



**WANEP-Nigeria**

**West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Nigeria**

**National Early Warning System (NEWS)**

**Weekly Highlight**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup>- 31st December, 2011.**

- **North East Population Size - 18,971,965.**
- **States – Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe State.**
- **Contextual Highlights – Borno has the largest land mass in the zone and its bordered by Chad, Cameroun and Niger while Yobe State borders Nigeria with Niger. Adamawa is also a border state of Nigeria with Chad and Cameroun. This bordering relationships accounts for the high level of trans border movement and trade within this zone. Farming and cattle grazing form a major part of livelihood and occupation in this zone. Predominant tribes/ethnic groups in the zone include the Hausas, Fulanis, Kanuri, Marghi and Burha. Predominant religion is Islam with relative significant percentage population as Christians. Desert Encroachment and pest invasion are predominant hazards recorded in the area while literacy level is low.**
- **South South Population Size – 21,014,655**
- **States: Delta, Rivers, Edo, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers.**
- **Contextual Highlights: The south south zone majorly comprises what has been referred to as the Niger Delta region. It has huge crude oil and gas reserves which constitutes over 90% of Nigeria's foreign exchange and 80% of the country's revenue. Commercial Oil and gas exploration and mining by various foreign and indigenous companies is predominant in this region. With significant number of islands and waterways, the region links directly into the Gulf of Guinea which also connects countries such as Ghana, Sao Tome and Principe, Benin Republic and Angola. Fishing and farming are major sources of livelihood but has been greatly affected by oil spill and gas pollution which has caused major environmental degradation. Oil bunkering and sea piracy is commonly reported in this region and is also known for youth militancy/resource control agitations as protest to the lack of state commitment to human security and development in the region. Major Ethnic groups are the Ijaws, Efiks, Ibibios, Ikweres, Ogonis, Kwale-Ibo, Andoni, Isoko, Izon and Edos.**

**South South**

**Humanitarian Risk**

Bomb explosion at Islamic Quaranic School in Sapele, **Delta State** injured about 10 students and destroyed sessions in the school. The Egbesu Mightier Fraternity, a militant group from the Niger Delta has claimed responsibility of the bomb attack which was a reprisal for the deadly Christmas day bombings by Boko Haram in St Theresa's Church, Madalla, Nigeria.

**Environmental Risk:**

St. Nicholas, Odioama and Varnish Island, Fish Camp 2, Ijaw communities on the fringes of the Atlantic Ocean in Brass Local Government Area of **Bayelsa State** are reported to have started feeling the impact of the oil spill from the Bonga oil field of Shell the crude oil slick noticed in the Atlantic ocean has made its way to the coast and seen on the surface of rivers in the state. Oil spill kills aquatic life and fisher folks who derive their livelihood from the ocean and rivers are already feeling the impact evidenced by reduced yield.

## South East

### Political Risk

There is an ongoing 'kingship' tussle in Ishiagu, Ivo Local Government Area of **Ebonyi State**. Some influential persons in the community are said to be planning to install another king while there is a sitting one. This move has been condemned by the 20 villages that make the community. The Community has also sent an Appeal to the Governor of the state to intervene in the tussle as before it deteriorates into violence.

- **South East Population Size – 16, 381, 729.**
- **States - Enugu, Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Imo States.**
- **Contextual Highlights – The zone comprises of predominantly Igbos with major religion as Christianity and traditional religion. The Igbos are business inclined which have made Aba in Abia State and Onitsha at Anambra State the reference point for commerce and industry in Nigeria. As a result of their commercial inclination, Igbos are wide travellers and have been known to have significant population in most of the 36 States of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory. The zone has also witnessed and survived a civil war waged against the Nigerian State between 1967-1970 over agitation for the sovereign state of Biafra. Subsistence agriculture also constitutes a mainstay of livelihood in the zone especially at the rural areas and Ebonyi State has been noted to be a hub for agricultural produce. Erosion is a basic hazard experienced in the zone especially in Anambra and Abia States. Crude Oil reserves of commercial mining quantity have been discovered and are being explored at Imo and Anambra States. Literacy level is relatively moderate with reports highlighting higher female literacy rate.**

- **South West Population Size – 27, 582, 992.**
- **States – Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti, Lagos and Osun states.**
- **Contextual Highlights - The major ethnic group and language is Yoruba with a mixture of other ethnic groups such as the Igbos, Hausa/Fulani, Ijaws e.t.c. The predominant occupation includes agriculture, businesses, civil service. Lagos which was a former capital of Nigeria is considered the commercial nerve centre of the country with a very busy sea port and also an outlet for import and export into Nigeria. It is also a border state of Nigeria to Benin Republic. Crude oil reserves have been discovered in commercial quantity at Ondo State. The Yorubas are highly literate and politically conscious.**

### Humanitarian Risk

At least 65 persons, including children, women, aged and a Police Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) were reported killed in a renewed communal crisis in Ezillo, Ishielu Local Government Area of **Ebonyi State**. The unknown gunmen invaded the community and attacked the Ezillo Police station, burnt down the Afor-Ezillo market, houses, and vehicles, killed about 100 donkeys and injured over 50 people. The communal crisis that started in May 2008 had claimed hundreds of lives.

