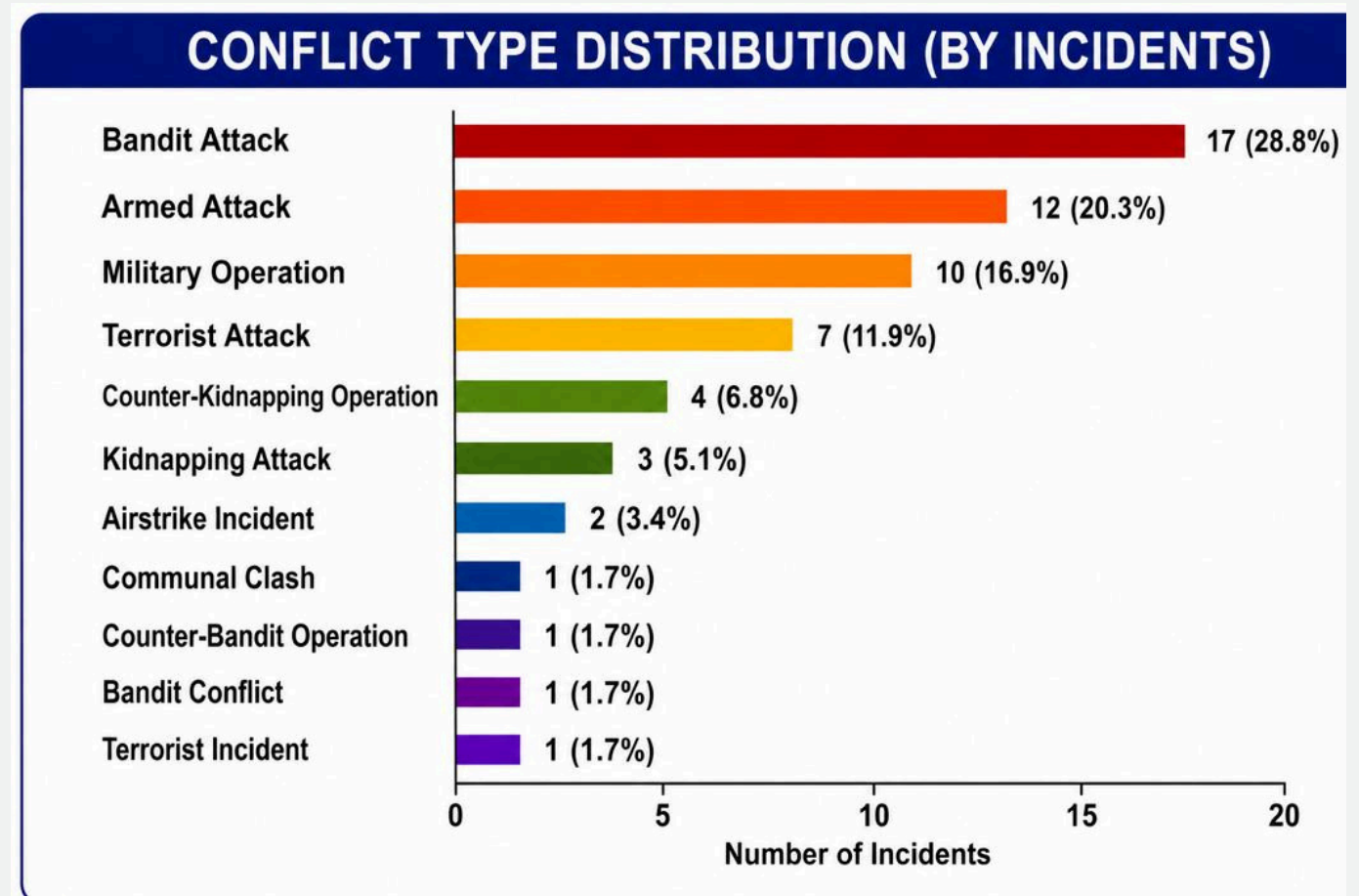


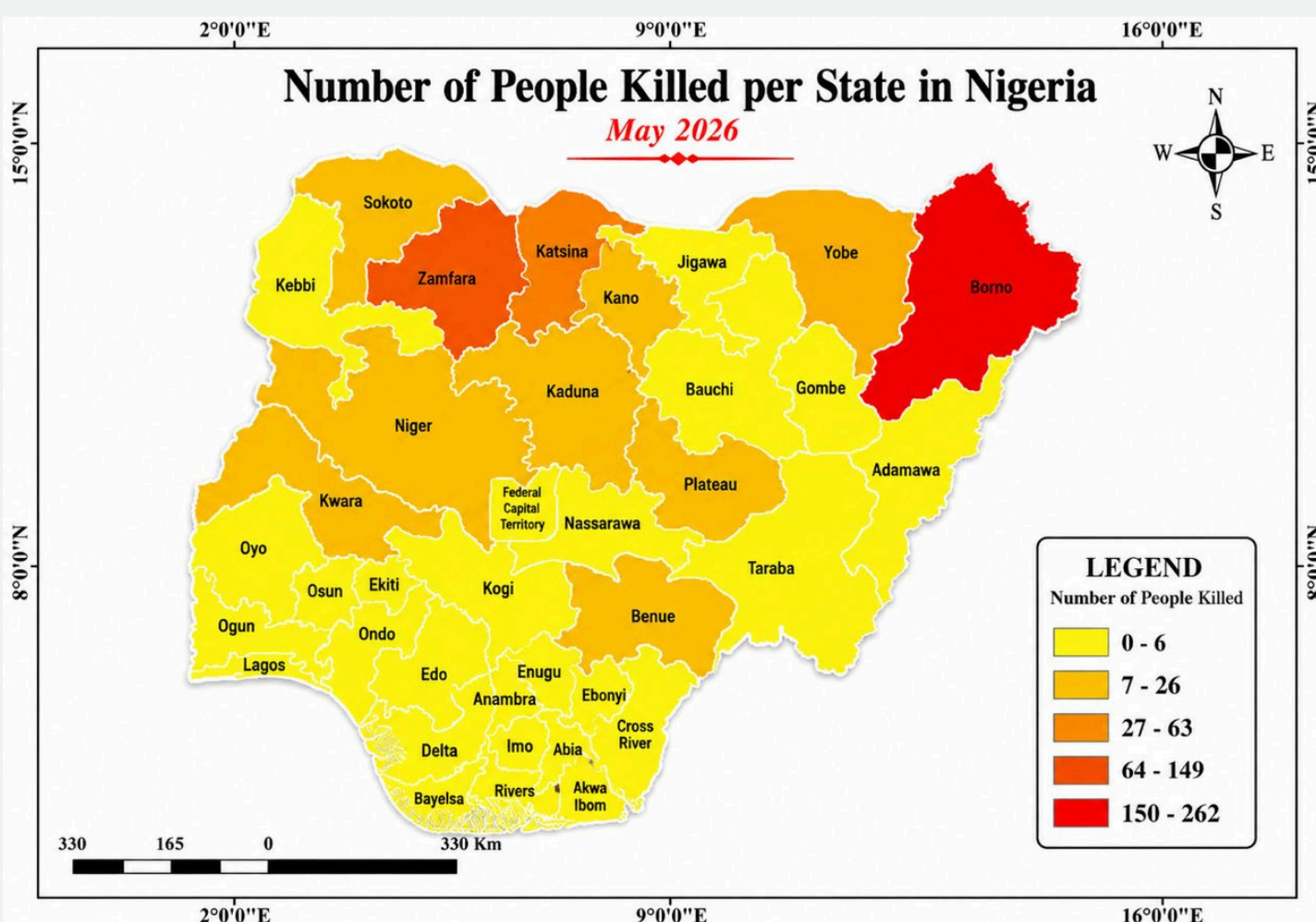
Incident Overview

In May 2026, 59 verified lethal conflict incidents led to 605 deaths across Nigeria. The North-West was the most affected region, with Borno, Zamfara, and Katsina recording the highest fatalities. Bandit attacks remained the leading cause of deaths, and the vast majority of victims (568 of 605) were Muslims. The data highlights the continuing impact of banditry, insurgency, and armed violence in northern Nigeria.

