



# WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR PEACEBUILDING

## West Africa Early Warning and Response Program - Weekly Alerts on Peace and Security in West Africa

### • HIGH

- o High potential for political destabilisation/instability
- o High number of death (above 20)/major properties damages
- o High number of population affected ( inability of the population to cope)
- o Low capacity of the state to respond to it

### • MEDIUM

- o Significant effect on political destabilisation
- o Significant reported cases of loss of life (5 to 20) and property
- o Moderate Capacity of the state to respond to it

### • LOW

- o Low effect on Political destabilisation
- o Loss of life (0 to 5)and property destruction not significant
- o High Capacity of the state to respond

## GHANA

### WEEK OF 20<sup>TH</sup> TO 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023

### **Organised Crime and Violent Extremism**

*(key concept clarification; causes; indicators and signs that push to radicalization; profiling and assessment or perpetrators of violent extremism; current violent extremism events; impact of violent extremism on population; the cross-cutting and patterns of violent extremism; actions and policies to counter violent extremism. Also, crimes related to syndicates and criminal groups that lead to insecurity and instability)*

#### Incident N\*01

Title of Incident: **Suaman Security Task Force impounds 336 bags of cocoa beans en route to Ivory Coast/Arrest**

Scale of Incident: Low

Date of occurrence of Incident: 22-03-2023

Description of Incident: Around 4 am on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, a Daewoo truck loaded with bags of cocoa and jute sacks was intercepted by the task force in the Dadieso-Enchi forest reserve enroute to Sefwi Akaatiso which shares boundary with Cote D'Ivoire.<sup>1</sup>

Location of incident: Dadieso-Enchi, Western Region

Casualty [Male &female]: None

Property damaged/Affected population: Two suspects arrested

Coping mechanism/Responses: The Task Force led the vehicle to a nearby police station and subsequently arrested the driver and his mate. The vehicle has been taken to the Dadieso Police Headquarters for further investigations.

#### Incident N\*02

Title of Incident: **16 alleged kidnapped persons found in a single room at Ankaful**

Scale of Incident: Low

Date of occurrence of Incident: Reported 25-03-2023

Description of Incident: Sixteen persons aged between 12 and 20 years have been found kidnapped and placed in a single room at Ankaful Zongo in the Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly in the Central Region. The victims are believed not to be Ghanaians as they are unable to speak any local language. They are suspected to be nationals of countries such as Burkina Faso, Togo, Mali, and Niger as they speak different languages including French. The victims are believed to have been kept in the room for about one month as they've grown very lean due to lack of food and water.<sup>2</sup>

Location of incident: Ankaful Zongo in the Cape Coast Metropolitan Assembly in the Central Region

Casualty [Male &female]: No casualties reported.

Property damaged/Affected population: Sixteen persons affected

Coping mechanism/Responses: Upon picking up information, the Chief and Opinion Leaders of the Ankaful Community together with the media went to the house to verify the situation. The Assembly Member of Cape Coast Ankaful, Honourable George Anarful, in an interview, revealed that the matter had been reported to the Ankaful Police, but the Police have failed to act immediately.

### **Gender, peace and security**

*Key concept clarification violence against women and girls; women participation in conflict; impact of conflict on women; women's role in peace and security; policies for and against women; assessment of current events on women peace and security.*

#### Incident N\*01

Title of Incident: **Man jailed 180 days for fondling minor**

Scale of Incident: Low

Date of occurrence of Incident: Reported 24-03-2023

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Suaman-Security-Task-Force-impounds-336-bags-of-cocoa-beans-en-route-to-Ivory-Coast-1735976>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/16-alleged-kidnapped-persons-found-in-a-single-room-at-Ankaful-1737797>



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**Description of Incident:** A man has been sentenced to 180 days imprisonment by an Accra Circuit Court for sexually assaulting a 10-year-old. This was after the court found Emmanuel Mbachu guilty on the charge of indecent assault.<sup>3</sup>

**Location of incident:** Accra, Greater Accra Region

**Casualty [Male &female]:** None

**Property damaged/Affected population:** A 10-year-old girl

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** The suspect was reported to the police after the victim was found in his room. Investigations revealed that he had asked the minor to perform indecent sexual tasks.

