



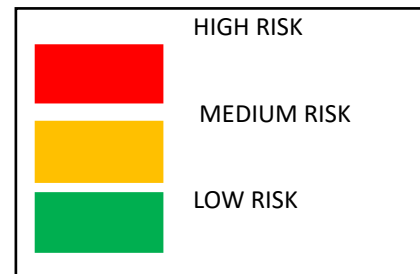
**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
Systems Centre**



The Early Warning Monitor

GLIC Weekly Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For this week's report, a convergence of climate shocks, geopolitical maneuvering, and rising socio-economic tensions is shaping an increasingly fragile global landscape.

Extreme weather events are intensifying in both frequency and impact. In Bangladesh, flash floods have devastated critical rice-producing regions, wiping out livelihoods in areas dependent on a single annual harvest. Simultaneously, Andhra Pradesh faces a widespread heatwave affecting 64 mandals, with temperatures exceeding 41°C and placing vulnerable populations at heightened risk.

In Mali, Russia has reaffirmed its military presence despite escalating insurgent attacks by Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin, raising concerns about a protracted and intensifying conflict in the Sahel. At the same time, China's new zero-tariff policy for 53 African countries represents a strategic economic shift, expanding trade access and influence across the continent.

Security dynamics remain volatile across multiple regions. In Nigeria, renewed communal violence in the North-Central region continues to displace populations and disrupt livelihoods, driven by land disputes and ethnic tensions. Economic strain is increasingly translating into political pressure. Rising inflation, unemployment, and declining purchasing power have triggered youth-led protests in urban centers, particularly in Nigeria.

This week's developments reveal a world where environmental shocks, security instability, and governance pressures are no longer isolated risks but interconnected stressors. The critical question

is no longer whether systems are under strain but whether institutions can adapt quickly enough to manage compounding crises before they converge into systemic disruption.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

FARMER'S DREAMS SINK AS FLASH FLOODS TURN HAOR HARVEST INTO A SEA OF LOSS

Severe flash floods have devastated Bangladesh's Haor wetlands in districts such as Sunamganj, Netrokona, and Kishoreganj, submerging vast areas of cropland and destroying the season's primary rice harvest (boro paddy). The flooding intensified after several days of relentless rainfall at the end of April, overwhelming fields that had already begun to experience rising water earlier in the month. For many farmers, this single crop represents their entire annual income, meaning the losses are not only agricultural but existential. Although some farmers managed partial harvests, persistent cloud cover has prevented proper drying, causing harvested rice to sprout or rot. In desperation, some are boiling immature crops to salvage minimal value, while others face complete ruin. Officials estimate over 30,000 hectares of cropland have been submerged across affected districts, though farmers claim actual losses are far higher than reported.

The early warning implication of this event is that it signals increasing climate volatility and the growing frequency of early-season flooding in vulnerable lowland ecosystems. The mismatch between official assessments and on-ground realities suggests gaps in monitoring and response systems, raising the likelihood of delayed aid and worsening food insecurity. Recurrent pre-harvest flooding could undermine rural livelihoods and trigger migration pressures if adaptive measures are not strengthened.

APSDMA ISSUES HEATWAVE WARNING FOR 64 MANDALS IN ANDHRA

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a heatwave warning for 64 mandals across multiple districts, including Vizianagaram, Manyam, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu, Prakasam, and others. The alert indicates that hot, dry winds and rising temperatures often exceeding 41°C are expected to intensify across these regions, creating uncomfortable and potentially dangerous conditions for residents. Forecasts suggest that dozens of mandals will experience heatwave conditions simultaneously, with some districts such as Palnadu and Manyam particularly affected. Authorities have urged precautionary measures, including avoiding direct sun exposure during peak hours, staying hydrated, and monitoring vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and outdoor workers.

The warning comes amid broader patterns of increasing heat extremes in Andhra Pradesh, where temperatures have been steadily rising, and heatwaves are becoming more frequent and geographically widespread. The state has historically faced severe heat impacts, underscoring the importance of early warning systems and coordinated response mechanisms.

