

WANEP-NIGERIA Early Warning Bulletin

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.

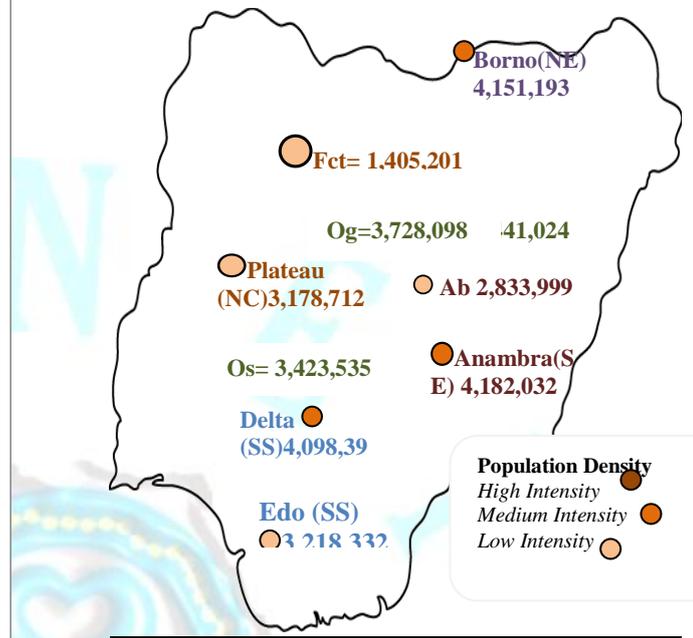
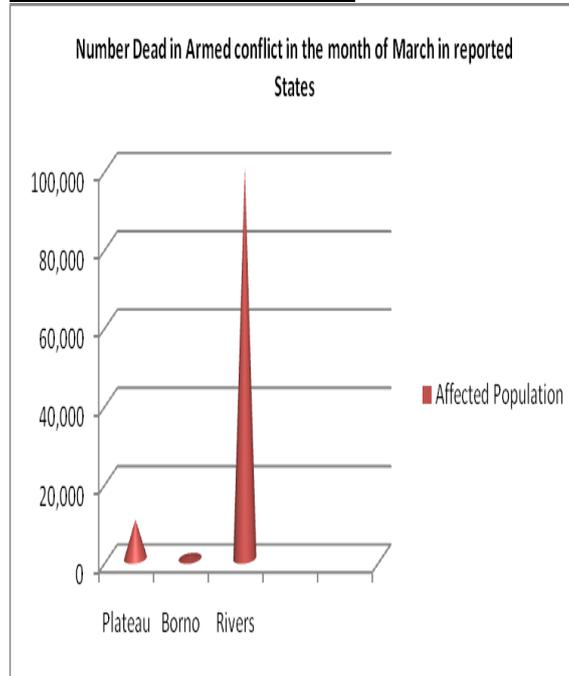
These Reports are derived from the Network's online EW system which facilitates the generation of data from monitors and reporters across the 36 States of the country including the Federal Capital Territory.

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.

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Analysis Period -01-31/03/2011 Risk 1: Armed conflict:

