



WANEP-Nigeria

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Nigeria

National Early Warning System (NEWS)

Weekly Highlight

Date: 22nd - 28th July, 2012.

- **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, PFulanis, 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.**

North Central

Humanitarian Risk:

Torrential rainfall of over eight consecutive hours wrecked havoc in Rikkos Angwan Rogo, and Gangere areas of Jos North, **Plateau State**. The rainfall reportedly caused the water from the Lamingo dam to overflow which enabled the Rikkos river flood the areas. 47 people were confirmed swept away and drowned by the flood with at least 36 missing, majority of the victims are children and aged. About 350 houses were reported destroyed, damaged or submerged by the flood with properties worth millions of Naira destroyed. According to officials over 3000 people were displaced by the flood many of who sought refuge at the IDP camps managed by NEMA and Nigeria Red cross. Over 65 people were reported treated for dysentery and diarrhoea caused by the outbreak of Cholera in the camps with a high risk of the spread of the epidemic to other IDPs in the camps.

Socioeconomic Risk:

In Gboko, **Benue state**, students of Akperan Orshi College of Agriculture went on a demonstration to protest the killing of a student of the school by a reckless truck driver of Dangote Company. The policemen deployed to quell the protest reportedly shot and killed five of the students. The

incident is a repeat of an earlier incident when three students of Benue State University were shot and killed by the Police when protesting the killing of a student of the school by a Dangote Company truck. None of the 'killer' policemen were punished or sanctioned.

- **North Central Population Size – 20,266,257.**
- **States - Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Plateau, Niger and Abuja Federal Capital City of Nigeria (FCT).**
- **Contextual Highlights – Major ethnic groups predominant in the area include Hausa, Fulani, Tiv, Berom, Igala, Jukun, Igbira, Gwari and Idoma. The geopolitical zone is inhabited mainly by minority groups. Religions practiced in the area include Christianity, Islam and traditional religion. All nationalities co-habit in Abuja Federal Capital City and surrounding areas. Benue avows to being Food basket of the Nation. Plateau is known for the production of vegetables. Kogi is Confluence State where River Niger and Benue converge.**
- **North West Population Size - 35,786,944**
- **States - Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Kano and Kebbi.**
- **Contextual Highlights – The zone is comprised of a heterogeneous mix of Hausas, Fulanis in Majority while other Nigerian tribes are in minority. Sokoto, Katsina and Kebbi States are bordering states between Nigeria and Niger which accounts for the international grazing routes and trans-border movements in this zone. Kano is regarded as an economic city for the North and also the most populated State in Nigeria while Sokoto state is the seat of the Sultan of Sokoto who is also referred to as the leader of the Nigerian Muslims. Predominant Occupation is cattle grazing and farming. The zone suffers from desert encroachment as a slow onset disaster.**

In **Nassarawa state**, security operatives on patrol along Akwanga-Keffi-Abuja Road acting on a tip off discovered an illegal gun making factory in Takpa village of the state. 13 Dane guns, 2 locally made pistols, 1 welding machine, hand drilling machines, 3 bench devices, 36 quantities of 7.62mm NATO ammunition and 39 quantity of 7.62mm special ammunition were discovered in the factory. The owner of the factory however escaped and had being declared wanted by the security agents.

According to media reports, about 300 hundred people majority of who are between the ages of 10 and 15 years old were allegedly rescued from the hands of human traffickers by soldiers on a stop and search operation on Itobe-Ajaokuta-Okene road of **Kogi state**. The group were said to be on their way to the South westerns states of Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti states in quest of menial jobs. The 'traffickers' were said to have obtained the consent of the 'victims' parents who were paid N5,000 per child with the promise of helping the children secure jobs as maid and houseboys in the cities. Majority of the children are said to be from Benue, Kogi and Cross river state.

NO fewer than 16 persons including 8 students of Federal Polythenic, Nassarawa state were killed in a fatal road accident on Nasarawa-Toto/Keffi Expressway of

- **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.**

Nasarawa State. The unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) attributed the accident to reckless driving and overloading.

In **Benue state**, a fatal road accident claimed the lives of seven NYSC members that were just discharged from the orientation camp in the state. About 8 other people some of which are Corp members were injured in the accident and taken to hospital by men of the Federal Road safety Corp that also put the cause of the accident to recklessness on the part of the driver.

North East

Political risk:

In Bauchi metropolis of **Bauchi state**, an IED laden wheelbarrow disguised as water melon vendor's wheelbarrow exploded near a relaxation spot in Bayan Gari area killing two people including a six-year-old boy with ten other people sustaining various degree of injury.

In Maiduguri, **Borno state**, gunmen suspected to be members of *Boko Haram* shot and killed two Indians and injured a third one when it attacked a Gum Arabic Factory located at Bayan quarters of the metropolis. The gunmen chanting *Allahu Akbar* were reported to have made away with some of the late traders money. None of the local residents, or workers in the factory were killed or injured in the attack.