The early warning implication of this alert highlight escalating climate variability and the expansion of heatwave-prone zones into more districts. It signals heightened risk for public health emergencies, strain on water and power resources, and reduced labor productivity. Repeated alerts across large geographic areas suggest that extreme heat is becoming systemic rather than episodic, requiring long-term adaptation planning.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

CHINA'S ZERO TARIFFS TAKE EFFECT ON ALL BUT ONE AFRICAN NATION

China's implementation of a zero-tariff trade policy for 53 African countries, effective May 1, 2026, marks a significant shift in Africa's global trade landscape and underscores Beijing's growing strategic influence across the continent. The policy grants duty-free access to nearly all African exports into the Chinese market for two years, excluding only Eswatini due to its diplomatic ties with Taiwan. This move expands previous tariff exemptions that were limited largely to least-developed African countries and now includes major economies such as Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt. The

initiative is expected to create broader opportunities for African exporters by reducing barriers for agricultural products, minerals, and select manufactured goods. Commodities such as cocoa from Ghana and the Ivory Coast, Kenyan coffee, South African citrus, and Nigerian raw materials could become more competitive in the Chinese market, potentially boosting export revenues and foreign exchange earnings.

The early warning implications of China zero tariffs policy on African nations are that African countries can now export goods to China without paying import duties, making products such as agricultural produce, minerals, textiles, and manufactured goods more competitive. Also, increased exports to one of the world's largest consumer markets can boost national revenues, strengthen foreign reserves, and improve balance of trade positions. Although this seems to be an improvement, African economies may become increasingly reliant on the Chinese market and expanded trade ties may coincide with deeper infrastructure financing and debt obligations under Chinese-led initiatives, potentially increasing concerns over sovereignty and economic control.

RUSSIAN FORCES TO STAY IN MALI TO FIGHT TERRORISM

Russia has reaffirmed its military commitment to Mali despite a major escalation in insurgent violence, with the Kremlin confirming that Russian forces, including the Africa Corps, successor to the Wagner Group, will remain in the country to support Mali's junta against extremist and separatist groups. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia's presence is necessary to combat terrorism and stabilize Mali following coordinated attacks by al-Qaeda-linked Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Tuareg separatists, which recently killed Mali's defence minister and forced Russian-backed forces to retreat from strategic northern positions such as Kidal. This announcement comes amid one of the most severe security crises Mali has faced since 2012, raising concerns about the effectiveness of Russia's intervention strategy in the Sahel.

The early warning implications of Russian forces staying in Mali. First, the persistence of Russian troops without a clear improvement in security conditions suggests the potential for a protracted conflict. Second, the deepening reliance of Mali's junta on Russian support may weaken regional cooperation frameworks. Lastly, the situation could intensify geopolitical competition in Africa. Russia's continued presence, particularly in the absence of Western forces, may reshape alliances and influence patterns across the Sahel.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

COMMUNAL CLASHES THREATEN STABILITY IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

Recent reports indicate renewed communal violence in parts of North-Central Nigeria, particularly involving disputes over land access, grazing routes, and longstanding ethnic tensions between farming and herding communities. These clashes have resulted in casualties, displacement of residents, destruction of homes, and disruption of local economic activities. In several affected areas, fear of reprisal attacks has forced residents to flee to safer communities, while schools, markets, and farming operations have been temporarily suspended. The persistence of unresolved grievances, weak local conflict resolution systems, and the proliferation of small arms continue to fuel cycles of retaliation and mistrust among affected groups.

The early warning implication is that there is a high likelihood of further outbreaks of violence if tensions remain unmanaged. Escalation could significantly disrupt agricultural production, deepen food insecurity, trigger broader humanitarian displacement, and overstretch security responses in neighboring communities. If intervention mechanisms are delayed, the conflict may evolve into a wider regional security challenge with long-term social and economic consequences.

YOUTH PROTESTS OVER ECONOMIC HARDSHIP GAIN MOMENTUM

Growing frustration over rising living costs, unemployment, declining purchasing power, and broader economic pressure has contributed to increased youth-led demonstrations in several urban centres. Public dissatisfaction is being amplified through social media mobilisation, where calls for accountability, improved welfare support, and stronger government action on inflation and job creation continue to gain traction. While many demonstrations remain peaceful, frustration among young people is steadily building as households struggle with higher food prices, transport costs, and limited employment opportunities. This combination of economic hardship and public anger creates a volatile environment where isolated incidents may quickly escalate into wider unrest.

The early warning implication is that sustained economic pressure may trigger larger demonstrations, possible clashes with security agencies, and disruptions to commercial activities in major cities. Prolonged unrest may weaken investor confidence, increase political tension, and further strain public trust in institutions if visible economic relief measures are not introduced in time.



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

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

Email: earlywarning@niia.gov.ng

[LinkedIn](#)



13/15 Kofo Abayomi Road,

Victoria Island, Lagos

Website: www.niia.gov.ng