



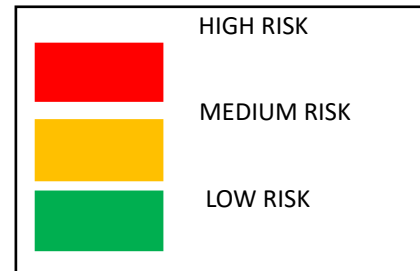
**Gen. LEO Irabor  
Early Warning  
Systems Centre**



## **The Early Warning Monitor**

### **GLIC Weekly Report**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2026**



### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This week's developments highlighted growing global and regional pressures across environmental, political, security, and public health sectors. From escalating climate-related disruptions in Asia and intensifying geopolitical tensions in Africa and the Middle East, to emerging institutional challenges and renewed disease outbreaks, the events points to increasing vulnerabilities facing governments, economies, and populations worldwide.

Central and South Asia are facing escalating climate-related risks, with the Caspian Sea reaching a historic low of 29 meters below sea level due to intensified evaporation from global warming and significant upstream water diversion, resulting in an annual decline of approximately 30 centimeters. At the same time, India and Pakistan are experiencing a severe pre-monsoon heatwave, with temperatures exceeding 46°C, as climate scientists indicate that human-driven climate change has made such extreme conditions three times more likely, increasing environmental, economic, and public health concerns across the region.

Political developments in Africa this week highlighted rising institutional and governance tensions. In Nigeria, a Federal High Court ruling overturning parts of Independent National Electoral Commission's revised 2027 election timetable was widely welcomed by opposition groups as a reinforcement of democratic principles and party autonomy, though concerns remain that a possible appeal could trigger prolonged legal uncertainty and disrupt electoral preparations. Meanwhile, in South Africa, the Parliament has initiated impeachment proceedings against Cyril Ramaphosa following a Constitutional Court ruling tied to the "Phala Phala" scandal, marking a significant escalation in political accountability processes and increasing scrutiny on the country's leadership stability.

Global security and geopolitical tensions intensified this week across Africa and the Middle East. In Nigeria, the Defence Headquarters confirmed that terrorists linked to the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad were responsible for deadly kidnappings in Oyo State, highlighting the continued spread of insurgent threats beyond traditional conflict zones. In Bamako, jihadist blockades tied to Al-Qaeda affiliates have triggered severe economic and humanitarian disruptions ahead of Eid celebrations, worsening shortages and insecurity. Meanwhile, relations between the United States and Iran continue to deteriorate despite ongoing mediation efforts, with disputes over Iran's nuclear program and regional strategic control increasing the risk of renewed confrontation. Broader criticism of U.S. foreign policy also resurfaced, with renewed focus on its historical use of sanctions, embargoes, and military pressure as tools of geopolitical influence across the Middle East and Latin America.

Public health risks escalated across Africa this week as a rapidly spreading outbreak of the rare Bundibugyo strain of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda raised international concern due to rising fatalities, cross-border transmission, and the absence of an approved vaccine, while the World Health Organization also warned that worsening cholera outbreaks linked to flooding, poor sanitation, and displacement could intensify across several African countries during the rainy season, reinforcing the need for heightened disease surveillance and emergency preparedness, including in Nigeria.

In summary, the week accentuates a complex risk landscape, with challenges spanning health, security, and governance. It reinforces the need for stronger coordination, preparedness, and timely response to reduce potential impacts moving forward.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **RECORD SHRINKAGE OF THE CASPIAN SEA**

Close to Central Asia, a medium-to-high risk environmental crisis has culminated with the Caspian Sea dropping to a critical record low of 29 meters below sea level. Driven by accelerated evaporation rates from global warming alongside heavy upstream river

diversions for human use, the world's largest landlocked body of water is currently losing roughly 30 centimeters of water level annually.

The critical insight from this happening is that it mirrors the early stages of the historic Aral Sea ecological disaster. If current climate projections hold true, the sea could drop by another 8 to 30 meters by the end of the century, entirely collapsing regional fishing economies, destroying unique marine ecosystems, and altering the local climate.

### **PRE-MONSOON HEATWAVE CRISIS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

A critical pre-monsoon heatwave is currently gripping India and Pakistan, where regional temperatures have soared past a staggering 46°C (114.8°F). This ongoing event carries an extreme risk level, as rapid analysis by World Weather Attribution scientists confirms human-caused climate change has made this devastating multi-week heatwave three times more likely.

