

WANEP-NIGERIA Early Warning Bulletin

About

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.

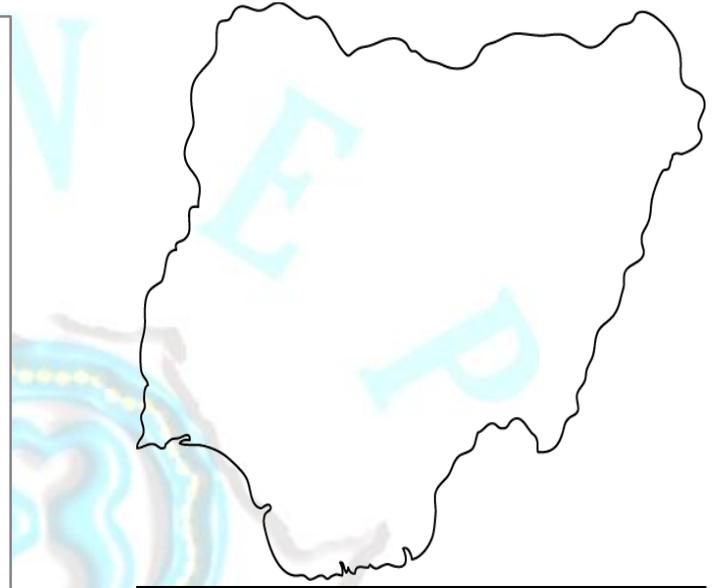
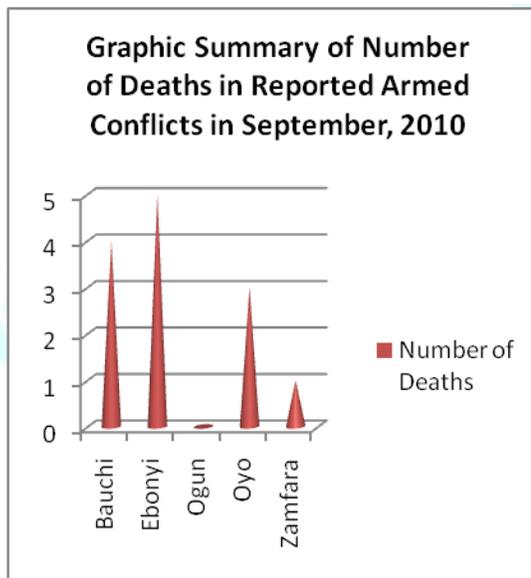
The WANEP-Nigeria EW system is adopted and supports the ECOWAS EW system-ECOWARN. The system is managed by the Early Warning Department of ECOWAS in partnership with WANEP through an MOU under the Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peace-Keeping and Security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

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Risk 1: Armed Conflict:



Four states reported incident of armed conflicts. Ebonyi reported incidents of communal and resource based conflict, Bauchi reported pastoralist/farmer conflict, Zamfara state reported communal conflict while Oyo and Ogun States reported electoral conflict. The identified states for the four consecutive weeks, reported a steady decrease in sense of

public and increase in the cumulative risk index for gun running, illicit movement of arms and gangster operations.

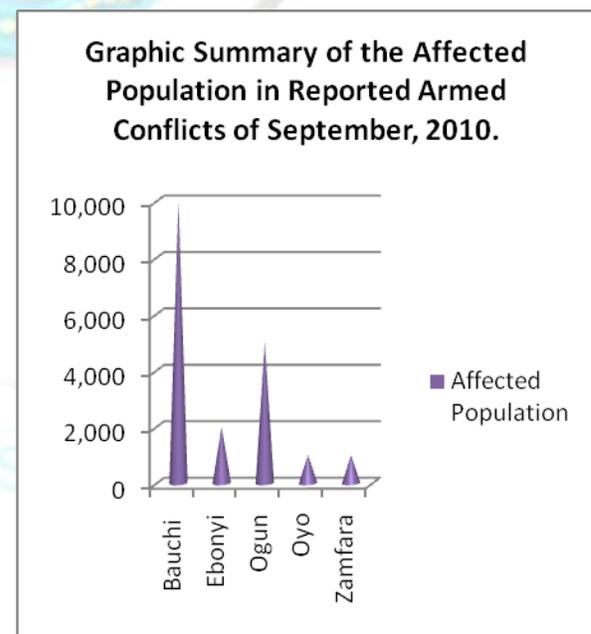
In addition to the above risk factors Oyo and Ogun states especially also showed a very high risk in the use of bellicose language by leaders to incite their followers. In like vein, the states in past weeks experienced several political and electoral conflicts ranging from flagrant disrespect for the rule of law, power drunken politics and political violence witnessed in the Ogun state House of Assembly to the

