



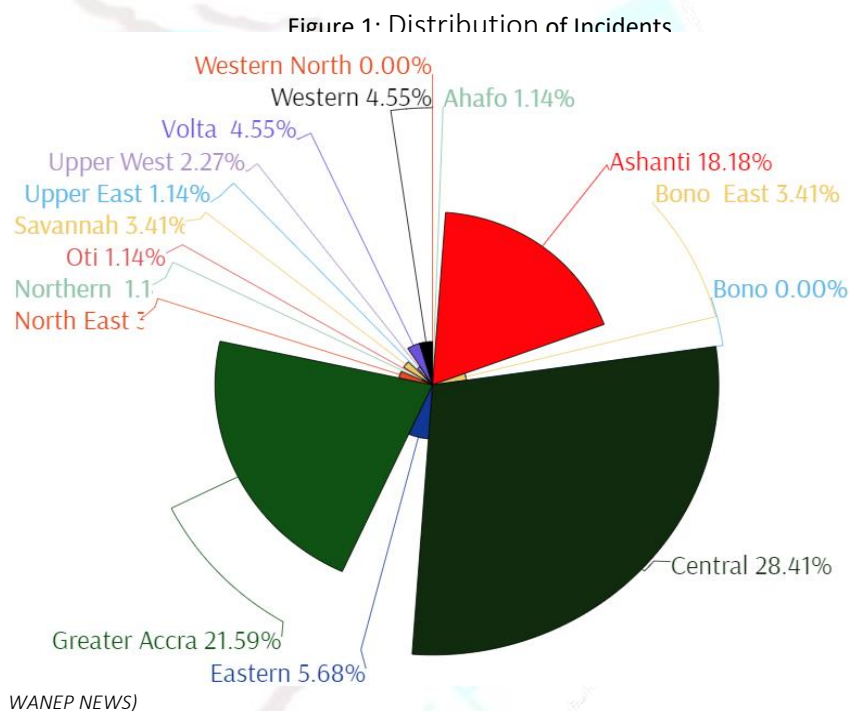
NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA) (MARCH 2022)

I- INTRODUCTION

In March 2022, the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 88 human security incidents¹. The incidents resulted in 75 fatalities and 84 injuries.² The fatalities recorded involved 34 males and 9 females and 32 other deaths of which the gender was unclear from reports.³ Cases of injuries recorded also consisted of 15 males and 14 females, while 55 other reported injuries were not clear on gender specifics.⁴

The distribution of the incidents, as depicted in figure 1 indicates the Central region as the location with the highest occurrence (25 representing 28.41%) rate within the reporting period.⁵

The Greater Accra region followed with 19 incidents, representing 21.59% of the 88 incidents. The Ashanti region also recorded a significant 18.18% of the 88 incidents reported for the month. All the other regions recorded 5% or less.⁶



From table 1 below, the Western and Central regions recorded the highest rate of casualties within the period.⁷

¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data
² WANEP National Early Warning System Data
³ Data gathered from the WANEP NEWS Monitoring
⁴ Ibid
⁵ Ibid
⁶ Ibid
⁷ Ibid

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of March 2022

Regions	Ahafo	Ashanti	Bono East	Bono	Central	Eastern	Greater Accra	North East	Northern	Oti	Savannah	Upper East	Upper West	Volta	Western	Western North	Totals
Fatalities	3	4	4	0	16	7	7	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	27	0	75
Injuries	10	8	0	0	13	10	8	0	5	1	3	0	0	0	26	0	84
Total Casualties	13	12	4	0	29	17	15	0	5	1	5	1	2	2	53	0	159

Source: WANEP NEWS

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides analysis of the incident data recorded in the reporting period based on the following four themes: Organized Crime and Violent Extremism (OCVE); Democracy and Governance (DG); Gender, Peace and Security (GPS); and Environmental Security (ES). The details of these incidents and casualties have been detailed under the thematic areas identified.