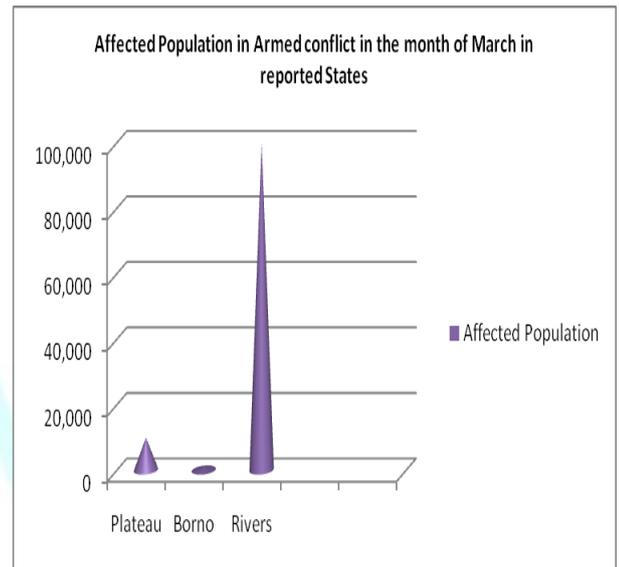


Five states reported incidents of violent conflict in the month under review: these range from electoral conflict in Oyo, Plateau and Anambra states; ethnic conflict in Bauchi and communal/ chieftaincy conflict in Rivers state. The higher incident of electoral conflict is characteristic of the fact that the Nigeria general election will be holding next month. The increase in the spate and occurrence of armed conflict in the month also reflects increase in proliferation of small arms and light

weapons. The data in the early warning system of WANEP showed that the cumulative risk index for gun running stands at 60% in the case of Oyo, 47% for Anambra and 45% for Rivers state. Reports from the early warning system also showed an increase in incident involving small arms and light weapons in the reported states. The cumulative risk index for the use of bellicose language by political leader increase and it was cited as the trigger for the crisis. There is the need for political, traditional and religious leaders to exercise caution in their speech so as not to incite their supporters to cause instability. As a way forward, state

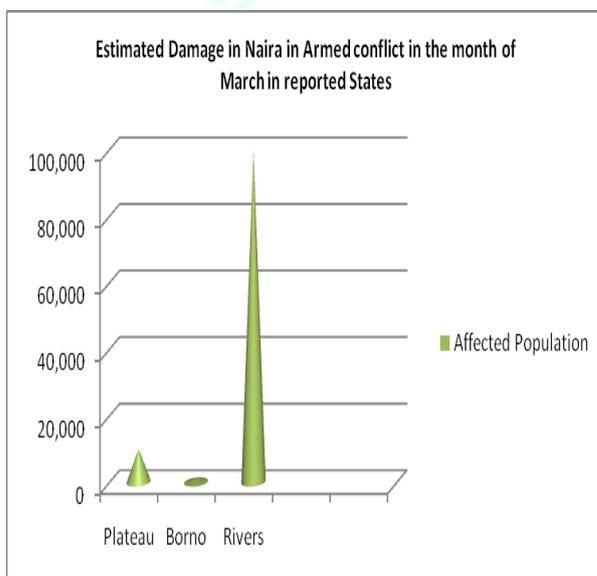
security agencies need to be more alive to their responsibility to prevent violent conflict in especially the coming elections which will most likely be violent based on the context and current incidents. The Federal government should also take decisive steps to address the youth problem in Nigeria by generating employment to engage the youth that are un/under-engaged and thereby vulnerable to being used as political thugs by the desperate politicians.

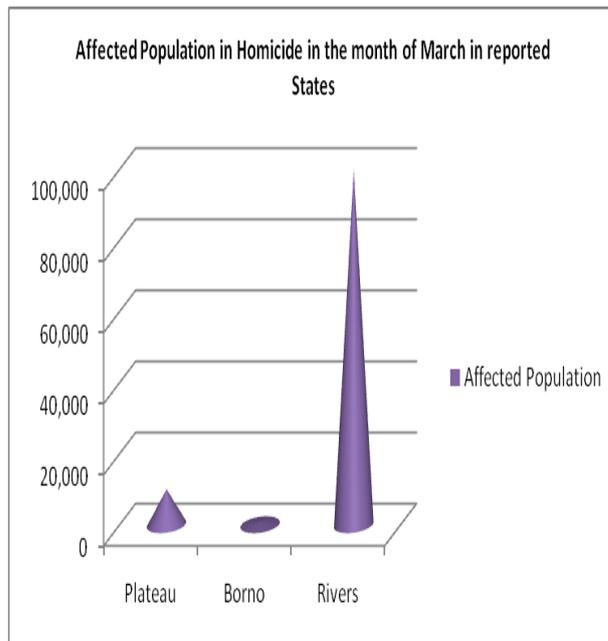
As Nigeria is posed for the general elections state security agents, including the Police, Custom and Immigration should be more alert to prevent illegal importation of arms into Nigeria as well as the cross border movement of militia groups from the northern borders as the general elections draws nearer.



