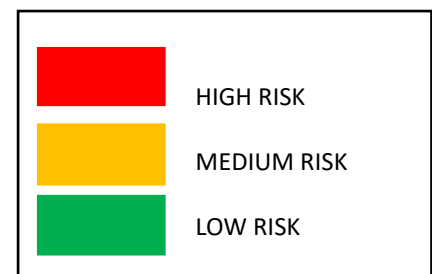


The Early Warning Monitor
GLIC Weekly Report

28th August, 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In West Africa, violent extremism, cross-border insecurity, kidnapping, and weakening regional security cooperation remain major concerns. Nigeria faces increasing exposure, particularly through insecurity along its northern borders and the growing financial strength of terrorist and criminal networks. Meanwhile, strengthened cross-border cooperation among Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire offers an opportunity to improve information-sharing and community-based early warning.

Governance risks are also emerging. Nigeria's 2027 political activities are intensifying concerns over voter intimidation, misuse of state resources, and institutional neutrality. In Guinea-Bissau and Zambia, constitutional and electoral disputes could further undermine democratic stability.

Climate-related threats continue to expand, with pressure on water resources, extreme flooding, and rising ocean temperatures posing risks to livelihoods, infrastructure, and long-term security. Public health developments also require close monitoring. Unusual malaria transmission in Germany, declining global measles vaccination coverage, and the

expanding Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo demonstrate the importance of effective surveillance and rapid response.

Overall, the developments underscore the need for proactive risk monitoring, stronger intelligence-sharing, resilient institutions, regional cooperation, and timely intervention to prevent emerging threats from escalating into wider crises.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

11 NIGERIAN STATES UNDER THREAT AS CAMEROON MOVES TO RELEASE WATER FROM LAGDO DAM

Nigeria's federal government has placed 11 states on alert as Cameroon prepares a controlled release of water from the Lagdo Dam. The potentially affected states are Adamawa, Taraba, Benue, Nasarawa, Kogi, Edo, Delta, Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River and Rivers. Authorities say the initial discharge could begin at 100 cubic metres per second and increase depending on inflows into the dam. NEMA has conducted preparedness exercises and urged vulnerable communities and state authorities to strengthen emergency response measures. The warning comes amid wider flood concerns across Nigeria, making early monitoring, evacuation planning and public awareness essential to reducing potential losses. The early warning signals show that a combination of dam releases and seasonal rainfall could increase pressure on rivers, potentially causing widespread flooding, displacement, farmland destruction and damage to homes and infrastructure. Communities in low-lying and riverside areas face the greatest immediate risk, particularly if discharge volumes increase or heavy rainfall persists. Flooding could also disrupt transport, livelihoods and humanitarian access across several states. Continuous monitoring of water levels, early evacuation planning, public awareness campaigns and coordination between federal, state and local emergency agencies are therefore essential to minimise casualties and economic losses.

TARABA TAKES ACTION AS CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS FORESTS AND RIVERS

Taraba State, Nigeria, has launched a Climate Change Policy and Action Plan aimed at protecting its forests, rivers and communities from growing climate risks. Governor Agbu Kefas warned that unpredictable rainfall, drying rivers and other environmental changes are already disrupting agriculture and threatening the state's natural resources. The policy calls for climate considerations to be integrated into sectors including health, infrastructure and education. Local governments, traditional institutions, communities, youth and women's groups, businesses and development

partners are expected to participate in implementation. The state also plans to improve waste management and reduce bush burning, with success measured by tangible environmental improvements in communities. The early warning signals indicate that without effective implementation, Taraba could face worsening agricultural losses, water scarcity, flooding, land degradation and pressure on rural livelihoods as climate impacts intensify. Farmers and communities dependent on forests and river systems remain particularly vulnerable to erratic rainfall and declining water availability. The policy's success will depend on translating commitments into measurable action at the community level, especially through local governments and environmental agencies. Strong monitoring of forests and waterways, climate-smart agricultural support, improved drainage and waste management, anti-bush-burning measures and sustained funding are therefore essential to prevent environmental degradation from developing into broader humanitarian and economic risks.

