

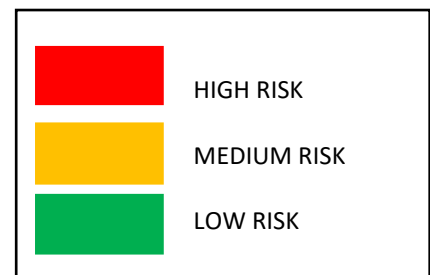


**Gen. LEO Irabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**



**The Early Warning Monitor  
GLIC Weekly Report**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

From accelerating environmental change to rising governance tensions and cross-border disease risks, recent developments underscore how localized shocks are rapidly escalating into wider regional and global challenges.

Global climate risks are intensifying as new research shows sea levels rising faster than previously projected due to accelerated glacier melt, polar ice loss, and warming oceans, increasing the threat of flooding, coastal erosion, and displacement in vulnerable regions. Amid these growing pressures, Pakistan and Türkiye have launched a strategic climate partnership ahead of the COP31 summit in Antalya, focusing on climate adaptation, renewable energy, disaster resilience, water management, and climate financing.

Political tensions are rising in Central and West Africa amid growing concerns over democratic governance and electoral credibility. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, President Félix Tshisekedi sparked controversy after suggesting openness to a potential third presidential term through constitutional amendments and a referendum, prompting backlash from opposition groups and civil society actors who warn of democratic erosion and increased political instability. Meanwhile, Côte d'Ivoire dissolved its Independent Electoral Commission following sustained criticism over alleged bias during the disputed

2025 elections, with authorities pledging reforms aimed at restoring public trust and electoral credibility.

Nigeria is experiencing sustained and multi-layered internal security challenges driven by communal conflicts, banditry, insurgency, kidnapping, and criminal violence across all regions, with persistent instability in the North-Central, North-East, and North-West and rising urban crime and infrastructure attacks in the South. At the same time, the global security environment is marked by escalating geopolitical tensions among major powers, ongoing conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. A hantavirus outbreak aboard the *MV Hondius* has triggered an international response led by the World Health Organization, with at least five infections and three deaths reported among multinational passengers. Linked to the rare Andes strain, the incident has prompted global contact tracing and quarantine measures across Europe and North America.

The convergence of these risks signals not isolated crises, but an evolving global pattern in which resilience will depend on coordinated, anticipatory, and cross-sector responses rather than reactive crisis management.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **THERE HAS BEEN A SUDDEN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF SEA LEVEL RISE**

Recent climate research highlighted by New Scientist indicates that global sea levels are rising at a faster rate than previously observed, raising concerns about accelerating climate impacts on coastal regions worldwide. Scientists analyzing satellite and oceanographic data found that the pace of sea-level rise has increased significantly in recent years, driven primarily by intensified melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets, alongside the thermal expansion of warming oceans. Studies suggest that the acceleration may also be linked to deep ocean warming, which has become a growing contributor to sea-level increases since 2016. Experts warn that many existing coastal risk assessments may already underestimate the scale and timing of future impacts, particularly in vulnerable regions with weak adaptation capacity.

The implication of the sudden acceleration in sea-level rise signals increasing long-term risks for coastal cities, island states, and low-lying communities. Rising baseline sea levels heighten the likelihood of severe flooding, coastal erosion, infrastructure damage, saltwater intrusion, and displacement during storms and high tides.

## **ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

### **DRC PRESIDENT SAYS WILLING TO RUN FOR THIRD TERM 'IF PEOPLE WANT IT'**

President Félix Tshisekedi has stirred significant political debate after declaring that he would be willing to pursue a third presidential term if “the people want it,” despite the current constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo limiting presidents to two terms. Speaking during a national press conference in Kinshasa, Tshisekedi emphasized that any extension of his rule would require constitutional amendments approved through a referendum. His comments have immediately triggered backlash from opposition leaders, civil society groups, and democratic governance advocates, who fear the move could undermine constitutional order and reignite instability in a country already facing major security challenges.

Opposition parties argue that Tshisekedi’s remarks may signal an attempt to consolidate power under the guise of national security and public consultation. Critics warn that constitutional revisions to remove or alter term limits could weaken democratic institutions and set a dangerous precedent, similar to patterns seen in other African states where incumbents have extended their tenure through controversial legal reforms.

The early-warning implication is the triggering of political unrest, with any formal attempt to amend term limits likely to result in widespread protests, opposition mobilisation, and potential clashes with security forces. Additionally, any delay in elections or constitutional disputes could deepen institutional crises and reduce government legitimacy, while diverting attention from the insurgency and allowing rebel groups to exploit national divisions.

### **CÔTE D'IVOIRE DISSOLVES ELECTORAL COMMISSION AFTER CRITICISM**

Following sustained domestic and opposition criticism over its perceived lack of neutrality, Côte d'Ivoire’s government under President Alassane Ouattara officially dissolved the country’s Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) on 6 May 2026. The CEI, established in 2001 after years of political instability, had long overseen national elections but remained a focal point of controversy, particularly after the disputed 2025 presidential election in which Ouattara secured a controversial fourth term with nearly 90% of the vote. Opposition groups and civil society organizations consistently accused the body of favouring the ruling coalition, undermining transparency, and excluding key opposition candidates. The government stated that the dissolution aims to create a more credible and trusted electoral management system capable of delivering peaceful future elections. Government spokesperson Amadou Coulibaly emphasised that a replacement mechanism would be designed to restore confidence among political actors and the public.

