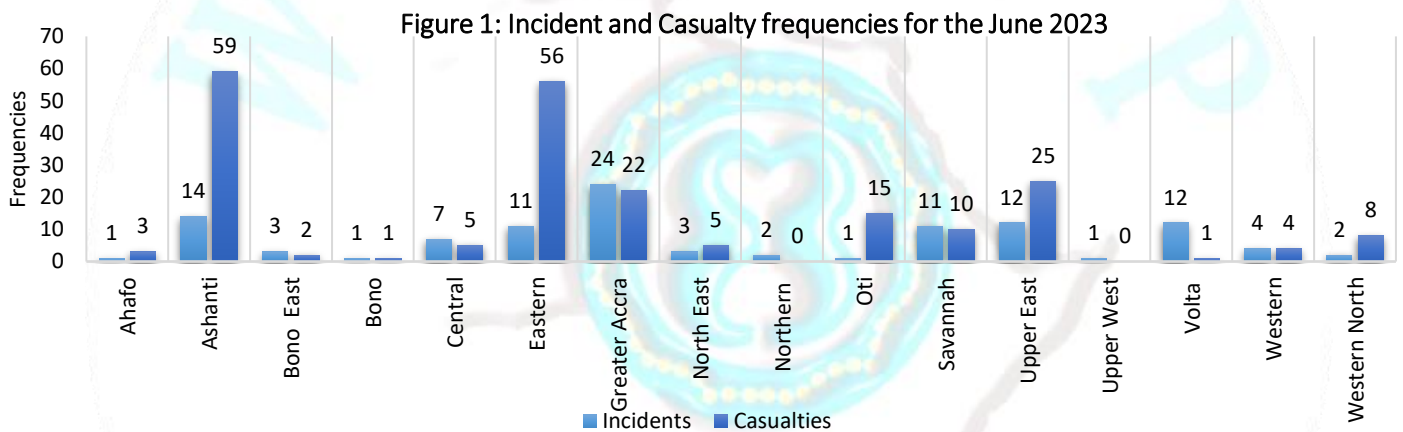




NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN- (WANEP-GHANA) (JUNE 2023)

I- INTRODUCTION

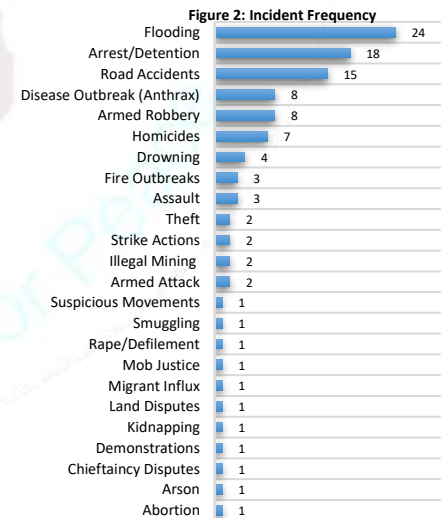
WANEP’s National Early Warning System (NEWS) recorded 109 human security incidents in June 2023¹. An accumulated casualties of 216 from these incidents is further disaggregated into 49 fatalities (34 males, 15 females) and 167 injuries (9 males, 5 females, 153 inconclusive on gender of victims, per the reports) for the period.²



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

From figure 1 above, the 109 incidents and associated 216 casualties recorded in the period is spread across the 16 administrative regions. The data on all incidents, as monitored by WANEP Ghana, indicates the Greater Accra, as the region with the highest frequency of incidents (24) in the country.³ All the other regions recorded less than 15 incidents.⁴

This month, the most pressing issues recorded included flooding, road accidents and the outbreak of Anthrax especially in the Upper West region. The highest fatalities were caused by flooding incidents that occurred across the country. This time, at a total of least 17 people died



Source: WANEP Ghana NEWS

¹ WANEP National Early Warning System Data

² WANEP National Early Warning System Data

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

by drowning while 12 persons died out of road accidents during the period. From table 1 below, the highest total of casualties (59) were reported from the Ashanti region. The Eastern region also recorded significant frequency of 56 casualties.⁵

Table 1: Reported Casualties for the Period of June 2023

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	14	1	0	3	10	8	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	0	49
Injuries	0	45	1	1	2	46	14	2	0	15	9	24	0	0	0	8	167
Total Casualties	3	59	2	1	5	56	22	5	0	15	10	25	0	1	4	8	216

