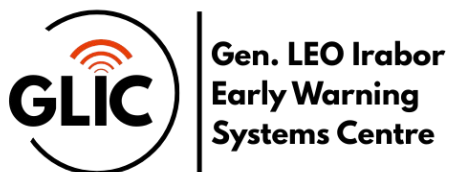
PUBLIC HEALTH

LASSA FEVER OUTBREAKS IN WEST AFRICA: EPIDEMIOLOGY, IMPLICATIONS AND EARLY WARNING MEASURES.

Lassa fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic illness endemic in several West African countries, including Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria. The disease is caused by the Lassa virus, which is primarily transmitted to humans through contact with food or household items

contaminated with the urine or faeces of infected *Mastomys* rodents. Person-to-person transmission may also occur, especially in settings lacking adequate infection prevention and control measures. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 21 days, and while about 80% of infections are mild or asymptomatic, severe cases can result in significant complications, deafness, and death. Case-fatality rates are estimated at around 1% overall but can reach up to 15% among hospitalised patients with severe disease. Ribavirin and early supportive care can improve survival.

The early warning implications of this disease are that communities and healthcare systems must remain vigilant for initial signs, including fever, general weakness, and malaise, which may progress to headache, sore throat, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea. Severe cases can present with facial swelling or bleeding. Because most infections are mild or asymptomatic, early detection is challenging. Monitoring clusters of febrile illness, increased rodent activity, and hospital-acquired infections is essential for triggering timely interventions. Prompt treatment with supportive care and the antiviral Ribavirin can improve outcomes if administered early.



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