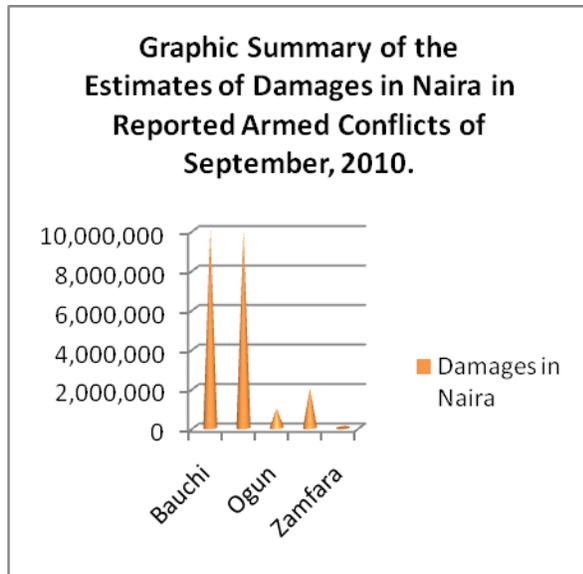
politically motivated thuggery displayed in Oyo state by members of the National Transport of Union Workers which claimed several lives and had many more wounded. As the 2011 general elections draws closer many of the aspirants at state and national level are employing every possible means to emerge the flag bearers of their party, the stiff competition has made many politicians result to using inflammatory speeches to hit up the polity and/or tarnish the image of their opponents. Increase in the spate of abduction and assassination has been said to have political undertone.

Analyses showed that over 70% of the conflicts in Nigeria take place at the community level and often with grave impact on lives and livelihood. Weakened traditional structure for dispute resolution and limited awareness about official legal structures for redress continues to make conflict parties' result to 'self-help' often violent in dealing with conflict at the community level. The strengthening of community structure either traditional or non-governmental for dispute resolution will go a long way

in reducing the occurrence of communal conflict in Nigeria. Also, the effective punishment of offenders will deter move parties from responding to conflict violently.

The reality of climate change and its consequence in desertification, drought increased rain fall and flood has hit several part of the country in varying degree. The stiff competition for the unaffected or salvageable farmland often gets violent and sadly response is not forth coming in most cases as government and its agencies at the three levels are reactive and late in their response. released to most of the state.





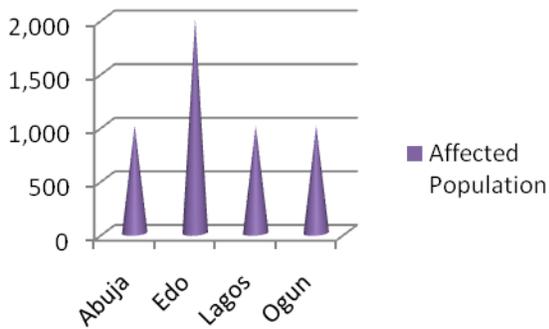
Risk 2- Vehicle Accidents

Vehicle accidents are filling Nigerian graves faster than many disasters and violent conflicts, with untold hardship and suffering on the victims and affected persons. The FCT Abuja, Lagos, Ogun and Edo states recorded several incidents claiming several lives and leaving many permanently disabled in the period under review. The cumulative risk index of deterioration of roads and link bridges between states and cities indicates a risk figure of 60% in Lagos and Ogun states and 70% in Edo state which has led to a geometric increase in road accidents. The laxity of the government agencies charged with the duty of accessing the