Source: WANEP NEWS

The *Monthly Bulletin* provides analysis of the incident data recorded in the reporting period based on the following four thematic areas: 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 are presented under the thematic areas highlighted below:

II- ORGANIZED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM (OCVE)

Organized criminal incidents posed significant threats to peace and security especially northern Ghana. There were reports of suspected violent extremist activities, particularly in the Nakong area in the Kassena Nankana West District of the Upper East region. According to information gathered by reporters in the area, as well as cross-referenced information from WANEP Ghana's field monitors, a group of suspects allegedly arrived in the forest at dusk on motorcycles between June 15 to 18, 2023. Throughout the night, gunshots were allegedly heard coming from the forest. The next morning, the suspects supposedly headed deeper into the forest towards River Sissili, while consciously concealing any evidence of their presence along their route, according to reports. It was confirmed by field monitors in the area that the suspects had encountered residents, particularly farmers who shared that they had seen the suspects. Although this was the case, there have been no reported cases of attacks. Amidst the threat of violent extremism, there has been consistent influx of persons fleeing from suspected violent extremist attacks in Burkina Faso into northern border areas of the Upper West and Upper East region. Reports have suggested that movements of Fulbes have been registered in Mognori, a border community in Bawku

⁵ ibid

Municipal, Pusiga district, Widnaba in the Bawku West District, Sherigu, Bolgatanga, Nangodi and in the Nabdam District, all in the Upper East region.⁶ Between 23rd -26th June 2023, there were reported mass movements of Fulbes into the Sissala East District in the Upper West region. The arrival of the Fulbes was alarming to residents particularly in Tumu as a rise in crimes including raping of women who went to fields to collect sheanut as part of their daily activities were reported. This influx has led to several attacks against the Fulbes, sparking an unsafe security situation in the Upper East and Upper West regions. An incident occurred in the Upper East Region on June 1, 2023, where hundreds of Fulbes residing in the Kopella and Zeogo communities in the Bawku West District fled from the communities to protect their lives from attacks against them by some angry youth who are reportedly natives in area.⁷ Almost every property of the herdsmen were destroyed. The attack was a reprisal to an alleged attack on a 23-year-old pregnant woman from Zeogo by a Fulbe man when she went to the bush at dawn to pick shea nuts.

Within the period, armed robbery incidents also posed challenges to security in the country. For those identified within the period, the most notable incident involved another bullion van attack which led to the killing of a police officer who was serving as security escort for the van on June 22,2023.⁸ Another incident ensued on Thursday, June 15, 2023, involving a 45-year-old man who was shot dead in a robbery attack at Sawaba in the West Mamprusi Municipality of the North East Region between the hours of 7 pm and 8 pm. The suspected armed robbers attacked another man who was with the deceased. Again, another happened on Sunday, June 18, 2023, where armed robbers reportedly targeted over 10 commercial vehicles and robbed passengers of their belongings. The incident occurred around 9:00 PM near the Agomeda Luwuor Junction along the main Dodowa to Somanya road in the Shai Osudoku District of the Greater Accra Region.

The armed robbery attacks targeting banks pose significant threat to the operations of Banks, particularly in the case of bullion van attacks. This modus operandi in armed robbery became rampant some years back but died down subsequently amidst the calls for the use or specialized armored vehicles, and the increase in surveillance by the Ghana Police Service. Despite these calls, the use of modified pick-up vehicles has continued and could likely draw in more attacks from criminals.

III- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY (GPS):

⁶ Field Monitor reports received from the affected district.

⁷ Field Monitor reports received from the affected district.

⁸ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Ablekuma-bullion-van-attack-What-we-know-so-far-1791068>

A number of issues relating to gender-based violence were recorded in the period. The first case on June 2, 2023, was recorded in the Abuakwa-North District of the Eastern Region when an 18-year-old female student was allegedly killed by her boyfriend⁹ although the motive was unclear. In another instance, a video that circulated on social media showed a heart broken young man verbally abusing a lady believed to be his girlfriend. Some weeks later, a report suggested that she had died, indicating a general suspicion that the boyfriend was the culprit. Recent trends of intimate partner violence indicate that cases of femicides is rising in the country. What this means is that in the foreseeable future there may be a rise in occurrences of murders relating to intimate partner violence. It also indicates that perhaps there is an emerging form of gender-based violence where the man murders his wife/girlfriend rather than abuse her as has been observed previously. Government institutions such as the Gender Ministry and Domestic Violence & Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) should work together to ensure that perpetrators of such acts are arrested and prosecuted.

