

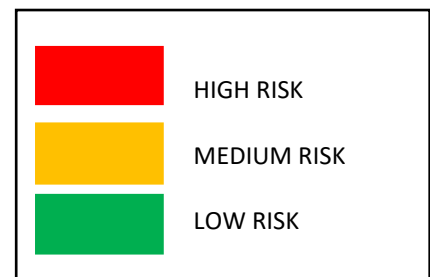


**Gen. LEO Irabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**



**The Early Warning Monitor  
GLIC Weekly Report**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

From coordinated terrorist attacks around Nigeria to worsening climate pressures to growing political instability and transnational public health threats, recent developments highlight how localised crises are increasingly evolving into broader regional and global risks. Kidnapping has increasingly become a lucrative source of revenue for criminal gangs and armed groups, particularly in rural areas where government presence and security oversight remain weak. This emerging trend reflects a deliberate strategy aimed at financing terrorist and insurgent activities across the country. The pattern and timing of these attacks suggest a significant level of coordination among the perpetrators nationwide. While the attack on police trainees was intended to weaken morale within the security forces, especially among younger recruits, the kidnappings appear to serve broader strategic objectives that extend beyond mere financial gain, including spreading fear, undermining public confidence in the state, and destabilising national security. Meanwhile, a Senior Islamic State (IS) leader was killed in joint US and Nigeria operation in the Lake Chad Basin.

The global climate landscape continues to show signs of increasing volatility, with rising extremist threats in the Sahel and growing concerns over intensifying climate extremes worldwide. The United States is seeking to rebuild strategic ties with Sahel states amid warnings that jihadist groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are expanding their

operational reach across the region, exploiting weakened regional partnerships and security gaps. At the same time, climate scientists are warning that a developing El Niño event in 2026 could significantly worsen global heatwaves, floods, droughts, and wildfires, as warming Pacific Ocean temperatures combine with long-term climate change to heighten environmental and humanitarian risks across multiple regions.

In the political landscape, Cape Verde is preparing for its National Assembly election on 17 May 2026, a key political event expected to shape the country's governance and parliamentary balance. The contest is primarily between the ruling Movement for Democracy, led by Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva, and the opposition African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde under Francisco Carvalho.

Public health concerns are rising in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo following increasing fatalities from Lassa fever and a confirmed Ebola outbreak in Ituri province. The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported rising Lassa fever deaths linked to delayed treatment, while the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has activated cross-border surveillance and emergency response measures following reports of suspected Ebola cases and deaths in eastern Congo. These overlapping risks point to an emerging global pattern where effective resilience will depend on early, coordinated, and cross-sector action rather than delayed and reactive responses to crisis.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **FORECASTERS PREDICT WILDFIRES, FLOODS, SEVERE HEATWAVES FROM INCOMING EL NIÑO**

Forecasters and climate scientists are warning that a developing El Niño event in 2026 could significantly intensify global weather extremes, including severe heatwaves, wildfires, floods, and droughts. Researchers note that warming sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean are emerging faster than expected, raising the possibility of a particularly strong El Niño forming in the coming months. Experts warn that the combination of El Niño and ongoing human-induced climate change could push global temperatures to near-record or record highs while amplifying environmental disruptions across multiple regions and that without stronger climate adaptation and mitigation measures, future extreme weather events could become increasingly difficult to manage.

The early warning implication of this prediction is that it poses significant risks to global food systems, water security, energy infrastructure, and public health. Scientists warn that wildfire activity could intensify across regions such as the Amazon, Australia, Canada, and parts of the United States, while other regions may experience destructive flooding and storms.

## **ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

### **CAPE VERDE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION**

Cape Verde's National Assembly election, scheduled for 17 May 2026, is a significant political event that will determine the composition of the country's 72-seat parliament and shape governance in one of Africa's most stable democracies. The election pits the ruling Movement for Democracy (MpD), led by Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva, against the opposition African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV), now revitalized under Francisco Carvalho. MpD currently holds a parliamentary majority and campaigns on economic growth, tourism expansion, and political stability, while PAICV seeks to capitalise on dissatisfaction over social inequality, cost-of-living pressures, and local governance concerns. The smaller UCID party may also play a balancing role, though the contest is primarily between the two dominant blocs.

