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African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme

AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

1st– 15th September 2019

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ABOUT AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

In line with its mandate to assist African Union (AU) Member States, build their Counter-Terrorism capacities and to prevent Violent Extremism, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) has developed tools that enable it to collect, analyze, process and disseminate information on terrorism-related incidents occurring in Africa. One of the products of this effort is the Bi-weekly Africa Terrorism Bulletin (ATB) that is published by the Centre.

The ATB seeks to keep AU Member State Policymakers, Researchers, Practitioners and other stakeholders in the fields of Counter-Terrorism (CT) and the Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE), updated fortnightly, on the trends of terrorism on the Continent.

Notwithstanding the lack of a universally accepted common definition of **Terrorism**, the AU, in its [1999 OAU CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND COMBATING OF TERRORISM, Article 1 paragraph 3, \(a\) and \(b\), and Article 3](#), defines what constitutes a **Terrorist Act**. The ACSRT and therefore the ATB defer to this definition.

THE BULLETIN IS PRODUCED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command Forces
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AMM	Africa Media Monitor
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AS	Al-Shabaab
AU	African Union
BH	Boko Haram
CAERT	Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme
CAR	Central African Republic
CT	Counter-Terrorism
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EUC-JRC	European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre
FAMa	Forces Armées Maliennes
FDPC	Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State
ISCAP	Islamic State Central African Province
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
ISS	Islamic State in Somalia
ISWAP	Islamic State West Africa Province
JNIM	Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center
KUBN	Uqba Nafi Batallion
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Forces
MINUSMA	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali (
MSA	Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad
NISA	National Intelligence Service Agency (Somalia)
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PBIEDs	Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices
RCIEDs	Remotely-Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices
REC	Regional Economic Community
RM	Regional Mechanism
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SNA	Somalia National Army
UNSMIL	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Libya
US	United States (of America)
VBIEDs	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

SUMMARY

General Situation. The reporting period, 1st to 15th September 2019 recorded a slight decrease in the number of attacks compared to the period 16th to 31st August, 2019. However, casualties inflicted by terrorist and violent extremist groups across Africa remained almost the same.

Terrorist Attacks. A total of **78** terrorist attacks were recorded across Africa compared to **86** attacks during the preceding period.

Countries Most Affected. The five countries most affected by terrorism during the period are Somalia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mali and Cameroon, (In decreasing order of deaths recorded).

Target of Terrorist Attacks. While 39 out of the 78 terrorist attacks were launched against civilians, 33 were targeted at Security Forces. Four attacks targeted International Peace Mission (AMISOM, MINUSMA and MONUSCO) and two others targeted Government Institutions/Officials. The attacks by Boko Haram (SF), ISWAP, other IS affiliates and JNIM were mainly against Security Forces whilst, ISGS mostly targeted civilians. Al-Shabaab targeted civilians and Security Forces at the same rate. The majority of attacks conducted by Unknown/Unaffiliated groups targeted more civilians.

Weapons Used. The terrorist groups used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in 55 out of the 78 attacks. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were used in nine of the attacks and both IEDs and SALW were used in five attacks. Other nine attacks were cases of kidnapping.

Terrorism Deaths/Casualties. A total number of 250 deaths were recorded during the period. The actual casualty figures for the period were 109 civilians, 109 Military/Security personnel and 32 terrorists.

Casualties Inflicted by Terrorist Groups. Al-Shabaab killed 44 persons (25 civilians, 19 security); ISWAP killed 36 persons (3 civilians, 33 Security); JNIM killed 25 persons (15 civilians, 10 security); Boko Haram (Shekau Faction) killed 16 persons (2 civilians, 14 security); ISGS killed 3 civilians; Other IS affiliates in Sinai killed three security forces and Unknown/Other groups killed 91 persons (61 civilians, 30 Security).

Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups. Al-Shabaab suffered the highest casualties during the period. Security forces killed 23 al-Shabaab militants. AQIM, Boko Haram (SF) and other IS affiliates each lost 3 militants, and 27 militants from Unknown /Other groups were also killed.

Kidnapping. Nine cases of kidnapping were recorded and a total of 52 persons were taken hostage in Cameroon, DRC, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Nigeria. Five out of the 52 persons kidnapped were killed, 10 were released and 37 remained in hostage.

Focus on Epicentres. Out of the total of 78 terrorist attacks, Sahel region accounted for 33, Horn of Africa recorded 17, and the Lake Chad Basin recorded 16. The Sahel region recorded 100 deaths from terrorist attacks, the Horn of Africa recorded 65 deaths and the Lake Chad Basin recorded 55 deaths during the period under review.

High Profile Incidents. On 03 September, in Mopti, Mali, A civilian bus hit an IED. 15 passengers were killed and about 30 others injured. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack. On 14 September in Hirshabelle, Somalia, Al-Shabaab militants ambushed Burundian troops serving with the AMISOM, killing 12 soldiers and injuring six others.

Counter-Terrorism Response. Deliberate CT operations resulted in neutralizing of 27 militants of terrorist groups. One Security force was also killed.

Conclusions/Recommendations. Violent extremist activities in the Northeastern state of Borno in Nigeria remained a challenging situation. Borno became the epicenter of complex and sophisticated attacks within the period. ISWAP displayed massive cohesion, capability and the will to thwart the efforts of the security forces in stabilizing the state and the wider Lake Chad Basin area. Majority of the attacks in Borno targeted Military and Security forces. Nigeria recorded 52 deaths from 13 attacks. 69% of all deaths that occurred in Nigeria were against security forces. Effective response to the prevailing situation would require the adoption and ground implementation of a well thought through stakeholders-based approach to deny ISWAP the foot hold that it currently has in the region. To stabilize Borno in particular and prevent further radicalization of the populace, it is crucial to create the conditions for economic development that generates jobs, especially given the growing number of young people in the region. In addition to development projects, conducting humanitarian and stabilization activities to respond swiftly to the urgent needs of populations, to facilitate the return of the State and basic services and to promote social cohesion and reconciliation are urgently needed.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Objective: The objective of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin is to provide a fortnight assessment of terrorism and violent extremism situation and trends on the continent. This is aimed at providing African Union Member States up to date information on terrorism incidents and its related activities. The data for the analysis of this Bulletin, is limited to information stored in the ACSRT Database, collected in conformity with the definition of terrorist acts as defined by the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

Database: The ACSRT maintains a robust database that stores information on terrorism, more specifically, on terrorist groups, their leaders and members, and activities and avails this information to the African Union Commission and the African Union Member States. Information for the Database is collected by the ACSRT Situation Room Team using the Africa Media Monitor (AMM) developed in collaboration with the European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for advanced web mining and information extraction. With the AMM, the Situation Room Team scans and accesses over 1400 websites 24/7 and retrieves real time information on terrorist incidents. The Centre also stores terrorism-related information received from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) based on existing cooperation. The AU Continental Early Warning Situation-Room and reports from AU Field Missions and other field missions are also sources of information for the bulletin.

Validation: To ensure credibility and reliability, the Centre validates all accessed terrorism incidents from the ACSRT Focal Points of the Member States. The Focal Points are the institutions in AU Members designated to collaborate and share terrorism and Counter-Terrorism related information with the ACSRT. In accordance with its mandate, the information validated by the ACSRT on the number of attacks, deaths and injuries recorded are considered as the official data for the ACSRT Database irrespective of other conflicting figures.

THREAT UPDATE

General. The period under review, **01 to 16 September**, recorded a decline in the overall number of terrorist attacks compared to the previous period of **16-31 August 2019**. **78** attacks were recorded as against **86** in the preceding period. Although attacks generally decreased, the North and East Africa regions experienced slight increases in the number of attacks. The number of deaths resulting from terrorist acts on the continent vis-à-vis the previous reporting period remained almost at the same level. Whilst the preceding period recorded **249** deaths, the reporting period witnessed **250** deaths across Africa. All regions except East and North Africa recorded marginal decreases in deaths resulting from terrorist attacks. Considering the nature of attacks, the complexity and the lethality, al-Qaeda affiliated groups (al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and JNIM) and Islamic State (IS) affiliated group ISWAP and ISGS dominated the terrorism landscape within the operational and mobility corridors of the terrorist and violent extremist groups. For the period, the Northeastern state of Borno in Nigeria and the Lower Shabelle region of Somalia remained the epicentres of terrorists' activities in the continent.

Sahel Belt of West Africa. The threat of terrorism and transnational organized crime in the region are entrenching. These crimes have facilitated and sustained the various activities of terrorist, violent extremist and non-state armed groups and spread across the length and breadth of the region. These groups scaled-up their activities, resulting in 33 attacks, in which 100 people were killed in **Mali** and **Burkina Faso**. JNIM was at the centre of most of the attacks, and claimed responsibility for the complex attacks that targeted peace keeping mission forces and national armies of the affecting countries. Although attacks were recorded in areas such as Bam, Sanmatenga, and Yatenga regions, Soum remained the launchpad for terrorist attacks. JNIM carried out sophisticated attacks against security forces, mainly in the form of IEDs. In all, 18 attacks were carried out causing 57 deaths. In **Mali** terrorist attacks remained concentrated in the North and Central regions of the country. Security forces including personnel from MINUSMA were the targets of militant attacks. Kidal, Timbuktu, Gao and Mopti were the areas most affected within the period.

Lake Chad Basin. Generally, terrorist attacks and the corresponding deaths within the Basin decreased for the reporting period. Despite this, however, the consistent manner in which ISWAP and Boko Haram launched attacks on military bases and positions particularly in the Northeastern state Borno in Nigeria and the Far North region of Cameroon demonstrates the groups' capacity to inflict devastating atrocities and cause debilitating harm. 16 terrorist attacks were carried out resulting in 55 deaths, 86% of which were military and security forces. In **Nigeria**, the Northeastern state of Borno became the centre of complex and sophisticated attacks from Boko Haram and ISWAP. Both ISWAP and Boko Haram focused their attacks on security forces. On 09 September, 19 soldiers were killed in the villages of Gudumbali and Garunda, all located in the Borno state by ISWAP. In **Cameroon**, Boko Haram attacked a military post in the village of Soueram, located in the Far North region killing 11 soldiers and injuring three others on 13 September. On the same day, two people including a Pastor were also killed by Boko Haram in the village of Kerawa, also in the Far North region.

North Africa and the Maghreb. Local terrorist groups with affiliation to Islamic State launched attacks. In **Egypt**, militants affiliated with the Islamic State attacked a military checkpoint in Mahajar, located in the Sinai Peninsula on 14 September killing three soldiers and injuring two others. In **Tunisia**, an attack by IS linked group in Tozeur on 8 September wounded a police officer. In CT operations however, three leaders of AQIM local branch Okba ibn Nafaa were neutralized in military raids. In **Libya**, terrorists linked to al-Qaida and ISIS were neutralized and others arrested in Tripoli. In **Morocco**, security forces dismantled an ISIS-linked terrorist cell and arrested five suspected terrorists. An IED manufacturing site was also destroyed. In **Algeria**, security forces arrested three individuals suspected of providing financial assistance to terrorist groups in Boumerdes and Khenchla. Cache of arms and ammunitions were also discovered by security forces in Tamanrasset, during routine counter-terrorism operations.

