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

THE QUARTERLY
AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN
QATB

First Quarter

1stJanuary - 31st March2022

Edition No:001, April 2022

ABOUT AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

In line with its mandate to assist African Union (AU) Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) to 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, analyse, process, and disseminate information on terrorism-related incidents occurring in Africa. One of the products of this effort is the quarterly Africa Terrorism Bulletin (ATB) that is published by the Centre.

The Q-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 quarterly, on the trends of terrorism on the Continent.

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

ABOUT THE 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 (PoA) 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 Counterterrorism 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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SUMMARY

ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia; transformed to African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (*ATMIS*)
AMM	Africa Media Monitor
ANP	Armée Nationale Populaire
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AS	Al-Shabaab
ASWJ	Al Sunna WaJammah
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
GFSN	Groupement des Forces pour la sécurisation du Nord
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IS	Islamic State (co-called)
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 Ibn-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
SAMIM	SADC Mission in Mozambique
SNA	Somalia National Army
UNSMIL	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Libya
US	United States (of America)
VE groups	Violent Extremist groups

General Situation.1st January 2022 to 31st March 2022 recorded 379 terrorist attacks that resulted in over 2,824 deaths across Africa. In terms of monthly trend, March recorded the highest number of attacks and deaths compared to that of February and January, indicating progressive increments in terrorist attacks. March attacks of 147 are a 29% increase to January (114) and 25% increase to that of February (118). With respect to casualties, there was an increase in the number of deaths from terrorist attacks in March. While there were 654 deaths recorded in January and 878 deaths in February, 1,292 deaths were recorded in March, representing 98% and 47% increase to that of January and February respectively.

Countries Most Affected. The five countries most affected by terrorist attacks during the period were: Nigeria, DRC, Mozambique, Burkina Faso and Somalia (*in decreasing order*).

Targets of Terrorist Attacks. While 238 out of the 379 terrorist attacks were launched against Civilians, 120 targeted Military/Security Forces. 10 attacks targeted International Organizations and 6 attacks targeted Governmental Institutions/Officials. The attacks by Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, ADF/ISCAP, were mainly against Civilians, whilst JNIM, ISWAP and ISGS mostly targeted Military/Security Forces.

Weapons Used. The terrorist groups used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in 281 out of the 379 attacks and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were used in 68 of the attacks.

Deaths from Terrorists Attacks. 2,824 deaths were recorded during the period: 1,775 civilians, 491 Military/Security personnel and 558 terrorists.

Casualties Inflicted by Terrorist Groups. **ISGS** killed 232 persons (185 civilians, 46 Military/Security Forces); **Al-Shabaab** killed 204 persons (159 civilians, 45 Military/Security Forces); **ADF/ISCAP** killed 180 persons (179 civilians, 1 Military/Security Forces); **Boko Haram** killed 147 persons (132 civilians, 15 Military/Security Forces); **ISWAP** killed 102 persons (49 Civilians, 53 Military/Security Forces); **JNIM** killed 94 persons (9 civilians and 85 Military/Security Forces); **ASWJ** killed 69 persons (57 civilians and 12 Military/Security Forces); and other **IS affiliates** killed 59 persons (25 civilians, 34 Military/Security Forces). **Unknown groups** killed 1,183 persons (979 civilians, 182 Military/Security Forces).

Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups. Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, ISGS, ADF/ISCAP, and JNIM suffered highest number of casualties during the period.

Military/Security forces killed 452 of Al-Shabaab fighters, 234 members of Boko Haram and 117 ISGS terrorist members. Others ADF/ISCAP suffered 115 deaths, JNIM suffered 113 casualties and 103 members of ISWAP were killed. 803 members of other unknown groups were also killed.

Kidnapping. 24 cases of kidnappings were recorded. A total of 417 persons were taken hostage in Nigeria, Somalia, Mali and Cameroon, Egypt and DRC while 116 captives were released during the same period.

Focus on Epicentres. Out of the 379 terrorist attacks, the Sahel region recorded 97 attacks with 854 deaths, the Lake Chad Basin recorded 82 attacks with 794 deaths, the Great Lakes region accounted for 60 attacks and 552 deaths and Horn of Africa region accounted for 47 attacks with 310 deaths during the period.

High Profile Attacks.

- **02 February**, **Savo**, **Djugu**, **Ituri, DRC**. Armed men attacked the community killing 58 civilians and injuring another 36.

- **19 February, Shiroro and Munya, Niger, Nigeria.** Armed men suspected to be militants of Boko Haram attacked the villages. At least 52 people were killed, and 42 villagers kidnapped.

- **04 March, Mondoro, Mopti, Mali**. Armed men attacked military base killing 27 soldiers and injuring 33 others. Security forces in reprisal attack killed 70 terrorists. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.

- **09 March, Tamalat and Insinane, Menaka, Mali**. Armed men attacked the villages killing a total of 62 people, comprising 20 MSA members and 42 civilians. Security forces blamed the attack on ISGS.

- **23 March, Beledweyne, Hirshabelle, Somalia.** A car bomb exploded outside Beledweyne's main hospital where the injured in an earlier suicide bombing were being taken for treatment. At

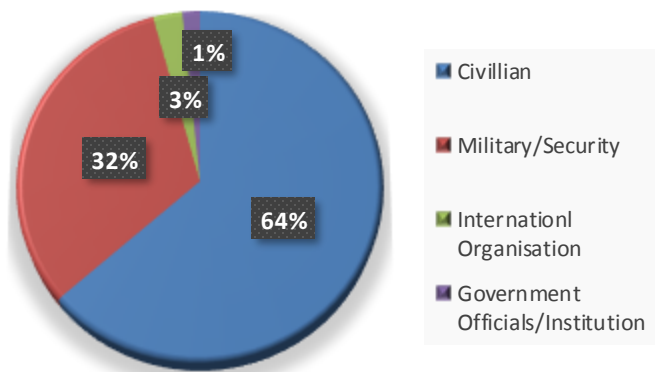least 48 people were killed, and 108 others injured. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.

Counter-Terrorism Response. CT operations resulted in neutralizing 2,011 terrorists. Four Military/Security Forces died during those operations across the continent.

Conclusions/Recommendations. There has been resurgence of terrorists and violent extremists' activities, resulting in continued devastating atrocities against civilians, security agencies, and critical infrastructures. The groups demonstrated cohesion and exhibited great capability of momentum along their mobility corridors and within the territory they control. Mobilising political will through sustainable financing and bolstering the morale of the deployed troops could help nib terrorism in the bud.

Type of Attacks

- SALW — 74%
- IED — 18%
- Mixed (SALW & IED) — 2%
- Kidnapping — 6%

Primary Targets of Attacks

- Civillian — 64%
- Military/Security — 32%
- Internationl Organisation — 1%
- Government Officials/Institution — 3%

Deaths per Category

- Civilian — 63%
- Military/Security — 17%
- Terrorist — 20%
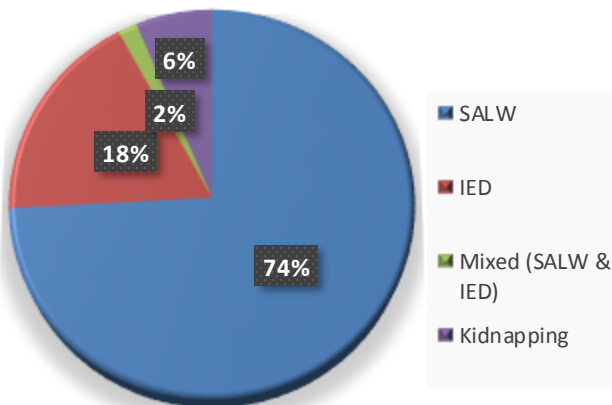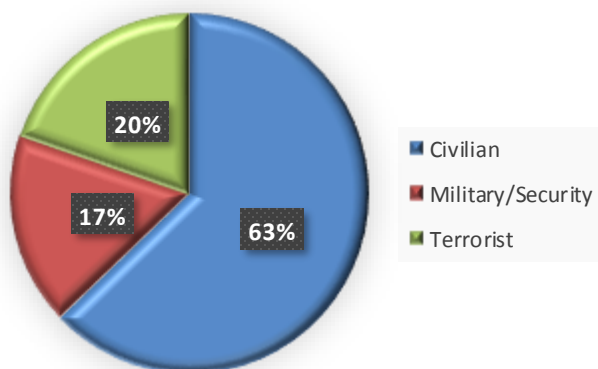
Regional Attacks & Deaths

	WEST AFRICA	CENTRAL AFRICA	SOUTHERN AFRICA	EAST AFRICA	NORTH AFRICA
Attacks	178	88	55	47	16
Deaths	1641	630	310	186	57
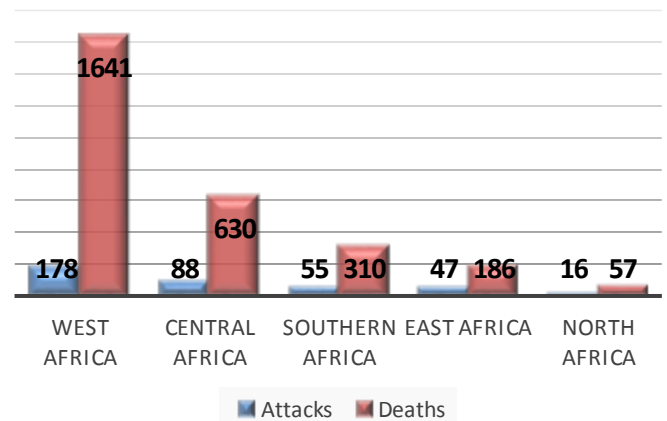
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Background: Terrorism, Insurgency, and violent extremism have continued to be the primary threats to peace, security, national stability, and development on the African continent. The geography of terrorism and insurgency in Africa has dramatically increased over the past decade, and in more particular the last five years. Regions that previously did not perceive the seriousness of the threat, or were considered to be immune from terrorism, have been targeted by terrorist groups. The threats have remained resolute both in intent and capability, with growing confidence and cohesion in the launching of devastating attacks on civilians, security forces, and critical infrastructure across the continent. The terrorism phenomenon has developed into a complex mix of ideology-driven acts of violence, transnational organized crime, and insurgency. This is manifested in the multiplicity of armed groups with varying motives and trajectories that are spreading and unleashing violence across the African continent.

Objective: The objective of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin is to provide a quarterly 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 open-source information collected and stored in the ACSRT Database, 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, the African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities and relevant Regional Mechanisms. In the framework of its Continental Counter-Terrorism Early Warning System (ACSRT CT-CEWS), information for the Database is collected by the ACSRT Situation-Room using the Africa Media Monitor (AMM) developed in collaboration with the African Union Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) Situation-Room in the AU Commission and the European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) for advanced web mining and information extraction. With the AMM, the ACSRT Situation Room scans and accesses over 1400 websites 24/7 and retrieves real time open-source information on terrorist incidents. The Centre also stores terrorism-related information received from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and relevant Regional Mechanisms (RMs) based on existing cooperation agreements. 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 National and Regional Focal Points. The Focal Points are the institutions in AU Members and RECs/RMs 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

Across the continent, there has been resurgence of terrorists and violent extremists' activities, resulting in continued devastating atrocities against civilians, security agencies, military establishment, and critical infrastructures. From the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) to the Sahel Region and West Africa, from the East and Horn of Africa to the Great Lakes Region, and from the North Africa and the Maghreb to the Southern Africa Region, terrorist and violent extremist groups escalated the level of the complexity and sophistication of attacks. The groups demonstrated cohesion and dexterity and exhibited great capability of momentum along their mobility corridors and within the territory they control. As a result, terrorist groups continued to expand their geographical reach beyond areas they originally operated. The persistent attacks in Northern Benin, the expansion of Boko Haram activities into Niger State, the resurgence of Islamic State atrocities in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, the devastating complex attacks of Al-Shabaab in Somalia and in *Lamu*, *Mandera* and *Garissa* counties of Kenya, the expansion of Separatist attacks into Far North Region of Cameroon, the renewed sophisticated attacks against security forces by ADF/ISCAP in the *North Kivu* and *Ituri* Provinces coupled with Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that could lead to Terrorism (VERLT) activities in North Kivu, *South Kivu* and the Ituri Provinces of DRC, and the resurgence of IS linked ASWJ attacks in the Northern Province of Mozambique lend credence to the resurgence of terrorist attacks across Africa.