The early warning implications of the Cape Verde national assembly election are such that a decline in participation could weaken democratic legitimacy and signal public frustration with elite politics, persistent inflation, youth unemployment. These challenges may trigger public frustration if post-election governance fails to deliver reforms.

### **AI GOVERNANCE GAPS AND MISINFORMATION FUEL SOCIETAL POLARIZATION GLOBALLY**

Internationally, the rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence tools has amplified misinformation campaigns, deepfake content, and polarized online discourse, influencing elections, public health narratives, and social cohesion in multiple countries. This week, concerns over unregulated AI in content generation and decision-making systems have grown, with reports of AI-driven influence operations and algorithmic biases exacerbating divisions. Major powers grapple with balancing innovation against risks of technological weaponization and loss of trust in institutions.

The early warning implication is that unchecked AI advancement and misinformation could accelerate societal fragmentation, weaken democratic processes, and complicate crisis response. Nations failing to establish robust governance frameworks may face heightened domestic instability and strained international cooperation on tech standards, with cascading effects on global security and economic collaboration.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **ECONOMIC REFORMS SPARK INFLATION AND PUBLIC DISCONTENT ACROSS NIGERIA**

Nigeria's ongoing economic reform measures, including fuel subsidy removal impacts and currency adjustments, have driven inflation to new highs, with soaring prices of food staples, fuel, and essential commodities hitting households hard. Reports of widespread hardship, protests in major cities, and declining purchasing power have fueled public

frustration, while debt servicing burdens continue to constrain government spending on social programs and infrastructure. Corruption convictions, such as the recent jailing of a former power minister, highlight governance challenges but do little to ease immediate economic pain for ordinary citizens.

The early warning implication is that sustained high inflation and reform-related hardships risk deepening poverty, triggering wider social unrest, and undermining political stability ahead of future elections. Without targeted palliatives, job creation, and transparent communication, public trust in economic policies may erode further, potentially slowing investment and exacerbating inequality nationwide.

### **MAKINDE: SEVEN TEACHERS ABDUCTED IN OGBOMOSO SCHOOL ATTACK, ONE KILLED IN CAPTIVITY**

Seyi Makinde, governor of Oyo, says one of the teachers abducted during the recent terrorist attack on schools in Oriire LGA of the state, has been killed in captivity. On Friday, gunmen riding motorcycles invaded communities within the Ahoro-Esiele/Yawota axis of Oriire, Ogbomosho, and abducted students and staff members of Community High School, Ahoro-Esiele, L.A. Primary School, Esiele, and Yawota Baptist Nursery and Primary School. The attack left an assistant headmaster, identified as Joel Adesiyun, and a commercial motorcyclist dead. A total of 46 people were kidnapped during the mass abduction on Friday, May 15, 2026.

The killing of a teacher and mass abduction of 46 students and staff in the southwestern Oyo State reflects the expanding geographic spread of violent kidnapping networks beyond the traditionally affected north-eastern, north-western, and north-central regions into the southwestern part of Nigeria. It also signals a deepening national security crisis, where schools and civilians remain soft targets, undermining public confidence in state protection and increasing fear across communities.

### **GUNMEN KIDNAP DOZENS OF STUDENTS IN NIGERIA'S BORNO STATE**

Armed attackers stormed Mussa Primary and Junior Secondary School in the Askira-Uba local government area at about 9 am on Friday, May 15, 2026. A senator in north-eastern Borno State, told AFP that local officials say 42 children were taken. Residents and other officials say the total is between 35 and 48. The armed attackers were believed to have arrived in the village on motorcycles. No group claimed responsibility for the raid, but Boko Haram and ISWAP are believed to be active in the region. Mussa, scene of the school kidnapping, is near Sambisa Forest which is a longstanding stronghold of rebel fighters.