Central Africa. Violent activities of armed groups operating in the North Kivu and Ituri Provinces of the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** continued. For the period, 11 people were killed from four attacks. These included an Indian Army officer, Gaurav Solanki, who was posted with the Indian contingent in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC. Violent activities also took place in the Anglophone region (Northwest) of **Cameroon** in which one soldier and four separatists died.

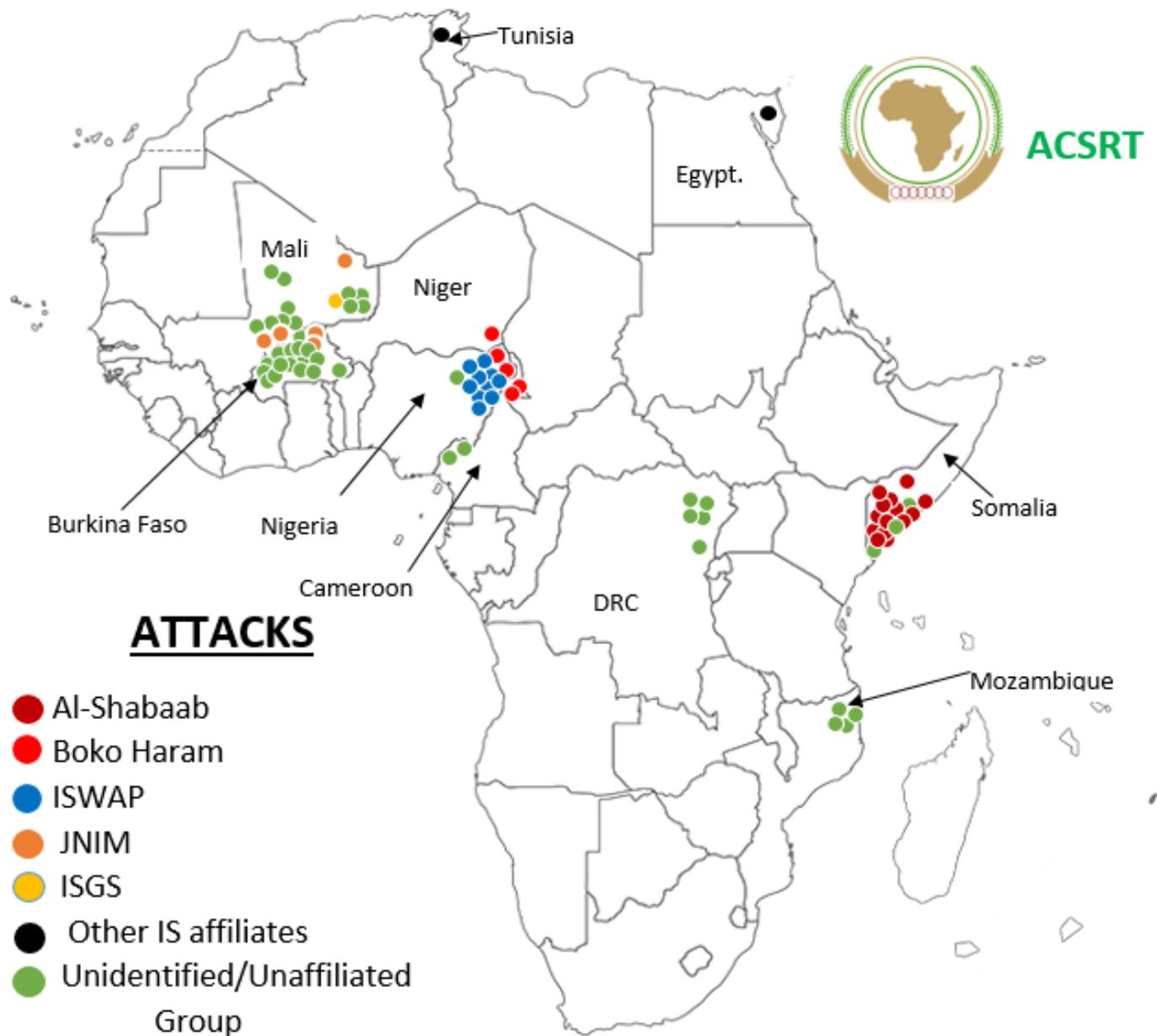
East and Horn of Africa. Al-Shabaab continues to pose a serious threat the region particularly **Somalia**. The current period experienced a sharp increase in the number of attacks and deaths in Somalia compared to the previous period. Although AMISOM, US-AFRICOM and SNA have, to a large extent, degraded the capacity of al-Shabaab, the group continue to have the will and cohesion to launch attacks against security and AMISOM forces. Within the period, 17 attacks were carried out, resulting in the death of 65 persons, all of which occurred in Somalia. The capital Mogadishu and Lower Shebelle regions were the areas severely affected by terrorist activities.

Southern Africa. Terrorists' activities in the Cabo Delgado province of **Mozambique** continued within the period. Four attacks were recorded in which 10 people were killed. Although no group claimed responsibility for the attack, the tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) bore the hallmark of the IS affiliated local group **al-Sunnah wal-Jamaah (ASWJ)**. Meanwhile in spite of the decrease in the number of attacks, measures aimed at providing enduring solutions to violent activities in the Cabo Delgado province remains essential to prevent the situation from deteriorating and further spreading to other areas within the country and beyond.

GENERAL TREND: TERRORISTS ATTACKS AND DEATHS

Map 1: Map of Terrorism Incidents from 1st to 15th September 2019

AFRICA TERRORISM INCIDENTS MAP: FROM 01-15 SEPTEMBER. 2019

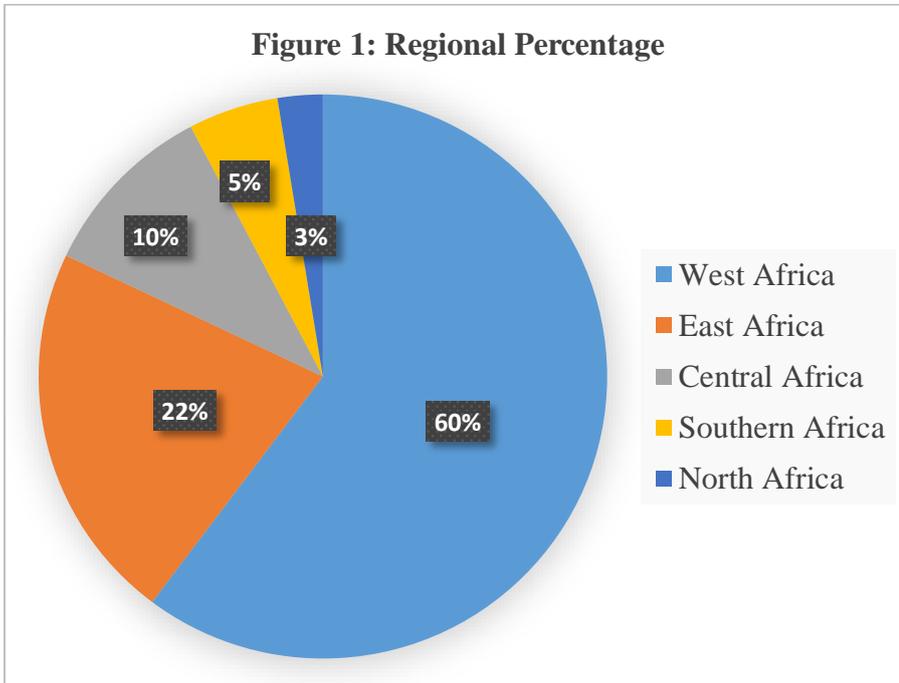


Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

1. Total Terrorist Attacks:

A total of 78 terrorism incidents including nine cases of kidnapping were recorded from 1st to 15th September 2019.

2. Terrorists Attacks by Region

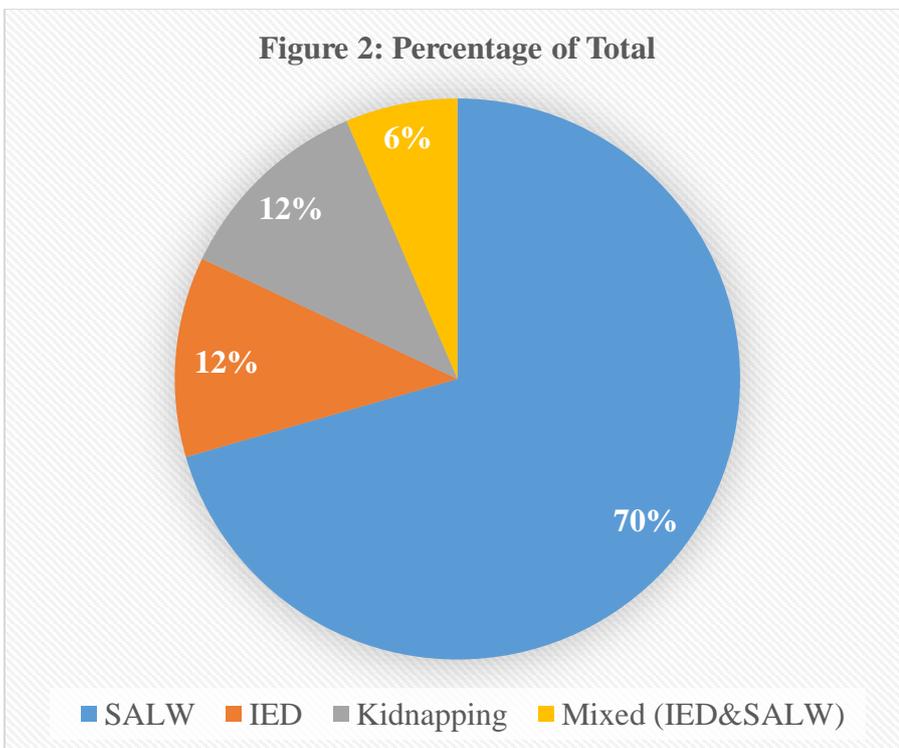


Number of Attacks per Region:

- West Africa: **47**
- East Africa: **17**
- Central Africa: **8**
- Southern Africa: **4**
- North Africa: **2**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

3. Means of Attack



Means deployed per number of Attacks:

- SALW: **55**
- IEDs: **9**
- Kidnapping: **9**
- Mixed (IED & SALW): **5**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