SWITZERLAND FACING INCREASING PRESSURE ON ITS GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES AS HEAT WAVES, PROLONGED DRY PERIODS AND REDUCED SNOWFALL AFFECT WATER REPLENISHMENT.

Switzerland is facing increasing pressure on its groundwater supplies as heatwaves, prolonged dry periods and reduced snowfall affect water replenishment. More than 80% of Swiss drinking water comes from groundwater, yet monitoring remains limited, making it difficult to determine which sources are declining. In Fribourg, new sensors are being installed to track groundwater levels and spring output. Climate change is also shifting water availability, with declining snow packs reducing groundwater recharge in some regions while earlier snowmelt increases water in certain valleys. Although Switzerland is not currently running out of water, experts warn that repeated droughts could reduce reserves and threaten long-term water security. The early warning signals show that continued heat and insufficient rainfall could deepen groundwater depletion and create cascading risks for drinking-water supplies, agriculture, ecosystems, industry and energy production. Reduced snowfall is particularly significant because weaker spring and summer snowmelt limits a major source of water for rivers and groundwater recharge. As dry periods persist, competition for available water may intensify, requiring restrictions on irrigation and other uses. Vulnerable rural and drought-prone areas could face the greatest pressure. Continuous groundwater monitoring, water-conservation measures, sustainable abstraction limits and stronger drought planning are therefore essential to prevent temporary shortages from developing into a wider water-security crisis.

EARTH'S OCEANS BREAK HEAT RECORD, RAISING GLOBAL CLIMATE RISKS

Earth's oceans reached their highest recorded daily average sea-surface temperature on August 21, 2026, at 21.1°C, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service. The record reflects the combined effects of long-term human-caused global warming and a strengthening El Niño. Since oceans absorb more than 90% of excess global-warming heat, continued warming threatens coral reefs, marine life and sea levels. Warmer oceans also provide additional energy and moisture to storms, increasing the risk of heavier rainfall, flooding and tropical cyclones. Scientists warn that the unusually strong El Niño could contribute to further global temperature records through late 2026 and into 2027.

The early warning indicators suggest that continued ocean warming could trigger cascading global risks across weather systems, food security, coastal communities and economies. Warmer seas can provide additional energy for intense storms, while marine heatwaves threaten biodiversity, fisheries and the livelihoods of communities dependent on ocean resources. Thermal expansion also contributes to sea-level rise, increasing long-term coastal flooding and erosion risks. With El Niño forecast to strengthen further, additional temperature records and climate extremes remain possible. Enhanced ocean monitoring, early-warning systems, coastal adaptation, fisheries protection and stronger climate mitigation measures are therefore essential to reduce escalating environmental and humanitarian impacts

NEPAL FLASH FLOOD KILLS EIGHT; DAMAGES ROADS, POWER PROJECTS

A devastating flash flood in Nepal's mountainous Rasuwa district near the Tibet border has killed at least eight people, washing away villages and damaging roads, bridges and hydroelectric power projects. Floodwaters along the Bhote Koshi River were so severe that rescue helicopters initially could not land in affected areas, complicating emergency operations. Authorities urged residents in low-lying riverside communities to move to higher ground as the full extent of casualties and damage remained unclear. The disaster also disrupted approximately 430 megawatts of hydropower capacity, while a mudslide across the border in Tibet caused further casualties and infrastructure disruption. The early warning alert is clear: continued heavy rainfall and unstable mountain conditions could trigger additional flash floods, landslides and river surges, placing isolated communities at severe risk. Damaged roads and bridges may further restrict humanitarian access and delay rescue operations, while disruption to hydropower facilities could affect electricity supplies and economic activity. Communities near rivers and steep slopes remain particularly vulnerable to secondary

disasters, especially during periods of intense rainfall. Enhanced weather and river monitoring, timely evacuation warnings, emergency shelter preparedness and rapid restoration of critical transport routes are therefore essential to reduce further casualties and prevent the humanitarian situation from worsening.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

