

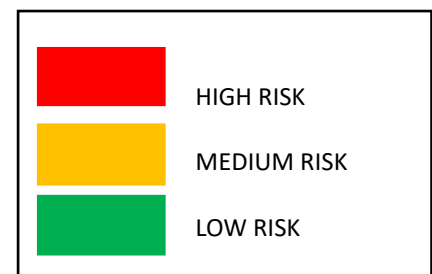


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Early Warning
Systems Centre



The Early Warning Monitor
GLIC Weekly Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate-related threats, including extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, drought and plastic pollution, continue to place pressure on ecosystems, infrastructure and vulnerable populations. Security risks remain elevated, with instability in Niger, escalating US-Iran tensions and persistent terrorism and kidnapping threats in Nigeria. Governance concerns are also intensifying ahead of Nigeria's 2027 elections, particularly around electoral credibility, AI-generated disinformation and institutional trust. Public-health risks remain significant, with Diphtheria, cholera and Ebola outbreaks requiring sustained surveillance and response, while declining mpox transmission provides a positive indicator. Overall, the developments underscore the need for stronger early-warning systems, anticipatory governance, institutional resilience, cross-border cooperation and timely preventive action to prevent emerging risks from escalating into wider crises.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

UK RECORDS HOTTEST SUMMER ON RECORD AS CLIMATE RISKS INTENSIFY

The UK has experienced its hottest summer on record, with the Met Office recording a provisional average mean temperature of 16.5°C across June, July and August 2026. England, Wales and Northern Ireland also recorded their warmest summers, while Scotland experienced its joint-sixth warmest. The summer was characterized by persistent

heat, dry conditions and intense sunshine, with temperatures reaching 38.1°C at Kew Gardens in August. Fifty-four Met Office stations also broke their previous all-time daily maximum temperature records. Scientists say human-induced climate change made a summer this hot around 130 times more likely, highlighting Britain's changing climate.

The early warning signs suggest that increasingly frequent extreme heat could place greater pressure on public health, water resources, agriculture, infrastructure and energy systems across the UK. Prolonged dry periods can increase wildfire risk, reduce water availability and stress ecosystems, while extreme temperatures can disproportionately affect elderly people, outdoor workers and other vulnerable populations. The Met Office says the 2026 summer is consistent with the extremes expected to become more frequent as climate change progresses. Strengthening heat-health warning systems, drought preparedness, wildfire monitoring, urban cooling measures and water conservation is therefore essential to reduce future climate-related impacts.

TOXIC WILDFIRE HAZE SPREADS ACROSS SOUTH-EAST ASIA AS 'SUPER' EL NIÑO INTENSIFIES

A blanket of toxic wildfire haze is spreading across parts of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines as weeks-long fires continue across Sumatra and Indonesian Borneo. Millions of people have been exposed to dangerous smoke, with pollution in some locations exceeding World Health Organization recommended levels by more than 15 times. Indonesia's Health Ministry recorded over 50,000 respiratory infections linked to land and forest fires between July and August, including more than 12,000 cases among children under five. The fires are being intensified by severe drought conditions associated with a developing "Super El Niño" climate pattern.

The early warning signs are clear; worsening drought and continued wildfire activity could create a prolonged regional air-quality emergency, increasing respiratory illness and placing additional pressure on healthcare systems. Children, older people and those with existing respiratory conditions are particularly vulnerable to prolonged exposure to hazardous smoke. Haze could also disrupt aviation, transport, schools and outdoor economic activities, while continued fires threaten forests, biodiversity and agricultural land. If El Niño strengthens further, drought conditions could become more severe and extend the fire season. Authorities should strengthen air-quality monitoring, public health warnings, firefighting capacity and regional cooperation to limit further exposure and contain the fires.

GRAND CANYON FLOODING RAISES CONCERNS AS MONSOON RAINS INTENSIFY

Heavy monsoon rainfall has triggered significant flooding in and around the Grand Canyon, highlighting the growing influence of extreme weather on the region. The intense storms have produced sudden surges of water through normally dry channels, creating dangerous conditions for visitors, hikers and communities downstream. The flooding is occurring as seasonal monsoon activity combines with broader climate patterns, including developing El Niño conditions, which can influence rainfall across the southwestern

United States. Authorities and park officials are monitoring weather and river conditions closely, warning visitors about rapidly changing conditions and the dangers posed by flash floods in canyon environments.

