

2012 Biannual National Human Security Alert Of GHANAWARN

January-June 2012

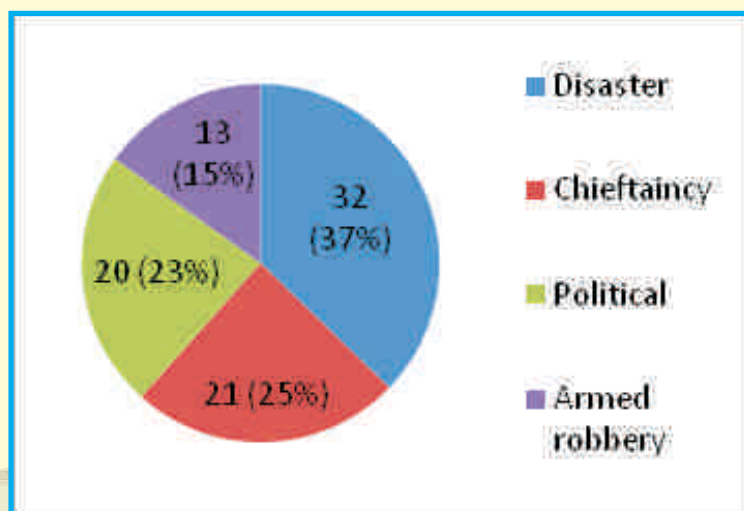
This Early Warning Alert is a biannual publication of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Ghana (WANEP-Ghana) which shows an analysis of proximate human security conditions, some of which emanate from structural and systemic challenges. It is produced from WANEP-Ghana's Early Warning Reports.

The Early Warning (EW) reports are generated from WANEP-Ghana's online database system, GHANAWARN, which facilitates data gathering nationally but from monitors and reporters in 22 pilot communities located in 7 regions of the country. The system also gathers data through face-to-face interactions with WANEP-Ghana's network members, political party youth, state and non-state stakeholders across the country.

Established with support from the Department for International Development (DfID), through Christian Aid (CA), Ghana, GHANAWARN is currently being supported by Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Responsiveness in Ghana (STAR-Ghana). The system operates based on the principle that Human Security Early Warning is essential to preventing, mitigating and preparing for violent conflicts and disasters, if the appropriate strategies are adopted and used.

This issue of the biannual Alert which covers January-June, 2012, highlights natural and manmade **Disasters, Chieftaincy Related Tensions, Politically Motivated Disputes/Violence and Armed Robbery** as the most threatening security indicators.

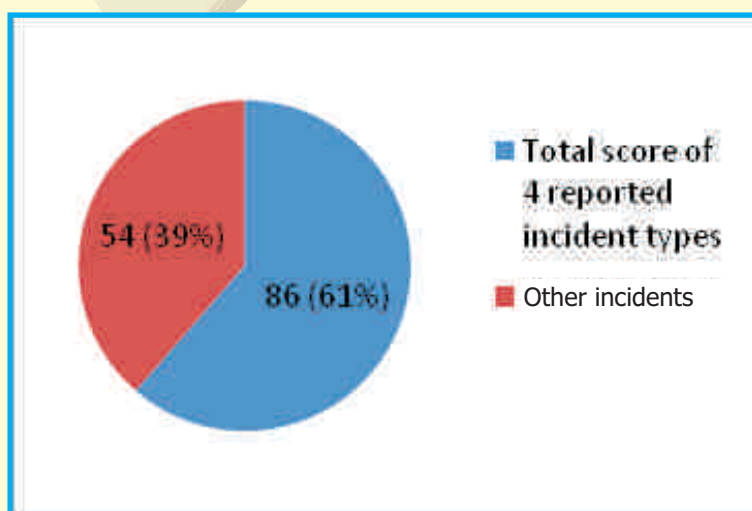
Fig.1: Four Highlighted Proximate Causes



They are identified as most threatening because of their potential to easily degenerate into large scale violence if no adequate interventions are undertaken. Again, the factors in each of these conversely influence the others and can increase as Ghana prepares towards the December 2012 general elections.

