Risk 3: Epidemic

There were outbreaks of Cholera in Guzamala Local government area of Borno state and Jalingo in Taraba state, while Zamfara state reported Chicken pox epidemic in the month of June.

The cumulative risk index for the reported states showed an overall high risk of 95% for the increase in the spread of infectious disease and infant/maternal mortality in the states. The main pointer to the cause of the cholera epidemic is the decrease in the availability of drinking water and the pollution of water and streams reported in the states. Most of the pollution is an aftermath of flooding caused by the increase in the volume of rainfall in the states, which in turn polluted existing water source and underground water.

There is no report of concrete action taken by the State or Federal government to heed the warnings about the risk of possible outbreak of waterborne diseases/epidemic.

Another concern is the reported lack of adequate health care facilities to treat affected persons. This is validated by the poor operations of medical and traditional health institutions in the states.

There should be a comprehensive plan at the state and federal levels to mitigate the impact of flood on lives and livelihood, through building effective drainage systems sensitizations on community risk reduction strategies to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases/epidemic.

About EW Bulletin

The Early Warning Bulletin is a monthly publication of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) Nigeria, that presents a brief graphic analysis and description of highest proximate conditions emerging from its Early Warning Reports.

These Reports are derived from the Network’s online EW system which facilitates the generation of data from monitors and reporters across the 36 States of the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

The Bulletin reflects data from the incidence and situation reports of the EW system.

The WANEP-Nigeria EW system is adopted and supports the ECOWAS EW system-ECOWARN. The system is managed by the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS in partnership with WANEP through an MOU under the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security in West Africa.

This publication is published with support from Osfan-Neob-Netherlands.

Disclaimer: The authors’ views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Osfan.

Risk 1: Armed Conflict

Five states reported cases of armed conflict especially communal (Delta and Lagos states) and electoral armed conflicts (Akwa-Ibom, Borno and Zamfara states). Eleven people were killed in the incidents and over 500, 000 people were affected ranging from displacement to massive disruption of livelihood. The cumulative risk factors of these conflicts in the reported states showed a high index of 55% for the movement of arms and use of bellicose language by political leaders as drivers of violent conflicts in the identified states. 50% risk was reported for Nigeria Police tendency to engage in shoot-out and use excessive force in discharging their duties, thereby increasing the number of victims from the conflicts. The challenge is for the Nigeria Police to go beyond reactive and sporadic action to systematic/
proactive policing that prevents or mitigates the loss of lives and insecurity in the communities.

The availability of small arms in the hands of politicians pose a great threat for the 2011 election. This is closely linked to the increasing risk from gangster operations and thuggery as well as the tendency for politicians to use their status to lure youths into perpetrating violence and causing insecurity and instability.

This is made worse by the lack of clearly defined lines between what politicians perceive as politicking in contrast to their misuse of power especially as these politicians are also in the ruling class and therefore under police protection and often immuned to arrest and prosecution. Reports from the field showed that despite the police’s commitment to security, they may not be able to adequately prevent political violence due to stakeholders involved in the process.

The impunity with which politicians act also needs to be addressed. It is imperative that electoral reforms be a priority to prevent electoral violence in the general elections slated for 2011. Political parties should be trained on nonviolent electioneering process and stricter penalty should be imposed on electoral violence. Voters’ education should be taken with all seriousness in Akwa-Ibom, Bornu and Zamfara states as well as in other states as a preventive measure against electoral violence come 2011 general elections.

Risk 2: Armed Robbery

The states that reported cases of armed robbery are Ondo, Enugu, Bornu and Edo States. Armed robbery has become a major issue in Nigeria. A significant causal linkage to this is the increasing level of youth bulge and high rate of unemployment among the youth population in Nigeria.

The culminative risk index for armed robbery in Edo state for the month of June ranges from 75% to 95% compared to the other states analyzed. Reported cases include attacks on private residences, companies, banks etc resulting in death, permanent disability as well as massive economic loss and psychological effect on the victims. The problem of proliferation and movement of small arms was reported as a major proximate factor for armed robbery in the identified states. The level of youth involvement in armed robbery is high and prevalent; the multiplicity of the robbery cases hinders effective policing as the police often expressed limited capacities to adequately combat crime.

The increasing dimensions of robbery in the state has also snowballed into abductions for ransom.