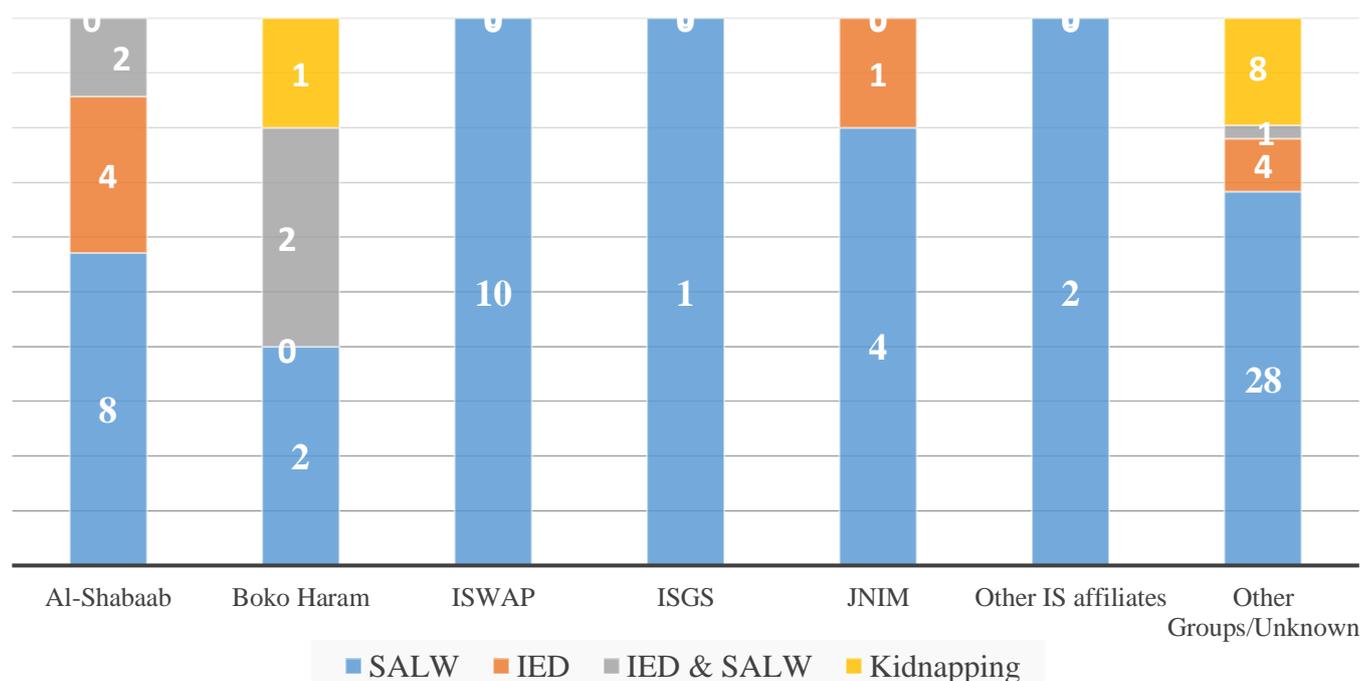
4. Means employed by Terrorist Groups for attacks

Table 1: Means Employed by Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	SALW	IED	Mixed	Kidnapping	Comment
Al-Shabaab	8	4	2	-	SALW were the preferred means by which al-Shabaab carried out attacks. Eight attacks by the group involved SALW, four attacks were IED and two attacks involved both SALW and IEDs.
Boko Haram	2	-	2	1	Boko Haram used SALW in two out of 5 attacks. Two attacks involved both SALW and IEDs. The group was responsible for one case of kidnapping.
ISWAP	10	-	-	-	SALW continue to be the preferred means by which ISWAP carried out attacks. The group carried out 10 attacks using SALW.
ISGS	1	-	-	-	ISGS carried out one attack using SALW.
JNIM	4	1	-	-	JNIM carried out four attacks using SALW and one attack involved IEDs.
Other IS affiliates	2	-	-	-	Other IS affiliates in Egypt and Tunisia carried out two attacks using SALW.
Unknown/Other Groups	28	4	1	8	Unknown/Other groups used SALW in the majority of attacks. In 28 out of 41 attacks by these groups, SALW was used. They used IEDs in four attacks and both SALW and IEDs in one attack. They were responsible for eight cases of kidnapping.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

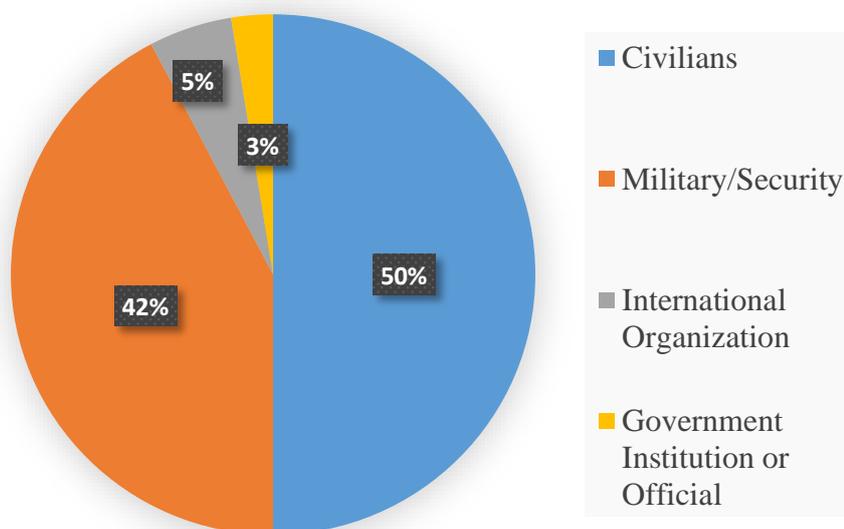
Figure 3: Means Employed by Terrorist Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

5. Primary Targets

Figure 4: Primary Targets



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Primary Targets

- Civilians: **39**
 - Security/Military Forces: **33**
 - International Organizations: **4**
 - Govt. Officials or Institutions: **2**
- 39 of the attacks representing **50%** targeted civilians.
 - 32 attacks representing **42 %** targeted Security/Military Forces.
 - Five attacks representing **5%** targeted International Orgs (MINUSMA).
 - Two attacks representing around **3%** targeted Government Officials/ institutions.

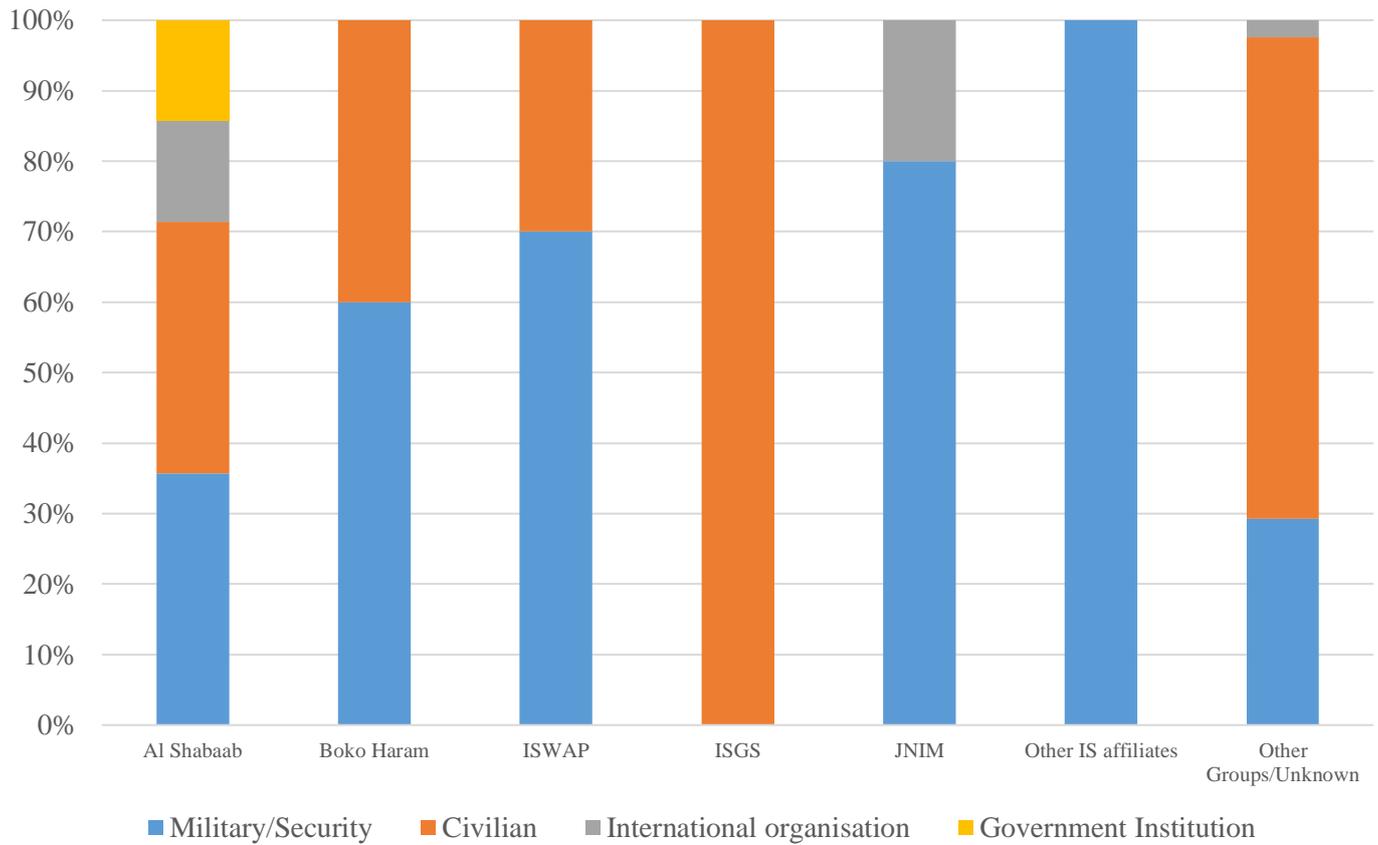
6. Terrorist Groups and Primary Targets

Table 2: Details of Terrorist Groups and their Primary Target

Terrorist Groups	Military/ Security	Civilians	Int. Org.	Gov't Inst.	Comment
Al-Shabaab	5	5	2	2	Al-Shabaab carried out five attacks against military/Security forces and five against civilians. Two attacks by the group targeted International organization (AMISOM) and two attacks targeted government officials.
Boko Haram	3	2	-	-	Boko Haram carried out three attacks against Military/Security Forces and two against Civilians.
ISWAP	7	3	-	-	The majority of attacks carried out by ISWAP targeted Military/Security Forces (7). Three attacks by the group targeted civilians.
ISGS	-	1	-	-	ISGS carried out one attack against civilians.
JNIM	4	-	1	-	JNIM carried out four attacks against Military/Security Forces and one attack against International organization (MINUSMA).
Other IS affiliates	2	-	-	-	Other IS affiliates in Egypt and Tunisia carried out two attacks against Military/Security Forces.
Unknown/ Other Groups	12	28	1	-	Attacks for which no group claimed responsibility mostly targeted civilians. 28 out of 41 attacks targeted civilians, 12 targeted Military/Security Forces and one targeted International organization (MONUSCO)

Source: ACSRT Database, 201

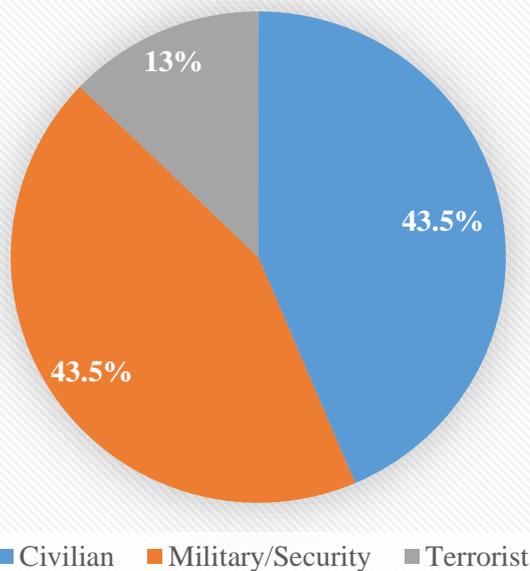
Figure 5: Percentage of Target per Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

