

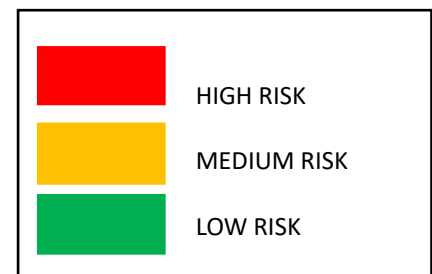


**Gen. LEO Irabor
Early Warning
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The Early Warning Monitor GLIC Weekly Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate and Food Security pose immediate systemic risks. The WFP warns that a very strong El Niño could push 49 million additional people into acute hunger, overwhelming fragile humanitarian systems already strained by conflict. In the Sahel, while total water availability is increasing, rainfall is becoming more erratic and extreme, heightening flood-drought cycles that devastate rain-fed agriculture and pastoral mobility. This climate volatility directly interacts with insecurity, as resource competition intensifies local grievances and fuels recruitment for militant groups.

Health Emergencies are accelerating in Africa. The DRC Ebola outbreak has surpassed 4,000 cases with transmission gaining pace, posing a significant cross-border threat to neighboring countries. The screening of over 300 passengers after suspected exposure on a riverboat near Kinshasa, which is a major regional transport hub, increases risk of urban and international spread. While an experimental Bundibugyo vaccine entering human trials offers long-term hope, it provides no immediate bulwark against the current surge, necessitating heightened surveillance and rapid response capabilities.

Security and Terrorism Dynamics are deteriorating across West and Central Africa. JNIM is expanding its attacks beyond mines to roads and commercial hubs within a 10km radius, transforming mining zones into semi-permanent bases for logistics, recruitment, and gold taxation. This nefarious strategy threatens to spread into coastal West African states and north-western Nigeria. At the same time, Boko Haram and ISWAP continue weaponizing women as coerced suicide bombers, eroding trust in communities, complicating security force responses, and turning more public spaces into potential sites of violence.

Geopolitical and Governance Fractures add further volatility. The joint defense agreement between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signals a significant realignment in Middle Eastern and South Asian security architectures, potentially disrupting established rivalries and partnerships. US intelligence

warning that Putin could test NATO with a limited incursion highlights acute European theater risks, which may divert global attention and military resources from ongoing African crises. In Cameroon, the president's prolonged absence coupled with a military reshuffle raises serious governance paralysis concerns amid ongoing separatist and jihadist conflicts, while intensifying preparations for the Osun governorship election on 15 August require close monitoring to prevent electoral violence and political destabilization in Nigeria.

These indicators show that governance, climate, health, and conflict shocks are increasingly interconnected in the international system. Proactive coordination between humanitarian, health, security, and diplomatic agencies, combined with anticipatory action and rapid response frameworks is therefore essential to mitigate risks and prevent localized emergencies from escalating into regional or global destabilization events.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

WFP WARNS A VERY STRONG EL NIÑO COULD PUSH 49 MILLION MORE PEOPLE INTO ACUTE HUNGER

The World Food Programme (WFP) warned this week that a potentially very strong El Niño could push an additional 49 million people into acute food insecurity, raising the projected total in assessed vulnerable countries to about 274 million. WFP estimates an 81% probability of a very strong event, which could alter rainfall patterns through droughts, delayed rains, and flooding. Importantly for the Sahel, WFP identifies the region among areas where rainfall deficits could emerge, threatening already fragile agricultural and food systems.

The early warning implication is that the potential El Niño should be treated as a forward-looking food-security risk rather than waiting for impacts to materialize. Sahelian governments and humanitarian agencies should intensify rainfall and food-security monitoring, pre-position assistance, and prepare contingency plans for possible crop losses and livelihood disruption.

SAHEL EXPERIENCES INCREASING WATER AVAILABILITY BUT MORE ERRATIC AND EXTREME RAINFALL

Recent reporting on the Sahel highlights an important shift in the region's climate pattern: after decades of drought, water tables are rising and Lake Chad has substantially recovered, with stronger monsoon rainfall contributing to increased groundwater recharge. However, the improvement is accompanied by increasingly erratic and intense rainfall, which can produce destructive flooding even as it replenishes rivers, aquifers, and farmland. The emerging pattern therefore presents both opportunities for agriculture and serious hazards for communities exposed to poorly managed runoff and flooding.

