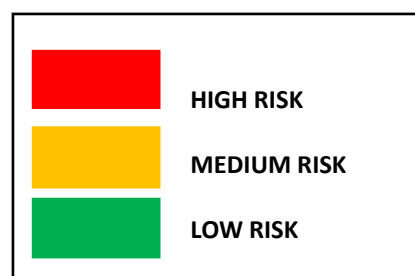


The Early Warning Monitor
GLIC Weekly Report

21st August, 2026



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On climate and the environment, Europe faces compound risks from marine heatwaves, drought, wildfires, and extreme heat, while El Niño threatens global food security. Sri Lanka is also facing severe drought and water shortages, highlighting growing pressure on water, agriculture and livelihoods. In security, Nigeria faces renewed threats from terrorist and bandit groups targeting tertiary institutions, while intensified Russian strikes in Ukraine and rising Israel–Turkey tensions over Syria are increasing regional security risks. These developments highlight the potential for escalation, civilian casualties and wider instability. Furthermore, Nigeria’s Osun election provides lessons ahead of 2027, particularly regarding vote-buying and electoral technology, while South Africa’s November local elections introduce new voter-registration and governance challenges. Also, Zambia faces post-election tensions following opposition arrests and disputed political developments. Finally, Ebola preparedness concerns and rising antimicrobial resistance continue to threaten public health systems. Weak sanitation, cross-border movement, delayed detection and inappropriate antibiotic use remain important warning indicators requiring stronger surveillance, prevention and rapid-response capacity.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

RECORD MARINE HEATWAVES SIGNAL GROWING THREATS TO EUROPE’S SEAS

Record-breaking sea temperatures are affecting European waters, with the Mediterranean reaching its highest average July temperature on record at 27°C. A buoy near Mallorca recorded about 33°C in early August. Scientists say human-caused climate change is the main driver,

with marine heatwave conditions covering around 90% of the Bay of Biscay and 80% of the western Mediterranean. The unusually warm waters are threatening marine ecosystems, disrupting food chains and forcing some species to migrate northward. Scientists also warn that warmer seas can influence conditions on land by increasing humidity, night time temperatures and the potential for intense storms.

Marine monitoring and early-warning systems must be strengthened alongside land-based climate preparedness. The warming of Europe's seas signals a growing threat to marine ecosystems and coastal economies. Continued marine heat can also trigger species loss, disrupt food chains and fisheries, and push marine organisms beyond their ability to adapt or migrate. With marine heatwave conditions affecting about 90% of the Bay of Biscay and 80% of the western Mediterranean, persistent warming could place additional pressure on food security, biodiversity and coastal livelihoods. Strengthening ocean monitoring and early-warning systems is therefore essential to anticipate ecological and economic disruption.

STRONG EL NIÑO THREATENS GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

A developing El Niño is expected to become exceptionally strong, with forecasters warning it could rank among the most intense on record. The climate pattern, driven by unusually warm Pacific waters, is already raising concerns about drought, flooding and extreme heat across different regions. Reuters reports that its effects could reach major agricultural producers and commodities, including cocoa in West Africa, coffee in Southeast Asia and fisheries in Peru. Previous strong El Niño events caused trillions of dollars in economic losses, while the current event could further strain food supplies and vulnerable economies.

The developing event could become a significant global food and economic security risk if its intensity continues to increase. Disrupted rainfall could reduce crop yields, affect fisheries and increase food prices, particularly in regions already vulnerable to climate shocks. West Africa's cocoa sector is particularly exposed, while disruptions to global commodities could affect livelihoods and supply chains far beyond the countries experiencing the weather extremes. Early forecasting and agricultural preparedness will therefore be crucial to help governments, farmers and markets anticipate shortages rather than respond after production losses occur.