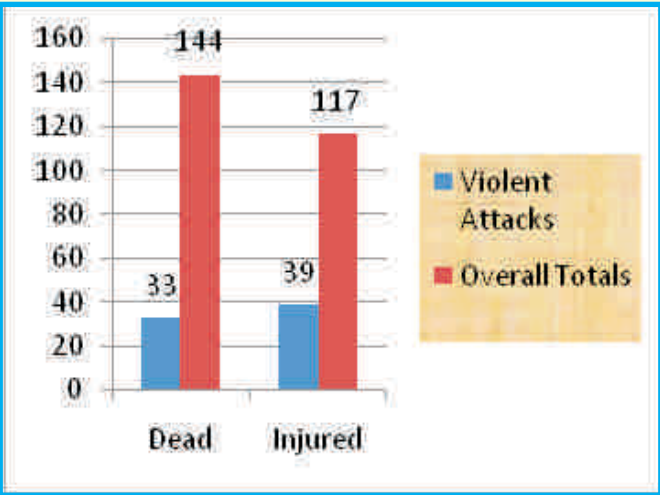
Within the period, the system recorded 140 incidents. The four highlighted incident types totaled 86 out of the overall 140 reported cases indicating a 61% score while the other types combined was 39% (54). Disaster alone had 37%, Chieftaincy 25%, Politics 23% and Armed Robbery 23%.

Fig.2: Summary Score of Four Highlighted Incidents over Overall Score.



There were 43 reported violent incidents and 8 incidents of threats of violence. Over all, there were 144 recorded deaths from these incidents.

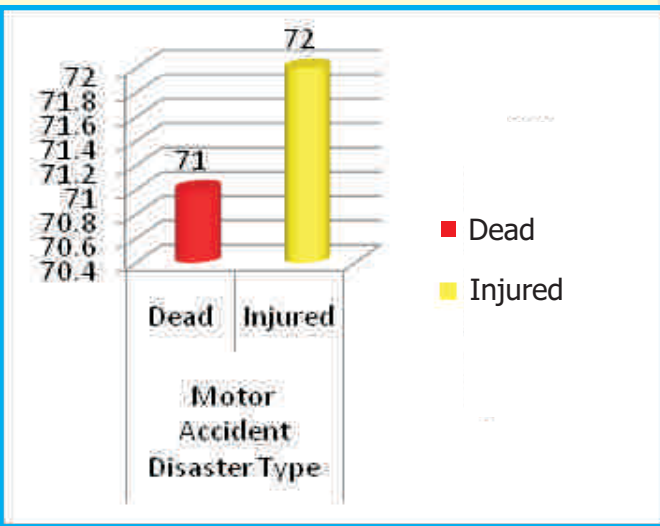
Fig.3: Human casualties resulting from 43 violent incidents against total deaths per period



Risk 1 : DISASTERS

Disaster related incidents posed the most threat to the population within the period under review. It recorded 32 incidents (37%) out of 86 incidents (100%) and included disease outbreak, fire, motor accidents, mine collapse, rainstorms and floods. Under the disaster category, motor accident cases was the highest with 14 counts over the total count of 32, followed by 7 cases of fire and 5 incidents of epidemics. The Greater Accra Region recorded the highest (5) number of accidents, followed by the Ashanti and Northern Regions. The Brong-Ahafo, Eastern and Central Regions also recorded several road accidents with deaths.

Fig.4: Human Casualties Resulting from Motor Accidents



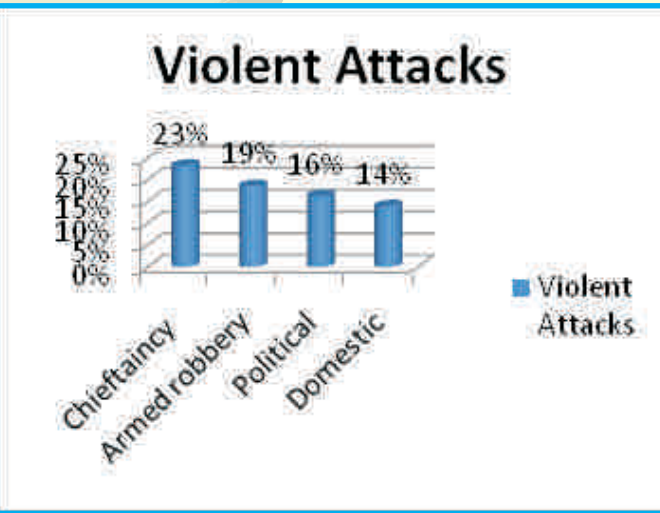
Overall, 71 deaths were recorded and 72 persons were injured as a result of motor accidents while the total number of disaster with human casualties were 130 deaths and 1,697 injured persons.