7. Total Deaths

Figure 6: Percentage of Total Deaths



Total Deaths: 250

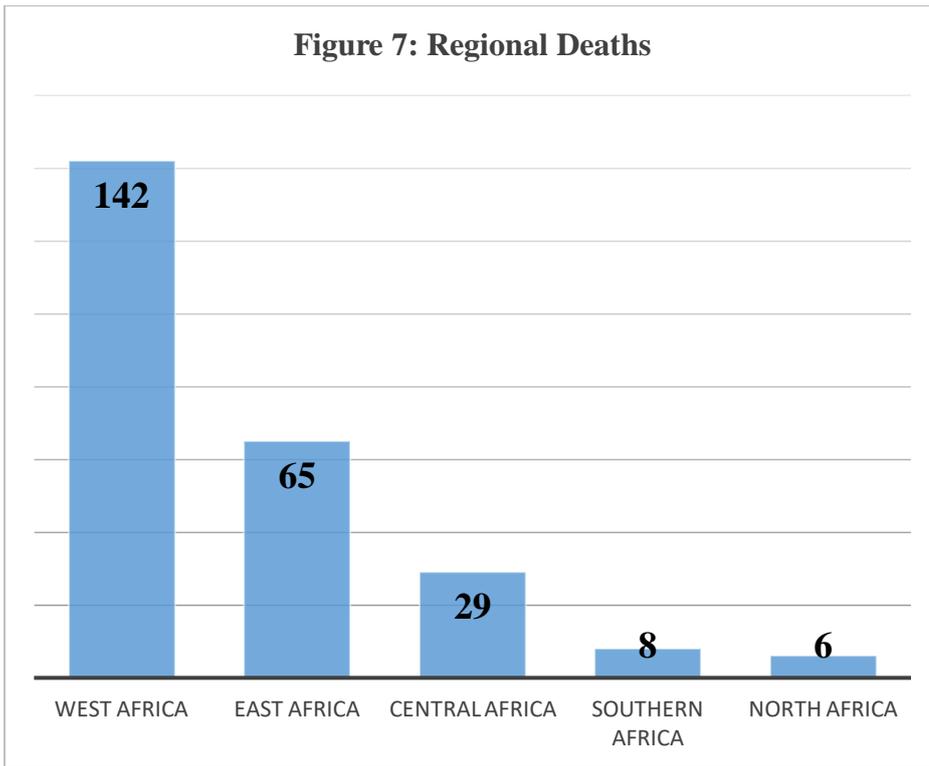
- Civilians: **109**
- Security/Military: **109**
- Terrorists: **32**

- A total of **250** deaths were recorded within the period under review.
- Out of the number, **43.5%** were civilians and other **43.5%** Security/ Military forces killed by terrorist groups. **13%** were terrorists killed by security forces.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

8. Terrorism Deaths Per Region

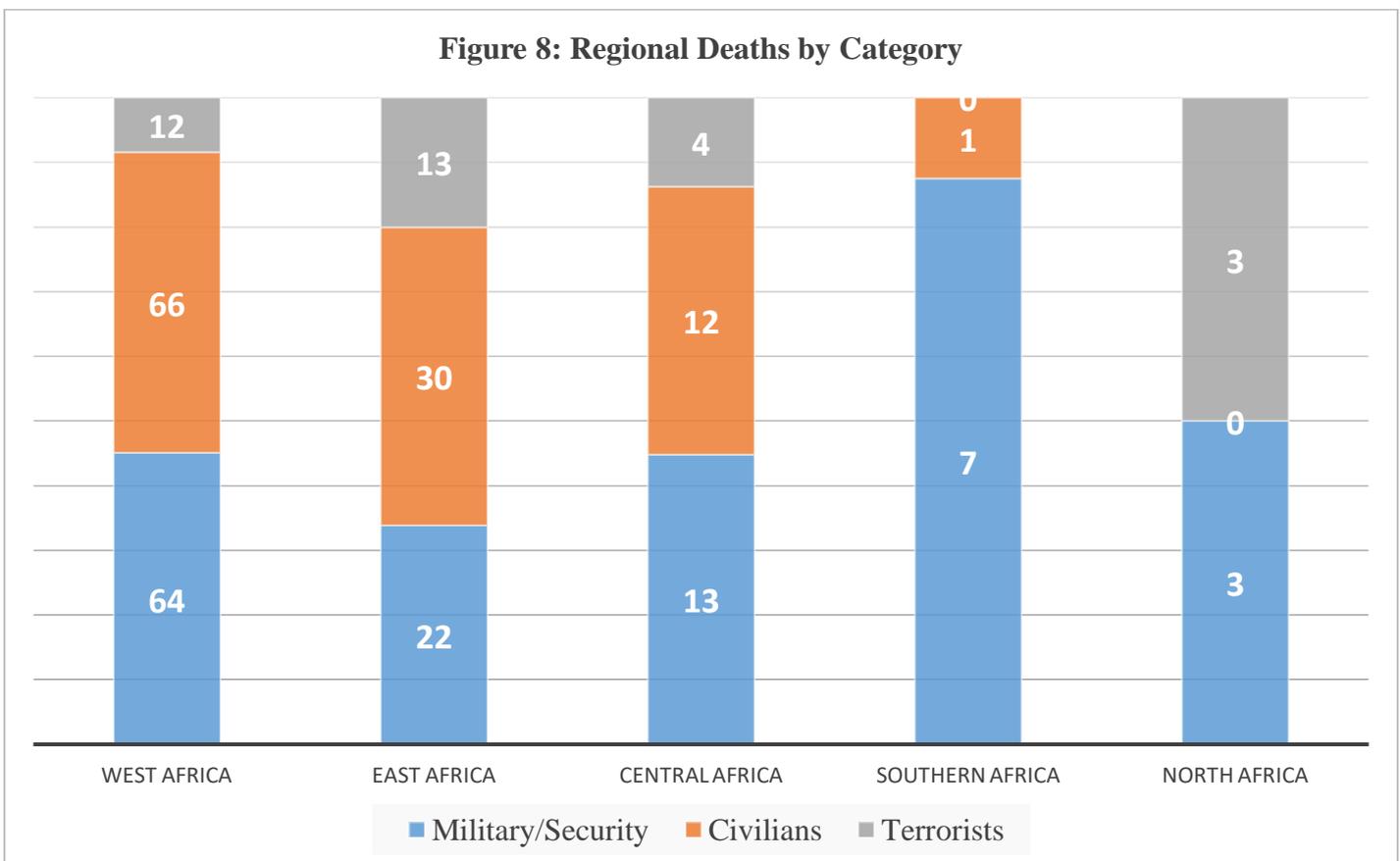
Figure 7: Regional Deaths



- West Africa recorded the highest number of deaths. **57%** of deaths recorded within the period occurred in the region.
- East Africa followed with **26%** of all deaths recorded within the period.
- 11.5%, 3 %** and **2.5%** of all terrorism deaths within the period occurred in Central, Southern and North Africa regions respectively.

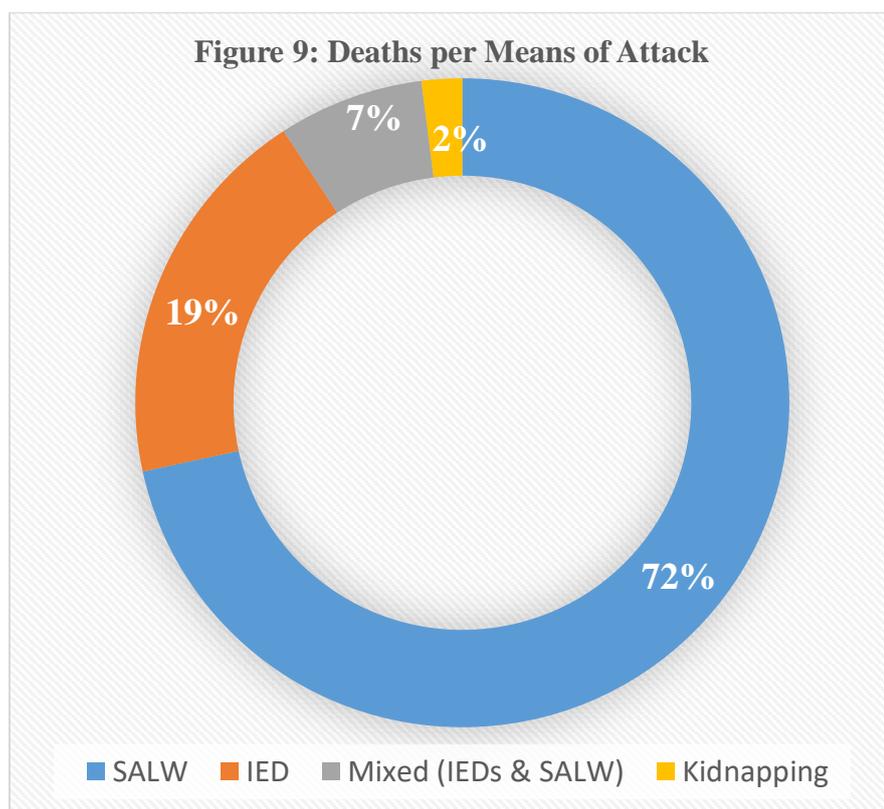
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 8: Regional Deaths by Category



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

9. Deaths by Means of Attack



Deaths by Means of Attack

- SALW: **179**
 - IEDs: **48**
 - Mixed (IED & SALW): **18**
 - Kidnapping: **5**
- SALW accounted for **72%** of the deaths occasioned by terrorist attacks. IEDs accounted for **19%** of deaths and the combination of both IEDs and SALW accounted for **7%**. Kidnapping accounted for about **2%**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

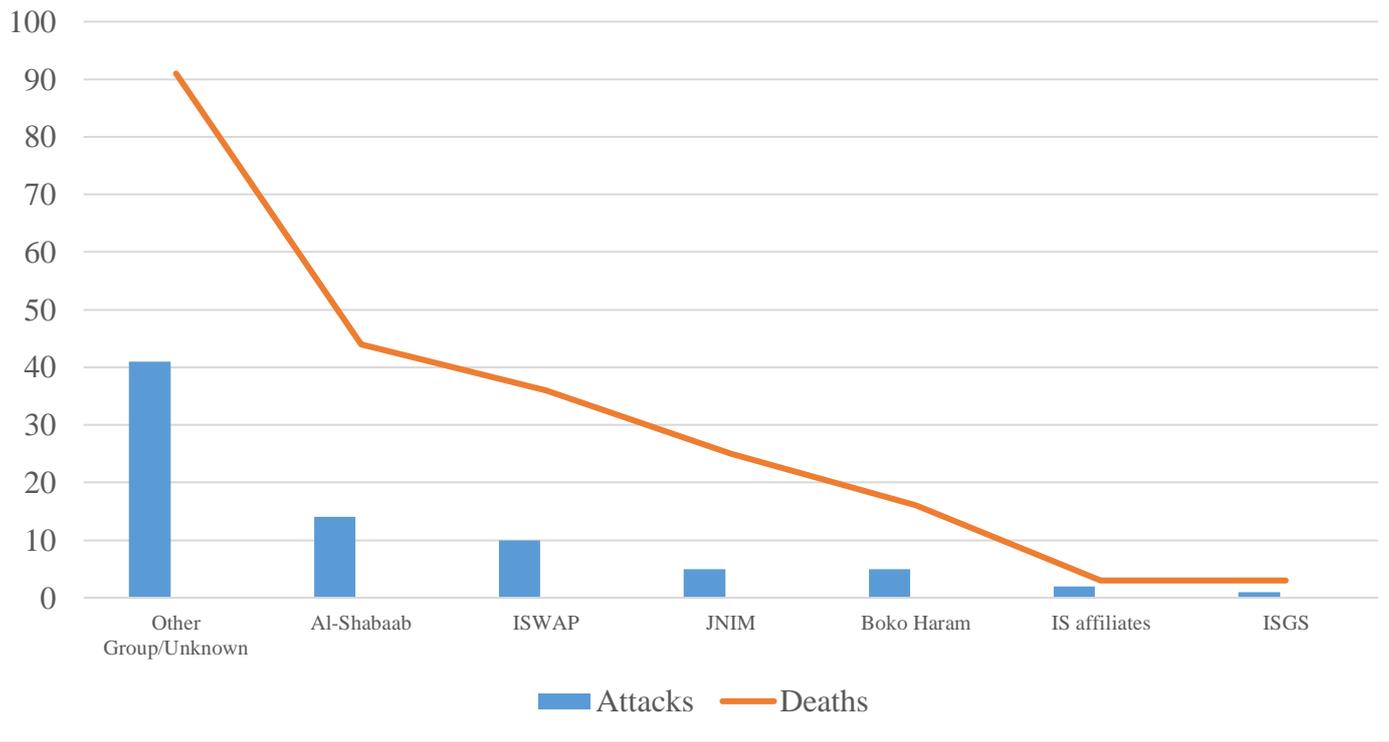
10. Number of Attacks by Terrorist Groups/Casualties inflicted