### Incident N\*02

**Title of Incident:** Central Region records dip in maternal and perinatal deaths

**Scale of Incident:** Low

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** Reported 23-03-2023

**Description of Incident:** The Central Region recorded a significant reduction in the incidence of maternal and perinatal deaths in the year 2022, the Regional Health Directorate has averred. This means that fewer expectant mothers, unborn and newly born babies died in that year than the previous year.<sup>4</sup>

**Location of incident:** Central Region

**Casualty [Male &female]:** None

**Property damaged/Affected population:** None

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** Dr Akosua Agyeiwaa Owusu-Sarpong, the Regional Health Director, disclosed that the number of pregnant women who died out of every 100,000 reduced from 104 in 2021 to 90.9 in 2022. Similarly, the number of newborn babies who died out of every 1,000 live births came down to 4.8 in 2022 from the 6.9 recorded in 2021.

## Democracy and Governance

*(Key concept clarification—rule of law; actions of branches of government; elections and its implications to transition processes; stakeholders' analysis; events of threats to political transitions; protocols and threats and treaties for democratic stability; constitutional amendments; stakeholders' response)*

### Incident N\*01

**Title of Incident:** Two die in head-on collision at Wassa Japa

**Scale of Incident:** Low

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** 21-03-2023

**Description of Incident:** A head-on collision between two Sprinter buses killed two people on board at Wassa Japa in the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality. The accident happened at a police check point on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 dawn. The accident occurred after the bus from Tarkwa sped into the check point and collided with the station bus from Kumasi. Officers at the checkpoint signaled the driver to stop on approach, but the driver took no heed, leading to the accident.<sup>5</sup>

**Location of incident:** Wassa Japa in the Wassa Amenfi East Municipality, Western region

**Casualty [Male &female]:** 2 dead, 8 injured

**Property damaged/Affected population:** The buses were damaged

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** The injured victims are receiving treatment at the Wassa Akropong Government Hospital, while the deceased have been deposited at the hospital's morgue.

### Incident N\*02

**Title of Incident:** Speeding car crashes 60-year-old woman to death at Nyamebekyere

**Scale of Incident:** Low

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** 25-03-2023

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/Man-jailed-180-days-for-fondling-minor-1736759>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/health/Central-Region-records-dip-in-maternal-and-perinatal-deaths-1736237>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Two-die-in-head-on-collision-at-Wassa-Japa-1735706>



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**Description of Incident:** An alleged speeding private vehicle killed a 60-year-old woman at Nyamebekyere, a community along Koforidua to Adukrom Highway, in the Eastern region. The accident occurred on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at around 4:30pm.<sup>6</sup>

**Location of incident:** Nyamebekyere, a community along Koforidua to Adukrom Highway, in the Eastern region

**Casualty [Male &female]:** 1 dead (female)

**Property damaged/Affected population:** Damaged vehicle and deceased female victim

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** Police reported at the scene to take the body to the morgue and towed the accident car for investigation.

### Incident N\*03

**Title of Incident:** **Seven dead in an accident at Akuse Junction**

**Scale of Incident:** Medium

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** 25-03-2023

**Description of Incident:** Seven passengers perished in a dawn accident on Saturday, March 25, 2023, on the Tema-Akosombo highway. The accident occurred on the Akuse-Junction to Kpong section of the road in the Lower Manya Krobo Municipal of the Eastern Region. The accident occurred as a result of a failed overtaking attempt, and also the abandonment of faulty vehicles along highways.<sup>7</sup>

**Location of incident:** Akuse-Junction, Lower Manya Krobo Municipal, Eastern Region.

**Casualty [Male &female]:** 7 dead (3 males, 4 females), 1 injured

**Property damaged/Affected population:** The vehicles were mangled

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** The remains of the victims have been deposited at the morgue of the Akuse Government Hospital for preservation and autopsy. Officials of the Akuse Police Command, Ghana National Fire Service and the National Ambulance Service responded to the incident and helped convey the dead and injured to the hospital.