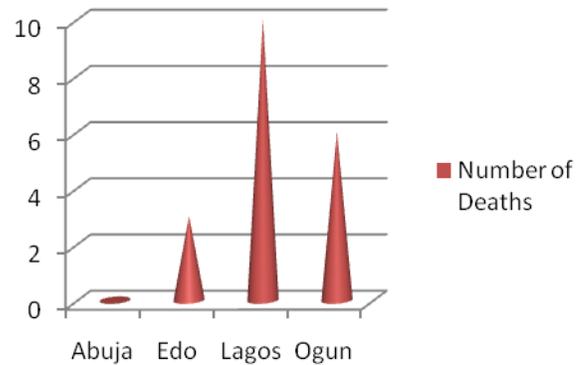
road worthiness of vehicles, road and traffic maintenance contributes to this menace.

In curbing this problem it is crucial governments agencies like the Federal Emergency Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Federal Road Safety Commission, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LATsMA), State Transport Management Agencies, Federal and State' Ministries of Transport be more alert to their responsibilities of policymaking, organization and administration of road safety in Nigeria, see to the proper maintenance of both state and federal roads to enhance the safety of road users, arrest and prosecute traffic offenders, develop road safety educational curriculum to be infused into existing curriculum as well as ensure the speedy completion of the roads under construction. As the abandoned equipment on many of the road construction abandoned project heightened the risk of accident.

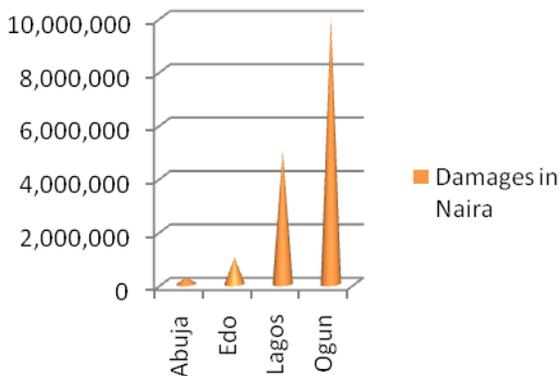
Graphic Summary of the Affected Population in Reported Incidences of Vehicle Accidents in September, 2010.



Graphic Summary of the Number of Deaths in Reported Vehicle Accidents of September, 2010.



Graphic Summary of Estimates of Damages in Naira in Reported Vehicle Accidents in September, 2010.



Risk 3- Homicide

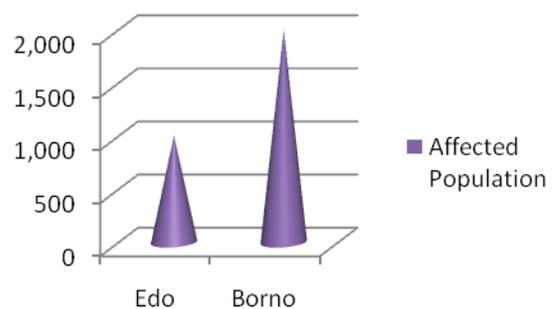
Bornu and Edo states reported cases of homicide in the month under review. Reports from the states for four consecutive weeks showed cumulative risk index of between 60 and 90% for increase in gangster operation, illicit movement of arms, incidents involving small arms, assassination, group and individual harassment, significant reduction in interaction between communities, intolerance between communities and ethnic groups, movement of non-indigenes, violent activities of militias. The index for decrease in sense of

public security and government policy on safety and security in the state is also about 70%.

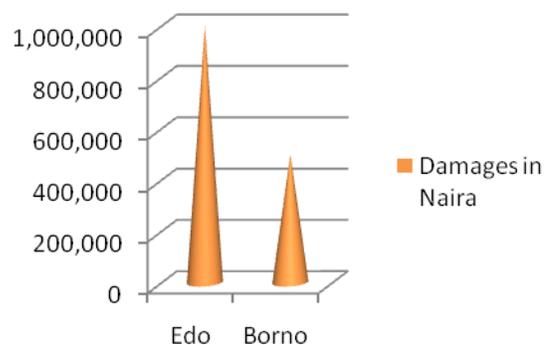
The homicide cases in Bornu state was linked to the *Boko Haram* (western education is sin) Islamic sect. The sect earlier insurgency in 2009 was violently repressed by the Nigerian government claiming over 500 lives. The remobilization of the sect and attacks on prominent people believed to have spoken against the sect in 2009 is causing a lot of anxiety in the state. Many non-indigenes with fresh memories of the 2009 attacks and reprisals are gradually moving away from the capital city. The increased security presence in the state has not being able to deter the sect members from carrying on their nefarious activities. Also worrisome is the spate of politically motivated assassinations in Edo state. The possibility of increase of such killing is high as Nigeria continues to move closer to the 2011 general elections. The ability of the security agents to protect lives and fish out the culprits is in doubt while the continued reliance on the military for the maintenance of civil order also has