Conflict Type Distribution



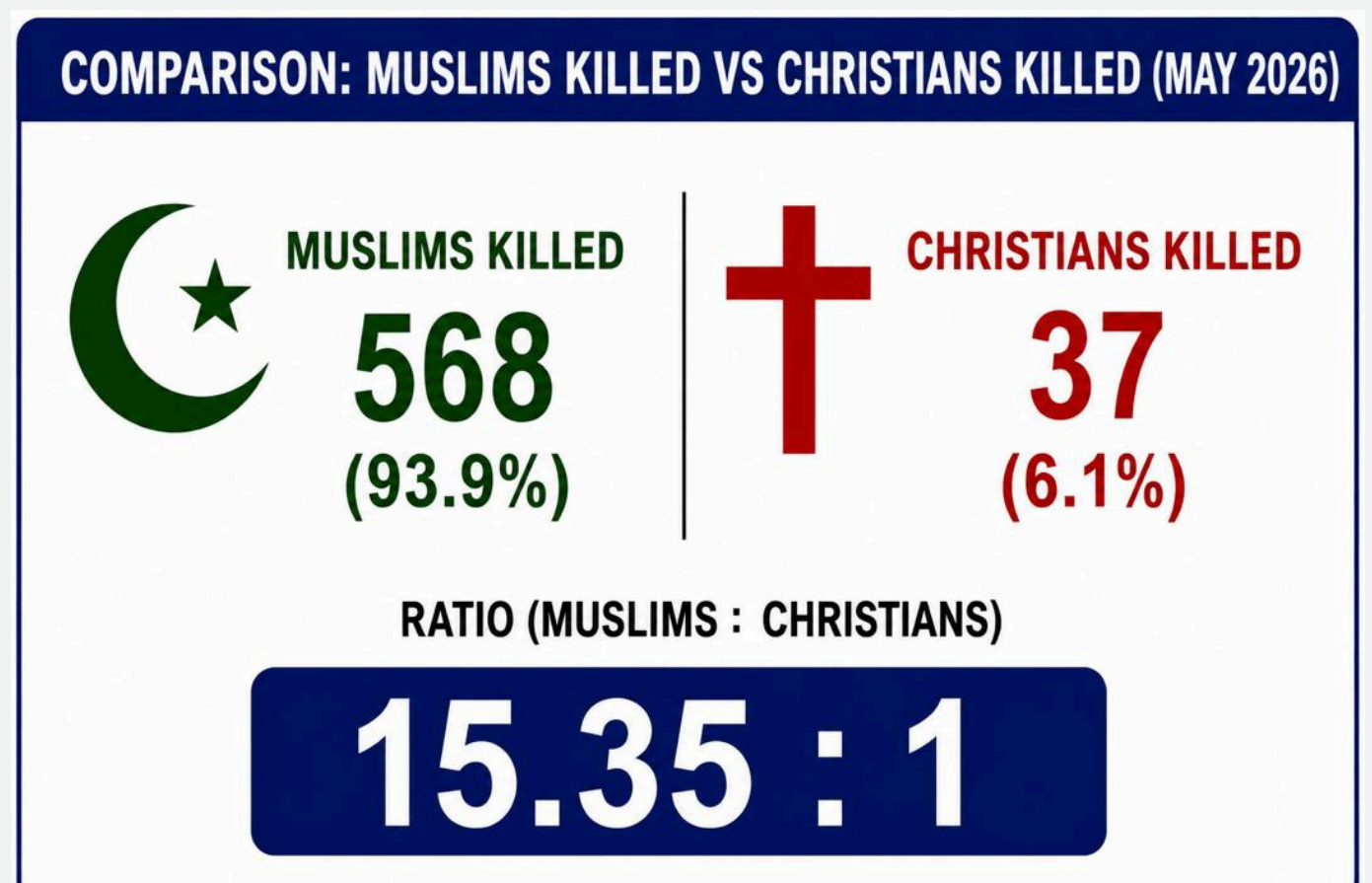
Spatial Distribution of Fatalities



The geographic distribution of fatalities reveals a highly uneven pattern of lethal violence across Nigeria. Borno State recorded the highest number of deaths (262), accounting for more than two-fifths of all fatalities reported during the month. Other major hotspots included Zamfara (149 deaths), Katsina (63 deaths), Yobe (50 deaths), and Plateau (26 deaths). Most southern states recorded relatively low fatality levels, while the most severe lethal incidents remained concentrated in northern conflict zones. This concentration of deaths highlights the persistence of entrenched insecurity in a limited number of high-risk states. The pattern further underscores the continuing impact of insurgency, banditry, and organized armed violence in northern Nigeria, where recurrent attacks continue to drive the country's lethal conflict burden.