The early warning implication is that improved water availability should not be interpreted as an end to climate vulnerability. Extreme rainfall, flash floods and river overflow remain significant threats, particularly where drainage, infrastructure and emergency

preparedness are weak. Authorities should therefore combine drought monitoring with flood surveillance and invest in water-harvesting and flood-control systems.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

TERRORISTS WEAPONIZE WOMEN

Since Boko Haram's first female suicide bombing in 2014, the group has deployed more female bombers that have killed thousands of civilians. A key driver is coercion; many abducted women and girls are forced into missions, often without full awareness, marking a shift from earlier ideologically motivated attacks. Other groups like ISWAP, al-Shabaab, and ISCAP have also adopted the tactic. By weaponizing women, terrorists exploit social norms to evade security checks and deeply traumatize communities. This blurs the line between victim and perpetrator, as many are coerced through sexual and psychological abuse. Analysts are divided on whether the surge signals terrorist weakness (using "shock value" amid battlefield losses) or strength (as seen with ISWAP's growing presence). Security forces face a dilemma: missing a bomber costs lives, while killing a suspect hands terrorist a propaganda victory. Experts suggest surveillance technology could help detect bombers early, but militant groups will likely continue adapting by exploiting cultural vulnerabilities in asymmetric warfare.

Early warning systems must fundamentally recalibrate threat profiles to include women and girls in all security screenings, while prioritizing surveillance of traditionally "safe" communal spaces like markets and schools, as these are now primary targets. Additionally, monitoring spikes in abductions, forced marriages, or psychological abuse within communities can serve as critical precursors, given that bombers are increasingly coerced rather than ideologically driven.

JNIM LAUNCHES ATTACKS ON AREAS SURROUNDING GOLD MINES

According to ACLED, JNIM and ISSP increasingly attack roads, communities, and commercial hubs within 10km of Sahelian mines, with violence spreading beyond extraction sites to routes and local economies. Burkina Faso records the most incidents, though Mali and Niger's share is growing. Terrorists levy gold taxes in lieu of cash and transform mining zones into semi-permanent bases for logistics, recruitment, and storing explosives, fuel, and spare parts. ACLED warns this conflict will likely expand to coastal West Africa and into Nigeria, where militant groups may exploit local artisanal mining economies for taxation and extortion.

For Nigeria, bandit and terrorist groups are already entrenched and exploit local mining economies in some parts. Authorities should therefore be more vigilant about groups levying gold taxes, extorting miners, or storing weapons and explosives near mining zones, which would indicate they are transitioning these areas into multifunctional bases for recruitment and logistics.

ZIMBABWE PROBES RUSSIAN WAR RECRUITING SCHEMES

Zimbabwean police are probing alleged sophisticated networks trafficking men into the Russian military service under false job promises following the arrest of Edward Kachingwe who worked with a Russian accomplice. Recruits have their passports confiscated and are coerced into fighting at gunpoint. At least 18 Zimbabweans have been killed with 63 missing. Syndicates now use overland routes via South Africa to evade detection. Activists urge following financial trails as networks involve layered international coordinators. Russia is intensifying African recruitment using foreigners in deadly meat assaults with very low survival rates and no legal way to terminate contracts or return home.

For Nigeria, authorities should monitor unusual spikes in Russian military recruitment advertisements or travel agents offering lucrative jobs in Russia, given the country's high unemployment, and established trafficking routes. Authorities must also watch for sudden increases in young Nigerian men traveling to Russia or nearby transit countries, as this would indicate that the same predatory networks are expanding their reach into West Africa.

SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, AND PAKISTAN SIGN JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT AMID REGIONAL TURMOIL

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan signed the Mecca Joint Defense Agreement on 7 August 2026, establishing a collective defense framework under which an attack on one member will be regarded as an attack on all. The agreement reflects growing concerns over escalating Middle East tensions, including missile attacks linked to Iran and its allies, threats to Gulf energy infrastructure, and fears of wider regional instability. While the pact excludes nuclear cooperation and is presented as defensive, it significantly strengthens military coordination among three influential Muslim-majority states and signals a shift toward greater regional security cooperation amid uncertainty over traditional security partnerships.