The early warning implication of this crisis is that what used to be a rare seasonal anomaly has now become an oppressive regular reality. The persistent heatwaves are lengthening the pre-monsoon season, pushing public health systems to the brink, triggering power outages, and threatening vital agricultural crop yields.

## **ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE**

### **NIGERIAN PARTIES WELCOME VERDICT VOIDING INEC TIMELINES**

A Federal High Court ruling nullifying portions of the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) revised timetable for the 2027 general elections has triggered widespread reactions across Nigeria's political landscape, with opposition parties and political stakeholders welcoming the judgment as a victory for democracy and internal party autonomy. The ruling, delivered by Justice Mohammed Umar in Abuja, declared that INEC exceeded its statutory powers by shortening timelines already guaranteed under the Electoral Act 2026. However, the ruling also raises concerns regarding electoral certainty and institutional authority. If INEC decides to appeal the judgment, it could prolong legal disputes and create uncertainty within the electoral process. There are fears that prolonged litigation may disrupt preparations for the 2027 polls and weaken public confidence in the electoral system.

The court's verdict voiding INEC timelines may weaken perceptions of INEC's authority and administrative independence if stakeholders portray the commission as overreaching or politically biased.

## **SOUTH AFRICA BEGINS PROCESS TO CONSTITUTE RAMAPHOSA IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE**

South Africa's Parliament has formally begun the process of constituting an impeachment committee to investigate allegations against President Cyril Ramaphosa over the long-running "Phala Phala" or "Farmgate" scandal. The move follows a landmark ruling by the Constitutional Court which found that Parliament acted inconsistently with the constitution when it blocked impeachment proceedings against the president in 2022. National Assembly Speaker Thoko Didiza has directed political parties represented in Parliament to submit nominees for the impeachment committee. According to parliamentary guidelines, the committee will consist of 31 members selected proportionally from represented political parties to ensure inclusivity and broad participation in the process.

The impeachment process could deepen divisions between the ruling ANC and opposition parties, potentially leading to heightened political confrontations within Parliament and across the country. If opposition groups or Ramaphosa supporters perceive the process as politically manipulated, protests and demonstrations could escalate, particularly in major urban centres. In addition, continued political uncertainty surrounding the presidency could weaken investor confidence, increase market volatility, and affect South Africa's economic recovery prospects.

## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **OYO KIDNAP CARRIED OUT BY DISLODGED JAS TERRORISTS – DHQ**

The Defence Headquarters stated that the recent kidnapping in Oyo State was carried out by terrorists from the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad (JAS) group displaced by ongoing military offensives elsewhere in the country. The military rejected claims that it described terrorists in the South-West as ordinary criminals, calling such reports misleading. It emphasized that troops are working with other security agencies and local stakeholders to combat terrorism and protect democratic institutions. The clarification followed attacks in Oriire LGA, where terrorists abducted pupils, teachers, and residents, leaving several people dead, including a kidnapped teacher later killed in captivity.

The incident suggests that intensified military operations in one region may displace terrorist groups into relatively less-secured areas, creating new security threats and requiring stronger interregional intelligence coordination and surveillance. It also highlights the need for early warning systems based on monitoring population movements, suspicious armed activity, and attacks on vulnerable communities and schools to prevent the expansion of terrorist operations into new regions.

### **NO WAY HOME FOR EID AS JIHADISTS CUT OFF MALI CAPITAL**

Residents of Bamako are facing severe hardship ahead of Eid celebrations due to a blockade imposed by jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda in the Sahel. The blockade has disrupted transportation, prevented many families from travelling home, and caused major economic losses for transport operators and livestock traders. Rising insecurity, attacks on vehicles, fuel shortages, and damaged supply routes have sharply increased sheep prices and reduced availability for the traditional Tabaski sacrifice. The crisis has also worsened daily living conditions, with prolonged electricity and water shortages affecting businesses, food storage, and preparations for the holiday.

The blockade indicates a growing capacity of jihadist groups to isolate major urban centres, disrupt economic activities, and undermine public confidence in state authority through sustained attacks on transportation and supply networks. It also serves as an early warning sign of worsening humanitarian and security conditions, including food insecurity, economic hardship, displacement, and increased vulnerability of civilians as essential services and mobility continue to deteriorate.

### **THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM: IS THE US PREPARING FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF STRIKES ON IRAN?**

The relationship between the United States and Iran appears to be moving toward another phase of confrontation despite ongoing diplomatic efforts involving intermediaries such as Pakistan, Qatar, and Türkiye. The dispute centers on Iran's nuclear program and control of the Strait of Hormuz, with both sides adopting uncompromising positions. Washington's demands, including limits on Iran's nuclear infrastructure and uranium transfers, are viewed by Tehran as surrender terms, while Iran's counterdemands are unacceptable to the US. As a result, negotiations increasingly resemble a strategic pause rather than a path to peace, with both countries preparing politically and militarily for possible renewed conflict.