The early warning signs show that continued monsoon storms could generate additional flash floods, threatening lives, damaging trails and infrastructure, and disrupting tourism and emergency operations around the Grand Canyon. Narrow canyon terrain can amplify floodwaters rapidly, leaving hikers with little time to escape. Wetter conditions may also increase erosion, rock falls and sediment movement, creating secondary hazards. Visitors, park authorities and nearby communities therefore require timely weather alerts, evacuation procedures and continuous monitoring of vulnerable drainage channels. Preparedness is particularly important while El Niño-related weather patterns and intensified rainfall increase uncertainty surrounding the region's flood risk.

GREECE'S WILDFIRES THREATEN ANCIENT SITES AS EXTREME HEAT INCREASES HERITAGE RISKS

Wildfires across Greece are creating growing concerns for the country's ancient monuments and archaeological sites as extreme heat and dry conditions intensify fire danger. The fires have affected areas close to important cultural heritage locations, forcing authorities to monitor and protect sites while firefighters battle rapidly spreading flames. Greece's archaeological heritage includes internationally significant monuments that are particularly vulnerable to direct fire, smoke, extreme heat and damage to surrounding landscapes. The 2026 wildfire season has already placed significant pressure on emergency services, with evacuations and destruction reported in several regions. Authorities face the challenge of protecting communities while safeguarding irreplaceable cultural heritage.

The early warning implication is that increasingly frequent and intense wildfires could cause irreversible damage to Greece's archaeological heritage while simultaneously threatening nearby communities, tourism infrastructure and local economies. Ancient sites surrounded by dry vegetation may become increasingly exposed as heat waves and prolonged drought create favourable conditions for rapid fire spread. Smoke and fire can also restrict access to archaeological areas and disrupt tourism during peak periods. Continuous fire-risk monitoring around heritage locations, vegetation clearance, emergency evacuation plans, firefighting access routes and coordination between cultural authorities and emergency services are therefore essential to reduce potential losses and protect vulnerable archaeological assets.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

NIGERIAN TROOPS NEUTRALIZE TERRORISTS, AND RESCUE KIDNAPPED VICTIMS

The Nigerian Army has reported significant successes in nationwide security operations conducted between August 31 and September 1, neutralising eight terrorists, rescuing 30 kidnapped victims and recovering weapons and other equipment. In Borno and Yobe, troops eliminated terrorists and recovered AK-47 rifles, ammunition and improvised explosive device components, while an airstrike destroyed terrorist hideouts in Abadam.

In Bauchi, nine kidnapped victims were rescued, while 21 others were recovered from kidnappers in Kogi. Operations in Katsina and Zamfara also disrupted terrorist and cattle-rustling activities. However, one soldier was killed and another injured during an ambush in Borno, highlighting the continuing risks faced by security forces.

The early warning signs show that continued terrorist and kidnapping activities across several states indicate a high and persistent security threat, despite recent military successes. Ambushes, IED use and attacks on security personnel suggest that criminal groups remain capable of retaliatory attacks and exploiting vulnerable communities. Authorities should also disrupt terrorist logistics and kidnapping networks through targeted arrests and sustained operations.

NIGER REGAINS CONTROL OF MILITARY BASE AFTER COUP ATTEMPT

On 29 August 2026, Niger's military government faced an attempted coup or mutiny by disgruntled soldiers in Niamey. The soldiers briefly seized Air Force Base 101 at Diori Hamani International Airport before advancing toward strategic sites, including the presidential palace and national broadcaster. Gunfire and explosions were reported, while state media services were disrupted. Government forces, led by the presidential guard, successfully retook the military base and other key locations, arresting or killing several mutineers. Although the coup attempt was contained, the incident exposed significant internal divisions and instability within Niger's military government, which itself came to power through the 2023 coup.

The early warning signs indicate that the attempted coup shows growing fractures within Niger's security forces, driven by persistent jihadist violence, battlefield losses, poor military welfare and dissatisfaction with the military leadership. If these grievances are not addressed, further mutinies or attempts to challenge the junta could occur. Continued instability could also weaken Niger's ability to fight armed extremist groups, creating opportunities for Islamic State and JNIM to expand their operations.

US-IRAN CONFLICT ESCALATES AS IRAN TARGETS US BASES IN KUWAIT AND UAE

Iran escalated the ongoing conflict on September 3 by launching missiles and drones at US military bases in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, reportedly targeting communications systems, warehouses, aircraft facilities, troops and radar installations. The attacks appear intended to increase the costs of the US campaign and demonstrate Iran's emerging doctrine of preemptive strikes against regional US assets. Meanwhile, Israeli forces captured a major Hezbollah underground facility beneath the Ali al-Taher Ridge in southern Lebanon after a prolonged siege. The development is significant because Iranian Revolutionary Guard personnel were reportedly embedded with Hezbollah forces, raising the possibility of further Iranian retaliation against Israel.