### Incident N\*03

**Title of Incident:** **Head on collision between buses kills nine passengers on Accra-Kumasi highway**

**Scale of Incident:** Medium

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** 25-03-2023

**Description of Incident:** Nine passengers died instantly after two Toyota Hiace buses belonging to 2M Express Company Limited collided head-on at Birimso near the Bunso stretch of the Accra to Kumasi highway. The crash occurred at about 4:30 am, on Sunday, March 25, 2023. The accident was attributed to over speeding.<sup>8</sup>

**Location of incident:** Birimso near the Bunso stretch of the Accra to Kumasi highway, Eastern Region

**Casualty [Male &female]:** 9 dead, 19 injured.

**Property damaged/Affected population:** The vehicles involved were damaged, while 28 persons were affected in the incident.

**Coping mechanism/Responses:** Nineteen (19) other passengers with serious injuries have been admitted to hospitals in the area.

### Incident N\*04

**Title of Incident:** **Food & Drug Authority (FDA) cautions against contaminated eye drops on the market**

**Scale of Incident:** Medium

**Date of occurrence of Incident:** Reported 03-24-2023

**Description of Incident:** The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), has cautioned the public against two brands of contaminated eye drops on the market. According to the FDA, the said products are 'Ezricare Artificial Tears and Delsam Pharma's Artificial Tears owned by Global Pharma. The FDA added that the said product contains drug-resistant bacteria pseudomonas aeruginosa and is suspected to have led to three deaths and vision loss in eight patients.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/crime/Speeding-car-crashes-60-year-old-woman-to-death-at-Nyamebekyere-1737893>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Another-accident-at-Akuse-Junction-kills-seven-1737800>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Head-on-collision-between-buses-kills-nine-passengers-on-Accra-Kumasi-highway-1738142>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/health/FDA-cautions-against-contaminated-eye-drops-on-the-market-1736903>



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🚩 **Location of incident:** Greater Accra Region

🚩 **Casualty [Male &female]:** 3 dead, 8 persons

🚩 **Property damaged/Affected population:** 11 victims reported so far.

🚩 **Coping mechanism/Responses:** The United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC) has classified the incident as an outbreak.

### Environmental security

*(Key concept clarification-Epidemics and pandemics (causatives factors, impact and threat to human security at localized levels and at regional levels); food security (agro-pastoralist conflicts); natural and man-made disasters, humanitarian crisis, climate change (industrialisation, pollution, destruction of ecosystem). Biodiversity)*

#### 🚩 Incident N\*01

🚩 **Title of Incident:** **2 basic school pupils quarantined over COVID-19 infection**

🚩 **Scale of Incident:** Low

🚩 **Date of occurrence of Incident:** Reported on 25-03-2023

🚩 **Description of Incident:** The Upper East Regional Minister, Stephen Yakubu, has disclosed that two Basic School pupils in the region have tested positive for Covid-19.<sup>10</sup>

🚩 **Location of incident:** Upper East Regional

🚩 **Casualty [Male &female]:** None

🚩 **Property damaged/Affected population:** 2 pupils

🚩 **Coping mechanism/Responses:** The pupils, he noted, are currently under quarantined at the Upper East Regional Hospital while contact tracing is ongoing. The Minister called on individuals, traders, and visitors to take the Covid-19 safety protocols seriously. Mr Yakubu made this known at the launch of a COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (CERP) in Bolgatanga.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/health/UE-R-2-basic-school-pupils-quarantined-over-COVID-19-infection-1737404>