II- ORGANIZED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (OCVE)

In the reporting period, WANEP Ghana Early Warning Unit’s monitoring of human security events in the country captured 39 incidents relating to organized crime and violence extremism across the country. Out of the total, 10 armed robberies, 8 homicides, 14 arrest incidents, 2 lynching incidents and 4 cases involving theft in various part if the country.⁸ The spread of these incidents is depicted within figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Distribution of Organized Crime and Violent Extremist Activities

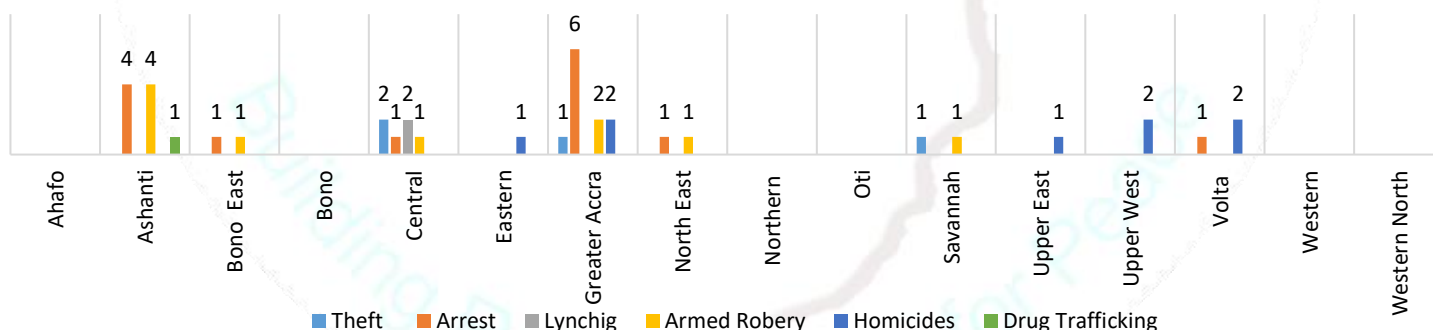


Figure 2 Indicates the spread of the OCVE incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

Armed robbery and homicides have continued to dominate the Ghanaian media landscape. These incidents were the highest recorded in the previous 2 months and continue to dominate the crime and violent extremism theme this month.⁹

⁸ Data gathered from the WANEP NEWS Monitoring

⁹ Data gathered from the WANEP NEWS Monitoring

Homicides have also been persistent in the Ashanti region, giving rise to fear and panic as security officials implement mitigative measure. Being adjudged as the region with the highest murder rate in the country by the Bureau of Public Safety in 2021¹⁰, the trend continues in the region for the first quarter of 2022. For armed robberies, the Ashanti and Greater Accra region were noted as the regions with the highest rates in 2021.¹¹ The trend has also continued for the first three months of 2022, and this implies there is continued threat to peace and security in the country.

For this month, cases of armed robbery reported occurred most on highway. For instance, in the Builsa South and Mamprugu Districts in the Upper East and Northern East Regions, some highway armed men were arrested for attacking and robbing traders in transit.¹² The same situation was also evident in the Ashanti region where a group of five robbers blocked a road with wooden logs from Abodam-Koniyaw near Bekwai, to rob some market women.¹³ Again, at Assin Endwa in the Ashanti region, passengers travelling from Assin Fosu to Kumasi, subjected them to physical assaults and robbed them.¹⁴

Again, there has been serious concerns about the upsurge in bullion van robberies in the country. Two policemen suspected to be involved in these bullion van robberies were gunned down during a crossfire with police officers at Borteyman, in the Tema West Municipality of the Greater Accra region.¹⁵ The involvement of security personnel in criminal acts raises security concerns, with potential to dwindle public trust in state security.

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

Twenty-five human security incidents were recorded under the gender, peace and security theme. These incidents resulted in fifteen (15) casualties involving 5 fatalities (2 male, 3 females) and 10 injuries all female (10 females). The information obtained from the NEWS¹⁶ relating to incidents specifics were mainly defilement, physical assaults, homicides, and associated arrest. As indicated in the graph below, 3 defilement and 1 homicide incidents each occurred in the Central and Greater Accra regions. Three homicides (2 murders, 1 suicide) reported in the Ashanti region, while gender related assaults were all reported from the Central region. The perpetrators of these incidents are males between the ages of 25 and 45. From the series of incidents captured, most of these men were spouses to the victims, while others were family relatives.¹⁷