SRI LANKA DELIVERS WATER TO THOUSANDS AS DROUGHT INTENSIFIES

Sri Lanka is supplying water to nearly 72,000 people across seven districts as a severe drought linked to this year's El Niño strains water supplies. Water levels in hundreds of small reservoirs have fallen to about 10%, while crops including coconut and vegetables are also under stress. The government has allocated Rs. 4.8 billion (\$14 million) for emergency water distribution, with families receiving about 75 litres every two to three days for drinking and sanitation. The drought is expected to worsen before conditions improve, while wildlife parks, including Yala National Park, are also receiving water.

The worsening drought signals growing pressure on water supplies, agriculture and livelihoods. With hundreds of small reservoirs at around 10% capacity, prolonged dry conditions could deepen shortages and reduce crop production. If the drought persists beyond the government's

current response period, more households may require emergency water support, while agricultural and ecological systems face increasing stress. The situation therefore highlights the need for early drought forecasting, water conservation and longer-term reservoir management before emergency shortages become widespread

EUROPE'S HEAT, DROUGHT AND WILDFIRES EXPOSE COMPOUND CLIMATE RISKS

Europe is facing a combination of prolonged heat, worsening drought and destructive wildfires. Record-low water levels have been reported in major rivers including the Loire, Po, Rhine and Danube, while dry conditions have helped fuel fires across countries including Belgium, France, Spain, Greece and Germany. Belgium's largest wildfire on record burned about 3,000 hectares and approached the German border. The extreme heat is also contributing to rising health and economic costs across the continent.

The growing interaction between heat, drought and wildfire signals a need for stronger climate preparedness across Europe. Continued dry and hot conditions could intensify water shortages, agricultural losses, wildfire exposure and economic disruption. Low river levels can also affect transport and energy systems, meaning the consequences extend beyond immediate fire damage. Early forecasting, water management, heat-health measures and faster evacuation systems will therefore be increasingly important as Europe faces more frequent and interconnected climate extremes.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DSS WARNS ON PLANNED ATTACKS ON SOKOTO TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The Department of State Services (DSS), Sokoto State Command, has warned of planned attacks by terrorist and bandit groups on tertiary institutions across the state. The security alert indicates that criminal groups may be shifting their focus from primary and secondary schools to universities and other higher institutions. The DSS expressed concern over possible abductions involving students, lecturers, non-academic staff and their relatives. It warned that successful attacks could disrupt academic activities, create widespread fear, and undermine public confidence in government security efforts. The warning highlights the growing security challenges facing Nigeria's education sector.

The early warning indicators revealed a tactical shift by terrorist and bandit groups toward tertiary institutions, combined with indications of possible student and staff abductions, signalled an emerging threat requiring preventive security measures. It highlights a tactical shift by criminal groups, intelligence indicating planned attacks, potential kidnapping of students and staff, the existing pattern of attacks on educational institutions and the need for increased security measures

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 17 IN UKRAINE, ZELENSKY SAYS LACK OF PATRIOTS IS COSTING LIVES

Russian air strikes on Kyiv and the surrounding region killed 17 people and injured more than 40, making it one of the deadliest recent attacks in Ukraine. Ukraine's air force reported that Russia launched dozens of cruise, ballistic and hypersonic missiles alongside 168 drones.

Ukrainian forces said they intercepted nearly 90% of the drones and most cruise missiles, although it remained unclear how many ballistic missiles were stopped. President Volodymyr Zelensky criticised Ukraine's allies for failing to replenish air-defence missile supplies, saying the shortages were costing lives. At least eight people died when a residential building in Kyiv was heavily damaged.

The early warning indicators highlight the increasing large-scale missile/drone launches, shortages of effective air-defence interceptors, repeated targeting of major Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, and heightened military responses by neighbouring states. The immediate risk is further civilian casualties and infrastructure damage, while the broader concern is that attacks or airspace incidents could increase tensions between Russia and NATO. This does not mean a direct Russia–NATO conflict is inevitable, but the regional security environment is clearly highly dangerous.