In comparison to the same period in 2021, the first quarter (Q1) of 2022 witnessed a decrease in the number of terrorist attacks but a sharp increase in total number of deaths recorded for the period. the Same period in 2021 registered 455 attacks that resulted in 1,779 deaths, while Q1 2022, however recorded 379 attacks that resulted in a total death of 2,824. When comparing the preceding period to the current, there was a decline of 20% in terrorist attacks, but a sharp increase of 37% in number of deaths. The pattern relating to primary targets, category of deaths and type of attacks remain the same in both periods.

Sahel Belt of West Africa. The Sahel region registered a total of 97 attacks and 854 resultant deaths. Attacks were registered in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. The complexity of attacks within the tri-border area of Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger, and in particular *Liptako-Gourma* contributed largely to the state of sophistication of terrorist activities in the Sahel. Terrorist groups including ISGS, JNIM, ISWAP, and Boko Haram are the active group within the period. The complexity of attacks and the resultant lethality could conveniently be linked to the political instability in the Sahel, and to a larger extent the announcement of the redeployment of troops involved in the operation *Barkhane* and the slow deployment of *Task-Force-Takuba*. Terrorist and violent extremist groups often take advantage of the security vacuum and intensify their operations. These incidences have created security vacuum and bolstered the moral of terrorist groups resulting in their freedom of movement.

Terrorist and violent extremist groups are spreading their attacks into Coastal West Africa and establishing footholds in countries they originally did not operate. Northeast Benin became a centre of attraction for terrorist activities within Q1. *Alibori*, *Tanguieta*, *Yangoli*, and *Kandi* communities located in *Atacora* Department as well as *W-Arly* and *Pendjari* National Parks were attacked within the period. For example, on 8 February 2022, at the *W National Park*, located at *Kandi*, Northern Benin, armed men ambushed the park's patrol team with IEDs killing nine people, including five park rangers, two park officials, a soldier, and a French trainer. Twelve others were injured. Macina Liberation Force (MLF) - an affiliate of JNIM - is suspected to having carried out the attack. Two days after, on the 10 February 2022, also at the **W National Park,** a reconnaissance patrol team was hit by an IED killing one park official. The increasing violence in **Burkina Faso** concentrated mainly across *Namentenga*, *Sanmatenga*, *Soum* and *Gourma* provinces in the northern part of the country. Armed men attacking mining site became prominent, and security forces as well as Volunteers for the Defense of the Fatherland (VDP) bore the brunt of terrorist attacks. The growing discontent with the Dozos Self-Defence militia, reportedly harassing and looting civilians appear to generate

some insecurity among the local population. In **Niger** the growing violence continues to plunge around *Tillaberi* and *Diffa* regions and to a lesser extent Tera region. While ISGS and JNIM launched attack on civilians and security forces alike in the Tillaberi and *Tera* regions, Boko Haram and its offspring ISWAP caused devastating harm to the local population in the Diffa region. In **Mali,** ISGS and JNIM militants attacked several localities in *Mopti*, *Gao*, *Timbuktu*, *Menaka*, and *Ansongo* regions. On 04 March 2022, JNIM militants attacked a military base killing 27 soldiers and injuring 33 others, the most complicated and sophisticated attack in recent times. Political instability, the announced redeployment of the French Barkhane, the slow deployment of the European Special Forces Task Force and the alleged presence of the Russian Private Military Company (PMC), Wagner Group, appear to make the population vulnerable and sympathetic towards terrorist groups. This could aggravate the already deteriorating security.

Lake Chad Basin. The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) region registered 82 terrorist attacks that led to 794 deaths during the period. Terrorism activities in the region were dominated by Boko Haram, ISWAP, and Anglophone Separatist Group from Cameroon. However, within the LCB the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) as well as National Armies of Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon have considerably degraded the capacities of Boko Haram and ISWAP in their areas of operation. The analysis of the unfolding situation in the LCB showed that there is likely to be a potential leadership crisis in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism due to the fractured and weak political leadership particularly following the demise of the Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno who was considered as a stabilizing force in the region. This leadership crisis could further weaken the capacity of States, especially military capabilities, currently manifesting in the diminishing momentum and optimism in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism.

Armed Separatists, who originally operated in the North-West and South-West Regions of **Cameroon**, expanded their violence activities into the Far North Region of the country, where Boko Haram have operated for long. Civilian communities in the Far North region bore the brunt of attacks by Boko Haram and Separatists Movement. In **Chad**, terrorist attacks were on the low. On 22February 2022, in the *Kaiga Kindjiria* community located in *Lago Chade*, five soldiers were killed, and five others were injured in an attack by Boko Haram. While terrorist activities have been low in recent times, violent protests in parts of the country including *Abéché* city in *Ouaddaï* region could be exploited by violent extremist and terrorist groups. Persistent unrests create a favourable environment for terrorist and violent extremists to exploit the situation. **Nigeria** was the most affected in the region and across the continent. The Northeastern states of *Yobe* and *Borno* were heavily attacked by Boko Haram and ISWAP. ISWAP carried out complex attacks involving the use of IEDs against security forces in Borno. Boko Haram, having lost much of its operational corridors in the LCB have expanded its activities into North-central state of Niger. On 19 February, Boko Haram attacked *Shiroro* and *Munya* villages in Niger State killing 52 villagers and kidnapping 42 others. The growing insurgency and banditry in Northwestern states of *Kaduna*, *Katsina*, and *Zamfara* continued unabated. However, in January 2022, the Central Government of Nigeria succeeded in its efforts of listing the banditry in the Northwest as terrorist acts. This was in line with the government bid to stem the violence that have bedevilled that part of the country for years.

East and Horn of Africa. The East and Horn of Africa region recorded 41 attacks resulting in 310 deaths. Al-Shabaab remains the most active terrorist group with occasional attacks from the Islamic State in Somalia (ISS). The technological capabilities of Al-Shabaab to manufacture sophisticated IEDs have aided the group to perpetrate complex attacks which clearly manifested during the period under review. Pre-deployment CT training and counter-IED training for the deployed troops serving under the African Union Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) as well as the various National Armies in the region appears to be a strategic approach to degrading the IED manufacturing capabilities of Al-Shabaab.

In **Kenya**, the frequency of terrorist attacks within *Lamu*, *Mandera* and *Garissa* Counties on the border with

Somalia has been alarming. Al-Shabaab continues to target civilians, government officials and security personnel. In Garissa County, suspected Al-Shabaab militants ambushed and killed four police officers on 10 January 2022 while on 31 January 2022 a minibus ran over explosive device in Mandera County resulting in 13 deaths. Longstanding intercommunal conflicts between Kikuyu and Swahili communities had also worsened owing to elections for Lamu County governor. **Somalia** experienced increased violence emanating from election crisis with al-Shabaab exploiting the situation targeting politicians, disrupting elections preparations and voting. Several mortar rockets were fired at different places in Barawe city including voting centres, killing four people. While the Somalia National Army (SNA) and troops of AMISOM/ATMIS have recorded some counter terrorism operational successes against the group, the attacks from the group have been widespread across the country, and the capital Mogadishu has not been spared. Notably, on 23 March 2022 in *Beledweyne*, *Hirshabelle*, al-Shabaab exploded a car bomb outside the main hospital where the injured in an earlier suicide bombing were being taken for treatment, 48 people were killed, and 108 others injured. It also launched an attack at *Halane* Airport in Mogadishu killing seven including five foreign nationals.

The Great Lakes and Central Africa Regions. Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that could Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) is a major concern in this part of Africa, as many rebel groups, separatist movements and violent extremist groups are present in countries including Central African Republic (CAR), Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In **CAR**, more than 30 people were killed including security officials in various attacks perpetrated by violent extremist groups in areas such as *Ouaka*, *Ippy* and *Mbomou*. In **Cameroon**, Anglophone Separatist group attacked security posts and perpetrated several Kidnappings in South-West and North-West Regions.

Majority of the terrorist attacks recorded in the region were registered in the **DRC.** The country recorded 60 attacks that led to 552 deaths. Although the three provinces of *Ituri*, South-Kivu and North-Kivu were the hotspot of violence in the DRC, Ituri during the period recorded the most despicable attacks from both ADF and violent extremist groups. From 13-14 March 2022 ADF killed 52 civilians in four villages of *Irumu* territory in Ituri province, the armed men attacked *Djugu* territory in Ituri on 02 February killing 58 civilians, injuring 36 others. The presence of the Ugandan troops since the beginning of December 2021, to bolster efforts of bringing stability in eastern DRC, reportedly made significant progress by gaining grounds in areas where ADF violence was rampant along the Uganda-Congo border. On 24 December 2021 the Ugandan forces in collaboration with FARDC, seized *Kambiya Yua* camp - a stronghold of ADF located in *Virunga* Forest along Ituri-North Kivu boundary.
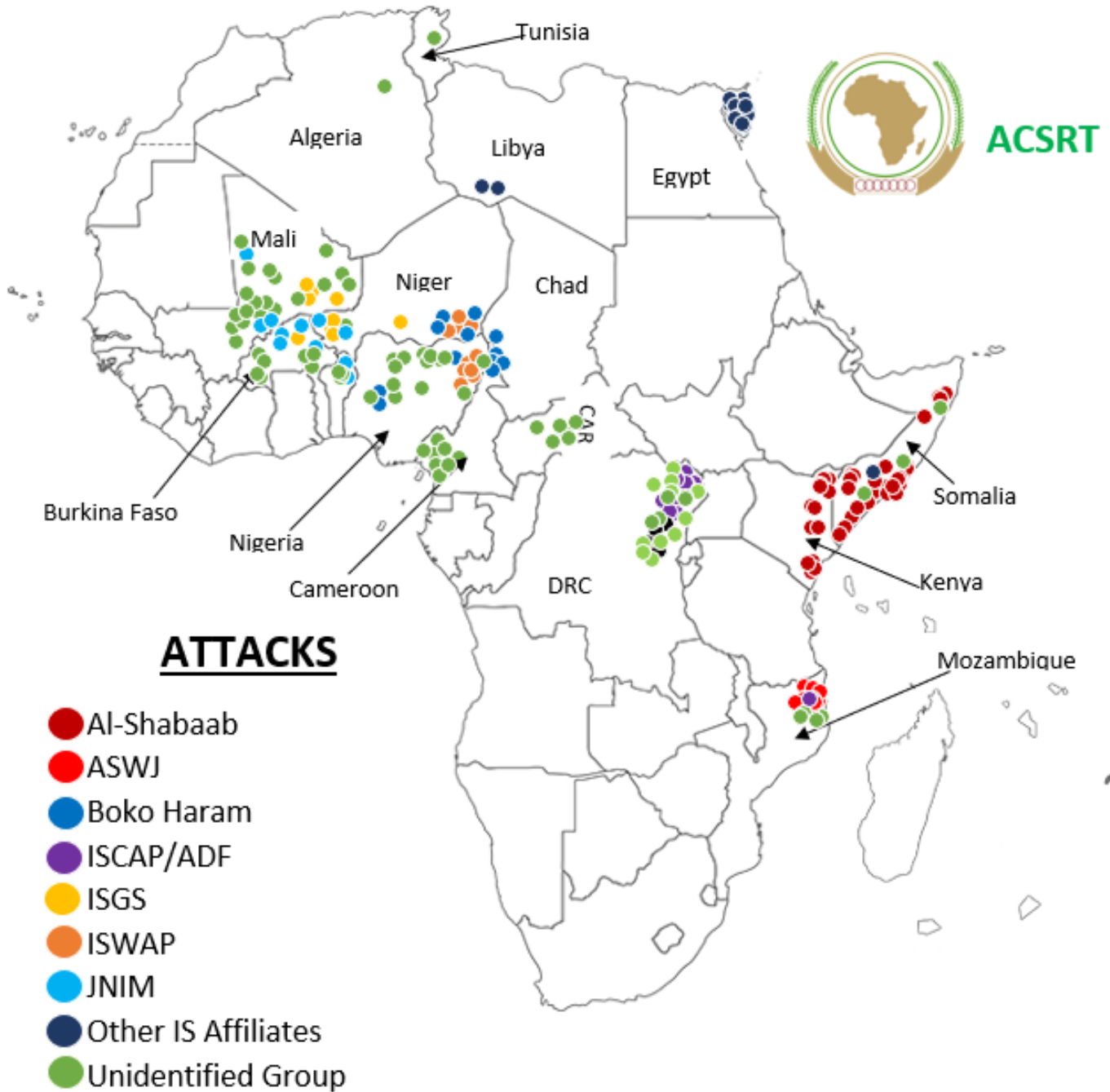
North Africa and the Maghreb. There is resurgence of Islamic State (IS) activities across the region. The region recorded 16 attacks that resulted in 57 deaths. **Algeria**, which has so far been successful in its strategic counter terrorism operation, was attacked. On January 28, 2022, three Algerian Soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack between the town of *Timiaouine* and *Bordj Badji Mokhtar*, a village along the border with Mali. That notwithstanding, destruction of terrorist cells and arresting of terrorist elements continued. There is a possible resurgence by IS in the Sinai Peninsula of **Egypt**. The Sinai recorded strings of attacks on Army troops and tribal figures. Five army troops were killed in *Baer Al-Abd* on 25 January 2022. The Sinai Peninsula has been relatively calm for several months. The Egyptian Army has succeeded in significantly weakening the group, which has been translating into the failure by IS elements to launch significant attacks in Sinai for several months now. Nevertheless, the latest attacks and kidnappings give rise to fears that IS could escalate its atrocities in this part of the country. The Libyan National Army (LNA) continues to battle IS cells in southern **Libya**, amid repeated attacks from IS in different parts of Libya. On 24 and 26 January 2022, IS claimed responsibility for two separate attacks that killed five security forces in South-West Libya.In **Tunisia**, a suspected armed terrorist opened fire on police near National Guard Barracks located in *Kairouan* on 20 March. Security forces repulsed the attack, and no casualty was

recorded.

