



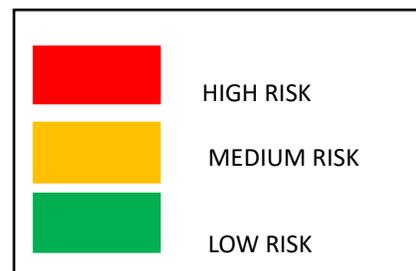
**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
Systems Centre**



The Early Warning Monitor

GLIC Weekly Report

27th February, 2026



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 labour 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, signaling 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

UN APPROVES FIRST CARBON CREDIT TO MYANMAR WOODSTOVE PROJECT

The United Nations has approved the first carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's global carbon market, marking the operational start of the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM). The credits stem from a Myanmar clean cookstove project led by a South Korean organization supplying efficient wood-burning stoves that reduce firewood use, lower greenhouse gas emissions, improve indoor air quality, and ease pressure on forests. Under the new mechanism, credited emissions reductions were calculated roughly 40 % lower than they would have been under the older Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), reflecting more conservative baselines and updated methodologies. Some credits will be transferred for compliance use in South Korea's emissions trading system, while the remainder will count toward Myanmar's climate targets. The UN climate body says the issuance demonstrates the system is functioning and can channel finance to sustainable solutions that also benefit health and gender equity by empowering women affected by household air pollution. However, critics warn that poorly designed carbon markets can enable "greenwashing," letting companies or countries overstate their climate progress while continuing high emissions.

The early warning implication of this is if such legacy projects with weak baselines continue to be approved, it could flood the carbon market with credits of low environmental integrity, undermine confidence in the UN mechanism, and weaken global climate mitigation efforts before stricter standards fully kick in.

AZERBAIJAN, ETHIOPIA DEEPEN CLIMATE CO-OP, FOCUS ON KEY GOAL FOR COP32

The Azerbaijan government and the Ethiopia Foreign Minister - who also serves as president of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP32) - met in Baku to discuss deepening cooperation on climate policy and preparations for COP32. Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration head highlighted the country's contributions to the successful organisation of

COP29 and noted that Azerbaijan is ready to support Ethiopia, including through logistical, substantive, and communication assistance for the 2027 climate summit. A Memorandum of Understanding signed during the Ethiopian prime minister's visit formalises collaboration on COP32 planning. Discussions also touched on cooperation ahead of the 13th session of the UN World Urban Forum (WUF13), slated to take place in Azerbaijan in 2026. The meeting signalled mutual interest in aligning efforts on high-profile international environmental events and enhancing bilateral links around climate diplomacy.

The early warning implication of this is while high-level diplomatic engagement and event preparations can bolster visibility and technical exchange, there is a risk that emphasis on hosting and organisational roles may overshadow substantive climate action and implementation challenges at home. Without clear frameworks for delivering measurable emissions reductions and inclusive stakeholder engagement, such diplomatic efforts risk being perceived as symbolic rather than driving real environmental outcomes.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

ARMED GROUP IN NIGERIA KILLS 38 PEOPLE AND ABDUCTS OTHERS DURING ATTACKS

Gunmen reportedly carried out a deadly attack on the community of Tungan Duste in Zamfara state, killing several residents and abducting others in a night raid. According to local officials and residents, the attackers stormed the village, firing indiscriminately, burning homes, and targeting civilians. The incident is part of a broader pattern of violent attacks linked to armed bandit groups operating across Nigeria's northwest. Authorities have condemned the attack and deployed security forces to the area, while communities continue to face recurring insecurity, displacement, and fear. The violence reflects persistent governance and security challenges in rural areas where criminal networks exploit weak state presence, poverty, and porous borders.

The early warning implications of the attack include the risk of intensifying banditry and criminal violence across northwestern Nigeria, particularly in rural and vulnerable communities. Continued attacks could lead to mass displacement, increased humanitarian needs, and deepening food insecurity, as affected populations are unable to farm or access livelihoods. The persistence of violence in Zamfara could also spill into neighbouring states such as Kaduna and Katsina, worsening regional instability and complicating security operations.

ISLAMIC MILITANTS INCREASE ATTACKS IN BENIN, NIGER AND NIGERIA

A new report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) has highlighted a significant increase in extremist violence globally, with attacks spreading across Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia. The findings show that militant and extremist groups have expanded operations, exploiting fragile governance, political instability, and socio-economic grievances. Regions such as the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and parts of the Middle East have witnessed sustained violence, driven by both local and transnational armed groups. The report also notes that extremist organizations are increasingly adapting their strategies, using decentralized networks, digital recruitment, and cross-border mobility to sustain operations. Analysts warn that weak state capacity, unresolved conflicts, and humanitarian crises continue to create enabling environments for extremist expansion.

The early warning implication of this includes the risk of further geographical spread of extremist violence, particularly in fragile and conflict-prone regions such as the Sahel, where groups linked to the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda have intensified attacks. If current patterns persist, extremist organisations could deepen territorial control, disrupt governance, and expand recruitment among marginalised populations facing poverty and insecurity. This may increase displacement, strain humanitarian systems, and undermine development efforts.