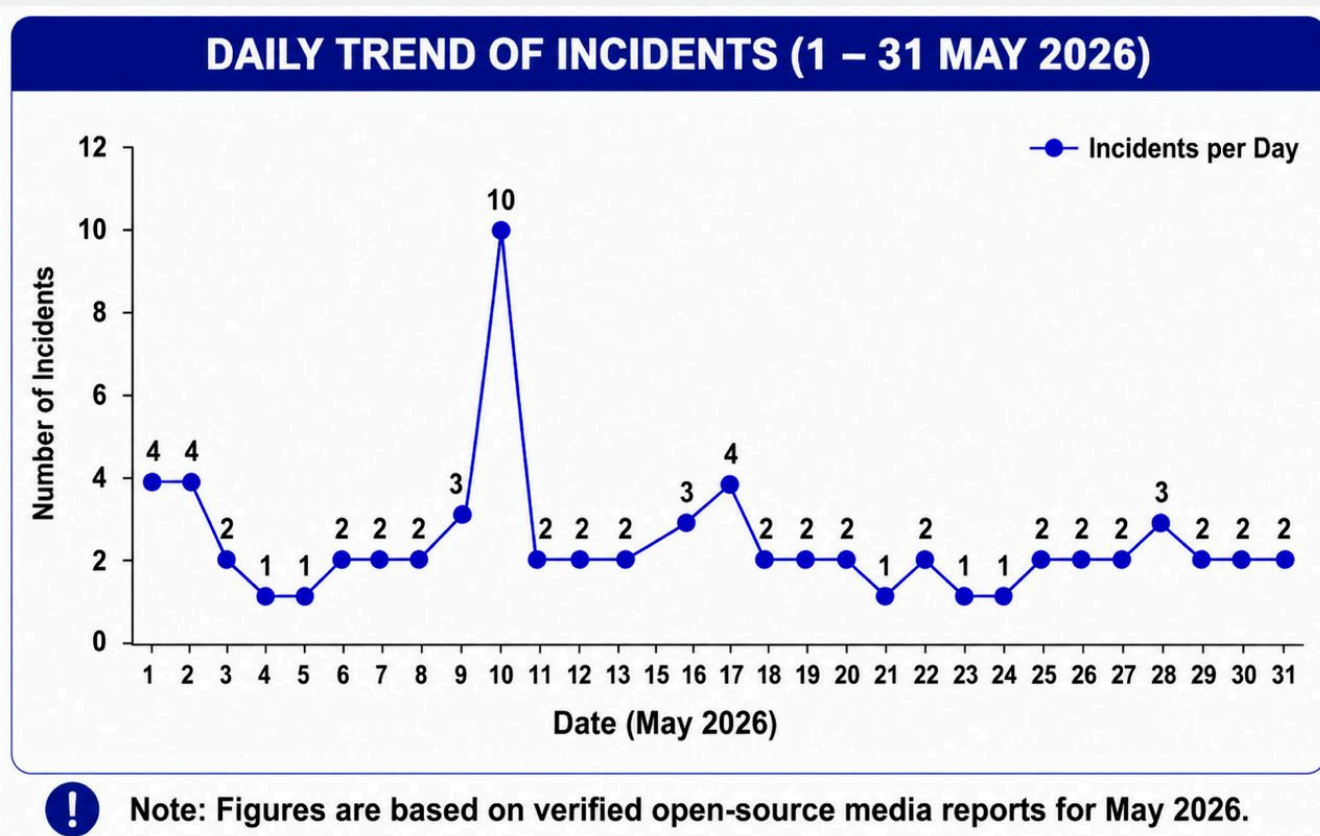
Bandit attacks remained the leading driver of lethal violence in May 2026, accounting for 17 incidents (28.8%). Armed attacks followed with 12 incidents (20.3%), while military operations accounted for 10 incidents (16.9%). Terrorist attacks contributed 7 incidents (11.9%), and counter-kidnapping operations recorded 4 incidents (6.8%). Other categories, including kidnapping attacks, communal clashes, airstrike incidents, and counter-bandit operations, occurred less frequently. The dominance of bandit attacks highlights the continued threat posed by armed criminal groups, particularly in the North-West, where attacks on communities and travelers remain prevalent. Meanwhile, the combined contribution of terrorist incidents and military operations reflects the ongoing intensity of counterinsurgency activities in conflict-affected areas.