Southern Africa Region. Terrorism in the region is predominantly dominated by Islamic State (IS) linked Al Sunnah Wal-Jummah (ASWJ) operating in the northern Mozambique Province of *Cabo Delgado* with spillovers into southern Tanzania. The region recorded 55 terrorist attacks and 186 resultant deaths. All the attacks took place in Mozambique. On 16 March 2022 in *Matemo Island*,ASWJ terrorists who disguised themselves as security forces attacked the town, killing nine people comprising seven Mozambican security forces and two pro government militia. Security forces repulsed the attack killing 20 terrorists. The Islamic State-Central claimed responsibility for a series of attacks during the period, indicating the operational alliances between the two groups. The nine months of foreign military intervention in Mozambique, from the Rwandan and the SADC Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) forces have considerably weakened the terrorist front. However, the terrorists continue to enjoy some momentum. In the early months of foreign military intervention violence seemed to decline with troops seizing territories, destroying terrorist hideouts, and releasing hostages. However, the first quarter of 2022 has witnessed a leap in violence spilling rapidly into Cabo Delgado. The defeat of terrorists in Northern Mozambique is crucial for the peace and stability of the entire Southern African Region. If the terrorist groups succeed in Mozambique, the group can use the country as a launch pad to attack other countries in the region. Mobilising the political will to contain the terrorist threats in Cabo Delgado should, therefore, attract the attention of political leadership in the region.

AFRICA TERRORISM INCIDENTS MAP: FROM 01 JAN -31 MAR. 2022

ATTACKS

- Al-Shabaab
- ASWJ
- Boko Haram
- ISCAP/ADF
- ISGS
- ISWAP
- JNIM
- Other IS Affiliates
- Unidentified Group

Map 1: Terrorism Attacks from 1st January to 31st March 2022: Source: ACSRT Database, 2020

1. Total Number of Terrorist Attacks:

A total of 379 terrorism and violent extremism incidentsincluding24 cases of kidnapping were recorded from 1stJanuary to 31st March.

Figure 1: Trend in Terrorist Attacks: Jan.- Mar. 2022

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	TOTAL ATTACKS
114	118	147	379
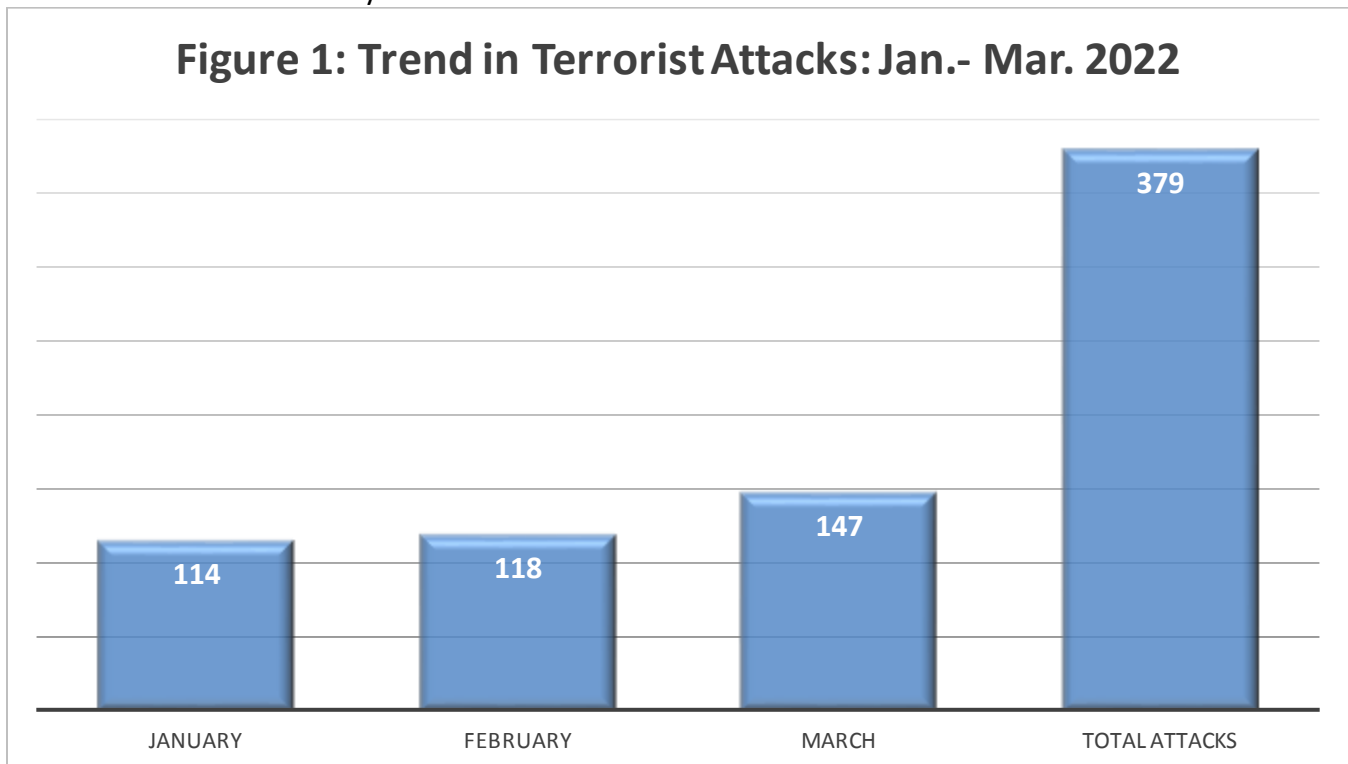
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

2. Terrorist Attacks by Region

Figure 2: Percentage per Region

- West Africa: 46%
- Central Africa: 23%
- Southern Africa: 15%
- East Africa: 12%
- North Africa: 4%
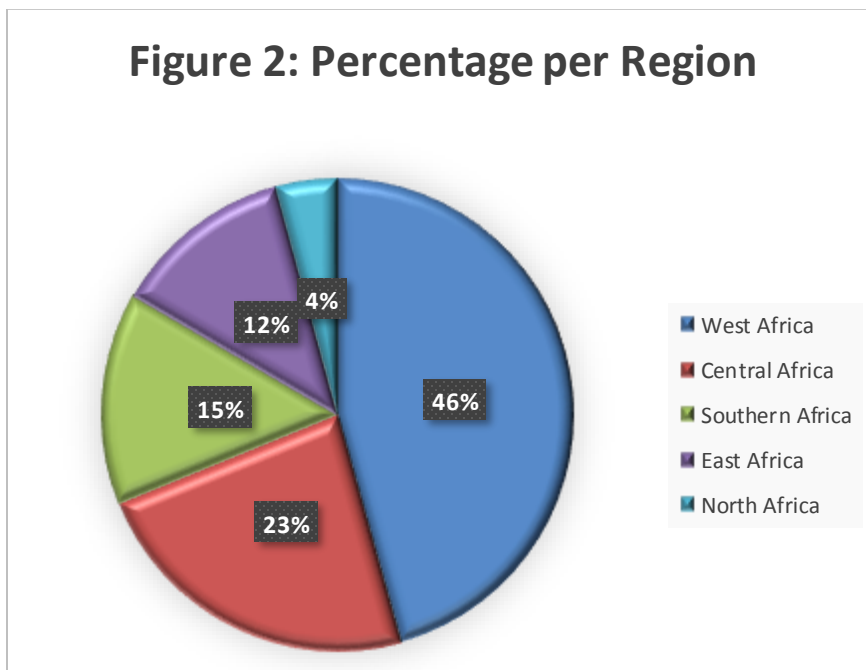
Number of Attacks per Region:

- West Africa: **173**
- Central Africa:**88**
- Southern Africa: **55**
- East Africa:**47**
- North Africa: **16**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

3. Trends in Regional Terrorist Attacks

Figure 3: Trends in Regional Attacks
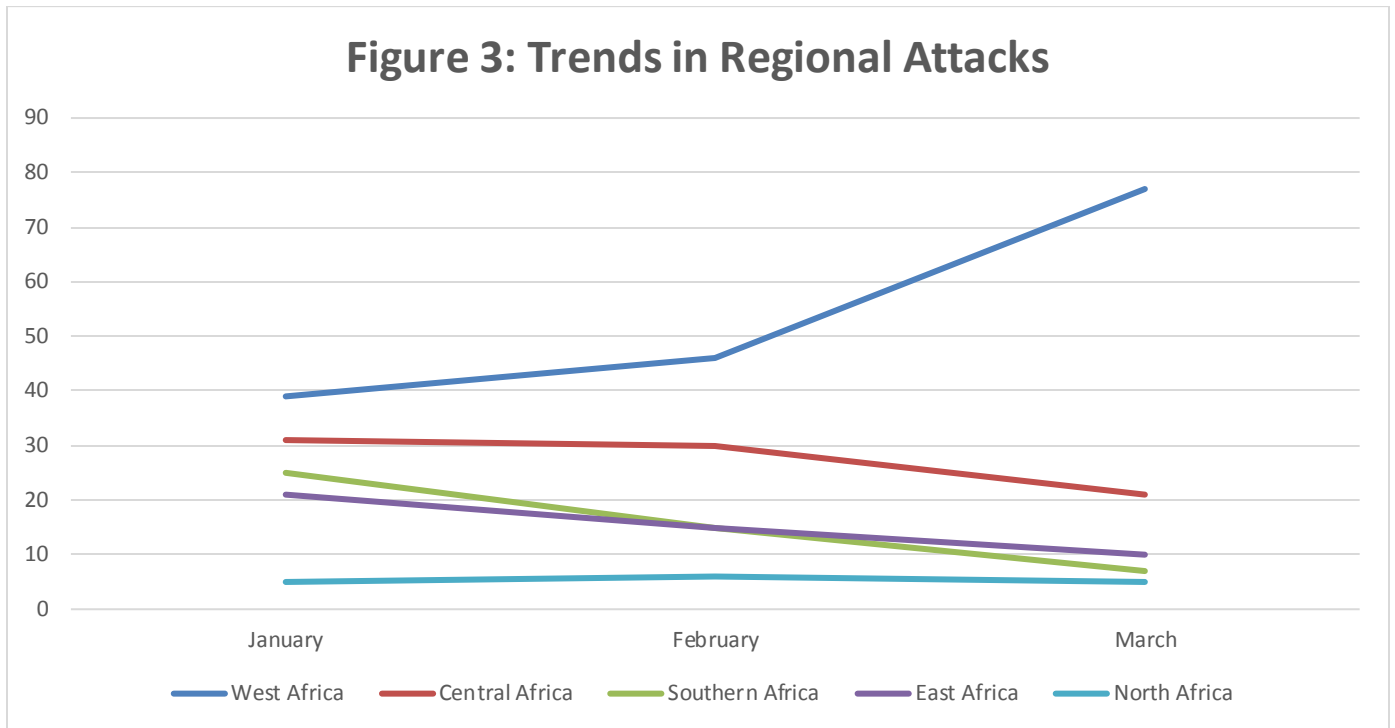
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