The early-warning implications of Iran's missile and drone strikes against US military facilities in Kuwait and the UAE suggest a possible shift towards more pre-emptive and less predictable attacks on American assets in the region. The capture of the

Hezbollah facility at Ali al-Taher Ridge could also trigger Iranian retaliation against Israel. A large-scale Iranian attack could therefore widen the conflict, while continued attacks by Iranian-backed groups in Iraq could create additional fronts and threaten coalition forces. Diplomatic channels should remain open to prevent further escalation, particularly regarding Hezbollah and southern Lebanon. Regional governments should increase protection for military bases, airports, energy infrastructure and maritime routes.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

CONCERNS OVER THE CREDIBILITY OF NIGERIA'S 2027 ELECTIONS

Opposition figures and civil society voices have raised fresh concerns about the credibility of Nigeria's 2027 general elections, citing risks of political violence, electoral manipulation, weak institutions, and declining public confidence in the electoral process. Peter Obi has urged voters to actively defend their votes, while human-rights lawyer Femi Falana warned that Nigeria's democracy is at a critical crossroads. These concerns reflect growing anxiety over the ability of electoral institutions to conduct free, fair, transparent, and credible elections. The situation is particularly significant as Nigeria approaches the 2027 elections, with heightened political activity, competition among political parties, and increasing public scrutiny of the electoral process. Persistent concerns over the neutrality and effectiveness of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) could further contribute to public scepticism and undermine confidence in electoral outcomes.

The early-warning alert is clear: concerns surrounding the credibility of the electoral process could deepen public distrust in electoral institutions, heighten political tensions, and create conditions conducive to voter apathy, intimidation, and election-related violence. Continued allegations and disputes regarding INEC's neutrality, transparency, and election administration should therefore be closely monitored. Particular attention should be paid to escalating political rhetoric, allegations of electoral malpractice, voter intimidation, misinformation, and increased mobilisation around perceived electoral grievances. If left unaddressed, these developments could intensify political polarisation and increase the likelihood of protests or violence before, during, and after the elections. Strengthening electoral safeguards, promoting transparent communication, and addressing stakeholder concerns early will be critical to maintaining public confidence and preventing emerging tensions from escalating.

AI AND DISINFORMATION COULD UNDERMINE NIGERIA'S 2027 ELECTIONS

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has warned that the growing use of artificial intelligence-generated disinformation poses a serious threat to the credibility of Nigeria's 2027 general elections. INEC Chairman Joash Amupitan noted that AI has made fabricated videos, audio recordings, images, and other forms of political content cheaper and more difficult to detect, increasing the speed at which false information can reach large audiences before verification. He also raised concerns about algorithmic micro-targeting, which could expose different groups of voters to conflicting political

narratives. In response, INEC is auditing its electoral technology and considering a mock presidential election to identify potential vulnerabilities and strengthen the electoral process ahead of 2027.

The early warning signs indicate that the increasing use of AI-generated disinformation could heighten voter confusion, manipulate public opinion, deepen distrust in INEC, and intensify political polarisation. False claims concerning candidates, electoral processes, or election results could spread rapidly, particularly during periods of heightened political competition, and may trigger protests, voter apathy, intimidation, or election-related violence. The potential use of targeted misinformation to influence specific communities also presents a significant risk to social cohesion. These developments should therefore be closely monitored, while strengthening fact-checking mechanisms, rapid-response communication, digital and media literacy, and collaboration between INEC, technology platforms, civil society, and security agencies remains essential to mitigating emerging threats before and during the 2027 elections.

GUINEA-BISSAU'S NEW CONSTITUTION EXPANDS PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

Guinea-Bissau has approved a new constitution following a referendum held on August 30, with 70% of voters supporting the proposed changes. The reforms significantly expand presidential powers, including the authority to appoint and dismiss the prime minister and cabinet, create or abolish ministries, and dissolve parliament under severe political crises. The reforms also reduce parliamentary seats from 102 to 65. A military-led transitional government held the referendum after last year's coup, while the main opposition party boycotted the process, citing concerns over democratic safeguards and political legitimacy. The constitutional changes come ahead of presidential elections scheduled for December 2026, making the transition particularly important for the country's democratic stability.