VIDEO SHOWS HUNDREDS HELD CAPTIVE AFTER NIGERIA MOSQUE KIDNAPPING

An armed group has released a video showing what residents claim are about 600 women, children, and elderly people abducted during an attack on a mosque in Nigeria's north-central Niger State last week. The footage, circulated on Facebook and WhatsApp, depicts large groups of captives seated in a forested area surrounded by gunmen. The distress of several children can be heard in the background. According to residents, the kidnappings occurred during Friday prayers in Dekara village, when attackers stormed the mosque and simultaneously raided nearby communities. The video surfaced two days later, with one gunman speaking in Hausa and urging families to identify relatives among those shown. Mass abductions for ransom have become increasingly common in north-western and north-central Nigeria, where heavily armed gangs target villages, schools, and highways. While such violence was once concentrated in the far north, it has steadily spread southward, deepening insecurity across the region.

The video of hundreds abducted in Niger State is an early warning of a deepening security crisis. Violence that once plagued Nigeria's far north is spreading southward, overwhelming local defences and threatening to destabilise communities, economies, and governance. If unchecked, mass kidnappings risk becoming normalised, eroding public trust, disrupting livelihoods, and fueling wider instability across the Sahel.

7,825 NIGERIANS ABDUCTED AS RANSOM PAYMENTS REACH N7.8 BILLION IN ONE YEAR

A new SBM Intelligence report released on August 27 revealed that 7,825 people were abducted across Nigeria in 1,713 kidnapping and related incidents between July 2025 and June 2026, while at least 1,142 people were killed. Victims and their families paid about N7.78 billion in ransom. The report identified kidnapping as an increasingly organised criminal economy, with the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad faction of Boko Haram accounting for about 90 per cent of recorded

ransom payments despite being linked to only a small number of incidents. The findings highlight the scale and financial sustainability of Nigeria's abduction crisis.

The early warning signs show that the growing profitability of kidnapping is strengthening the financial base available to terrorist and criminal networks, potentially enabling them to purchase weapons, recruit members and sustain operations. The sharp increase in the number of victims also shows that abduction remains a persistent national security threat rather than an isolated criminal problem. Security agencies should intensify efforts to disrupt ransom-financing networks, improve intelligence-led operations and strengthen protection around vulnerable communities, schools and transport corridors. Without sustained pressure on the financial incentives behind kidnapping, the threat could become increasingly entrenched.

IRAN SETS CONDITIONS FOR REOPENING STRAIT OF HORMUZ AS SHIPPING TRAFFIC FALLS

Iran said on August 28 that it was preparing conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz after renewed diplomatic efforts focused on restoring freedom of navigation. Tehran said the conditions would include a path toward ending the wider regional war and indicated that it had agreed with Oman on a possible shipping corridor. The development comes as commercial traffic through the strategic waterway remains sharply reduced: preliminary data showed only seven commodity vessels transited on August 27, below the recent 10-day average of 15. The Strait is a critical route for global energy supplies and international maritime trade.

The early warning signals indicate that continued restrictions or renewed attacks around the Strait of Hormuz could disrupt global energy flows, increase shipping costs and heighten the risk of direct confrontation involving Iran, the United States and regional actors. The decline in vessel traffic demonstrates the immediate security impact of the crisis on commercial navigation. Although diplomatic efforts to reopen the waterway offer an opportunity for de-escalation, the situation remains fragile while military tensions and economic pressure continue. Continued monitoring of maritime movements and diplomatic negotiations is essential.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

KUJE COUNCIL CHAIR'S 'VOTE APC OR LEAVE' REMARK TRIGGERS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS CONTROVERSY

The National Human Rights Commission has called for the arrest of Kuje Area Council Chairman Samuel Shekwolo after he was reported to have told residents to vote for the All Progressives Congress in 2027 or leave the council. The remarks generated condemnation from human rights organisations and opposition actors, with the NHRC describing them as intimidation and an assault on constitutional and democratic principles. Shekwolo subsequently sought to clarify the statement, but the controversy has intensified scrutiny of political rhetoric as Nigeria's 2027 election campaign becomes increasingly competitive. The incident is significant because it involves an elected local government official allegedly using political authority to pressure residents over their electoral choices.

