

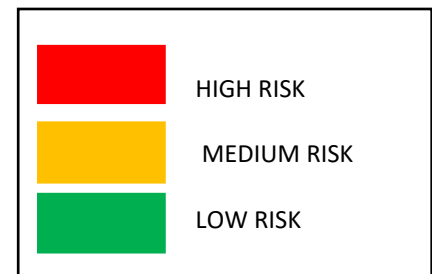


**Gen. LEO Irabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**



**The Early Warning Monitor  
GLIC Weekly Report**

***30<sup>th</sup> May, 2026***



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

From worsening climate pressures to growing political instability and transnational public health threats, recent developments highlight how localised crises are increasingly becoming broader regional and global risks.

Climate-related pressures continue to deepen vulnerabilities across West Africa and the Sahel, with nearly 52.8 million people projected to face acute food insecurity due to the combined effects of drought, erratic rainfall, rising food prices, and conflict. Meanwhile, expanding clashes between Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin and Islamic State Sahel Province in Niger, alongside growing jihadist activity toward Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, highlight escalating regional security risks.

Electoral and governance developments across Africa continue to shape the regional political landscape. Ethiopia is preparing for its 2026 general elections amid concerns about political freedoms, opposition participation, and electoral credibility, even as authorities maintain their commitment to a free and

transparent process. Meanwhile, the Republic of the Congo has announced visa-free access for all African citizens from January 2027, a move aimed at strengthening continental integration, boosting economic cooperation, and advancing the objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Security concerns across southern Nigeria continue to intensify, with renewed highway robbery attacks along the Enugu–Abakaliki Expressway, increasing bandit and kidnapping activities in forest corridors across the South-West, and ongoing efforts to rescue abducted teachers and pupils in Oyo State highlighting persistent threats to public safety and economic activity. Meanwhile, the Nigerian community in South Africa has raised concerns over the reported killings of Nigerians since 2019, calling for greater accountability, stronger protection measures, and action against xenophobic violence and mob justice.

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**

### **ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY EXPECTED TO AFFECT 52.8 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL**

The Food and Agriculture Organization has warned that nearly 52.8 million people could face acute food insecurity during the June–August 2026 lean season across West Africa and the Sahel. According to the latest Cadre Harmonisé analysis, the crisis is being driven by a combination of conflict, climate shocks, rising food prices, and declining humanitarian funding. Countries facing the most severe pressure include Nigeria, Niger, Mali, Chad, and Cameroon, where drought conditions, erratic rainfall, and insecurity continue to limit agricultural production and market access.

The early warning implication is that the region is approaching a major humanitarian stress point. Climate variability is reducing crop yields while insecurity restricts farming activities and aid delivery. If emergency interventions are not scaled up, localised food crises could deteriorate into famine-like conditions, increase displacement, and deepen recruitment opportunities for armed groups. This makes food insecurity one of the most immediate high-risk threats facing the Sahel.

### **JNIM-ISSP CONFLICT EXPANDS INTO NIGER'S TILLABÉRI REGION**

Recent reporting by Reuters confirmed that fighting between Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) has spread into Niger for the first time, particularly in the Tillabéri region. The clashes mark a

significant escalation in the rivalry between the two groups, which had previously been concentrated in Mali and Burkina Faso. Analysts note that more than 2,100 deaths have been linked to the conflict since 2019, while weakening state control continues to create opportunities for militant expansion across the Sahel.

The implication is that environmental pressures and declining livelihoods will likely continue to reinforce insecurity across the region. Competition over shrinking land and water resources, worsened by climate change, creates conditions that armed groups can exploit for recruitment and territorial influence. If state authority continues to weaken in border regions, the conflict could spread further into coastal West Africa, increasing the risk of broader regional destabilisation.

### **GROWING SPILLOVER THREAT FROM SAHEL INSECURITY INTO COASTAL WEST AFRICA**

Recent reports from The Guardian indicate rising concern in Côte d'Ivoire over the expansion of Sahel-based militant activity toward coastal West Africa. Security officials have warned that jihadist groups operating in Mali and Burkina Faso are increasingly targeting northern border regions, while countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Benin are strengthening security deployments and counterterrorism measures. Analysts note that porous borders, population displacement, and fragile local economies are increasing vulnerability to militant infiltration.

The early warning implication is that the Sahel crisis is no longer confined to the central Sahel states. Continued insecurity, combined with climate-related livelihood pressures, could accelerate southward militant expansion into previously stable coastal countries. If preventative measures and regional cooperation remain inadequate, the region could experience a broader security crisis that links climate vulnerability, displacement, and violent extremism. This makes the spillover threat a high-risk development requiring sustained monitoring and coordinated regional action.

## **ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

### **ETHIOPIA GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is preparing for its 2026 general elections amid significant political, economic, and security challenges. The election, scheduled for June 2026, will determine the composition of the House of Peoples' Representatives and is expected to shape the future of governance and stability in the Horn of Africa. The National Election Board of Ethiopia has stated its commitment to conducting a free and credible election. However, opposition parties and civil society organizations have accused the government of restricting political space through arrests, intimidation, and limitations on media freedom. Critics argue that these conditions may weaken public confidence in the electoral

process and reduce meaningful political competition. The government has denied these allegations and maintains that the elections will reflect the democratic aspirations of the Ethiopian people.