Table 3: Details of Attacks and Casualties from Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	Number of Attacks	Number of Deaths	Comments
Al-Shabaab	14	44	Al-Shabaab carried out the highest number of attacks and inflicted the highest number of casualties. The group carried out 14 attacks, killing 44 persons (25 Civilians, 19 Military/Security forces).
ISWAP	10	36	ISWAP carried out 10 attacks, killing 36 persons (3 civilians, 33 Military/ Security forces).
JNIM	5	25	JNIM carried out five attacks, killing 25 persons (15 civilians, 10 Military/Security force).
Boko Haram	5	16	Boko Haram carried out five attacks, killing 16 persons (2 civilians, 14 Military/Security force).
ISGS	1	3	ISGS carried out one attack, killing three civilians.
Other IS affiliates	2	3	Other IS affiliates in Egypt and Tunisia carried out two attacks killing 3 Military/Security forces.
Other Groups/Unknown	41	91	41 attacks were carried out by Unknown/Other groups. This resulted in 91 deaths comprising 61 civilians and 30 Military/Security forces.

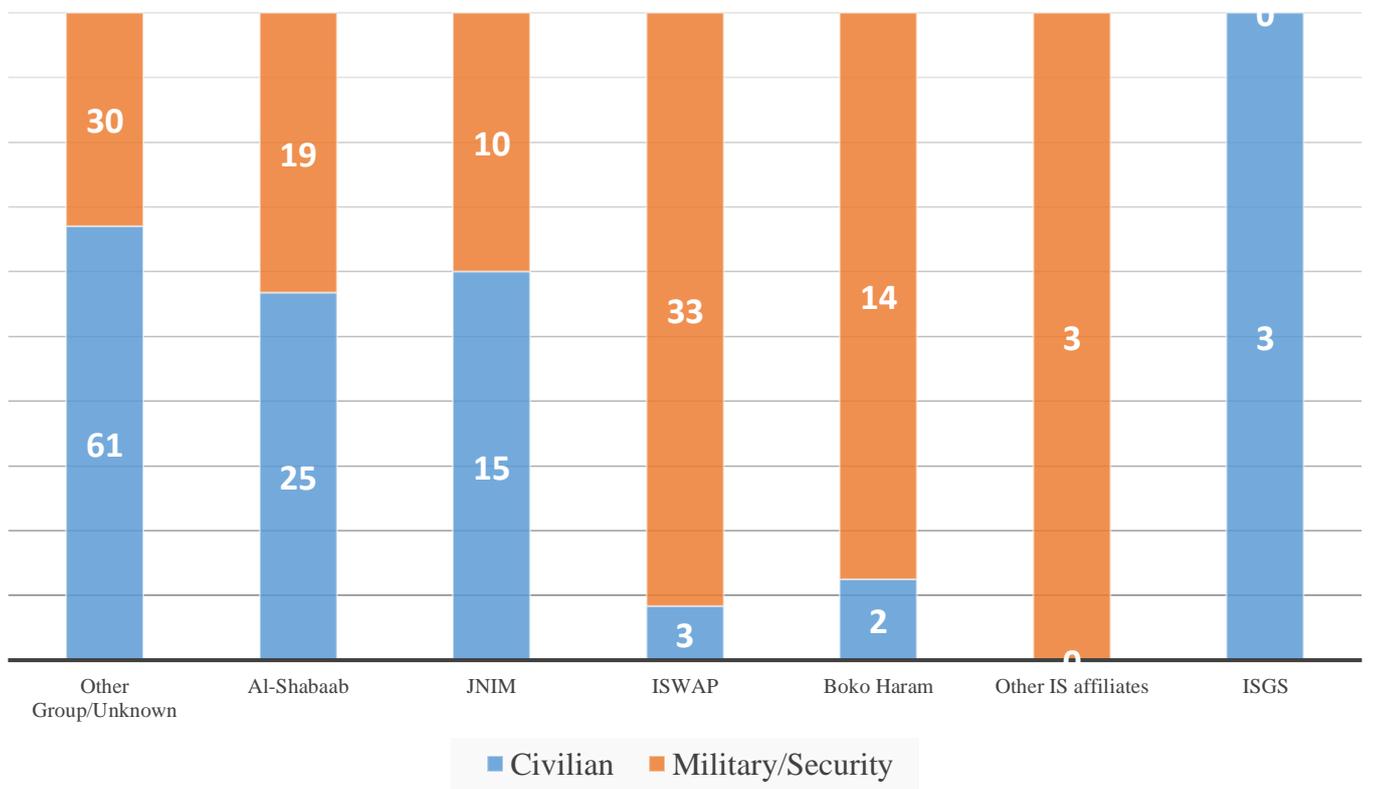
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 10: Attacks and Casualties Caused by Terrorist Groups



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 11: Category of Victims Killed by Terrorist Groups



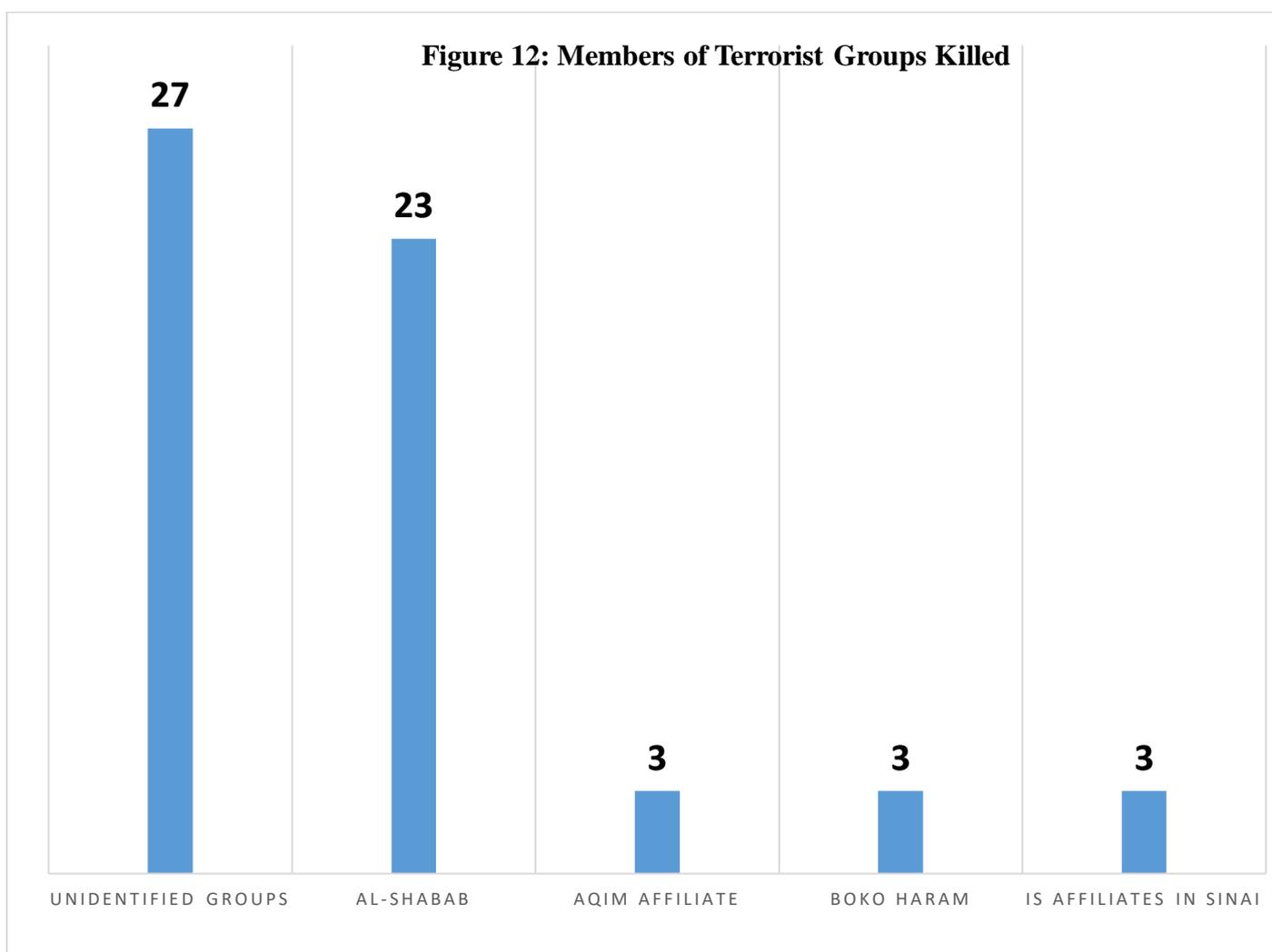
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

11. Members of Terrorist Groups Killed (In Attacks and Deliberate CT Operations)

Table 4: Details of Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	Number Killed	Comment
Al-Shabaab	23	Among the members of terrorist groups killed in counter-terrorism operations and reprisal attacks, al-Shabaab suffered the highest number of casualties. 23 fighters of the group were killed.
AQIM Affiliates	3	3 fighters of AQIM affiliates in Tunisia were killed.
Boko Haram		3 fighters of Boko Haram were killed.
Other IS affiliates	3	3 fighters of other IS affiliates in Egypt were killed.
Other Groups/Unknown	27	27 other terrorists killed belong to Unknown/Other groups.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