¹⁰ <https://www.pulse.com.gh/news/local/report-ashanti-identified-as-region-with-highest-murder-rate/c8gmqv2>

¹¹ <https://www.pulse.com.gh/news/local/report-ashanti-identified-as-region-with-highest-murder-rate/c8gmqv2>

¹² <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Two-robbers-shot-two-others-on-the-run-Police-1482014>

¹³ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/two-armed-robbers-shot-one-arrested-and-two-others-on-the-run.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Work-hard-so-we-get-more-money-in-our-next-attack-Robbers-tell-victims-at-Assin-Endwa-1496792>

¹⁵ <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/bullion-van-robberies-2-cops-killed-in-gun-battle-at-borteyman-4-others-civilian-garabed/>

¹⁶ WANEP National Early Warning System

¹⁷ The information was determined from the individual reports submitted within the period.

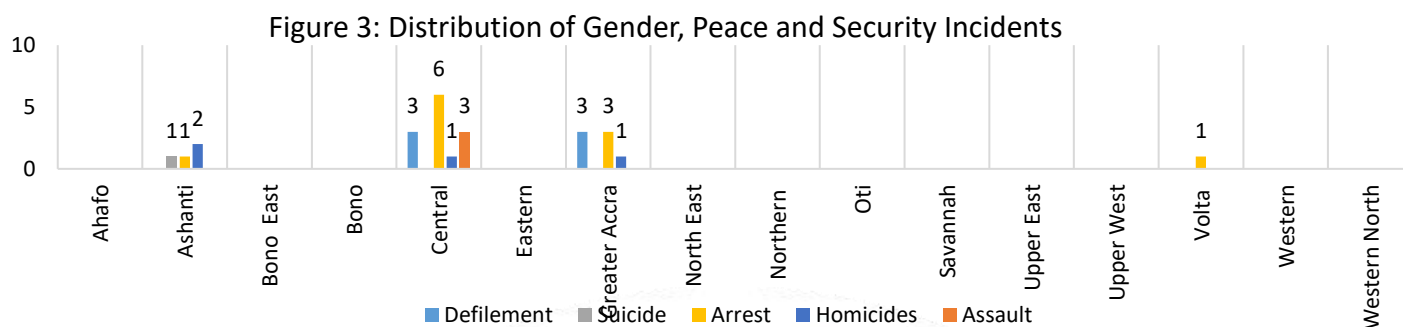


Figure 3 Indicates the spread of the GPS incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

Women and girls who become victims of the above-mentioned incidents were affected physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Females, especially teenagers who suffer gender-based violence such as rape and defilement often experience behaviors disorders including nightmares, severe anxiety disorders and flashbacks resulting in depression which could sometimes lead to isolation, suicidal tendencies, and poor performance at school due to shame and stigmatization.¹⁸

Although avenues exist at the Ghana Police Service via the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) as well as the Legal Aid Commission, the public education has been lopsided to encourage victims to report cases. More cases of abuse end up being unreported and this stifles efforts to achieve sustainable development goals 3,5, 10 and 16 which seek to ensure good health and wellbeing, gender equality, reduced inequality, the sustenance of peace, justice, and strong institutions, respectively.

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Ghana continues to be a politically stable democracy although the varied governance and security challenges threaten its peace and security. Within the review month, there were reported cases of road accidents, chieftaincy and land conflicts, demonstrations and associated arrests that sought to manage the situations.¹⁹

The graph below shows the frequency and distribution of incidents per region. Road accidents were again high in frequency above other reported incidents in this period as was observed in previous bulletins.²⁰ As seen from

¹⁸ Sigurdardottir, S., & Halldorsdottir, S. (2021). *Persistent Suffering: The Serious Consequences of Sexual Violence against Women and Girls, Their Search for Inner Healing and the Significance of the #MeToo Movement*. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(4), 1849. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18041849> (Accessed at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7918207/> on 19-04-2022)

¹⁹ WANEP NEWS Monitoring Data

²⁰ WANEP NEWS Monitoring Data

figure 4 below, ten key occurrences were reported, and these were recorded in the Western, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Oti and the Ahafo region.²¹