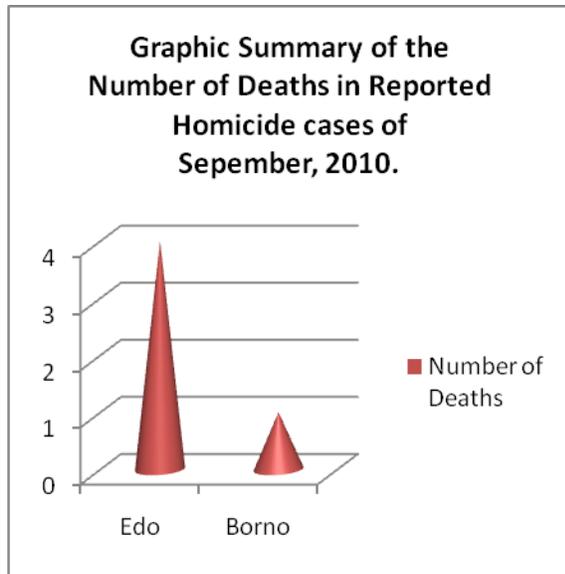
its long term impact on the polity. It is important that government at different level pay more attention to security and safety of Nigeria and not intensify measure to arrest and punish culprits as deterrence for others.

Graphic Summary of Affected Population in Reported Incidences of Homicide cases in September, 2010.



Graphic Summary of Damages in Naira in Reported Homicide cases of September, 2010.





Risk 4- Abduction

Kidnapping, in the pre federal government amnesty programme period, was associated with the militants in the restive Niger Delta, who resorted to taking foreign oil workers hostage to draw national and international attention to their struggle for resource control and make demands of oil companies operating in the region. Currently, kidnapping is beyond just the Niger delta region to especially the south east states, where the kidnappers' sole interest is to extort the families of their victims of huge sum. No stratum of the society is

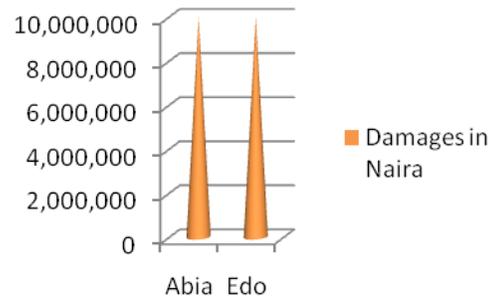
spared as even school children have been victims of the kidnappers.

Edo and Abia states recorded incidents of abduction in the month under review with a cumulative risk index of 85% for increased rate of unemployment and a huge decline in living conditions. Reports from Abia state showed a state experiencing a high level insecurity because of the activities of armed robber and kidnappers. The menace led to the closure of schools, banks and other commercial outfit in the state for a period as well as the movement of people from the capital city. The remaining residents of the state and operators of businesses have been living in a condition of perpetual fear and insecurity as the security agents in the state have been unable to address the problem. The opposition has several called that a state of emergency be declared in the state to save the situation while the government is alleging the kidnappings have political undertone and masterminded to disrupt the government.

The targets of the kidnappers in Edo state are mainly proprietors of

commercial transport companies in the state. It is believed that the development is borne out of successive governments' inability to provide employment to the teeming graduates produced by tertiary institutions in the country. An holistic solution to the problem will tackle the problem from the root to address the issue of marginalization and access to resources while also deploying all means to break the state of kidnapping and the 'lesser' vice armed robbery.

Graphic Summary of the Estimates of Damages in Naira in Reported Incidences of Abduction of September, 2010.



Graphic Summary of the Affected Population in Reported Incidences of Abduction in September, 2010.