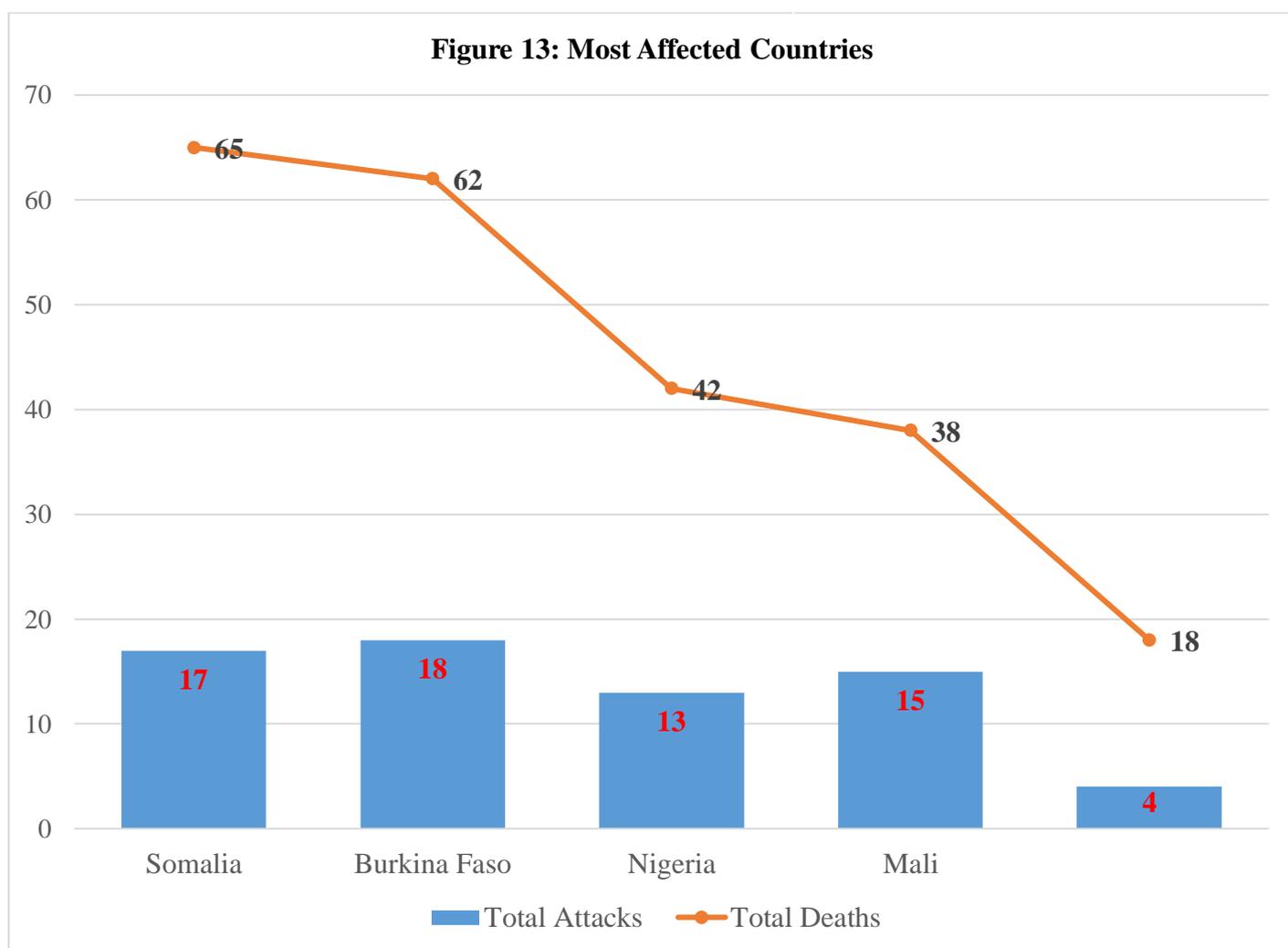
12. Five Most Affected Countries

Table 5: Five Countries Most Affected

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths	Total injured
Somalia	17	65	20
Burkina Faso	18	62	17
Nigeria	13	42	14
Mali	15	38	43
Cameroon	4	18	3

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

- Somalia recorded the highest number of deaths (65) from 17 attacks.
- Burkina Faso recorded the highest number of attacks (18) and the second highest number of deaths (62).
- Nigeria recorded 13 attacks resulting in a total death of 42.
- Mali recorded 15 attacks, resulting in 38 deaths.
- Cameroon recorded four attacks resulting in a total death of 18.



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

13. Most Fatal Terrorist Incidents

Table 6: List of Most Fatal Terrorist Attacks

No	Country	City	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	Burkina Faso	Sanmatenga	08/09/19	*NGCR	15	A public transport vehicle hit an IED. 15 people died and six others were injured
2	Mali	Mopti	03/09/19	JNIM	15	A civilian bus hit an IED. 15 passengers were killed and 30 others injured. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.
3	Burkina Faso	Sanmatenga	08/09/19	*NGCR	14	Unidentified armed elements opened fire on a motorized tricycles carrying food items killing 14 civilians.
4	Somalia	Hirshabelle	14/09/19	Al-Shabaab	12	Al-Shabaab militants ambushed Burundian troops serving under AMISOM killing 12 soldiers and injuring six others.
5	Cameroon	Far-North	13/09/19	Boko Haram	11	Boko Haram militants attacked a military post. 11 soldiers were killed and three others injured.
6	Nigeria	Borno	09/09/19	ISWAP	10	Assailants attacked a military post. 10 soldiers were killed and three other soldiers injured.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019 *NGCR= No Group Claimed Responsibility

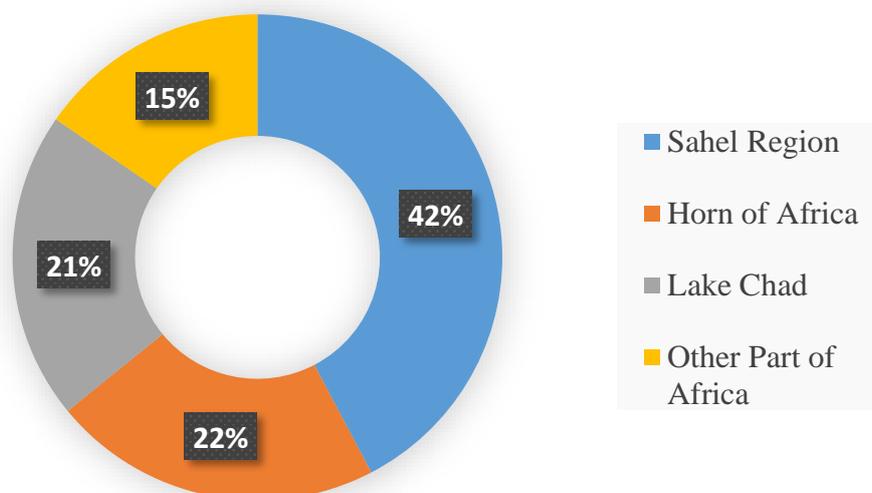
IN FOCUS

EPICENTRES

14. Attacks in Epicentres

Total Attacks in Africa: 78

Figure 13: Percentage of Attacks in Epicentres



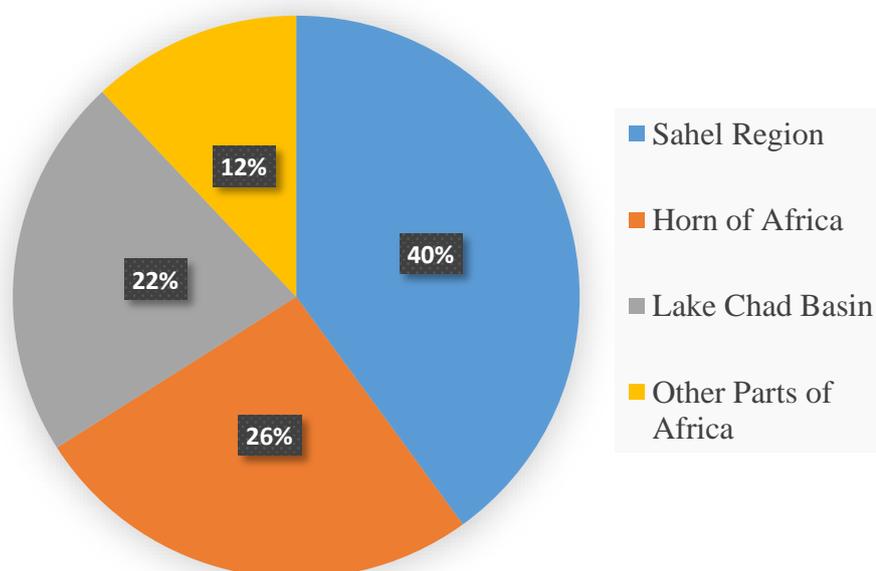
- Sahel region: **33**
- Horn of Africa: **17**
- Lake Chad Basin: **16**
- Other Parts of Africa: **12**

- For the period under review, the Sahel (Mali and Burkina Faso) recorded **42%**; Horn of Africa (Somalia recorded **22%**; and Lake Chad Basin (North Eastern Nigeria, Far North Region of Cameroon, and Niger-Diffa region) recorded **21%** of all the attacks in Africa.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

15. Total Deaths Recorded in Epicentres

Figure 18: Percentage of Deaths in Epicentres



Total Deaths in Africa: 250

- Sahel Region: **100**
 - Horn of Africa: **65**
 - Lake Chad Basin: **55**
 - Other Parts of Africa: **30**
- **40%** of the deaths recorded within the period under review occurred in the Sahel region.
 - **26%** of the deaths occurred in the Horn of Africa.
 - **22%** of deaths for the period occurred in the Lake Chad Basin.
 - **12%** of the deaths occurred in other parts of Africa.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

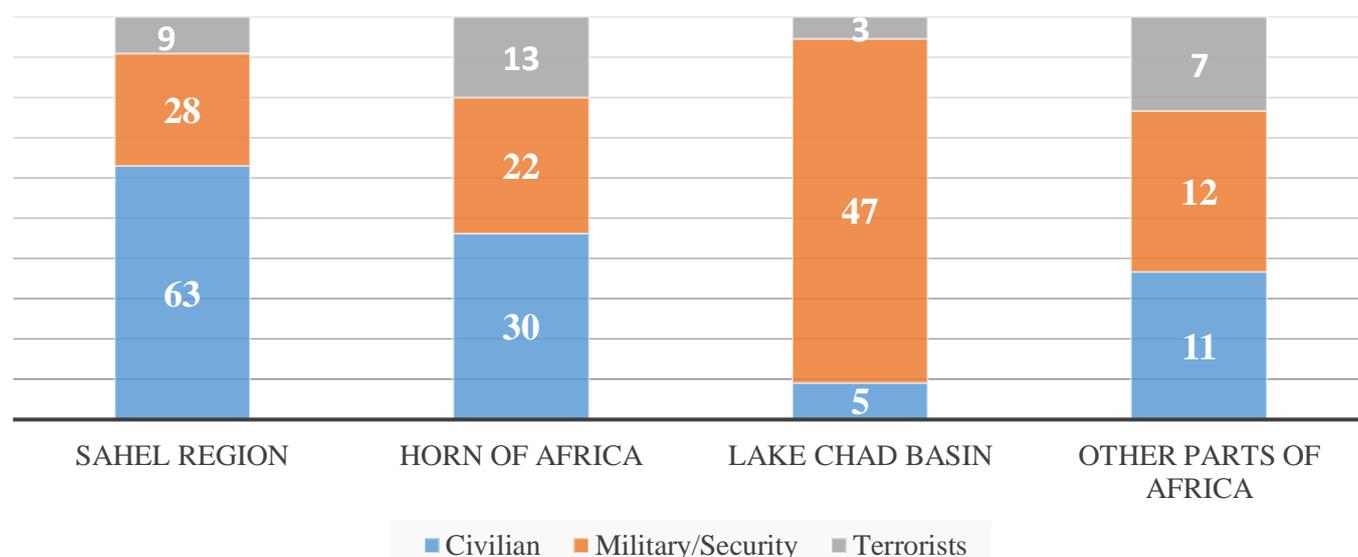
16. Deaths by Category in Epicentres

Table 7: Category of Deaths in Epicentres

Epicentre	Civilian	Military	Terrorists	Comments
Sahel Region	63	28	9	The Sahel region recorded highest number of deaths against civilians and the second highest against Security/military forces among the epicentres.
Horn of Africa	30	22	13	The Horn of Africa recorded the second highest number of deaths against civilians and the lowest number of Security/military forces deaths among the various epicentres.
Lake Chad Basin	5	47	3	The Lake Chad Basin recorded the highest number of deaths against Security/military forces and the lowest number of civilian deaths among the epicentres.
Other Parts	11	12	7	All other parts of Africa except the epicentres recorded 11 civilian deaths and 12 security forces.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

Figure 19: Deaths of various Actors in Epicentres



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

KIDNAPPINGS

The phenomenon of suspected terrorists and armed men kidnapping people featured prominently in the first half of September 2019.