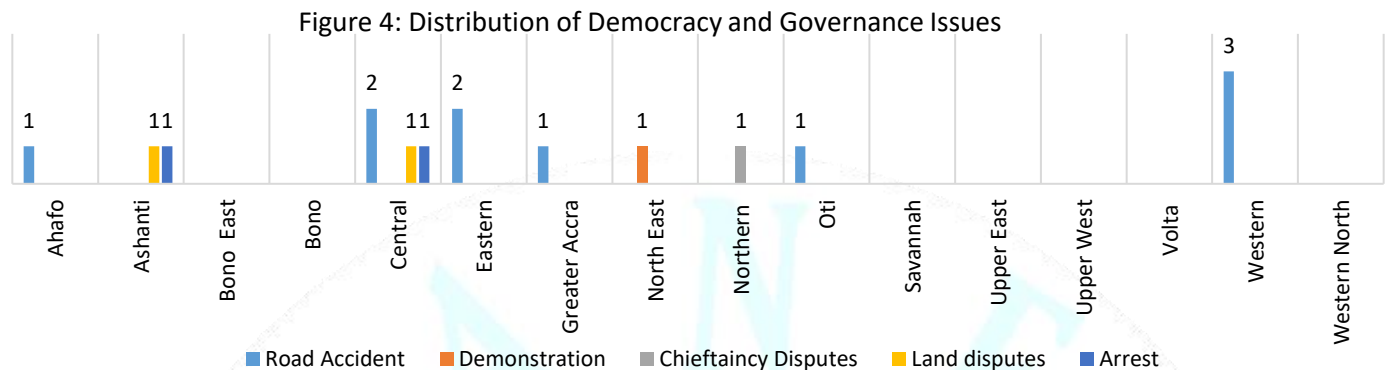


Figure 4 Indicates the spread of the DG incidents across the regions in the country. (Data Source: WANEP NEWS)

One of the notable road accidents occurred on March 22, 2022, which resulted in fourteen fatalities in the Takoradi - Cape Coast Road around Asemasa in the Western Region. The accident involved a ford Bus and a truck. The Ford bus allegedly caught fire after the collision.²² In less than a week, another accident occurred leaving five persons trapped in a vehicle at Gomoa Bewadze in the Central Region. The accidents involved a Kia Truck and a Toyota Hiace. Four out of the five victims survived but were in critical condition at the time.²³ The rise in frequency of road accidents is attributable to varied factors including violations of traffic regulations by drivers, excessive speeding, intoxicated driving, poor road infrastructure, and a lack of good car maintenance culture. The victims and their families suffer immediate consequences because of these accidents.

In the Northern region, tensions rose after the peace was disturbed in a chieftaincy dispute that occurred in the Tamale Metropolis. Insecurity was created after a chief in Tamale, Dakpema Naa Fuseini Bawa, and four other people were shot during a dispute on Monday, March 7, 2022. The dispute happened after a talking drum was beaten in the palace of the attacked chief who has been warned by the Yaa Na to desist from doing so because he lacked the rights to do so. The sounding of the drum aggrieved the camp of the recognized chief, Gukpegu Naa Alhaji Alhassan Abdulai, which triggered the attack. Before the situation could escalate after this incident, security officials were able to bring the situation under control.²⁴ Some land disputes were also recorded in the

²¹ WANEP NEWS Monitoring Data

²² <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Police-begin-investigations-into-the-death-of-14-passengers-in-an-accident-at-Asemasa-1496984>

²³ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/E-R-Accident-at-Nkawkaw-Oframase-claims-5-lives-1489688>

²⁴ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Tamale-chief-reportedly-shot-during-chieftaincy-dispute-4-others-injured-1485173>

Ashanti and Central region during the period. These resulted in the death of 1 person and injury to 4 persons. The disputes recorded were localized, and therefore only posed a threat to the immediate participants of the event.