In another notable event, the women's wing of the Socialist Movement in Ghana and other allied organizations took to the streets of Accra on June 22, 2023, to protest against the taxes imposed on sanitary pads in the country. Period poverty is a lack of access to menstrual products, education, hygiene facilities, waste management, or a combination of these.¹⁰ Young females, especially those from rural and less affluent backgrounds, are unable to purchase the menstrual products they need, and, in many cases, this their attendance at school or work. Period poverty causes physical, mental, and emotional challenges for these girls and can make them feel shame for menstruating, and the stigma surrounding periods prevents individuals from talking about it.

To fight period poverty across the country, the protest sought removal of taxes on sanitary pads, which is expected to lead to a reduction in prices. In a statement by the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), they agreed that removal of taxes would make imported pads cheaper than the local ones, however imported ones remain preferable. This could lead to low patronage of the locally produced pads and eventually the collapse of such companies.¹¹ The association has therefore proposed that the Government could grant tax relief to or support local producers to meet domestic demand.

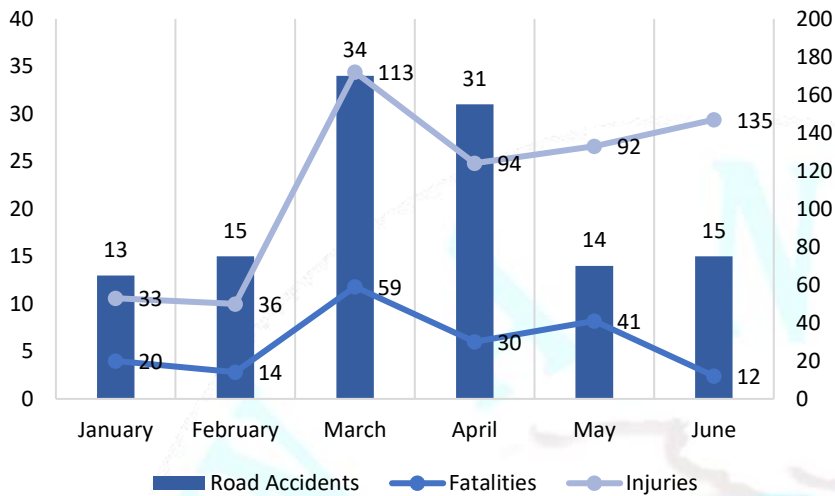
⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/SHS-student-allegedly-stabbed-to-death-by-boyfriend-at-Akyem-Nsutem-1778870>

¹⁰ See Cardoso, L.F., Scolese, A.M., Hamidaddin, A. et al. Period poverty and mental health implications among college-aged women in the United States. *BMC Women's Health* 21, 14 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-020-01149-5>

¹¹ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/dont-remove-taxes-on-menstrual-pads-association-of-ghana-industries.html>

IV- DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (DG):

Figure 3 : Road Accident Trends Since January 2023



Several road accidents were reported in the month of June. These occurred in various locations across the country including the Greater Accra, Central, North East, Oti, Savannah, Ashanti Region, Western North, Ahafo and the Eastern Regions. The accidents claimed about 10 lives in total while over 100 people were reported injured.¹²

Road accidents in Ghana is recurrent because road infrastructure is still a challenge on major routes. Driver indiscipline also contributes to most accidents in the country. The commonest cause is attributed to a poor maintenance culture which results in faulty vehicles that ply the major routes in the country. Systems to check these causes have either failed, partially operating or are not existent, the reason why the accidents have sustained.

Several conflicts that posed challenges to security and peace were also reported within the period. The conflict between the Mamprusi and the Kusasi in Bawku has continued till date. Matters have gotten worse as the issue of Fulbes inflow into the area has added on to the security challenges in Bawku and its environs. The attacks by the youth in Kopella and Zeogo on the Fulbes after it was alleged that a Fulbe had raped a young pregnant woman, puts the lives of other innocent Fulbes at risk. Indications from field reports for other areas where the Fulbes have settled revealed that there were agitations from the locals, and this could pose challenges for security governance in the area. An example is the violent clashes between Fulbes and the people of Sherigu, which led the Fulbes to move to Nangodi in the Nabdam District.