RISK TWO: HOMICIDE

Bornu, Plateau and Rivers states reported incidents of homicide in the month under review. The name of Bornu and Plateau states has become almost synonymous with religious, ethnic and political violence due to the recorded incidents in the last few years. The incidents are with resultant loss of hundreds of lives, destruction of property, livelihood and infrastructure. The ongoing killings in the states have been described as either being politically motivated to obliterate opponents or in continuation of killings by the Boko Haram sect and killings by the agro-pastoralist at the either side of the Jos crisis.

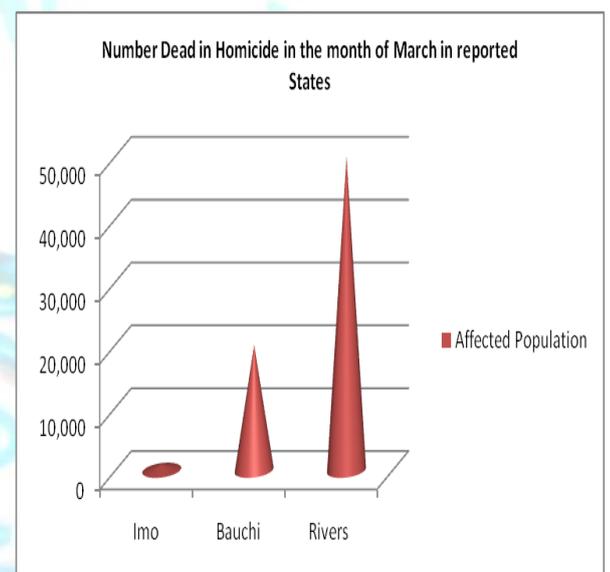




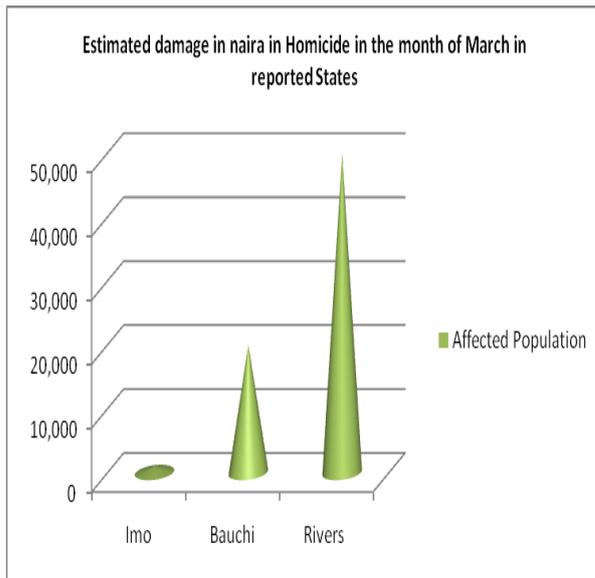
The cumulated risk index for decrease in sense of public security showed a noticeable decrease despite the heavy presence of security agencies and Joint Task force, in fact killings takes place at close intervals in the states. Indicators from Borno reveals a shocking risk index of 80% on gun running and movement of small arms and light weapons which makes the misuse of the arms rife. The availability of a large number of vulnerable unengaged and under engaged youth that can be used as foot soldiers to cause instability is another problem that must be resolved for Nigeria to have a lasting solution to the issue of armed conflict in Nigeria.