The early warning signals indicate that coercive political rhetoric at the grassroots level could normalise voter intimidation and undermine citizens' freedom to participate in elections without fear of reprisals. Such conduct, if repeated, could contribute to a wider atmosphere of political coercion before 2027. The NHRC, INEC and relevant law-enforcement authorities should establish clear accountability mechanisms for public officials who threaten voters or condition access to government services on political support. Political parties should also sanction inflammatory conduct by their officials. Monitoring similar threats, politically motivated displacement claims, abuse of local government resources and voter intimidation will be important as campaigns intensify.

2027 CAMPAIGN STRUCTURES INTENSIFY AMID CONCERNS OVER STATE RESOURCES AND POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

Nigeria's 2027 political contest has entered a more active phase, with the APC and opposition parties expanding campaign structures and mobilising supporters across states. President Bola Tinubu's campaign organisation has generated particular scrutiny following concerns from lawmakers over the participation of senior public officials in partisan campaign activities. At the same time, opposition actors including Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi are positioning themselves around economic hardship, insecurity and governance performance. The political environment is therefore shifting from early positioning toward more organised electoral competition. Recent debates at the Nigerian Bar Association conference also brought security, policing, elections and economic policy directly into the presidential contest.

The growing overlap between public office and partisan campaign structures could create perceptions of institutional capture and weaken confidence in electoral neutrality. The risk is particularly significant if ministers, security officials or regulatory institutions are perceived to deploy state resources for partisan purposes. Government should maintain a clear separation between official duties and campaign activities, while INEC and civil society organisations should monitor misuse of public resources, inflammatory rhetoric and unequal access to state institutions. Early enforcement of campaign and electoral rules would reduce the likelihood of more serious institutional disputes as the 2027 contest progresses.

GUINEA-BISSAU PREPARES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM THAT COULD EXPAND PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

Guinea-Bissau is preparing to vote on a new constitution on 30 August, following the military takeover of November 2025 that interrupted the country's electoral process. The proposed constitution would substantially strengthen presidential powers, allowing the president to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and cabinet, create or abolish ministries and dissolve parliament under certain circumstances. It would also reduce parliament from 102 to 65 seats and cut electoral constituencies from 29 to 12. Supporters argue that the changes could improve institutional efficiency, while critics warn that they would concentrate excessive authority in the presidency. The referendum is expected to determine the institutional framework for general elections planned for December.

The early warning alert is clear; the referendum could either provide a pathway from military rule toward constitutional government or institutionalise a more concentrated executive system. The danger is particularly acute because political parties have complained about exclusion from the constitutional process and alleged manipulation. A disputed referendum could undermine the legitimacy of the subsequent December elections and prolong Guinea-Bissau's cycle of political instability. ECOWAS, the African Union and international observers should closely monitor the referendum, ensure broad political participation and press for transparent procedures. Any restrictions on opposition campaigning, voter intimidation or irregularities should trigger immediate diplomatic engagement.

U.S. FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS TRUMP'S MAIL-VOTING RESTRICTIONS AHEAD OF MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A U.S. federal judge has temporarily blocked a new rule implementing President Donald Trump's effort to impose tighter requirements on mail-in voting ahead of the November 2026 congressional elections. The rule would require states to obtain approval from the U.S. Postal Service for mail-ballot envelopes and provide detailed voter information through a federal system. Democratic-led states and voting-rights organisations argue that the measure improperly interferes with states' constitutional authority over election administration and could disenfranchise voters. The judge found that the rule was likely unlawful and ordered a 14-day restriction pending a September hearing. The ruling adds another major legal confrontation to an increasingly polarised U.S. electoral environment.