4. Typeof Attacks

Figure 2: Percentage per type of Attacks
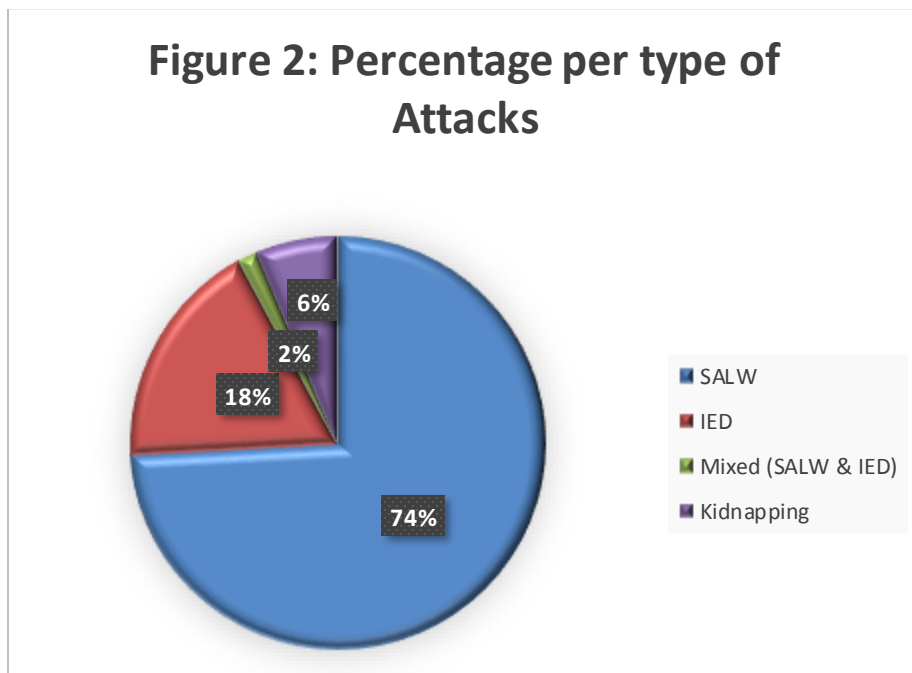
Type of Attacks:

- ➢ SALWs: **281**

- ➢ IEDs: **68**

- ➢ Mixed (IED&SALW): **06**

- ➢ Kidnapping:**24**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022
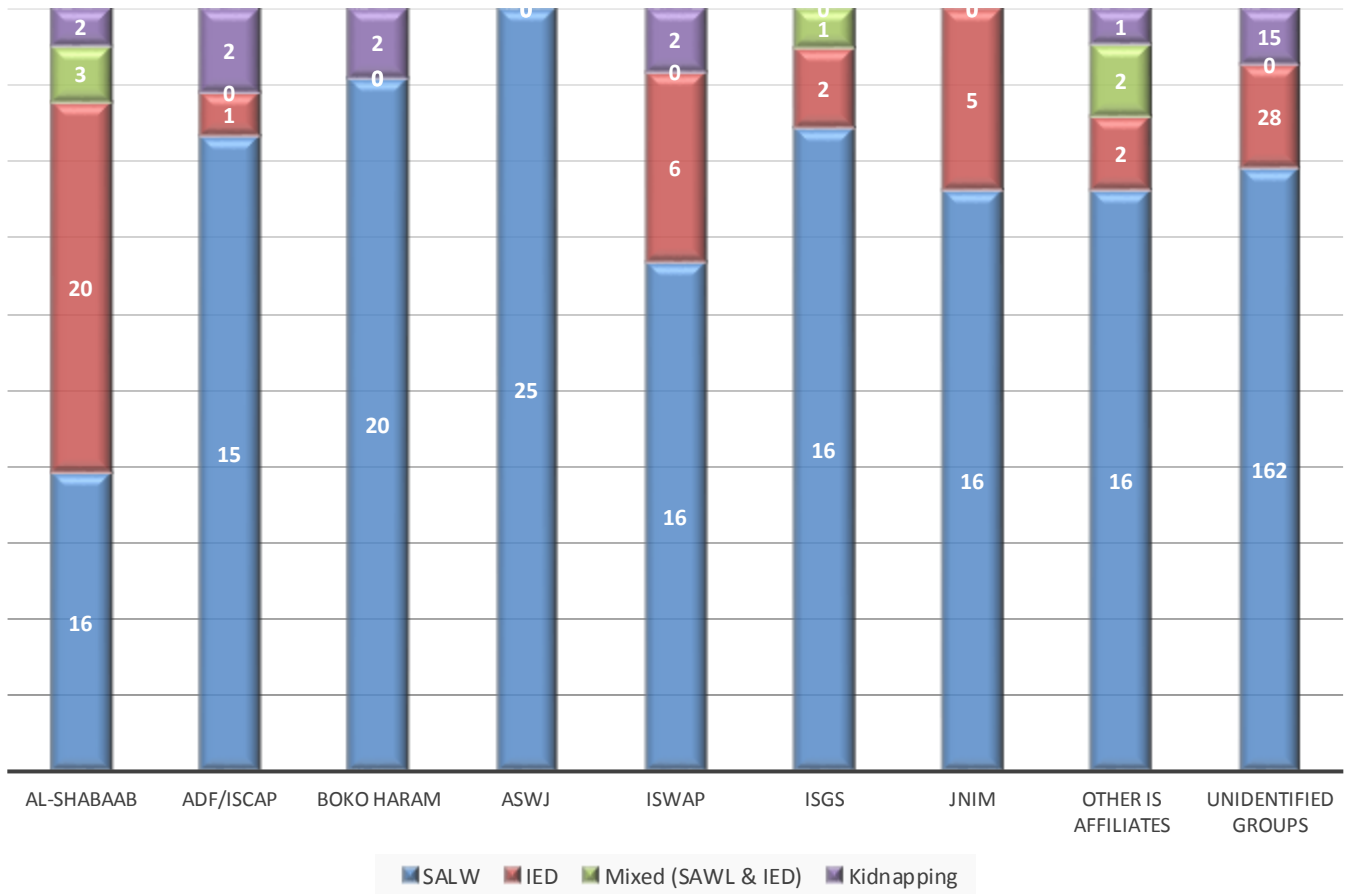
5. Type of Attacks by Terrorist Groups

Table 1: Types of Attacks by TerroristGroups

Terrorist Group	SALW	IED	Mixed	Kidnapping	Comments
Al-Shabaab	16	20	3	2	Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) constituted the major means of attack by Al-Shabaab for the period under review. Twenty out of the 41 attacks were done using IEDs, 16 SAWL, 2 kidnappings
ADF/ISCAP	15	1	-	2	ADF carried out 18 attacks using 15SALWs, one IED and is responsible of two kidnappings.
Boko Haram	20	-	-	2	Boko Haram carried out 20 attacks using nine SALWs and one IED.
ASWJ	25	-	-	-	All attacks by the IS linked ASWJ were carried out using SALWs.
ISWAP	16	6	-	2	ISWAP carried out 16attacks using SAWL and another six-attack using IED.
ISGS	11	2	1	-	ISGS attacks are predominately carried out using SALWs. Eleven out of the 14 attacks were SALW
JNIM	10	5	-	-	JNIM attacks are predominately carried out using SALWs. Ten out of the 15 attacks were SALW
Other IS Affiliates+	8	2	2	1	Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) constituted majority of means of attacks by other IS affiliates.
Unidentified Groups*	162	28	-	15	Unidentified groups used SALWs in majority of the attacks. In 137 out of 177 attacks by these groups, SALWs were used. They used IEDs in 28 attacks. They were also responsible for 12 cases of kidnappings.
TOTAL	**281**	**68**	**6**	**24**	

+ Other Islamic State (IS) Affiliates are all splinter IS affiliated groups mainly operating in the North Africa Region including Sinai Peninsula (IS-SP- Egypt) and Southern Libya.

* Unidentified Groups are all terrorist attacks carried out by the various known terrorist groups operating in Africa, but either did not claim responsibility for the attacks, or security forces did not attribute the attack to any group. Even though, the attacks might have taken place in an operational theatre of a known terrorist group, without claiming of responsibility by the group or attribution by Security Forces or ACSRT Analysts, it is left as Unidentified Groups. In addition, Violent Extremists groups such as Separatists in the Anglophone Region of Cameroon, Banditry activities in North Western Nigeria, whose attacks have been conveniently classified as terrorist act by the Member States concerned are captured under Unidentified Groups.
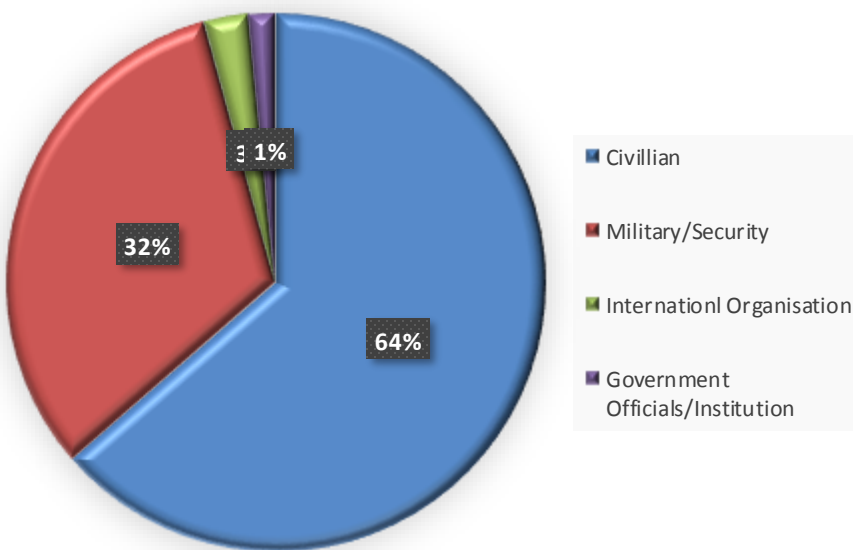
Figure 5: Types of Attacks by Terrorist Groups

Group	SALW	IED	Mixed (SAWL & IED)	Kidnapping
AL-SHABAAB	16	20	3	2
ADF/ISCAP	15	1	0	2
BOKO HARAM	20	0		2
ASWJ	25			0
ISWAP	16	6	0	2
ISGS	16	2	1	0
JNIM	16	5		0
OTHER IS AFFILIATES	16	2	2	1
UNIDENTIFIED GROUPS	162	28	0	15

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

6. Primary Targets

Figure 6: Primary Targets of Attacks

- Civillian — 64%
- Military/Security — 32%
- Internationl Organisation — 3%
- Government Officials/Institution — 1%

Primary Targets

➤ Civilians: **238**

➤ Military/Security Forces: **120**

➤ International Organization: **10**

➤ Government Institutions/Officials:**06**
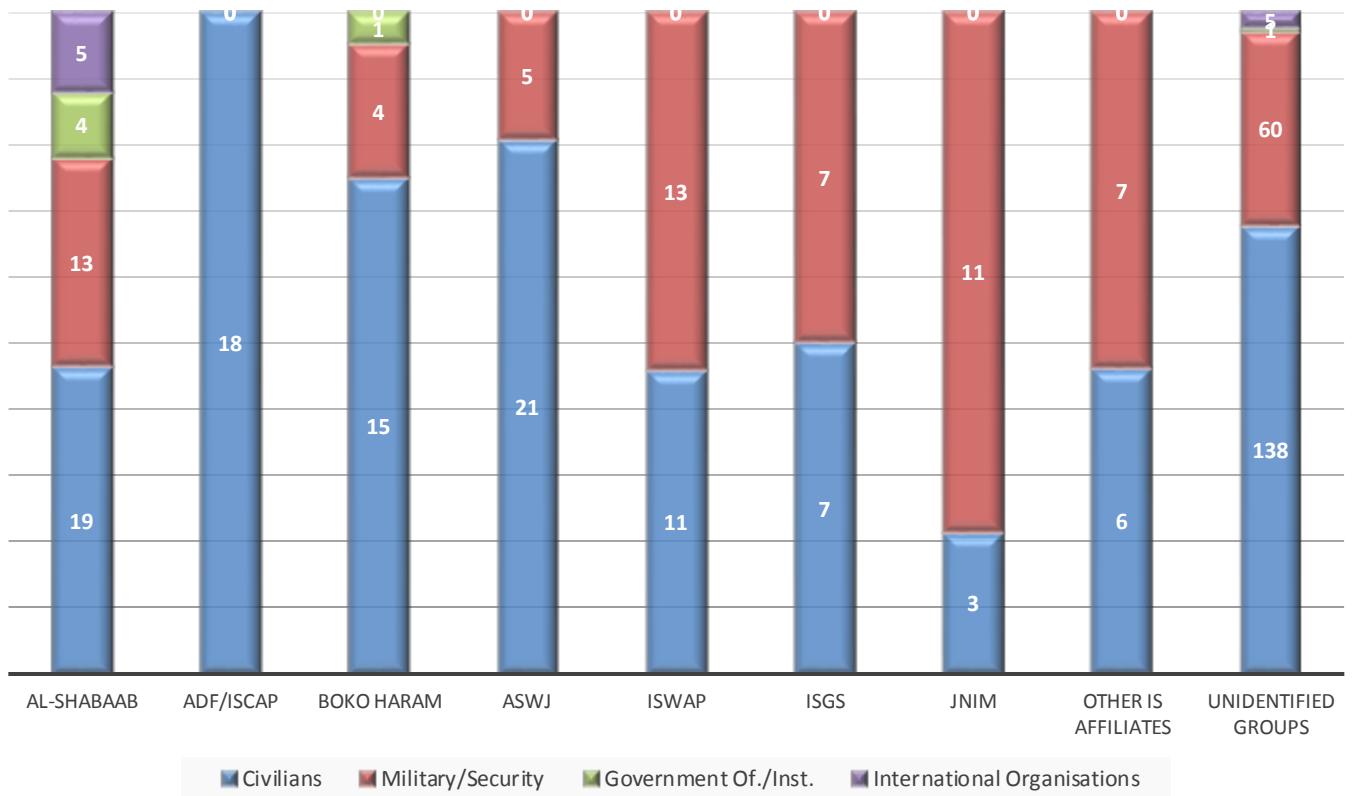
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