The implications of the current intrigues surrounding the Ethiopian elections are that there could be renewed ethnic violence, especially in fragile regions where armed groups remain active. Also, there is a likelihood that armed groups in “Amhara and Oromia” may intensify attacks after the election to challenge state authority. Post-election protests also remain a major concern.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **HIGHWAY ROBBERY RESURFACES ON ENUGU-ABAKALIKI EXPRESSWAY**

Motorists and commuters along the Enugu–Abakaliki Expressway have expressed concern over a resurgence of highway robbery attacks, particularly around the Eke-Obinagu and Idodo areas of Enugu State. The attacks, mostly occurring at night, have reportedly claimed lives, including a commercial bus driver returning from Lagos to Abakaliki. In response, police checkpoints have been reintroduced, although some road users accuse security personnel of prioritising extortion over effective policing. Drivers attribute the increase in crime to economic hardship and the reduced profitability of kidnapping. Residents fear the insecurity could disrupt trade and transportation along this vital South-East economic corridor and have called for intensified security patrols.

The resurgence of highway robbery on the Enugu–Abakaliki Expressway signals a deterioration in road security and suggests that criminal groups are adapting and reoccupying previously contested routes. It also serves as an early warning of increased risks to trade and mobility in the South-East, with potential spillover effects on economic activity and public confidence in security agencies.

### **105 NIGERIANS KILLED IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 2019 - COMMUNITY**

The Nigerian community in South Africa has claimed that at least 105 Nigerians have been killed in the country since 2019, largely due to xenophobic violence, mob attacks, alleged police brutality, vigilante actions, and other unresolved violent incidents. Community leaders rejected reports suggesting that migrants are not being targeted, arguing that such claims undermine justice and discourage victims from reporting abuses. They cited records showing significant fatalities among Nigerians, including deaths linked to xenophobic unrest, shootings, deaths in custody, and alleged extrajudicial killings. While acknowledging South Africa’s democratic institutions and the support of many South Africans for peaceful coexistence, the community called for transparent investigations, greater

accountability, stronger measures against xenophobia and mob justice, and equal protection of all residents regardless of nationality.

The reported deaths reveal persistent xenophobic violence and weak protection mechanisms for migrants, signalling continued vulnerability of Nigerian communities in South Africa and potential for further targeted attacks. It also indicates rising diplomatic and social tensions that could escalate mistrust, underreporting of abuses, and reduced willingness of victims to seek help if accountability remains limited.

### **TERRORISM: FOREST ROUTES FUELLING SOUTH-WEST KIDNAPPINGS**

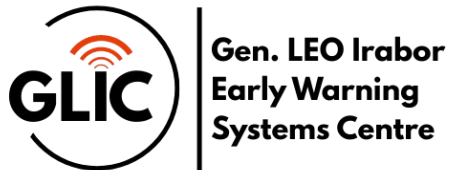
Forests and porous border corridors across Oyo, Osun, Ogun and Ekiti states have become major infiltration routes for bandits and kidnappers entering the South-West, according to security sources, hunters and community leaders. Criminal groups displaced by military operations in northern Nigeria reportedly exploit weak surveillance in forest reserves such as the Old Oyo National Park and connected woodland corridors to launch attacks and evade capture. Recent incidents, including the abduction of pupils and teachers in Oyo State, have heightened concerns. Regional leaders, including Gani Adams, blamed inadequate forest monitoring and poor coordination among authorities, while state governments say intensified patrols and intelligence-led operations are underway to curb the threat.

The use of forest routes for kidnappings in the South-West signals expanding operational space for armed groups, indicating that previously “safe” rural and border areas are becoming entrenched criminal corridors. It also warns of potential escalation and diffusion of violence across multiple states, as weak surveillance and interconnected forests make containment and rapid response increasingly difficult.

### **TEACHERS PROTEST, DEMAND RESCUE OF ABDUCTED COLLEAGUES, PUPILS IN OYO**

Teachers and civil society groups in Oyo State have urged the government to intensify efforts to rescue teachers and pupils abducted in Ogbomoso on May 15, 2026. During a peaceful protest, the Nigeria Teachers Congress stressed that the victims, including very young children, remain exposed to harsh conditions and face danger. The groups also called for improved security in public schools to protect educators and students from future attacks. Government representatives assured protesters that rescue operations are ongoing and that Governor Seyi Makinde is actively monitoring the situation. However, protesters demanded greater urgency and regular updates on efforts to secure the victims’ safe release. The protest indicates rising public anxiety and declining confidence in the state’s ability to protect schools and respond quickly to abductions, signalling a

deterioration in perceived security in Oyo and other southwestern communities. It also serves as an early warning of potential escalation in social unrest and possible disruption of schooling if kidnappings persist without swift, visible rescue outcomes and stronger preventive security measures.



Website: [www.niia.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre](http://www.niia.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre)

Email: [earlywarning@niia.gov.ng](mailto:earlywarning@niia.gov.ng)

[LinkedIn](#)



13/15 Kofo Abayomi Road,  
Victoria Island, Lagos

Website: [www.niia.gov.ng](http://www.niia.gov.ng)