ALLIANCE OF SAHEL STATES RESISTS IMPERIALISM

The Alliance of Sahel States - a confederation of Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger - is resisting what its authors label “imperialism,” particularly from former colonial powers such as France. The alliance has taken concrete steps toward political and military integration, including the introduction of a common passport and shared defence units, framing these moves as part of a broader push against external domination. The bloc’s leaders view their cooperation as an extension of post-colonial sovereignty and a response to perceived foreign interference, coups, and sanctions. The article highlights reported incidents linked to external actors - including an alleged coup attempt financed by France and ambushes of fuel convoys - as evidence of resistance. It also notes that U.S. and Western military presence has shifted, with some bases closing and foreign advisers now present in the region. The narrative celebrates the alliance as a bold step toward autonomy and regional solidarity against neocolonial influence.

The early warning implication of the framing of internal security threats and insurgencies as solely foreign-driven, coupled with a heavy focus on military alliances, risks obscuring local drivers of instability (such as jihadist insurgent activity and governance challenges). If external threat narratives are emphasized without addressing underlying governance and socioeconomic issues, this could justify repressive policies, entrench militarised rule, and deepen societal fractures, potentially fueling further conflict and instability in the region. This conflation of domestic challenges with “imperialist” interference may limit opportunities for inclusive political solutions and sustainable peace.

IRAN MISSILE STRIKES HEIGHTEN GULF SECURITY RISKS

Iran launched missile strikes targeting locations across the Gulf region in response to joint military actions by United States and Israel. The attacks reportedly struck areas near strategic and civilian zones, raising fears of a widening regional conflict. Gulf states have expressed concern over the escalation, emphasizing the risks posed to energy infrastructure, commercial shipping routes, and civilian populations. The developments have hardened regional support for U.S. and Israeli military responses, while also increasing diplomatic tensions and military alert levels across the Middle East. International observers warn that the situation could rapidly deteriorate if retaliatory cycles continue, particularly given the region's fragile security environment and existing proxy conflicts.

The early warning implications of the missile strikes include the risk of broader regional confrontation involving multiple Gulf states, as continued escalation may draw countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates more directly into the conflict. This could transform localised hostilities into a wider regional war, heightening instability across the Middle East and increasing the likelihood of sustained military engagement.

GOVERNANCE & ELECTION

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Republic of the Congo is scheduled to hold its presidential election on March 15, 2026, in a contest that is expected to reinforce or challenge the country's long-standing political order. Current President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, one of Africa's longest-serving leaders, is seeking another term in office. Having first governed from 1979 to 1992 and then returned to power in 1997 following a civil war, Sassou-Nguesso has remained a dominant figure in Congolese politics for nearly three decades of continuous rule. The 2026 election is significant for both domestic politics and regional stability in Central Africa. The Republic of the Congo is an oil-dependent economy, and political continuity or instability could directly affect investor confidence and economic governance. Youth unemployment, economic diversification, and public service delivery are expected to feature prominently in campaign debates; the result of this election can help put the nation on the right track.

Early warning implications of the Republic of the Congo's Presidential Election indicate that public protests before or after voting can be used as a way to demonstrate dissatisfaction with the election process and result, which can lead to political tension and instability. An increase in police or military presence during the election can be used to maintain order, deter unrest, or potentially intimidate opposition supporters. Voter turnout levels can affect the result of the election, with a high turnout of voters can legitimize election result, while a low turnout of voters may signal apathy.

PROTESTS IN ARGENTINA OVER CONTROVERSIAL LABOUR REFORMS

A protest broke out across Argentina following the Senate's approval of sweeping labour reforms backed by President Javier Milei. The reforms, which are part of Milei's broader austerity and deregulation agenda, aim to reduce labour costs and attract investment. However, critics argue they significantly erode workers' rights and threaten long-standing labour protections.

Unions argue the reforms will increase job insecurity and tilt the balance of power toward employers. "These laws take us back decades. They weaken our voice in the workplace and threaten our dignity," said a spokesperson for the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), Argentina's largest union. The unrest shows growing discontent with the current administration's economic agenda, which has already triggered protests over cuts to public spending and social programs. As opposition mounts, Argentina appears set for a prolonged period of social and political tension.

Early warning implications are such that a general strike could disrupt transportation, public services, banking, and energy sectors, worsening economic instability. The reforms deepen divisions between the government and opposition groups, which leads to more political polarisation, and erosion of investor confidence if the unrest persists. Labour instability, strikes, and political uncertainty can discourage foreign investment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

LASSA FEVER: NIGERIA RECORDS 74 NEW CASES, 51 DEATHS IN 2026 - NCDC

Nigeria is experiencing a notable surge in Lassa fever cases in early 2026, highlighting the ongoing challenge of managing this endemic disease. In a single week, 74 new confirmed infections were reported, contributing to a cumulative total of 240 confirmed cases from 1,034 suspected, and 51 deaths through week 6. The case fatality rate appears higher than in 2025. Confirmed cases span eight states: Taraba, Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, and Ebonyi. Four states - Bauchi (38%), Taraba (22%), Ondo (20%), and Edo (9%) - account for 89% of infections. Young adults aged 21-30 are predominantly affected, with more males than females reported. Despite fewer overall cases than 2025, the higher death rate reflects challenges such as high treatment costs, inadequate sanitation, poor feeding hygiene, and limited public awareness. Infection among healthcare workers and strained medical facilities pose additional risks to outbreak management.

The early warning implication of this is that if contact tracing remains insufficient, escalation is possible. Immediate interventions - including intensified rodent control, targeted community engagement, and strengthened healthcare support - are critical in the high-burden states to prevent further spread and spillover.



**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