Additionally, 6 cases of disease outbreaks were recorded. In the Greater Accra and Western Regions, cholera outbreaks resulting from lack of portable water, contaminated stagnant drains, lack of toiletry facilities, etc, caused the death of several people while Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) affected dozens of people in the Upper East region attributed to excessive heat and inadequately ventilated homes. Overall, 29 deaths were recorded while over 815 people were infected. Lastly, 6 rainstorms also led to 5 deaths and over 1,250 people displaced in Gushegu, Navrongo, Bongo, Birim North, Zabzugu and Tamale whiles seven (7) fire outbreaks led to 8 deaths and 25 injuries and over 105 acres of farmland being destroyed.

Risk 2: CHIEFTAINCY RELATED TENSIONS

A total of 21 chieftaincy related incidents were recorded out of the overall 86 cases per the period, representing 24% of the recorded incidents. Out of a total figure of 43 violent incidents, 10 (23%) were chieftaincy related incidents with 1 death and 4 injured. Again, out of a total of 8 incidents of threat of violence, 6 were chieftaincy related. The communities most affected include Kwabenya, Tanoboase, Tishigu, Bimbilla, Yendi, Ngleshie, and Sunyani. There were major communal chieftaincy incidents at Wa, and Buipe which nearly triggered violence.

Fig.5: Percentage Score of Chieftaincy against three other Sources of Violent Attacks during the period.



Most of the violent incidents are as a result of protracted tensions between factions on one hand and the perceived influence of politicians on chieftaincy institution for political gains on the other hand. The situation seems even more challenged because of what the communities described as inadequacies of police and policing towards the maintenance of law and order.

For example, on Wednesday, 4th January 2012, three persons including a police officer were confirmed dead at Kwame Danso while another person sustained a gunshot wound in the Sene District of the Brong Ahafo Region in a clash involving the police and youth of the town. Two of the victims were reported to have been killed by a police officer who was in turn lynched by the demonstrating infuriated youth. The youth were on their way to present a petition to the District Chief Executive over a 16 year old vacant chieftaincy seat when the incident occurred.

Additionally, there was simmering tensions in Bimbilla after a ruling by the Northern Region House of Chiefs on the protracted chieftaincy dispute in the area. Subsequently, some youth of Bimbilla violently protested against the ruling.

It is perceived that chieftaincy cases in Ghana, particularly in Northern Ghana are largely influenced by political activities and regimes hence the trend always exacerbate in election years. Factional members in political or public positions are perceived to have the power to decide who can or cannot be a chief or have the capacity to make a sitting chief powerful/powerless. They are also alleged to create economic and social opportunities that place factional members above opponents.

Again, it is used as an opportunity to make demands now in order to polarize the political atmosphere and to make one party lose or win elections in their support bases and this is very much evident now. Thirdly, factions tend to ensure perceived political affiliates are maintained or gain power who can champion their course.

Risk 3: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

Out of the 86 highest reported cases, 20 incidents (23%) were recorded as politically motivated incidents. Of the 43 total violent incidents, 16 were politically motivated resulting in 7 deaths and 9 injuries. Noted communities were Ledzekuku, Gushegu, Odododiodio, Bawku, Bimbilla, Aflao and Buie.

Table 1: Politically Motivated Incidents

Incident Type	Score
Total Violent Incidents	43
Total Politically Motivated Incidents	20
Total Politically Motivated Violence	16
Total Biometric Registration incidents	14
Total Biometric Registration violence	9

Out of the 20 recorded politically motivated incidents, 14 of them were recorded during the Biometric Voter Registration exercise and out of the 14, 9 of these were violent incidents which involved the destruction of registration materials, physical assaults, burning of properties, butchering and firing of guns resulting in the death of one person and injuries to 25 persons. Of the nine recorded violent incidents, 3 of them involved the firing of guns from which one person died. On two occasions, thugs rode motorbikes to registration centres and seized registration equipments to scuttle the registration process and scare away eligible registrants at perceived strongholds of opposition parties.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been growing political anxiety. Communication team members of political parties at the national, regional and district levels have engaged in direct insults, personality attacks, allegations and counter accusations against each other through the media. Whipping up ethnic tensions for electoral votes is no doubt a recipe for exacerbating violence but some politicians aware of this are dangerously stoking it lately. The potential to ignite violence through ethnic pronouncements is high especially that some media bodies are not monitoring and sanctioning their members who either flout the ethics of the profession or are not conflict sensitive in their reportage.

Risk 4: ARMED ROBBERY

We commend the security agencies for continuing with their patrol duties, dawn swoops, soliciting community support to fighting armed robbery, violence and the proliferation of small arms. However within the period, a total of Thirteen (13) armed robbery incidents representing 15% were captured by the system. Out of the 43 cases of violent incidents recorded, 8 were armed robbery related. At least 6 people died upon arrival at the hospital and 8 people were also said to have sustained various degrees of injury. Communities where the incidents occurred include Asankragwa, Asante-Mampong, Tuba, Swedru, Osu and, in the Ashanti region.