In **Borno State**, two policemen and a civilian were killed in an attack on Gubio LGA Secretariat and a Divisional police headquarters in the town. The attackers are

believed to be members of the *Boko Haram* sect. The armed men who shot sporadically and used IED also burnt down parts of the Secretariat and Police station.

In **Bauchi State**, gunmen ambushed a Police highway patrol vehicle along Bauchi-Gombe road and shot dead the three of the four policemen on patrol. The gunmen made away with the deceased police rifles afterwards. The fourth policemen was said to have escaped death by running into a nearby bush.

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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.

Socioeconomic Risk:

Gombe State government allegedly employed 30,000 youth to serve as security agents in the state. Information about the mandate of the newly formed security squad, training and use of arms was however not made available.

Environmental Risk:

In Jama'a LGA of **Bauchi State**, many farmlands around Jama'are River were reportedly destroyed by flood caused by the overflowing of the river. Rice, maize and other crops farmlands around the river, valued at several millions of Naira were washed away by the flood. The incident is further intensifying the risk of food insecurity in Nigeria come 2013.

South South

Socioeconomic risk:

Women from Koroama community in Gbarain clan of Yenagoa LGA, **Bayelsa State**, barricaded a Shell Petroleum Development Company's facility, one of the facilities in Gbarain/Ubie Project. The protest that lasted over four hours disrupted oil production in the platform

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which has the capacity to produce over a million cubic feet gas and 70,000 barrels of crude oil per day. The demonstrators also interrupted work at the Independent Power Project in the area. State officials were unable to prevail on the traditional ruler of the community to persuade the protesters to vacate the road leading to the facilities. The women in their hundreds were said to have been joined by youths and traditional heads from the Obunah, Okolobiri, Polaku and Okotiana clans during the protest. The demonstration was to protest SPDC failure to honour the agreements it reached with the community in the Global Memorandum of Understanding. The protesters also accused the company of environmental and social negligence.

At least 50 houses were burnt down by angry youths in Omudioga community of Emohua LGA, **Rivers State**. The youths were said to be protesting the sudden death of a 30-year-old youth believed to have being killed diabolically by some people in the community. Several of the houses were looted before they were set ablaze.

Sea armed robbers (pirates) attacked the speedboat of Nigerian Agip Oil Company workers around the Clough Creek waterways, Southern Ijaw LGA of **Bayelsa State** killing at least three people on board. One of the deceased was said to have jumped in to the water to escape fire from the bandits but drowned in the process. The speedboat was alleged to be travelling without the usual security escort.

South West:

Humanitarian Risk:

About one thousand people were reported displaced with five people dead in a midnight flood caused by torrential rainfall in Odo-Ona and Oke-Ayo areas of Ibadan South-West LGA, **Oyo State**. **Many** houses, churches, mosques and shops were submerged in flood with properties worth millions of naira destroyed in the flood. The areas were also affected in the August, 2011 flood disaster which killed over 100 lives. It was alleged that the Landlord Association of the area thwarted the state government's efforts to demolish some illegal structure and make adequate passage for water in the riverine area.

In **Lagos state**, about 250 families, residents of Ijora Badiya were rendered homeless by fire outbreak which started while most of the victims of the highly residential area had gone to their working places in other parts of the state. Poor road network in the area allegedly inhibited the efforts of the Lagos State Fire Service called upon to put out the inferno. Property worth millions of Naira were utterly destroyed in the inferno as majority of the houses were burnt down completely. Many put the cause of the fire to spark from electricity cable.

Socioeconomic risk:

In Ikeja, **Lagos state**, hundreds of the 800 sacked staff of Mainstreet Bank, marched to office of Lagos state Governor to protest the sack by the bank's management in the previous month. The protest was to intimate the Governor about believed injustice against the laid off workers and demand for the payment of their 2012 leave

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allowance as well as the full salary of July 2012. This is against the backdrop of the allegation that the workers were made to sign their termination letters under duress and were paid just one month basic salary as compensation for the over 20 years work many of them put into the service of the Bank.

In Igbokoda town of Ilaje LGA, **Ondo state**, about six people were reported killed and 16 others injured in a violent clash between naval officers attached to Igbokoda Forward Operational Base and some youths suspected to be militants. The youth were said to have invaded the Naval base where it was believed the House of Representatives member, representing Ese-Odo/ Ilaje Federal Constituency illegally kept some empowerment materials intended for the youth of the LGA.

In Ikenne, **Ogun state**, the activities of *Oro cultist* (traditional worshippers) that imposed a 24-hour restriction of movement on residents of the town in defiance of an order by the State government has continued to heighten the tension between the *Oro cultists* and Islamic leaders in the town. Some Islamic leaders in the town were attacked by the *Oro cultists* for allegedly informing the state government of the plans of the *Oro cultists*. A peace meeting was organized by the government to address the conflict.

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