In the Savannah region, a land and chieftaincy dispute between members of the Lukula and Mempeasem communities in the North Gonja District saw some violence and led to the alleged kidnapping of an old man and the killing of another. Although the kidnapped victim was rescued, and the police arrested about twenty-one

¹² WANEP NEWS Data

people connected to the incident, the security in the area is not ensured as there is an ethnic dimension to the conflict.

Conflicts reported in the northern regions of Ghana are mostly related to ethno-chieftaincy, land or farmer-herder clashes. This month falls within a period where rainfed agriculture is particularly practiced in the northern regions and thus requires that most farmers secure their lands for farming. In doing so, most people clash, sometimes violently, leading to casualties. The loss of lives and property highlights the impact of conflict on development in the affected areas.

There were also reported cases of influx of migrants from Burkina Faso because of suspected violent extremist attacks, comes with its own challenges. Even though the Ghana Refugee Board has so far registered about 3200 Burkinabe migrants¹³, several others remain unregistered, thus not depicting a true picture of the influx as well as leaving impacted communities vulnerable to possible violent extremist and criminal infiltration. It is important to note that, the rise in the activities of violent extremists in Burkina Faso could likely increase the number of migrants seeking asylum in Ghana soon, and this could affect socio-economy governance of the affected communities and also facilitate violent extremist activities as well as present security challenges.

V- ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY (ES)

Environmental threats, particularly rainstorms and flooding have had a significant impact on lives and livelihoods this month. The precise details and extent of the damage caused across the country are varied. While some victims have had their buildings collapsed or roofing removed due to heavy rainstorms, some have had the floods inundate their homes and belongings washed away. This is to the extent that victims have become displaced and rendered economically dependent on the benevolence of friends and family as well as intervening institutions.

At least 24 locations have been monitored within the period to have suffered the impacts of torrential rainstorms and subsequent flooding in the country.¹⁴ (At least eleven locations in the Volta region, two locations in the Western region, nine locations in the Greater Accra region and 2 locations in the Ashanti region).¹⁵ In total, 17

¹³ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/refugee-board-3-200-burkinabe-asylum-seekers-registered.html>

¹⁴ WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

¹⁵ WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

fatalities have been identified in all these incidents. The majority (13) was reported from the Ashanti region in separate incidents, while one and three were reported from the Greater Accra and western region respectively.¹⁶

In the Volta region, an estimate of about 3000 people in some 20 communities in the Ketu South Municipality, were reported displaced by floods caused by three weeks of persistent rains in the area. The worst affected areas were Agbawema, Ahiatakukope, Awakorme, Hastukope, and Akame. Others included Lokove, Ahorfe, Dzisakope, and Yegbefume, near Agbozume, and some other communities in Klikor.¹⁷ In the Ashanti region, some five people were caught in the flood waters at Duase, leading to their demise. Their bodies were however recovered after rescue efforts were initiated.¹⁸

According to the varied reports received on flooding across the country, the causes included the breaking of the banks of some rivers and lagoons in especially the Volta and Western¹⁹ regions, after torrential rains. Again, as is characteristic of floods in Ghana, the volumes of solid waste in drains have contributed to choking in the drainage systems, thus causing flood water to overflow the confines of gutters, and subsequently affecting homes and business places, especially those that are found within water ways. Efforts to mitigate and address these environmental threats are crucial to minimize the negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of those affected.

Floods have the potential to escalate the transmission of water- and vector-borne diseases, including typhoid fever, cholera, malaria, yellow fever, and more. Contamination of drinking-water facilities is a prevalent risk associated with flooding, leading to increased health hazards. Additionally, the presence of standing water serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, contributing to the spread of diseases carried by these vectors. Therefore, the occurrence of floods significantly heightens the likelihood of disease transmission through these channels.