Christians Killed vs Muslim Killed



Analysis of fatalities by religious identity indicates that 568 Muslims (93.9%) and 37 Christians (6.1%) were killed during May 2026, producing a ratio of 15.35:1. This disparity largely reflects the concentration of lethal incidents in predominantly Muslim northern states such as Borno, Zamfara, Katsina, and Yobe, where many of the deadliest attacks occurred. While fatalities affected both religious communities, the geographic distribution of violence played a significant role in shaping the overall pattern of recorded deaths, highlighting the widespread impact of insecurity across affected populations. This trend reflects the continued concentration of lethal violence in northern conflict hotspots during the reporting period.

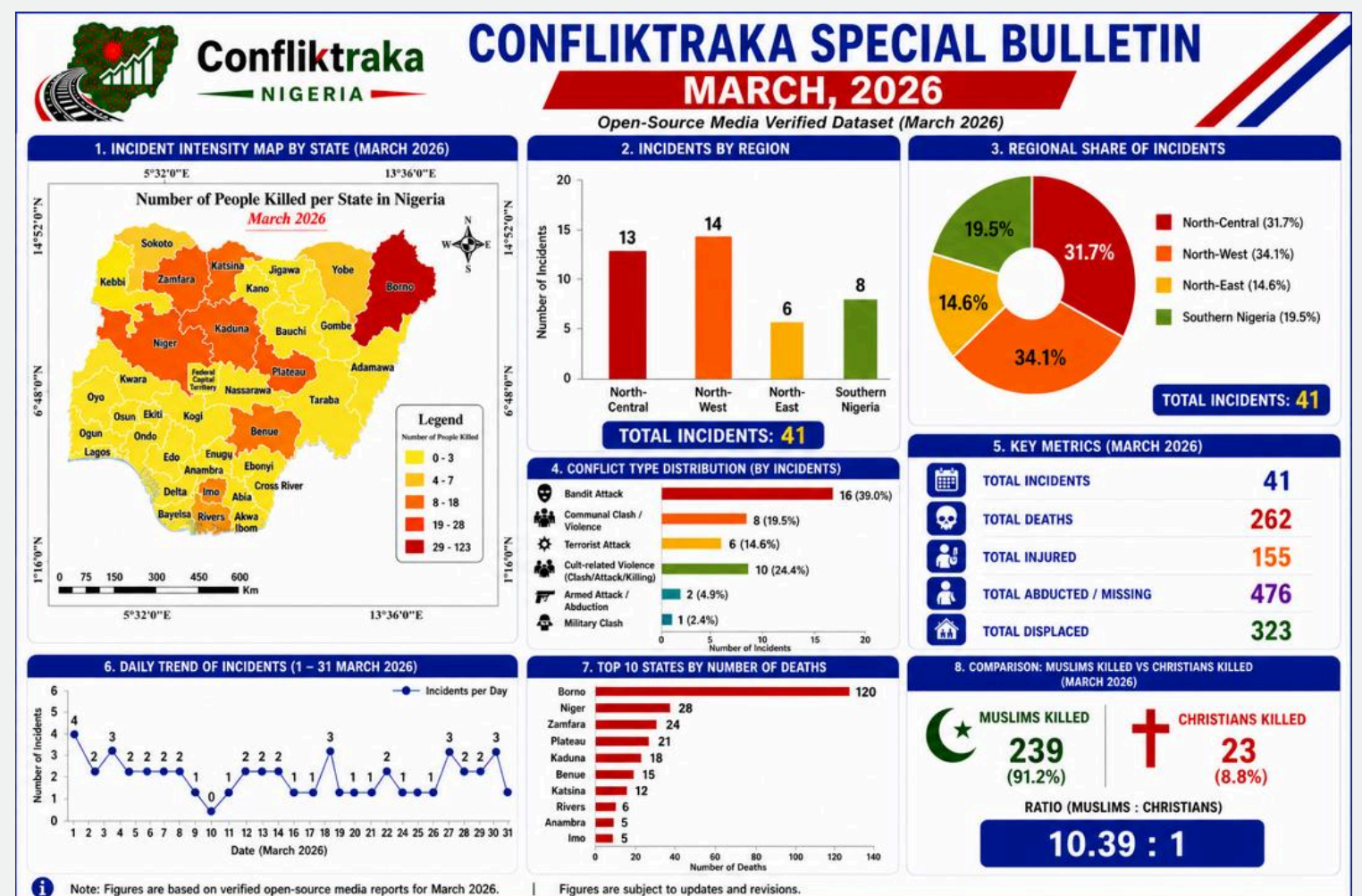
Daily Trend of Incidents



The daily trend of lethal incidents in May 2026 indicates that violence remained persistent throughout the month, although at varying levels of intensity. Most days recorded between one and four incidents, suggesting a relatively steady pattern of conflict activity across affected regions. The month opened with four incidents each on 1 and 2 May, followed by a decline to lower daily levels during the first week.

A notable escalation occurred on 10 May, when 10 lethal incidents were recorded, representing the highest daily total of the month and a clear outlier in the overall trend. Following this peak, incident levels quickly returned to lower levels, fluctuating mainly between two and three incidents per day. Smaller increases were observed around 16–17 May and 28 May, but these did not approach the intensity of the mid-month spike.

Summary



Nigeria's security situation in March 2026 remained highly volatile, with 41 incidents resulting in 262 deaths, 155 injuries, 476 abductions, and 323 displaced persons, reflecting significant humanitarian impact. Violence was concentrated in northern regions, particularly Borno, Niger, Zamfara, Plateau, and Kaduna, with the North-West and North-Central recording the highest number of incidents.

Bandit attacks dominated the conflict landscape, alongside communal clashes and cult-related violence, indicating a mix of criminal and localized conflict dynamics. Despite fewer incidents, the North-East remained highly lethal. The distribution of fatalities shows a significant disparity, largely driven by the geographic concentration of violence rather than purely religious targeting.

The pattern reflects persistent and widespread insecurity, requiring targeted, region-specific security and humanitarian responses.

Conclusion

The March 2026 data highlights persistent and widespread insecurity in Nigeria, driven by banditry, insurgency, and communal violence, with northern regions most affected in both frequency and intensity. The pattern reflects sustained instability alongside notable humanitarian impacts, including deaths, injuries, abductions, and displacement, which continue to disrupt livelihoods and community stability. Addressing these challenges requires targeted and region-specific security measures, improved intelligence and coordination among security agencies, and sustained support for affected communities to enhance protection, stability, and long-term resilience.