The situation signals a high risk of renewed interstate conflict, as both the United States and Iran are hardening positions, issuing incompatible demands, and treating diplomacy as a temporary pause rather than a pathway to compromise. It also highlights early warning indicators such as stalled negotiations, escalation rhetoric, strategic leverage over critical chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, and parallel military preparations alongside diplomatic engagement.

### **BLOCKADE, BLACKMAIL, INVADE: IS THE US PREPARING A MILITARY ATTACK ON CUBA?**

The United States repeatedly follows a pattern of "blockade and invasion" in its foreign policy, using economic sanctions, embargoes, and military force against states such as Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and others. It claims this strategy combines economic strangulation with military pressure to force regime change, citing historical interventions and ongoing tensions

with countries like Iran and Cuba. The recent intelligence reports and diplomatic narratives may be used to justify future military action, particularly against Cuba, while framing U.S. foreign policy as driven by geopolitical dominance rather than legitimate security concerns, especially in the Caribbean and Latin America.

The narrative reflects heightened risk of escalating geopolitical tensions driven by coercive economic and military strategies, where intensified sanctions and allegations may signal preparatory stages for future intervention or conflict, particularly against states already under sustained pressure.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **THE FAST-SPREADING EBOLA OUTBREAK IN CENTRAL AFRICA**

Reuters reported that the fast-spreading outbreak of a rare strain of Ebola in Central Africa has raised serious concern among global health authorities. According to the report, the Democratic Republic of Congo had recorded at least 516 suspected cases and 131 deaths, while Uganda confirmed additional cross-border infections. WHO warned that the outbreak poses a significant public health threat because of its rapid spread and the absence of an approved vaccine for the Bundibugyo strain. The report added that healthcare workers have also been infected, while health officials struggle with weak infrastructure, insecurity, and delayed case detection in affected communities.

One major concern is the delayed detection of the virus in affected communities. Reports show that the outbreak may have circulated for weeks before being officially confirmed, increasing the likelihood that infected persons may have moved across communities and borders before response measures began. Another serious concern is the nature of the Bundibugyo strain itself. Unlike the more common Ebola Zaire strain, there is currently no approved vaccine specifically for this variant. This limits immediate medical response options and means authorities will depend heavily on isolation, contact tracing, safe burials, and public cooperation to slow transmission. The declaration of a global health emergency shows that the outbreak is no longer seen as a local problem but a wider international health threat. Even though Nigeria has not recorded any case, the risk of importation through international travel and regional movement still exists, especially because African countries remain highly connected through trade and migration.

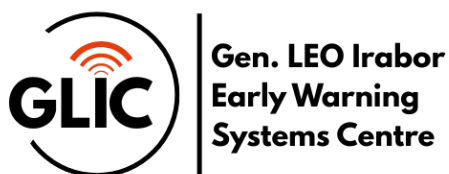
For Nigeria, the outbreak highlights the importance of maintaining active disease surveillance at airports, border points, and healthcare facilities. Although Nigeria is geographically distant from the epicentre, international travel and regional migration still create a potential risk of importation. Nigeria's 2014 Ebola experience showed that early detection and rapid isolation are critical. If preparedness systems weaken due to

complacency, imported cases could spread quietly before authorities respond. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The continued rise in Ebola cases across Central Africa suggests that the outbreak may already be spreading faster than health authorities can fully track and contain.

### **WHO WARNS CHOLERA OUTBREAKS MAY WORSEN DURING RAINY SEASON IN AFRICA**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that cholera outbreaks across several African countries could worsen as the rainy season intensifies. Countries including Mozambique, Zambia, Ethiopia, and parts of West Africa are already recording increasing cases linked to flooding, poor sanitation, and displacement. WHO noted that overcrowded communities and limited access to clean water remain major drivers of transmission. Health authorities are scaling up vaccination campaigns and emergency water sanitation interventions in affected areas.

The early warning implication of this highlights the growing connection between climate conditions and disease outbreaks across Africa. For Nigeria, the approaching peak rainy season increases the risk of cholera outbreaks, especially in flood-prone states and densely populated communities with weak sanitation systems. If preventive measures are not strengthened early, local outbreaks could spread quickly and place pressure on health facilities.



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