

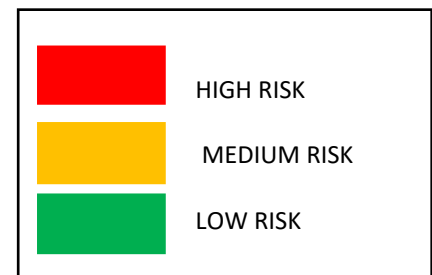


**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
Systems Centre**



**The Early Warning Monitor
GLIC Weekly Report**

10th April, 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global uncertainty is growing this week due to a confluence of environmental extremes, rising wars, precarious political transitions, and expanding public health risks.

With Florida preparing for an above-average wildfire season after early widespread fire activity and New Jersey experiencing sudden temperature surges close to 90°F, the United States is facing increasing climatic volatility. These extremes show how climatic instability is accelerating, posing increased dangers to public safety, infrastructure, and emergency response systems in several states.

There is increased political and security anxiety around Benin's impending presidential election in April 2026. Concerns about democratic regression following the opposition's exclusion from legislative elections and growing instability in the north connected to extremist spillover from the Sahel continue, despite the fact that this is a constitutional transition following President Patrice Talon's term. In light of the vulnerability of both security and governance, the election is increasingly seen as a crucial measure of institutional resilience.

Many suspected fighters were killed in airstrikes carried out by the Nigerian Armed Forces targeting armed bandit camps in northwest Nigeria, but insurgency strains continue despite ongoing military operations. Humanitarian conditions in

Sudan are getting worse due to combat between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, and there is no sign of a ceasefire. Iran has threatened reprisal in the Middle East due to growing regional tensions over military escalation risks and vulnerable oil infrastructure. With increased risks of escalation and spillover effects, these developments are indicative of ongoing multi-theater insecurity.

With over 1,671 cases recorded in 32 states, the United States is currently witnessing a serious measles outbreak that is primarily being caused by domestic transmission clusters and declining vaccination rates. Concerns of a recurrence in previously controlled areas are raised by mosquito resistance to insecticides in South America, which jeopardizes the progress made in controlling malaria. Precision medicine is becoming more prevalent as GLP-1 medication research advances indicate that genetic diversity may account for uneven treatment outcomes. When taken as a whole, these patterns highlight both new vulnerabilities and scientific adaptation in international health systems.

When considered collectively, these phenomena point to the world moving into a phase where shocks are reinforcing rather than isolated. The interplay of public health vulnerabilities, conflict systems, and climate extremes indicates that resilience will rely not only on response capabilities but also on the capability to foresee cascading hazards before they become systemic catastrophes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

OFFICIALS WARN ABOUT HIGHER-THAN-AVERAGE WILDFIRE ACTIVITY ACROSS FLORIDA COMING UP

Due to the ongoing drought, rising temperatures, and below-average rainfall, Florida officials have warned of an above-average wildfire season in 2026. Over 1,500 wildfires have burned over 54,000 acres since the beginning of the year, suggesting an exceptionally active early phase. As dry weather and heat continue, it is anticipated that the peak wildfire season, which usually occurs between April and June, will become more intense. In an effort to prevent fire outbreaks, more than 20 counties have implemented burn bans due to the severe to exceptional drought that is affecting large portions of the state, especially in the Panhandle. Authorities add that, while some rain has fallen, it has not been enough to reverse the dryness, as high temperatures and wind conditions continue to dry out vegetation, creating highly combustible circumstances.

In response, state agencies are intensifying mitigation measures, including prescribed burns, public awareness campaigns, and increased emergency preparedness. However, the early surge in wildfire incidents suggests that firefighting resources may face sustained pressure throughout the season, particularly if weather conditions remain unfavorable.

The early warning implication of the early onset and scale of wildfire activity signal a strong likelihood of escalation during peak season, with heightened risks to communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

DRASTIC WEATHER SHIFT EXPECTED IN NJ

A significant and rapid weather shift is expected across New Jersey, marked by a sharp transition from mild spring conditions to unusually high temperatures. Forecasts indicate a steady increase from average temperatures in the mid-60s to highs approaching 90°F within a few days, placing conditions well above seasonal norms. This abrupt warming trend reflects heightened atmospheric instability and an increasingly volatile spring weather pattern. Meteorological projections suggest that these temperatures could approach or exceed long-standing historical records for April. The sudden spike follows a period of relatively moderate weather, highlighting the speed and intensity of the shift. Such rapid transitions are becoming more notable, as seasonal weather patterns grow less predictable.