During the period, eight cases of kidnapping were recorded and a total of 51 persons were taken hostage in Cameroon, DRC, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Nigeria. Four persons kidnapped were killed, 10 others were released and 37 others remained in hostage.

Cameroon: In Bamenda, in the Northwest Anglophone region, unidentified armed men kidnapped two persons comprising a local official and a journalist.

DRC: In Djugu territory of Ituri province, unidentified assailants kidnapped six farmers. In **North kivu**, an Indian Army officer serving under the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC, who was kidnapped was later found dead inside the Lake Kivu five days later.

Mali: 31 people were kidnapped in Mopti and Timbuktu. Four were killed, three were released and 24 are still held in captivity. Whilst the four hostages killed were members of the Operational Mechanism of Coordination of armed groups, 22 out of the 24 people still held captive are members of a military unit comprising mainly Tuareg ex-rebels and former members of armed pro-government groups.

Mozambique: Four people including two women and two young men were kidnapped in Cabo Delgado.

Niger: On 03 September, Boko Haram militants infiltrated *Garin Wanzan* IDP camp in Diffa region and kidnapped the chief of Yebi village living in the camp.

Nigeria. In Kaduna, unidentified armed men kidnapped seven people. Troops of Operation Thunder Strike rescued them three of them days later.

CONCLUSION

During the period under review, there was a slight reduction in the number of attacks by terrorist groups in Africa. Although there was a decrease of 12% in the number of attacks by terrorist groups compared to the previous period (16 to 31 August), East and North Africa regions recorded marginal increases in the number of attack. All other regions recorded a decrease in the number of attacks. The overall number of deaths resulting from terrorist acts on the continent as compared to the previous reporting period however, remained almost at the same level. It is interesting to note that, notwithstanding the stability of deaths for the period, all regions except East and North Africa recorded a decrease in the number of deaths. Deaths recorded in East Africa more than doubled, from 41 to 65 over the previous reporting period, representing about 59% increase. All the deaths in the East Africa occurred in Somalia, majority of which happened in the Lower Shabelle region. Despite the counter-terrorism operational successes by AMISOM, US AFRICOM and SNA forces against al-Shabaab and ISS, the groups continue to exhibit a will and cohesion to disrupt peace and stability in parts of Somalia. The violent situation in the Sahel is no different. Attacks and deaths increased across the affected countries with the exception of Niger, which remained relatively stable. JNIM is expanding and stepping up its attacks on the international and Malian forces including MINUSMA.

In spite of important progress made by the international community through the provision of counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and state-building support to Somalia, peace and sustainable stabilization remain elusive. Al-Shabab remains entrenched throughout vast parts of Somalia and regularly conducts deadly terrorist attacks even in the capital Mogadishu. The capacity of Somali national security remains weak, with AMISOM forces and US AFRICOM significantly augmenting the State security. Meanwhile, Somali political processes and public institutions are not able to provide the needed services that are required for community resilience and empowerment. These pernicious governance processes give continual lease on life to al-Shabaab and other destabilizing armed actors. Improving governance and state-building as well as subjecting Somalia's governments and powerbrokers to accountability are fundamental for conflict reduction and eventual stabilization.

In the Lake Chad Basin, violent activities in the Northeastern state of Borno in Nigeria remained a challenging one. Borno became the epicenter of complex and sophisticated attack within the period. ISWAP displayed massive cohesion, capability and the will to thwart the efforts of the security forces in stabilizing the region. Majority of the attacks in Borno targeted military and security forces. Nigeria recorded 52 deaths from 13 attacks. 69% of all deaths that occurred in Nigeria were against security forces. There is therefore the need to re-examine the intelligence capabilities - both human and technical - of the security forces deployed against them. Effective response to the prevailing situation would require the adoption and ground implementation of a well thought through stakeholders-based approach to deny ISWAP the foot hold that it currently has in the area. To stabilize Borno in particular and prevent further radicalization of the populace, it is crucial to create the conditions for economic development that generates jobs, especially given the growing number of young people in the region. In addition to development projects, conducting humanitarian and stabilization initiatives to respond swiftly to the urgent needs of populations, to facilitate the return of the State and basic services and to promote social cohesion and reconciliation are urgently needed.

FORECAST FOR NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin will cover terrorism incidents from 16th – 30th September 2019.

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PROFILE OF ACSRT/CAERT

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) was established as a structure of the African Union in 2004. The decision to establish the Centre was taken in 2002 as part of the AU Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat of Terrorism. Its primary role is to assist AU member States build their Counter-Terrorism capacities. Its mandate includes the conduct of research, analysis and studies on the terrorism situation and terrorist groups in Africa, maintaining a terrorism database, centralizing information on terrorism and sharing this with AU Member States. The Centre conducts assessment missions to various AU Member States in order to ascertain their Counter-Terrorism capability and compliance with International Legal instruments and then provide advice on what needs to be done. In its capacity building effort, the Centre conducts seminars, workshops and training sessions in various aspects of Counter-terrorism for Member States and facilitates the drafting of their Counter-Terrorism legislation, strategies and Plans of Action in accordance with human rights requirements.



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APPENDIX 1: SYNTHESIS TABLE OF TERRORISM INCIDENTS AND CT OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

No	Country/ Regions: Central Africa East Africa North Africa Southern Africa West Africa	Type and total of attacks				Terrorists Groups Clashes	Total Dead			Total Wounded			Hostages	Hostages Released	Arrested Terrorists	Primary Targets			
		Small Arms and light weapons (SALW)	Explosives (IED)	Mixed (IED and SALW)	Kidnapping		Security/Military	Civilians	Terrorists	Security/Military	Civilians	Terrorists				Security/Military	Civilians	Government officials or institutions	International Organizations
1	Cameroon	3	-	-	1	-	12	2	4	3	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-
2	DRC	3	-	-	1	-	1	10	-	-	7	-	7	-	-	-	3	-	1
3	Somalia	8	7	2	-	-	22	30	23	11	9	-	-	-	17	6	7	2	2
4	Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
5	Egypt	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Libya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
8	Tunisia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-
9	Mozambique	3	-	-	1	-	7	1	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	1	3	-	-
10	Burkina Faso	17	1	-	-	-	17	36	9	9	8	-	-	-	-	7	11	-	-
11	Mali	9	1	1	4	-	11	27	-	13	30	-	31	3	-	6	8	-	1
12	Niger	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
13	Nigeria	10	-	2	1	-	36	3	3	14	-	-	7	7	-	9	4	-	-
Sub-Total		55	9	5	9	-	110	109	59	53	55	-	52	10	29	33	39	2	4
General Total		78					278			108			52	10	29	78			

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

NB: The color codes show countries in regions where incidents were recorded

CAR: Central African Republic

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

Nd: Not determined

APPENDIX 2: TERRORIST ATTACKS RECORDED BY REGIONS

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

04 September, Nchoubou, Northwest. Unidentified armed men ambushed Cameroonian armed forces, killing one soldier. Four assailants were also killed.

13 September, Soueram, Fotokol, Far North. Boko Haram militants attacked a military post. 11 soldiers were killed and three others injured.

13 September, Kerawa, Far North. Boko Haram militants attacked and killed a pastor and his follower.

14 September, Bamenda, Northwest. Unidentified attackers kidnapped a local official and a journalist.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

06 September, Gutsi and Ndjaudha villages, Djugu, Ituri. Unidentified assailants attacked farmers. Two people were killed and six others kidnapped.

12 September, Luko, Djugu, Ituri. Unidentified armed men attacked IDPs camp. Six people were killed and seven others injured.

13 September, Lopka Village, Djugu, Ituri. Unidentified armed men attacked the village, killing two civilians and kidnapping several others. Several goods were also looted.

07 September, Lake Kivu, North kivu. An Indian Army officer, Gaurav Solanki, who was posted with the Indian contingent in the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC, had gone missing. He was found dead inside the Lake Kivu five days later.

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

02 September, Mogadishu. Presumed al-Shabaab militants carried out a car bomb blast targeting security officers at a checkpoint. The explosion was followed by an exchange of gunfire. Two civilians were killed and six people were injured including soldiers.

04 September, Bulo-burde town, Hiran. Al-Shabaab fighters attacked AU military base belonging to Djibouti peacekeepers, stirring a heavy gunfight between the two sides. No casualties were recorded. Following the attack, Djibouti soldiers arrested 17 people suspected to have links with al-Shabaab.

- 04 September, Shibis district, Mogadishu.** Al-shabaab gunmen shot and killed two Somali government soldiers in separate attacks.
- 05 September, near Afgoye town, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab fighters attacked a military convoy. Five people were killed - fatalities include unspecified number of security officials and al-Shabaab fighters.
- 05 September, Awdheghe town, Lower Shabelle.** A landmine targeting civilians working on sanitation near a military post exploded killing three people.
- 09 September, Garbaharey, Gedo.** Al-Shabaab militants attacked a police station. Three police officers and one civilian were killed. Three militants were also killed.
- 09 September, Mogadishu.** An IED planted in a car of a Somali police General exploded and injured him.
- 11 September, Warta Nabadda district, Mogadishu.** Three mortar shells targeted the presidential palace and a nearby residential area. One person was killed and three others wounded. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility, confirming it had targeted the presidential palace and Ethiopian Embassy.
- 11 September, Dinsor, Baidoa.** A landmine planted near a police station exploded, killing at least five people including two children and three soldiers and wounded others.
- 14 September, Hirshabelle.** Al-Shabaab militants ambushed Burundian troops serving with the AMISOM. 12 soldiers were killed and six others injured.
- 14 September, Bal'ad town, Middle Shabelle.** A roadside blast targeting a vehicle carrying senior officials killed five people, including Deputy Governor of Middle Shabelle region, *Abdullahi Sitawe*, a former Hirshabelle's Business Minister, *Sabriye Osman* and two bodyguards. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility.
- 14 September, Marka town, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab militants fired mortars during a visit by the Prime Minister of Somalia. One of the mortars landed in a residential area killing two women.
- 15 September, near Shalanbod town, Lower Shabelle.** Suspected al-Shabaab militants targeted a convoy carrying *Governor Najah* with a remote-controlled explosion. Two bodyguards were killed and four others were injured including two junior regional officials.
- 15 September, Qoryooley town, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab militants attacked the town using rocket propelled grenades and heavy machine guns, killing nine people.
- 15 September, Qoryooley town, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab militants attacked a military base. Somali security forces repelled the attack, killing 10 militants and injuring several others. Unspecified number of soldiers were also wounded.
- 15 September, Awdheghe town, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab militants attacked the town. Casualties were not immediately available.