ISRAEL AND TURKEY STEP UP WARNINGS OVER SYRIA AFTER AIRBASE BOMBING

Israel and Turkey have exchanged sharp warnings following an Israeli airstrike on Syria's Abu al-Duhur airbase, where Israel claimed Turkish troops were preparing to deploy. Turkey denied having military personnel at the base and condemned Israel's actions as reckless and destabilizing. Syria also rejected claims that it planned to establish a Turkish military base, describing Turkish visits as routine military cooperation. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz warned President Erdogan against further involvement in Syria. The incident has increased tensions between the two regional powers. The United States is working to establish and refine a de-escalation mechanism involving Israel, Turkey and Syria to prevent further confrontation.

The early warning indicators show Israeli strikes are intensifying against sites linked to Turkish military cooperation, prompting Turkey to move more troops and equipment into Syria. The likelihood of direct Turkish retaliation is increasing, while the fragile Israel–Turkey–Syria deconfliction mechanism appears close to breaking down. However, the greatest concern is not an immediate Israel–Turkey war, but a miscalculation or further Israeli strike that directly involves Turkish personnel, which could rapidly change the risk level.

ELECTION AND GOVERNANCE

UN RAISES CONCERN OVER ARRESTS OF OPPOSITION FIGURES AFTER ZAMBIA'S ELECTION

The United Nations Human Rights Chief, Volker Türk, has expressed concern over reports of arrests and detentions of opposition members in Zambia before and after the 13 August 2026 general election. Eleven opposition officials were reportedly arrested following a security raid on election night, during which gunfire was exchanged. Authorities said weapons were found and the detainees posed a security threat, while opposition figures denied the allegations. Türk urged Zambian authorities to stop arbitrary arrests and ensure due process for all detainees. The development comes as the opposition challenges President Hakainde Hichilema's election victory, increasing concerns about Zambia's post-election political stability.

The early-warning implications show that continued arrests and perceived political repression could escalate post-election tensions in Zambia, undermine public confidence in democratic

institutions, restrict civic space, and potentially trigger protests, political confrontation, or violence. Continued arrests, allegations of human-rights violations, or restrictions on opposition activities could trigger protests, political mobilisation, misinformation and possible confrontation. The situation should be closely monitored for further arrests, demonstrations, violence, and restrictions on civic space and escalation of the election dispute. The Zambian government should guarantee due process and judicial independence, while security agencies should exercise restraint. Political parties, civil society and international observers should encourage peaceful dialogue, accurate information and lawful resolution of electoral disputes to prevent further escalation.

OSUN GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION PROVIDES LESSONS FOR NIGERIA'S 2027 ELECTIONS

The 15 August 2026 Osun governorship election provided an important test of Nigeria's electoral preparedness ahead of the 2027 general elections. Yiaga Africa reported that INEC's official results were consistent with its independent verification, indicating that the results reflected ballots counted at polling units. However, concerns remained over vote buying, voter inducement, BVAS biometric failures and interruptions in uploading results to the IReV portal. The election therefore demonstrated both improvements and continuing weaknesses in Nigeria's electoral system. Its lessons will be important for strengthening electoral technology, logistics, transparency and voter confidence before the nationwide 2027 elections.

While the consistency of INEC's results with independent verification is a positive indicator, vote buying, BVAS failures and interruptions in IReV uploads could undermine public confidence if repeated on a nationwide scale. These weaknesses should therefore be treated as early-warning indicators. INEC should strengthen BVAS reliability, improve the resilience and transparency of IReV, address voter-data inconsistencies and strengthen safeguards against vote buying. Security agencies and political parties should also promote peaceful participation and discourage electoral malpractice. Early correction of these weaknesses will reduce the likelihood of disputes and instability in 2027.

SOUTH AFRICA GAZETTES DATE FOR 2026 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

South Africa has formally set 4 November 2026 as the date for its Local Government Elections. Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Velenkosini Hlabisa gazetted the election date on 7 August, officially beginning the 89-day electoral timetable. The process will determine councillors and municipal leadership across the country for the next five-year term. The Electoral Commission has commenced preparations covering the voters' roll, candidate nominations, voting arrangements and declaration of results. Approximately 1.7 million citizens participated in the recent voter-registration weekend, including 291,806 first-time voters. The election will therefore be an important test of local democratic participation and municipal governance.