Authorities have issued safety advisories, warning of heat-related risks, particularly the dangers posed by rising temperatures in enclosed spaces such as vehicles. Increased energy demand for cooling and pressure on infrastructure is also anticipated as temperatures climb. The situation underscores the broader trend of extreme weather variability, even during traditionally mild seasons.

The early warning implication of this sudden escalation in temperatures signals a pattern of increasing climate variability, raising risks of heat-related health incidents, infrastructure strain, and energy demand surges if such events become more frequent.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

BENIN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Republic of Benin is set to hold its presidential election on April 12, 2026, marking a critical political transition as incumbent President Patrice Talon completes his constitutionally mandated two-term tenure. The election represents a significant test of democratic resilience in a country once regarded as a model of multiparty democracy in West Africa. The political environment leading up to the election has been highly controversial. Recent legislative elections in January 2026 resulted in a complete victory for pro-government parties, leaving the opposition without a single seat in parliament due to stringent electoral thresholds and legal requirements. This consolidation of power has raised concerns about democratic backsliding, with critics arguing that reforms

under Talon have systematically excluded opposition actors and weakened institutional checks and balances. Security concerns further complicate the electoral landscape. Benin has experienced a rise in jihadist attacks in its northern regions, linked to instability in neighbouring Sahel countries. Additionally, a failed coup attempt in December 2025 exposed underlying tensions within the military and dissatisfaction with governance. These developments highlight the fragile security environment in which the election is taking place.

The early warning implications of the Benin presidential election indicate that the erosion of democracy rising from the exclusion of opposition parties and candidates, signalling the shrinking political space. If this trend continues, Benin risks transitioning from a competitive democracy to a dominant-party system, potentially triggering domestic unrest and loss of legitimacy. Secondly, post-election instability is also a factor to consider, given the perceived imbalance in the electoral process, and disputed results could also lead to protests or civil resistance. The intersection of political tension and rising jihadist violence creates a high-risk environment, further increasing security deterioration.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

MILITARY AIRSTRIKES KILL SCORES OF BANDITS IN NORTHWEST NIGERIA

Nigerian military forces reportedly carried out a series of airstrikes targeting armed bandit camps in parts of northwestern Nigeria, leading to the deaths of several suspected fighters. According to security reports, the operation formed part of ongoing efforts to weaken criminal networks responsible for kidnappings, village raids, and attacks on security personnel across the region. The strikes were aimed at disrupting the movement and coordination of bandit groups operating in remote forest areas. While the operation reflects growing military pressure on armed groups, insecurity in the northwest continues to remain a major concern due to the persistence of violent attacks and the adaptability of the criminal networks involved.

The early warning implications of this development include the possibility of retaliatory attacks by surviving bandit elements against nearby communities, major roads, or security formations. Increased military operations may temporarily disrupt armed activity, but they may also push fighters to disperse into new locations, thereby widening the geographic scope of insecurity. There is also the risk that repeated violence could worsen humanitarian conditions through displacement, fear, and reduced agricultural and economic activity in affected states. If the underlying drivers of banditry remain unresolved, the region may continue to experience cycles of violence and instability.

SUDAN CONFLICT DEEPENS AS CLASHES CONTINUE BETWEEN ARMED FORCES AND RSF

The conflict in Sudan continues to worsen as fighting persists between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in several parts of the country. Reports indicate that both sides remain engaged in prolonged battles for territorial control, with civilians bearing the heaviest burden of the violence. The conflict has contributed to severe humanitarian conditions, including displacement, destruction of infrastructure, food shortages, and limited access to medical services. Despite repeated diplomatic efforts and calls for a ceasefire, the war has shown little sign of ending, further deepening Sudan's political and security crisis.

The early warning implications of this development include the growing risk of a prolonged civil war with wider regional consequences. Continued fighting could trigger more refugee flows into neighbouring countries, increase arms trafficking across borders, and create conditions for non-state armed groups to exploit the instability. There is also the danger that the collapse of state institutions may create long-term governance vacuums, making peacebuilding more difficult in the future. If the conflict remains unresolved, it could significantly destabilise the Horn of Africa and surrounding regions.

IRAN WARNS OF STRONG RESPONSE AS MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS RISE

Iran has reportedly warned that it will respond forcefully to any attack on its strategic infrastructure amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The warning comes at a time of heightened confrontation involving regional and international actors, especially around military posturing, missile threats, and fears of broader escalation. Energy facilities remain especially sensitive in the crisis because of their importance to national economies and the global oil market. The situation has raised international concern over the possibility that miscalculation or retaliation could trigger a larger conflict involving multiple countries in the region. The early warning implication of this development includes the risk of attacks or counterattacks on critical energy infrastructure across the Gulf region. Any strike involving oil and gas assets could quickly escalate the conflict and draw in additional state and non-state actors. Such an escalation may also disrupt global energy supplies, increase oil prices, and heighten instability across the Middle East. If tensions continue unchecked, the region may face a broader security crisis with serious international economic and geopolitical consequences.