The fact that many of the reported cases of homicide has political undertone is worrisome as this may be politicians' tactic to eliminate political opponents. There is an urgent need for

government to work with the NGO and Media on public sensitization on non-violence and acceptable conduct at the pre, during and post elections period. Government should also take decisive steps to punish perpetrators of political violence either veiled as homicide or direct political assassination.



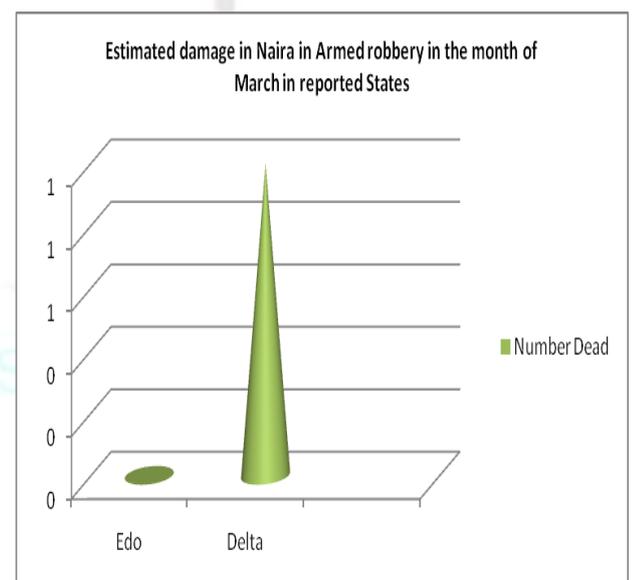
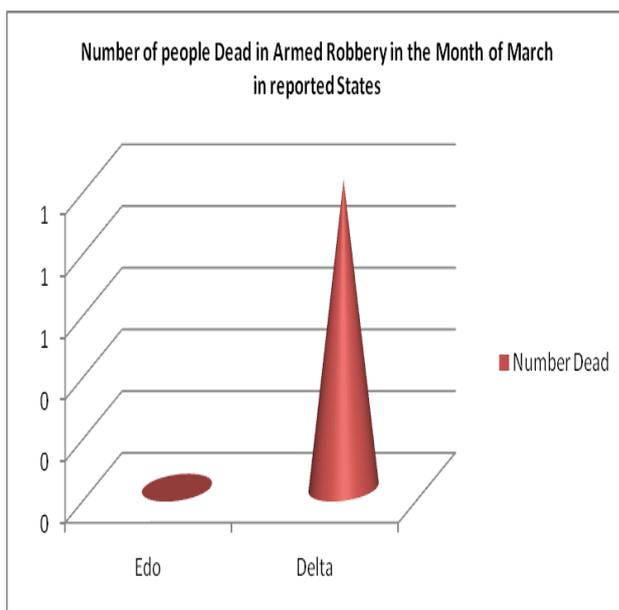
In addition to the above, the state security agencies should be more effective in their duty of protecting the lives and livelihood of Nigerians and providing security in the true sense to once again renew the citizenry confidence in their ability to ensure safety. It is important to know that increase in violent related activities in the electioneering period may lead to voters' apathy during the elections as eligible voters may be scared away from performing their franchise due to high level of insecurity.



security agencies incapable of addressing to the mishap. The root cause of the armed conflict is the problem of youth bulge and unemployment; data from Federal Ministry of Youth Development showed that over 60% of Nigerian youth population are presently unemployed, with many more under-employed. Other proximate factors intensifying the menace in the country is the proliferation of small arms and the ineffective security structures that is too weak to address the problem of armed robbery. There is the need for states and federal government to take a holistic approach to address the problem of armed robbery to ensure safety of lives and properties in the states and Nigeria as a whole.

Risk 3: ARMED ROBBERY

Armed robbery was reported in Edo and Delta states. The case in Edo state is particularly worrisome has being an ongoing for weeks without any visible measure by security agents to curb the menace.



Armed robbery has become a recurring social threat in Nigeria rendering state