7. Terrorist and Groups and their Primary Targets

Table 2: Details of Terrorist groups and their Primary Targets

Terrorist Groups	Civilians	Military/ Security	Gov't Inst./ Of.	Int. Org.	Comments
Al-Shabaab	19	13	4	5	Al-Shabaab carried out 19 attacks against civilians, 13 attacks against Military/Security Forces. They also carried out 4 attacks against Government Institutions/Officials, while 5 attacks on international organizations including ATMIS (AMISOM).
ADF/ISCAP	18	-	-	-	Civilians bore the brunt of all attacks perpetrated by ADF/ISCAP in Eastern DRC.
Boko Haram	15	4	1	-	Civilians were the major targets of Boko Haram attacks, as 15 out of the groups 20 attacks targeted civilians
ASWJ	21	5	-	-	Civilians in local communities were the major targets of IS linked ASWJ attacks, as 21 out of the groups 26 attacks targeted civilians
ISWAP	11	13	-	-	Unlike Boko Haram, Majority of ISWAP attacks targeted Military and Security Forces. Thirteen attacks targeted Military/security while 11 targeted civilians.
ISGS	7	7	-	-	ISGS attack was against both security and civilians. An equal number of 7 attacks were recorded against each category of people.
JNIM	3	11	-	-	JNIM focused majority of its attacks during the period on Military and other security forces. A total of 11 out of the 14 attacks of the group targeted military/security.
Other IS Affiliates	6	7	-	-	Other IS Affiliatescarried out sixattacks against civilians and 7 attacks against Military/Security Forces.
Unidentified groups	138	60	1	5	Attacks for which no group claimed responsibility mostly targeted civilians. 118 out of 177 attacks targeted civilians; 51 targeted Military/Security Forces, one targeted Government Institutions/Officials and five targeted International Organizations.
TOTAL	238	120	6	10	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

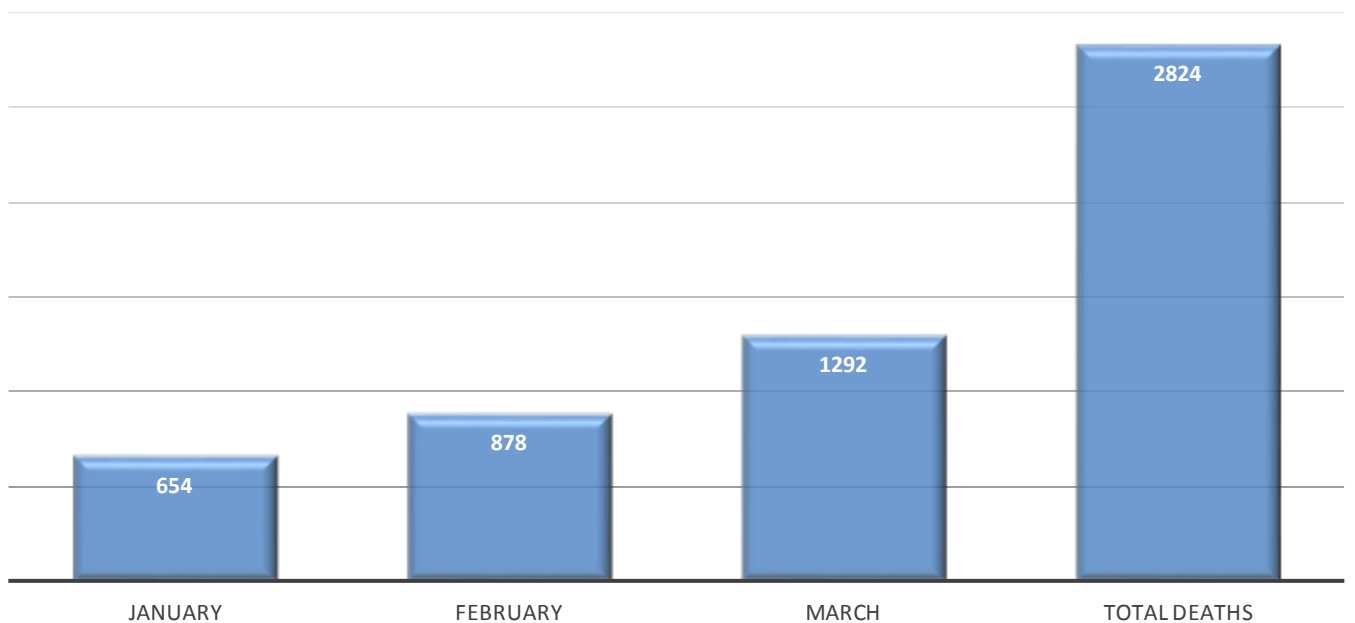## Figure 7: Terrorist groups and their Primary Targets
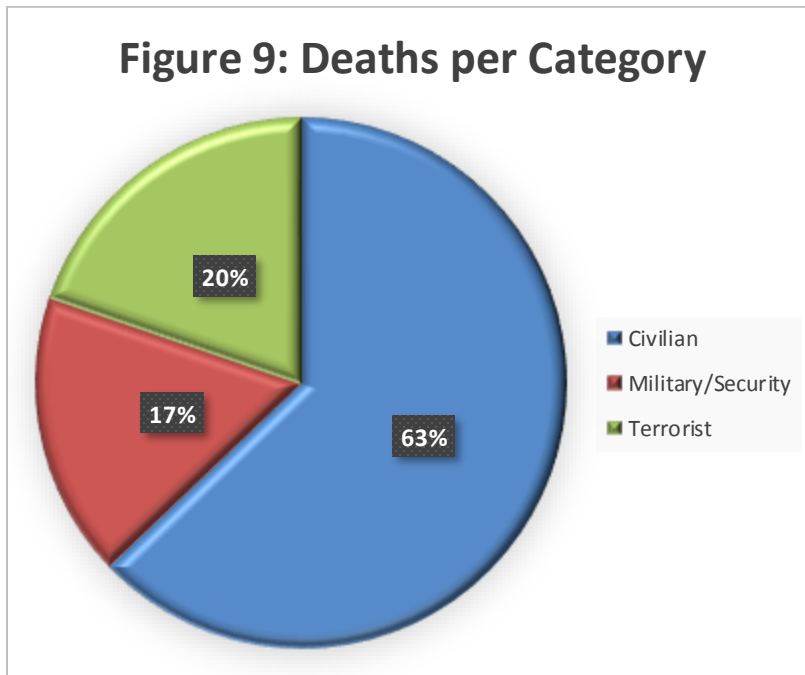

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

8. Total Deaths

A total of 2,824 terrorism related deaths were recorded from the 379 terrorist attacks from 1st January to 31st March. Also, 564 people were injured during the attacks.

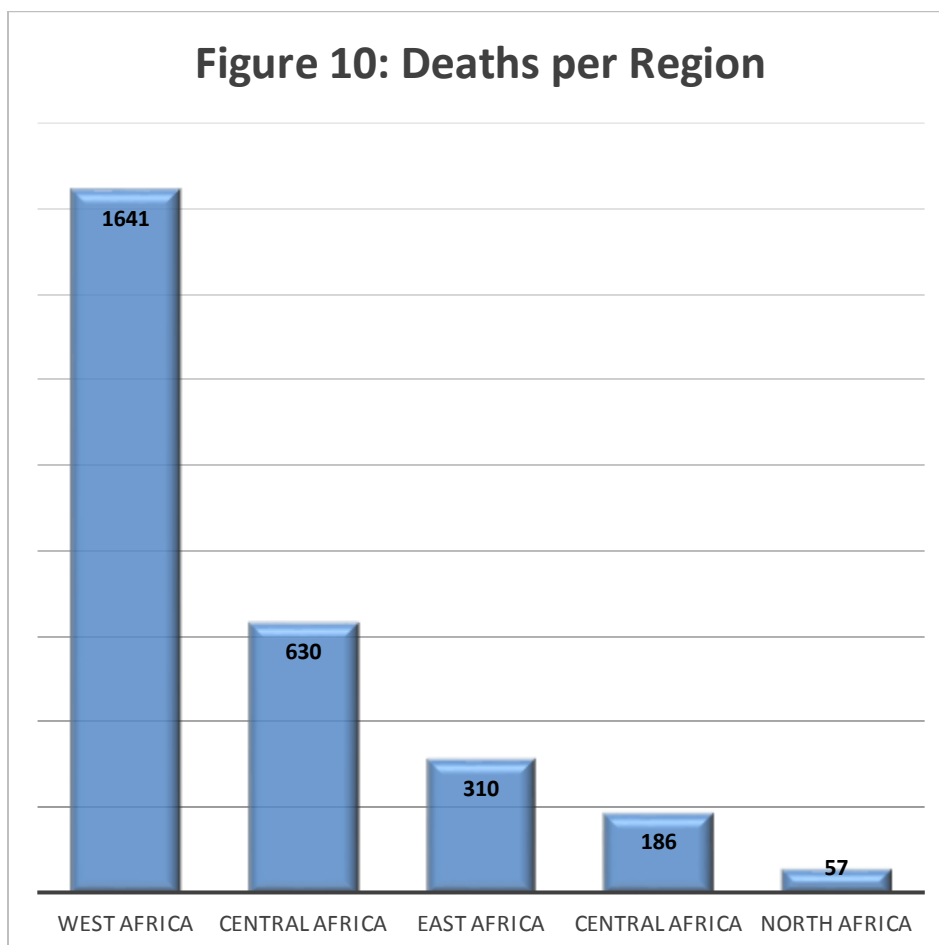## Figure 8: Trend in Terrorism Related Deaths

9. Deaths per Category

Figure 9: Deaths per Category

- Civilian
- Military/Security
- Terrorist

Deaths per Category

- ➤ Civilians: **1,775**
- ➤ Military/Security Forces: **491**
- ➤ Terrorists: **558**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

10. Deaths Per Region

Figure 10: Deaths per Region

| WEST AFRICA	CENTRAL AFRICA	EAST AFRICA	CENTRAL AFRICA	NORTH AFRICA
1641	630	310	186	57

Percentage of Deaths per Region

- **West Africa** recorded **58%**
- **Central Africa** recorded the highest number of deaths accounting for **22%**.
- **East Africa** recorded **11%** of deaths.
- **Southern Africa** recorded **7%** of deaths.
- **North Africa** recorded less than **2%** of deaths