The agreement may deter future attacks but could also intensify geopolitical rivalries, increase military polarization, and raise new risks. Sustained diplomatic engagement, confidence-building measures, stronger regional dialogue, and multilateral de-escalation efforts are essential to prevent further escalation and preserve stability.

GERMANY INVESTIGATES EXPLOSIVE DRONE INCIDENT AT LEIPZIG/HALLE AIRPORT

German authorities are investigating a suspected sabotage operation after an explosives-laden drone was discovered at Leipzig/Halle Airport, one of Europe's busiest cargo hubs. The device, found near Ukrainian cargo aircraft, was safely defused before it could detonate, while another unidentified flying object reportedly struck a cargo plane during the disruption. Federal prosecutors have classified the incident as a serious attack on Germany's transport infrastructure and are investigating possible foreign state

involvement, with officials describing it as a new form of hybrid warfare targeting critical infrastructure.

The early warning implications of this is that the incident exposes vulnerabilities in European aviation security, heightens tensions linked to the Russia–Ukraine conflict, and could disrupt military logistics, trade, and regional stability. Germany and its allies should strengthen counter-drone systems, enhance airport surveillance and intelligence-sharing, improve critical infrastructure protection, and deepen international cooperation to deter and respond to hybrid threats.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE WARNS PUTIN COULD TEST NATO WITH LIMITED INCURSION

New U.S. intelligence assessments indicate that Russian President Vladimir Putin may attempt a limited attack on a NATO member between late 2026 and 2029 to test the alliance’s unity and collective defense commitments. Possible scenarios include cyberattacks, sabotage, the use of unmarked armed groups, or a limited land incursion rather than a full-scale invasion. The assessment reflects a shift in U.S. analysis, driven by Russia’s mounting battlefield losses, domestic political pressure, and intensified Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory. Officials also expressed concern over depleted U.S. missile stockpiles, which could complicate rapid responses to simultaneous global crises.

The early warning implications of this is that any limited Russian action could trigger a major NATO response, escalate tensions across Europe, disrupt global markets, and increase the risk of broader military confrontation. To mitigate these threats, NATO should strengthen deterrence through enhanced troop readiness, improved cyber defenses, intelligence sharing, accelerated weapons production, and sustained diplomatic engagement to reduce the risk of miscalculation while maintaining alliance unity.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

OSUN GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION PREPARATIONS INTENSIFY AHEAD OF 15 AUGUST POLL

Preparations for the Osun State Governorship Election have entered a critical phase as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties, civil society organisations and security agencies intensify activities ahead of the 15 August poll. Following the revised electoral timetable, INEC has continued stakeholder engagements and operational planning to ensure the smooth deployment of personnel and election materials. Political campaigns have also gathered momentum, with observers describing the election as an important indicator of Nigeria's electoral preparedness ahead of the 2027 general elections. Election observers continue to emphasise the need for transparency, effective logistics, voter education, and adequate security throughout the electoral process.

The Osun election represents an important test of public confidence in Nigeria's electoral institutions. Operational lapses, misinformation, voter intimidation, or perceptions of bias could increase political tensions and trigger post-election disputes. Strengthening coordination between INEC, security agencies and civil society observers, ensuring timely deployment of election materials and maintaining transparent communication with stakeholders will be essential to preserving electoral integrity. Successful conduct of the election could strengthen confidence in Nigeria's democratic institutions ahead of the 2027 general elections, while significant shortcomings could heighten political distrust and encourage legal or political contestation.

CAMEROON'S PRESIDENT FACES MOUNTING SCRUTINY AMID PROLONGED ABSENCE AND MILITARY RESHUFFLE

Cameroon is experiencing growing political uncertainty following President Paul Biya's prolonged absence from the country, which has now exceeded two months. During his absence, the presidency announced a significant reshuffle of senior military leadership, replacing commanders across four of the country's five joint military regions while promoting senior officers within the Presidential Guard. Although the government has not linked the appointments to the President's absence, opposition leaders and analysts argue that the developments have intensified concerns over executive continuity, succession planning and constitutional governance. The situation has renewed debate over institutional resilience in one of Africa's longest-serving administrations.