PUBLIC HEALTH

U.S MEASLES OUTBREAK URGES PAST 1,700 CASES

The United States is facing one of its worst measles outbreaks in recent memory, with case counts climbing rapidly week over week. The CDC's latest update confirmed over 1,671 infections, with nearly 100 new cases added in just one

week. Utah has emerged as the current hotspot, accounting for the majority of new infections. The outbreak has now spread across 32 states and New York City, signaling a truly nationwide crisis. Health officials note that 94% of all confirmed cases are tied to 17 active outbreak clusters. Only 10 of the 2026 cases are classified as travel-related, meaning most transmission is happening domestically. Doctors are sounding alarms about potentially deadly complications, particularly in young children. The surge is being closely linked to declining vaccination rates in certain communities.

The early warning implication of this is that Nigeria already struggles with low routine immunization coverage, particularly in the North, making the population highly vulnerable to a measles importation. A surge in cases could overwhelm the already under-resourced public health system, especially in densely populated cities like Lagos and Kano. Children under five, who make up a massive portion of Nigeria's population, would be at the highest risk of deadly complications like pneumonia and encephalitis. Without rapid vaccine deployment and public awareness campaigns, Nigeria could see a domestic outbreak far worse than what is currently happening in the U.S.

SOUTH AMERICAN MOSQUITOES DEVELOPING INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE

A worrying new development in global disease control has emerged from South America, where mosquitoes are evolving resistance to the insecticides used to combat them. The species in question, *Anopheles darlingi*, is the primary carrier of malaria across the Americas. This resistance threatens to undo years of hard-won progress in the region. Several countries, including Paraguay, Argentina, and El Salvador, had recently been declared malaria-free by the WHO. Scientists warn that if insecticides lose their effectiveness, malaria cases could rebound sharply across the continent. The WHO's Pan American Health Organisation recorded 136 malaria deaths in the Americas in 2024 alone. Researchers are now calling urgently for new vector-control strategies and alternative insecticide compounds. The development is considered especially dangerous for vulnerable and rural populations with limited healthcare access. Global health agencies are being urged to treat this as a priority threat before it escalates.

Nigeria is already one of the world's highest malaria-burden countries, accounting for nearly 27% of global malaria cases and deaths annually. If insecticide-resistant mosquito strains spread or independently evolve in Nigeria, the current frontline tools, treated bed nets and indoor spraying could become largely ineffective. This would cause malaria cases and fatalities to spike dramatically, hitting children under five and pregnant women hardest. Without urgent investment in alternative vector control methods and new antimalarial strategies, Nigeria's already strained healthcare system could face a catastrophic and unmanageable malaria crisis.

DNA MAY EXPLAIN WHY GLP-1 DRUGS DO NOT WORK FOR EVERYONE

GLP-1 medications like Ozempic and Wegovy have been celebrated as groundbreaking treatments for obesity and diabetes, but a puzzling problem has persisted: they simply don't work for a significant portion of users. A new study published this week in the prestigious journal *Nature* may finally shed light on why. Researchers found that genetic variation in a person's DNA appears to play a major role in determining how well their body responds to these drugs. In clinical trials, roughly 10 to 15 per cent of patients are classified as "non-responders," meaning they fail to lose even 5% of their body weight despite taking the medication. Beyond effectiveness, side effects like nausea and vomiting also vary widely between individuals, causing many to stop treatment early. The new genetic findings could eventually pave the way for personalised prescribing, where doctors use a patient's DNA profile to predict their likely response before starting treatment. This would represent a major step forward in precision medicine for metabolic disease. Experts say further research is needed, but the study marks an important breakthrough in understanding one of modern medicine's most talked-about drug classes.

Nigeria is experiencing a rapid rise in obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, particularly in urban areas, yet access to advanced treatments like GLP-1 drugs remains virtually nonexistent for the average Nigerian. Without understanding genetic differences that affect drug response and without investment in making these medications affordable and available, millions of Nigerians with diabetes and obesity will continue to rely on outdated or inadequate treatment options. The economic cost of poorly managed metabolic disease in Nigeria, through lost productivity, increased hospitalisations, and premature death, will continue to grow unchecked. If Nigeria does not begin engaging with the global conversation around precision medicine and equitable drug access now, it risks being left further behind as the rest of the world advances toward more personalised and effective healthcare.



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