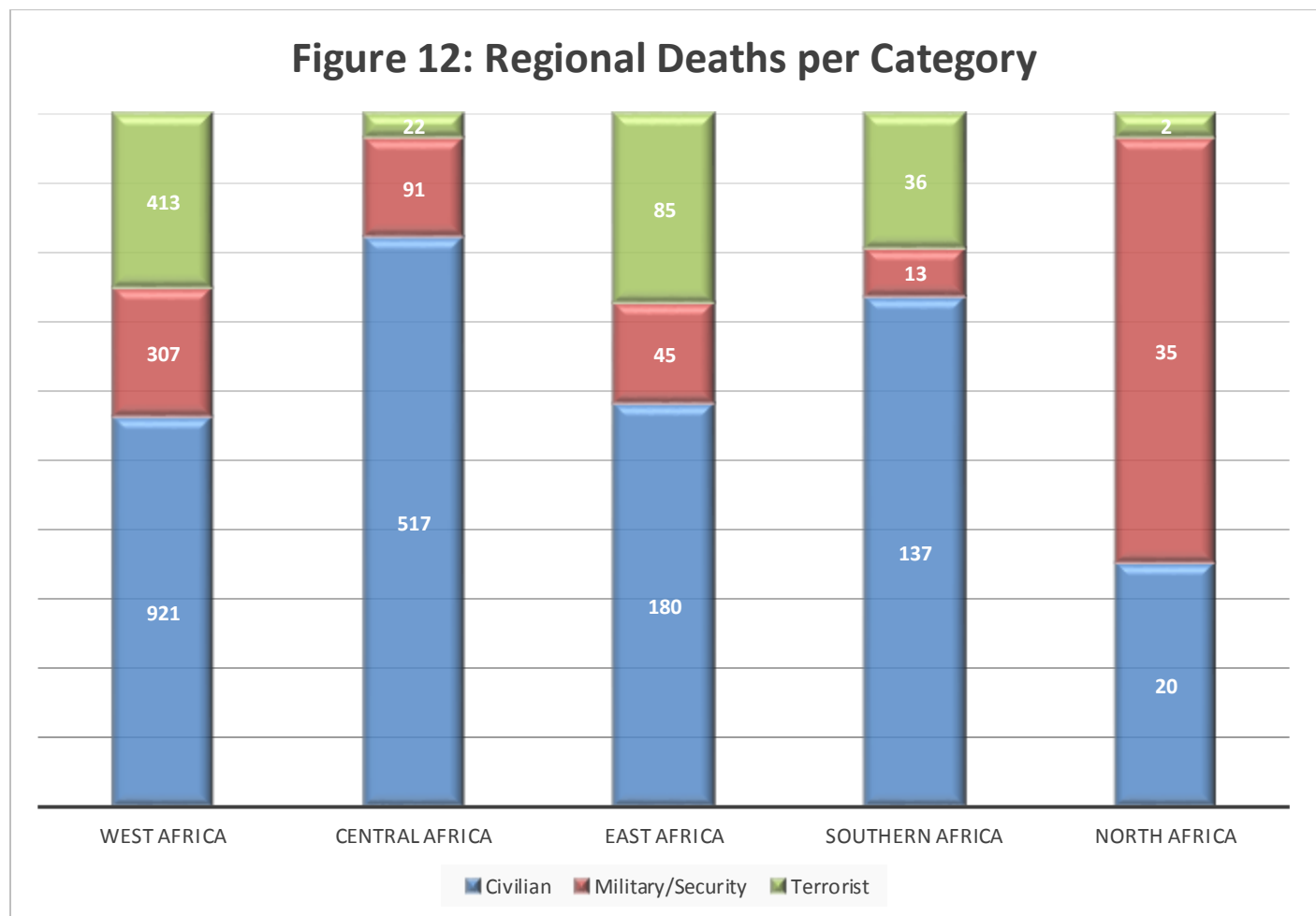*Source: ACSRT Database, 2022*

11. Trends in Regional Deaths

Figure 11: Trends in Regional Deaths
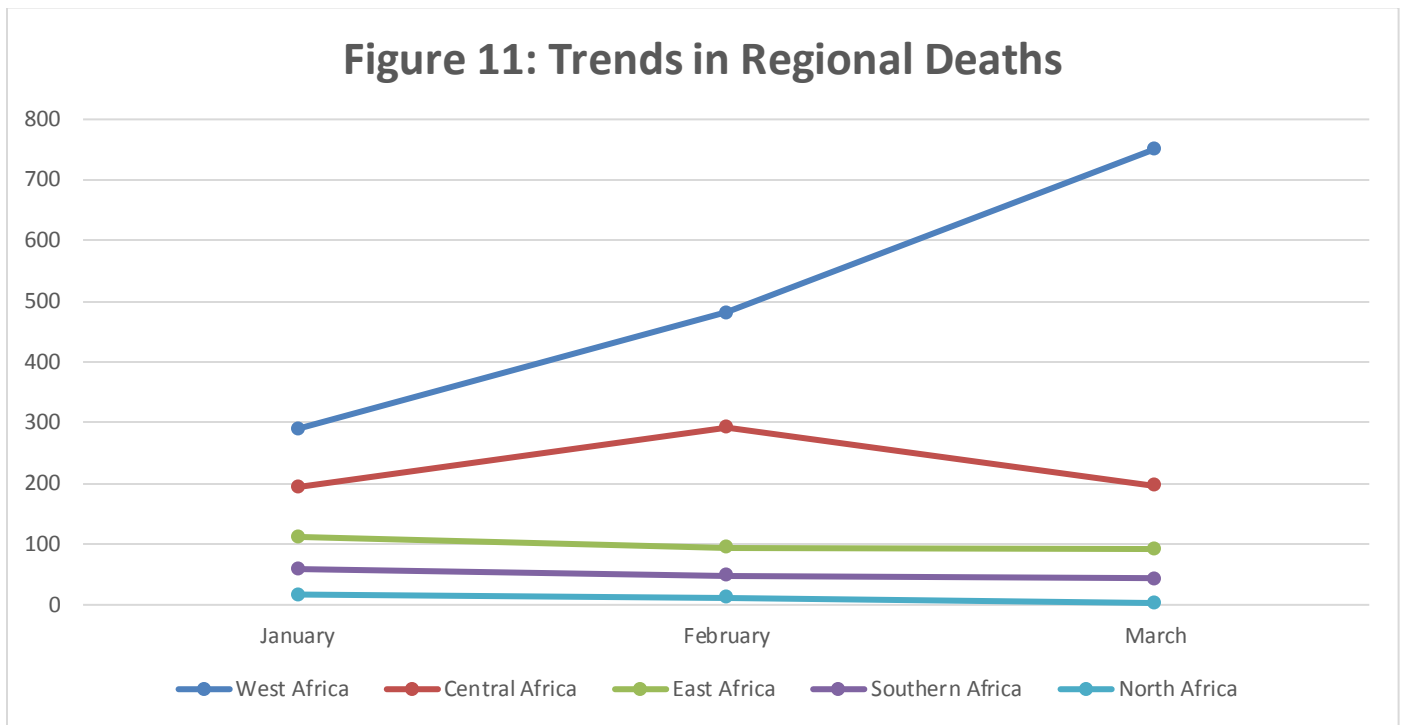
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

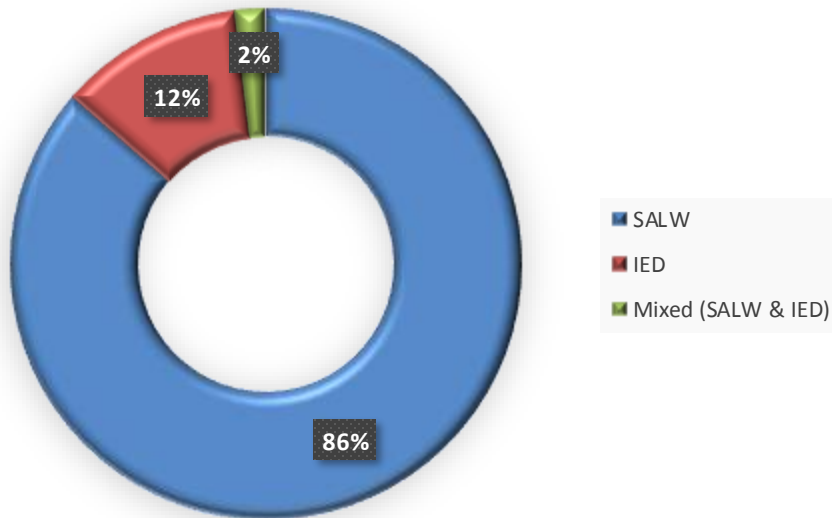## 12. Regional Deaths by Categories

Figure 12: Regional Deaths per Category

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

13. Deaths perType of Attacks

Figure 13: Deaths per Type of Attacks

Deaths by Type of Attacks

➢ SALWs: **2,441**

➢ IEDs: **329**

➢ Mixed (SAWL & IED): **54**

▪ **SALWs** accounted for **86%** of the deaths occasioned by terrorist attacks.

▪ **12%** of deaths were as a result of **IED attacks.**

▪ **2%** of deaths is attributed to complex attacks involving the use of **IEDs and SALWs**
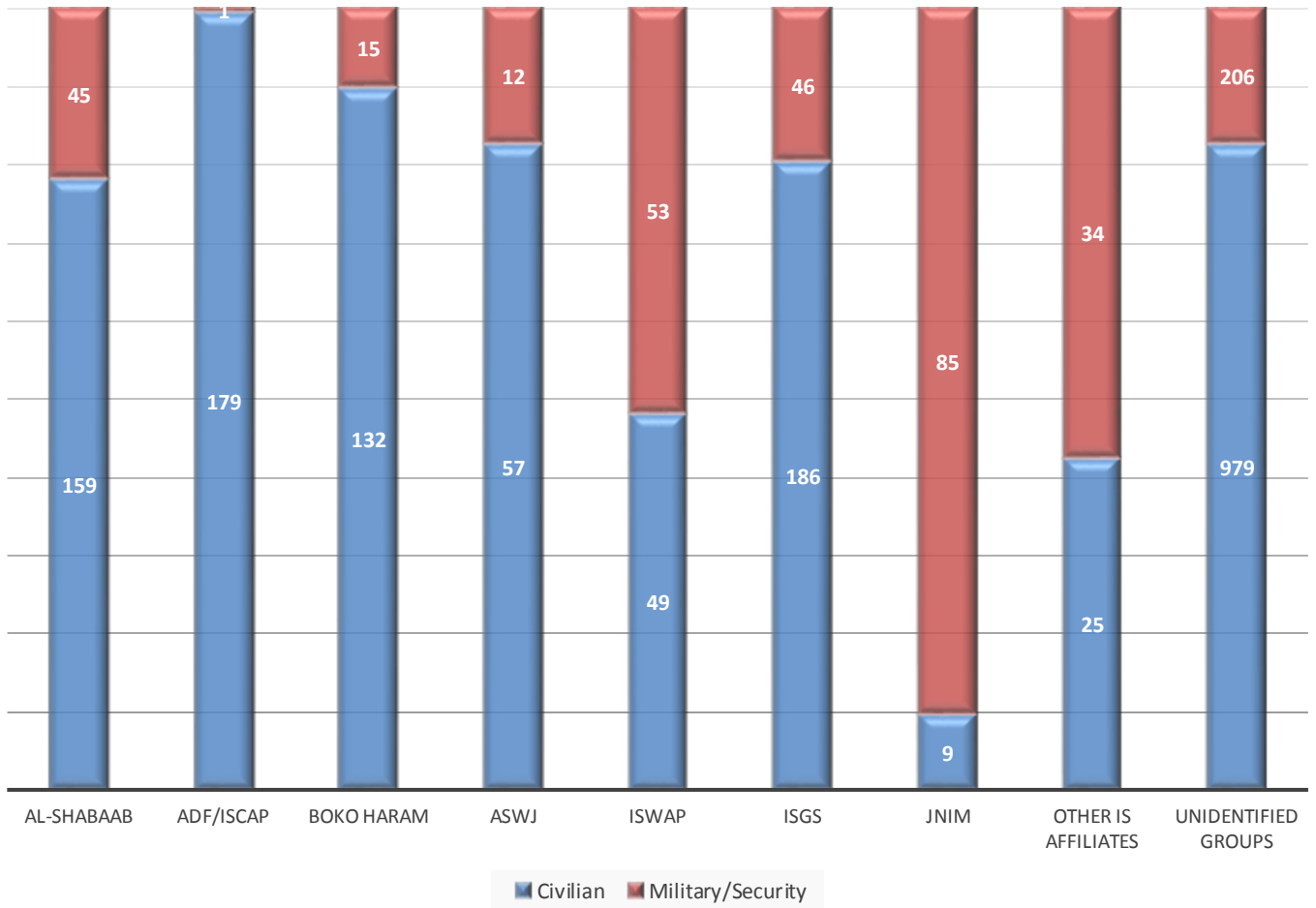
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

14. Attacks and Casualties Inflicted per Terrorist Groups

Table 3: Attacks and Casualties by TerroristGroups

Terrorist Group	Number of Attacks	Number of Deaths	Comments
Al-Shabaab	41	204	Al-Shabaab carried out 41 attacks, killing 204 persons.
ADF/ISCAP	18	180	ADF/ISCAP carried out 18 attacks, killing 180 persons.
Boko Haram	22	147	Boko Haram carried out 22 attacks, killing 147 persons.
ASWJ	26	69	ASWJ carried out 26 attacks, killing 69 persons.
ISWAP	24	102	ISWAP carried out 24 attacks, killing 102 persons
ISGS	14	232	ISGS carried out 14 attacks, killing 232 persons.
JNIM	15	94	JNIM carried out 15 attacks, killing 94 persons
Other IS Affiliates	13	59	All other IS Affiliates groups in total carried out 13 attacks, killing 59 persons
Unidentified Groups	206	1,183	177 attacks were carried out by groups from which nobody claim responsibilities. These attacks added up to 940 deaths.
TOTAL	**379**	**2824**	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

Figure 14: Casualties Inflicted by Terrorist groups

Source: ACSRT Database, 2020

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

Table 4: Details of Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Group	Number Killed	Comments
Al-Shabaab	452	452 Al-Shabaab members were killed.
ADF/ISCAP	115	115 ADF/ISCAP members were killed
Boko Haram	234	234Members of Boko Haram were killed
ASWJ	22	22 ASWJ Members were killed
ISWAP	103	103 members of ISWAP were killed
ISGS	117	117 terrorists killed were from ISWAP group.
JNIM	113	113 members of JNIM groups were killed
Other IS Affiliates	27	In total 25 members of various IS Affiliates groups killed
Unidentified Groups	828	A total of 825 terrorists killed were from Unidentified groups.
TOTAL	2,011	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

16. The Five Most Affected Countries

Table 5: Five Countries Most Affected

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths	Total injured
Nigeria	60	740	49
DRC	60	552	53
Mozambique	55	186	0
Burkina Faso	54	298	78
Somalia	33	259	213
TOTAL	262	2,035	393

Source: ACSRT Database, 2020

- **Nigeria** recorded the highest number of **attacks** (**60**) resulting in 740 deaths.

