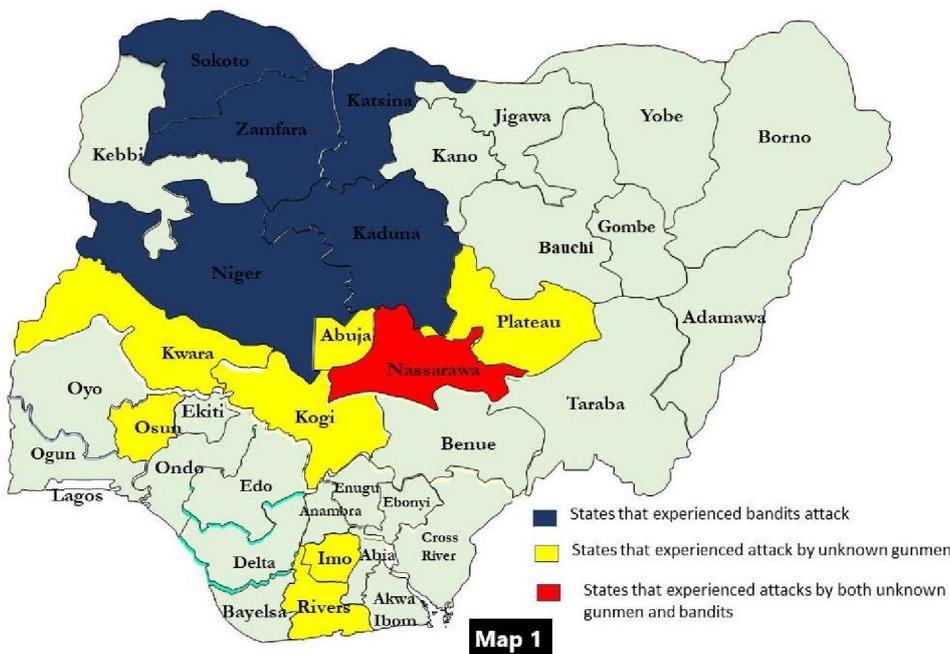


**CONFLICT, SECURITY, AND SAFETY TRACKER - VOL I, ISSUE 1.
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INTRODUCTION

Insecurity has been one of the greatest challenges plaguing Nigeria in recent times. Recent events across the six geo-political zones suggest a deteriorating security context in the country. Deaths recorded from the activities of armed herders and bandits, boko-haram, IPOB agitation and other criminal activities collectively portray

large.¹ The month of August in Nigeria from the perspective of public safety and security was characterised by terror, killings, abductions, armed banditry, terrorist attacks by the ISWAP & Boko-Haram groups, organized crimes by IPOB and ESN etc. Insecurity in the country has reached a critical stage in view of regional concerns that continues to call for concern. Furthermore, there were communal clashes and attacks by armed bandits which analysts have compared to acts of terrorism² especially in some communities in the North-Central and North-Western parts of Nigeria. The current security challenges are leading to a stretch of security personnel and their capabilities given the widespread attacks and conflicts across the country.



total disregard for the dignity of the human person. The media is rife with daily reports of communities ransacked with large scale displacement of many persons from their ancestral homes, destruction of means of livelihood, properties, and other valuables. Criminal elements have also adopted enforced disappearance as another strategy to cause fear amongst members of the public. Enforced disappearances have been frequently used as a strategy to spread terror within in Nigeria and promote insecurity which affects the families, close associates of the disappeared, their communities and society at

It is against this background that the CLEEN Foundation has launched its Conflict, Security, and Safety Tracker (CSS-Tracker) to document incidents around the country related to public safety and security. This August Edition of the Tracker documents key security, safety and conflict concerns in Nigeria through various methodologies and recommendations on improving security in the country.

¹ About Enforced Disappearance
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/About.aspx>

² <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/02/18/rising-insecurity-in-northwest-nigeria-terrorism-thinly-disguised-as-banditry/>

METHODOLOGY

CLEEN Foundation adopted a unique approach in gathering information to populate the CSS Tracker. The Foundation made use of Google Alerts which is a web intelligence tool to gather information on reported incidences of violence/insecurity in the country. The reported cases provided the opportunity for critical analysis. The reports were also further verified through phone calls from on-the-ground local partners. Recommendations were made based on reported issues within the reported timeframe. The reporting timeframe for this Tracker was between the 10th and 30th of August.

BANDITS AND UNKNOWN GUNMEN

Across board, the security threats of the herders/farmers crisis, armed banditry, and activities of ‘unknown gunmen’ have continuously dominated security space of the country in recent times and also in the month of August. These heinous activities have not only affected the masses but have

also affected security personnel in the country. Reports indicate that bandits and these unknown gunmen carry out their horrible activities mostly at

nights in suburb areas using security uniforms. Their activities have led to untimely deaths and abduction of several persons through their operations. In August, the activities of bandits led to the closing

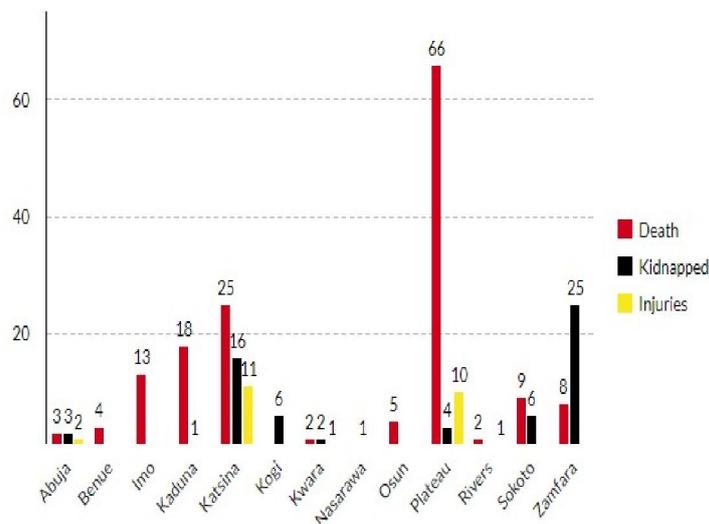


down of some schools, popular markets, and abduction of individuals in states like Kaduna³, Katsina and Zamfara while the onslaught of