The formal commencement of South Africa's local election process presents key concerns including voter-registration gaps, disputes over candidate nominations, voter apathy, misinformation and possible tensions linked to poor municipal service delivery. The high level of first-time voter registration is positive, but ensuring accurate voter details and adequate electoral arrangements remains important. The IEC should strengthen voter education, verify the voters' roll and ensure transparent candidate and results processes. Government and political parties should also monitor community grievances, particularly around service delivery, and discourage inflammatory rhetoric. Early identification and management of these issues will help prevent local grievances from developing into electoral disputes or wider unrest.

PUBLIC HEALTH

CHOLERA OUTBREAKS CONTINUE TO RAISE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS ACROSS AFRICA

Recent cholera outbreaks in several African countries are raising concerns over the continued vulnerability of communities to waterborne diseases. Health authorities and humanitarian organisations have reported new cases in areas affected by inadequate access to safe drinking water, poor sanitation, flooding, and overstretched healthcare systems. The persistence of cholera transmission highlights the difficulty of containing outbreaks where water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure remain inadequate.

The early warning implication is that continued transmission could lead to a wider public health emergency if new cases begin appearing across additional communities. Heavy rainfall and flooding could further contaminate water sources and accelerate the spread of the disease. Rising hospital admissions, increasing fatalities, shortages of oral rehydration supplies and medical personnel, and limited access to clean water should therefore be monitored as indicators of worsening conditions. Strengthening disease surveillance, laboratory testing, water-quality monitoring, sanitation measures, and rapid community-level response will be critical to preventing further spread.

EBOLA SURVEILLANCE REMAINS CRITICAL AS HEALTH AUTHORITIES STRENGTHEN OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS

Health authorities in affected and neighbouring countries continue to strengthen surveillance and preparedness measures against Ebola and other viral hemorrhagic fevers. Public-health agencies are increasing disease surveillance, contact tracing, infection-prevention measures and community awareness activities, particularly in areas where population movement and weak healthcare infrastructure could facilitate transmission.

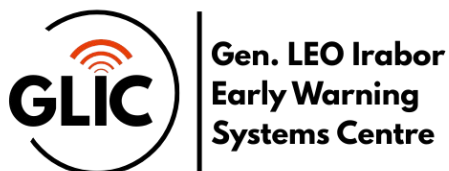
The early warning implication is that the movement of people across borders and between communities increases the possibility of undetected transmission if surveillance systems are unable to identify cases quickly. Rising unexplained deaths, clusters of patients presenting with fever and bleeding symptoms, infections among healthcare workers, and increased demand for isolation facilities should be treated as important warning indicators. Delays in diagnosis, misinformation, community resistance and inadequate infection-control practices could further accelerate transmission. Maintaining strong surveillance and rapid-response capacity is therefore

essential to preventing a localised outbreak from developing into a wider regional health emergency.

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE EMERGES AS A GROWING GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to pose a growing threat to global health as bacteria and other pathogens become increasingly resistant to medicines used to treat common infections. The problem is particularly concerning in countries where access to diagnostic testing is limited, and antibiotics may be obtained or used without adequate medical supervision. Resistance can make routine infections more difficult and expensive to treat while increasing the risk of prolonged illness, hospitalisation, and death.

The early warning implication is that rising antimicrobial resistance could gradually weaken the effectiveness of essential medicines and place additional pressure on already constrained healthcare systems. Increasing treatment failures, longer hospital stays, rising healthcare costs, and the detection of drug-resistant organisms should be monitored as indicators of worsening AMR. Weak infection prevention, inappropriate antibiotic use, poor laboratory capacity and inadequate surveillance could accelerate the problem. Strengthening antimicrobial stewardship, laboratory surveillance, infection prevention and public awareness will therefore be important for reducing the long-term health security risks associated with AMR.



Website: www.niia.gov.ng/early-warning-system-centre

Email: earlywarning@niia.gov.ng

[LinkedIn](#)



13/15 Kofo Abayomi Road,

Victoria Island, Lagos

Website: www.niia.gov.ng