The spread of the Anthrax disease in the Upper East region has also been a challenging situation for cattle owners and patrons within the period. On June 1, 2023, the Upper East Regional Health Directorate received notification of two suspected cases of anthrax with one death in the Binduri District following the consumption of a dead cattle.²⁰ Since that day, the disease had spread to adjoining districts progressively. These districts include Bolga, Bawku, Bawku West, Kasenna Nankana East, Bongo, Talensi and Garu districts. It is unclear how many cattle have died since the outbreak, however the human death has reportedly remained at one, while some 30 persons are

¹⁶ WANEP Ghana NEWS Monitoring

¹⁷ <https://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/floods-claim-ketu-south-communities.html>

¹⁸ <https://www.adomonline.com/nadmo-official-swept-away-by-flood/>

¹⁹ <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/regional/Flood-collapses-over-50-houses-properties-destroyed-at-Ewuseijoe-1790747>

²⁰ <https://myjoyonline.com/anthrax-outbreak-one-reported-dead-others-infected-at-binduri/>

still under investigation. Although the situation appears to be contained and the ban on movement of ruminants and its slaughtering for consumption lifted subsequently, the danger of spread southward exists especially as reports have suggested that the recent influx of Fulbes, some of whom owned cattle, were moving southward into the country.²¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government, through its agencies such as the Ghana Immigration Service, Customs Excise and Preventive Service and other institutions that work along the borders to ensure that foreigners are well documented, and thoroughly screened to mitigate the risks of extremist and armed groups exploitation of lapses in border security to launch attacks against the country.
- The Ministry of Health, and Ghana Health Service should continue to strengthen collaboration with the District Assemblies of affected areas and local communities, as well as the Ghana Immigration and Police services to stop the advancement of cattle herders southward. This could help contain the spread of the Anthrax disease.
- To effectively address the cases of crimes in Ghana, it is imperative to prioritize the strengthening of security measures through collaboration with critical stakeholders. This collaboration should involve various sectors, including but not limited to law enforcement agencies, Government bodies, community leaderships, and the citizenry.
- The Government needs to consciously support the improvement of early warning systems to ensure timely flood risk alerts. This should include an enhanced 24-hour monitoring and warning service during peak rain seasons and an education program that could help communities understand the risks, respect the warnings, and know how to respond. Again, social protection mechanisms like affordable social housing could move more people out of informal settlements built in flood prone zones.²²

²¹ Field level monitors, after their interactions with local farmers and transporters, revealed that there were some Fulbes who were moving deeper into communities southward of border communities.

²² https://reliefweb.int/report/ghana/ghana-must-move-coping-floods-adapting-them?gclid=Cj0KCQjwnrmlBhDHARisADJ5b_m0wKEEJJOpwOuo04EbwEIOZQ_1FVmUPKxWoJBDrbfQkzeiPOehEcaArliEALw_wcB

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the issues mentioned emphasize the significance of addressing security, public safety, and social well-being in Ghana. The various challenges such as flooding, road accidents, armed robberies, and femicide have notable implications for the country's peace, security, and development. To ensure a sustainable security situation in the next reporting period, it is essential to prioritize the effective management of flood early warning systems, strengthen law enforcement, promote community policing, and implement effective crime prevention strategies as well as improving on road infrastructure. Additionally, comprehensive approaches that involve adequate public education should be implemented to tackle these issues effectively.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FROM THE WANEP NEWS

THEMATIC AREA	NO OF INCIDENTS	CASUALTIES	
		DEATHS	INJURIES
ORGANIZED CRIME & VIOLENT EXTREMISM:	24	12	3
Homicides	5	4	0
Mob Justice	1	-	-
Smuggling	1	-	-
Arrest/Detention	5	-	-
Armed Robbery	8	8	3
Theft	2	-	-
Suspicious Movements	1	-	-
Arson	1	-	-
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:	30	13	146
Arrest/Detention	6	-	-
Kidnapping	1	-	-
Land Disputes	1	1	0
Road Accidents	15	12	135
Armed Attack	2	0	11
Chieftaincy Disputes	1	-	-
Migrant Influx	1	-	-
Demonstrations	1	-	-
Strike Actions	2	-	-
ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY	43	21	32
Fire Outbreaks	3	0	2
Disease Outbreak (Anthrax)	8	1	30
Flooding	24	17	0
Arrest/Detention	2	-	-
Illegal Mining	2	-	-

Drowning	4	3	0
WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY:	12	3	4
Arrest/Detention	5	-	-
Assault	3	0	3
Homicides	2	2	0
Abortion	1	1	0
Rape/Defilement	1	0	1
Total	109	49	185

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.

P.O. BOX TL 963, Tamale, Northern Region, Ghana. Tel: +233 372098747; website: www.wanepghana.org



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