³<https://punchng.com/kaduna-abduction-bandits-release-another-32-baptist-students-hold-31/>

suspected ‘unknown gunmen’ have led to the attacks on police stations, police officers⁴ on duty and other state actors including vigilante groups. These groups account for 155 deaths recorded within the reporting period and 64 abductions.

Map 1 shows the states affected by their activities;



Death, Kidnapping and Injuries Recorded

some states recorded a higher number of attacks while some other states experienced less attacks.

Plateau state on the other hand experienced series of unrest with ethno-religious undertones and this accounted for a high rate of death in August 2021 as seen in the graph.

Chart 1 shows the **Number of deaths (155)** across the country, **Injuries (25)**, and **Kidnapping (64)**, recorded between 10th and 30th August 2021

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/gunmen-kill-seven-nigerian-gas-project-site-2021-08-17/>

KIDNAPPING

Kidnapping and mass abduction is becoming a trend in the country. There has been a rise in mass abduction of children and students especially in the Northern parts of the country which has led to



the closure of some schools and delays in the resumption of others. The political class and traditional rulers are not exempted as they are also targeted including their family members and relatives. From August 10th to the 30th, a total of 64 persons were reported to have been abducted while an unknown number were reportedly missing without traces. We believe the numbers may be more given the scale of under reported abductions that go not get to the media space.

experienced abduction in its border communities which is becoming a new trend⁵.

CONCLUSION

Insecurity in Nigeria poses a grave threat to lives and properties and it inhibits the economic development of the country. It has been reported recently that the negative impact of insecurity on the economy of the country has risen to the sum of #50 Trillion⁶ and has placed enormous burden on the public. The government and other critical security stakeholders need to take urgent and drastic steps towards curbing the rising spate of security challenges in Nigeria. The government must fulfil its constitutional mandate to guarantee the security and welfare of its citizens and put this as its primary focus.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Security Reorganization & Geospatial Technology.** The tension in the country calls for a rethinking of the strategy and operations of the various security agencies in Nigeria. This reorganisation is with a view to improving the current posture and makes it more localised and closer to the citizens. The government should evaluate the current security strategy with a special focus on areas that are worst hit and scaling up community-led approaches. The attacks by criminal groups have led to a number of persons missing or abducted. The government should explore geospatial technology to search for missing persons or the abducted. Geospatial technology can also be deployed as a strategy to



Map 2 shows states where persons were kidnapped/abducted. Zamfara state accounted for the highest number (**25**) of persons kidnapped owing to the activities of bandits in the state in the month of August. The Federal Capital Territory

⁵ <https://guardian.ng/news/pastors-wife-daughters-abducted-as-gunmen-break-into-fct-home/>

⁶ <https://guardian.ng/news/nigerians-pay-more-for-insecurity-as-economic-impact-hits-n50tr/>

mitigate violent attacks on volatile communities across the country.

2. ***Intelligence Gathering & Utilization in Security Operations:*** The impact of intelligence gathering in mitigating crime in Nigeria cannot be overemphasized. Nigerians want to see well resourced security agencies that have capabilities to mitigate security threats in the country. It is imperative for government to deploy every tool necessary for gathering information with the goal of using it to mitigate insecurities around the country working in tandem with impacted communities. By the same token, security institutions should share intelligence across board
3. ***Improve Public Trust, Confidence & Cooperation:*** The success of the fight against insecurity in Nigeria is largely dependent on the cooperation between the public and security agencies. There is need for government to engage with affected communities riddled with incidences of kidnapping, armed banditry etc. There is need to build the needed synergy amongst security agencies that can deliver on the safety and security of lives and properties.
4. ***Improved Security at Entry Points:*** In view of the reported incidences of insecurity in the month under-review, it has become imperative for security agencies to beef up security at entry points into states and cities across the country. Special attention should be given to the Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and North central regions of the country. As the onslaught of military attacks continues to be unleashed on armed bandits and terrorist groups, special attention must be focused on alternative routes through which fleeing criminals and armed bandits might explore to escape and set up camps and cells.

5. ***Establish a School Security Programme***

The increase in school based abductions calls for a deliberate strategy to protect school-aged children across the country. In view of these unpleasant experiences and their potential long-term negative implications, school owners including private and public schools should put in place stronger security measures to protect school children in their custody. Accordingly, it should also conduct periodic due diligence exercises on their security personnel while synergizing with the security agencies in their community for greater protection of their facilities. Finally, there is need for some state-led security arrangement on protection of school-aged children who have recently become soft targets for armed criminal groups. Accordingly, a more holistic Safe School Initiative should be scaled across the country to protect in-school children in Nigeria.



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About CLEEN

CLEEN Foundation (formerly known as Centre for Law Enforcement Education) is nongovernmental organization established in January 1998 with the mission of promoting public safety, security, and accessible justice through the strategies of empirical research, legislative advocacy, demonstration programmes and publications, in partnership with government, civil society and the private sector. CLEEN Foundation has a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in New York, the United States of America since June 2020, and Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights based in Banjul, The Gambia