- **DRC** also recorded 60 attacks resulting in the **552** deaths.

- **Mozambique** recorded **55attacks** resulting in **186** deaths.

- **Burkina Faso** recorded **54**attacks resulting in **298**deaths.

- **Somalia** recorded the lowest number (**33**) among the five most affected countries for the period, resulting in259 deaths

Figure 15: Five Most Affected Countries
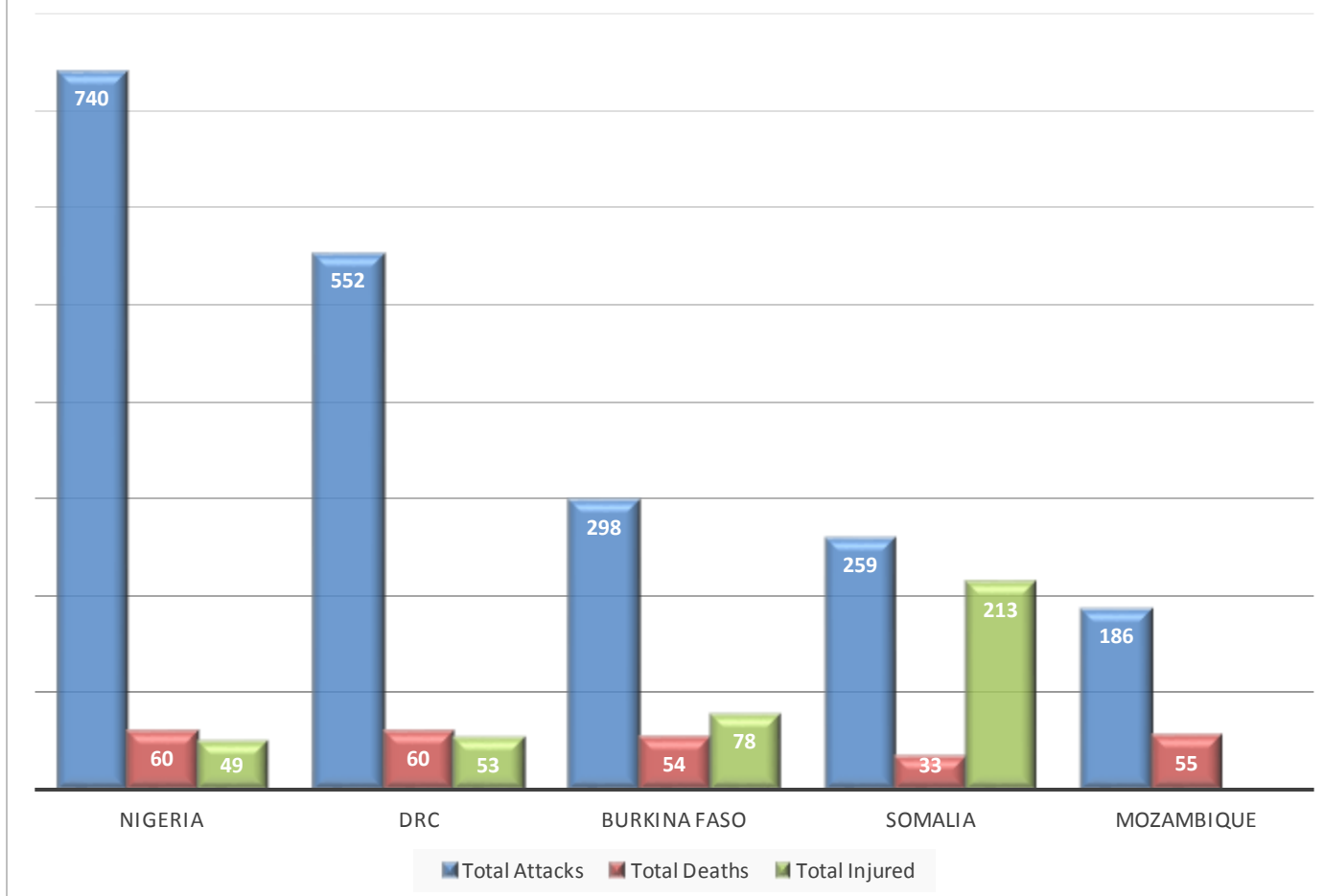
Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

17. High Profile Attacks

*Table 6: List of high-Profile Attacks*

No	Country	Place	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	Mali	Mopti	04 March	ISGS	97	Armed men suspected to be members of ISGS attacked military base at **Mondoro**, killing 27 soldiers and injuring 33 others. Security forces in reprisal attack killed 70 terrorists.
2	Nigeria	Niger State	07 March	Unidentified Group	67	Unidentified gunmen ambushed local vigilante groups members on patrol within **Tungan Magajiya**area. At least 67 people were killed comprising 62 local vigilantes and 5 civilians.
3	Mali	Gao	18February	ISGS	65	Armed men believed to be members of ISGS terrorist group attacked military patrol team at **Acham, Tessit**, killing 8 soldiers and wounding 14 others. Security forces repulsed the attack and neutralised 57 of the terrorists.
4	Mali	Menaka	09 March	ISGS	62	**09 March, Menaka**. Armed men suspected to be members of ISGS attacked the villages of **Tamalat and Insinane,** killing a total of 62 people, comprising 20 MSA members and 42 civilians.
5	Nigeria	Zamfara	09 January	Unidentified Group	58	Gunmen allegedly fleeing airstrikes of security forces attacked the villages of **Bukkuyum and Anka** killing at least 58.
6	DRC	Ituri	02 February	Mai-Mai	58	Armed men attacked a community called **Savo**, in the district of **Djugu** killing 58 civilians, and injuring 36 others.
7	Nigeria	Niger State	19 February	Boko Haram	52	Armed men suspected to be militants of Boko Haram attacked the villages of**, Shiroro and Munya**. At least 52 people were killed, and 42 villagers kidnapped.
8	DRC	South Kivu	28 February	Unidentified Group	51	Unidentified armed men attacked the village of **Fizi**. At least 51 were killed, and 21 others kidnapped. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.
9	Mali	Gao	21 March	ISGS	50	ISGS militants in a series of attacks in several localities in the Talataye community killed 50 people.
10	Somalia	Hirshabelle	23 March	Al-Shabaab	48	Al-Shabaab militants exploded a car bomb outside Beledweyne's main hospital where the injured in an earlier suicide bombing were being taken for treatment. At least 48 people were killed, and 108 others injured.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

18. Attacks in Epicentres

Figure 16: Percentage of Attacks in Epicentres
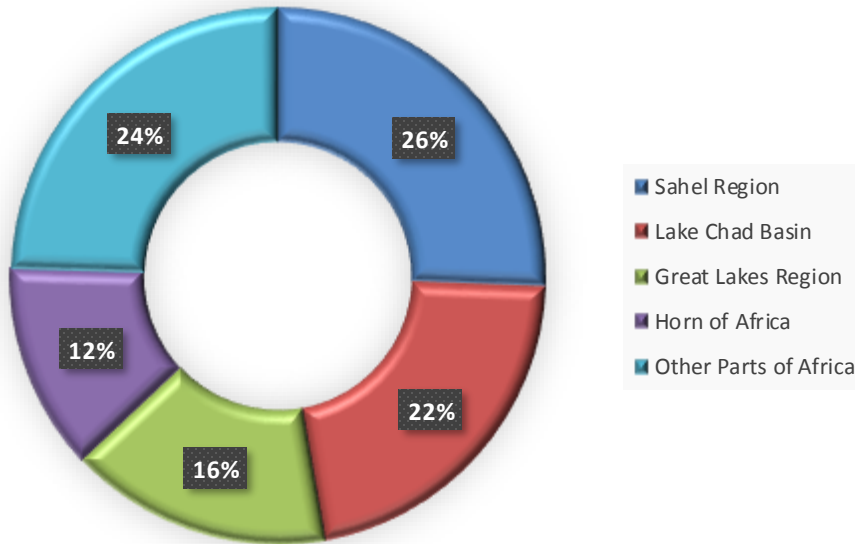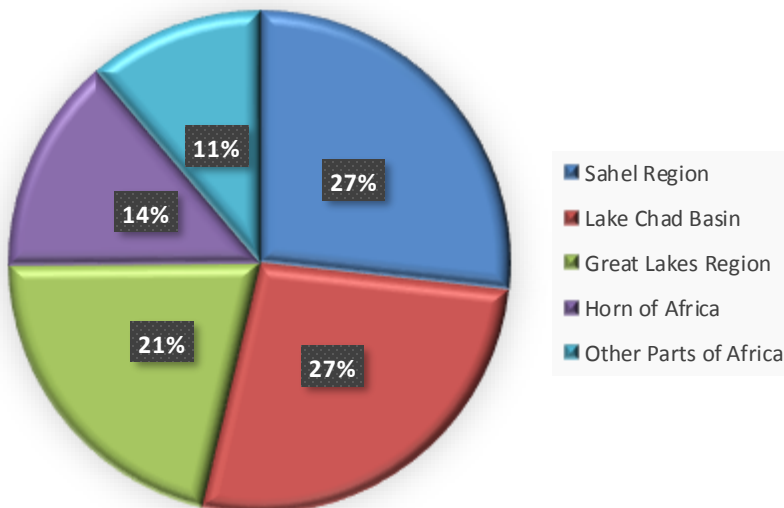

Total Attacks in Epicentre: 286
- ➢ Sahel Region: **97**
- ➢ Lake Chad Basin: **82**
- ➢ Great Lakes Region: **60**
- ➢ Horn of Africa: **47**

- Within the period under review, **Sahel region** recorded 26% attacks in Africa
- **Lake Chad Basin** recorded 22% of all attacks
- **Great Lakes Region** (DRC) recorded 16%
- **Horn of Africa** recorded 12% of all attacks that took place in the epicentres

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

19. Deaths Recorded in Epicenters

Figure 17: Deaths in Epicentres

Total Deaths in Epicentre: 2,510
- ➢ Sahel Region: **854**
- ➢ Lake Chad Basin: **794**
- ➢ Great Lakes Region: **552**
- ➢ Horn of Africa: **310**

- Within the period under review, **Sahel region** recorded 27% of deaths in Africa
- **Lake Chad Basin** recorded 27% of all deaths
- **Great Lakes Region** (DRC) recorded 21% of all deaths
- **Horn of Africa** recorded 14% of all deaths that took place in Africa

Source: ACSRT Database, 2022

20. Attacks and Fatalities

The First Quarter of 2022recorded 379 terrorist attacks across the continent. The month of March recorded the highest number of attacks with 39%, followed by February with 31% and 30% for January. For the period under review, the total number of resultant deaths in Africa was 2,824; March recorded 46% of the total deaths, February recorded 31% while January was 23%. West Africa accounted for the general sharp increase in the number of attacks and deaths for the month of March. Almost all regions of Africa recorded decline in the number of attacks and deaths but for West Africa. The escalated number of attacks and deaths in West Africa is also attributed to the renewed attacks by terrorist groups in the Sahel (Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso) and violent extremism activities in North western states of Nigeria including *Zamfara*, *Katsina* and *Kaduna* and North Central states of Niger and *Kebbi*.