## South West

### Socio Economic Risk:

Many petrol stations in the **Lagos state** were shut on the 31<sup>st</sup> in anticipation of increase in the bump price of petrol, an increase that will be as a result of the removal of fuel subsidy by the Federal Government. The petrol stations' action was viewed as selfish and to inflict suffering prematurely.

## **Humanitarian Risk:**

Security personnel were seen in strategic places in **Lagos State**, deployed as a result of *Boko Haram* threat to bomb some places in the State. Some churches also called off their watch-night service of 31<sup>st</sup> December due to this threat.

## **North Central**

### **Political Risk:**

The President of Federal republic of Nigeria declared State of Emergency in 15 LGAs in Niger, Plateau, Yobe and Borno state as a response to the risk level of insecurity the places.

### **Humanitarian Risk:**

In **Niger State**, the St. Theresa Catholic Church at Madalla was bombed by members of *Boko Haram* at about 8.00am on Christmas morning, December 25, killing not less than 50 persons, according to eye witness accounts. Following the explosion a group of Hausa youths barricaded the road, set up bonfires, and threatened to ignite attacks on other ethnic groups that would demonstrate over the incident. Their action has provoked widespread fear of escalation of tension in the area. Christian leaders have however called upon Government to urgently address the security situation in the country as failure to do so would amount to provoking inter-religious war; while advising their followers to remain law abiding but defend themselves in the face of any attack. Despite the outcry, *Boko Haram* sect's

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*The highlights are categorised and subsumed under four basic thematic areas of Humanitarian, Political, Socio-Economic and Environmental Risks.*

*It is generated from the incidence reports from data uploaded by WANEP-Nigeria Early Warning Monitors in the thirty six (36) States of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.). Additional information is derived from the media reports and primary observation.*

*It is analysed and compiled by zonal analysts responsible for each of the six geo political zones with quality control from the WANEP-Nigeria National Secretariat.*

spokesperson released the sect's plan to to launch similar attacks throughout the north and in major cities in the south in the coming days.

In **Plateau state**, suspected *Boko Haram* members attacked Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church, along Murtala Muhammed Way in Jos, at about 10.30am while the Christmas service was on. The attackers ambushed the security against on guard and killed a policeman, but they were prevented from carrying out further destruction. Four of the attackers have, however, been arrested and taken in for questioning and some bomb making devices were also discovered in the area.

In Wereng community of Riyom Local Government Council of **Plateau state**, a man, his wife and baby were killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen who attacked the village in the night. The attack was on the same night as the Peace Talk between Christian and Muslim leaders in the State.

## **North East**

### **Humanitarian Risk:**

In **Yobe State**, the State's Command Headquarters of the Department of State Services, Damaturu, was attacked by a lone suicide bomber suspected to be a member of *Boko Haram*. The incident occurred as the convoy of the Commanding Officer of the 241 Recce Battalion, Nguru, Yobe State, Col. Dahiru Abdulsallam, was driving into the headquarters complex for a security meeting. The

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explosion killed three Service personnel, the suicide bomber with one person sustaining injury.

In **Yobe state**, an unnamed church was reportedly bombed by members of '*Boko haram*' in Gadaka area of the state, killing six persons.

In **Gombe state**, unknown gunmen numbering three opened fire and threw explosives at an unnamed hotel and open-air bar in the city of Gombe, injuring 15 people. The motive for the attack carried out in '*Boko Haram*' style is yet to be ascertained and no arrest has been made.

Armed Fulani herdsmen were reported to have invaded Demave village of **Taraba state**, a Tiv settlement, killing six people and

injuring several others. The assailants burnt down the houses, huts and farm produce of the community people. Many of the Tiv people were reported to have fled the state to the nearby Benue state taking refuge in Katsina-Ala, Gbishi, Tor-Donga and other surrounding villages in the state.

In **Borno state**, '*Boko Haram*' bomb explosion killed not less than 4 people; an explosion that occurred as Muslims were leaving the Mosque after Friday prayer. The Mosque is in the neighbourhood of Monday market in Maiduguri.