The early warning implication is that continued uncertainty surrounding the President's health and prolonged absence could deepen political speculation, weaken investor confidence and increase succession tensions within Cameroon's political establishment. In the absence of clear official communication, rumours and political uncertainty may further erode public confidence in state institutions. Greater transparency regarding executive governance, adherence to constitutional procedures, and strengthened institutional communication would help reduce uncertainty while preserving political stability during a sensitive period. Continued monitoring of military appointments, opposition reactions, and constitutional developments will be essential over the coming weeks.

PUBLIC HEALTH

DRC EBOLA OUTBREAK SURPASSES 4,000 CASES AS TRANSMISSION ACCELERATES

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) crossed 4,000 confirmed infections this week, becoming the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded after the 2014–2016 West Africa epidemic. According to recent government data reported by Reuters, 4,053 confirmed cases and 1,850 deaths have been recorded across five provinces: Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele and Tshopo. The response continues to face major obstacles, including delayed detection, gaps in surveillance, armed conflict

and limited availability of vaccines and treatments specifically targeting the Bundibugyo strain.

The early warning implication is extremely serious because the outbreak is spreading faster than previous Ebola epidemics, while conflict and weak surveillance can allow undetected transmission to continue. The interception of a riverboat near Kinshasa carrying more than 300 passengers after a suspected Ebola death further demonstrates the potential for geographic spread. Continued contact tracing, border surveillance, rapid testing and targeted vaccination are essential to prevent wider regional transmission.

MORE THAN 300 PASSENGERS SCREENED AFTER SUSPECTED EBOLA EXPOSURE ON RIVERBOAT NEAR KINSHASA

Congolese health authorities began screening more than 300 passengers aboard a riverboat intercepted near Kinshasa after a passenger suspected of having Ebola died. A mobile laboratory was deployed to the vessel, while four passengers presenting symptoms including fever were tested. The incident is particularly significant because the suspected passenger may have travelled from Tshopo, one of the provinces affected by the current Ebola outbreak. Authorities are therefore investigating whether transmission could have occurred during the journey toward the capital.

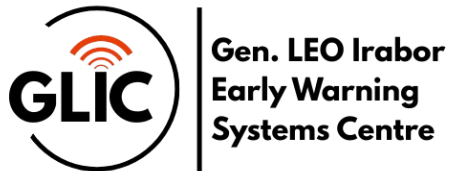
The early warning implication is that population movement along major transport corridors could facilitate the geographical expansion of the outbreak if symptomatic individuals are not detected quickly. Kinshasa's large population and connectivity with other parts of the DRC make effective surveillance particularly important. Rapid laboratory confirmation, passenger monitoring, contact tracing and risk communication should be maintained to prevent a localized outbreak from developing into a wider urban or cross-border public health emergency. Experimental Bundibugyo Ebola Vaccine Enters First Human Trial

EXPERIMENTAL BUNDIBUGYO EBOLA VACCINE ENTERS FIRST HUMAN TRIAL

A potentially significant development in the Ebola response emerged this week as Moderna began the first human trial of an experimental vaccine targeting the Bundibugyo strain, the virus responsible for the current DRC outbreak. The candidate, mRNA-1469, has entered an early-stage trial involving about 80 healthy adults in Canada to assess its safety and ability to generate an immune response. The development is important because the Bundibugyo strain currently has no approved vaccine, while the ongoing DRC outbreak has already caused more than 1,600 deaths.

The early warning implication is that the absence of an approved vaccine remains a major vulnerability while transmission continues to accelerate. Although the trial represents an important step toward strengthening outbreak preparedness, it cannot provide an immediate solution because effectiveness still needs to be established through clinical

research. In the interim, authorities must prioritize surveillance, isolation, infection prevention, contact tracing, and rapid deployment of available medical countermeasures.



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