From the above data trend, there is a general increase in monthly attacks and associated deaths. The data also shows approximately 7 deaths per attack within the first quarter. This is a high lethality rate. This presupposes that terrorist groups are becoming more brutal in their attacks. It is instructive to note thatthe available data further suggests at least 4 terrorist attacks each day for the first quarter of 2022, and at least 31 people died of terrorism each day in Africa for the first three months of the year.

Of the registered 2,824 deaths 1,775 were civilians, 491 were Military/Security Forces while 558 were terrorists. While civilians continue to bear the brunt of terrorist activities, the number of men in uniform that fell on the battlefield is worrisome. The number suggests that every day in Africa 5 security personnel are killed by terrorist groups. This is not good for the moral of the deployed troops. There is the urgent need to enhance the operational and intelligence capabilities of the deployed troops to reduce the number of casualties.

21. Targets of Terrorist Attacks

Most attacks were against Civilian targets at 238 (63%), 120 (32%) were against Military/Security forces, 10 (3%) were against International Organizations while 6 (2%) targeted Government Institutions/Officials. Consistently, Civilians and Security forces are mostly the targets of terrorist groups. Civilians' vulnerabilities to attacks are as a result of inability of the security forces to protect local communities from being attacked by terrorists. Many civilians across many parts of Africa where terrorism occurs have been summarily executed for collaborating with security agencies. This rampant situation could be attributed to failure of intelligence gathering and processing as well as the inability of security agencies to protect whistleblowers. If this situation is not addressed, efforts being made to establish trust between local population and the security agencies would be jeopardised. Attacks on vulnerable targets such as places of worship, schools, markets, and farms have often contributed to the large number of civilian attacks. For International organisations, MINUSMA in Mali and the AMISOM/ATMIS in Somalia have suffered the most.

22. Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs)

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) was by far the most common type of attack, it accounted for 74% of total attacks and resulted in 2,441deaths, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were used in 18% of the attacks and led to 329deaths, Mixed (SALWs and IEDs) accounted for 2% of the attacks causing 54deaths

while Kidnappings registered 6% of attacks. Most terrorist groups in the Sahel have attacked using SAWL.

Same could be said about terrorist groups operating in DRC. The easy access to guns and ammunitions by terrorist groups require some situational assessment in a number of countries currently facing the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. The proliferation of SALWs mostly due to the porosity of borders in most countries as well as attacks on military installations have contributed significantly to access of SALWs by terrorists. The use of IEDs to launch attacks has become widespread across the continent. Areas where terrorist groups had not made use of IEDs have begun using them. The easy to make nature of IEDs, the accessibility and availability of materials for such devices and transfer of technology in the manufacturing of IEDs among terrorist groups could account for the widespread use of IEDs across the continent.

Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR), which has become a major source of financing for violent extremism and terrorism appears to gain grounds across many parts of the continent. While kidnapping predominantly featured in attacks that took place in Northwestern states of Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara in Nigeria, terrorist groups operating in Ituri, North Kivu and South Provinces of DRC, Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, Diffa region of Niger, North-west and South- West Cameroon also carried out a number of kidnappings. A training on preventing and denying the benefits of KFR to terrorists could help change the narrative of the terrorism situation on the continent.

23. Terrorist Groups Activities

Al-Shabaab escalated its attacks against both civilians and security forces in many parts of Somalia including the capital, Mogadishu and the Lamu, Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties of Kenya. The group carried out the highest number of attacks, 41, killing a total of 204 persons. In terms of TTPs, majority of Al-Shabaab's attacks involved the use of IEDs. The group's IED manufacturing capabilities require some degrading. A pre-deployment training for the deployed troops on the possible identification and destructions of IEDs in the Horn of Africa could considerably degrade the IED capabilities of Al-Shabaab.

For the groups that operate in the Sahel, **ISGS** was more brutal and lethal in its attacks. The group killed the highest number of persons (232) among all terrorist groups. The group carried out a total of 14 attacks. In terms of targets, **JNIM** targeted security forces more in its attacks. Out of the 14 attacks by JNIM, 11 of them were against security forces. The political instability in the Sahel and the announced redeployment of operation Barkhane have created a security vacuum which have bolstered the moral of the Sahel terrorist groups to be more brutal in their attacks. Both JNIM and ISGS made some great use of IEDs in their attacks although SALWs constituted major parts of their attacks. The porosity of borders among most countries in West Africa has contributed to the proliferation of SAWLs in the Sahel. In the LCB, **ISWAP** that operates in this area targeted security forces more in its attacks. Out of the 24 attacks of the group, 13 of them were against security forces. On the contrary, **Boko Haram** which also operates in LCB targeted civilians more. Unlike Boko Haram, ISWAP has consistently been on the drive of winning the hearts and minds of the local population, hence the strategy of focusing its attacks on security forces instead of civilians. Boko Haram, however, appears to be expanding its attacks beyond the LCB and attacking other states in North central Nigeria particularly Niger state.

For all other groups operating in other parts of Africa including **ADF/ISCAP** and **ASWJ** attacks predominantly targeted civilians and the attacks focused on the use of SALWs. These groups operate in the Great Lakes region, Eastern DRC, Northern Mozambique, and Anglophone Cameroon. For the North

Africa region, particularly the Sinai Peninsula attacks focused on security forces. The resurgence of attacks in the Sinai Peninsula needs to be addressed to avoid further escalation of attacks.

24. Focus on Epicentres

For the period under review, the **Sahel region** recorded the highest number of attacks (97) and the highest number of deaths (854) among the epicentres of terrorist and violent extremist activities. The lethality rate for the Sahel is 9 deaths per attack, higher than the general rate of 7 deaths per attack for the entire continent. For the Sahel, attacks concentrated on the Liptako-Gourma region particularly Gao, Mopti and Menaka regions of Mali, the Sahel Region of Burkina Faso and the Tillaberi region of Niger. Transnational organised crimes appear to be fuelling terrorist activities in this part of the Sahel. JNIM and its affiliate groups as well as ISGS remain the most active terrorist group in the area for the period. However, terrorist groups in the **Lake Chad Basin** were more brutal and lethal in their attacks. There were 82 attacks that resulted in 854 deaths accounting for 10 deaths per attack, higher than both the continental and the Sahel rates. Most attacks in the LCB concentrated in the North-eastern state of Borno (Nigeria), South-West Niger (Diffa Region) and Far North Region of Cameroon. Boko Haram and ISWAP are responsible for most attacks in this part. Al-Shabaab is responsible for almost all attacks in the **Horn of Africa** while ADF/ISCAP and Mai-Mai carried out the most attacks in the **Great Lakes Region**. In all, 75% of all attacks and 89% of all deaths occurred in the above-mentioned epicentres.

25. Counter-Terrorism Response

Security forces across the continent achieved some operational successes in their counter terrorism operations through airstrikes and grounds operations. Aside the 558 terrorist who were killed in attacks carried out by terrorist groups themselves, a total of 2,011 terrorists were also killed in deliberate counter terrorism operations bringing the number of terrorist group eliminated within the period to a total of 2,569. Key CT operations within the period include **03 January, Gusami and West Tsamre, Zamfara**. Military stepped up air and ground operations against armed groups in North West, notably killing over 100 suspected terrorists. **15-23 January, Gorom-Gorom, Oudalan**. Burkina Faso Armed Forces with the support of French Forces operating under operation Barkhane neutralised at least 60 terrorists. **22 February, Fiidow, Hiran**. Over 60 members of al-Shabaab were killed in airstrikes conducted by the SNA with support from their security partners.**23 February, Digaya and Bolauyi, Diffa.** Security forces from MNJTF conducted counterterrorism operations against terrorists' group, 20 members of Boko Haram were killed.**7 March, Nangade, Cabo Delgado**. SAMIM, **Mozambique** Defence Armed Forces (FADM) and local militia conducted a successful military operation on terrorist hideouts, 30 terrorists were killed.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAY FORWARD

Across the continent, there has been resurgence of terrorists and violent extremists' activities, resulting in continued devastating atrocities against civilians, security agencies, military establishment, and critical infrastructures. From the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) to the Sahel Region, from the East and Horn of Africa to the Great Lakes Region, and from the North Africa and the Maghreb to the Southern Africa Region, terrorist and violent extremist groups escalated the level of the complexity and sophistication of attacks. The groups demonstrated cohesion and dexterity and exhibited great capability of momentum along their mobility corridors and within the territory they control. As a result, terrorist groups continue to expand their geographical reach beyond areas they originally operated. The reporting period, 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2022 recorded 379 terrorist attacks that resulted in 2,824 deaths across Africa. The first quarter of 2021 registered 455 attacks, resulting in 1779 deaths, while the first quarter of 2022, however recorded 379 attacks that resulted in a total death of 2,824. In comparison, there was a decline of 20% in terrorist attacks, but a sharp increase of 37% in number of deaths.

Notwithstanding the level of momentum exhibited by terrorist groups, counter terrorism achieved operational successes across the length and breadth of Africa. Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission in Mozambique (SAMIM) and Rwandan Forces have considerably degraded the capabilities and the freedom of movement of IS linked ASWJ terrorist group in northern Mozambique Province of Caba Delgado. Mobilising the political will through sustainable financing, bolstering the morale of the deployed troops through logistical support from the political elites within the region could help nib the insurgency and prevent the possibilities of regional spillover. Similarly, in the Lake Chad Basin Area, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has weakened Boko Haram and ISWAP capabilities and taken over territories that they originally operated. The extension of the mandate of MNJTF, which must necessarily come with financing and logistical support, could further ensure resilience in the LCB area. In the East and Horn Africa, the operational successes of AMISOM/ATMIS and the Somalia National Army (SNA) have been visible. However, recent escalation and complexity of attacks by terrorist groups in the country require a well thought through approach that could result in the destruction of Al-Shabaab IED technological and manufacturing capabilities. A pre-deployment counter terrorism training for the deployed contingents as well as counter IED capability training for the deployed troops could enhance their tactical capacity to identify and destroy such devices within the operational corridors.

Given the political instability in Mali and Burkina Faso, coupled with the expansion of terrorist activities into coastal states of Benin, the conclusion of this report is dedicated to the Sahel for policy action and implementation to stem the growing threats of violent extremism and terrorism in this part of Africa. Violent extremist groups in neighbouring bordering countries appear to be exploiting grievances expressed by local pastoralist communities to gain influence in West African coastal states. Issues driving violence include herder-farmer conflicts, ownership and access to land, and some government policy initiatives. In Benin, the decision to hand over the management of the W-Arly Pendjari Park complex to African parks, a South African non-profit conservation organisation, appears to generate some local grievances. The new management of the park has excluded certain resource users, especially hunters and livestock herders, thus creating local animosity. This appears to be the root cause of terrorist attacks in and around the park in Benin. The need to find innovative approaches to establishing a new social contract by addressing the concerns of the local communities could serve as a preventative measure to

the evolving violent extremism threats.

Addressing historical conflicts using Whole-of-Society approach that involves, amongst others, traditional leaders, community leaders, and youth groups is a worthy pathway of eschewing violence and securing harmonious peaceful living and resilience in local border communities.

The implication of the political instability in the Sahel on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism cannot be overemphasised. Given the already volatile security situation, there is the fear that terrorist and violent extremist groups could exploit the chaotic political scene to further entrench their position and expand their activities to West Africa's Coastal Countries and beyond The impact of the political crises on the military establishment, coupled with the escalating violent extremism situation, may give violent extremist and terrorist groups the opportunity to further consolidate their authority and influence in the areas where they control and even expand to new geographical areas particularly the littoral states of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo. Coastal countries in West Africa should, therefore, elevate their respective states of preparedness to effectively respond to the fallout of the insecurity in the Sahel and the consequent humanitarian crises based on regular security risk analysis. Also, the international and regional actions taken to the political instability in the Sahel must be carefully crafted and implemented in order not to unduly cause more suffering and misery for an already impoverished population and thereby push them into the hands of terrorist and violent extremist groups. While the return to democratic rule is important, the international responses must be exercised with determination, caution, and discretion. The situation requires flexibility, pragmatism, and skilled diplomacy in order not to exacerbate the precarious security situation.