The abduction of dozens of students in Askira-Uba, near the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, reflects the persistent vulnerability of rural schools to armed groups operating in remote and poorly secured areas. It also showcases the continued threat posed by Boko Haram and ISWAP in north-eastern Nigeria, reflecting ongoing insecurity, weakened state control, and the strategic use of mass kidnappings to spread fear and exert influence over local communities.

## **ISLAMIST ATTACK ON NIGERIAN MILITARY SCHOOL KILLS 17 POLICE TRAINEES**

At least 17 police officers were killed in Nigeria's northeast Yobe state after suspected Islamist militants attacked a specialised military school that also trains police officers. The 17 police officers were killed on Friday, May 15, 2026, during an attack on the Nigerian Army Special Forces School at Buni Yadi in Yobe state. Several soldiers were also believed to be killed in the attack.

The attack on the Nigerian Army Special Forces School in Yobe State demonstrates the continued operational capability of Islamist insurgents to target strategic security institutions and inflict significant casualties on state forces. It also has serious implications for national security morale and counterterrorism efforts, as attacks on training facilities are intended to undermine confidence, weaken force preparedness, and project the resilience of insurgent groups despite ongoing military operations.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **AFRICAN PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY SAYS THERE IS A CONFIRMED EBOLA OUTBREAK IN CONGO**

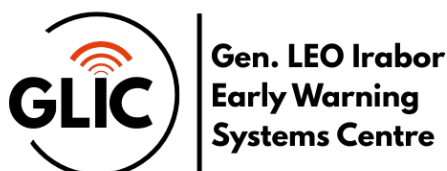
Africa's top public health agency said on Friday that there was a confirmed Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Ituri province. The Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement that it was convening an urgent meeting with Congo, Uganda, South Sudan, and global partners to reinforce cross-border surveillance, preparedness, and response efforts. It said about 246 suspected cases and 65 deaths had been reported, mainly in the Mongwalu and Rwampara health zones, while four deaths had been reported among laboratory-confirmed cases. The agency said initial findings suggested the presence of a non-Zaire strain of the virus, with sequencing ongoing to further characterise it.

This outbreak in Central Africa raises concerns about regional public health security because Ebola spreads rapidly when surveillance and isolation systems are inadequate. The mention of cross-border coordination between Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan shows that health authorities are already worried about regional spread through human movement. For Nigeria, the outbreak is a reminder that imported infectious diseases remain possible through international travel and regional migration. Nigeria's experience with Ebola in 2014 showed how quickly a single imported case can become a national emergency if early detection fails. The outbreak also highlights the importance of maintaining active surveillance at airports, border points, and hospitals, especially for travellers arriving from affected regions. If response systems in affected countries become overwhelmed, there is a possibility of wider transmission across the region.

## **LASSA FEVER DEATHS RISE TO 191 AS LATE TREATMENT WORSENS OUTBREAK – NCDC**

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has raised concerns over rising deaths from Lassa fever, warning that delayed treatment and poor health-seeking behaviour are contributing to a worsening fatality rate across the country. In its latest Lassa Fever Situation Report for Epidemiological Week 18, covering 27 April to 3 May 2026, the agency said 191 deaths have been recorded so far this year, with the case fatality rate rising to 24.6 per cent. The report also showed that confirmed infections increased from nine cases recorded in Week 17 to 22 cases in Week 18, with the latest infections reported in Ondo, Edo and Plateau states.

The implication of this rising fatality rate suggests that many infected persons may still be arriving late for treatment or are not being detected early enough. This increases the risk of more severe infections and deaths, especially in states where healthcare access and public awareness remain weak. The increase in confirmed cases within one week also shows that transmission is still active in endemic states. If surveillance and response measures are relaxed too early, infections may continue spreading quietly in rural communities before authorities detect them. The outbreak further highlights ongoing sanitation challenges and rodent exposure risks in affected areas. Continued pressure on hospitals and healthcare workers may also affect the ability of health facilities to manage severe cases effectively.



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