The early warning signals show that continuing litigation over mail voting could create administrative uncertainty only weeks before Americans begin participating in the midterm electoral process. Conflicting court orders or last-minute changes could confuse voters, burden election administrators and intensify partisan claims about electoral legitimacy. Federal and state authorities should prioritise consistent guidance, protect election administrators from political pressure and communicate procedural changes clearly to voters. Monitoring appeals, Supreme Court intervention, state compliance decisions and public claims of electoral fraud will be essential because sustained institutional conflict could weaken confidence in the administration and legitimacy of the November elections.

PUBLIC HEALTH

RARE MALARIA OUTBREAK AT GERMANY'S FRANKFURT AIRPORT PROMPTS INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INVESTIGATION

German health authorities are investigating an unusual malaria outbreak involving Frankfurt Airport employees who contracted the disease despite having no travel history to malaria-endemic regions. The cases are suspected to be linked to “airport malaria,” a rare event where infected mosquitoes are transported through international aircraft and transmit disease in non-endemic locations. The incident highlights the growing public health risks associated with global air travel, international trade, climate change, and the movement of disease-carrying vectors across borders. Authorities have increased mosquito surveillance, aircraft inspections, environmental assessments, and vector-control measures to determine the source of transmission and prevent additional infections.

The outbreak demonstrates the need for stronger disease surveillance around major transportation hubs as climate conditions and increased mobility create opportunities for emerging vector-borne disease threats. Additional locally acquired malaria cases, detection of invasive mosquito species, increased mosquito activity around airports, and delayed vector-control responses should be monitored as warning indicators. Strengthening airport biosecurity, rapid epidemiological investigations, and international cooperation will be essential to preventing isolated cases from developing into wider outbreaks.

MEASLES RESURGENCE HIGHLIGHTS DECLINING GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE

Health authorities are reporting increasing concern over the global resurgence of measles as declining childhood vaccination coverage continues to create immunity gaps. The rise in cases reflects disruptions to routine immunisation programmes, vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, healthcare access challenges, and weakened public health systems following recent global health crises. Because measles is highly contagious, reduced vaccination levels can quickly result in outbreaks, particularly among children and vulnerable populations. Public health agencies are responding through emergency vaccination campaigns, improved surveillance, community education, and efforts to restore routine immunisation services.

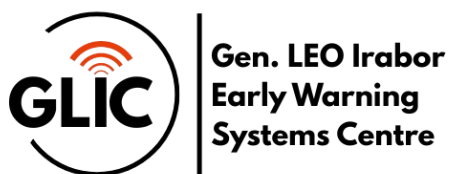
The early warning indicators suggest that continued decline in vaccination coverage, increased vaccine refusal, rising school-based transmission, growing hospital admissions, and cross-border spread should be monitored as indicators of worsening disease risk. The resurgence of measles highlights broader weaknesses in preventive healthcare systems and the importance of maintaining high immunisation rates. Sustained investment in vaccination programmes, public health communication, and early outbreak detection will be critical to preventing further spread and protecting vulnerable communities.

EBOLA OUTBREAK IN EASTERN DRC CONTINUES TO EXPAND DESPITE RESPONSE EFFORTS

The Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to pose a significant public health threat as cases spread despite ongoing containment efforts. The response is being complicated by insecurity, population displacement, limited access to affected communities, and challenges in maintaining effective surveillance and contact tracing. Health authorities and

international partners are expanding vaccination, laboratory testing, infection prevention measures, treatment capacity, and community engagement activities. However, continued transmission in unstable areas increases the difficulty of achieving rapid containment.

The early warning signals show that expansion of cases into new health zones, infections among healthcare workers, rising community transmission, delayed case detection, reduced contact-tracing capacity, and population movement should be closely monitored as indicators of increasing regional risk. The possibility of cross-border transmission remains a concern due to movement between eastern DRC and neighbouring countries. Strengthened surveillance, community trust, regional preparedness, and sustained international support will be essential to preventing a wider public health emergency.



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