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

For the period under review, several issues that affected the environment negatively included air and water pollution, plastics pollution and e-waste, illegal mining and logging which disrupts the ecology generally. It is worthy to note that some of these are environmental threats that are mostly ongoing behind the scenes. In some parts of the country capital Accra, e-waste is the main source of air pollution.²⁵ In some parts of the country, especially major towns and cities like Accra, Kumasi, and Tamale, plastic pollution is the main cause of choked drainage systems and subsequent flooding and pollution of coastal habitats. At the forest reserves areas in the Central, Eastern Western & Western North regions, illegal mining and illegal felling of trees are the main cause of water pollution, habitat loss and ecosystem disruption leading to loss of biodiversity, as well as health hazards to human settlements in the long term.

The coastal areas especially are faced with a looming challenge of land loss due to sea level rise. A constant reminder of climate change beckoning as places like Keta in the Volta region, Ada in the Greater Accra region, and Shama District in the Western region have experienced the tidal floods that is causing inconveniences in the lives of the affected populations in the area.²⁶

As fire outbreaks prevail in the dry seasons, the wet season introduces its decline in frequency.²⁷ In previous two months, fire outbreaks were the most recorded incidents owing to the dry conditions presented by the harmattan, among other significant triggers. However, in the reporting period the onset of the rainy season presented flooding challenges. Because actions against the perennial floods experienced in the country are not far reaching, flood risk is imminent as plastic and solid waste pollution challenges in the country persist. Nevertheless, the storms that accompany the rains that lead to the floods have shown its force in destroying property and rendering a lot of residents displaced.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government should continue to strengthen the capacity of state institutions such as the Ghana Police Service's Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) and the Commission for Human Rights

²⁵ <https://blogs.worldbank.org/african/ghana-balancing-economic-growth-and-depletion-resources#:~:text=Air%2C%20plastics%2C%20and%20water%20pollution,and%20limit%20drivers%20of%20growth.>

²⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rryshwXezpA>

²⁷ Banyeh, M., & Adda, G. B. (2021). Fire Incident Statistics in the Tamale Metropolitan Area in the Northern Region of Ghana: A Retrospective Study. *Asian Journal of Advanced Research and Reports*, 15(9), 37-47. <https://doi.org/10.9734/ajarr/2021/v15i930425>

and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), and strengthen partnerships with NGOs, CSOs, and the media, to support victims of rape or sexual abuse and provide education to women and girls, particularly on sexual and gender-based violence.

- Government agencies such as the Sanitation Ministry, National Disaster Management Organization as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Metropolitan, Municipals and District Assemblies need to be able to enforce environmental laws to address the issues identified within the period.
- The Government, through agencies such as the Ghana Police Service's Motor Traffic and Transport Unit (MTTU) and the Ghana Road Safety Commission should strengthen collaboration with drivers' unions, the media, and other relevant stakeholders to increase public road safety education and campaigns and improve traffic regulation enforcement in the country.
- The Government needs to continue to enhance the capacity of state security e.g the Ghana Police Service, along with other security agencies such as the Ghana Immigration Service, the Customs Excise and Preventive Service, and the Ghana Armed Forces' Defence Intelligence Unit, as well as improve on community security.

CONCLUSIONS

Threats of armed robberies, killings, and road accidents have dominated the country's security environment. This has resulted in deaths, injuries, and property destruction that undermine human security in the country. To mitigate the impact on human security, it is imperative for key stakeholders to strengthen collaboration to enhance the capacity of security agencies and government institutions to enforce laws and strengthen community resilience.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	0	15	5
Theft	4	0	1
Arrest	14	-	-
Lynchig	2	2	0
Armed Robbery	10	4	2
Homicides	8	9	0
Drug Trafficking	1	0	2

DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	16	48	62
Road Accident	10	47	53
Demonstration	1	-	-
Chieftaincy Disputes	1	0	5
Land disputes	2	1	4
Arrest	2	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	8	7	7
Drowning	1	4	0
Swine Flu Outbreak	1	-	-
Fire Outbreak	2	2	0
Destructive Rainstorm	1	0	3
Illegal Mining	2	1	4
WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY:	0	5	10
Defilement	6	0	7
Suicide	1	1	0
Arrest	11	-	-
Homicides	4	4	0
Assault	3	0	3
Total	88	75	84

Source: WANEP NEWS

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- Ghana) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts. This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-GHANA field monitors, and information also gathered from the various national and international media.

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