15 September, Barrire, Lower Shabelle. Al-Shabaab militants attacked the town. No casualties reported.

NORTH AFRICA

EGYPT

14 September, Mahajar, el-Arish, Sinai Peninsula. Presumed IS affiliate insurgents attacked a checkpoint. Three soldiers were killed and two others injured. Three militants were also killed.

TUNISIA

08 September, Tozeur, Southwest Tunisia. Four individuals linked to IS attacked and wounded a police officer. They were all arrested.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

10 September, Miangueleua, Chitunda, Muidumbe, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified armed elements attacked a group of farmers in their fields. One person was killed with machete and another was shot and injured. Two women were kidnapped.

10 September, Quiterajo town, Macomia, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified armed elements attacked the town, burning a health post and 70 houses. One person was burned to death inside a house and a primary school was vandalized.

10 September, Quiterajo town, Macomia, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified armed elements ambushed a trader's truck. Two young men were kidnapped.

10 September, Macomboia, Cabo Delgado. Unidentified militiamen attacked a para-military camp, killing seven members of the riot police and burning three vehicles including an armored car.

BURKINA FASO

- 02 September, Tabgou village, Kantchari, Gourma.** Unidentified armed individuals executed the councilor of the village kidnapped the week before.
- 03 September, Babasso, Barani commune, Province.** Unidentified armed individuals attacked a communal councilor and attempted to assassinate him. His was severely injured.
- 05 September, Diomsogui, Kelbo, Soum.** Unidentified armed individuals ambushed Defense and Security forces. One soldier was killed and two others injured. Five assailants were also eliminated.
- 05 September, Anra, Arbinda, Soum.** Unidentified armed individuals attacked Koutougou populace while fleeing to Arbinda. No casualties reported.
- 06 September, Di village, Sourou.** Unidentified armed individuals assassinated a Dozo chief who was also a traditional healer.
- 06 September, Sono, Kossi.** Unidentified armed individuals attacked a forest station. One forest guard was killed.
- 07 September, Pobe Mengao, Soum.** Unidentified armed individuals shot dead the president of the Consumers League of Burkina Faso, Kadiogo section.
- 08 September, Banh, Yatenga.** Four soldiers were wounded in an attack on a patrol convoy.
- 08 September, between Guendbila and Barsalogho villages, Sanmatenga.** A public transport vehicle hit an IED. 15 people were killed and six others injured.
- 08 September, Kebo, Sanmatenga.** Unidentified armed elements opened fire at a food convoy of motorized tricycles, killing 14 people.
- 08 September, Kain, Yatenga.** Presumed jihadists attacked a group of Dozos, killing one and injuring another. Four assailants were also killed.
- 08 September, Loroum.** Unidentified assailants ambushed a military convoy. Four soldiers were injured.
- 09 September, Inata, Soum.** Unidentified armed elements ambushed a Gendarmerie detachment on patrol. Six Gendarmes were killed and four others missing.
- 09 September, Gondekoube village, Rollo, Bam.** Unidentified armed elements attacked the village, killing one civilian said to belong to the Koglweogo militia.
- 09 September, Pogoro village, Rollo, Bam.** Unidentified armed elements attacked the villages, killing two Koglweogo militia members.
- 10 September, Ambkaongo village, Tougouri, Namentenga.** Unidentified armed men attacked the village injuring many civilians. Several shops were burnt and two motorcycles taken away.
- 11 September, Baraboulé, Soum.** JNIM assailants ambushed a military detachment. Three soldiers were injured and several materials burnt.

11 September, Nassoumbou, Soum. JNIM assailants ambushed a military detachment. Two soldiers were killed and two others injured.

MALI

01 September, Saalo village, Bankass, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements stormed the village and killed the village chief.

02 September, Menaka. Presumed ISGS militants executed an Imam and two young people kidnapped on 25 August in Menaka town.

03 September, Banikane, Gourma-Rharous, Timbuktu. Unidentified gunmen kidnapped the mayor of the Banikane commune of Gourma-Rharous circle, along with his driver and two other people. The driver and the two passengers were released later but the mayor and his vehicle are missing.

03 September, Dallah, Douentza, Mopti. A civilian bus hit an IED. 15 passengers were killed and about 30 others injured. JNIM claimed the attack, and offered apologies to the victims, arguing that the intended target was the International Forces, including MINUSMA.

03 September, bancoma village, Ouenkoro, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements kidnapped a civilian identified as *El Hadji Hamadou Souleymane*.

04 September, Taryanda village, ansongo, Gao. Unidentified armed elements ambushed a FAMa vehicle. One soldier was killed and three others injured.

04 September, Douentza, Mopti. Unidentified armed elements intercepted a public transport bus and kidnapped four members of the Operational Mechanism of Coordination of armed groups. Their dead bodies were found few hours later.

04 September, Menaka town, Gao. Unidentified armed elements shot and wounded a man on a motorcycle.

04 September, Menaka town, Gao. Unidentified armed elements assassinated a man.

04 September, Etamber district, Kidal town, Kidal. Four armed assailants ambushed an MNLA vehicle and shot dead three MNLA members. JNIM claimed responsibility, accusing them of collaborating with International forces.

04 September, Douentza, Mopti. Unidentified armed men ambushed a bus and kidnapped 22 members of a military unit comprising mainly Tuareg ex-rebels and former members of armed pro-government groups, who were to be incorporated into the FAMa. No group has claimed the abduction.

05 September, Sevare and Bankass, Mopti. Unidentified armed men attacked two villages, killing six people.

07 September, Taboye, Gao. Unidentified armed elements ambushed a public bus, killing one person.

11 September, Dibla village, Timbuktu. Unidentified armed assailants ambushed an escort convoy of the FAMa with an IED and gunfire. One FAMa soldier was killed, four others wounded and two FAMa vehicles were set on fire. Two assailants were also eliminated.

11 September, Dioungani, Koro, Mopti. Armed assailants ambushed a patrol of the National Guard Forces. Two soldiers were killed, six others injured, while four are reported missing. A vehicle of the National Guard was also destroyed. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.

NIGER

03 September, Garin Wanzan, Bosso, Diffa. Boko Haram militants infiltrated an IDP camp and kidnapped the chief of Yebi village living in the camp.

NIGERIA

01 September, Gazarwa, Borno. Boko Haram militants attempted to plant an IED and engaged Nigerian troops in a gunfight. Three soldiers and two Boko Haram militants were killed. Eight soldiers were wounded.

04 September, Gajiram, Borno. ISWAP fighters attacked the town, killing two civilians. The militants burned part of the Divisional Police Headquarters and a telecommunications mast, and captured one police and four military vehicles.

05 September, Gajiram, Borno. ISWAP fighters engaged troops and police officers in a gun battle. Three soldiers and a policeman were killed. The fighters also seized five military vehicles including a mine-resistant armoured truck and a police van in the attack.

06 September, Boni Yadi, Yobe. ISWAP fighters ambushed Nigerian troops. Two soldiers were killed.

06 September, Kamuya village, Buratai, Borno. ISWAP militants ambushed a military convoy. Two soldiers were killed and three others injured.

08 September, Rijana village, Kachia, Kaduna. Unidentified armed men kidnapped seven people. The Troops of Operation Thunder Strike rescued them three days later and recovered two AK47, 130 rounds of ammunition, five magazines, two mobile phones, N100,000 and three camouflages.

09 September, Gudumbali, Borno. ISWAP fighters ambushed a military convoy. Nine soldiers were killed and 27 missing.

09 September, Garunda, Borno. ISWAP fighters struck a military position. 10 soldiers were killed and three others injured. Trucks and armored vehicles were destroyed, and nine vehicles, weapons and ammunition were captured.

12 September, Gubio, Maiduguri, Borno. ISWAP fighters aboard a dozen pickup trucks mounted with machine guns attacked the town killing six soldiers and the local head of the Civilian Joint Task Force. Several troops and militiamen were also said to be missing.

12 September, Gajigana, Maiduguri, Borno. ISWAP fighters stormed the town. Several buildings were torched. No casualties reported.

12 September, Gajiram, Maiduguri, Borno. ISWAP fighters stormed the town. Several buildings were torched. No casualties reported.

12 September, Magumeri, Maiduguri, Borno. ISWAP fighters stormed the town. Several buildings were torched. No casualties reported.

15 September, Maiduguri, Borno. A Boko Haram suicide bomber blew himself up inside a military lodging used by soldiers guarding the University of Maiduguri. A gunfight between the militants and security forces followed. One militant died in the explosion.

APPENDIX 3: COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE

01 September, Kaxarey, Busley and Baldof villages, Lower Juba, Somalia. Somali Security Forces launched an offensive against al-Shabaab militants that were ordering locals to pay taxes. Nine militants were killed.

01 September, Tumbum Rego, Borno, Nigeria. The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in collaboration with the national Air Task Force destroyed and neutralised equipment and terrorists of the ISWAP.

03 September, Jilib town, Middle Juba, Somalia. The US Africa Command conducted an airstrike against al-Shabaab and killed one militant.

03 September, Kasserine, Tunisia. Tunisia security forces during a search operation killed three top AQIM leaders. One soldier also died. One of the three alleged jihadists, identified as *El Behi Akrouf* and nicknamed *Abu Salma*, is thought to be a top leader of *Okba ibn Nafaa*, the Tunisian branch of AQIM.

04 September, Amba and Bonta villages, Douentza, Mopti, Mali. Two different FAMa patrols reportedly discovered two IEDs. A FAMa IED team neutralized the devices.

05 September, Bahariya oasis, Western desert of Egypt. Security forces killed six suspected jihadists in clearance operations.

05 September, Berkane and Nador, Berkhane Morocco. Security forces arrested five individuals belonging to Islamic State who were planning to join IS affiliates in the Sahelo-Saharan areas. They also destroyed sites for manufacturing IEDs.

05 September, Tamanrasset, Algeria. An Algerian army detachment discovered a cache of arms and ammunitions, containing 19 shells.

05 September, Boumerdes and Khenchla, Algeria. Algerian Armed Forces arrested three people suspected of supporting terrorist groups.

06 September, Tarkint, Bourem, Gao, Mali. A MINUSMA logistics convoy discovered and successfully destroyed two IEDs.

07 September, Tripoli, Libya. A jihadist identified as *Islam Saleh Hassan al-Hassadi (aka Barjum)* and member of *Ansar al-Sharia* was killed.

07 September, Tripoli, Libya. A former senior member of the *Benghazi Shura Council*, identified as *Salem-al-Zayani*, was killed in clashes between forces loyal to GNA and LNA forces.

07 September, Tripoli, Libya. A jihadist identified as *Al-Fitouri Nasr Muhamed Dabbashi* was killed. Since 2012, Dabbashi had been allegedly participating in fuel smuggling and trafficking of humans, arms and ammunition.

15 September, Tripoli, Libya. An alleged Ansar al-Sharia affiliate, *Yousef Abdul Salam Tarhouni (aka Yousef al-Akhab)* was killed during an aerial attack on the defunct Tripoli International Airport, along with four other alleged Benghazi Shura Council Members.