Recommendations

WANEP-Ghana wishes to

Appeal to Government, National Peace Council, REGSECs and DISECs to adopt proactive peacebuilding methods and approaches to resolving the numerous conflicts under their jurisdictions; an always preferred option than waiting for violence to erupt before they intervene with peacekeeping.

Urge the various Regional Houses of Chiefs as well as the Parliamentary Select Committee on Chieftaincy to expedite action on, and find lasting solutions to the existing protracted chieftaincy disputes.

Entreat International Institutions and Civil Society groups to increase the communications, transport and ammunition detection capacities of the security agencies and support the Police with bulletproof uniforms and equipment to enable them respond to violence and crime situations effectively.

Plead with political parties to educate their party faithfuls to be tolerant and civil in their utterances and discourse.

Implore the National Media Commission (NMC) and the Ghana Journalists Association (GJA) to tighten their control mechanisms to sanction media houses that do not adhere to the principles and ethics of professional media practice. This will contribute to ensuring violent free elections in December 2012.

Request the security agencies, communities and civil society to be vigilant in monitoring the country's borders to deter, arrest and retrieve illegal arms in the possession of civilian populations. We also ask the security agencies and road safety campaign teams to intensify their road safety campaigns.

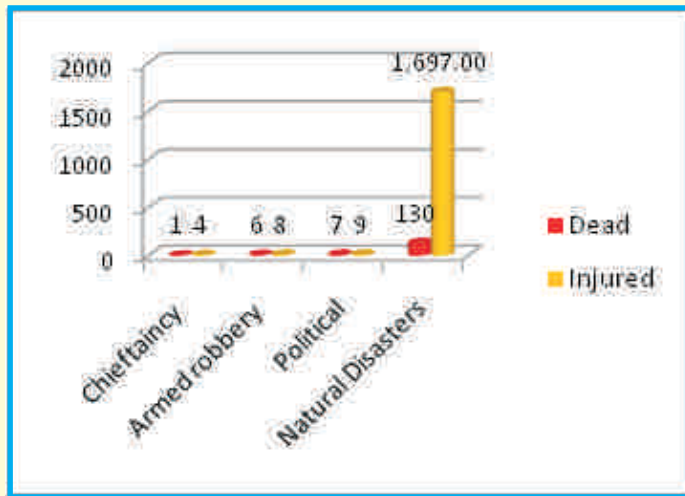
Appeal to the health authorities to facilitate pre-season vaccinations across CSM prone regions of the country.

By this publication, we encourage the general public to report all incidents of human security concerns to the appropriate agencies and through the following WANEP-Ghana options :-

By Phone Call - (Toll free: 080010029 or Hotline: 0201131885). By SMS (to Short Code 1443).

How to send SMS:- type GNP(leave space) followed with the message and then send to 1443.

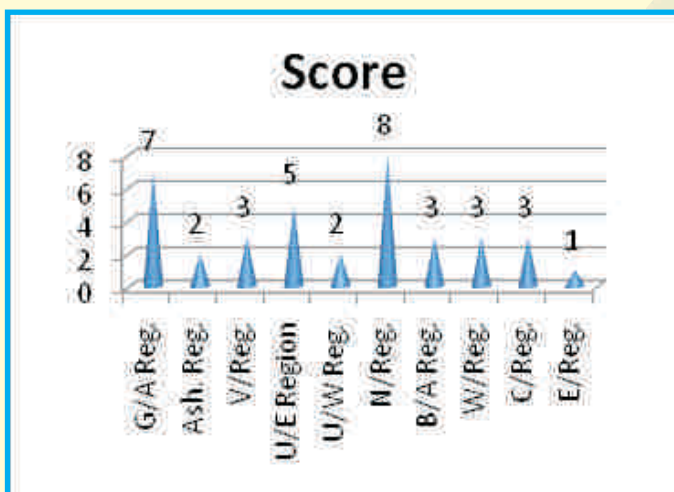
Fig. 7: Graphic Summary of Human Casualties from 4 High Risks Causes.



A major influencing factor of the recorded crimes and communal violence is the proliferation of arms. It is alleged that faction members and arms dealers are taking advantage of the protracted nature of conflicts in some parts of the country to perpetrate their trade and play middle men roles in the arms trade.

The greatest worry is the source of the arms and whether a large and sophisticated quantity remains with the civilian populations in the country.

Fig. 8: Graphical Presentation of Violence Captured per Region over period.



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