Early warning signs indicate that the concentration of political power in the presidency could weaken institutional checks and balances, reduce political pluralism, and heighten tensions between the government and opposition. Given Guinea-Bissau's history of military intervention, coups, and political instability, restrictions on opposition participation, concerns over electoral transparency, or disputes surrounding the December elections could increase the risk of protests, political repression, and renewed instability. The situation should therefore be closely monitored, particularly developments concerning the electoral environment, opposition activities, civil liberties, public protests, and the role of the military in political affairs. Early dialogue among political stakeholders and stronger safeguards for democratic institutions will be essential to preventing emerging tensions from escalating.

PUBLIC HEALTH

DIPHTHERIA CASES EXCEED TEN THOUSAND AS NORTHERN NIGERIA STRUGGLES TO COPE

An outbreak of diphtheria is sweeping through Nigeria's northern states, with Plateau, Kano, and Katsina all reporting active outbreaks that are straining local health

facilities. Nationally, the NCDC says more than 10,000 diphtheria cases have been confirmed in 2026 alone, building on what was already described as the country's worst outbreak in over a decade. Health officials across the affected states cite the same recurring pattern of overcrowded, under-resourced treatment centres, chronic shortages of diphtheria antitoxin, and a population in which a large share of sick children have never been vaccinated.

The surge of diphtheria cases across northern Nigeria is an unmistakable early warning of a health system under severe strain. Overcrowded treatment centers, chronic shortages of antitoxin, and widespread gaps in childhood vaccination reveal vulnerabilities that could drive the epidemic beyond control. Unless urgent measures are taken, the outbreak risks spreading further south, overwhelming fragile facilities, deepening humanitarian distress, and eroding public trust in health governance.

CHOLERA OUTBREAK NOT OVER DESPITE DECLINE IN CASES– NCDC WARNS

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has reported a major decline in cholera cases but warned that the disease is still spreading in parts of the country. NCDC Director-General, Dr Jide Idris, gave the warning on Friday during a briefing on the cholera and diphtheria outbreaks in Nigeria. Idris said more than 65,000 suspected cholera cases had been reported in 35 states and around 195 local government areas since the beginning of the year. Although the number of cases has fallen, he said the death rate among reported cases was much lower than during the same period last year. This is important progress. But I want to be very clear: the outbreak is not over,” Idris said. He warned that cholera infections could rise again between late August and October because of the rainy season and possible flooding. According to him, flooding can contaminate water sources and damage sanitation systems, increasing the risk of further transmission.

The decline in cholera cases is encouraging, but the warning is clear: the outbreak is not over. With more than 65,000 suspected cases already reported this year, Nigeria faces the risk of resurgence as the rainy season and flooding approach. These conditions can contaminate water supplies and weaken sanitation systems, creating fertile ground for renewed transmission. The early warning implication is that without sustained vigilance, improved water safety, and stronger public health measures, the country could see another surge in infections between August and October.

EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO CONTINUES TO ESCALATE

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to worsen, becoming the country's largest and deadliest Ebola epidemic. More than 6,000 confirmed cases and over 3,000 deaths have been reported across several provinces, with the outbreak driven by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus. Ongoing armed conflict, insecurity, population displacement, poor access to healthcare, attacks on health workers, and weak

disease surveillance continue to complicate containment efforts. Many infections are being detected outside known transmission chains, while treatment centres remain overwhelmed. The World Health Organisation (WHO), Africa CDC and humanitarian partners are expanding surveillance, laboratory testing, contact tracing, community engagement and emergency response operations to slow transmission and prevent regional spread.

The early warning implication is that increasing Ebola cases, rising mortality, cross-border population movement, insecurity, attacks on healthcare workers, delayed case detection, weak surveillance systems, overwhelmed treatment centres and shortages of medical supplies should be monitored as indicators of worsening outbreak conditions. Strengthening surveillance, laboratory capacity, infection prevention, community engagement, cross-border coordination and sustained international support will be critical to containing the outbreak.

AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) SPREAD CONTINUES TO THREATEN ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH SECURITY

Avian influenza continues to be monitored globally due to ongoing outbreaks among poultry and wild birds, with health authorities concerned about the potential for animal-to-human transmission. Although sustained human-to-human transmission has not been established, repeated spillover events among humans, poultry workers and communities exposed to infected animals remain a public health concern. Countries are strengthening animal surveillance, laboratory monitoring and preparedness measures under a One Health approach that links human, animal and environmental health.

Hence, new human infections, increased poultry outbreaks, mutations of the virus, weak animal health surveillance, unsafe handling of infected animals and limited laboratory capacity should be monitored. Strengthening One Health surveillance, improving biosecurity measures and maintaining rapid response capacity will be important to prevent a wider health emergency.



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