The implication of Côte d'Ivoire's dissolved electoral commission after criticism is that, given Côte d'Ivoire's history of election-related violence, perceived manipulation of reforms could escalate into broader security challenges. The dissolution may set a precedent in West Africa where governments under criticism reshape institutions without sufficient safeguards, potentially weakening democratic norms.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **COMMUNAL VIOLENCE AND INSURGENCY CONTINUE TO THREATEN NATIONAL STABILITY**

Nigeria continues to face growing internal security threats driven by communal clashes, banditry, insurgency, and criminal violence across several regions. In North-Central Nigeria, recurring disputes over land ownership, grazing routes, and ethnic tensions between farming and herding communities have resulted in deaths, destruction of property, and displacement of residents. In the North-East, terrorist activities by extremist groups remain a concern despite sustained military operations, while kidnapping for ransom and armed bandit attacks in the North-West continue to undermine public confidence in security institutions. Southern parts of the country are also experiencing pockets of violent crime, cult-related clashes, and attacks on economic infrastructure, further widening national security concerns.

The early warning implication is that persistent insecurity may disrupt agricultural production, reduce investor confidence, increase humanitarian displacement, and overstretch security forces already dealing with multiple threats simultaneously. If underlying grievances remain unresolved, national cohesion and long-term economic development may face significant setbacks.

### **RISING GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS THREATEN GLOBAL PEACE AND ECONOMIC STABILITY**

Internationally, geopolitical tensions among major global powers continue to create uncertainty in the international security environment. Ongoing military confrontations, territorial disputes, strategic competition, and diplomatic disagreements between powerful states have increased concerns over wider regional instability. Conflicts in Eastern Europe, instability in parts of the Middle East, and rising tensions in strategic maritime zones remain major flashpoints capable of affecting global peace. At the same time, cyber warfare, intelligence operations, and military build-ups by competing nations are becoming increasingly prominent tools in international rivalry.

The early warning implication is that prolonged geopolitical confrontation may disrupt global trade routes, increase defense spending, weaken diplomatic cooperation, and trigger economic instability through rising energy prices,

inflationary pressure, and supply chain disruptions. Developing nations, especially those heavily dependent on imports, may experience significant economic consequences from such international shocks.

### **TERRORISM, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME, AND CYBERSECURITY RISKS EXPAND GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES**

The global security landscape is increasingly shaped by non-traditional threats such as terrorism, organized crime networks, cyberattacks, and illicit arms trafficking. Terrorist organizations continue to exploit weak governance structures, fragile states, and online platforms for recruitment, propaganda dissemination, and operational coordination. Meanwhile, transnational criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, human smuggling, illegal mining, and financial crimes are expanding across borders, undermining state authority and fueling corruption. Cyber threats have also grown more sophisticated, targeting government institutions, financial systems, healthcare infrastructure, and private corporations with ransomware attacks, espionage campaigns, and digital sabotage.

The early warning implication is that failure to strengthen intelligence sharing, border security cooperation, and cyber defense systems may leave nations increasingly vulnerable to coordinated attacks and economic disruption. As global interdependence deepens, security threats in one region may quickly create ripple effects across continents, making international collaboration essential for long-term stability.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

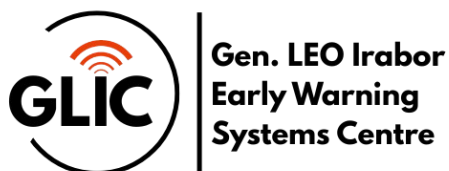
### **WORLDWIDE RACE TO TRACE PASSENGERS FROM HANTAVIRUS-HIT CRUISE SHIP**

Health authorities worldwide are racing to trace and monitor passengers who disembarked from the cruise ship MV Hondius before a hantavirus outbreak onboard was confirmed. The outbreak has resulted in at least five confirmed cases and three deaths involving passengers from multiple countries, prompting an international public health response coordinated by the World Health Organization. Investigations indicate that the outbreak is linked to the Andes strain of hantavirus, a rare variant capable of limited human-to-human transmission.

The ship, which departed from Argentina on an expedition voyage, carried passengers from several countries, many of whom disembarked at different locations before the outbreak was fully identified. Governments across Europe, North America, and other regions have since activated contact-tracing and quarantine measures, while affected passengers are being evacuated and monitored under strict isolation protocols. Public health agencies, including the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have emphasized that the overall risk to the wider public remains low, despite concerns surrounding international spread.

The early warning implication of this incident highlights the vulnerability of international travel networks to rapid cross-border disease transmission, particularly when outbreaks are detected late. Delays in identification and passenger tracing could complicate containment efforts, especially in highly mobile and multinational environments such as cruise travel.



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